



October 31, 2023

**Attention Teams, Committees and Officers** - If you were elected to serve as an officer or a member of one of our committees or ministry teams at the Annual Meeting, please know that no committees and teams will be meeting in October.

The Conference office staff will be working on setting up the contact information, schedule of meetings, and Zoom links for the next couple of weeks. Some committees and teams will have their first meetings in November and some in December. We will send out all this information in the next week or so. Until then, if you have any questions, please let us know. Sincerely,

The staff of the Illinois South Conference office



### **Annual Meeting Highlights Corrections**

First, we had an error in the highlights from last week's Weekly Connection edition. The photo listed as Dwight Asselmeier was actually Red Bud's David Hoffman. David is a lifelong Red Bud St Peter's UCC

member, and he made 1,200 cookies for the meeting. He is also responsible for decor inside the church and the landscaping on the church grounds. Rev. Shana bestowed him with the title of "King of Many Things."

The REAL ISC Treasurer, **Dwight Asselmeier**, (photo right) was honored for his service as ISC Treasurer for several years.



### **Prayer list for Nov 5 - 11, 2023 Church & Pastors**



**-Johannisburg St. John's UCC, Rev. William Groennert (right)**



**-Lebanon St. Paul UCC, Rev. Todd (Rev. Shana Johnson) Bean, Interim**

**Pastor (left)**

### **Retired Pastor**

**-Rev. Carol and David Shanks, Waterloo, 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. **-Prayer for the people of Maui and all of Hawaii** as they begin to recover from the wildfires. Donate [here](#).



### More Annual Meeting Highlights

**Noah McCarn (above right), Executive Director of DuBois Center**, shared all of the improvements made to DuBois Center through your generous donations to DuBois 6.0 Campaign and expressed dreams for the future of DuBois Center.

### More Annual Meeting Highlights

Churches with anniversaries and Pastors with Ordination anniversaries were honored by **Committee on Ministry members, Rev. Nancy Brooks and Mark Walz.** (above left)  
Churches with anniversaries are:

<b>Church City and Name</b>	<b>No. of Years</b>
East St Louis Good Shepherd of Faith UCC	25
Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd	65
Jamestown St Paul UCC	115
New Baden Zion UCC	125
Belleville Christ UCC	130
Marion Zion UCC	135
Biddleborn Trinity UCC	145
Lenzburg St Peter's UCC	145
New Athens St John UCC	145
Lebanon St Paul UCC	155
Marine UCC	160
Breese St John's UCC	165
Carlinville St Paul UCC	165
Central City Zion UCC	165
Freeburg St Paul's UCC	165
Columbia St Paul UCC	175
Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC	180
Mascoutah St John UCC	180

<b>Pastor with Ordination Anniversary</b>	<b>No. of Years</b>
Rev. Stephen Stark	5
Rev. Brian Damrow	20
Rev. Debbie Lawson	20
Rev. Joan Mier	20

Rev. Kim Magwire	25
Rev. Nancy Brooks	25
Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee	25
Rev. Charles Preston	30
Rev. Tim Harrison	30
Rev. Dr. Don Wagner	35
Rev. Dr. Robert Koch	40
Rev. William Groennert	55
Rev. Donald Sabbert	60
Rev. Gustav Kuether	60
Rev. Fred Wehrenberg	65
Rev. Dr. Richard Ellerbrake	65

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Many thanks to **Red Bud St. Peter's UCC member, Carol Harms**, (photo right) for keeping the slide presentation moving throughout the meeting. She was a vital part of the day's success even though she was behind the scenes doing an important job! All of Illinois South Conference thank Carol for her talent with technology!



The Conference acknowledged and congratulated the newly installed **General Minister & President of the UCC, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson**, by signing a card to be sent to her along with a photo greeting of the Annual Meeting delegates taken from the balcony of Red Bud St. Peter's UCC (left).

