

August 15, 2023



¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3: 12-14

Think for a moment about how much time we spend thinking about what we will wear. For an upcoming trip, we pack and repack clothes suitable for the weather we expect to encounter and the activities we hope to engage in. For a special occasion, we shop for just the right outfit. For a particular holiday season, we don fitting festive apparel. For a sporting event, we gear up in team colors and logos. For an interview or first date, we dress to impress. Even on ordinary days, we spend much time deciding what to wear when we leave our houses.

And there are countless books, magazines, blogs, tv shows, and podcasts dedicated to what to wear.

But why? Why does it matter what we wear? Because our clothing makes a statement. Our clothing can communicate something about personality, preferences, style, status, culture, individuality, or conformity. We know that what we wear sends a message to those around us, and we want to be intentional about this message.

Perhaps this has always been the case. Maybe this is why in writing to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul uses the metaphor of clothing to invite the recipients of his pastoral letter to imagine clothing themselves in a manner fitting of those who have received Christ. Paul invites readers to consider how they might embody Christ's message by imagining

Prayer list for Aug 20-26, 2023
Church & Pastors

-DuQuoin St. John's UCC, Rev. Robert Morwell (right)



-East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson (left)

Norma Patterson (left)

Retired Pastor

-Rev. Allen and Lynn Reiter, Hamel, IL

People with Life Concerns

-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. 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 with storm damage.

how they might clothe themselves in the characteristics and virtues of Christian love.

It is a timeless and powerful metaphor Paul uses. Even today, we can ask ourselves, what would it look like if each day we chose to clothe ourselves in the love of Christ? How different might our lives and world be if we all chose each day to put more time, energy, thought, and intention into ensuring we were clothed with “*compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience*” before we left the house? Imagine if we spend just as much time, if not more, deciding how we might show up in the world as we do what we will wear. As Paul invites us to do, imagine the impact we might have if we were to “*bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.*”

Each day we have an opportunity to choose how we will clothe ourselves. May we clothe ourselves in the love of Christ, which can bind us together in unity.
Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister



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.

Below is another local program to feed hungry people.

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

The ISC Hunger Action Team would like to recognize Zion UCC, New Baden for their monthly food distribution to local families in need. Thank you, Zion UCC, for this great mission project -“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”. Such a blessing! More below

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OPERATION FOOD SEARCH

A monthly distribution for those in need.



FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Boxes of food will be handed out for anyone who needs a little extra help for the month. All are welcome. Event ends at 12pm or until gone.

MAKE A DONATION TO OUR FOOD PANTRY


EVERY CONTRIBUTION MATTERS

Here's a list of food items that you can donate:

- Canned foods
- Fresh produce
- Frozen foods
- Dairy and juice
- Excess food

You can also donate personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothbrush, etc.

Please make all donations to our Food Pantry through the front office, between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, M-F.



Reduce Energy Consumption

If your congregation is interested in improving God's creation and saving on utility bills at the same time, contact Wade Halva at Faith In Place. Faith In Place is an organization that works with churches to help them develop solutions around energy consumption. Right now Faith In Place is considering the development of grant proposals that could potentially provide even financial assistance to interested congregations in Illinois South. If your congregation is interested, we encourage you to contact Mr. Halva at 618-751-1410 or by emailing him at wade@faithinplace.org. Grant applications can sometimes come together very quickly because deadlines are involved. If you think your congregation might have an interest, please contact him soon for more information.

Provided on behalf of the Justice and Mission Committee



**Pastors ** Lay Delegates **Visitors & Youth
Prepare for Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 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 and 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.



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.

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, 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
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 - Yes, you're creative! Yes, you're generous! Yes, you can join others from your church or organization or on your own put together a themed basket for the Basket Silent Auction at **DuBois' Fall Festival, Sunday, October 1!** All proceeds benefit the ISC's camp and retreat center that is so important for area youth and adults. Bring your basket to DuBois or St. Paul UCC, Waterloo by September 30 or contact Audrey Hicks 618-939-8673 to make arrangements. We can do this ... together!



Deadline for tickets - Sun, Aug 20 - 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. 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 OR **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.

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

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: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707336906>
Date and time: Wednesdays at 12:30 pm Meeting ID: 837 0733 6906.

Region 4 - Wood River St. John UCC will hold its ALL YOU CAN EAT! End of Summer BBQ Pulled Pork Dinner on Thurs, Aug 17 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Menu includes BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, sliced tomatoes, baked beans, corn on the cob, drinks and homemade dessert. Adults: \$13; Children 6-10 yrs: \$6; Children 5 yrs and under: FREE (Dine-in only). Carry outs available. Handicap accessible.

Wood River St. John UCC will hold a Crafter/Vendor Event on Sat, Aug 19 from 9 am-2 pm. Come shop over 25 crafters/vendors, and have breakfast or lunch while you're there! Carry-outs available. Handicap accessible



Region 9 - 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.



Sea Scout Ship 9, affiliated with Belleville Christ UCC, will hold a Food Donation Carnival on Sunday, Aug 27 from Noon - 8 pm. One can of food gets you 10 activity tickets. All proceeds go to support the Community Interfaith Food Pantry in Belleville. Food will also be available for purchase.

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.

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 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](#)

