

Illinois
South
Conference



Weekly Connection

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

July 5, 2023



Dear Illinois South Conference family,

This past week many of our counties in the Conference experienced severe storms. While several of our churches

had damage and lost power, the two that had the most significant damage were Zion UCC, Addieville, and St. John's UCC, Johannsburg. Both churches are among the oldest churches in our Conference and are served by Rev. Bill Groennert. St. John's UCC, Johannsburg, the oldest church in our Conference, had heartbreaking damage, as the photos above clearly show.



The Good Shepherd of Faith in East Saint Louis was also damaged in the July 1st storm. Photo left shows some of the damage.

Many of us have already reached out with deep compassion to ask, "What can we do to help?" as communities are still without power, streets are still blocked with downed trees, and churches, as well as individual families, are awaiting the next steps with their respective insurance companies. Perhaps one of the best things you can do is to remember that the road to recovery is long. And so, when the news cycle moves on, let us stand ready to help wherever and whenever needed. Please know that we will share opportunities that arise to help in recovery efforts.

Until then, we encourage you to pray for these churches and communities and reach out to their members to remind them they are not alone. In prayer, Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

Prayer list for July 9 - 15, 2023 Church & Pastors

-Church of the
Good Shepherd, Rev. Kim (Dr.
Aaron Newcomb) Magwire (right)



-Carlinville St. Paul
UCC (left)

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Gary and Joyce
Kniepkamp, St. Jacob, IL

People with Life Concerns

-Please pray for a new program
**Home Help and Hoops (HHH)
Summer Camp**. The program
has served over 100 kids.

Prayers for continued energy for
support and outreach to the
Collinsville community.

-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

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 new twist on helping to feed hungry people.

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

Working to feed the hungry doesn't always mean distributing food. During the past two weeks, volunteers from Dupo First Congregational, Dupo Christ UCC, and

Belleville St. Paul UCC have been assisting in building the TWIGS food warehouse in Granite City. The new warehouse is located on the parking lot of what was previously the Granite City St. Peters UCC. TWIGS is a summer lunch program feeding hungry children in over 30 communities in southern Illinois.



Thank you to the Women of Waterloo St. Paul UCC for donating 24 complete hygiene kits, as well as extra supplies, and delivered to the UCC General Synod in Indianapolis by Rev. Jeremy Wood, Pastor at Alhambra Salem UCC and ISC delegate to General Synod.

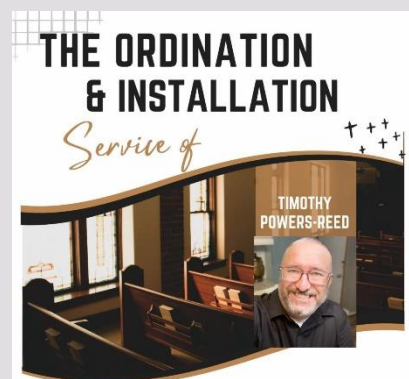
Young and old helped complete kits to share with women in need who

do not have access to essential feminine hygiene items. The goal at General Synod was to gather 1,000 kits and it was exceeded. Thanks to those donating to and compiling the kits as well as Pastor Wood who delivered them to Indianapolis. Photos above.



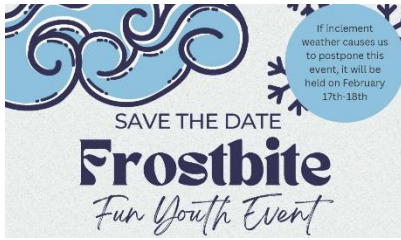
Trinity UCC Belleville and
Illinois South Conference of UCC
Invite You to the Ordination and Installation of
Tim Powers-Reed
July 23, 2023, at 3 pm
Trinity UCC Belleville
47 N Douglas, Belleville, Illinois

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. The offering taken during the Installation Service will go to DuBois Center scholarships.



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.

-Pray for the churches who have sustained damage in the recent storms. Those that we are aware of at this time are Zion UCC in Addieville(1871), St. John's UCC in Johannisburg (1837) and Good Shepherd of Faith in East St. Louis (1998). Johannisburg St. John's UCC is the oldest church in Illinois South Conference.



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](#).



UCC Webinar— Seeing through the Smoke: Wildfires, Climate, and a Path Forward July 12, 12:00 pm CT.

This webinar will feature leading thinkers and practitioners in answering this question: How can we find a path forward in addressing the wildfires that have created a landscape of crisis in our climate-changed world? If you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on **July 12 at 12:00 pm CT**, still sign-up, and you will be sent a link to

a recording of it. [Register now!](#)

DuBois Center News

Rainbow Camp 2023 Registration Is Now Open!

Rainbow Camp will be held Aug. 12, 2023, at DuBois Center. We will offer an optional overnight stay on Aug. 11 for those who are interested- just look for Rainbow Camp Plus when you register. Check the flyer for all the details and register at www.DuBoisCenter.org before July 7 for the Early Bird discount. Extra discounts for families of 5 or more. Registration closes Aug. 2.

Rainbow Camp is for singles,

couples and families in the LGBTQ Community. Straight allies always welcome, too. Come celebrate pride at DuBois Center.

Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your church. Photo above are participants in 2022 Rainbow Camp.



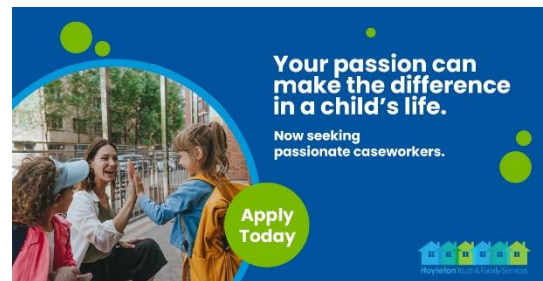
Volunteers needed for Welcome Team - We are looking for friendly faces to help with camp check-in on Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 pm. Join our welcome team for one Sunday or as many Sundays as you want! Volunteers are needed to help with registration, t-shirt distribution, and help with lice checks.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



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!](#)



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



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.

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 a vacancy for an: Independent Senior Living Apartment. All utilities are included. Free WiFi and cable. \$700/month. Call for details. (618) 488-2355.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

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!

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>

Vacation Bible School Schedule

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.

Region 9

Belleville Concordia UCC will hold its Ladies Day Out Event on Sat, Aug. 5 from 10 am - 3 pm. Chicken salad and fruit plates available for \$8. Visit with numerous vendors and crafters and explore their wares. Enjoy a scrumptious summer lunch. Look for the next book you would like to read at their used book sale. Enjoy or take home some wonderful baked goods. Proceeds go to DuBois Center and Concordia UCC missions. Hosted by the Young Ladies of Concordia UCC.

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](#)
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