

March 21, 2023



Listening with an Open Mind

“The Lord said to Moses, I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are...But Moses implored the Lord his God...And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.”

– Exodus 32:9-14 excerpts (NRSV)

One of the most important issues of a relationship is the ability to listen, discern what is best, and have a flexible enough mind to see the situation from another point of view.

When my son was about 10 years old, he was having trouble with math. I was trying to explain the new information to him, but I could see in his eyes that he was having an internal conversation, “I’ll never learn this new math. I’ve told her and told her that I’m too stupid to understand. I don’t know why she continues to try. I just can’t get it!” Mind you, all this time I’m giving him step-by-step instructions (which he didn’t hear) about how to do it.

I asked, “Do you understand now?” Of course, the answer was no because he had been too busy listening to his internal monologue. I repeated the how-to information while periodically interrupting his monologue with, “Did you get that part? We can’t move on until you do.” It seemed to break the recording repeating in his brain AND he learned.

This is not an unusual phenomenon among the human race. We focus on the small bit of information that we have, and our brains snap shut without considering another avenue. People around us can be giving us more vital information with which to make a decision, but we do not hear it because we have already made a decision without all of the information available.

The people that Moses brought out of Egypt didn’t have all the information, so they made decisions based on their old way of thinking. God was disappointed and ready to give them his wrath through disasters. But Moses intervened with more information, and God took that into consideration. If

Prayer list for March 26-April 1, 2023 Church & Pastors



-O'Fallon UCC, Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer (right)



-Ohlman St. Paul's UCC, Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance (left)

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Linda and Bob Coulson, Palm Coast, FL

People with Life Concerns

-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.

God had shut his brain after deciding that they had no hope of redemption, the story would have ended differently. Moses' relationship with an open-minded God, kept and reinforced the relationship with God and Moses, God and the people of Egypt, and between Moses and the people of Egypt.

My hope for me and all people I come into contact with is: May we begin our relationships with the ability to listen, discern what is best, and have a flexible enough mind to see the situation from another point of view.

Blessings to all, Lynnette Schuepbach
ISC Communications Coordinator

-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.



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](#)

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.

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference... Women's Auxiliary of New Athens Home Extends a Gracious Thank You. The auxiliary sends a special thank you for the continued support for New Athens Home for the Aged's residents over the past 60+ years. With the closing of the New Athens Home for the Aged, the auxiliary is disbanding. The remainder of funds have been equally distributed to Hoyleton's Youth & Family Services, Uni-Pres Kindercottage, and DuBois Center. Letters and checks have been sent to these three organizations. Again, we appreciate the love, prayers, and support for our previous residents over the years. – The Women's Auxiliary of New Athens Home

Preparation for VBS - If your church plans to use the "Hero Hotline" curriculum for VBS this summer, Belleville St. Paul would like to brainstorm about ways to share materials and other ideas related to Vacation Bible School. They invite you to join them for a meeting at St. Paul UCC, 115 West B Street, Belleville on March 29 at 10 am.

Borrowing "Godly Play" Materials - Does anyone use "Godly Play" in their Christian Education program or know of another church that does? Bette Rotert from Belleville St. Paul UCC would like to borrow a story basket to demonstrate the concept to her Christian Education committee at St. Paul UCC in Belleville. Please contact her at Bette Rotert at 847-744-8371 or kqbrot@sbcglobal.net.

Hike, Bike & Run for Hoyleton Youth and Family Services - You may choose between **5K & Half-Marathon OR 5 Mile Hike/Bike on May 13.** The 5K & Half-Marathon begins at 8:30 am and the 5 Mile Hike/Bike goes from 9 am - 11 am. Both courses begin and end at Maeystown St. John UCC. T-shirt & mile-marker sponsorships are available. For more information or to register, click [here](#). 5K \$35; 5 Mile Hike/Bike \$30; 1/2 Marathon \$60; T-shirt only \$20. Event is sponsored by Maeystown St. John UCC and Zion UCC, St. Joe. Proceeds benefit Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.



Oak Lodge at DuBois Center. Thanks for your generosity to make this face-lift possible.

DuBois Center News

Another project completed (right and left) thanks to your donations to **DuBois Center 6.0 Campaign** and the labor of many. Paint on the walls and the new flooring give new life to



Welcome Megan and Honey!

DuBois Center recently purchases two new horses! Megan is a black Tennessee Walking Horse and Honey is a red and white Appaloosa. They are making fast friends with the herd and are excited for folks to come say hello, feed them tasty treats, and go on a trail ride.

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 inquires 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, send a statement of interest and resume to director@duboiscenter.org.



Getting to Know You! - We are excited to provide a "Meet and Greet" opportunity so you all can meet Noah McCarn, the new Executive Director of DuBois Center (photo above left) and Rylee Bernhardt, Program Director, (photo above right) in person.

