



August 8, 2023

## Who Is Illinois South Conference?

### YOU are.

The Illinois South Conference is made up of our member churches, pastors, lay leaders, Conference staff, and DuBois Center.

The Spirit of this Conference can be seen and experienced in all the ways we come together to support each other in good, healthy ministries that carry out the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in your communities, our Conference, and the world.

### Revenue Streams

The two essential streams of revenue that enable the Illinois South Conference to provide support to our local churches are: Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and Friends of the Conference.

DuBois Center offers an opportunity for a potential revenue stream.

### Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

While many think of OCWM as a special offering that only supports the work of the national setting of the United Church of Christ, this funding stream is the primary unit of revenue for our Conference.

**75%** of OCWM giving in the Illinois South Conference is retained in the Conference to help your church directly.

### Friends of the Conference

Individuals and churches in the Illinois South Conference also have the opportunity to designate their giving to the Friends of the Conference.

**100%** of gifts given in this way are retained in the Conference so that the Conference can offer programs, services, and personnel that are there when your church needs support, resources, and guidance.

### DuBois Center

The Illinois South Conference owns and operates DuBois Center, and we have made a commitment to

## Prayer list for Aug 13 - 17, 2023 Church & Pastors



**-Dupo Christ UCC, Rev. Todd (Suzanne) Mushaney (right)**



**-Dupo First Congregational UCC, Rev. Julie Kies (left)**

## Retired Pastor

**-Rev. David and Kathryn Riebeling, Fults, 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 declines with her battle with memory loss.

continue to invest in this year-round camp and retreat center.

It is our hope by investing in DuBois Center that we are transforming a place where people of all ages can encounter the Spirit of God in creation and become a positive revenue stream.

**How do YOU and YOUR church benefit from investing in YOUR Conference?**

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.**

**Your Conference Compassionately Supports Pastors, Chaplains and Specialized Ministers through....**

- Continuing education events, workshops, and trainings.
- Financial support for counseling, spiritual direction, and emergency situations.
- Networking, collaboration, and resourcing opportunities.
- A deep commitment to showing up and caring for our leaders when they need us.

**Your Conference Is Actively Involved in the Formation and Accompaniment of Tomorrow's Pastoral Leaders by...**

- Helping churches identify members who have gifts for ministry.
- Companionship for those who are seeking to become licensed or ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ.
- Equipping our Committee On Ministry to guide persons through the discernment and authorization journey to ensure we have future pastors and leaders for the Church.

**Your Conference Is Deeply Committed to Offering Faith Formation and Outdoor Ministry Experiences through...**

- Supporting your church's confirmation, Sunday School, and adult education programs.
- Connecting your church with other churches in the Conference to share faith formation programs, ideas, and resources.
- Providing Conference-wide educational workshops and events from which your church can benefit.
- Preserving DuBois Center as a sacred place for people of all ages to experience the beauty of God's creation and to commune with God, nature, and others.
- Offering spiritual retreats for disciples of all ages.

**When Your Church Faces A Pastoral Transition, Your Conference Is Dedicated to Supporting Your Church by...**

- Providing support and guidance to your church and leaders throughout the search process.
- Providing spiritual, practical, and legal advice.
- Training search committees.
- Writing pastoral call agreements for your church.

**Your Conference Is Devoted To the Ongoing Support for Your Church's Good and Healthy Ministry through...**

- Companionship for your church in times of joy and sorrow, as well as celebration and challenge in all seasons of your church's life.
- Offering leadership training.
- Providing resources for everything from suggested curriculum to good practices, procedures, and policies.

- Guiding your church through crisis management, conflict resolution, and reconciliation processes.
- Providing opportunities for connection and collaboration with other churches, missions, and ministries.
- Helping your church develop evangelistic strategies for the 21st century.

When your church gives to OCWM, Friends of the Conference, and DuBois Center the work and Spirit of the Illinois South Conference is strengthened, and **we all benefit**.

### 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. During the summer, 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. To share your efforts to help feed the hungry, contact Kathi at [kathi1emery@gmail.com](mailto:kathi1emery@gmail.com). Below are two other local programs to feed hungry people.



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

The ISC Hunger Action Team would like to recognize Highland **Evangelical UCC** for their "Summer LUNCH BUNCH"

Mission Project LUNCH BUNCH, "Loving United Neighbors Crushing Hunger" They have been supporting this important ministry for over 7 years. This summer, 7959 lunches have been shared with Highland school district students in



need. Thanks to Highland Evangelical UCC for providing healthy meals during summer break. Such a blessing! Photo above.



**St. Paul UCC, Belleville**, recently held a "Christmas in July" food drive for the Interfaith Food Pantry in Belleville. The church collected 451 pounds as well as monetary donations during the drive. Great work, Belleville St. Paul UCC. Photos right and left.



**General Synod  
Wrap Up  
Conversation**

**JOIN US!**

HEAR FROM DELEGATES ABOUT THEIR SYNOD EXPERIENCES!

Where: Eckert's Cider Shed  
951 S Green Mount Rd., Belleville  
When: August 22 @ 3pm  
Cost: Own food and drinks

For more information, contact Rev. Michelle Torigian at  
St. Paul UCC Belleville: 618.233.3303



**Pastors \*\* Lay Delegates \*\*Visitors & Youth**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

**9:30 am - 5 pm**

**St. Peter UCC, Red Bud**

This year's Annual Meeting will center on

Doing a New Thing: Connection, Collaboration, Creativity.

We believe in this moment of our nation and world's history, more than ever, people need to try something new.

