

February 28, 2023



WE Are the Conference

"But God has put the body together...
Now you are the body of Christ, and
each one of you is a part of it."
1 Corinthians 12: 24b and 27

Tomorrow will be my seventh anniversary as your Conference Minister, and it hardly seems possible that I will begin my eighth year of ministry in the Illinois South Conference. As I take stock of our years together, I want to share one of my most essential learnings in our mutual ministry. And that is, there is no "us" or "them" in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

So, I often heard people refer to the "Conference" as if it were the other. The "Conference" did this, or the "Conference" did that. I was told as I started this work to prepare to encounter some resistance and to keep in mind that if some churches did not invite me to worship with them or voted to remove OCWM from their general budgets (Our Church's Wider Mission, our main revenue stream for staffing and resourcing the ministry of the Illinois South Conference) was because they did not support the "work of the Conference." I was told not to take it personally.

At first, I did encounter some who had an "us versus them" attitude. And spoiler alert, at first, I did take it personally; I was the Conference Minister and saw myself representing the Conference. But even that stance and thinking of taking it personally or digging in and trying to prove the value of the Conference further reinforced this attitude of "othering."

I believe what you and I learned together, especially in the last couple of years, is that there is no place in the Church for "us versus them" posturing. The truth is Christ; there is only we. We are the Conference, and we are the Church together. We need each other. And when we convince ourselves that we can go it alone, we miss out on experiencing the power and beauty of the whole.

**Prayer list for
March 5-11, 2023**
Church & Pastors
**-Murphysboro St.
Peter's UCC (right)**



**-Nashville St. Paul
UCC, Rev. Bev Kahle
(left)**

Retired Pastor
**-Rev. Chris and Lena Edwards,
Converse, TX**

People with Life Concerns

-Pray for the family of **Marietta (Maurice-deceased) Dahncke** as they mourn her death. Marietta is the mother of **Julie (Kevin) Riechmann**, the registrar for Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center. Cards may be sent to Julie and her family at 7651 Walwin Dr, Okawville IL 62271. The funeral was held this past weekend. Read the complete obituary here.
-Please pray for **Rev. Shana (Todd Bean) Johnson, ISC Conference Minister**, as she takes a week of medical leave for treatment from March 6-13. She will not be responding except for emergency situations during that time, but will be back in the office on March 14. Cards may be sent to her at 732 Bassett, O'Fallon, IL 62269.

Recently in a sermon I preached for an installation service, I shared an experience that taught me the value of the whole. I played flute in high school and college and was part of marching and symphonic bands and orchestras. As a woodwind player, I had always played the melody and not paid attention to the parts of the music that “others” played, and I didn’t think they were necessary. It wasn’t until taking a required fine arts class and, during the section on music appreciation that I was taught how to listen and appreciate the sounds and gifts of all the instruments, that I heard music differently.

I heard the sweet--low and high sounds of the strings.

I heard the breadth of the melody in the beauty of the woodwinds.

I heard the crisp riffs of the brass.

I heard the smooth, rich harmonies of trombones and tubas, and

I heard the color and dramatics of the percussion section.

I realized that when I was willing to learn about all the different instruments and listen to what they contributed to the whole, I had a deeper appreciation for others, and the divisions also melted away. All that was left was an understanding of the “we.”

I believe this is precisely the message the apostle Paul was trying to convey by utilizing the metaphor of the human body being likened to the body of

Christ. In the Church, ministry, and our Conference, when we do not view ourselves as one body, we essentially say that because you are not the same part of the body I am, I do not need you. We are local churches, pastors, delegates, church leaders, seminary students, volunteers, and staff members who work at the Conference office and DuBois Center that make up the body of the Illinois South Conference.

There is no us.

There is no them.

There is only we.

You and me.

All of us.

We are the Illinois South Conference.

And I believe that together we have learned and have begun to live out the truth that we are strongest when we remember we cannot fully and wholly exist and live into what God imagines for us without each other.

