

March 19, 2024



Eden Theological Seminary invites you to an information session for Gleaning with the Garden & Gleaning Project **Thursday, April 18th (6 pm Central/ 7 pm Eastern)** via Zoom. Register here for Information Session on Eden Gleaning Project. We invite you and your congregation to join gleaning trips this summer while you connect with local food ministries. This information session will offer details and inspiration for getting involved.



Your video invitation from Co-Directors, Rev. Karen Pepmeier and Rev. Dr. Kristen Leslie is [here](#).

The Eden Seminary Gleaning Project teaches about food waste, food disparities, and the transformative work that happens when faith communities gather to end hunger. Now in our 6th year, the Eden Gleaning project responds to the biblical mandate of gleaning by connecting farmers who have excess produce in their fields and farm stands with volunteers from Eden Seminary and church communities who then glean the fields and distribute the produce to food ministries in the region. The experience includes education and conversations about food sustainability, sharing a model of action that can be replicated in faith communities and with farmers in many places. We would love to explore the possibility of gleaning in your community.

Whether you see yourself as someone who gleans in the fields, delivers produce to food ministries, or considers starting a gleaning program in your community, join us for this virtual presentation on **April 18 at 6 pm Central/ 7 pm Eastern**. www.eden.edu at **Certificates and Community Learning - Public Events**.

Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



-Biddleborn Trinity UCC Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel



-Breese St. John's UCC

-Retired Pastor
Rev. Bob (Rev. Jan) Goddard, O'Fallon IL

-Please 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.



***Please note that the deadline to register is
March 22nd. Sign up today!



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).

[CLICK HERE FOR RETREAT INFO AND REGISTRATION
FORM](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR RETREAT](#)

Show Our Illinois South Conference Ministry Leaders Some LOVE

Our Local Church Ministries Team is hoping you will be able to help them again this year by donating ~40 items for the Pastors' Retreat Goody Bags. (Request is not intended for retreatants.) Examples are homemade treats or crafts, pens, journals, handwritten thank you notes or \$ to help purchase items. Bring/send items to either St Paul UCC, Columbia or the ISC Office by April 8th. Click [here](#) for info or reach out to Denise Johnson at christianed@stpaulcolumbia.org. Thank you in advance!!

YOUTH JOY RALLY SERIES

Scheduled for Sunday, March 24th, and Sunday, April 21st, these Joy Rallies are designed to provide youth with an enriching opportunity for faith formation by connecting with peers from other congregations within the UCC. This networking opportunity will not only foster meaningful relationships but also allow for the exchange of ideas, experiences, and insights, further strengthening their faith journey.



We recognize the crucial role that pastors and youth ministers play in guiding and nurturing the spiritual growth of our youth. Therefore, we invite you to encourage and support your youth in attending these joy rallies. Your presence and encouragement will undoubtedly enhance the overall experience for the participants.

The Youth Joy Rallies will be held at St. Paul UCC Belleville. If your church plans on attending, please let us know by calling the church at 618.233.3303 or contacting Rev. Tim Powers-Reed at 636.248.6468.

Thank you for your dedication to the youth ministry within the UCC.

WE ARE HIRING

DuBois Center seeks an Interim Executive Director who is an experienced leader to train, supervise, and empower staff to offer transformative experiences for all ages and work with leadership to prepare the stage for the next chapter. The work will also include leading an intentional review and visioning process for the future of the program. Beginning immediately, this two-year contracted position will be offered with the possibility of the candidate being considered for the permanent role. This beautiful setting in southern Illinois provides overnight summer camps, retreats, and horseback riding events throughout the year for groups from across the region. DuBois Center is a long-standing ministry of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Email your letter of interest and resume to DuBois@kaleidoscopeinc.com to learn more!

HOW YOU CAN ENCOURAGE YOUR CONGREGATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO WEEKLY CONNECTION...

Consider adding a short announcement in your bulletin and/or newsletter to increase UCC engagement and education?

Such as...

