



Weekly Connection

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

August 22, 2023

DISASTER MINISTRIES



The national United Church of Christ response to the catastrophic wildfires in Hawaii.

On August 8, the people of Hawaii woke to high winds from Hurricane Dora blowing across their islands. Little did anyone know that within hours those winds would turn deadly, fanning wildfires among the islands, leaving behind smoldering buildings and lost lives. As I write to you, the death toll is up to 99 and still rising.

The United Church of Christ holds all who are affected in prayer. Through Wider Church Ministries, the UCC also has issued a special appeal to provide essential items and long-term support to those impacted by the fires.

The island of Maui was hardest hit, where the fires quickly consumed the historic city of Lahaina. Located in northwestern Maui, the once whaling center is home to 13,000 people and attracts 2 million tourists yearly. What is left now is more than 2,170 charred acres and the ruins of more than 2,200 homes, businesses, schools, and churches. If you have seen any of the news footage, you will agree with me that the destruction is unbelievable and heartbreaking.

I am reminded of a time when Elijah had an encounter with the Holy in the wilderness (1 Kings 19). Winds roared, the earth shook, fire raged – and in the aftermath, God was present. God came to Elijah in what is variously translated as the sheer silence or gentle whisper that followed. Friends, we have an opportunity to share the presence of the Holy in the aftermath of these destructive forces.

Already, local congregations are providing resources including clothing, food, and shelter. The Hawaii Conference is active, and the United Church of Christ's Global H.O.P.E. team is working with Hawaii

Prayer list for Aug 27- Sept 2, 2023

Church & Pastors

-**Edwardsville St. Paul UCC,**
Rev. Dana Schindler (right)



-**Evansville St.
John UCC,**
Pastor Kevin
Hirsch (left)

Retired Pastor

-**Revs. Charles Preston and
Karla Frost,** Granite City, 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.

Conference Disaster Coordinator Danny Tengan, in consultation with Hawaii Conference Minister Rev. Dr. David Popham and other leaders, to assess the

situation and walk alongside them.

You can help as well. Your donation to the Hawaii wildfires appeal helps the United Church of Christ increase support to immediate relief efforts and enables us to be present for the journey ahead, assuring long-term aid for persons who require assistance with their recovery.

Blessings and peace, Rev. Josh Baird, Team Leader, UCC Global H.O.P.E.

ISC Churches,

The fastest way for donations to arrive for Hawaii relief is for checks from the churches to be sent directly to the National level, payable to UCC Disaster Ministries - with a note in the memo line for Hawaii Wildfires and sent to: UCC, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194.

If churches prefer to send checks to the ISC Conference office with their monthly contribution form, there is a line on the form for Disaster Ministries. Please note on the form that it is specifically for Hawaii Wildfires. When funds are sent on to the national level quarterly, they will be marked for Hawaii Wildfires. To make an online donation, click this link: <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-wildfires>.

More information about this disaster can be found at

<https://www.ucc.org/amid-wildfires-devastation-ucc-makes-appeal-for-hawaii/>.

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. Students who qualify for free school breakfast/ lunch will not have access to their free meals during weekends and holiday breaks.

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 St. Paul UCC, Lebanon for hosting free monthly Community Dinners.

Every second Monday, guests are invited to share a meal and fellowship with the St. Paul Church Family. 65 to 85 guests are served each month, plus the meals that are delivered to shut-ins. Also, guests are able to take "carry out" meals to share with family members. Flyers are included in food donations distributed by the Lebanon Food Pantry, to publicize

the free community meal. Special thanks to St. Paul, Lebanon for this great Mission Project. Such a blessing to their neighbors in need. Photos left and right.





ISC Annual Meeting & After Glow Event Made Possible in Part by the sponsors (logos above).

United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund

Cornerstone Fund

Insurance Board of the UCC

The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ

United Church Funds

All of ISC Churches thank them for their generosity. Click [here](#) for a flyer about the After Glow Event.



Pastors ** Lay Delegates ** Visitors ** Youth Get Ready for ISC Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 21, 2023

9:30 am - 5 pm at St. Peter UCC, Red Bud

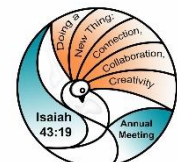
This year's Annual Meeting will center on Doing a New Thing: Connection, Collaboration, Creativity. We believe in this moment of our nation and world's history, more than ever, people need to try

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.

Who are your ISC Delegates from your church? Please identify the official delegates who will represent your church at the ISC Annual Meeting on October 21, 2023. [Here](#) is a list to tell you how many delegates can be sent from your church. Send your delegate names, addresses, and emails to jriechmann@iscucc.org. Click [here](#) to register online. Click [here](#) to download a paper registration form.



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

Delegate Informational Meetings

Tuesday, October 17 by Zoom or **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. Click [here](#) for copies of materials as they come available.



Offerings for Annual Meeting...

Worship Offering Friends of the Conference

Friends of the Conference is a giving program that offers individuals, groups and congregations the opportunity to make special gifts in support of the mission and ministries of the Illinois South Conference. Gifts received will become part of the Conference Operating Fund.

100% of your gifts to *Friends of the Conference* will remain in Illinois South Conference. Gifts of any size will be gratefully received. Individuals, groups such as women's guilds or men's groups, and congregations may contribute to *Friends of the Conference*. Contributors need not be members of a UCC congregation. Memorial gifts and/or bequests may also be designated for *Friends of the Conference*. Click [here](#) for an offering flyer to share with your church.