Today as I reflect on our shared ministry, I am deeply grateful for how we have made beautiful music together. I pray that we will continue to work and play together, learn from one another, and compose our unique unified symphony. For I believe our call as a

-Keep the **mother of Pastor Norma Patterson** in your prayers as she struggles with health issues. Pastor Norma Patterson is the Pastor and Teacher for East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and has served on several teams for ISC. Cards may be sent to Norma at 5310 DePaul Drive, PO Box 4235, Fairview Heights, IL 62008.
-Please pray for **Rev. Ken (Jean) Knobloch** as he recovers from surgery. Rev. Knobloch served Irvington Friedens UCC and Red Bud St. Peter UCC before retiring, as well as serving on several ISC teams/committees. Cards can be sent to 1518 Mill St, PO Box 76, Maestown, IL 62256.

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna improves with her battle with memory loss. Good news...Jim reported that he is still in remission. Cards can be sent to them at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

Conference, as the Church, is to continue to offer the gift of love, grace, kindness, compassion, and justice to all people who need, see, and receive it.

For the world is listening and waiting...

In gratitude, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

A personal note from Shana:

In a conference-wide message through email, I shared my recent health challenges. After two surgeries in a short period (one in December and one in January) and continued treatments, I am doing remarkably well. I have only had to take minimal days off. My vocal strength continues to improve, although I have quickly realized that after a day of too much speaking and laughing (so worth the pain), I will need to rest my voice and body a bit. Singing continues to be a challenge, but that will come in time. My treatment will receive isolation and rest next week, but I am confident I will be back the following week in full swing.

Rev. Shana Johnson will be out of the office on medical leave from March 6 through March 13 for treatment and will only be responding to emergency emails or phone calls. She plans to be back in the office by March 14.

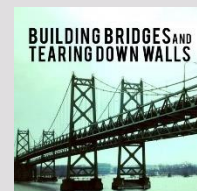
Dear friends, thank you for your prayers and well wishes; I can feel them. They have buoyed my spirit and have directly contributed to my healing. I tape each card I receive on my kitchen cabinets, so they are among the first things I see as I get ready for my day. Those cards, your prayers, and well wishes are powerful reminders that I am not alone. Thank you for continuing to surround me with your love and support.

Illinois South Conference One-Day Youth Event MARCH 11, 2023, 10 am to 7 pm at DuBois Center Cost: \$50 per participant ATTENTION PASTORS AND YOUTH LEADERS

Get ready to build bridges and tear down walls!

Let's hear from the wise young ones in our congregations about tearing down the walls of division among us and building bridges of understanding and connection! This retreat is for ALL Illinois South Conference Youth and will be a great opportunity for confirmation kids, any youth interested in learning more about DuBois Center, and all who want to deepen their relationship with God. All 7th to 12th-grade youth are invited to participate in a one-day retreat at the DuBois Center! We will start at 10 am and end with worship and campfire smores. The day ends at 7 pm. Lunch, dinner, and evening campfire smores are provided. Email or call Denise Johnson, the co-chair of the Illinois South Conference Local Church Ministries, at christianed@stpaulcolumbia.org or 618-340-2952 **by March 1**, with how many participants (youth and adult) are planning to attend from your church and if they have allergies or food restrictions of which the kitchen staff at DuBois Center should be aware in planning the lunch and dinner time meals.

To access the registration forms, please click this [link](#).



Day of Discipleship - March 4, 2023

[Register Deadline - Tomorrow, March 1](#) - Connecting with God, Neighbor, and Self will be held on Sat, March 4 from 9 am - 12 pm at Alhambra Salem UCC. Keynote speaker is Rev. Kelsey Beebe, who believes firmly in an all-loving God, embodied Christ, and ever-moving Holy Spirit that connects us all. Click [here](#) to register.

What is Day of Discipleship? - Good question. Day of Discipleship has been many things over many years, but essentially it is an opportunity for pastors and members of Illinois South Conference members to come together and worship, learn, and listen to new ideas. Usually there are excellent keynote speakers that inspire us and teach us more meaningful ways of being Christ's church in the world. In recent years, following the keynote address, attendees are given the opportunity to break out into smaller group workshops on subjects of interest to them. The workshops last for forty minutes followed by a short break, and then a repeat of the forty minute group of workshops so that you can attend another workshop that you otherwise would have missed. There are snacks and food and fellowship. There is time to see old friends and to make some new ones. Other than the annual meeting, Day of Discipleship typically draws the biggest audience, and survey responses indicate the vast majority of attendees are glad they came.

