

May 7, 2024



It's a wonderful thing to take a moment and appreciate all of the mothers in our lives. Whether they are still with us or have passed on, we owe them a debt of gratitude for the love and care they have given us. And let's not forget the mothers-in-law, godmothers, and adopted mothers who have stepped up to fill that role in our lives. May God shower his blessings on *all* mothers as we celebrate the amazing mothers out there and show them the love and appreciation they so richly deserve. Happy Mother's Day!



Our Conference Minister Reflects on God's Unending Love



Live A Life Worthy of the Call

In high school, I played the flute and was in the marching band, symphonic band, and orchestra. Dr. Vroman was my band director and a force to be reckoned with. He had high expectations of his students, who either rose to the occasion or did not last as musicians under his direction.

I remember that whenever we traveled for competitions and arrived at our designated location, Dr. Vroman would ask the bus driver to hold off on opening the bus doors.

Then he would say, *"Remember, when you get off this bus, you don't just represent yourself; you represent our school to everyone here. Make your school proud. And make yourself proud."*

He wasn't just talking about the competitions, although he had ensured we were thoroughly prepared for our group and solo pieces and wanted to see us excel. More importantly, he was referring to our behavior. He knew that exhibiting integrity, respect, and kindness would leave an even more lasting impression on others than getting perfect marks. As the late prolific writer and poet Maya Angelou said, *"People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

I think Paul's urging in Ephesians 4:1 to *"live a life worthy of the calling"* is the same sentiment. As believers, we are all called to represent Christ everywhere we go. This calling is for all who profess Jesus as Lord and Savior.

The way we do that, the places we go, the people we encounter, and the God-given gifts we use may differ, but the goal is to promote unity, peace, and love of Christ in the world. And as we consider the discord, unrest, incivility, and hatred in the world, there is no higher calling; there is nothing more important.

Dear friend, you are called to embody the Gospel so completely that when people see you, listen to you, and watch you, they will encounter a likeness of Christ and want to know more about him. As someone once said, *"You may be the only Bible someone ever reads."*

When we go out into the world (for in-person interactions, phone conversations, emails, or online), let us remember that we don't just represent ourselves; we represent Christ. May we live lives worthy of the calling to share Christ's love, joy, peace, and hope with the world.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



-Dupo First Congregational UCC

Rev. Julie Kies As they move forward from their final worship service on Sunday, April 28th, let us continue to uplift this church family in our prayers. Your thoughts and support are invaluable as they embark on this new chapter filled with hope, faith, and endless possibilities.



-DuQuoin St. John's UCC

Rev. Robert Morwell

-Retired Pastor Rev. David (Kathryn) Riebeling, Fults, IL

-Please continue to pray for **Peace UCC in Jerseyville** in the wake of the fire that destroyed the offices and the front of the church. Monetary donations can be sent to Peace UCC, PO Box 33, Jerseyville, IL 62052. The members have asked that you include your contact information so they can send follow-up thank you letters.

-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.

-Prayers for **peace in this world.**

Illinois South Conference News + Events

Anniversaries Celebration

On Sunday, May 5, St. John UCC, Granite City, celebrated the ordination anniversaries of Rev. Karla Frost (35 years) & Rev. Allen Reiter (50 years).



Rev. Karla Frost and her husband Rev. Charles Preston



Rev. Allen Reiter and wife Lynn, on the right, with family.

Excitement is Building!

Just on the other side of summer, we will gather as a conference of delegates, pastors, members and visiting guests. Please mark your calendars with great anticipation of the

60th Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 19, 2024

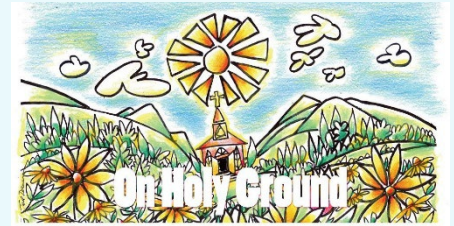
More details about this year's theme, schedule of events and registration details, and more coming soon!



UCC International, National, + Regional News

Strengthen the Church May 19th

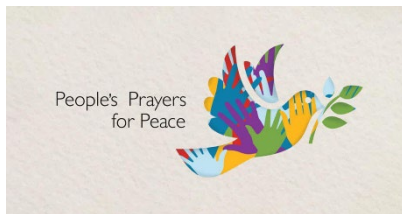
God calls us into community. God desires for us a big, inclusive, expansive, welcoming community. One where "no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome." Our **General Minister & President Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson** calls this a "big tent" community. God wants our congregations and our whole Christian movement to be a "big tent" where all can be genuinely welcomed.



The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and initiatives that help us live into the United Church of Christ's "big tent" vision. Funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and renewal initiatives in existing congregations. Your conference and the national ministries work together to use these funds for projects that matter now and for the future of our movement.

Through this offering, we further our commitment to being a multi-racial/multi-cultural church that is accessible to all.

Please join with people across the UCC in promoting the Strengthen the Church Offering on **Sunday, May 19, 2024**. [Download promotional materials resources here](#).



