



### Abundance from Scarcity

Almost every time I fly, I think of a story I once heard Parker Palmer, a Quaker theologian and author, talk about when he witnessed how people pull together to create

abundance out of scarcity. According to him, it happened years ago when he traveled by airplane from Chicago to Denver, a time before the airport security and screening we have now when you could carry whatever you wanted in your briefcase or purse onto the airplane. The airplane had just pulled away from the gate, but they kept going around in circles. He could tell something was wrong because they kept moving further away from the runway.

Then the pilot came on the intercom: *“I have bad news. A storm from the west is exactly where we are headed; Denver is shut down. There are no alternatives. So, we’ll be staying here for a few hours. That’s the bad news. The really bad news is that we have no food on board.”* Keep in mind that this was in the days when the airlines served meals but not snacks.

Everyone groaned. Some passengers became angry. But then, Palmer said, one of the flight attendants stood up in the aisle and took the mic. *“We’re sorry, folks, but I have an idea. We have a couple of empty bread baskets up here, and we’ll pass them around. Everybody put something in the basket. I know some of you have brought a little snack along, just in case – peanut butter crackers, candy bars. Some of you have Rolands, Life Savers, or chewing gum. And if you don’t have anything edible, you have a business card, picture of your kids, or bookmark. The thing is, I hope everybody puts something in the basket. And then we’ll reverse the process. We’ll pick the baskets up at the back of the plane and pass them around again, and everybody can take out what they need.”*

### Prayer list for Sept 3-9, 2023 Church & Pastors

**-Farina Friedens UCC** (right)



**Captain** (left)

**-Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary**

### Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, 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 and individuals dealing with storm and fire damage.**

Palmer witnessed a shift as people began to focus on what they had to give. The complaining and griping stopped as people started rooting in pockets, handbags, and briefcases. Some stood up, retrieved luggage from the overhead racks, and pulled out boxes of candy, a salami, Italian sausage, cheese, crackers, and a bottle of wine. (Again, remember this was when you could do that).

By helping to change their focus, that flight attendant transformed a group of anxious people focused on their needs, deprivation, and scarcity into a gracious community, sharing and, in the process, creating an abundance of sorts.

How often do we get focused on what we don't have instead of what we do? Imagine what could happen if we shifted our focus and joyously shared what we do with each other. We can radically transform the world around us when we offer even the smallest gift of kindness, compassion, and love. And even if we think we do not have what is needed, what is needed is still at hand. It will be enough, and sometimes it will be more than enough.  
Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister



**Smithton St. John's United Church of Christ**  
and the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Invite you to the installation service of  
**Rev. Brian Damrow**  
as their Pastor and Teacher  
Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 3 pm  
St. John's United Church of Christ, 303 S Smith St, Smithton, IL.  
Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles and arrive at 2:30 pm  
to process. A reception will follow the installation service.

**Columbia St. Paul United Church of Christ**  
and the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Invite you to the installation service of  
**Rev. Jonathan Bangera**  
as their Pastor and Teacher  
Sunday, September 17, 2023, at 3 pm  
St. Paul United Church of Christ, 127 St Paul St, Columbia, IL 62236  
Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles and arrive at 2:30 pm to process. A  
reception will follow the installation service.



### **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](mailto: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, Freeburg for sharing food donations with local students in need.** Food is distributed 3 times a month to the Freeburg High School District, serving

six towns in the area. St. Paul also has a “free clothing day” at the end of each month. Special thanks to the St. Paul, Freeburg Church family for their great Mission Projects. Such a blessing to local students in need. Photos below.



## ISC Annual Meeting & After Glow Event Made Possible in Part by the following sponsors:

**United Church of Christ Church Building & Loan Fund** (logo above)

**Cornerstone Fund** (logo above)

**Insurance Board of the UCC** (logo above)

**The Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ** (logo below)

**United Church Funds** (logo below)

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 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.

**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](mailto:jriechmann@iscucc.org). Click [here](#) to register online. Click [here](#) to download a paper registration form.

### 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. 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.



Highland Evangelical United Church of Christ has Communion sets (right) available for anyone who could use them. There are 8 bread trays and 6 wine/juice trays. Please contact the church office if you are interested at 618-654-7459.

### 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](http://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 18**, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, at Church of The Good Shepherd UCC in Carbondale.

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.

### 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)

 DuBois Center News

**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 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

**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.



### Volunteers Needed for Fall Festival - October 1

Our Fall Festival is only possible because of the efforts of countless volunteers. They bake, decorate, set up, take down, drive, lead, greet, direct, park, deliver, clean, serve, and dedicate their time to make this event happen. We are looking for volunteers of all ages and abilities and will be happy to sign off on volunteer work hours for teens. Sign up for a shift or two [here](#). If you have any questions, email us at [FallFestival@duboiscenter.org](mailto:FallFestival@duboiscenter.org).

**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 spring, it's back in the fall! 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.

**Donations for Sweet Shop at DuBois Fall Festival!** - The Sweet Shop at Fall Festival on October 1 will be located in Oak Lodge this year. We would greatly appreciate any donations of desserts, snacks, breads, cookies, trail mix, etc. We realize that this will be a bit of a trek for some people to drop off their goodies, so we will have a drop off location close to the entrance of the center. If you have questions, contact Joyce Kniepkamp at 618-567-6276. Thank you for your help.

### Hoyleton Golf Classic 2023

Opportunities are waiting for you to sponsor the **Hoyleton Youth & Family**

**Services Golf Classic 2023 on Friday, October 13** at Tamarack Golf Course, 800 Tamarack Lane, Shiloh. For more information, click [here](#) for a flyer and sign up form.



*CHHSM News*  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

**Unleashing Potential invites you to Art & Soul XIII, Unleashing Potential's 13<sup>th</sup> 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; UP Highlights  
For event information, contact Jake Russell at [jrussell@upstl.org](mailto: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/](http://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:

**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**

Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

**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.

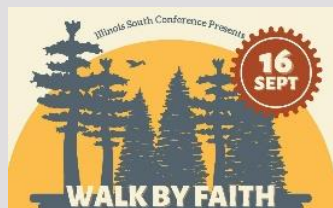
**Hitz Memorial Home has multiple open CNA positions available for evening/midnight shifts.** Call 618-488-2355 for more information. Or you may apply in person at 202 Belle Street, Alhambra, IL 62001.



**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:

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 3 - Pat's Closet, a mission of Collinsville St. John UCC (307 W Clay St) provides dresses, suits, shoes and accessories for Homecoming and Prom.** The shop is open by appointment (text us) and on Thurs, Sept 7 from 3 pm - 7 pm; Sept 13-14 from 3 pm - 6 pm; Sept 20-21 from 3 pm - 6 pm; and Sept 27-28 from 3 pm - 6 pm. Volunteers will be ready to help with small alterations. This ministry is free for students. If you have questions, text Ms. Geisen at 618-588-3675 or Ms. Bossetto at 618-401-0806.

**Region 8 - Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC and Biddleborn Trinity UCC will hold their 36th Annual Schlachtfest/Wurstmarkt on Sunday, Sept 10 at Trinity UCC, 5698 Biddleborn Rd, Marissa.** Delicious food. Country Store and Meat Sales. Free Kids Corner. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and listen to The Venedy Band and the Ainad Brass Band. Parking shuttles run all day long. Adults: \$15; Children 6-12 \$6; Children under 6 Free.



### **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.

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