Youth at Day of Discipleship - Ever wanted to go to Day of Discipleship, but thought to yourself "my kids will not sit through a morning of church programming. We get it. This year, the Conference Gatherings Team hears you, and we are taking steps to meet this need in a way that is engaging for children. No, this is not a re-tooled vacation bible school (not that there's anything wrong with VBS) or babysitting. This is new programming developed by pastors in the Illinois South Conference with a passion for engaging with children of all ages. There will be something for every age level from nursery services for infants on through to high school level programs. These programs do not presume any particular level of biblical literacy so they are perfect for audiences with little or no church history, as well as those who have been confirmed and are active in youth programs.

How much does it cost? - The children's program is absolutely free for children of adult attendees with their paid admission. All materials will be provided. We are excited to show our ISC kids that learning about our faith can be interesting, even challenging.

So How Will You Keep My Kids Engaged? - The key to holding a young person's interest is to do something new and offers a chance at an experience. This will be an active learning exercise, not a lecture or story time. This is learning by doing and thinking, but in a format of a game.

What if I Do Not Have Any Kids With Me, But I Work With Youth And Would like to Check it Out? - Sure. Provided we have enough space to attend to all the kids, we would love to have you check out what we are doing. We will likely put you to work in helping staff the workshop so be prepared to possibly roll up your sleeves and jump in.

After a year-long search, the United Church of Christ Board's Search Committee for General Minister and President has made a historic choice. The committee will be recommending **Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to the UCCB this week as nominee for General Minister and President.** If elected, she would be the first woman, and the first woman of African descent, to lead the denomination. Below is the letter to the wider church from Search Committee Chair, the Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin. Read [more](#).



All Delegates of Illinois South Conference are invited to an
ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL to Examine for Ordination

Tim Powers-Reed

Sunday, March 26, 2023, 3:00 pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7088890946>

SCHEDULE:

2:45 – The Zoom session will open

3:00 – Ecclesiastical Council begins
Introduction by a member of the Committee on Ministry
Presentation of the Candidate
Summary of the Ordination Paper
Examination and Discernment
Deliberation and Decision by the Ecclesiastical Council
Announcement of the Vote

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? - An Ecclesiastical Council is an official meeting of the Illinois South Conference acting as an Association. Delegates from each congregation and all United Church of Christ ordained and licensed ministers with standing in the Conference are called to be present for this meeting. Local churches are entitled to the same number of voting delegates as for any meeting of the Conference.

WHY ARE WE MEETING? - To examine Tim Powers-Reed, a Member in Discernment of Illinois South Conference, for ordained ministry. Tim has completed the preparation steps for ordination, was examined by the Illinois South Conference Committee on Ministry, and was approved as a candidate for an Ecclesiastical Council. It is now the task of the Ecclesiastical Council (the gathered body of voting delegates of our Conference) to discern if Tim is worthy of ordination in the United Church of Christ.

HOW CAN WE PREPARE? - Please download Tim's ordination [paper](#) and the [document](#) entitled "The Church's Expectations of Its Candidates for Ordination," at the links above. Copies can also be accessed on our Conference website at iscucc.org. Please make copies for other delegates or share the papers so they can read these materials before the meeting. During the Zoom event, delegates can ask the candidate questions about the ordination paper and call to ministry.

