



May 16, 2023



### Save the Date Confirmation Retreat Sept 16, 2023

The 2023 Confirmation Retreat - Walk in Faith is scheduled for September 16, 2023, at Camp

Wartburg at 5705 Lrc Rd in Waterloo, Illinois, from 9 am - 4 pm. There will be Low Ropes Course with Team Building and lunch for \$30 per person. If you would like to add on High Ropes Course, the cost is \$30 more per person. If scholarship assistance is needed, contact the ISC office at 618-654-2125.

Click [here](#) for more information or [here](#) to register. If you would like a flyer to share with the confirmands, click [here](#).

### It's a Mystery

When I was working and living in the suburbs of Chicago, I wanted to find a beautician that I could trust. I found one in the telephone book and went for a trial treatment. As we asked and answered questions to find out more about each other, she said, "I want to go visit my eldest son in Colorado. Would you babysit my other four children over the weekend?"

I was shocked that this person would ask a total stranger to come into her home and entrust her children to me. I responded, "You do not know me from a load of hay. How can you trust that I will not steal you blind or hurt one of your kids?"

Her response was, "I have a good sense of who people are when I meet them. You're trustworthy." I felt the same about her and agreed to the weekend. The four kids (5-12 years old) and I spent the weekend making cookies; buying disposable cameras for all and walking the woods so each could take photos of the parts of nature that interested them; repeating the walking and photos the next day, although they bought their own cameras and invited



### Prayer list for May 21-27, 2023 Church & Pastors

**-Valmeyer St. John UCC, Rev. Steven (Carla) Boorsma**  
(above)



**-Waterloo St. Paul UCC, Rev. Jeff (Bobbie) McCarn** (above)

### Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Thomas Nadelin, St. Louis, MO**

### People with Life Concerns

**-Keep Kevin (Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee) Lee** in your prayers as he deals with illness at Barnes Hospital. Rev. Spier-Lee served as pastor at Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe until she retired in 2018. Cards may be sent to 309 Kroeger Ave, Dupu, IL 62239.  
**-Keep Rev. Bob (Doris) Utke** in your prayers as he deals with

friends to join us on the walk; and going to the police station because the teacher at school asked the 12-year-olds to report another student threatening them with a crowbar.

Thirty years later, we remain good friends. I have participated in weddings, funerals, birthdays, starwatching, hiking, baby-sitting for her grandkids, cheering their successes and crying with their failures, and offering advice when it is requested. Friends for life.

I marvel at the mystery in life and in the Bible. How did Jesus perform healing miracles? How did he change water to wine? How did he walk on water? We accept these stories without questioning, but they are truly a mystery...not to be thoroughly understood. We cannot see the entire picture as God can.

Because I took a chance on an unknown with this woman and her request, I have been given a friend, and "surrogate grandchildren and great-grandchildren." We may not see or talk to each other for months, but the connection is there. All because she "sensed" that I was a trustworthy person and invited me into her world. In my mind, this mystery gave me a "family" in Chicago when my biological family was far away.

Although the mystery may be frightening in one respect, it is also exciting as it brings added bonuses to our lives that we may not have chosen for ourselves. It's a push on our backs to trust in the mystery of life and have faith. It's trust in the mystery that allows me to respond when my biological grandchildren say, "Grandma, you're weird." And I respond, "I know. Isn't it wonderful!"

Blessings

Lynnette Schuepbach

ISC Communications Coordinator

health issues which have caused a hospital stay. Rev. Utke was the pastor at Stone Church St. Peter's UCC prior to retiring.

Cards may be sent to him at Rev. Robert Utke, 1840 University Ave W, Apt. 305, St. Paul MN 55104.

-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.



There will not be a Weekly Connection next week as Lynnette will be out of town. However, here is the prayer list for the week of May 23.