People's Prayers for Peace

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6-7

Wars and conflicts continue to escalate around the world. Injustices and inequalities manifest as racism, discrimination, gender-based violence, economic disparities, and other issues. As a communal response to uplift these sorrows and support our neighbors near and far, General Minister

and President, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson calls the church to a season of prayer. Prayer undergirds our witness, ministry, and advocacy as we work for peace and a just world for all.

This is an open invitation to anyone who feels called to offer a prayer to end violence in any manifestation, and to bring about peace. Share your prayers using the [People's Prayers for Peace form](#) on this page. New prayers will be published on this page daily.

published on May 5, 2024

God, bring peace to us, that we may be peacemakers in our community, that our community may contribute a just peace to our country and to our world. Amen.

-Nancy Eisenhauer, Fairview Heights, IL

Read all prayers [HERE](#).

The recording of the UCC's second annual Earth Summit is now available on YouTube:

- [The Entire Summit](#)
- [The Jim Antal Keynote with Bill McKibben](#)
- [The Profile of Church of Christ at Dartmouth College](#)
- [The Panel on the Struggle against Formosa Plastics](#)



Below you will find links shared in the chat during the event.

Finally, stay in touch by signing up for monthly updates on [Creation Justice Webinar offerings](#) and subscribing to [The Pollinator](#), [the UCC's environmental justice newsletter](#).

With gratitude,
Brooks

ISC Hunger Action Team

homework help & hoops



The ISC Hunger Action Team would like to recognize:

St. John UCC Collinsville (in partnership with The Collinsville Food Pantry, Collinsville Township, and the S.O.S. Soup Kitchen) will again be hosting a free summer lunch program for children 4 years to 18 years of age. We averaged 62 children and 24 adults per day last summer. This will be the 11th year of the summer program. The program is on Monday-Thursday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. and will begin on Monday, June 3 and run through Thursday, July 25. Our theme this year is Building Up STEAM!

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Along with a free hot lunch, the children receive a variety of activities including cooking & nutrition, arts & crafts, P.E., music, science, reading, and math. The Collinsville Food Pantry provides Tote Me Home bags to all the children who qualify because of food insecurity at home. Many children do not look forward to summer vacation from school because they do not receive the free breakfast and lunch provided when school is in session.

This year we need help with VOLUNTEERS! As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child and you are a part of the village. It takes about 100 volunteers to staff this huge outreach ministry!

Become an HHH SPONSOR! St. John HHH Summer Camp program is operated solely on donations. You will be recognized for your support on our HHH Facebook page and your name will be printed on our HHH T-Shirts. Bronze - Donate up to \$99, Silver - Donate \$100-\$249, Gold - Donate \$250 or more. Checks should be made out to St. John Church – HHH. You may drop off or mail your check to St. John Church, Attention Dana, [307 West Clay St., Collinsville, IL 62234](#). If you have ideas, would like to volunteer, or are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like more information, please contact Dana at 618-344-2526.

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

[The Entrance to Your Amazing Summer is Here!----->](#)

Are you ready to make a lasting impact on young lives and create unforgettable memories? DuBois Center is looking for passionate, dedicated individuals to join our 2024 Summer Staff team. We are seeking 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. As a member of our team, you will have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of children while gaining valuable leadership and teamwork skills. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to be part of something truly special. Reach out to our Program Director, Sarah Harding, at program@duboiscenter.org and take the first step towards a fulfilling and rewarding summer.





Welcome (Back) the New DuBois Co-Interim Executive Directors
Read the April 30th Letter from
The Conference Council of the
Illinois South Conference
Meet Jason and Leah Petry:

DuBois Center is near and dear to our hearts. It inspired Leah to minor in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Administration while in college and provided a supportive community on her journey into yoga teacher certifications. It also provided Jason with opportunities to expand and share his love for and knowledge of the outdoors and exposed him to a varied skill set he never imagined thriving with.

Between the two of us, we have logged countless hours volunteering and as staff. During our previous tenure at DuBois Center - including our time working together as Outdoor Ministry Interns - we gained and developed skills and experience in hospitality and guest relations, event planning, program implementation, equestrian program management, problem-solving, facility management, and maintenance, supervision, and administration.

In recent years, Leah became a small business owner while also working in the insurance industry and Jason has gained experience in industrial maintenance. These various opportunities provided us with time and experience to refine the skills we initially formed at DuBois Center.

We felt a calling to return to DuBois Center and are excited to give back to a place that has given us so much.

-Jason & Leah Petry

"Jason will start his ministry as Co-Interim Executive Director with us on May 10 to ensure a smooth and successful summer season. On August 5, when our current program director, Sarah Harding, starts a full-time graduate program, Leah will begin her ministry with us as the other part of the "co" leadership.

We covet your prayers and support for them as our beloved DuBois Center."

-The Conference Council

First Two Weeks Still Has Openings!

Do your kiddo's school get out early for summer break? Or are you struggling to find early summer childcare? We can help!

