

April 2, 2024



Lost in Wonder, Love and Praise

It is our hope that you will continue to be filled with Easter Joy and Love Divine.



Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



-Carbondale Church of the Good Shepherd Rev. Kim (Dr. Aaron Newcomb) Magwire

-Retired Pastor
Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins



-Carlinville St Paul UCC

-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**, PO Box 4235, Fairview Heights, IL 62008.

Illinois South Conference News & Events



Rev. Paul Burden Called to Immanuel UCC Hamel

Illinois South Conference welcomes Rev. Paul Burden as he begins his ministry at Immanuel UCC in Hamel as their new settled pastor and teacher. Details about his upcoming installation are to come. Stay tuned!



Boundary Awareness Training

ISC has scheduled training for **Tuesday, April 16th, via zoom from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.** This training will be for both active and retired clergy.

We are also planning a Fall training session on **September 17th - 8:30am to Noon**, also on Zoom and also for both active and retired clergy. Please register for the fall session if the April date does not work with your schedule.

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.

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.

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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

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.

A Good Pitch-Understanding the Hopes of Our Donors to Create Change

Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30pm CT

Once upon a time, donors gave out of a sense of obligation and loyalty. Today, most donors care about the impact they make in the world. How do we understand the motivations of our donors? What kind of change do they want to make in the world? Andrew Warner will talk about five basic ways donors look to create change. We will discuss ways to discuss your congregation's impact on your community. Registration link is [HERE](#).



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. Paul, Columbia for their March mission project: “Food Justice”. The St. Paul congregation was invited to donate funds to pay off school lunch debt for students in need in the Columbia school district. Unfortunately, many families are just above the income level to meet the requirements for free school lunches. Yet, they are still unable to afford the daily lunch cost for their children. Feeding programs aimed at children are particularly important. Reminder: Students need the proper nutrition for their learning, development, and growth. Thanks, St. Paul - under the Leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. Jonathan Bangers. Such a blessing to local families in need!



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

Starting this Wednesday, DuBois Center will debut 'Wishlist Wednesday!'

Our social media accounts will highlight this ongoing promotion every week with an explanation on some of the items needed for our summer season.

Specifically, we will start by asking for donations of personal hygiene products, as these are items that are sometimes forgotten at home when arriving for camp. We hope to have a full stock of basic needs to give to those who would rather not go without!



Help us provide campers with commonly forgotten personal hygiene items

Use our Amazon link to purchase supplies and have them delivered directly to DuBois Center or email DCinfo@duboiscenter.org to find out which local churches are serving as donation collection points.



For example: deodorants, soap, shampoo, bug spray, sunscreen, hair ties, and more are all included on the list! While these items seem little, we know they will be appreciated!

To help, we have curated an [Amazon wishlist](#) for anyone 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



DuBois Center Volunteer Work Days On **April 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** all volunteers are welcome to come for the whole day or part of the day to help start getting DuBois Center ready for summer camps by clearing and marking trails, organizing our activity supplies, and more! Wear things you don't mind getting a little messy. We have things for people of all ages and abilities. This is in addition to the Green DuBois **April 6th 9:00am to noon** work day. Wonderful opportunities to help DuBois Center prepare for the summer fun ahead!

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



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

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!"

MAY 18th	6PM -10PM	DOORS OPEN AT 6:00, TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:00 NONE ALCOHOLIC EVENT
\$20 per ticket or table of 8 for \$160 Payments can be made by checks to Uni-Pres Kindercottage or cashapp: \$Uniprekindercottage		

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@uniprekindercottage.org) attn: Trivia Night.

Our ISC Churches News & Events

St. Paul UCC Lebanon 28th Annual Chicken Dinner Sunday, April 14th 11:00am - 3:00pm Your \$15 chicken meal will include 1/2 fried chicken (pieces), green beans, corn and coleslaw, mashed potatoes and gravy, and dessert of your choice (Texas Sheet Cake or Goopy Butter Cake). Drive-thru only. [123 E. Dee St., Lebanon, IL](mailto:123_E_De_St@stpaulucc.org) (618) 537-4991.

Christ United Church of Christ Chicken & Dumpling Dinner Sunday, April 14th 11:30am - 3:00pm (or until they run out). Includes green beans, carrots, coleslaw & dessert. Dine-in (cafeteria style) & carry outs available at [200 S. 3rd St, Dupo, IL](mailto:200_S_3rd_St@christunited.org). Call (618) 286-4211 if you require a delivery.





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.



YOU ARE INVITED Friedens UCC 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

St. John's Community Care is seeking QuickBooks Professional

Scope of Work:

- Transition of QuickBooks desktop to online.
- Update QuickBooks online with our new Chart of Account and make edits as needed.
- Educate staff and Finance Committee on best practices around grant tracking.

Please send proposals including recommendations for how best to implement these changes and an estimate of cost for the service. Send proposals to Christine Stewart at cstewart@stjohnscc.org by April 5th. Please call (618) 344-5008 for more information.
<https://stjohnscc.org>

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**