### Prayer list for May 28-June 3, 2023 Church & Pastors

Waterloo Zion UCC St. Joe, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole (left)

**Wood River St. John UCC, Rev. John Pawloski (right)**

### Retired Pastor

**Rev. Fred and Shirley Wehrenberg, Columbia, IL**



## Prayer and Lectionary Lunch Hour

Illinois South Conference pastors gather by Zoom each Wednesday at about 12:30 by Zoom. Their time together normally lasts about an hour. All pastors are invited to share and solidify relationships with their pastoral peers in our Conference. Here is the Zoom link:

Date and time: Wednesdays at 12:30 pm

Meeting ID: 837 0733 6906. Link to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707336906>



**St. Peter's United Church of Christ** and the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ

Invite you to the installation service of

**Rev. Dr. Lauren Lambert-Goheen** as their Pastor and Teacher

Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 3 pm

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

1512 Spruce Street, Murphysboro, IL 62966.

Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles and arrive at 2:30 pm to process. A meal will be served in the fellowship hall following the installation.

## Facing Hunger in Your Community

**The Hunger Action Team of the ISC** asks you to share the ways (and photos) of how you are helping to address hunger in your communities. Summer is coming soon; students who qualify for free school breakfast/ lunch will not have access to their free meals during summer break.

Please share how your church is helping combat hunger for local families in need.

Reminder: Children need the proper nutrition for their learning, development, and growth.

Contact Kathi at [kathi1emery@gmail.com](mailto:kathi1emery@gmail.com). Below is one of the stories within ISC.



## The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

**Marion Zion UCC sponsors a summer lunch program called SHINE!** that begins when school ends in May and continues all summer.

They prepare packaged lunches that also include fruit and a beverage three times a week, with volunteers handing them out at a designated park. They typically distribute more than 100 (sometimes close to 200) sack lunches, each of those days. Last year they were partially

funded with a donation from the local Kiwanis Club (Photo left). Thank you, Rev. John Holst, Pastor and Teacher for Marion Zion UCC, and the volunteers of the congregation. Such a blessing!

## General Synod 34 will be held in Indianapolis on June 30 – July 4. The

Indiana/Kentucky Conference (IKC) of the United Church of Christ will be the host of the GS. As their neighboring Conference, IKC is asking for volunteers from Illinois South Conference to allow many hands to make light work.

The process to volunteer happens in three steps:

1. Apply to volunteer by clicking [here](#).
2. You'll receive a discount code after you apply to volunteer you can use to **Register for General Synod [here](#) which will allow you to register for the entire event for only \$65 (be sure to enter the code!)**
3. Attend your shift and help us make this the best General Synod yet!

Shifts are approximately 4 hours and there are many volunteer [opportunities](#) including the following (click on the links below to view the role's duties). If you're not sure what you'd like to do, contact our Synod Volunteer Coordinator, [Kim Armstrong](#), to discuss the best fit for you. **Click [here](#) to volunteer** and stay tuned. Email the Local Arrangements Team if you have any questions at [generalsynod2023@kcuucc.org](mailto:generalsynod2023@kcuucc.org). We are looking forward to loving and serving like Jesus alongside you!



### **Making All Things News: General Synod - June 28 - July 4**

You are invited to General Synod 34: the United Church of Christ's first 100% in-person gathering in almost four years!

General Synod will be in Indianapolis from Friday, June 30, to Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

Come to Indianapolis for the United Church of Christ's "Family

Reunion," and register to access all things General Synod:

- Inspiring worship services
- Optional fellowship and dining events
- Dozens of engaging workshops
- The exhibit hall
- An electrifying keynote speaker
- Faith-filled business proceedings
- and much more!

After spending years apart, General Synod 34 is sure to be an unforgettable and transformative experience. Don't wait - [register](#) today!

## DuBois Center News

### **Rylee Bernhardt Steps Down as Programming Director**

Last week, **Rylee Bernhardt** made the decision to step down as DuBois Center Programming Director. Her last day is May 18. Rylee did an excellent job in her time at DuBois Center, and she will be missed. We have an excellent staff lined up for the summer and are excited for training week to start next week.

**Chaplains Needed - DuBois Center needs chaplains for this summer**, especially for the weeks of June 4 and July 9. Reach out to Noah at [director@duboiscenter.org](mailto:director@duboiscenter.org) if you're interested.

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!](#)



### **Kindercottage News**

We welcome Spring by learning so many new things from mixing colors with paint as well as food coloring, to growing plants in our outdoor garden.

We are so grateful for all the donations and participation we have received from many of the churches and community organizations.



