

Illinois
South
Conference



Weekly Connection

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

November 7, 2023



Faith Ancestors

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

-- Hebrews 12: 1

Many of you celebrated All Saints Day or Totenfest this past Sunday in your congregations. Such celebrations are an opportunity to remember and offer gratitude for those who have gone on before us and whose lives and legacy continue to inspire and model what it means to live out our faith.

Bishop Steven Charleston, who served in the Episcopal Diocese in Alaska and is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, writes about the holy mystery that connects us with our faith ancestors across time and space in this way,

“Can you hear them as they pass by? Can you feel them standing just beside you? They are the ones who have gone before, saints who have touched their lives. They are the family to which we belong, ancient and never-ending. Our ancestors watch over us, their constant vigil keeping. Can you hear them? They speak of a love they have seen, love beyond imagining, love that holds us safe until we rise to meet them.”

Dear ones, as both the Apostle Paul wrote his letter and Bishop Charleston testified in a sermon at Augsburg University, we are surrounded and connected by a never-ending love passed down to us by loved ones we have lost and even those we never met. Nothing, not even death, can sever the ties of the legacy of love of our faith ancestors. We are different because of their presence on this earth and in heaven.

This month, if you have not already, consider the beautiful gifts that were bestowed to you from those

Prayer list for Nov 12 - 18, 2023

Church & Pastors

**-Lenzburg St.
Peter's UCC, Rev.
Earl (Johanna)
Crecelius (right)**



**-Maeystown St.
John UCC, Rev.
Patrick (Kathy)
Poole (left)**

Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Herbert & Bennie
Schafale, Freeburg, IL**

People with Life Concerns

-Pray for **Rev. Jean Carmean** as she deals with severe health issues. Rev. Carmean has served on several ISC teams and has served as interim pastor for several ISC churches. Cards may be sent to her at Addington Place, 429 S Main St, Room 483, Shiloh, IL 62269.

-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.

who have gone on before you. Write down the names of the saints of God. Write down memories. Write down the lessons you have learned from their lives. Then, light candles of remembrance and intention.

Light a candle of remembrance for:

- Those who were instrumental in your faith formation as a child, youth, and adult.
- Those who served as a model, guide, and inspiration.
- Light a candle of intention for:
- The qualities you hope to embody in your life to share with others.
- The legacy of faith you are working to leave behind.

After a time of meditation and silence, offer up prayers of celebration, thanksgiving, and resolve, and feel the presence of the great cloud of witnesses that will continue to surround, uphold, and sustain you.

Blessings

Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister



Thanksgiving Thanks - All of the staff at Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center are grateful for your participation in teams, committees, Day of Discipleship, Fall Festival, Annual Meeting and all other ways you have served our Conference.

I am extending an additional thank you for making my 15-years as ISC Communication Coordinator a joy-filled time of my life. After retirement in December, I will remember you all fondly and hope that our paths cross again through the years. But, for now, I say, "Happy Thanksgiving to all. Hug those you love. Say 'I love you.' so those you love can hear you say it." Thankfully, Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator

Facing Hunger in Your Community - The Hunger Action Team asks churches to 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 feed the hungry, contact kathi1emery@gmail.com. We invite churches to collect nonperishable food items for Christmas 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 Hecker Friedens UCC for hosting an ecumenical community Thanksgiving Service on November 21 at 7 pm. They are partnering with St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Church in Hecker. Those attending the service are invited to donate canned goods to share with local families in need. The free will offering has been designated for the "Family Emergency Fund." Recipients of this fund are local families in need. Thank you, Friedens UCC, such a blessing!

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. As a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged with people with mental health challenges)

Conference, we are planning to conduct the Companionship Workshop 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 workshop is 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, 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.



CHHSM Vice President Resigns - CHHSM announces that the Rev. George Graham, CHHSM's vice president, has submitted his resignation, effective Nov. 30, 2023. George has been called as pastor of Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Cleveland. George has been an essential part of our CHHSM family for the past five years, and his contributions have been invaluable. We are incredibly grateful for his service and know that he will continue to make a profound impact in both the UCC and throughout the community in his new role and ministry. While we will miss his dedicated leadership and knowledge, we are excited for his new journey in a role that aligns with his calling. Read [more](#).

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.



Does your church need a website? Or maybe you have one, but it's really outdated?

UCC Everywhere (UCCE) is a program at the national setting of the United Church of Christ that builds easy-to-use, affordable, and modern websites for local churches. Our team helps you get everything set up so there's no hunting for the tools and programs you need.

Knowing that many churches have tech savvy members, you can either put in the content yourself or work with our team for an additional fee to finish the setup. We also have tutorial videos to teach you how to make changes and offer ongoing customer support.

"UCCE's team is experienced and helped us get started on our site. The platform comes with nice instructions and already-built templates, so we were able to launch quickly." - IKC Conference. See IKC Conference [UCCE site](#).

Visit <https://ucceverywhere.org/> to learn more or reach out to our Customer Support Specialist, Aidan Spencer, via phone at 216.736.2185 or email at ucceverywhere@ucc.org.



