



January 30, 2024



THE HOLY POWER OF AND

It seems something has shifted in our world as we have forgotten two things (or many things) can be true simultaneously. We have moved into a polarizing either-or mindset.

Let me give you some examples of what I mean. Either we agree on everything, or we cannot be civil or kind to one another. Either you are a good person, or you are a bad person. Either technology is a welcome advance, or it is something that has ruined our society.

The most problematic thing about this shift is how we have exaggerated, generalized, and neatly categorized others and the world around us in a way that does not allow for nuance, complexity, or diversity. The world around us becomes flat, and people become one-dimensional. An either-or mindset does not invite us to places or spaces of curiosity, wondering, and exploring.

We leave no room for interaction or dialogue if we convince ourselves that we have figured out situations or people through our either-or judgments. We leave no room for the willingness to appreciate the intricacy, complexity, and beauty of the world and people around us. We leave no room for transformation because we have already put everything in neat little boxes. We are not willing to wrestle with the fact more than one thing can be true at the same time because it would mean we might have to change our hearts and minds.

And yet, we only need to look at Jesus to see the importance of being able to hold many things in tension.

Prayer list for Feb 4 - 10, 2024 Church & Pastors



**-Summerfield St. John UCC,
Rev. Philip (Kate) Barbier (right)**



**-Tower Hill St. Paul
UCC, Pastor Neil
Kaiser (left)**

Retired Pastor

**-Rev. Robert E. Lee, Swansea,
IL**

Prayer list for Feb 11 - 17, 2024



Church & Pastors

**-Trenton St. John UCC, Rev.
Christy Smith (right)**



**-Troy Friedens
UCC, Rev. Tim
(Danielle)
Harrison (left)**

**Retired Pastor -Rev. Robert
(Doris) Utke, Falcon Heights,
MN**

People with Life Concerns

**-Keep the mother of Pastor
Norma Patterson in your
prayers as she struggles with
health issues. Pastor Norma**

Whenever Jesus met someone, he could see and identify the complexity of their situation and personhood. This allowed him to separate their behavior from their being and their sinfulness from their sacredness. More importantly, he taught others to do the same. Through Jesus preaching, teaching, and modeling, he showed that all people could be renewed and transformed by relying on God's power and grace.

In Jesus' eyes, someone like a leper could have an isolating condition AND experience the connectedness of being a part of the kingdom of God.

In Jesus' eyes, someone like the woman the scribes and Pharisees wanted to stone to death could have made poor decisions and choices AND be worthy of God's grace and forgiveness.

In Jesus' eyes, someone like a tax collector could be capable of lying and cheating AND be capable of being honest and trustworthy.

In Jesus' eyes, someone like Peter could be capable of betrayal AND be capable of love and redemption.

In Jesus' eyes, people like disciples could often be clueless, stubborn, and frustrating, AND could be trusted to carry on his mission and ministry after his death, resurrection, and ascension.

Jesus invites us to get curious, wonder, and imagine a world in which things do not need to be either-or, but rather a world in which the continuing Spirit of God creates an AND in all situations. Imagine how different we and the world would be if we could embrace the holy power of AND.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister



Rev. Ellen Hiatt 4/12/1953-1/6/2024

We are saddened to share the passing of Rev. Ellen Hiatt. While most knew Rev. Hiatt from her chaplaincy ministry at St. Louis State, Deaconess (later known as Forest Park), Anderson, and Barnes-Jewish hospitals, she also served as pastor of several churches. When she served in the Illinois South Conference, Rev. Hiatt was the pastor who "yoked" St. Jacob UCC, St.

Jacob, and St. John UCC, Summerfield. Her husband, Barnet "Mike" McKee, is our Conference legal counsel. Please hold Mike, their children, and their grandchildren in your prayers. A memorial service for Rev. Hiatt will be held on Sunday, February 18, at 2 pm at First Congregational UCC on 6501 Wydown Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri.

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.

Mileage Reimbursement Update

Please note, for pastoral mileage reimbursement, the current IRS rate was changed to 67 cents per mile. The rate was effective January 1, 2024.

Would you like to know what is impacting your PBUC retirement funds?

Join the Pension Boards' Investment Team experts as they review 2024 Basic and Participating Annuity increases, assess PBUC investment fund performance, and offer a financial market outlook. Offered biannually, Investment Watch webinars may cover what is driving or shaping our economy, examine current news, as well as provide our approach and updates to socially responsible investing initiatives.



Join us for
**Investment Watch: Your
Financial Market Review**

When: Wednesday, January 31
Time: 3:00 p.m. ET

The Pension Boards
United Church of Christ, Inc.
WHERE FAITH AND FINANCE INTERSECT

Register today!