**CHSM News**  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

We are still in need of summer garden supplies, art supplies, as well as outdoor recreational materials. Please see our [website](#) for more information.

Please save the date for our "Let Us Laugh" Christian Comedy night, more details will be coming soon!

**Hoyleton Youth & Family Services** has multiple employment opportunities available. To see the list, click [here](#).



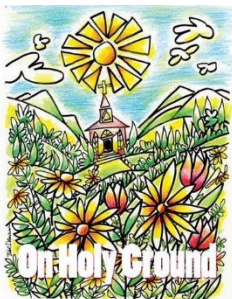
**Caregiver Coffee Talk**, sponsored by **St. John's Community Care** is scheduled every Monday from 9 am - 10:30 pm at Verona Coffee Company in Collinsville. Caregiver specialist, Keanna Gibson, will help caregivers come together offering information, resources, and strategies specifically for caring for someone who may be disabled or have other health-related concerns. Share space and life experiences over a nice hot cup of coffee provided by St. John's Community Care.

**Hitz Memorial Home has an immediate opening for a Director of Nursing.** Apply in-person at 201 Belle Street, Alhambra, IL 62001. Call for details. 618-488-2355.

**Hitz Memorial Home has multiple open CNA positions available for evening/midnight shifts.** Call 618-488-2355 for more information. Or you may apply in person at 202 Belle Street, Alhambra, IL 62001.

**Uni Pres Kindercottage is looking for volunteers** to help clean out the shed and organize it as well. We are willing to open on Saturday, June 3 from 9 am - noon. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Mr. Rose at 618-874-6505 or email to [Antron@unipreskindercottage.org](mailto:Antron@unipreskindercottage.org).

## What's Happening in Illinois South Conference



**On Holy Ground - Strengthen the Church** - The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local UCC churches. Support of this offering helps the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in ministries that meet the emerging needs of local communities. Congregations may take the offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 28. **50% of this offering stays within Illinois South Conference to help our individual churches.** Resources available as digital download or in print and include the following: **Downloadable items:**

- Campaign Overview and Resource Pages
- Reflection by Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
- 3 Bulletin Inserts including a poem by Rev. Dave Long-Higgins and a reflection by Rev. Traci Blackmon
- Music Video of "On Holy Ground" with images of new churches and ministry funded by this offering

The download link will be on the checkout confirmation page and emailed to you. Nothing will be shipped.

**Print resources:** Envelopes (Order individually. Envelopes do not come in packs). Order downloaded or print material [here](#).

### **Mental Health First Aid Certification - On July 15 from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Belleville**

**Trinity UCC** will host a Mental Health First Aid Certification class for the first fifteen people who register for the class. The cost of the program is \$75 per person which covers the cost of the books, supplies, and certification. Please send an email to Pastor Tim Powers-Reed at [illinitchr@gmail.com](mailto:illinitchr@gmail.com) to register. By June 25, payment must be completed by a check payable to Trinity UCC Belleville. The certification class is offered as part of Trinity's WISE covenant, and they hope that members of the Conference will take advantage of this opportunity!

**Mental Health Sunday** - At the 2022 ISC Annual Meeting, the delegates made a covenant to become a **WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) Conference**. May 21 is Mental Health Sunday. Each year, about one in four of us deal with a mental health challenge, sometimes chronic and sometimes acute. These conditions are not the result of a lack of faith but are matters of physical health and wellbeing. Spiritual resources can promote hope and strength for living with these conditions. Consider focusing on ISC's WISE covenant on May 21.

### **Vacation Bible School Schedule**

**May 30 - June 2;** Waterloo St. Paul UCC; *Cokesbury Hero Hotline*.

**June 5-7 from 6 pm - 8 pm; June 8 from 6 pm - 7 pm;** Trenton St. John UCC with co-host First United Methodist Church; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God*.

**June 5-9;** Okawville St. Peter's UCC; *Hero Hotline*.

**June 5-9 from 9 am - 12 pm;** Highland Evangelical UCC; *Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light*.

**June 6, 7, 8, from 6 pm - 8:30 pm;** New Hanover Zoar UCC; *Hero Hotline*.

**June 12-15;** Dupo Christ UCC; *Hero Hotline*.

**June 12-15;** Central City Zion UCC & Centralia St. Peter UCC (in covenant with Redeemer Lutheran Church, First Christian, Presbyterian Church, and First Methodist Church) at First Methodist Church in Centralia; *Hero Hotline*.