Reducing Carbon Emissions - United Church Funds and 57 other investors that are part of a collaborative initiative organized by the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) recently released an investor statement addressed to oil and gas companies, calling for significant steps to plan for a just transition, which is imperative for the success of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

In our race to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, many companies are jeopardizing success by leaving workers and communities behind. A just transition envisions resilient and thriving workers and communities, existing within the 1.5°C boundaries set out globally in the Paris Agreement. The private sector plays a crucial role in achieving a low-carbon world. The World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) Just Transition Assessment examined the performance of the world's most influential high emitting companies. The assessment revealed a lack of action from companies to identify, prepare and mitigate the social impacts of their low-carbon strategies, potentially putting millions of workers employed in these industries at risk of unemployment. Evidence showed a lack of accountability and action, portraying a worrying picture of how key players in the most significant sectors react to the transition to a net zero economy. Oil and gas companies were one of four sectors assessed. There is a need for most of the oil and gas companies to step up their efforts in recognizing the responsibility and planning involved in implementing a just transition. Read [more](#).

Boundary Awareness Training - For those pastors who are due for **Boundary Training** this year, ISC has scheduled one for Tuesday, March 21, via zoom from **8:30 a.m. – Noon** and one on Tuesday, May 16 from **8:30 am - Noon**. These trainings will be for **both active and retired clergy**. Contact Debbie at dkesner@iscucc.org to register and get the zoom meeting info. Cost: \$20 for retired pastors, \$25 for active pastors, \$25 for non-ISC retired pastors, and \$30 for non-ISC active pastors.



The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

The Evangelical UCC in Highland is collecting empty plastic pill bottles used for shipments of medical supplies to about 70 third-world countries. We have shipped more than 1200 bottles. This program fulfills the needs of improving medical care in developing countries. This is through the Matthew25: Ministries' programs located in Ohio.

Here are the guidelines we must follow:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles – all sizes and with an all plastic lid
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue.
- Wash bottles and lids in very hot water and dish soap. Dry thoroughly and put the lids on.

If your church is interested in beginning a program, contact Matthew 25: Ministries [here](#).

Rev. Tarrah Vaupel, minister of Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC and Biddleborn Trinity UCC (left), Susie Stewart, president of Evangelical Daughters of Marissa Friedens UCC (middle), and Rev. Brett Palmer, minister of Marissa Friedens UCC (right), take

a moment before the Women's Pre-Lent Breakfast to share their pleasure at the turnout of ladies for the annual service and free breakfast. At least eight different churches were represented at the non-denominational event, held on Saturday, February 18. Friedens has held the Women's Pre-Lent Breakfast for any woman in the area on the Saturday before Ash Wednesday for over two decades. This year the service was conducted by Rev. Vaupel, assisted by Rev. Palmer. Those attending have always said that it is a unique, spiritual way to start their Lenten journey.



Rural Ministry Conference - The Rural Ministry Conference will be held this year on April 16 -18 in Dubuque, Iowa.

The theme for this ecumenical conference is "Flourishing: Land, People and Communities." The Bible tells us that God is a God of abundance but it is hard to ignore society's message of scarcity. We will be joined by delegates from the International Rural Churches Association to look at what flourishing means in our own and global contexts. For more information, click [here](#). This year we are joined by international delegates from the International Rural Churches Association, bringing an international perspective to the discussion. I believe many of your pastors and lay leaders would find this conference helpful.

The International Rural Churches Association is holding their quadrennial meeting April 13-19 in Dubuque, Iowa, holding some joint sessions with Wartburg Theological Seminary's Rural Ministry Conference. The international pastors have indicated that they would like to experience and talk with rural congregations in the US. We are looking for some congregations within two or three hours of Dubuque who would be willing to host one or more of these delegates for a rural immersion experience April 15 & 16. Many of the delegates have indicated a willingness to either preach or share what rural ministry is like in their home country. If you are interested in more details, contact Barbara Fritschel at ircawts2023@gmail.com or [click here](#) to find out about being a host family.

DuBois Center to hire a part-time office administrator - The office administrator at DuBois Center is the welcoming face and voice of DuBois Center for all who use the camp and retreat center. Duties include answering general inquiries via phone and email, providing administrative support for DuBois programming and events, work with the Illinois South Conference



Registrar to manage summer camp and guest group registration, as well as general office maintenance. Given the nature of the position, the office administrator will need to be on site during work hours though there is flexibility on days and hours. Ideal candidates will embody a deep love and respect for all people. For more information, click [here](#). If interested, please send a statement of interest and resume to director@duboiscenter.org.



