

June 11, 2024



Our Conference Minister Reflects on God's Unending Love



As we have moved into summer, I love how the sunshine light shines so brightly through the windows and doors of my house. I especially love the rainbows the light creates through my hanging prisms. However, I don't love how the light magnifies dirt, dust, and grime. Why didn't I notice the spider-webbed floating designs on the light fixtures? Why didn't I see how many dog-licking smears were on the sliding glass doors? Why didn't I catch the ice-melt salt traces in the corners of my entryway floors?

I thought my house was clean until the light shone in a certain way, and I became aware of what I have been living with for months now. As I washed and scrubbed those places clean, with the windows wide to let the fresh air in, I also thought of how outside forces affect our spiritual lives. The ugliness of unkind words settles into the cracks and crevices. The unpleasantness of disagreeable behavior leaves smears and smudges. The dirt, dust, and grime of negativity stick to our minds, bodies, and spirits.

Sometimes, we need to fling up the doors and windows to let the fresh air in. Sometimes, we need to allow the light of God's truth to shine in all the cracks, crevices, and corners of our lives to see how our perspective has been clouded and our outlook has become blurry. The light can show us our messes and reveal the overlooked places that must be tended to and cared for. God's light can cleanse and restore us if we allow it to shine in all aspects of our lives, not just the ones we choose to show others. May we allow the light of God's love, truth, and grace to shine brightly and reveal the potential beauty in all areas of our lives.

-Reverend Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



-Freeburg St. Paul's UCC Rev. Andrew Lovins

-Retired Pastor Rev. Nancy (Kevin) Spier-Lee, Dupo, IL

-Pension Board National Staff Rev. Krista Betz Belleville, IL

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

Calling Potential Delegates for General Synod 35

We are looking for a few dedicated church leaders to serve as delegates for General Synod 35, held July 11-15, 2025, in Kansas City, Missouri. While the summer of 2025 seems far off, our Conference recruitment committee will present a slate of nominees for the Illinois South Conference General Synod 35 delegates to our Annual Meeting on October 19, 2024.

General Synod is an incredible opportunity to witness the covenant of the Church and the commitments of the United Church of Christ as a whole.

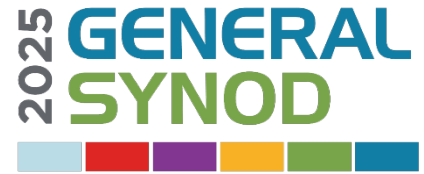
The gathered assembly of voting delegates is responsible for making decisions concerning speaking to the Church (not for the Church) concerning evangelistic, mission, and justice matters. Voting delegates serve on behalf of their Conference so that they can return and share what they saw, experienced, and learned with the local churches of the Conference.

Delegates will experience intense immersion opportunities before General Synod through pre-meetings, during General Synod as they attend worship services, educational events, committee work, and business meetings, and afterward through offering resources and follow-up opportunities with the churches of the Illinois South Conference. While at General Synod, delegates quickly discover the days and the distances they will walk are long, but the experience of being a part of the Church at work and wonder will be long-lasting as well.

Currently, the Recruitment Committee is looking to fill the following delegate positions:

1 lay woman, 1 authorized woman, 1 lay man under 30, 1 lay woman under 30, and 2 lay men. They will also be looking for those who can commit to being alternates. We will need the following alternate delegate positions: *1 alternate authorized man, 2 alternate authorized women, 2 alternate lay men, and 2 alternate women.*

If you are interested in serving your Conference in this capacity, please contact Debbie Kesner as soon as possible at dkesner@iscucc.org so she can share your interest and contact information with the Recruitment Committee.



Insurance Board
Presents:

Generative Artificial Intelligence for Churches:

Managing Risks and
Policy Development



Date

June 18, 2024



Time

2 P.M., ET via ZOOM

*Registration is limited. A recording will be available on our website after the event.

[Register Here](#)

Heather has served as the General Counsel of the United Church of Christ since 2015. In that capacity, she regularly counsels the corporations of the National Ministries and the Conferences on issues related to governance, religious liberty, intellectual property, tax, employment, and ecclesiastical oversight processes. Before joining the National Ministries, she practiced in two large law firms in Cleveland. She frequently speaks on church law-related matters and maintains a [blog](#) on the UCC National Ministries website.



