



November 21, 2023

Giving Thanks

When I was younger, and my family would embark on a road trip, my siblings and I would play our version of the car spotting game. The idea was to spot as many types of a particular car as possible in a set time. We would either name a car color (say red) or a make and model of car (our favorite was a Volkswagen Beetle) and set a timer. We would look intensely at the passing views, hoping to see that type of car first. The person who saw the most cars matching the agreed-upon description won.

I was always struck by how many red cars, or Volkswagen Beetles, I saw long after we finished the game. I had never noticed them before, and now I saw them everywhere. I marveled at the mystery of how many of these cars suddenly appeared around me. As I got older, I realized it wasn't so mysterious. In fact, there is a coined term explaining this mystery--the Baader-Meinhof phenomenon. It explains that when you learn about something or focus on something, it suddenly appears everywhere because you have trained your brain to look for it.

This is the key to gratitude. I believe gratitude begins with intentional noticing. What we train our brain to look for is what seems to appear everywhere. If we cannot see that which is lovely, commendable, and worthy of our praise, how can we experience appreciation for it? The spiritual discipline of choosing to notice that which is good, beautiful, and joyful leads to gratitude.

And so, in this season of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to try and look for the things in your life and our world for which you can be grateful. Practice the art of noticing as recommended in Philippians 4:8-9, *"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*

Prayer list for Nov 26 - Dec 2, 2023

Church & Pastors

**-Marissa Friedens
UCC, Rev. Brett
(Carolyn) Palmer
(right)**



**-Mascoutah St.
John UCC, Rev.
Bob (Rev. Jan
Dashner)**

Goddard, Interim Pastor (left)

Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Libby and Jane Feagans-
King, Springfield, IL**

People with Life Concerns

**-Please pray for Rev. Allen
(Lynn) Reiter** after a recent hospitalization and other health concerns. He will be recovering at home for an extended period of time. Rev. Reiter has been active on ISC Teams and Committees and served as pastor of Granite City St. John UCC and Hookdale St. Peter's UCC before retiring. Cards may be sent to him at PO Box 278, Hamel IL 62046.

-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

In thinking about such things, may you experience a heart full of grace and gratitude. And may you have a blessed Thanksgiving,
Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

Ministry Opportunity

With Lynnette's retirement as our communications coordinator at the end of the year, we are looking to fill this part-time position immediately. If you or someone you know is passionate about the mission of our Conference; has experience in creating and designing communication materials such as

newsletters, websites, and social media posts; is committed to helping us stay up on the current technology tools and trends; and would be an asset to the ISC team, please send your resume and a portfolio of your work to our Conference Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson at sjohnson@iscucc.org or our Executive Administrator, Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org for the job description; qualifications we are looking for in the right candidate; and more information about this exciting ministry opportunity.

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.

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 Christmas holiday 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 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... O'Fallon UCC youth group competed in teams to collect various food items for a Thanksgiving meal, to support the O'Fallon Community Food Pantry. The church kitchen was covered with many donations, but congrats to Connor Brant and Brayden Ellis on "Team Corn" for bringing in the most items. Photo of all collected items above right. Team Corn photo is above left.

More Amazing People... The inspiring ministry of Holy Ghost Darmstadt and Trinity UCC, Biddleborn was celebrated on Sun, Oct 15. They celebrated their individual anniversaries (185 years for Darmstadt and 145 years for Biddleborn) and their shared anniversary of 70 years of being a yoked ministry. Their pastor is Rev. Tarrah Vaupel, and their Spirit of collaboration and creativity is something many could learn from. They worship as one people in two locations. For two Sundays of the month, they worship at one church building, and on the other two Sundays they worship at the other church building. They are a living testimony of how good it is when kindred live, worship, and engage in mission and ministry with unity.



Do want to create or redo your website, but maybe aren't sure how to get started?

