

April 16, 2024



Our Conference Minister Reflects God's Unending Love



Dear Illinois South Conference family,

Over the weekend, a fire broke out at Peace United Church of Christ in Jerseyville, Illinois. The fire started in the kitchen and moved to the offices and the front of the church.

In the days to come, insurance adjusters and others will help them assess the damage as they discern the next best steps. Many of you have asked how to donate to support Peace UCC financially. We are requesting that donations be sent directly to the address below. The members of Peace UCC have asked that you include your contact information with your donations so they might send follow-up thank you letters.

Peace UCC
PO Box 33
Jerseyville, IL 62052

May our siblings in Christ experience an outpouring of love, support, and prayers to uplift and hold them as they continue to be a church, a worshipping community held together by the grace and peace of Christ's sustaining love.

-Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister



Remember In Your Prayers This Week...



-Collinsville St. John UCC
Rev. Jennifer (Allen) Glover

-Retired Pastor Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz Mascoutah, IL

-Please keep **Rev. Pamela Smith**, who served in the Illinois South Conference prior to her retirement, in your prayers. Rev. Smith has recently been hospitalized, is undergoing tests, and is awaiting a diagnosis.

-Please pray for an outpouring of God's healing mercies upon **Rev. John Pawloski**.

-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](mailto:5310DePaulDrive), PO Box 4235, Fairview Heights, IL 62008.

Illinois South Conference News & Events



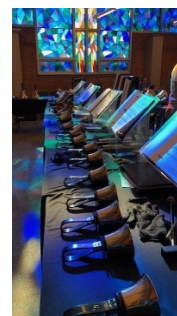
Eden Theological Seminary invites you to an information session for Gleaning with the Garden & Gleaning Project **Thursday, April 18th (6 pm Central/ 7 pm Eastern)** via Zoom. Register [here](#) for Information Session on Eden Gleaning Project. We invite you and your congregation to join gleaning trips 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](#).

THE GATEWAY RINGERS IN CONCERT “Celebrating Spring”

The Gateway Ringers will be in concert at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Lebanon, IL on **Sunday, April 21, at 4:00 pm**. Gateway Ringers are an auditioned community handbell choir, comprised of handbell ringers from the St. Louis metropolitan area. The group was formed in 1995 and are members of the Handbell Musicians of America. Celebrating Spring features some Gateway favorites – old and new. Please join us for this special concert featuring unique musical instruments. No tickets required; a free-will offering will be taken.





Boundary Awareness Training

ISC has scheduled a Fall Boundary Awareness Training session for **September 17th - 8:30am to Noon**, also on Zoom and also for both active and retired clergy.

Please contact me (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. Checks may be mailed to the conference office. Payable to Illinois South Conference.

UCC International, National, and Regional News

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE!

Global Ministries seeks candidates to serve internationally:

Fully Supported Mission Co-Workers

- Salary and Benefits Provided
- Priority Positions
 - Physician, East Timor
 - Physician, Zimbabwe
 - Academic, Philippines
 - Other Positions TBA, Africa Region

Global Mission Interns (21 - 30 years old)

Short-Term Volunteers (2 weeks - 6 months)

Long-Term Volunteers (1+ year)

To apply visit www.globalministries.org or contact Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell, International Recruitment and Training Coordinator at jsdarnell@dom.disciples.org.





Second Annual UCC Earth Day Summit online event will take place on **Saturday, April 20th at 1 PM ET** featuring celebrated author and activist Bill McKibben to deliver the Jim Antal keynote Lecture with the title, "Energy from Heaven or Energy from Hell?" This two and a half hour summit will feature a panel waging war on the pollution of Formosa Plastics, one of the world's largest plastics producers. and environmental justice along with much more. [Register now!](#) Even if one cannot make the event at its scheduled time, all those who register will receive a link to a recording of the event.

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



[Click Here to Download the Mental Health Survey Worship Guide](#)

ISC Hunger Action Team



The ISC Hunger Action Team would like to recognize:

St. Peter's, Okawville for their upcoming "What Faith CAN Do" Mission Project. Those attending the May 5th "Women Of the Church" Banquet are invited to bring canned food items. These canned goods will be donated to the Irvington and Addieville UCC Food Pantry. Thanks, St. Peter's for your continued support of those in need - under the Leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. Jeffrey W. Schwab. Such a blessing!

[Click here & 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

Summer Camp Open House
Sunday April 28th 2-4 pm @ DuBois Center
[2651 Quarry Rd.](#)
[DuBois, IL 62831](#)

Join us for an afternoon of fun at our Summer Camp Open House! Summer Camp Counselors will be leading tours of the camp and answering all your questions about camp. Along with tours, we will have smores, live music, and a meet and greet with some of your favorite horses. We hope to see you there!
For more information or questions, email our Program Director Sarah at Program@DuBoisCenter.org



DuBois Center 'Wishlist Wednesday' Continues!

DuBois is asking for donations of personal hygiene products, as these are items that are sometimes forgotten at home when arriving for camp. They are so excited with the response so far but there are many items still needed and hope to have a full stock of basic needs to give to those who would rather not go without! THANK YOU!

THIS WEEK'S WISHLIST FOCUS:

- Socks (regular & boot)
- Miscellaneous bags (drawstring backpack & mesh laundry bags)

Here's the link --> [Amazon wishlist](#) to purchase from and deliver directly to camp. We will also accept mailed check donations with 'Wishlist Wednesday' in the memo—or online donations through our PayPal or Campwise platforms.

