



**Eternal Truth and Assurance for Temporary Troubles**

Whoever needs to hear this, lean in, listen closely, and remember--This, too, shall pass.

Whatever difficult moments you are facing.  
 Whatever suffering you are enduring.  
 Whatever doubts you are wrestling with.  
 Whatever ailments are afflicting you.  
 Whatever questions remain unanswered to you.  
 Whatever is keeping you up at night.  
 Whatever is troubling you.  
 Whatever it is...it is temporary.  
 The only thing that lasts forever is the eternal presence of God.  
 As the apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth after learning about their struggles to remain unified as believers in Christ,  
*"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* –2 Corinthians 4: 17-18  
 Whatever you are dealing with right now seems to be all you can see and focus on, but I encourage you to have a wider view. Whatever it is that you have become fixated upon is temporary. And to gain perspective, you will need to widen your focus. Beyond what you can see at this moment, widen your focus on what is unseen, trusting the power of God is at work in your life and the world in ways beyond your imagination.  
 So breathe, pray, and widen your focus beyond temporary troubles to experience the eternal truth and assurance that this, too, shall pass.

-Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

**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**

**Prayer list for Feb 13 - 18, 2024**  
**Church & Pastors**



**-Valmeyer St. John UCC, Rev. Steven (Carla) Boorsman (right)**



**-Waterloo St. Paul UCC(left)**

**Retired Pastor**  
**-Rev. Thomas Nadelin, Granite City, IL**

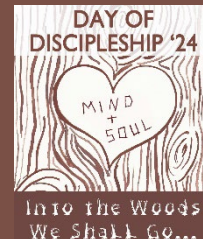
**People with Life Concerns**

-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.

# Day of Discipleship

Join us at Illinois South Conference's own DuBois Center for the Day of Discipleship event entitled *"Into the Woods We Shall Go...to care for our minds and nourish our souls"* to be held on Saturday, March 9th, 2024, from 9:00am to 12:15pm with optional Friday evening Self-Care Retreat.

Visit [www.iscucc.org](http://www.iscucc.org) for registration and more meeting information



**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](mailto: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.

## JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN ILLINOIS

We believe the rising costs of prescription drugs in our state is not just a financial injustice; it is a moral and spiritual injustice. No one should have to choose between filling a prescription and putting food on the table. That is why our Conference has become a supporting sponsor of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board. We are working with groups like the AARP and Citizen Action Illinois to encourage our elected officials to support legislation to help lower costs for expensive lifesaving medications that are out of reach for too many Illinoisians. By setting payment limits, the Prescription Drug Affordability Board would save money for patients by reducing their out-of-pocket costs and monthly insurance premiums. This proactive approach has been adopted in eight other states, with your help we hope Illinois will be next. **Here are some ways you can get involved:**

**Contact** your legislators by using the link below and filling in the appropriate information: <https://citizenactionillinois.salsalabs.org/ilpdab/index.html>

**Attend** a town hall teleconference with Senator Koehler sponsored by AARP Illinois on February 15 at 11 am. To register: <https://events.aarp.org/event/affordablemeds/summary>

**Write** letters to your local paper. Email [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org) for templates and resources to help you write letters.

**Share** your stories: Send us stories we can share with our elected leaders about how the rising costs of prescription drugs have affected you, your family, or someone you know.

Email [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org)

**Join** us for an all-Conference Zoom session on Monday, February 19, at 6:30 pm to learn more about how you and your church can get involved.

Prescription Drug Affordability Act Town Hall Time: Feb 19, 2024, 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6349352317?omn=82987576616>

Meeting ID: 634 935 2317

Prescription drugs cannot work for those who cannot afford them.

## 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. These courses are approved by our COM.

**[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](#)**



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).

Visit

[www.iscucc.org](http://www.iscucc.org)

for registration

link

## Project Angel Gowns: Crafting Comfort for Precious Lives

**What is Project Angel Gowns?** Project Angel Gowns is a ministry dedicated to bringing comfort to families with infants in the Rankin Jordan Pediatric Hospital *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)*. We are seeking talented and compassionate volunteer tailors to join us on this meaningful journey. Our vision is to repurpose wedding gowns into beautiful christening gowns for the little warriors in the NICU, offering solace and a tangible keepsake to families during challenging times. **Why does this matter?** The NICU journey is an emotional rollercoaster for many families. Project Angel Gowns aims to provide a ray of hope, creating gowns filled with love and memories. Whether these infants grow up to lead remarkable lives or their time is brief, we strive to offer families a cherished memento to hold onto. **How can you get involved?** If you possess the skills of a talented tailor or know someone who does, we invite you to join us in making a difference. Your expertise can bring comfort to families when they need it most. Additionally, if you have a wedding gown that is gathering dust but still holds sentimental value, consider donating it to our cause. For further details and to express your interest in joining Project Angel Gowns, please reach out to Rev. Tim Powers-Reed at 636-248-6468 or via email at [trinityuccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:trinityuccpastor@gmail.com).

## 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.



# SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

**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.**

The ISC Hunger Action Team would also like to recognize St. Paul, Freeburg for serving local families in need with their Food and Clothing Bank. Recipients are students in need enrolled in the Freeburg School District. Including Freeburg, Smithton, Floraville, Paderborn, St. Libory, and Fayetteville. St. Paul provides food items on an emergency basis, as well as Food Pantry distribution days on the 1st and second Tuesday of each month (2 to 4 pm) and the 3rd Thursday (5 to 7 pm). Thanks, St. Paul, for supporting this much needed mission project; such a blessing - under the leadership of pastor and teacher Rev. Dr. Andrew Lovins.



