



November 14, 2023



### Murmuration

*"...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." – Romans 12:5 (NIV)*

It is fall and time for the migration of birds who

winter in the south. It's the time I love to watch the murmuration or flock of migrating black birds as they fly in precise movements, creating miraculous designs in the sky. It's rather like watching clouds and picking out designs in them. This week, the phenomenon of a murmuration almost made me pull over to the side of the road and watch the wonder of it all.

As I pondered the beauty before me, questions clouded my mind. What kind of birds are they? Why do they fly in this synchronistic flight? How do they know which way to fly?

After some investigation, I learned that most commonly the birds are starlings, and naming it a murmuration rather than a flock is due to the sound their wings make as they fly...as if a person murmuring. But the murmuration is not limited to starlings. At times, blackbirds (red winged blackbirds and/or Common Grackles) are a large part of the murmuration. They fly together as a means of protection from predators who have difficulty focusing on one bird when they move as a group, and the birds in the murmuration help each other find food along the way. The birds pay attention to several birds surrounding them to intuit when it is time to move or change directions.

It popped in my head that this murmuration was very similar to being in community. We are all humans although we may not have the same cultural heritage. We are moving together in this world and

### Prayer list for Nov 19 - 25, 2023



#### Church & Pastors

**-Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Sandee) Kershner** (right)



**-Murphysboro St. Peter's UCC, Rev. Lauren (Greg) Lambert-Goheen** (left)

#### Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Jane Hillman**, O'Fallon, 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.

there will be more safety by being part of a similar-minded community. If we pay attention to the people

surrounding us, we will learn about their struggles and intuit feelings which can make smoother changes for the group and, ultimately, the community at large.

I love my independence and the ability to do things as an individual. In the future, I'm going to imagine my community work as a murmuration. I will be aware and in awe of its movements and what it can create. I challenge you to do the same.

Blessings,

Lynnette Schuepbach, ISC Communications Coordinator

### **Business from Annual Meeting**

[Constitution & Bylaws Changes](#) accepted by the Delegate.

[2024 Approved Budget](#)

[Slate of Nominees](#) Approved

[Minutes from 2022](#) Annual Meeting Approved

### **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 Kathi [kathi1emery@gmail.com](mailto:kathi1emery@gmail.com) We invite churches to collect nonperishable food items as well as grocery 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**

Waterloo St. Paul UCC donated and delivered the blessing of 101 Thanksgiving dinner bags: nonperishable food plus \$25 grocery gift cards for meat/other food items to complete holiday

meals to the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service. They shared these Thanksgiving "Blessing Bags" with families in need in Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, Hecker and Prairie Du Rocher. Pictured below: Rev. David Nottrott. (left) and the bags to be donated (right). Thanks, St. Paul, such a blessing!



### **Is Your Church Online?**

When someone looks for a church to join, they usually start by searching churches near them on the internet. If your church is not online, they might miss out on a lovely church home just around the corner.

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. UCC Everywhere websites were designed to accommodate almost any content type. Making

changes is simple and video tutorials are provided to walk you through each step. Websites are also designed to look great on computers, tablets, and phones. Church members or faith seekers can easily find the information they need whenever and wherever they need it. First Congregational UCC of Menomonie needed an updated website to share information and sermons. UCCE was the perfect solution for them to manage and maintain their content. See their site at <https://menomonieucc.org>.

Visit [ucceverywhere.org](http://ucceverywhere.org) to learn more or reach out to our Customer Support Specialist, Aidan Spencer, via phone at 216.736.2185 or by email at [ucceverywhere@ucc.org](mailto:ucceverywhere@ucc.org).

**The MC (Messy Church) USA Conference will be held in April 18-20, 2024 in Chicago.** This conference is a great way for any churches planning on beginning (or just starting) Messy Church. The conference website is live and includes information about hotel and travel plus links to registration. Click [here](#) for more information or [here](#) for a flyer. The early bird discount ends Dec. 31. This discount combined with either a team discount or sustainer church discount helps make the conference even more affordable. Registration includes 4 meals in addition to all conference materials.

### 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.



### 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. Each church is responsible for providing the necessary chaperones for the event. Email or call Denise Johnson, the co-chair of the Illinois South Conference Local Church Ministries, at [christianed@stpaulcolumbia.org](mailto:christianed@stpaulcolumbia.org) or 618-340-2952 **as soon as possible** with how many participants (youth and adult) are planning to attend from your church. *If inclement weather causes us to postpone this event, it will be held on February 17 and 18, 2024.*



### More Amazing Churches...



Seven churches were represented as part of the **Region 2 Bunco night on Nov 10 at New Hanover Zoar UCC. The region raised \$1,412.00 to benefit DuBois Center.** What a great success. You don't need to know how to play bunco, just come and have fun. Next year will be even better. Thanks for all who attended. Photos left and right of winners of most buncos, most bangers, most losses, and more. Doris Mehtens (bottom far right in pink sweater) had the most wins. Mayestown St. John UCC youth donated \$250.



### 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 [cshult@hoyleton.org](mailto:cshult@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 & more!** Please contact us if you are interested in helping to bring some warmth to a child this winter! We need winter coats, hats, gloves and children's undershirts size 2t to 6x. We also need Joann Fabric gift cards so we can make children blankets.

**Uni-Pres Household & Food Needs:** We need bottles of bleach , dish soaps and boxes of tissues . We also need canned foods like spaghetti , ravioli, etc. to share with families on Friday for children who will need food over the weekend. Feel free to contact the administration team at 618-874-6505 with any questions .

**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](mailto: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 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](mailto:office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org).

### 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](mailto: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](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 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.

**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.

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