"Did you know you can receive the Illinois South Conference UCC Newsletter, *WEEKLY CONNECTION*, in *your* email inbox? You will experience UCC news and events on a church, conference, national and world level. It only takes a couple of minutes. Go to <https://iscucc.org/weekly-connection-registration/> to sign up."

UCC National and Regional News & Events



UCC Annual Earth Summit

The **UCC's second annual Earth Summit** is set for April 20th and will feature celebrated author and activist Bill McKibben delivering the Jim Antal Keynote Lecture with the title, "Energy from Heaven or Energy from Hell?" Click on the image to register. Additionally, a [webinar addressing the plastics crisis](#) will take place on

April 10th, ahead of the summit, so that those interested can learn more about it.

MAY 19, 2024

MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY



Dear friends of the UCC Mental Health Network,

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the **UCC MHN** wants to make sure you have resources to best equip you for a Mental Health Sunday! We are sending our [PDF for Worship Resources for your Mental Health Sunday](#) created by the UCC, UCC MHN, and United Church of Canada, as well as two videos to use during this time.

[One video by our chair, Bishop Allyson Abrams](#) can be used to make an appeal to support the MHN and to become WISE congregations or organizations. [The other video by Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund can be used to show the importance of caring for our youth and understanding their mental health needs.](#) Please consider using both of these powerful videos during your worship services this month as we raise awareness about mental health challenges and mental wellness.

Thank you,

Bishop Allyson D. Nelson Abrams, PhD
Chair, UCC Mental Health Network



Celebrate Mental Health Sunday



Go to mhn-ucc.org for resources or to donate

Click Here to Download the Mental Health Survey Worship Guide

ISC Hunger Action Team

The ISC Hunger Action Team would like to recognize:

Zion UCC, Marion for their "SHINE" Summer Lunch Project. Spring Break and Summer Vacation will be here soon! Students in need will not have access to their free school breakfast/lunch during weekends, spring break and summer vacation. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays all summer long, this ministry offers "grab and go" meals for children and teens at two locations in Marion. No sign up or registration is required - just grab a meal. Each lunch bag will have enough food for two lunches and a breakfast. "SHINE" is designed to fill the gap, when free school breakfast/lunch isn't available. It's a shared Ministry of Zion UCC and First United Methodist Church in Marion, that is supported by individual donations and community grants. Thanks, Zion UCC for this great mission project - under the leadership of pastor and teacher, John Holst. Such a blessing!



Pastor John and Sara greet our families with free lunches during the summer

Click here and share your food insecurity outreach stories with the ISC HUNGER ACTION TEAM. Your stories are the tools that stir interest in people by exemplifying and celebrating Christ's Love.

News from DuBois Center



DuBois Center Work Day

With winter over (officially, anyway) and things starting to turn green once again, take out any pent-up winter frustrations on our bush honeysuckle and other invasive species on **Saturday, April 6 from 9am to noon!** We have plenty of hand tools and spray bottles for everyone, but do bring sturdy work gloves gloves and a water bottle for hydration. Chainsaws are always welcome, as we always find bushes that are too large to prune. Also, if you have your own favorite trimmers or cutters (like me), you are welcome to bring those too!

Bring a sack lunch if you have time to hang around a bit after we're done. To ensure we have an accurate headcount, please **RSVP to Pr. Phil at philip.barbier77@gmail.com.**



Create Your Own Retreat

DUBOIS CENTER

May 3 - 5, 2024



People are always telling us they just want to spend time relaxing at camp...so we created this brand new retreat. We provide the location and food and YOU decide what you want to do.

What activities would you want to do? Create YOUR own...May 3 - 5.