**June 13, 14, 15 from 5:30 pm - 8 pm;** Plum Hill St. John UCC with co-host Nashville St. Paul UCC; *Dinosaurs*.

**July 17-21, 9 am-11 am;** Marissa Friedens UCC; *Hero Hotline*.

**June 19-23 from 8:45 am - 12 pm;** Mascoutah St. John UCC; *Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light*.

**June 19-22 from 6 pm - 8 pm;** Belleville St. Paul UCC & Belleville Trinity UCC (held at St. Paul UCC); *Hero Hotline*.

**July 20, 27, August 3 from 6 pm - 8 pm;** Troy Friedens UCC & St. Jacob UCC; Locations are St. Jacob Park; Tri-Township Library; Tri-Township Park; *Intergenerational Vacation Bible School for those between the ages of 1-100+; Exploring the theme of the Greatest Commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**." and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

**June 25-29;** Granite City St. John UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God*.

**July 10-14 from 9 am - 12 pm;** Collinsville St. John UCC; Cost is \$15/person; *Hero Hotline*.

**July 10-14;** Red Bud St. Peter UCC; *Hero Hotline*.

**July 24-28 from 9 am - 11 am;** New Baden Zion UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God*.

**August 6, 13, 20, 27, and September 3 at 9:15 am;** Alhambra Salem UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God.*

## Region 2

**Dupo Christ UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sat, May 20 from 11 am to 3 pm while supplies last.** Menu is pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, applesauce, and cake. Carry-out or dine-in. Outdoor seating available. Adults \$13 per plate; Children 5 - 11 years \$6 per plate.

## Region 5

**Troy Friedens UCC will host several events. All are welcome.**

May 19 Rummage Sale 2 pm – 6 pm

May 20 Rummage Sale 8 am – 1 pm

May 20 Classic Friedens Self Defense Class 10 am (Sanctuary)

May 25 Dessert Speaker Series: The 60s Chicks Show Choir

## St. Jacob Strawberry Festival Set for May 21

St. Jacob UCC will hold its 39th annual Strawberry Festival May 21 from 11 am to 3 pm at the St. Jacob Township Park. The event draws more than 3,000 people from the surrounding areas. It is a family-friendly event, and this year features entertainment by Paul Jarvis, Sheltered Reality, and Scruffy Looking Nerf Herder, and will include crafts, and children's activities, as well as strawberry desserts, brats, hot dogs, and pork burgers!

## Region 9

**Belleville Trinity UCC will host its All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner Social on Sat, June 3 at 6 pm.** Menu includes spaghetti with meat sauce (or vegetarian sauce), salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Tea, lemonade, and coffee provided or BYOB. Photo booth. Games. Attendance Prizes. Karaoke. Raffle baskets. Kid's activities. All Proceeds benefit Trinity's Annual Holiday Food Basket Program. Adults \$15; Children 5 - 12 \$5; Children 4 and under Free.

## Job Opportunities

**Columbia St. Paul UCC is looking for a part-time custodian** to work 16-hours per week. Please send resume by e-mail at [office@stpaulcolumbia.org](mailto:office@stpaulcolumbia.org) or bring resume to the church office at 127 N. St. Paul St. in Columbia.

**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](mailto:stjohnuccfairview@gmail.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](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org).

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact **Lynnette Schuepbach** at [lschuepbach@iscucc.org](mailto:lschuepbach@iscucc.org).

For DuBois Center Executive Director, contact Noah McCarn at [director@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:director@DuBoisCenter.org).

For DuBois Center program information, contact **Rylee Bernhardt** at 618-787-2202 or [program@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:program@DuBoisCenter.org).

For DuBois Center Office, contact Shelby Liggett at [dcinfo@duboiscenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@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](mailto:jriechmann@iscucc.org).

For **Rev. Shana Johnson**, ISC Conference Minister, contact her at [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto: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.*

[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](#)

