

July 18, 2023



*“Remember not the former things
 nor consider the things of old.
 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it
 springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers
 in the desert.”*

--Isaiah 43:18-19, Revised Standard Version

The message of Isaiah 43: 18-19 is

one we need to hear right now, but perhaps it is one we struggle to believe in as God boldly promises, *“Behold, I am doing a new thing.”* This good news can be challenging to hear and understand when facing transition, uncertainty, loss, and grief. Sometimes being able to perceive and receive the ways God is doing a new thing requires us to let go of what was and may never be again.

Several years ago, I went through a season of transition and letting go, marked by a dining room set. The long and short of it was that my husband and I had taken new positions and were moving into temporary housing, and the reality of not living under the same roof with our girls was hitting me hard. Our family was facing a great deal of change. In response, I desperately tried to hold on to “former things”—particularly a dining room set.

It was a gorgeous Amish-made set with a table, eight chairs, and a china hutch. My grandmother wanted me to have it and pass it down to my girls. I spent too much time and energy obsessing about the dining room set. Could I find a place with a space big enough to accommodate it? Could I find a place to store it? Selling it felt out of the question because I had made that dining room set mean something more than it was.

That dining room set represented family traditions, holidays, and my grandmother.

It also represented the traditions and holidays I wanted to continue and create the kind of grandmother I wanted to be (even though I didn't and still don't have grandchildren). I had made that dining room set mean much more than it was. I had

Prayer list for
July 23 - 29, 2023

Church & Pastors

**-Collinsville St. John UCC,
 Rev. Jennifer Sowell-Glover
 -Collinsville St. John UCC,
 Rev. Katie Jo Bielke (right)**



Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Hugh and Bo Fitz,
Mascoutah, 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 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.

convinced myself that if I did not have that dining room set in my house, I could not create a sense of family the way my grandmother had.

Yet, again after much prayer and discernment, I realized it would be best to let it go. I realized that the dining room set was only furniture. It had no special mystical powers. What my grandmother probably hoped for me in wanting to give it to me in the first place was that I would experience the joy of bringing family together as she did.

Ultimately, I didn't sell the dining room set; instead, I had an opportunity to give it to a family that had lost everything in a fire. I don't know if they still have it, and it doesn't matter. The funny thing was, as soon as I gave it away, I could let go of all the things preoccupying my mind and energy. I began to come to terms with the transitions in my life and what that meant.

I had to grieve the people I had lost and a time in my life that had passed and would never be again. I also had to let go of what I thought should be in the future. I had no control over what would be, but I did have control over how I chose to accept and enjoy what was. It didn't matter what table my family gathered around; I was just happy we were together. Only through my letting go did I begin to understand what was fleeting and what was lasting. And only through this understanding was I able to perceive and receive how God was doing a new thing.

Friends, God **IS** doing a new thing in your life and the Church. Yet, like the Israelites, we need to hear the prophet Isaiah's reminder that God is calling upon us to *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old."* The Lord is saying to you and me, *"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."* May we see, understand, and rejoice in this good news.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

-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.

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...

The ISC Hunger Action Team would like to recognize Salem UCC, Alhambra for their "Lunch Bunch" mission project. Serving free lunches to students in need throughout the Highland School District. Thanks to Salem UCC; under the

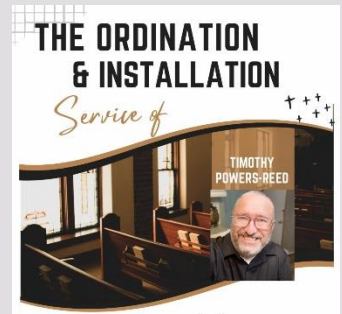


leadership of Rev. Jeremy Wood, Pastor and Teacher, for providing healthy meals during summer break. Such a blessing! Photos above.

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.



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](#).