For, go to <https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats/>



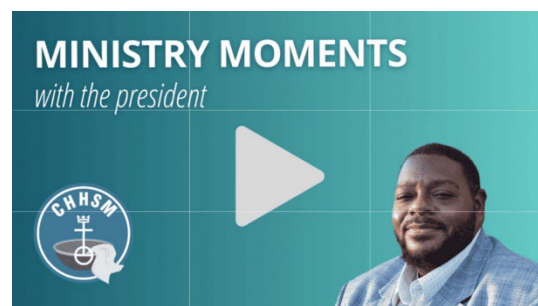
Does spending your summer at DuBois Center sound like a dream come true? Then, consider applying as a cabin counselor for our 2024 Summer Camps. You can share the camp spirit with a cabin full of kiddos while creating amazing camp memories. Required training begins May 26th. For more information go

to duboiscenter.org/employment/summer-camp-staff

Council for Health and Human Services Ministry News

Ministry Moments from the President: March 2024

This short, monthly video conversation highlights various CHHSM ministries and partners, as together we build a more just, equitable, caring, and compassionate world. In this month's video, Jamar Doyle, president and CEO of CHHSM, interviews the Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo, executive director of **Deaconess Nurse Ministry** in St. Louis. [#BeAVoiceCHHSM](#)



Our ISC Churches News & Events



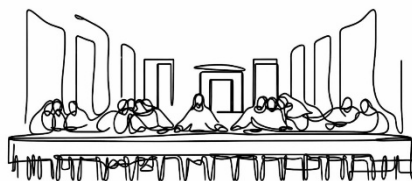
Ecclesiastical Council of Josiah Accola at Salem UCC, Alhambra

On Sunday, March 17, 2024, Josiah Accola was unanimously approved for ordination pending a call. Congratulations to Josiah, his family and friends, his home pastor and church, his mentors, the Committee on Ministry and the "council" of those who gathered and were completely invested in this step of the ordination process, and the Church as a whole. The afternoon was a powerful reminder of the nurturing of faith, the work of discernment, and the affirmation of a call takes many who are willing to listen to the Spirit. The Church at its best.

-Ordination Paper of Josiah F. Accola

THE LAST SUPPER TABLEAU Maundy Thursday Worship Service

An inspirational hour in the Upper Room where we hear the disciples' testimony of the Master. **March 28th 7:30pm**, Christ United Church of Christ, [200 S. 3rd St., Dupu, IL](#)



GATHERED IN HIS NAME,
nourished by His word

Church United Church of Christ Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on **Easter Sunday Morning, March 31st 7:30am-9:30am**. ALL YOU CAN EAT! Adults - \$8.00, Children 12 & under - \$3.00. [200 South 3rd St, Dupu, IL](#)



BBQ at Concordia United Church of

Christ Saturday, April 20th 11:00am - 2:00pm. Pork Plate \$13 (with 3 sides), Bratwurst Plate \$13 (2 brats and 3 sides), Slab of ribs \$25 (no sides). Drive-thru/Carry outs only. For more info (618)476-3377.

Godfrey Evangelical UCC Seeking 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 in Search of 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 or Pianist to play for their 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 -Part-time Organist/Pianist/Music Director

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.

St. Paul UCC, Lebanon, IL- Part-time Organist

St. Paul UCC Lebanon, IL, is praying that God will bless the search for a part-time organist willing to share their love of music through worship services (two per Sunday morning) including special services, accompanying the choir, & collaborating with Music Ministries. Specific details regarding pay & benefits can be discussed by calling Patty Cornell (618)920-3661. A video can be sent to office@stpaullebanonil.org.

St. John's UCC of Smithton, IL is Seeking a Part-Time Music Director for 10-15 hours per week. The Music Director will select, play and lead music for worship services. They will collaborate with the worship committee and pastor, and also establish opportunities for other music-related activities within the church. St. John's has a new Boston upright piano and new Rogers Imagine 235 Digital Organ, as well as 3 octaves of Suzuki hand chimes and an established chancel choir. Organ and piano experience are required, & vocal experience is preferred. To apply or for additional information, contact the church at sjohnsucc@att.net.

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 registration for upcoming events and camp sessions or ISC program registrations, contact **Julie Riechmann** at jriechmann@iscucc.org or (618)357-1809.

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**