Get Ready to Spring Forward
Time changes March 12.

Consider responding to our neighbors in need! - The Indiana/Kentucky UCC Conference disaster ministry (DPRMT) is scheduling work camps for Summer and Fall, 2023. The full recovery in south-central/western Kentucky from the 2021 tornadoes will take years. And we're committed to being there for the long haul. Prayerfully consider volunteering for a work camp. Caring for our neighbors in need is one of the many ways we can love and serve like Jesus together. Whether you're an individual, a group, or considering partnering with other churches to form your team, all are welcome! We need a 6-week notice of when you, your church or group would like to volunteer so we can properly plan for work and housing. The registration forms are available on the IKC website [here](#). Questions? Email Rev. Greg Denk, Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC Disaster Coordinator at gdenk5258@att.net



DuBois Center News

Getting to Know You!

We are excited to provide two "Meet and Greet" opportunities so

you all can meet Noah McCarn, the new Executive Director of DuBois Center (photo right) in person. The first opportunity will be **Sunday, March 5 from 3 pm to 5 pm at St. Jacob United Church of Christ** in St. Jacob. It is always good to have a face with a name. Here's your chance to do that with Noah.



The second "Meet and Greet" for Noah McCarn happens on **Sunday, April 23 from 3 pm to 5 pm at DuBois Center**. It will be more spring-like weather for this opportunity. You may meet Noah and Rylee Bernhardt, Program Director, (photo left) for DuBois Center AND tour the facility. There have been so many improvements to the space through your generosity in donations to DuBois 6.0. This is your chance to see the space and its caretakers. We hope to see you at one of the events.

Join the new monthly DuBois Center Newsletter to stay up to date on the latest DuBois Center news, events, and musings. Different than the Weekly Connection, the DuBois Center Newsletter will include a message from the Director, upcoming schedule, news about DuBois 6.0 projects, and sneak peaks for the summer camp season. [Click here to subscribe now!](#)





ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT SPRING? - Spring and summer are on our minds at DuBois Center, and we are ready to welcome you!!

Father & Son Retreat – March 17-19 - We are excited to be offering this popular retreat where DuBois Center is your playground to enjoy time with your dad, son, nephew, uncle, grandson, grandpa, or even someone who you think of as one!

Horse Retreat - April 15-16 - Another crowd favorite returns! This weekend is just like our summer horse camp, but with more time with and on the horses! Also, who said you could only **ride** horses? We'll have activities like horse apple bobbing, campfire cookouts with your horse, confecting horse treats, a barn party, and many more horse games. Designed for participants ages 12 and over who love horses, this could very well be the highlight of your spring!



Women's Retreat - April 21-23 - Back again for 2023, this retreat was created just for women ages 20 and over at DuBois Center. Relax and unwind with activities like yoga, nature walks, and spiritual time. This retreat is all about relaxing, getting away from everyday life, and meeting new friends. With an adults-only theme, this is the perfect time

to get away and enjoy a stress-free weekend!

BONUS: This weekend will also feature yoga from one of our talented former staff members and massages from two of our most dedicated volunteers! Just two more reasons to get away for the weekend! For full details, pricing, and registration for all events, please visit us online! As always, be sure to continue to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#), and www.DuBoisCenter.org for pictures, updates, videos, and stories!

Planning Transition to Retirement

The Pension Boards invites you to attend a two-day **Planning for the**

Transition to Retirement seminar on March 29-30, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm each day.

Whether you are planning to retire soon or are in the middle of your career, clergy or lay, this seminar is designed to help you transition to retirement. If you are an actively contributing Pension Boards member, 45 years of age or older, we invite you to participate.

[Register here by March 28, 2023.](#) The Zoom credentials you receive upon registration are the credentials you will use to participate in both Day One and Day Two of the **Planning for the Transition to Retirement** seminar.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

General Synod Resolutions - Delegates to the **United Church of Christ General Synod**

this summer will be wrestling with some big issues that have arisen in the country since the last Synod — through proposed resolutions. Acting as the General Synod Business Committee, the Board will vote whether to affirm the suggested action of each resolution. After this, full texts of each resolution will be **[publicly available for review](#)** prior to Synod, taking place June 30-July 4 in Indianapolis.



