

June 6, 2023



Love Is the Answer

In her book *I Am Enough*, speaker and therapist Marissa Peer states that everyone has two core human needs, “to find connection” and “to avoid rejection.” As I read this, I was struck by how Jesus’ ministry is centered on

these core needs.

Consider the fascinating stories of those who encounter Jesus. Whether it was the disciples, Zacchaeus, Nicodemus, the women at the well, or the thief dying on the cross next to him in Jesus’ last hours, each encounter reveals those who have felt the pain of being disconnected, devalued, or disowned by others. Yet their lives were forever changed through an experience through the person of Christ, whose very nature was to offer connection and acceptance. In Christ, they found the kind of love, forgiveness, and grace they had longed for. In Christ, their minds, bodies, souls, and very lives found the home they were dreaming of.

While much in the world has changed, and much in the world will continue to change, the human need to love and belong will be a constant. So, what does that mean for the Church? It means the core tenets of Christ’s mission and ministry will always be relevant and needed in the world.

Unfortunately, these core human needs are also why many have and will become discouraged, disillusioned, and eventually disassociate with the Church when the Church is **not** a place of love and belonging. Instead of finding connection in the Church, people can often find what they were trying to escape--divisions and discord. Instead of finding a place where they would be accepted for who they were, many find in the Church exactly what they have been trying to avoid—rejection.

Many have walked away from the Church because they were hoping for something better, something

Prayer list for June 11-17, 2023 Church & Pastors -Belleville Christ UCC, Pastor John (Lisa) Tinge (right)



-Belleville
Concordia UCC,
Rev. Joan (John)
Mier (left)

Retired Pastor
Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn,
Waterloo, IL

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, Dupou, IL 62239.
- Keep **Rev. Bob (Doris) Utke** in your prayers as he deals with 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

kinder, something more authentic than what they could experience everywhere else in their lives; they were hoping to find the love and acceptance Christ promises.

And so, we have our work cut out for us. The work might be more challenging, but the assignment is still the same. Jesus is calling us to continue to carry out his mission of sharing his love, forgiveness, and grace with the world. During his time on earth, Jesus extended radical love to those seeking to find worth, a sense of belonging, and acceptance, and we can too.

Love is the answer.

Patient love.

Radical love.

Tough love.

Compassionate love.

Unconditional love.

Transformative love.

Merciful love.

Justice-demanding love.

Making a place for all love.

Breaking down barriers love.

Walking humbly with our God love.

Extending ourselves to others love.

Christ-centered love.

It is that simple.

Love is what is needed. Love is what the Church can offer.

May it be so in our churches and our lives.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson

ISC Conference Minister

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.

Happy Father's Day



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](#).

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@ikcucc.org. We are looking forward to loving and serving like Jesus alongside you!

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.

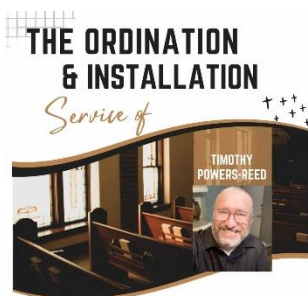
Please share how your church is helping combat hunger for local families in need.

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

Contact Kathi at kathi1emery@gmail.com. Below is a church addressing the hunger issues in their community.

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

ST. PAUL UCC, Waterloo's "Free Summer Lunch" Project. Partnering with the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service. Providing food for local families in need; including Waterloo, Columbia, Hecker, and Prairie Du Rocher. Students won't have access to their free school breakfast. Lunch during summer break. Hunger action projects Are more important than ever, with so many of our neighbors facing an increased risk of hunger. Thanks, St. Paul!



Trinity UCC Belleville and Illinois South Conference of UCC

Invite You to the Ordination and Installation of
Tim Powers-Reed

July 23, 2023, at 3 pm

Trinity UCC Belleville, 47 N Douglas, Belleville, Illinois
Ministers attending are asked to robe and wear red or rainbow stoles and arrive by 2:30 pm to participate in the service. A meal and reception will immediately follow the service.

Save the Date - Youth Event

Frostbite Fun Youth Event presented by the ISC Local Church Ministries Team is scheduled for January 13 and 14, 2024 at DuBois Center. All junior high (middle school) and high school youth are invited to attend. You may attend in one of two ways: Single Day (\$50) on Saturday from 10 am - 7 pm or Overnight (\$100) on Saturday from 10 am to Sunday at 11 am. Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your church and its youth. *If inclement weather causes us to postpone this event, it will be held on February 17 and 18, 2024.*



The Time Boss Retreat

Are you exhausted, overwhelmed? [The Time Boss retreat](#), created by Rev. Nicole Havelka, certified yoga instructor, is designed for people who want a different relationship with their time and their calendars. During eight coaching sessions that meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 10 a.m. ET from June 8 - July 27, you will learn some to set priorities, reduce distractions, learn to say no, how to block time and, most importantly, learn how to make time for YOU to truly rest. If you have any questions, contact Nicole at defythetrend@gmail.com

Volunteers needed for Welcome Team

We are looking for friendly faces to help with camp check-in on Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 pm. Join our welcome team for one Sunday or as many Sundays as you want! Volunteers are needed to help with registration, t-shirt distribution, and help with lice checks. We ask that volunteers must be at least 16 years old.



