



December 12 2023

## Yearend Donations

As your church prepares for the end of the year, please mark January 8 as the deadline to send in your 2023 donations to the Conference office. Below are some tips for sending in your end-of-the-year gifts. Please share this information with the staff members or officers of your church entrusted with this responsibility.



- Please mail all your end-of-the-year donations to OCWM, Friends of the Conference, and special missions so they will arrive at the Conference office by noon on Monday, January 8, 2024. This deadline will enable us to record your giving and complete the process necessary to meet the National setting's deadline of receiving and recording your gifts to the wider Church.
- When you send in your donations, include your Church contribution form so we can appropriately record and credit your church for your gifts.
- Please clarify on the Church contribution forms if the enclosed donations should be applied to 2023 or 2024.

If you have any questions, please call Debbie Kesner at the Conference office at (618) 654-2125. We are grateful for all the ways you support the work and mutual ministry of our Conference and the United Church of Christ.

May we all experience the blessings of hope, joy, love, and peace of this Advent and Christmas season to carry us forward in faith into the New Year.

## Prayer list for Dec 17 - 23, 2023

**Church & Pastors**  
**-New Hanover Zoar  
UCC, Rev. R.J. Morgan**  
(right)



## Retired Pastors

**-Revs. Jan Dashner and Robert  
Goddard**, O'Fallon, IL  
**-Rev. Robert Tripp**, Effingham,  
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.

-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.



**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 Frostbite Fun flyer to share with your church and its youth. Click [here](#) for the paperwork to register. **Register online at [www.duboiscenter.org](http://www.duboiscenter.org) by January 2, 2024.** 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 Kathi Emery at [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 turkey/ham 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, Columbia for their "Christmas Food Drive," designated for Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Such a "Christmas blessing" for Kindercottage families in need! Thanks, St. Paul UCC under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. Jonathon Bangera. See more right.



### Kindercottage Collection

At this time of year, Kindercottage is looking for donations for holiday food baskets. Please consider dropping off any holiday food items to the bins located just inside the doors off of the back parking lot. Thank you for your support and generosity to this special mission!

**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](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org) or our Executive Administrator, Debbie Kesner at [dkesner@iscucc.org](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org) for the job description; qualifications we are looking for in the right candidate; and more information about this exciting ministry opportunity.

### Advent Lessons & Carols "Waiting for the Light"

Advent is about waiting, waiting for the good things which are to come. But not all waiting is the same. The first kind is waiting for things we are certain will take place. The second kind is waiting without knowing what will happen. The first kind of waiting requires patience. The second kind of waiting requires trust. So, the waiting of Advent is a waiting of trust; of trust in a God who is with us and a God who will emerge in our lives. We wait expecting God's arrival. Then let us entrust ourselves to God in this Advent season. The outcome that God will bring about is well worth waiting for.

Please join the **Lebanon St Paul UCC Chancel Choir, Christine Brewer, guest singers, and instrumentalists on Sunday, Dec 17 at 9:30 am for "Waiting for the Light"**. The carols will include music of Ralph Vaughan Williams, Keith Christopher, Robert Hobby, Howard Helvey and Gwyneth Walker. You can also join us on our livestream on YouTube.

## 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).



**The Insurance Board  
Announces:  
New Resource:**



*CHHSM News*  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

### Physical Security Performance Goals for Faith-Based Communities

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is pleased to announce the release of a new resource titled, [Physical Security Performance Goals for Faith-Based Communities](#), which was developed as a set of physical security practices that houses of worship and related facilities can use to reduce security risks to their congregations. The physical security performance goals model examines threats and vulnerabilities to provide targeted mitigation strategies, all of which are organized by the following functional categories: Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover. For questions regarding this resource, please email [central@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:central@cisa.dhs.gov).

**Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) FY2024 Winter Webinar Series** - The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) invites interested organizations to attend upcoming webinars regarding the [Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\)](#). The NSGP is a competitive grant awarded to nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack for the purposes of facility hardening and other security enhancements.

Please note that depending on the timing of a Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations bill, final FY 2024 information on the NSGP may not be available at the time of the webinars.

Interested nonprofits should maintain communication with their [State Administrative Agency \(SAA\)](#) for all deadlines and application requirements.

Date	Time (CST)	Registration Link
Wednesday, Dec 13	2:00 pm	<a href="#">Registration link</a>
Tuesday, Dec 19	1:00 pm	<a href="#">Registration link</a>
Wednesday, Dec 20	2:00 pm	<a href="#">Registration link</a>

Following registration, you will receive a calendar invitation via email for the webinar. The link to join the webinar will be contained in that calendar event email. It may take time for this email to arrive – please be patient following registration and be sure to check your junk/spam folders

## UCC Mental Health Network wishes you Happy Holidays and gives you these tips to help you cope during the holidays.

### Tips for Coping and Staying Safe During the Holidays

- [Managing Your Mental Health During the Holidays](#)– National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Blog
- [Surviving Painful Holiday Emotions](#)– NAMI Blog
- [Avoiding Holiday Stressors: Tips for a Stress-Free Season](#)– NAMI Blog
- [Coping with the Holidays When There is Mental Illness](#) – NAMI Maryland
- [9 Keys to a Resilient Holiday](#)– Psychology Today
- [10 Realistic Ways to Set Boundaries With Others During The Holidays](#)– HuffPost
- [Mindfulness & Meditations for the Holiday Blues](#)– Headspace
- [8 Queer Tips To Get Through The Holidays](#) - Queer Theology
- [Tips for Managing the Holiday Blues](#) - NAMI Blog
- [For those Who Find the Holidays Triggering](#) - NAMI

**Deaconess Foundation Is Now Accepting Funding Proposals** - Deaconess is accepting funding proposals for the 2024 Policy Campaign Grant. These are one-year general operating grants for up to \$100,000 to advance an organization's efforts to advance public policy change efforts. The deadline to submit a funding proposal is Thursday, February 1, 2024. Learn more [here](#).

**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.



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.

**Walker Institute Praxis Cohort** - With the 2024 election less than a year away, the Walker Leadership Institute is launching the Praxis Cohort program to train and support faith leaders to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly as they face challenges in their communities, congregations, and families. Online training begins mid-January, followed by the launch of a network of support through the Praxis Cohorts. For more information, contact Steve Lawler at [slawler@eden.edu](mailto:slawler@eden.edu).

**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.

**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).

**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).

**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.

**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.

**New Baden Zion UCC -Organist/Pianist/Music Director** - New Baden Zion UCC is seeking a part time musician to fill several different roles. The person who fills this position will play at weekly services, along with various special services such as Ash Wednesday, weekly Lent services, etc. Additional possible responsibilities include selecting weekly service music and hymns, directing an adult choir, coordinating special vocal and/or instrumental music, and serving on the worship team. Keyboard skills and church choral experience as a singer or director are preferred. To apply or for additional information, contact council president Rodney Washburn at [rodneywashburn1@gmail.com](mailto:rodneywashburn1@gmail.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.*

[Deaconess Foundation](#) [Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#) [DuBois Center](#)

[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](#)