Boundary Awareness Training

For those pastors who are due for Boundary Training this year, ISC has scheduled training for Tuesday, February 20, via zoom from 8:30 a.m. – Noon. This training will be for both active and retired clergy. Contact Debbie at dkesner@iscucc.org to register and get the zoom meeting info. Cost: \$20 for retired pastors, \$25 for active pastors, \$25 for non-ISC retired pastors, and \$30 for non-ISC active pastors.



April 23rd-24th, 2024

ISC MINISTRY LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Ready to **Open Your
Eyes?**

All current and retired pastors and lay ministry leaders are invited to participate in the retreat to be held at ToddHall Retreat Center* on Tuesday, April 23rd (noon) through Wednesday, April 24th (noon).

The costs for the retreat are:
\$110 (incl. all retreat programming, meals, and a private room)
\$85 (incl. all retreat programming, meals, and a double room)
\$35 (incl. all retreat programming and meals w/ NO overnight stay)

Be on the lookout for registration information in the coming weeks!

*ToddHall is located at 320 Todd Center Dr., Columbia, IL

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS BY THE MINISTERIAL, EXCELLENCE, SUPPORT, AND AUTHORIZATION (MESA) MINISTRY TEAM OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To register, please click the highlighted title of the event. Also, please note these offerings are in the Eastern Time Zone, not the Central Time Zone, so you will need to make this adjustment on your calendar when registering and participating in an event.

[Wednesday, January 31, 3:00 – 5:00pm ET Pastoral Support Committee Training with Rev. Tara Barber](#)

[Monday, March 4, 1:30 – 4:30pm ET, Retired Minister Boundary Training with Rev. Tara Barber](#)

[Wednesday, March 13, 4:00 – 5:30pm ET The Interim Time: What Do We Do? with the Rev. Jeff Nelson](#)

**DISASTER
MINISTRIES**



UCC Disaster Ministries 2024 Kentucky and Indiana Mission Trip and Work Camp Opportunities

Priscilla Self, our ISC United Church of Christ Disaster Ministry Recovery Coordinator, submitted the information from Rev. Greg Denk, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. Contact Rev. Denk at gdenk5258@att.net for more

information and/or the Indiana Kentucky Conference [webpage](#) to set up your group's upcoming Workcamp/Mission Trip. Disaster transformation is an example of how working together can have a great impact. It takes the cooperation of many, who freely give of their

time, to accomplish the task. There is a tremendous amount of work that is yet to be done in western Kentucky, eastern Kentucky, and central Indiana.



Facing Hunger in the Community
The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize -

St. Paul, Columbia for their upcoming “Souper Bowl Of Caring”. The youth group is sponsoring a fundraiser on Sunday, February 11th to

support local food charities. Thanks, St. Paul; under the leadership of Pastor and teacher Rev. Jonathan Bangera.

Grantfork UCC for also observing Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 11th. On the day of the NFL Super Bowl, we are challenged to remember all the people in our communities without enough food in their cupboards. Please bring cans of soup, or money to buy cans of soup, to the worship service that morning. The Youth Group will gather those items together and get them delivered to the HACSM Food Pantry in Highland.

St. Paul, Belleville for their “SOUPERBOWL OF CARING” Mission Project. Members of St. Paul are invited to use canned food items to “vote” for their favorite football team in the big game. There will be 3 CHOICES: KANSAS CITY CHIEFS, SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS, or “DON’T CARE TEAM”. Donation boxes for each of the 3 choices will be available in the Welcome Center. Individuals can “vote” by placing food donations in the box designated for their “Team”. Remember, no matter which team wins; the Community Interfaith Food Pantry is the real winner. Thanks to St. Paul, under the leadership of Pastor and Teacher Michelle Torigian. Such a blessing for local families in need!

The Souper Bowl of Caring movement has provided over \$175 million worth of support since 1990 in the communities that have observed it.

[Click here and share your stories with the HUNGER ACTION COMMITTEE!](#)

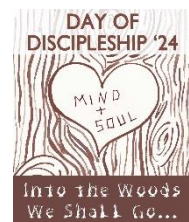
The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

**Day of Discipleship -- Into the Woods We Shall Go...
to care for our minds and nourish our souls**

Saturday, March 9th, 2024 - 9 am to noon at DuBois Center

The Gatherings Team is planning the Day of Discipleship event Into the Woods We Shall Go...to care for our minds and nourish our souls to be held on Saturday, March 9th, 2024, from 9 am to noon at DuBois Center - which will include an optional Friday evening Self-Care Retreat. Please save the date and look for more information to come.