Thank you for your support of the **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS) offering! The UCC's Wider Church Ministries ability to provide Disaster Ministries, Refugee Ministries, and Sustainable Development initiatives are a result of your generosity.

In 2022, through your gifts to OGHS, the UCC was present with our neighbors in tangible ways, standing in solidarity and mutuality to respond to ongoing and emerging needs, and work for the benefit of all. Working collaboratively with Conferences, local, national, and global partners, we helped to provide clean water, food, education, health care, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief, and disaster preparedness and response.

This year, you are encouraged to receive the OGHS on **Sunday, March 19** using the theme **"It's Time to Share,"** based on Galatians 6: 9-10. While thousands of congregations will receive the OGHS offering on this day, we are grateful for your generous gifts whenever they are received throughout the year.

Ways to Give

- Donate through your local congregation and Illinois South Conference, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249
- Mail a check (payable to OGHS) to UCC, P.O. Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Shared Lenten Services - "Making All Things New" is the theme for this year's Midweek Lenten series, shared by five congregations in the Illinois South Conference. Each church will conduct its own Ash Wednesday service on February 22. Each congregation will then host a Midweek Lenten service for the other churches on one of the following five Wednesdays. The hosting congregations are:

- **Marine UCC in Marine on March 1**
- **St. Paul UCC (Bluff Church) in Edwardsville on March 8**
- **Grantfork UCC in Grantfork on March 15**
- **Immanuel UCC in Hamel on March 22**
- **St. John UCC in Wood River on March 29**

Each week's service begins at 7:00 pm and is followed by a fellowship period with snacks. Anyone from any other churches who are not offering Midweek services is welcome.

Region 2- Red Bud St. Peter UCC will hold Fish Fries on Fri, March 10 and March 31, serving from 4 pm - 7 pm. Indoor dining and curbside pickup. Menu includes cod, catfish, shrimp, chicken strips, sides (homemade German potato salad, American potato salad, French fries, macaroni and cheese, slaw, stewed tomatoes and baked beans). Cash or checks only. Call 618-282-2417 for carry-outs.

Valmeyer St. John UCC will host a Fish Fry on Fri, March 3 from 4 pm – 7:30 pm. Carryout only from the shed with cod cutups and sides (American potato salad, slaw, baked beans and fries).

Region 4- Godfrey Evangelical UCC Lenten Fish Fries will be held on six Fridays from March 3 - March 31 from 4 pm to 7 pm each week in Heggemeier Hall. Menu includes fish (buffalo, whitefish, or catfish fritters), sides (baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, chips), dessert, and drink. All you can eat \$13; Fish sandwich, one side, dessert and drink \$10; Hot dog, one side, dessert and drink \$5. All proceeds benefit our summer youth mission trip to Erie, PA on July 6-16.

Region 5 - Troy Friedens UCC will host Classic Friedens Friends on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10 am. The day is designed specifically for adults who are

retired, semi-retired, etc. The day will include some stretching/ chair yoga, a devotional time to set goals for the year, lunch, and a movie. Feel free to come for part or all of this day. No prior knowledge or experience needed to participate. All are welcome!

Troy Friedens UCC will host its Sausage & Kraut Dinner on Sun, March 19 from 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. Drive Thru only. Menu includes grilled pork sausage, sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes & gravy, and dessert. Cost is \$13/plate. Questions? contact 618-667-6535 or friedens@friedensucc-troy.org.

Hamel Immanuel UCC will hold its Chicken Dinner on Sunday March 19 from 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. DRIVE THRU ONLY. Menu includes fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, slaw, and applesauce. Quilt and TV raffle. Contact 618-633-2277. All meals \$12.00.