**Business - Worship - Fellowship**

Rev. Monty Jackson (above), singer, songwriter, arranger, and record producer, will inspire us with music and words. Rev. Monty Jackson is an award-winning artist, singer-songwriter, arranger, and record producer. He has served ecumenically as a Pastor of Worship and Arts in various denominations. He graduated from Eden Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity degree—Monty Co-Pastors Christ Church UCC in Maplewood, MO. An internationally acclaimed artist, Monty has performed throughout the United States, Canada, the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, the South Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean. The venues where he performed include the Sydney Opera House, the West Angeles Church of God in Christ Cathedral, and the Crystal Cathedral. He was a regular musical guest on the Praise the Lord show on Trinity Broadcasting Network. He says, "Out of all the places I have performed, no experience compares to singing an American spiritual on the Sea of Galilee." Today, Monty has over a million views on YouTube from those who love his musical gift. Monty, and his wife Patti, enjoy spending time with their two children: Christian and Cetera.

## Delegate Informational Meetings

Tuesday, October 17 by Zoom

Thursday, October 19 by Zoom

Delegates will receive Zoom link closer to the Annual Meeting. These meetings' focus will be to present important business information and to answer all questions about Annual meeting including proposed Constitution and Bylaws changes, proposed Budget and the Slate of Nominees.



Illinois South Conference  
October 21, 2023  
St. Peter's UCC, Red Bud, IL

**Companionship Workshops** - Companionship is a program that trains people to respond compassionately when they encounter folks dealing with mental health challenges. Its central elements are five spiritual practices which promote a relationship responding to isolation and suffering and supportive of healing and recovery. It is administered by Pathways to Promise, an interfaith cooperative seeking to integrate mental health, faith, and culture. You can find out more about the program at [pathways2promise.org/companionship](https://pathways2promise.org/companionship). As a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged with people with mental health challenges) Conference, we are planning to conduct the Companionship Workshop at three different locations in the upcoming months for any interested members and friends in our congregations. The training lasts between three and four hours (depending on how many people participate). There is a \$20 fee that covers the cost of workbooks for the participants.

### The scheduled workshops are as follows:

**Saturday, August 19**, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, at St. Paul UCC in Belleville.

**Saturday, September 23**, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, at a church in the southern part of the Conference (tentative).

**Saturday, November 4**, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, at St. John UCC Midway in the northern part of the Conference.

Registration at least one week in advance is necessary so that enough materials can be ordered. To register, contact Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, at [timdp811@agtelco.com](mailto:timdp811@agtelco.com), or at 618-675-2595 (the phone for Grantfork UCC) with the names of all who wish to attend. Cash or checks payable to Pathways to Promise may be brought at the time of the workshop.



**Plan for the Neighbors in Need Donations** - In 2023, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" theme continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, and buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

Please join us in promoting this year's NIN campaign at your church! Many churches will collect the offering on October 1, as part of World Communion Sunday.

Resources available as downloadable or print assets [here](#).

**FALL  
FESTIVAL**  
DuBois Center

† DuBois Center News

**FALL FESTIVAL - FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**  
October 1, 2023 @ DuBois Center from 11 am - 5 pm

Spend the first Sunday in October enjoying the fall leaves and weather at DuBois Center during Fall Festival. There will be food, drink, and lots of vendors. Spend the day shopping, having fun, enjoying music, and helping DuBois Center raise funds while you have fun with the family!

**Fall Festival - Basket Silent Auction** - Churches, organizations, friends, it's time to start thinking about the Basket Silent Auction at DuBois' Fall Festival, October 1. Let's see if we can be even more successful this year with providing and bidding on the basket of your choice! Please begin planning now to furnish a themed basket. Deliver your basket to DuBois Center, Waterloo St. Paul UCC, or Audrey Hicks. Call Audrey to schedule delivery at 618-939-8673 before or on October 1. And "Thanks!" in advance for your donation to DuBois' future.



### 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. Contact 618-874-6505 or [Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org](mailto:Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org). Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your congregation.

**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](#). More opportunities to learn more about the strategy will be available this fall.



**Hoyleton Youth & Family Services** has multiple employment opportunities available. To see the list, click [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 until 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 current session runs until 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.

**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**

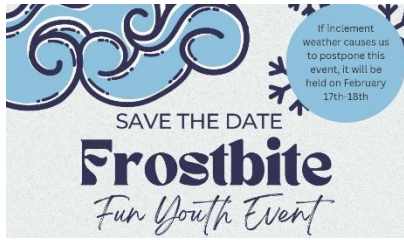
### **Vacation Bible School Schedule**

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



### **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](#).



## 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.*

**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 8 - Trenton St. John UCC will hold a Rummage Sale** on Thurs, Aug 10 from 5 pm - 8 pm (full price); Fri, Aug 11 from 8 am - 1 pm (full price) and 2 pm - 6 pm (half price); and Sat, Aug 12 from 9 am - 1 pm (\$4 brown-bag sale). Handicap accessible. Church basement. Enter through front door. Furniture and big items in front room of the church.

**Region 9 - Trinity UCC in Belleville is hosting a Dining to Donate event at the Shiloh Texas Roadhouse on August 9 from 4 pm - 10 pm.** Digital flyers are available at the Trinity [Facebook](#) page. Please join us!



## Celebrating a Trip to Ireland

A large group from O'Fallon UCC had an amazing trip to Ireland! . On **Sun, Sept 17 during 9:45 am worship at O'Fallon UCC in O'Fallon,** travelers will share photos and reflections about the enriching experience of O'Fallon's travel to the Emerald Isle.

Professional musical group "Celtica" will provide traditional Irish music during worship. Everyone is invited to attend. Photos above. Left is the group photo in front of their hotel, the Breaffy House in Castlebar, and right is an example of Ireland's landscape.



**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](mailto: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.

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