We're excited to share that we have openings for the first two weeks of camp. Check our openings and get your camper ready for smores, campfires, crafts, waterfront time, and more.

Registration for Weeks 1 & 2 closes on May 15th—Register Today!! duboiscenter.org



WISH LIST WEDNESDAY

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.

DuBois, IL 62831

DuBois Center 'Wishlist Wednesday' is winding down but we still need a few more socks, feminine liners, mesh laundry bags, shower poufs, chap stick, sunscreen, and bug sprays. We truly are thankful for everyone's generosity through this campaign--our inventory is coming along nicely to be sure our campers can feel comfortable with asking for something they may have forgotten at home.

Anything that has a more urgent need, we labeled as 'high priority' on the Wishlist! [View our Wishlist](#)

at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/28J34O4KMQGBU...>

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

Wishlist Wednesday
DuBois Center
2651 Quarry Road

THANK YOU for all the donations, prayers, and support!



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

Eden Theological Commencement Ceremony Friday, May 17th 5:30pm - 8:00pm in the Schroer Commons on Eden's campus. Doors will open at 5:00pm. **RSVP [HERE](#)** for watching a live stream of the Commencement Ceremony. You are invited to join us for a reception after the ceremony.



Hitz Home Donation Letter Please direct inquiries to (618) 488-2355



May 1, 2024

Dear Hitz Family and Friends,

Happy Spring! Our flowers are starting to bloom and we are finally able to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. Our Auxiliary is hosting their Salad Luncheon on June 7th at 1pm. The proceeds benefit our Hitz Activity Department. We would love it if you could join us.

Hitz would like to ask you to keep the residents, staff, and all who enter, in your prayers. Hitz thrives on the blessings of God, with the help of our friends like you. Hitz will continue with its ministry as we have been called to do. Enclosed with this letter is a donation sheet. We ask that you please consider sending a donation to Hitz Memorial Home to assist in our mission of being a caring community, reflecting faith-based values, in which resident's rights are respected and fulfilled. No amount is too small. Every dollar counts! Please consider volunteering if you are unable to donate. Here are a few of our projects that we are hoping to raise funds for. Please fill free to designate your donation to one of our great causes.

- New windows
- New flooring
- Solarium remodel
- Shower room updates
- Misc. building updates

On behalf of everyone at Hitz, we would like to thank you in advance for helping us continue to do what we love, making a difference in the lives of our elders. Our prayer for you is to stay safe, healthy, and enjoy the holidays with your loved ones.

Blessings,

MaKenzie Wilson, RN
Administrator

Kindercottage Holds Trivia Night Fundraiser May 18th 6:00pm - 10:00pm Gather your cleverest friends and family for an evening of wit, wisdom, and good cheer at our Trivia Night Extravaganza! We're bringing the community together for a thrilling night of brain teasers and puzzles, all in support of the bright young minds at Uni-Pres Kindercottage. Your participation helps us provide crucial educational resources and programs for the children at Uni-Pres Kindercottage. These young learners depend on our community's support to access the high-quality care and education they deserve. For more information, call Aimee Hart or Antron Rose (618)874-6505.



Our ISC Churches News + Events

St John United Church of Christ Valmeyer to Host GloBingo Saturday, May 11th at St Mary Parish Hall. Doors open at 6pm, Bingo at 7pm. Over \$1000 in cash prizes! Go to [Glo-Bingo.com/events](https://www.globingo.com/events). \$25 in advance - \$30 at the Door -includes 6 bingo cards for 10 games, glow hat & dauber. Additional cards \$5 for 6 cards. Cash Bar, BYO Snacks, 50/50 & Raffles. Must be 18 or older to attend. Tickets available: Melissa 618-334-7699 or stjohnuccvalmeyer@gmail.com.



CELEBRATING ALL WOMEN!

Join us for breakfast at St Peter's UCC Murphysboro
Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 9:00am

Annual St. John UCC Golf Tournament Saturday, May 18th at the Acorns Golf Links. Four person scramble with 8:00am Shotgun Start. \$100/golfer-skins, mulligans, and lunch included. Contact Brad Ripplemeyer (618)580-4166 or Dan McCarthy (618)593-6971 for more information. Click [HERE](#) for registration form.



ANNUAL ST. JOHN UCC

Golf Tournament

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR CHURCH'S EVENTS + NEWS](#)

Opportunities + 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 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.

Administrative/Financial Secretary Christ United Church of Christ in Dupo, IL is seeking a part-time Administrative/Financial Secretary for approximately 24 hours/week during office hours. The church Administrative/Financial Secretary is responsible for Day to day financial and administrative duties; Receive, deposit, record and report all General Fund Giving amounts; Perform Weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports for the congregation and for the conference office; and maintain and filing for the church records and documents. Please email resume to Melissa Reichert, Vice President, to reichrt@htc.net or mail resume to Christ United Church of Christ, 200 South 3rd Street, Dupo Ill 62239, Att: Melissa Reichert by May 31st. To view more go to:

[Christ United Church of Christ's Facebook page](#)

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](#)