UCC Everywhere (UCCE) is a program that builds easy-to-use, affordable, and modern websites for local churches and includes ongoing support to address any questions or issues that may arise. As a UCC Ministry, UCCE aims to uplift churches and make sure their needs are met. UCCE's dedicated team handles all inquiries related to the program and is available to help churches in any way possible. The denomination is embarking on this digital journey together. Visit ucceverywhere.org to learn more or reach out to our Customer Support Specialist, Aidan Spencer, via email at ucceverywhere@ucc.org or phone at 216.736.2185.

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.

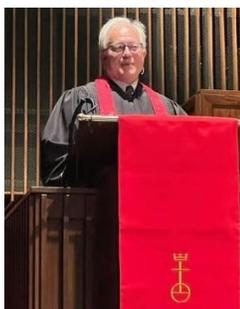


Frostbite Fun Youth Event presented by the ISC Local Church Ministries Team is scheduled for January 13 and 14, 2024, at DuBois Center. All junior high (middle school) and high school youth are invited to attend. You may attend in one of two ways: Single Day (\$50) on Saturday from 10 am - 7 pm or Overnight (\$100) on Saturday from 10 am to Sunday at 11 am. Click [here](#) for a flyer to share with your church and its

youth. Click [here](#) for the paperwork to register. Each church is responsible for providing the necessary chaperones for the event. For answers to questions, contact Rev. Jenn Glover at 618-250-7983. *If inclement weather causes us to postpone this event, it will be held on February 17 and 18, 2024.*



Churches in Transition



Sunday, Nov 19 was the farewell service for **Rev. Tim (Rev. Janet) Darmour-Paul** from Grantfork United Church of Christ. His farewell sermon was a masterclass on a good goodbye. Well done, Pastor Tim. Photo right.



Congratulations and best wishes to **Rev. Jerry McCaskey and his wife, Lori**, as he moves into retirement. Your leadership at Evangelical UCC in Godfrey and in the Illinois South Conference has been a blessing. We will miss you greatly. Photo left.

DuBois Center News

Support Staff Needed at DuBois Center Office Administrator - DuBois Center is seeking to hire a part-time office

administrator. The office administrator at DuBois Center is the welcoming face and voice of DuBois Center for all who use the camp and retreat center. Duties include answering general inquires via phone and email, providing administrative support for DuBois programming and events, work with the Illinois South Conference Registrar to manage summer camp and guest group registration, as well as general office maintenance. Given the nature of the position, the office administrator will need to be on site during some but not necessarily all work hours. Ideal candidates will embody a deep love and respect for all people. For more information, click [here](#) or visit the DuBois Center [website](#). If interested, please send a statement of interest, resume, and two references to director@duboiscenter.org.

Maintenance Staff - DuBois Center is seeking to hire a part-time maintenance staff person. Duties include maintaining DuBois Center building and grounds, maintain good working condition on all camp vehicles and equipment, and work with the Executive Director and the Illinois South Conference's Property Team to complete tasks on the yearly maintenance plan. Maintenance person is also expected to work with the Executive Director and the Illinois South Conference's Property Team to assist in overseeing and facilitating capital campaign projects such as DuBois 6.0. Additionally, when repairs and maintenance are beyond the ability of DuBois Center Staff, work with the Executive Director to seek outside maintenance. Knowledge and familiarity with horses are a plus. Ideal candidates will embody a deep love and respect for all people. For more information, click [here](#) or visit the DuBois Center [website](#). If interested, please send a statement of interest, resume, and two references to director@duboiscenter.org.

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.



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

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.

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.



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

Region 2 - Waterloo St. Paul UCC will hold "A Grand Christmas Concert" as part of its St. Paul Fine Arts Concert Series on Sun, Dec 17 at 2 pm. Prepare to be filled with the joyous sounds of Christmas. Their vocal choirs, contemporary band, harpists and piano and

piano/organ duos will be performing a variety of festive favorites. It is a free concert. A free-will offering will be accepted.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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](#)