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 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!](#)

ONA Coalition Presents Webinar Keeping Spaces Safe: Strategies for LGBTQIA and Community June 8, 2023 at 6 pm CST

LGBTQIA+SGL spaces must consider and evaluate their safety and security concerns in the current social, political and economic climate. Webinar topics include: emergency preparedness, cybersecurity, civil unrest, active intruder preparedness and more. Register [here](#).



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Institute for Black Liberation - Deaconess Foundation announced the launch of its Institute for Black Liberation (the Institute), a novel approach to developing liberatory consciousness through healing the hurts of internalized racism. With an emphasis on developing liberatory consciousness, the Institute gives Black leaders in the Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois region the opportunity to name, reckon with and heal from racial trauma and the pervasive effects of internalized and structural racism. The vision is bold. The applied learnings and transformational experience of the interdisciplinary, intergenerational institute will prime participants to accelerate the creation of conditions that promote a just, whole society and future with impact felt most profoundly within the Deaconess footprint.

"The well-being of the Black community and its people is determined not just by external progress but internal liberation from the profound impacts of white supremacy," said Bethany Johnson-Javois, President and CEO of Deaconess Foundation. "With the Institute, we

cultivate a much-needed environment of self-discovery, reflection, listening, and learning for leaders that will enable them to drive and sustain the societal change we want to see within the next seven generations.”

For more information and to apply to the Institute, click [here](#).

The UCC Wellness Ministry Offers The New UCC Wellness Ministries Toolkit. It Is Now Available Online! This Toolkit, available at no charge, provides concise information with embedded hyperlinks that allow you to find more in-depth knowledge and provides samples of tools to help you develop or enhance your Wellness Ministries. This *UCC Wellness Ministries Toolkit* replaces the *UCC Called to Care: A Notebook for Lay Caregivers* and the *UCC Faith Community Nurse Manual*.

Want to take a look? Go to UCC.org. In the upper right-hand corner, Search: Wellness Ministries Toolkit. This takes you to the [Wellness Ministries Toolkit](#) landing page. This page provides an overview of the whole Toolkit and access to Section 1.

Greetings from Uni-Pres Kindercottage!

Summer is here, and Kindercottage would like to plan some great experiences for their little angels. The plan is to take preschool, and school age children on four field trips: The Magic House, the St. Louis Zoo, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and the Science Center. There is no cost for tickets for three of the field trips, but the Magic House costs \$6.00/ticket. Other costs include \$170 for each of the bus trips. Kindercottage would appreciate your help to enrich the lives of 40 children with your donations for these events. Other items on their wish list for the summer program are cases of water, play dough, prepackaged chips/snacks, fruit cups, and small juice boxes.

Kindercottage is so grateful and feel so blessed with the donations they receive from churches. If you send a package directly from Walmart or Amazon, please call the center and let them know what was sent so they can be sure to show their appreciation. Please call 618-874-6505.

Kindercottage no longer uses Paypal to receive donations. Donations can be received through the mail or by using cashapp@\$UnipresKindercottage.

They thank you in advance for your care and concern for the children of Uni-Pres Kindercottage

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 am 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.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

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>

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 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!

Vacation Bible School Schedule

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

Zion UCC-St. Joe will hold a BBQ on Sat, June 17 from 10 am - 2 pm at the Waterloo Rural King parking lot. Pork steak or brat plates with 2 sides for \$12 each. Sandwiches (port steak, hamburger, cheeseburger, double hamburger, double cheeseburger, or hot dog from \$2 to \$9. Sides of pork 'n beans, cole slaw or potato salad for \$2 each.

Region 4

Wood River St. John UCC is hosting an Indoor Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 17 from 8 am-1 pm. Come shop in the air conditioning at 228 N. Sixth St., Wood River.

Region 5

St. John's UCC - Midway in Moro will hold a Pickleball Tournament on Sun, June 11 after worship at the church. T Mos Food Truck will be available for food and drinks as part of their Dine and Donate fundraiser. There will also be a cornhole tournament and activities for the kids. Bring your friends to this fun event. Registration fee is a food item which will be donated to the local food pantry. For more information, call 618-377-9288.

St John's UCC in Breese will host a LARGE White Elephant Sale on Friday June 9 from 8 am until 5 pm and on Saturday June 10 from 8 am until 12 noon. St John's is located at 200 Main Street in Breese. The sale will be in the church's courtyard.

Region 9

Concordia UCC, Belleville will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Thurs, June 8, beginning at 5 pm. The Imani Milele Ugandan Children's Choir will perform after dinner. Please join us to celebrate this organization and the good work they do for the orphaned children of Uganda. There is no cost for the meal, however a free-will donation will be collected to be given to the Imani Milele organization. Please R.S.V.P. by June 6. Concordia UCC, 7600 State Rte. 163, Belleville. For questions and reservations, contact Rev. Joan Mier, 618-476-3377.

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 or bring resume to the church office at 127 N. St. Paul St. in Columbia.

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 Office, contact **Shelby Liggett** at 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.

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.

[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](#)