If you'd rather purchase similar items on your own, we will also gladly take physical donations of new personal hygiene products (similar to what are found on our existing wishlist, please)! If you are in the Highland area, you can drop off at Highland Evangelical UCC—please call their office (618-654-7459) prior to delivering to arrange a proper time.

If your church or office will be willing to be a dropoff location for any of these donations, please email DCInfo@duboiscenter.org. We will be sure all donations are transported to camp!

As time goes on, we may start adding other non-hygiene items to our list, so be sure to keep up with our social accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to hear more!

View the wishlist here: <https://a.co/7ZWgnu6>

Our online giving links are here*: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=CG7CX3MFDTTDN

Through your existing Campwise account at www.duboiscenter.org.

*Note: If choosing to donate electronically, please add a note to the Campwise donation, or email DCInfo@duboiscenter.org to alert our staff of the PayPal delegation, as everything is flagged only for 'general fund.' Additionally, with the cost of online processing, we would appreciate any covering of the processing fees added to your donation, up to an additional 10%.

DuBois Center's physical address for check donations and/or deliveries:

Wishlist Wednesday
DuBois Center
[2651 Quarry Road](#)
[DuBois, IL 62831](#)



Join the Fall Festival Planning Team

We know it is only spring but we have already started planning for the 2024 Fall Festival on Sunday, Oct 6th. We are looking for individuals to take on planning tasks such as booking bands, coordinating a quick raffle, help setting up on Saturday, Oct 5th, and volunteering at the event. If you are interested in joining the Fall Festival planning team please email Susan at FallFestival@DuBoisCenter.org.

DuBois Center is looking to fill the following 2024 Summer Staff

positions: male-identifying cabin counselors ages 18+, a Waterfront Coordinator age 20+ with lifeguard experience, and a Summer Camp Co-Coordinator age 20+ with camp experience. If you are interested, please reach out to our Program Director, Sarah Harding, at program@duboiscenter.org.



Council for Health and Human Services Ministry News



The Council for Health & Human Service Ministries
United Church of Christ

Kindercottage Holds Trivia Night Fundraiser

For more information, call Aimee Hart or Antron Rose at (618) 874-6505. Please note-- the address to mail checks is: [564 Veronica Ave, East St. Louis, IL 62205](mailto:564_Veronica_Ave_East_St_Louis_IL_62205) attn: Trivia Night.



Water and soda provided
Mulligans: \$3 or 2/\$5
50/50
Silent auction
Bring your own snacks

"Table Decorating Contest: Win Big with Your Creative Table Design!"

For table reservations call
(618)874-6505

\$20 per ticket or table of 8 for \$160

MAY 18th	6PM - 10PM	DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:00 NON-ALCOHOLIC EVENT
Payments can be made by checks to Uni-Pres Kindercottage 564 Veronica Ave, East St.Louis,IL 62205 or cashapp: \$UnipresKindercottage		

With
Uni-Pres Kindercottage

Location: St. Paul United Church of Christ
115 W. B St, Belleville, IL 62220





Tropical Trivia



Puentes de Esperanza
Bridges of Hope
Hoyleton Youth & Family Services



Calling all beach bums! Join our beach party and enjoy ten rounds of trivia, games, a raffle, and a silent auction! Don't forget your shades and sunscreen.

Bring your favorite snacks and drinks. Soda will be provided.

Friday, June 28

Doors open at 6:00pm, Trivia starts at 7:00pm

\$200 per table with up to 10 participants
\$10 mulligans (one for each round)
Prize for best decorated table!



Sign up here!

Caseville Community Center
909 S Main St, Caseyville, IL

Proceeds will go to Puentes de Esperanza to support Spanish-speaking members of our communities. Puentes' support includes interpretation and translation, bilingual therapy, case management, resource linkage, and workshops focused on education, healthcare, financial literacy, family engagement, and nutrition. Puentes is regarded as an important resources for the growing immigrant population in the Metro St. Louis region.



Our ISC Churches News & Events



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.

Crafty Mania at St. Paul UCC Belleville Saturday, April 20, 9:00am-5:00pm All day crafting! Cost is \$40 and includes lunch, snacks, attendance prizes, and vendors in the afternoon. At 10am there will be a card making class with a Stampin' Up rep - 2 cards/\$10. Raffle tickets will also be available. Register by sending check with your name, phone # and email to: St. Paul UCC, 115 W. B St., Belleville, IL 62220. Seating is first come basis. Call (618) 222-1123 for more.



Chicken & Dumpling Dinner Monroe County Fairgrounds Saturday April 20th, 5:00pm to 7:30 pm, hosted by Zion UCC at St. Joe Waterloo. Proceeds go toward Christian Education. Live Music by: Dos Amigos 6 to 8:30 p.m.

YOU ARE INVITED Friedens UCC Troy, IL Reunion

Join us to gather as friends and family of Friedens United Church of Christ as we reunite to celebrate this year of our 150th anniversary at the **Sunday, April 28, 2024 – 10:00** worship with reception to follow. You are encouraged to share this invitation with all who are extended family and friends of Friedens. If you are unable to attend and would still like to share your thoughts with us, please send them to- Email: friedens@friedensucc-troy.org Or Friedens UCC; Attn: 150 Anniversary, 207 E Center St., Troy, IL 62294 For more information: (618) 667-6535

Opportunities and Resources

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 rodneymwashburn1@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](#)