Plan Now for Noisy Offering - Hoyleton Youth & Family Services

Hoyleton's work to help build stronger communities in Southern Illinois is not possible without the generosity of their donors. Please consider making a gift today.



Here's the plan...

- **Each ISC church asks its members to donate** small or large amounts of change during worship on Sunday, October 8, 2023, prior to the Annual Meeting.
- **Take the change to the bank to count.**
- **Write a check for the amount of noisy offering given.** (This will give your church credit for the amount given.)
- **Bring a small amount of change to make some noise during the offering collection at Annual Meeting.**
- **Designate a representative from your church to present the money** during specified times at Annual Meeting.

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.

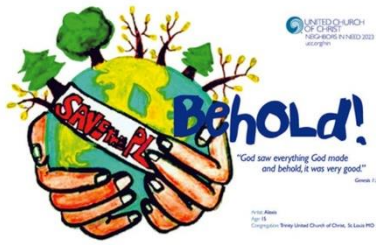
As a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged with people with mental health challenges) Conference, we are planning to conduct the Companionship Workshop at three different locations in the upcoming months for any interested members and friends in our congregations. The training lasts between 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, 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@aqtelco.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](#).

DuBois Center News

Former Summer Staff Retreat - September 9-10, 2023

If you have ever worked or volunteered for summer camp, you and your families are invited to join us for a weekend of fun reminiscing about the summer days of yore. Make new friends or join up with old ones as we participate in camp favorites like horseback riding, archery, and s’mores. Join us for Saturday only or the whole weekend. Click [here](#) to register.

- **Lodging:** Main Camp cottages, Hickory Lodge, and Rustic Cabins
- **Pricing:**
 - **Saturday and Sunday** - \$85 for adults, \$50 for children (under 18)
 - **Saturday Only** - \$60 for adults, \$35 for children (under 18)

Ride Day / Camp Day - September 16, 2023 - The fun of a week at summer camp packed into one day. Come ride horses, shoot archery, make crafts, or play Ga-Ga and nine square. Parents are welcome to spend the day at camp or register to join in summer camp fun. Contact DuBois Center Office for more information. Click [here](#) to register.

- **Pricing:** \$60
- **Note:** Parents can come hang out at Dubois Center for the day or register to participate. If parents come but don’t register, they can bring their lunch or buy lunch at camp for \$12 the day of the event.



FALL FESTIVAL - FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY SAVE THE DATE

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!

Mother-Daughter Retreat - October 6-8, 2023 - This retreat brings the generations together to celebrate and build relationships. Reserve your spots now for our weekend of relaxing and connecting with the moms, daughters, aunts, nieces, or grandmas in your life! With crafts, relaxation, and optional horseback riding, this is just the weekend you need to spend some time with the ones you love! Click [here](#) to register.

- **Lodging:** Main Camp cottages and Hickory Lodge
- **Pricing:** \$140 for adults, \$125 for youth (12-17), and \$110 for children (under 12)

Women's Retreat - October 13-15, 2023 - We had so much fun with this in the fall, it's back in the spring! Unlike Mother Daughter, you can come to this all by yourself or with some other adult friends! Spend the weekend doing anything but 'adulting!' This retreat is all about relaxing, getting away from everyday life, and meeting new friends. No cooking, no stress, just fun and relaxation! The programming is designed as an adult getaway, so we do ask that all registrants are 21 and over. Click [here](#) to register.

- **Lodging:** Hickory Lodge (hotel-like setting)
- **Pricing:** \$150

Horse Retreat - October 21-22, 2023 - Another crowd favorite returns! This weekend is just like our summer horse camp, but with more time with and on the horses! Also, who said you could only ride horses? We'll have activities like horse apple bobbing, campfire cookouts with your horse, confecting horse treats, a barn party, and many more horse games. Designed for participants ages 12 – 18 who love horses, this could very well be the highlight of your spring! Click [here](#) to register.

- **Lodging:** Main Camp cottages
- **Pricing:** \$185

Ride Day / Camp Day - November 4, 2023 - The fun of a week at summer camp packed into one day. Come ride horses, shoot archery, make crafts, or play Ga-Ga and nine square. Parents are welcome to spend the day at camp or register to join in summer camp fun. Contact DuBois Center Office for more information. Click [here](#) to register.

- **Pricing:** \$60
- **Note:** Parents can come hang out at Dubois Center for the day or register to participate. If parents come but don't register, they can bring their lunch or buy lunch at camp for \$12 the day of the event.

Unleashing Potential invites you to Art & Soul XIII, Unleashing Potential's 13th annual gala!

The gala will be on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, from 6 pm to 10 pm at Third Degree Glass Factory, 5200 Delmar Blvd in St. Louis.

The event features include:

- Children's Artwork
- Fund the Need
- Wine & Spirits Pull
- Live Music



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

- UP Highlights

For event information, contact Jake Russell at jrussell@upstl.org or call 314-561-3346. Purchase tickets or secure your sponsorship by going to their website at upstl.org/up-events/art-soul-xiii/

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.



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

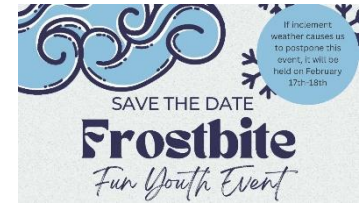


Save the Date Confirmation Retreat - Sept 16, 2023

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. Link to join the Zoom meeting:



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](#)

