



March 28, 2023

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services to Benefit 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.



Living Water

Recently, I attended a silent retreat in Belleville where the community conversations were about water, specifically John 4: 7-26, Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. This passage gave us many topics to talk about, such as Jesus talking with a woman

from Samaria when their communities were at odds, or the life-giving water of Jesus versus physical water which all of our bodies need. The pastor also spoke about our yearning for a relationship with God and how we may try to lessen the pain of that yearning with alcohol, drugs, food or any other addictive behavior. What I kept thinking was our yearning and the movement (or “yearning”) of a droplet of water to join a larger pool of water.

My curiosity peaked and an investigation of the properties of water was now a necessity for my sanity. I learned that there is a cohesion between the molecules of water which makes them pull toward each other. This pull (like a magnet) reaches out in all four directions. Those in the center of the pool of water are attracted to other molecules within the pool of water, equally on each side of the molecule. Those on the edge of the pool of water have one

Prayer list for
April 2-8, 2023
Church & Pastors
-Okawville St. Paul
UCC (right)



-Okawville St.
Peter's UCC, Rev.
Jeffrey (Sara)
Schwab (left)

Correction: It was listed that Ohlman St. Paul's UCC was O'Fallon UCC in last week's edition. Please Pray for Ohlman St. Paul's UCC, Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance (above)



Retired Pastors

-Rev. Earl and Johanna
Crecelius, Freeburg, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Please pray for **Rev. P. Jerry Bennett** as he prepares for surgery early next week. Rev. Bennett is the Pastor and Teacher at Hookdale St. Peter's UCC. Cards may be sent to him at PO Box 39, Highland, IL 62249.

-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

side that has no other molecule to be attracted to, so it doubles up with the other molecules on the edge. However, if a droplet continues to have that yearning or attraction to join the larger pool, it will actually move toward it and eventually join it.

So, let's consider the similarities of the yearning we have for the "living water," spoken about at the well, with this attraction that water molecules have for each other. Perhaps we could say God is the large pool of water. We take a drop of God's "water" with us when we are born, but the distance from God creates a yearning to be together again. Through the years, we try to recognize this yearning to be with God and lessen the pain of the yearning through each prayer, Bible study, deep conversation and silent time. It all brings us closer to knowing God's "living water." By sharing this knowing of God, we will connect with others on the same path. And when it is time, the cohesion of our individual droplets will allow us to rejoin the pool and totally understand the connection to the Whole and All That Is.

Draw us near, Oh God!

Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications
Coordinator

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.

Hike, Bike & Run for Hoyleton Youth & 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 Maestown 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 Maestown St. John UCC and Zion UCC, St. Joe. Proceeds benefit Hoyleton Youth & Family Services.

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.

Styrofoam Ban Update - The Illinois Environmental Council reports that the Illinois House of Representatives passed HB2376, a bill that would ban the worst of the worst of plastic pollution: polystyrene, more commonly known by the brand name Styrofoam. Now that the bill has passed in the House, the next step is to pass it through the Senate. The Illinois Environmental Council requests everyone's support to convince the Senate that foam foodware has no place in 2023. To find out more and how you can help, click [here](#).



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: February 26th through March 5th, 2024, Space is limited!** Contact the church at 618-377-9288 or stjohnsmidway@yahoo.com for more info.

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.

UCC Bylaws Amendments for General Synod - A message from John Dorhauer, UCC General Minister & President In preparation for some of that work we will do together, and in compliance with our Constitution and Bylaws, I am sending notice of proposed amendments to the United Church of Christ Bylaws. These amendments relate to changing the frequency of the General Synod. Several UC News stories have been written regarding the amendments, and they have been posted for some time on the General Synod website, so it is likely this is not the first time you are seeing them. I stand in full support of these changes. On October 21, 2022, the United Church of Christ Board voted to recommend to the Thirty-fourth General Synod amendments to the United Church of Christ Bylaws. The proposed amendments are [here](#), along with an explanatory memorandum. In compliance with the United Church of Christ Constitution, Paragraph 81, I am transmitting these proposed amendments to General Synod Delegates, Local Churches, and the Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Renewal Dates - The first renewal notices for Illinois Medicaid (HealthChoice) will begin being mailed in May 2023 for those whose coverage is due for renewal by June 1. Each person's renewal date is different. Coverage remains the same until an individual's redetermination month. A notice will be mailed one month before an individual's due date.

Preparing for Renewal:

- Visit abe.illinois.gov and click "Manage My Case" to set up your online account.
- Verify the address you have on file to ensure you are receiving mail to the correct address for renewal notice. View your address at the "Contact Us" tab.
- Review your due date so you know when to expect the letter by clicking on the "Benefit Details" tab.

