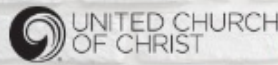


Illinois
South
Conference



Weekly
Connection

Diverse Minds,
Covenant Hearts,
Made One in the Body of Christ

January 16, 2024

**Prescription Drugs Don't Work If
People Can't Afford Them**

The Justice and Mission team of the Illinois South Conference is partnering with the Citizens Action of Illinois and the Prescription Drug Affordability Board in a bipartisan effort to encourage the state of Illinois to pass an important piece of legislation that would make prescription drugs affordable for all. As people of faith, we believe this is a moral and ethical issue affecting many church members, especially senior citizens.

Part of the action plan is to make our voices heard and advocate for a more just and compassionate system where everyone can afford life-improving and saving prescription drugs through a letter-writing campaign, submitting letters to local papers, and hosting conversations with our representatives.

This Prescription Drug Affordability Act will be submitted during the week of January 15, and on Wednesday, January 17th, our Conference Minister has been invited to speak at a press conference at the state house in Springfield about this issue.

If you have a story to tell about struggles in your family to afford medications and would like to know more about how you or your church could get involved in this project, please reach out to our Conference

**Prayer list for
Jan 21 – 27, 2023**
Church & Pastors
**-Smithton St. John
UCC, Rev. Brian
(Dawn) Damrow
(below)**



**-St. Jacob UCC, Rev.
Philip (Kate) Barbier
(above)**

Retired Pastor
**-Rev. Elmer and Linda
Bowman, Trenton, IL**

**Prayer list for
Jan 28 – Feb 3, 2023**
Church & Pastors
**-Staunton St. Paul
UCC (below)**

Minister, Rev. Shana Johnson.

**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 are approved by our COM.

[Monday, January 29, 6:00 – 9:00 pm ET, Boundary Awareness Training for Ministers in Specialized Settings, with Revs. Tara Barber and Anissa Glaser-Bacon](#)

[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](#)



**-Stone Church St.
Peter's UCC (above)**

**Retired Pastor
-Rev. Jerry Bennett,
Highland, 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.



**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 following

information from Rev. Greg Denk, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Disaster Response Coordinator. -Please 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.

The Amazing People of Illinois South Conference

Maui Fund Raiser

St. Paul UCC Columbia held a craft fair and cookie sale on December 17, in conjunction with our annual children's Christmas program. All crafts and cookies were made by members of the church. Besides the crafts and cookies, the local Boy Scout Troop made wooden Christmas trees and donated the proceeds from the sale to our fundraiser. We raised almost \$6,000. Our consistory voted to match the proceeds of our sale up to \$5,000. Our church will be honored to donate almost \$11,000 to help our brothers and sisters in Maui with their recovery after the devastating fire. This could not have been done without the continued support and generosity of our congregation.

Christ United Church of Christ 44th Annual Wurstmart

You are invited to our 44th annual Wurstmart at Christ United Church of Christ, 26 N 14th St., Belleville, IL. Sunday, January 21, 2024 from 11 am - 4 pm. Cost is \$15 for adults, children 6-9 \$10, children 5 and under FREE, Carryouts - \$15.

You can come in and sit down or get a carry out!

On the menu - Pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, applesauce, green beans and corn - then enjoy dessert, too!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

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.

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 9am 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 include an optional Friday evening Self-Care Retreat. Please save the date and look for more information to come.

DuBois Center News

Friends of the DuBois Center Horses

We are looking for volunteers to help with off-season rides. If you are interested, please fill out the Google Form below and we will contact you about upcoming training and ride days.

Click here:





[**HORSE
VOLUNTEER
INTEREST FORM**](#)

HORSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with off-season rides.



Horse volunteers help by ...

-  Arriving early to feed, groom, and tack horses
-  Before rides: help fit helmets and boots, assign horses, prepare riders, and line up the horses
-  Go on the ride to assist
-  After the ride: untack and turn out horses then help clean up the barn

Save the date for our Barn Volunteer Training Day on **Sunday, March 3rd!**

**March
3rd**



CHHSM News

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries



HONORS Night

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

THE REGENCY CENTER
BANQUET BALLROOM

imagine



Thank You From Kindercottage

On behalf of Uni Pres Kindercottage, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible generosity displayed during this holiday season.

Your kind and thoughtful gifts have brought immense joy to the children and families we serve. While it's difficult to individually name each giver, please know that every contribution, big or small, has made a significant impact. Your support has not only put smiles on the faces of many children but has also brought happiness to families who may not have had access to these much-needed items without your loving gifts. Your generosity has touched our hearts, and we are truly blessed to have such a compassionate and caring community surrounding us. We appreciate your commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you once again for your kindness, and we look forward to continuing our mission together in the coming year.



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](#).

Hoyleton Announces Director of Behavioral Health Services

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services is proud to recognize our Director of Behavioral Health Services, Adam Woehlke, MA, LCPC, as the incoming Board President of the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois for 2024. Woehlke has been a Director at Hoyleton since 2021 and has worked in the behavioral health field for the past 14 years. [Read more](#)

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](#).

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

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>

Job Opportunities

Godfrey Evangelical UCC is in search for a Nursery Workerfor 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.

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 caregiving 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.

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 & 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](#) [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](#)



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