### Inspiring others with Spirit

**Sandy Wagner, member of Belleville St. Paul UCC** and an active member of Illinois South Conference (left), was one of several people sharing personal stories of spirit while working with other members in Illinois South Conference. They inspired delegates to find ways of becoming a part of ISC Spirit.





**The ISC Delegates to General Synod** reported on their experience this summer. They named the resolutions that were brought before the General Synod with a light-heartedness that kept the ISC delegates engaged. You can read more about the resolutions [here](#).



### **Facing Hunger in Your Community**

The Hunger Action Team would like to thank ISC Churches for their efforts to combat hunger in their communities. Please share the ways (and photos) of how you are helping families in need. Your mission projects are more important than ever with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays coming soon. To share your efforts to help feed the hungry, contact Kathi [kathi1emery@gmail.com](mailto:kathi1emery@gmail.com). We invite Churches to collect nonperishable food items for Thanksgiving dinner as well as grocery store gift cards and deliver to your local food pantry.

Gift cards enable recipients to choose ham/turkey or other food items to complete their holiday meal.

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

The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize St. Peter UCC, Red Bud for their "Blessing Box" project. This Mini Pantry, with nonperishable food items, is a blessing to those in need. A team of volunteers restock, and Church members and neighbors add food as demand remains high. Blessing Box: "Take what you need - leave what you can." Thanks, St. Peter. Neighbors helping neighbors! Pictured: St. Peter Church family with Pastor and Teacher, Pastor Cory Hartz (lower right corner) with the "Blessing Box."



### **Companionship Workshops**

Companionship is a program that trains people to respond compassionately when they encounter folks dealing with mental health challenges. 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, November 4**, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, at St. John UCC Midway (Moro).

**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.

### Boundary Awareness Training

For those pastors who are due for **Boundary Awareness Training** this year, ISC has scheduled another training for **Tuesday, November 7 from 8:30 am - Noon**. This training will be for **both active and retired clergy**. The training will be held over Zoom. Contact Debbie at [dkesner@iscucc.org](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org) to register and get the zoom link for the meeting forwarded to you. Cost: \$20 for retired ISC pastors, \$25 for active ISC pastors, \$25 for non-ISC retired pastors, and \$30 for non-ISC active pastors.



**Pulpit Chairs Need New Home**-St. John's UCC in Summerfield has two matching pulpit chairs that need a new home. The wooden frames are solid, but they do need to be reupholstered before use. First dibs will go to any interested churches, and if there are no interested churches, then interested individuals. Contact the church office at St. Jacob UCC - 618-644-2142.

## † DuBois Center News

Are you looking to spend a morning in the splendor of God's creation and help care for our Outdoor Ministries at DuBois Center?

Green DuBois will be having an invasive species removal day on Saturday, November 4, from 9 am - Noon. If you'd like to spend a morning helping remove bush honeysuckle from the camp, come join us.

We have plenty of hand tools and spray bottles for everyone. If you have a chainsaw that you would like to bring, they are always welcome, as we always find bushes that are too large to prune by hand. Bring gloves and a water bottle, and bring a sack lunch if you'd like to hang around a bit after we're done.

To sign up or for more information please contact Phil Barbier at [philip.barbier77@gmail.com](mailto:philip.barbier77@gmail.com) or 314-312-2347.

The Insurance Board invites you to a webinar, **Building a Culture of Protection in Your Ministry**, on Wed, Nov 8 at 1 pm CST.

Ministries continue to face challenges and resistance implementing abuse prevention best practices in their congregations. The webinar will help you learn how to strengthen your abuse prevention policies and implement best practices for responding to allegations of abuse. Insurance Board's guest speaker, Beth Boyer Kollas, is an ordained UCC minister from Praesidium, who holds her MDiv (Counseling), and dual PhDs in HIV/ AIDS and Psychology/ Counseling. Beth is certified in many areas and has extensive experience and knowledge in the healthcare and social services arenas. Click [here](#) to register.