The second **"Meet and Greet" for Noah and Rylee will happen 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 for DuBois Center, enjoy the more spring-like weather, 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 DuBois.

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!



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!](#)



The Insurance Board is offering a webinar, "Help Your Ministry Walk Safely In the Spirit" on Thursday,

March 30 at 1 pm CST. The webinar features Patrick E. Marcotte MBA, CSP, Senior Technical Specialist-Workers' Compensation Loss Control, The Cincinnati Insurance Companies. A significant part of fellowship is spending time working together safely to help expand church ministries. Learn how to prevent common slip and fall accidents associated with walking surfaces to help keep your employees, volunteers, and congregants safe. To find out more or to register, click [here](#).

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.



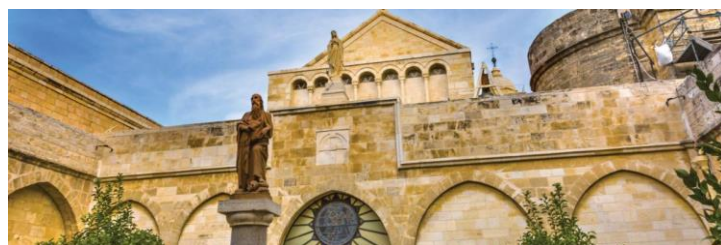
**EARLY CHILDHOOD
AFTER SCHOOL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
ENRICHMENT CAMPS**

*Formerly
Neighborhood
Houses*

SAVE THE DATE

Come support **Unleashing Potential** as we host our annual **trivia night April 22 at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3915 S. Lindbergh in Sunset Hills, Mo.** If you are interested in a table, register at <https://bit.ly/3IRoHu3>.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference



JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOLY LAND

SPONSORED BY: ST. JOHN'S MIDWAY & GLOBUS TRAVEL

From visiting the site of the first miracle in Cana to seeing the room of the Last Supper on Mount Zion, this faith-based

journey will fuel your faith and feed your soul. **Trip dates are February 26th through March 5th, 2024. Space is available, but don't delay!** Contact the church at 618-377-9288 or stjohnsmidway@yahoo.com for more info.

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 Wednesdays. The remaining host congregations are: **Immanuel UCC in Hamel on March 22 and St. John UCC in Wood River on March 29.** Each week's service begins at 7 pm and is followed by a fellowship period with snacks. Anyone from any other churches who are not offering Midweek services is welcome to join us!

Boundary Awareness Training - For those pastors who are due for **Boundary Training** this year, the next session for both active and retired will be **on Tuesday, May 16 from 8:30 am - Noon.** 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.

Region 2 - Red Bud St. Peter UCC will hold a Fish Fry on Fri, 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.

Region 4 - Godfrey Evangelical UCC Lenten Fish Fries will be held on two more Fridays, March 24 and March 31 from 4 pm to 7 pm 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 - Marine UCC will host a Trivia Night on April 29 beginning at 7 pm. (Doors open at 6:30 pm.) Prizes will be given to the 1st and 2nd place teams. Door prizes. Proceeds go to **Hoyleton Youth & Family Services** to support their mission in our communities. Cost is \$12 per person with up to 8 people to a table. To register, call 618-887-4465. If calling after hours, leave your name and number of people attending.

Troy Friedens UCC will host its Coffee & Dessert Speaker Series on the Third Thursday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Speakers scheduled are:
April 20 "Lessons from the Master Gardeners" Speakers: Bob and Judy Smejkal
May 18 "The 60s Chicks Show Choir"

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!

Region 8 - Zion UCC of New Baden will host a fish fry dinner on 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 - Looking for a Part-time job? Retired? Looking for some way to use your skills 9-12 hours a week and get paid for it? Perhaps you're a college student needing a flexible job to help finance gas in your car or pizza in your tummy? St John UCC in Fairview Heights seeks a part time Church Secretary. Preferably, someone who is familiar with the life of a church. Must be comfortable using computer and familiar with Word and Excel. A full job description will be provided at the interview. 9 -12 hours weekly depending on needs of the church. Contact the Church office 618-397-6323 (leave a message) or pastor at 618-660-8894 or email stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com.

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

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.

St. John United Church of Christ in Granite City, Illinois 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. Our Director of Music/Musician will provide live music throughout the year along with potentially offering leadership for our choir. Our new director must have proficiency in playing piano and/or organ. 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 include Sunday morning worship, occasional special services, and potentially rehearsals with our choir. This position's expected gross salary range is \$12,000-\$15,000. 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.

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.
For Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister, contact her at sjohnson@iscucc.org or 618-882-8247.

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.

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

[Eden Theological Seminary](#) [Emmaus Homes](#) [Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton Youth & Family](#) [LIFE Program](#) [Unleashing Potential](#)

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