



November 28, 2023

## GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

Joy to the world!  
Our Christmas gift is here.  
A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes  
Was given without a tear.

The baby, just an infant,  
Has lighted up a star  
Which brought the wandering shepherds  
To worship from afar.

Praise the Lord!  
The star has guided three wise kings  
To praise this baby, Jesus,  
Who will grow to do His thing.

We know life's not easy  
For a baby born without.  
But material wealth didn't stop this child  
From preaching "Cut it out!"

Stop the warring and pretending.  
Stop judging one and all.  
The Lord loves and gave his Son  
So we can all stand tall.

God loves and loves and loves us  
No matter what we do.  
Just trust it all to Jesus.  
It's God's Christmas gift to you.  
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## Prayer list for Dec 3 - 9, 2023

### Church & Pastors

**-Marion Zion  
UCC, Rev. John (Sara) Holst  
(right)**



**-Moro St.  
John's UCC  
at Midway,  
Rev. Lori  
(Wayne)**

**Schafer (left)**

### Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Dr. Richard and Johann  
Ellerbrake, Lebanon, 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



**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.*



### 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](mailto: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...**The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize **St. Paul UCC, Freeburg** for their "Gift Cards For Christmas" mission project. Members of the congregation are invited to share grocery store gift cards with families in need. This enables food pantry families to purchase meat, produce, or other food items to complete their Christmas dinner. St. Paul will share nonperishable food along with the grocery gift cards during their food pantry distribution days in December. Thanks, St. Paul, Freeburg. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" - such a blessing!

### 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.



**Churches Which Are Without a Musician:** There is a wonderful resource available for churches without musicians. It's [smallchurchmusic.com](http://smallchurchmusic.com).

You will find many of the most familiar hymns (not contemporary) in a variety of formats. You may download the tracks for free to use in your worship services.

**Get back your energy, creativity and passion for ministry** as you turn the calendar on another year. Rev. Nicole Havelka, anti-burnout coach and yoga and meditation teacher, will lead two year-end events to help you end this year strong and set you up for a calmer 2024.

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.

[Annual Planning session, Dec. 14, 10 am - 1 pm CST](#), helps you plan for your priorities, *including yourself*, so that you have a calmer, more focused year. [New Year's Eve Restorative Yoga celebration, Dec. 31, 12-2 pm CST](#), will use gentle movement, restorative yoga poses (the laying around kind), guided meditation, and intention setting to help you start your year with more rest and ease. Both events have sliding scale tickets available. The links above will give you more information and the link for registration.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:director@duboiscenter.org).

**Uni-Pres News** - 'Tis the season of giving and Uni Pres Kindercottage thanks all those who have supported us so far with coats, socks and PJs.

We are also seeking donations of fabric to create warm and comfortable blankets for the children. Gift cards to Joann fabric would be a particularly welcomed contribution.

As we approach the holiday celebrations on December 20, we are also compiling a list of items needed to ensure a festive and memorable occasion for the children and families we serve. If you would like to contribute, consider donating any of the following items:

- Graham Crackers
- Icing
- Candy Sprinkles
- Small candy cane and gumdrops
- We welcome gift cards to Walmart, which will enable us to acquire additional supplies for the celebration.



*CHHSM News*  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Your generosity and support make a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve, and we are truly grateful for your consideration. Together, we can make a difference in creating a warm, joyful holiday season for these children and families. Thank you for your kindness and support.

**Join St. John's Community Care's Mardi Gras Gala on Jan 26, 2024, at 7 pm for an unforgettable evening at the Wildey Theatre in Edwardsville.** Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant spirit of Mardi Gras as they celebrate and raise funds for a great cause. The Mardi Gras Gala promises to be filled with music, dancing, and delicious food. A seafood buffet with vegan and gluten-free options and cash bar will be available. Dance to Jazz and Creole music from Miss Jubilee and The Yas Yas Boys while you hobnob with St John's Community Care community members. Purchase tickets and/or make donations [here](#).

## 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 [office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org) or 618-344-2526.

**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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](#)

