

Illinois
South
Conference



Weekly
Connection

Diverse Minds,
Covenant Hearts,
Made One in the Body of Christ

June 13, 2023



*The following is a poem
Pastor Tim Powers-Reed,
pastor of Trinity United
Church of Christ in
Belleville, wrote about the
Illinois South Conference.
It speaks to the ISC Spirit*

*of who we are and strive to be as a Conference in
Christ's name. Thank you, Tim, for sharing it with
all of us*

In the heartland of Illinois, a conference does rise,
Where souls converge, a tapestry of ties.
United Church of Christ, their spirit strong,
A beacon of love, where they belong.
Within the Illinois South Conference, a wondrous
sight,
Amazing people, shining with inner light.
Bound by faith, compassion their guide,
They walk together, hand in stride.
In each church, a sanctuary of grace,
Where weary hearts find a sacred space.
Through open doors, they welcome all,
A haven of acceptance, standing tall.
The pastors, shepherds of devoted care,
Tending to flocks with heartfelt prayer.
With wisdom and love, their voices ring,
Guiding their congregations, hearts they bring.
Lay leaders, pillars of strength and devotion,
Serving with humility and unwavering emotion.
They uplift the community, lending a hand,
Inspiring acts of kindness across the land.
The choirs, a symphony of harmonious voices,
Their melodies soar, as the spirit rejoices.
Through hymns and anthems, they transcend,
Unifying hearts, where souls mend.

Prayer list for
June 18-24,
2023

Church &
Pastors

**-Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev.
Michelle (Aaron Brent
Coleman) Torigian** (right)



**-Belleville
Trinity,
Pastor Tim
(Shea)
Powers-**

Reed (left)

Retired Pastor

Rev. Donald and Anne Sabbert,
Crestwood, 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, Dupo, 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.

In the Illinois South Conference, hearts are aflame,
With missions and ministries, their noble aim.
Feeding the hungry, clothing the cold,
Standing for justice, stories yet untold.
They advocate for equality and love, Fighting
oppression, like a mighty dove.
Championing diversity, breaking down walls,
Embracing God's creation, one and all.
Through fellowship and gatherings, they unite,
Sharing stories, laughter, and the darkest night.
With open hearts, they nurture bonds,
Creating a community where love responds.
Oh, amazing people of the Illinois South,
Your spirit shines, filling hearts with a douse.
In your deeds and actions, love is found,
A beacon of hope, forever profound.
May your faith continue to ignite the flame,
Spreading love and grace in Jesus' name.
For in the Illinois South Conference, you see,
A testament to the power of unity.
©Pastor Tim Powers-Reed, Pastor & Teacher,
Belleville Trinity UCC

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 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.

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 are two churches that are addressing the hunger issues in their communities.

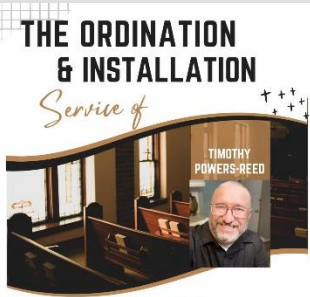


The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

"Feed My Lambs" is an annual mission project of preparing and delivering lunch bags to address hunger issues for students in our O'Fallon community. **O'Fallon UCC has provided food and workers for "Feed My Lambs" for a decade and**

coordinated with other churches to make it a successful community program. Pictured left. Not pictured are Mark & Jackie Russo, Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer

Hamel Immanuel UCC's "Lunch On Us": free summer sack lunch program help students who qualify for free school breakfast and who won't have access to these meals during summer break. Thank you, Immanuel UCC - helping combat hunger for local children and their families. Such a blessing!



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.*



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](#).

Centralia St. Peter UCC has some items that they would like to find a new home for. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Borgmann at nancyborg@charter.net. Items are free if you pick them up at 318 W 3rd St., Centralia, IL. If you care to give a donation, it will be accepted and given to charity.

Item photos below: Left to right

Baptismal Font: 52 inches from floor to top of the cross, 33 inches base, 19 inches lid, Very heavy, not easy to move. Made of wood with metal water container.

Advent Candles: Metal frame, 3 purple, one pink, and one white Christ candle, 51 inches from floor to base of candles, Spring loaded candles, 24 inches Christ candle, Refill candles are included.

Paschal Candle: 42 inches from floor to base of candle, Candle is included.

Second row left: **Wall Hangings-White and Gold**, 8 feet 2 inches long, 36 inches wide.

Second row middle: **Wall Hangings Green:** 5 feet 11 inches long, 36 inches wide, green.
Second row right: **Wall Hangings Purple:** Hangs from the top. 5 feet 11 inches long, 36 inches wide, Color pale purple.



Please join the UCC at a special Juneteenth edition of their Thursday webinar series, Nurture the Soul, on Thursday, June 15 at 2:30pm CST: **Celebrating Juneteenth: Practicing Antiracism from Emancipation to Freedom.**

As part of their engagement with Ibram X Kendi's book *How to Be an Antiracist*, Join the Movement's All Church Read, our

Juneteenth panelists will reflect on the themes of the last chapters of the book: Failure, Success, and Survival. The exploration of each theme will include our resident historian, Dr. Renee K. Harrison offering a historical connection to Juneteenth and emancipation, reflection from a UCC leader on the implications for our continued work of emancipation and antiracism, and an artistic expression connecting it to our call to abolitionist futures. Join together to discover how practicing antiracism can continue the Juneteenth lineage of moving us from emancipation toward freedom. Click [here](#) to register.

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. Click [here](#) to sign up as a check-in volunteer.

DuBois Center News



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!](#)

Chaplains Needed

DuBois Center needs chaplains for this summer, especially for the week of July 9. If you are interested, reach out to Noah at director@duboiscenter.org.

Deaconess Foundation (Deaconess) announced the recipients of its 2023 Policy Campaign/Collaborative Grant to

advance sustainable systemic change in key issue areas, namely social and emotional wellbeing for youth, paid sick leave and economic equity. Two nonprofit organizations, [Alive & Well Communities](#) and [Missouri Jobs with Justice](#), will each receive \$50,000 to build organizational and community capacity to further their policy campaigns through grassroots advocacy, community organizing and civic engagement. The two organizations are implementing their issue-based campaigns at a time when there are severe gaps in social and emotional services and supports for young people, especially LGBTQ+ youth, and too many working Americans, especially hourly workers, those with nontraditional jobs, and others in working families, lack access to the foundational economic resources of paid sick leave and a living wage.



CHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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.

Pride Month Worship Resources

June is Pride Month. Several of the June liturgies in the UCC Worship Ways were written by Coalition staff and board members. They all have a theme of Pride Month! Check them out: [June 18](#) [June 25](#)

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



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. Use this address for shipments or sending donations by mail, Uni-Pres Kindercottage, 564 Veronica Ave. East St Louis IL 62205.

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

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.

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 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 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 17-21, 9 am-11 am; Marissa Friedens 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.

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](#)