DuBois Center News

Rainbow Camp 2023 Registration Is 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

Deaconess Foundation shares a new strategic

framework. You will learn their refined strategic direction, ways to access new funding opportunities, and more. See the results of their multilayered community-driven approach to seeding, creating, and fostering conditions where liberation is the lived reality within seven generations.

Presentation choices:

Tues, Aug 22 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm at Deaconess Center for Child well-being, St. Louis, MO.

Tues Sept 12 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am at Jackie Joyner-Kersey Community Center, East St. Louis, IL.

Register [here](#). Additional opportunities to learn more about the strategy will be available this fall.



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. Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your congregation.

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](#).



The Savvy Caregiver Series - Are you noticing memory loss, confusion or unexpected behavior in your family? St. John's Community Care provides a class for care-givers beginning July 27 - Aug 31, 2023, from 10 am - 12 pm every Thursday.

This workshop is taught by professional instructors using a curriculum developed by the University of Minnesota. It is for active caregivers of a family member or friend living at home with dementia. Caregivers learn to create new strategies for caring for the person living with

the disease and for themselves to decrease the stress of the caregiver and increase the wellbeing for both. Class size is limited so registration is required. Call 618-344-5008.

Stress-busting for Family Caregivers - St. John's Community Care holds sessions every Monday from 10 am - 11:30 am for 9 weeks. The next session will be from July 24 - September 25, 2023. The program provides education and support, teaches stress management techniques, and helps caregivers develop coping strategies. Call 618-344-5008 for more information.

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 Service Break Ground - A Ground Breaking Ceremony for a new therapeutic residential campus will be held on Thursday, July 27 at 12:30 pm at 157 E Elm St, in Hoyleton, Illinois. Lunch will follow. Please RSVP by July 21 to philanthropy@hoyleton.org or call 618-688-4742. Click [here](#) for a poster to share with your congregations.

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



Hoyleton Youth & Family Services needs your help to build their Back to School supplies. The supplies can be dropped off or mail checks to Hoyleton Youth & Family Services, 8 Executive Dr Ste. 200 in Fairview Heights between 9 am - 4 pm on Monday, July 24 or by appointment from July 17 - 21. Click [here](#) for a flyer with a list of needed supplies.

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.

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

Vacation Bible School Schedule

July 24-28 from 9:00 am - 11:30 am; Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC; *Keeper of the Kingdom.*

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.*

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>

Region 2 - New Hanover Zoar UCC will hold its Annual BBQ on Sat, Aug 5 from 4 pm - 7 pm at the church, 9103 D Road in Columbia. Pork steak or brat plate with a choice of 2 sides (cole slaw; potato salad; baked beans) or pork steak or brat sandwiches.

Entertainment by George Portz's Friends of Bluegrass. Country Store. Silent auction for baskets. Pie auction at 5:30 pm.

Monroe County Music Festival will be held on Sat, July 22 from 11:30 am to 10:30 pm at Hank and Lilly's Fountain Inn, 1912 Fountain Rd, Valmeyer. \$10 suggested donation. Bring your own chair or there is limited reserved seating. For more information, click [here](#).

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 many 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 - Smithton St. John's UCC seeks a part-time Church Administrator for approximately 10-15 hours per week. Candidate must be organized, attentive to detail and proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and have general literacy with technology. A working knowledge of software platforms and social media would be helpful. Candidate will work closely with church leadership to coordinate weekly tasks. Other duties include, but are not limited to, answering phones, sending emails, scanning documents, creating and printing weekly bulletins & monthly newsletters, organizing and reminding volunteers for weekly worship duties, updating the church calendar, updating the electronic sign, ordering flowers at various times of the year and keeping inventory and ordering office & building supplies. The candidate may do many tasks remotely, however one day is required in the office, preferably on Thursdays for 4 to 6 hours. Salary is \$14 per hour. Please send resume to: brian_damrow@yahoo.com

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. 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.

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact **Lynette 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](#)