**CHHSM News**  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

**Hoyleton Hope for the Holidays** - In the spirit of giving, we invite you to help us brighten the holidays for the children and families whom we serve. Your generous support allows us

to give each youth a Christmas gift. Over 400 children in foster care will receive a gift they wish for. We will also support many families served through our Puentes de Esperanza and our Behavioral Health Services department with family bags.

Thanks to your generosity throughout the year, we can serve the children of our surrounding communities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued love, prayers, and support for the mission of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.

Please consider supporting our mission this holiday season. There are three ways to support Hope for the Holidays.

- 1) Make a cash donation to Hoyleton online by [CLICKING HERE](#) or via check specifying Hope for the Holidays - we will shop and wrap the gifts for you.
- 2) Visit our [Amazon Wishlist](#) and place your order to be delivered to us and we will wrap and tag the gift for you.
- 3) Provide gift cards. Gift cards are welcome and will be used to purchase something for a child who arrives within days of Christmas or allow the teen to express themselves individually and learn the meaning of a dollar.

All gifts must be in our office by **November 29th** so that we can organize and distribute them to our youth. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please get in touch with Christy at 618-688-7092 or [csault@hoyleton.org](mailto:csault@hoyleton.org).

**St. John's Community Care will hold a Resource Fair on Sat, Nov 4 at 307 W Clay St, Collinsville from 11 am - 4 pm.**



Join us for a fun-filled day. Our Community Resource Fair is the perfect opportunity to connect with local organizations and

discover resources available in our community. Free produce from Rascal's Farmers Market will be provided by Adaptive Equipment & Caregiver Corner! You'll have the chance to explore various booths and learn about the services provided by local businesses, non-profit organizations, and community groups. Whether you're looking for health resources, employment opportunities, or to meet fellow community members, this event has something for everyone. Bring your friends and family along to enjoy exciting activities throughout the day. It's a great opportunity to make new connections, learn about the incredible work being done in our community, and have a fantastic time!

**Uni-Pres News - Uni-Pres Kindercottage children need winter coats!** Please contact us if you are interested in helping to bring some warmth to a child this winter!

**For all those who will be blessing our little one with holiday gifts** please contact our center number at 618-874-6505 for more information. We will be giving out names of children and families up to November 24. We would like all the holiday gift purchases for children and families to be received by December 8 at 6:30 pm. We thank you for your gifts of love over the years and your continuous support for our children and families in need! Aimee Hart, Executive Director 618-874-6505( work)618-799-1417 (cell).

**Join Kindercottage for fun this year by spending time with them.** You can come and do holiday crafts, an hour of Holiday reading and singing, or a Holiday sock hop Dance-a-Thon. Reach out to their Executive Director or Center Director for more information. 618-874-6505 or [Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org](mailto:Aimee@unipreskindercottage.org).



**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

**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>  
Wednesdays at 12:30 pm - Meeting ID: 837 0733 6906.

**Region 2 will host a Bunco Night to benefit DuBois Center on Fri, Nov 10.** Doors open at 6:30 pm and play starts at 7 pm. Cost is \$10 per person. Seating is limited. Click [here](#) for flyer.

**Region 3 - On Sat, Nov 4, St. John UCC in Granite City will host a Christkindl Craft & Vendor Fair from 9 am - 3 pm.** There will be many vendors with a variety of items, perfect for getting your Christmas shopping done well in advance! We'll also have children's activities available for the whole family to have fun! This event will be held at 2901 Nameoki Rd., Granite City. If you have any questions, call the church office 618-877-6060.

**Region 5 - Marine will hold its Whole Hog Drive-Thru Pork Sausage Dinner on Sun, Nov 5 from 11 am - 5 pm.** Menu includes whole hog pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, and apple pie. All dinners \$13. Raffle of 2 queen quilts, a baby quilt, side of beef, whole hog, and 4 dinners for Nov. 3, 2024. Fresh Meat Sale on Sat, Nov 4 from 9 am - 2 pm and Sun, Nov 5 from 9 am - 5 pm. Sausage links, ribs, and backbones in 5 lb. pkgs. Liver sausage and head cheese available too. For ticket sales and purchase of fresh meat, call 618-887-4465.

