



Adulting

I remember the first week after my husband, and I got home from the hospital with our firstborn. We were becoming very aware of the breadth and depth of what it meant to be responsible for the well-being of this tiny, fragile creature. One morning, blurry-eyed and a bit overwhelmed, my husband looked down at our baby girl, then looked at me and said, *“When are her parents coming to pick her up? Oh, that’s right, we are the parents.”*

It felt strange that we had been entrusted to figure it out on our own. There were no more nurses to take the baby to the nursery and care for her so we could sleep through the night as there were in the hospital. Family and friends were glad to visit, but they eventually went home. We were the ones who had been chosen to take carry of this little life, to keep her alive and help her to thrive. There was no one to look to do the work for us or figure it out for us; we were the parents.

Similarly, a popular meme says, *“No one is coming to figure it out for you. You are the adult.”*

I feel the same way about the moment we find ourselves collectively as the Church.

We keep looking for the perfect processes, workshops, books, and leaders to give us all the answers, yet we are the adults. We are the ones Christ has called forth to carry on his mission and ministry. As Jesus said in sending out the disciples, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:37-38).”*

Prayer list for June 25-July 1, 2023

Church & Pastors

-Biddleborn Trinity UCC, Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel (right)



-Breese St. John UCC (left)

Retired Pastors

Revs. Bob Goddard and Janis Dashner, O'Fallon, 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, Dupu, 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 health issues. Pastor Norma

Jesus saw the needs of humanity and had compassion for people he encountered, but there was a problem—he needed those who would share the work, and he asked his disciples to be the answer.

This is the sole reason for the Church to show forth the compassion of Christ to those who need it most, to be Christ's hands, hearts, and lips in the world. We, as the Church, as disciples, are called to be the answer.

How many times (maybe even this past week) have you told someone or told yourself that you are discouraged by the state of the world today, and you wonder who will do something about it?

Jesus is asking the same question. Who will do

something about humanity's longing, pain, and needs? Who will respond? Will it be you? Will you follow in his footsteps, offering love, compassion, hope, and healing?

Yet, friends, the truth is that no one is coming to figure it out for us. No one can give us easy answers. No one can do the work for us. We are the adults.

We are the ones Jesus has chosen to continue the work, mission, and ministry of offering hope, healing, and extravagant love and welcome to all those we meet. Yes, the *"harvest is plentiful,"* and the *"workers are few,"* but let us say YES to Jesus' calling. Jesus needs us. The world needs us. And the Church needs us now more than ever before.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

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.

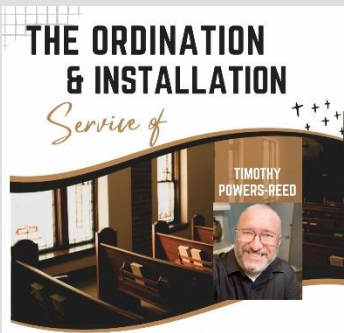
Contact Kathi at kathi1emery@gmail.com. Below are two churches that are addressing the hunger issues in their communities.

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Collinsville St. John UCC's HHH Summer Camp program provides a free hot lunch and summer camp activities for children 4 to 18. It's an 8 week program that meets M – Th from 12 to 2 pm. After lunch and story time; students rotate to three half hour rotations, which include Arts & Crafts, P.E., STEM Skills, Reading Buddies, Cooking Class, Games and much more! Campers who need assistance with food over the weekend are provided "Tote Me Home" bags on Thursdays. This summer, 101 children and youth are enrolled in camp. Thank you, St. John! It's the church in the heart of the community, with the community at heart. Such a blessing to local families. Photos below.



New Hanover Zoar UCC's Vacation Bible School Mission Project was "Summer Lunch" food drive for local children in need. They partnered with the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service to provide much needed food for students in Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, Hecker and Prairie Du Rocher. Thank you to the VBS kids and the Zoar Church family, such a blessing!



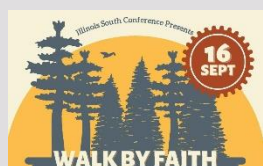
Trinity UCC Belleville and Illinois South Conference of UCC Invite You to the Ordination and Installation of **Tim Powers-Reed**

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](#).

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.

The UCC Wellness Ministry Offers The New UCC Wellness Ministries Toolkit. It Is Now Available Online!



CHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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.

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services

has multiple employment opportunities available. To see the list, click [here](#).



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 25](#)

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>

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:

Wall Hangings-White and Gold, 8 feet 2 inches long, 36 inches wide.

Wall Hangings Green: 5 feet 11 inches long, 36 inches wide, green. Hangs from the top.

Wall Hangings Purple: 5 feet 11 inches long, 36 inches wide, Color pale purple.



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 and mailed to 47 N Douglas Ave, Belleville IL 62220. 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 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 4 - 6 from 5 pm - 8 pm; Godfrey Evangelical UCC; *Pets Unleashed for fids and Unleashing the Bible for adults.*

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

Region 8

New Baden Zion UCC will hold a 125th Anniversary Celebration on July 15 beginning at 4 pm, with a blow-up obstacle course, and concert, all free of charge. Food trucks will be there to offer food for purchase. Click [here](#) for the flyer.

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.

Lebanon St. Paul UCC is searching for a person to fill a Part-time Office Manger Position. Please send a resume to: office@stpaullebanonil.org. The candidate will provide support to the pastor, members, and ministries of the church, adhering to strict confidentiality guidelines due and carry out the everyday operations. Click [here](#) for duties of the office and other important information..

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](#)