Hoyleton Youth and Family Services Scholarship Winners

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services held its Second Annual Career Assistance Scholarship Dinner on October 24 at Bella Milano in O'Fallon, IL. This celebratory dinner was attended by six scholarship winners and their invited guests, members of the Hoyleton Board, and Hoyleton staff who worked directly with the honorees. Hoyleton Board Chair, Dr. Tron Young (far right in the left photo), presented each recipient with a \$1,000 scholarship and a chrome book to assist them on their career path. "The Career Assistance Scholarship Dinner was

a great way to honor and recognize our recipients. The program is an example of how Hoyleton continues to give support to the students and families that we serve," Young said. The six recipients included Autumn Cox-Arnold (above middle), who graduated from O'Fallon Township High School and is now attending Southwestern Illinois College to study Law; Hannah Goodwin of Collinsville, a mother of two, who is working full-time while taking online classes to become a social worker; Ma'Kyla Bradford-McNeely, a graduate of Belleville East Township High School, who plans to attend Southwestern Illinois Community College in January to obtain an Associate's degree in Art; Jaime Taylor of Centralia, recently graduated from Kaskaskia College, and will be studying Psychology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Jeremiah Tipler received the Leadership Award from the Black Affairs Council at his high school, and he plans to take his leadership skills with him when he attends Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where he will be working towards a Master's Degree in Accounting ; and Gwenyth Turner from Evansville, IL, attended Christ our Savior Lutheran High School, and is now enrolled at Southwestern Illinois College to pursue her dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. Each scholarship recipient expressed their gratitude towards Hoyleton for the services they received and the funding that will be used for everything from tuition to transportation. The Hoyleton Career Assistance Scholarship was created to support their clients' ability to reach their full potential. Any client who is actively pursuing a career and has received services from Hoyleton Youth and Family Services or Puentes de Esperanza is eligible to apply. Funds for the scholarship program were donated by The Hildebrand Family, in memory of their parents who were lifelong educators, and by the estate of Laverne A. Doeling to further the education of Hoyleton clients. Scholarships were awarded based on the applicants' plan and desire to continue their education or pursue a career. The funds can be used for education or training as well as expenses that support that process. Applications are accepted throughout the year with a deadline in August. If you are interested in learning more about the career assistance program or would like to fill out an application, please visit <https://hoyleton.org/career-assistance-scholarship/>. (Photo above far left is Chris Cox, director of Hoyleton Youth & Family Services.)

Thank you to all who helped with Green DuBois Cleanup of invasive species on Saturday, November 4, from 9 am - Noon.

 DuBois Center News



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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.

Deaconess Foundation invites you to join them at their Annual Public Meeting on Tues, Nov 14 for a reception at 5:30 pm, followed by the meeting from 6 pm - 7:30 pm.

You can attend virtually or in-person. Location is the Deaconess Center, 1000 N. Vandeventer Ave., St. Louis, MO. Click [here](#) to register.



Hoyleton Youth and Family Services appointments Dr. Tron Young as the new Chair of its Board. Dr. Young is an experienced and award-winning educator, currently serving as Middle School Principal at James Arthur Middle School in O'Fallon, IL. His commitment to education, coupled with his strategic thinking, uniquely qualifies him to guide our organization. In his role as Board Chair, Dr. Young will oversee strategic decision-making for Hoyleton Youth and

Family Services and continue his lifelong mission to foster quality education and supportive services for the youth and families in the southern Illinois region. Now, more than ever, our organization remains dedicated to providing essential services and creating a safe, nurturing environment that equips young people with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed. In response to his new role, Dr. Young stated, "It is an honor to be able to extend my work with youth beyond the walls of Joseph Arthur Middle School. I plan to ask questions that determine not where we are but where we want to go. This role will allow me to further my impact on youth development, fostering environments that are conducive to the holistic growth of every young person we serve."

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.



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.

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 ones 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.

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. Wednesdays at 12:30 pm - Meeting ID: 837 0733 6906. Link to join the Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707336906>

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 - Collinsville St. John UCC will hold its Christmas Bazaar on Sat, Dec 2 from 10 am - 5:30 pm and on Sun, Dec 3 from 10:30 am - 2 pm. Vendor fair, concessions, decorations, gifts & gift-wrapping stands.

Vendors Wanted for the Christmas Bazaar. \$25 per 8' table (chairs provided) or \$50 for a 10' x 10' booth (1 table & chairs provided if needed. Limited electrical available with booth only. To register, contact the church office at 618-344-2526 or office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org.

Region 5- 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 of New Baden warmly invites everyone to join us for our delightful Festival of Trees event on November 18 from 8 am - 5 pm at the St. George Community Life Center. It's a fantastic opportunity to witness a beautiful array of expertly decorated trees, explore a variety of charming craft vendors, and even enjoy a delicious breakfast with Santa himself! If you have any queries about the event, please feel free to contact Zion's Church Office at 618-588-4135. We can't wait to see you there!

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.

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 or by mail to Christ United Church of Christ, Attn: Judy Doerr, 200 South 3rd Street, Dupo, IL 62239. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

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.

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.

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.

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](#)