Unveil the potential and pitfalls of AI in faith-based communities. Join us for an enlightening presentation on the risks and rewards of using generative artificial intelligence in churches and gain valuable insights into policy development for mitigating potential risks. Register now to equip your church with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the evolving AI landscape.



Heather Kimmel
General Counsel
United Church of Christ



The 60th Annual Meeting of Illinois South Conference is set to for **Saturday, October 19, 2024** at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland. Embracing the theme of "Jubilee Joy", this year's gathering promises to be a joyous occasion filled with reflection, celebration, and anticipation for what lies ahead. Make sure to mark your calendars and join us in commemorating the rich history, vibrant present, and promising future of the ISC.

Attention ISC Clergy and Churches! Photos needed for 60th ISC Annual Meeting

Please send up to 3 photos of your church being *Church...* whether in fellowship, celebration, or being the hands and feet of God. Photos to be presented at the ISC Annual Meeting so please make sure they are good resolution. If you would like to also send in an updated photo of your church building we will update our files. Please send to Missy Loyet at mloyet@iscucc.org by July 31st. Thank you!



ISC Hunger Action Team



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize St. Paul, Waterloo for their 4 Day Mission Trip. They partnered with AMEN STL and Oak Hill Presbyterian Church. Service projects included volunteering at the St. Louis Area Food Bank. Helping re-package over 6,700lbs of non-perishable food. As well as, volunteering with Isaiah 58 Ministries for "Fresh Food Friday". Sharing fresh meat/seafood, produce, and deli/ bakery items with our St. Louis neighbors in need. The youth group also volunteered at New Roots Urban Farm, whose mission is creating and maintaining farming methods that are sustainable for the community and the environment. This nonprofit collective has locals actively participating in the production and management of their gardens and orchard. Thank you, St. Paul, for helping combat hunger in the St. Louis area. Under the leadership of Dr. Jillian Mayer, Director of Christian Education & Faith Formation. Such a blessing!

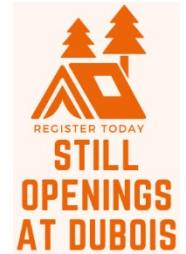
[Click here & share your food insecurity outreach stories with the ISC HUNGER ACTION TEAM.](#)

News from DuBois Center

We still have openings for the following camps:

Week 8: July 14-19

Splash (completed 5th-7th grade) -- openings for Boys & Girls
Horsin' Around (completed 5th-6th grade) -- openings for Boys
Settler (completed 3rd-4th grade) -- openings for Boys
Register now at www.duboiscenter.org!



Sunday Check-in Volunteers

We are looking for friendly faces to help with camp check-in on **Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 pm**. Join our welcome team for one Sunday or as many Sundays as you want! Volunteers are needed to help with all parts of the check-in process. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Sign up online - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C...>



Dubois Fall Festival Crafters & Makers Needed We know it's only June, but our Fall Festival Committee is already hard at work planning for the 2024 Fall Festival. This year our annual Fall Festival is scheduled for **Sunday, October 6, from 11 am-5 pm**. Fall Festival is only possible because of the efforts of countless volunteers. They bake, promote, stitch, recruit, decorate, set up/take down, drive boats, lead tours, greet, direct traffic, clean, serve, and dedicate hours and hours to

make it all happen. [Click HERE to check out the details!](#)

Council for Health and Human Services Ministry News



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

Kindercottage Volunteers Plant Seeds of Positivity

Are you passionate about working with children and making a positive impact on their lives? UPK is eagerly seeking volunteers for the summer to help enrich the lives of children aged 6 weeks to 12 years. If you have some free time and a desire to inspire young minds, we invite you to join our dedicated team.

Bring joy and excitement to our kids who are eager to explore and learn. Your time and efforts will contribute significantly to the holistic growth of children who need it most.

Thank you in advance for your continuous support and dedication to our community.