**Grantfork UCC will hold its 53rd Annual Sausage Supper on Sat, Nov 11 from 2 pm - 7 pm.** Drive-thru only. Menu includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and milk gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, and a piece of pie. Fresh or fried packaged sausage for sale at the end of the drive-thru. \$14/dinner. Sponsored by the Grantfork UCC Men's Fellowship.

**Region 7 - Addieville Zion UCC will present its 73rd Annual Wurst Markt on Wed, Nov 8 at the Addieville Community Club from 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm.** Drive Thru only. Cost is \$13 per meal. Menu includes pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, peas, applesauce, and cookies.

**Region 8 - Zion UCC in New Baden, IL will have a drive-thru chicken dinner on November 4 from 4-7pm.** Each dinner is \$15 and includes half a chicken, sides, and a tasty dessert. Questions about the event should be directed to the office by calling 618-588-4135.

**Region 9 - Belleville Trinity UCC will host a Dining to Donate event at the Shiloh Panera on Sun, Nov 5, from 4 pm – 8 pm.** Orders may be placed in store, online, or via kiosk. Flyer or promo code must be submitted at time of order. See Trinity's Facebook page for flyers and details.

**Job Opportunities - Ministry Assistant for Congregational Care and Christian Education Belleville St. Paul** is looking for a person to fulfill the position of Ministry

Assistant for Congregational Care and Christian Education. The person will provide coordinated support for the Senior Pastor, St. Paul UCC care-giving and wellness ministries, and the congregation as well as to provide program development, implementation, coordination, and supervision of Christian Education, both for children and adults, which includes youth programming. Click [here](#) for the complete position description. Direct questions and resumes to [pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org](mailto:pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org)

**Grantfork UCC Seeks Assistant Organist** - Grantfork UCC is looking for an assistant organist or pianist to play for our 10:15 am worship service once or twice a month. Prelude, Postlude, and two or three hymns. Please contact Grantfork UCC at 618-675-2595 if interested.

**Dupo Christ UCC– Custodian** - Christ United Church of Christ in Dupo, IL is seeking a part-time custodian for approximately 40 hours a month. The church custodian is responsible for the overall cleaning of the church facilities, which include the Sanctuary, church offices, meetings rooms, Sunday School Rooms, the Fellowship Hall, and restrooms. The candidate must be dependable, a self-starter, and has the availability to work flexible hours in order to perform the necessary duties with minimal supervision. Experience desired, but will train. Send resume to Judy Doerr, Trustee, by email to [jadoerr@hotmail.com](mailto:jadoerr@hotmail.com) or by mail to Christ United Church of Christ, Attn: Judy Doerr, 200 South 3rd Street, Dupo, IL 62239. Resumes will be accepted until November 5, 2023, unless the position is not filled.

**New Baden Zion UCC - Music Director.** This person helps coordinate all aspects of the music program at the church, including but not limited to selecting hymns for weekly and special services, leading an adult choir, coordinating special vocal and/or instrumental music, and may serve as a member of the worship team. Keyboard skills, church choral experience as a singer or director, and a bachelor's degree in worship arts or music are a plus. To apply or for additional information, contact council president Rodney Washburn at [rodneywashburn1@gmail.com](mailto:rodneywashburn1@gmail.com).

**Part Time Organist/Pianist - Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL** is seeking a part-time organist and/or pianist. Duties include playing organ and/or piano on Sundays for our 10 am worship services as well as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, mid-week Lenten services, and our Pre-Lenten breakfast. Position includes 4 paid Sundays off (except for Easter) for vacation time. Services normally consist of a prelude, 2-3 hymns, some short, sung responses, and a postlude. To apply or for more information, contact Rev. Brett Palmer at 618-295-2004 or [marissafriedens@gmail.com](mailto:marissafriedens@gmail.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.



**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)

### 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](#)