Learn more about Illinois Medicaid and the end of continuous coverage [here](#). **Contact:** Healthcare and Family Services Bureau of All Kids Line: 1-877-805-5312 or medicaid.illinois.gov



Sierra Club Sues Prairie State Generating Company for Operating Prairie State Coal Plant Without a Title V Permit - "City leaders were sold an investment in Prairie State with the promise of cheap electricity and 'clean coal.' Neither promise has been fulfilled," said **Jeannie Korte, a resident of Highland, Illinois, just 40 miles north of the Prairie State coal plant and member of IMEA.** "Citizens, and especially our children and grandchildren, deserve power that does not pollute 'at will,' break the law, and steal the health and welfare from our future."

Sierra Club Illinois announced a lawsuit against Prairie State Generating Co. (PSGC) for operating the Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC) without a permit. Sierra Club's lawsuit urges PSGC to cease operations until it obtains a lawful CAAPP (also known as a Title V)

permit required by the Clean Air Act. The Prairie State coal plant is one of the dirtiest and deadliest plants in the United States.

“No plant is above the law, especially one that is among the most polluting coal plants in the country,” said Christine Nannicelli, Senior Campaign Representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign of Sierra Club Illinois. “PSEC’s owners, like the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) and the Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency (NIMPA), are actively pursuing federal taxpayer subsidies and investors to install carbon capture technology at the plant. Prairie State should instead be focused on complying with basic environmental laws like the Clean Air Act, not pushing for more taxpayer subsidies for risky, expensive technologies.” Read the entire [article](#).



DuBois Center News

Green DuBois Making Progress

On Saturday, March 25, a small but mighty work crew came out for a Green DuBois workday. Several members cut down invasive brush and others set up a small solar light system at the boathouse (top left



photo is a portable, folding solar panel and right is the light it feeds). The people participating



(below left photo left to right) are: Noah McCarn, Executive Director of DuBois Center; Rev. Philip Barbier, Pastor of St. Jacob UCC and Summerfield St. John UCC; Lana Rizzo; David Shanks, Green DuBois Team; Hank Henderson, Green DuBois Team; Rev. Janet Darmour-Paul, Green DuBois Team; Jill Baker, ISC Moderator and Green DuBois Team; Aaron Fuchs, Outdoor Ministry Team; Harmon Fuchs; and (not pictured) Susan Fuchs, Outdoor Ministry Team and Green DuBois Team.

Help with DuBois Center Wish List - As DuBois Center ‘wishes’ for a great summer filled with new camps and activities, you can help us out with our Amazon Wishlist!

From a water balloon launcher to Giant Jenga, hammocks to batteries, and just about everything in between—you can be part of our best summer yet!

Some items are smaller, some can be split with a friend, and some can be seen as boring-yet-sorely-necessary essentials. We thank you for any contribution, big or small, and will be profoundly appreciated as we gear up for another great summer! To see the list, click [here](#).



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!

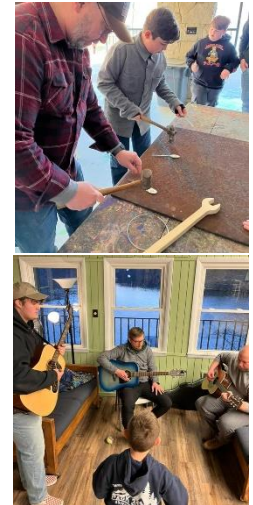


Horse Retreat - April 15-16 - Another crowd favorite returns! This weekend is just like our summer horse camp, but with more time with and on the horses! Also, who said you could only **ride** horses? We'll have activities like horse apple bobbing, campfire cookouts with your horse, confecting horse 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!



The Father & Son Retreat at DuBois Center on March 17-19 was the first retreat at DuBois Center for 2023. The temperature may have been below freezing last weekend, but the fathers and sons still had a great time! Horseback

riding, metalsmithing a windchime with silverware, foosball, video games, music, gaga pit, fishing, archery, group games, and more filled the hours of quality time between generations. Photos of activities right and group on left.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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](#).

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>.



EARLY CHILDHOOD
AFTER SCHOOL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
ENRICHMENT CAMPS
Formerly
Neighborhood
Houses

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference



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!](#)

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. The remaining Midweek Lenten service is:

- **St. John UCC in Wood River on March 29**

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.

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.

Dupo Christ UCC will hold its All-You-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 9 from 7:30 am – 9:30 am. Adults - \$8; Children 12 yrs. & under - \$3. All are welcome.

Region 4 - The last Godfrey Evangelical UCC Lenten Fish Fry will be on Friday, 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 - 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 9 - O'Fallon UCC invites everyone to their 7 pm Good Friday service on April 7. There will be much music by professional cellist, Marta Simidtchieva, as well as a handbell choir and chancel choir. All are welcome.

Job Opportunity - DuBois Center - 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](#). Please send a statement of interest and resume to director@duboiscenter.org.

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 a computer and familiar with Word and Excel. A full job description will be provided at the interview. 9 -12 hours weekly depending on the 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

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 were 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 potential 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.

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. Their music skills include the ability to play a Wicks 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.

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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