Interested? Join us and make a difference! Contact us today at 618-874-6505

or aimee@unipreskindercottage.org

Hello Supporter of Uni Pres Kindercottage

We're excited to announce that you can now make donations to Uni-Pres Kindercottage through our Cash App or by scanning the UPK QR code available on our website at www.unipreskindercottage.org. Your generous contributions will help us continue to provide quality early childhood education and support to our community. Thank you for your continued support!



FOSTER PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Wed June 26
5:30PM - 7:00PM

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services
FVH Office
8 Executive Dr. Suite 200
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Our amazing licensing staff will be presenting information on how to become a traditional licensed foster parent, along with licensing and training requirements

RSVP using the QR Code Below or by going to
<https://hoyleton.org/events/foster-care-informational-meeting/>
by June 23, 2024



Contact
licensingworkers@hoyleton.org
or
618-688-4765 with any questions



Free Medical Equipment Loan Program to Help Those in Need

St. John's Community Care is dedicated to providing quality care and support to those in need. Our free medical equipment loan program is available at our Collinsville location, and it is open to anyone who requires medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, bath chairs, crutches, canes, and more. We understand that medical equipment can be expensive, which is why we offer this service to ensure that everyone has access to the equipment they need to improve their quality of life. We also welcome donations of small medical equipment to supplement our inventory and help those in need. Your donation can make a significant impact on someone's life. If you have any small medical equipment that you would like to donate, you can drop it off at our Collinsville location between 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on holidays. Contact us at [618-344-5008](tel:618-344-5008) or [visit here](#) to learn more about our medical equipment loan program and how you can donate.

Our ISC Churches News + Events



Are you looking for VBS materials or to share your VBS

resources? The exchange of VBS materials can help elevate your program or another church's program. Click [HERE](#) and send in the following info:

(Church name) will be hosting the **(insert name of the VBS curriculum)** on **(insert dates)** and is looking for churches to partner in sharing resources.

If you are interested, please contact **(insert name)** at **(insert contact information)**

Evangelical UCC Highland is hosting Outback Rock VBS June 3rd-7th. If you are interested in materials, please contact Elaine at evuccvbs@gmail.com.

St. Paul UCC, Belleville, will be hosting the Camp Firelight VBS on June 24th - 27th 6-8 PM . We are looking for churches to partner in sharing resources. If you are interested, please contact Synthia Kalinowski at skik1987@yahoo.com or Pastor Tim Powers-Reed at 636-248-6468. Thank you!

Zion UCC St. Joe will be hosting a BBQ featuring Pork Steaks, Brats, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs on **Saturday, June 15 10:00am-3:00pm** (or sold out) at Waterloo Rural King parking [lot 740 N Market, Waterloo, IL](#)



Friedens United Church of Christ-Irvington will host their 66th annual Ice Cream Social and Pie Auction on **Friday, July 19, 2024, from 5-8 PM**. Sloppy Joes, Nachos, Brats, hotdogs, chips and drinks are also available for an evening of fun and fellowship. The clergy band, Rivers of Life, will be playing in the sanctuary. All proceeds support youth mission work. 307 S. Third Street, Irvington, IL

[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 The music skills needed 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 10am - 11am 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.

St. John Cemetery Granite City seeking part-time Cemetery Secretary to work 15-16 hours/wk at \$15.00-\$16.00/hour. Must be a HS graduate or equivalent; have knowledge of Windows, MS Office & Excel and excellent keyboard skills; be able to send text, email, attach files and answer voicemail using a smart phone; have knowledge of basic accounting/financial experience and general office experience with excellent attention to detail; be able to walk grave sites, mark excavation sites and show customers cemetery sites to purchase. To apply submit your resume with "Cemetery Secretary" in the subject line at StJohnUCC2901gc@yahoo.com Deadline: received by 11 :59 pm on June 26, 2024

St. Paul Columbia IL seeking part-time Office Coordinator to work in the church office and assist the pastors with scheduling and maintaining the ongoing work of the church. Assist in communicating with the congregation and wider community about St. Paul's programs, activities, events, worship, and mission in ways that reach a broad range of people and encourage them to connect and engage. All resumes can be sent to office@stpaulcolumbia.org.

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 Co-Interim Executive Director, contact **Jason Petry** at director@DuBoisCenter.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](#)