### Food Pantry

The Freeburg Food & Clothing Pantry's "Meal a Month", a "Needs Menu" (donations) will be collected on the second Sunday of each month "Monthly Food Collection Sunday".

Needs for the month of **February** consist of : oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, hamburger helper, rice mix and pork & beans.

Food Collection Sunday is **February 11**.

The Food Pantry appreciates your donations and support!!!

## The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference...



### Musical Celebration at Friedens UCC

Rev. Brett Palmer, minister of Marissa's Friedens UCC, and musical leader, Barbara Van Ausdall, helped make the Annual Congregational Meeting livelier at the January 21 breakfast meeting. Barbara, with talent and charm, has filled in while Friedens searches for a new piano/organist. See job posting in Job Opportunities section below.

## 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](http://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](mailto:program@duboiscenter.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.

**Building Bright Futures Scholarship Program**  
**Dear UCC Family and supporters of Uni Pres**  
**Kindercottage,**

I am writing to you with an urgent appeal for support in providing tuition scholarships for families facing financial challenges. Recently, our organization experienced Government funding cuts which will have direct impact on the educational services we provide to children and families in need. Many of these families rely on our center not only for educational care but also for a safe and enriching learning environment, complete with healthy meals.



Our Scholarship Program has three levels of support.

Scholarship Level 1: \$1000.00 monthly This level of support will provide a family with two children access to full day childcare including two nutritious meals and a snack. Additionally, enrolled parents or guardians will benefit from ongoing resources and family support. Your contribution at this level directly empowers a family to access the essential services and support their needs.

Scholarship Level 2: \$ 500.00 monthly: This level of support will provide a family with one child with access to full-day childcare including two nutritious meals and a snack. Additionally, enrolled parents or guardians will benefit from ongoing resources and family support. Your contribution at this level directly empowers a family to access the essential services and support their needs.

Scholarship Level 3: \$250.00, At this level your contribution will provide a half day service for one child including two full meals. Families receiving this scholarship will also have access to resources and services facilitated by our Family Advocate Care Specialist.

What ever level you are able to choose, your generous donation will directly impact the lives of children and families in need, ensuring they receive essential educational services and support. Uni Pres Kindercottage is committed to fostering a nurturing environment where every child can thrive, regardless of financial constraints.

To contribute to these scholarship levels, you may send a check, money order, to our center , or drop off your donation to our center.

For more information, please feel free to contact us directly. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Your support is invaluable in building a brighter future for our children and families.



## What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

### Annual Women's Pre-Lent Breakfast at Friedens UCC

Evangelical Daughters of Marissa's Friedens UCC will host its annual Women's Pre-Lent Breakfast on Saturday, February 10, starting at 8:30. A worship service will be followed by a free breakfast for any women who wishes to attend. The breakfast event has been happening for more than two decades, and it is a wonderful way to start one's Lenten journey.



# Fish Fry

DINNER



**Friday, February 23**

414 W Hanover St  
New Baden, IL 62265

4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

\$15/Dinner

Dinners include: Cod Tail, Catfish, or Fried shrimp, mac & cheese, hush puppies, coleslaw, fries, and dessert

Drive Thru only. Questions or large orders, call 618-588-4135

### 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 7a-10a**. 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**

### St Peter UCC Fish Fry

Come on into St Peter UCC-Red Bud, IL on **Fri, February 23rd and Fri, March 8th from 4pm-7pm** for indoor dining or enjoy curbside pickup. Menu featuring cod, catfish, shrimp and chicken strips--sides include German and American potato salad, french fries, macaroni & cheese, slaw, stewed tomatoes, baked beans and cucumber salad. Call 618-282-2417 for carry-outs

### 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.

### New Staff Member at the Illinois South Conference Office: Missy Loyet -Communications Coordinator

**Growing in Faith:** Missy Loyet is a member of the Evangelical UCC in Highland. Although she grew up in rural Minnesota, Highland has been her home since graduating from nursing school in 1989. She loves the faith family in Highland and its surrounding communities.

**Serving in Love:** Missy serves on the Mission/Stewardship Board at EvUCC and sings in the Chancel Choir. She previously served as the Volunteer Mission Coordinator at EvUCC arranging monthly mission works. Currently, she and her husband, Matt, run an ecumenical summer lunch program within the Highland School District. The L.U.N.C.H. Bunch (Loving United Neighbors Crushing Hunger) is supported by 16 area churches, numerous civic groups, and individual donors and has served 51,992 lunches since 2017. Missy enjoys creating graphic designs, logos, and flyers for the Church and writing meditative devotions.

**Living for Christ:** Missy is excited to be led to combine her talents and faith by serving the Illinois South Conference as their Communications Coordinator.

**Embracing His Goodness:** Cycling and crocheting are among Missy's hobbies, but time with her husband, three sons, daughter, two daughters-in-law, and grandson and close family are dearest to her heart.



## 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](mailto: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](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.

### **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](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 **Missy Loyet** at [mloyet@iscucc.org](mailto:mloyet@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](#)

[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](#)