† DuBois Center News



Spring Retreats

AT DUBOIS CENTER

Father-Son Retreat: March 15-17

Mother-Daughter Retreat: March 22-24

Adult Horse Retreat: April 6-7

Women's Retreat: April 26-28

Youth Horse Retreat: April 27-28

For more information visit
duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

DuBois Center is gearing up for another fun-filled Spring, but we need amazing volunteers like you to make it happen!

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the upcoming Spring events, please let us know by filling out the Google Form below or email us!

Link: <https://forms.gle/JNoHWt4nh3hdG8L98>

program@duboiscenter.org



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

~HOYLETON YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES HONORS NIGHT~

HONORS Night

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
THE REGENCY CENTER
BANQUET BALLROOM

imagine



Therapeutic Foster Parents Needed!

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services has expanded their residential foster care program to include therapeutic foster homes. This expansion provides an opportunity for identified foster youth, currently in our residential program, to live in community with qualified foster parents in a single-family home in the Belleville area. At this time Hoyleton is actively seeking foster parents for this program. The therapeutic foster care program was created to address service gaps that exist in Illinois. The state has limited residential treatment options for children in care and even fewer transition or step-down programs for youth who still need additional support. As a result of the limited resources youth are staying in residential treatment programs longer than what is needed. To address this gap Hoyleton has established multiple single-family homes as part of their therapeutic foster care program. If

living in this type of environment with youth in care sounds like something you are interested in Hoyleton would love to connect with you to share more information. This is not another residential program. The youth who qualify to live in this environment will reside with a set of qualified foster parents, as they would in traditional foster care, but will have the added support of a treatment team comprised of a program supervisor, case manager, therapist and other supports as needed. This is a family bonding opportunity for both foster parents and youth. The selected foster parents will live rent free in a renovated home in the Belleville, IL area while providing full-time care for foster youth. Foster parents will receive compensation to cover living expenses including rent, utilities, groceries and transportation. Respite time will also be provided. Hoyleton is actively searching for foster parents interested in this arrangement. A minimum of 2 years experience fostering youth is preferred. Foster parents must not have other children in their care at the time of this living arrangement. If you feel this could be your calling or know someone who might be interested we would like to meet with you to discuss the opportunity. For more information or to set up an appointment please contact Sharon Schultz, Hoyleton Director of Child Welfare, at (618) 688-4761 or sschultz@hoyleton.org. To learn more about our organization please visit <https://hoyleton.org/>

CHHSM 86th Annual Gathering

CHHSM hopes you will join them at the Live by Loews Hotel in St. Louis for CHHSM's 86th [Annual Gathering](#) from March 12-14, 2024! [Early bird registration is now open!](#)

The theme of the 86th Annual Gathering is "Collaboration as the Gateway to Innovation." The focus scripture is Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps" (The Message). With collaboration taking center stage, we will explore how working together can spark innovation that changes lives.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Chili and Beef Vegetable Soup at St John UCC Trenton, IL

St. John UCC, 21 N. Walnut Street, Trenton, IL will have a Drive-Thru Chili & Beef Vegetable Soup Lunch on **Saturday, February 24th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM** (or until chili and soup are gone). Price is \$10 per quart. To access the drive-thru, enter the west side of the alley between the church and the Shell Station.

Concordia UCC of Millstadt, IL Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

Come join us for and ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake and Sausage Breakfast with Buttermilk, Oatmeal and Gluten-Free pancake varieties on **Saturday, February 24th 7am-10am**. Adults-\$9, Ages 5 to 12-\$6, Under 5-Free. There will also be Baked Goods for sale. Proceeds go to Youth Programs. Concordia UCC, 7600 State Route 163 (Corner of 163 and Concordia Rd) Belleville, IL 62223

Job Opportunities

Godfrey Evangelical UCC is in search for a Nursery Worker for Sundays from 9:45 am to 12:00 pm during the months of September thru May; In June, July and August from 9:45 am to 10:00 am. The children needing care are ages infant through 2 or 3 years. Pay rate is \$25 per hour, which will be paid every 2 weeks. Please contact Pam Kasten at pkasten59@gmail.com with questions or to express your interest.

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.

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.

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 -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.

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 **Missy Loyet** at mloyet@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](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#) [Emmaus Homes](#) [Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton Youth & Family](#) [Unleashing Potential](#)

[Pension Board-UCC](#) [St. John's Community Care](#) [UCC Insurance Board](#)

[Uplands Village](#) [UCC Campus Ministry](#) [Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)
[UCC Newsletter](#)