Troy Friedens UCC will host its Coffee & Dessert Speaker Series on the Third Thursday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Speakers scheduled are:

March 16 "A Trip to the Holy Land"

Speakers: Pastor Tim & Danielle Harrison & fellow travelers

April 20 "Lessons from the Master Gardeners"

Speakers: Bob and Judy Smejkal

May 18 "The 60s Chicks Show Choir"

Region 8 - Zion UCC in New Baden will host their first Chicken Dinner of 2023 on March 4 from 4 pm - 7 pm. Each dinner will cost \$15 and will come with half a chicken, sides, and dessert. This will be a drive-thru only dinner. For questions or if you have a large order, please call the office at 618-588-4135.

Zion UCC of New Baden will host a fish fry dinner on Fri, March 10 and Fri, March 24. Dinners will be \$15 with your choice of cod tail, catfish, or fried shrimp and a variety of sides. If you have any questions about the event, please call the Zion office at 618-588-4135.

Job Opportunities - Granite City St. John UCC is seeking a passionate, part-time Director of Music able to consistently provide a holy experience for our congregation and to reach new people through live music at worship services. The Director of Music will develop and lead the music ministries of our church year-round, providing live music throughout the year along with direction for our choir. The new director must have high proficiency in playing organ and piano. To support you, both our state-of-the-art Allen Bravura digital organ and our grand piano are recently installed in the sanctuary, along with a new top-of-the-line sound system. Our worship services are made more vibrant and motivational through music, and we rely on our Director of Music to lead the way. This part-time position will entail an average of 10-12 hours per week, with the inclusion of Sunday morning worship, Wednesday evening rehearsals, and occasional special services, funerals and weddings. The position's salary will be commensurate with the individual's past work experience. In Christ we live, celebrate and serve. Our church's mission statement embodies who we are: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, living our faith in Jesus Christ, and celebrating the promises of God, we welcome all to unite in loving and serving God. We hope you are called to be part of our historic church. Candidates may apply by submitting a resume and references to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com.

Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC is in search for a Part-time Music Leader. This position requires excellent people skills in working with the Council, Pastor, Secretary, committees, and Sunday school teachers. Music skills include the ability to play a Wick's two-manual pipe organ with pedals and piano. Good vocal skills are a plus but not required. The church does not have a choir but occasionally has special instrumentalists and vocalists. Church services are currently 10 am - 11 am on Sundays. Special services include Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and two Easter services. Contact the church secretary at 618-357-8075.

Office Business Manager - Evangelical UCC in Highland has an opportunity for a full-time Office Business Manager. This position will be responsible for overall administrative operation & management of the church office, day care, preschool & building & grounds. 2+ years of work experience required. Candidates can send their resume to bbray@evucc.org. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

St John UCC in Fairview Heights seeks a part time Church Secretary. Duties include answering the phone, processing email and regular email Preparing the Sunday bulletin and newsletter. Keep Member contribution files updated in Church Windows and provide support to the Pastor. Familiar with Word and Excel. A full job description will be provided at the interview. 9 hours weekly. Contact the Church office 618-397-6323 at pastor at 618-660-8894 or email stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com.

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

Please call (618-654-2125) before coming to the Conference Office or make an appointment with a staff member using the emails below.

For the work of Conference teams and committees or for financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org.

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.

For DuBois Center Executive Director, contact Noah McCarn at director@DuBoisCenter.org.

For DuBois Center program information, contact Rylee Bernhardt at 618-787-2202 or program@DuBoisCenter.org.

For DuBois Center registration for upcoming events and camp sessions or ISC program registrations, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org.

Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister, will be out of the office on medical leave for treatment from March 6-13 and will only respond to emergency emails or phone calls. She will be back in the office on March 14.

Inclusivity Statement for DuBois Center and Illinois South Conference of the UCC

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.

[Illinois South Conference](#) [Back Bay Mission](#) [CHHSM](#) [Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#) [DuBois Center](#) [Ecuador Partnership](#)

Eden Theological Seminary Emmaus Homes Hitz Memorial Home

Hoyleton Youth & Family LIFE Program Unleashing Potential

Pension Board-UCC St. John's Community Care UCC Insurance Board

Uplands Village UCC Campus Ministry Uni-Pres Kindercottage
UCC Newsletter

