

# Illinois South Conference



# Weekly Connection

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

July 11, 2023

## General Synod 2023

The 14-member Illinois South Conference delegation and Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister had a wonderful experience at General Synod 2023. Debbie Kesner, ISC Executive Administrator, was there to make sure the details of travel were handled. Here are some highlights.



### ISC Crew (above)

Front row left to right: Eileen Hoag, Amy Ratcliff, Craig Bielke, Rev. Michelle Torigian, Pastor Tim Powers-Reed, Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins  
Back row left to right: Rev. Tarrah Vaupel, Rev. Jeremy Wood, Rev. Shana Johnson, Rev. Phil Barbier, Josiah Accola, Mark Beckmeyer, Greg Lambert-Goheen, Rev. Dr. Lauren Lambert-Goheen, Rev. Dr. Don Wagner.

## Prayer list for July 16 - 22, 2023

### Church & Pastors

-**Carlyle Immanuel UCC,**  
**Pastor Ken (Barbara) Schafer**  
(right)



-**Central  
City Zion  
UCC, Rev.  
Nancy  
Peebles**  
(left)

### Retired Pastor

-**Rev. Robert Schmidt,**  
Sherman, 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



**Rev. Jeremy Wood** (left) at the mic sharing his perspective about the importance of covenant and connection.

**Delegates Greg Lambert-Goheen and Rev. Dr. Lauren Lambert-Goheen** (right) deliberating during a plenary session.



**Celebrating the election of Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the next General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ.** (left)

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.

**-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 Johannsburg (1837) and Good Shepherd of Faith in East St. Louis (1998). Johannsburg St. John's UCC is the oldest church in Illinois South Conference.

### 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 a new twist on helping to feed hungry people.



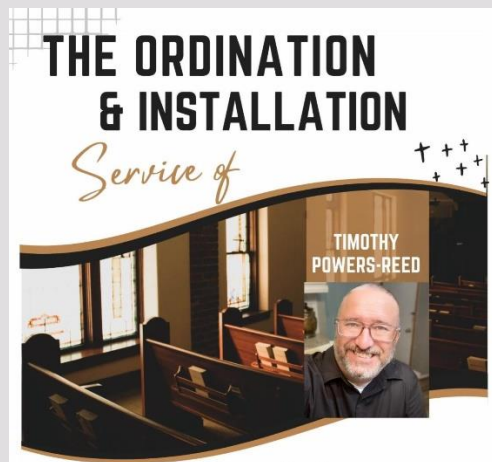
### The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

**Waterloo, St. Paul UCC Youth 3 Day Mission Trip, partnering with AMEN STL.** Service projects included volunteering at Isaiah 58 Ministries for "Fresh Food Friday" - sharing fresh meat/seafood, vegetables, fruit, deli/bakery items with our St. Louis neighbors in need. Other service projects were volunteering with the St. Louis Area Food Bank as well as preparing breakfast/lunch sandwiches for the homeless. This breakfast/lunch program is a mission project of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Thank You, St. Paul Youth Group, for

helping combat hunger in the St. Louis area. This was such a blessing!



**SUNFLOWERS FOR A CAUSE** at 7903 State Route 156, near Hecker. An opportunity for individuals/groups to have a “photo op” for a donation to Growing Hope Globally. There will be a donation box for free will offerings at the site to benefit Growing Hope Globally. This nondenominational organization seeks to create sustainable solutions to end hunger in other countries. Growing Hope uses these donations to provide agricultural development programs to farmers in other parts of the world. For more information on Growing Hope Globally visit: [growinghopeglobally.org](http://growinghopeglobally.org). Thanks to the **Dale Haudrich family** for this mission opportunity. 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

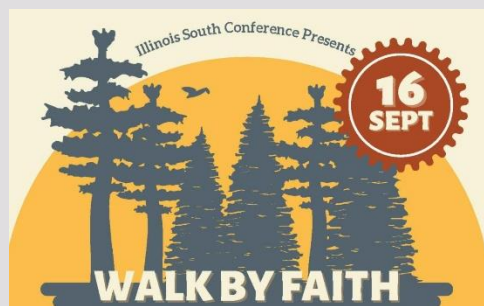
47 N Douglas, Belleville, Illinois

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

### 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](#).

Hey Friends-- if anyone (clergy or lay) is looking to make a move, why don't you check out the **full-time Director of Campus & Youth Ministry position nested in [Community UCC](#)** in the heart of the University of Illinois. This congregation is a wonderful group of people with a deep commitment to serving the community. Several of our Illinois South young adults have been a part of this campus ministry over the years and some have even discerned their call to ministry there, like Rev. Krista Betz and Rev. Kirk Foster, PhD. Applications will only be received for a short time, so don't delay! More information is available on the UCC Ministry Opportunities page [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 12th 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. 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. Extra discounts for families of 5 or more. Registration closes Aug. 2. 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.



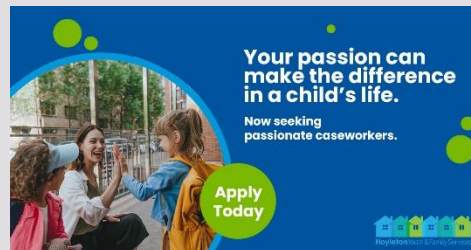
**CHSM News**  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

### Save the Date - Laugh Out Loud Fundraiser for Kindercottage Uni-Pres Kindercottage will have

a fundraiser "Laugh Out Loud," a night of Christian Comedy on Sat, Aug 26 beginning at 6:30 pm at St. Paul UCC, 115 W B St, Belleville, IL 62220. \$400 Gold VIP Table for 10 people; \$300 Silver Table for 10 people; \$25 Bronze for individual theater style seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. Contact 618-874-6505 or [Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org](mailto:Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org). Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your congregation.

**St. John Community Care (SJCC) presents Caregiver Coffee Talk at Verona Coffee Company (101 E Main St., Collinsville) every Monday from 9 am - 10:30 am.** Caregiver Coffee Talk is for caregivers to come together offering information, resources, and strategies specifically for caring for someone who may be disabled or have other health-related concerns. SJCC invites caregivers to share space and life experiences over a nice hot cup of coffee paid for by St. John's Community Care.

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



**Church World Service (CWS) is in search for a Community Engagement Specialist.** Click [here](#) for the job description for this Illinois-based position for CWS.

**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.



**A Word from St. John's Community Care's Executive Director, Christine Stewart**

Recently Kayla and I were discussing **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**, which was June 15. We received information from Illinois Department on Aging to share with everyone, and I thought, why would we send this to our Adult Day Program families whose loved ones live with them? It is obvious that we want to know what signs to watch for to ensure that a loved one in a facility stays safe, but do we need to worry about making sure that your loved one is kept safe in your own home? The answer is yes, but not the way we typically think. Caregiver burnout can be a genuine thing, yet it can happen so gradually that you may not notice it. Read the entire article [here](#).

**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

### 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 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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..

## 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 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](#) [CHSM](#) [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](#)

