

July 9, 2024

Illinois
South
Conference



Weekly
Connection

Diverse Minds,
Covenant Hearts,
Made One in the Body of Christ



DAILY
DEVOTIONAL

Created by the StillSpeaking Writers' Group



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

The Daily Devotional is a spiritually deep well, to which thousands of readers are drawn each day. The overall voice of the Daily Devotional is tended by the **Stillspeaking Writers' Group** and supported by the staff of The Pilgrim Press.

CLICK ON THE IMAGE ABOVE TO EXPLORE DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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Click **HERE** if you are interested in writing for the Daily Devotional. If your submission is chosen for publication, let us know. We would love to celebrate your contribution!

Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



**-Hookdale St. Peter UCC Rev. Jerry
(Bette) Bennett**

**-Retired Pastor
Rev. Gustav (Suzanne)
Kuether Belleville, IL**



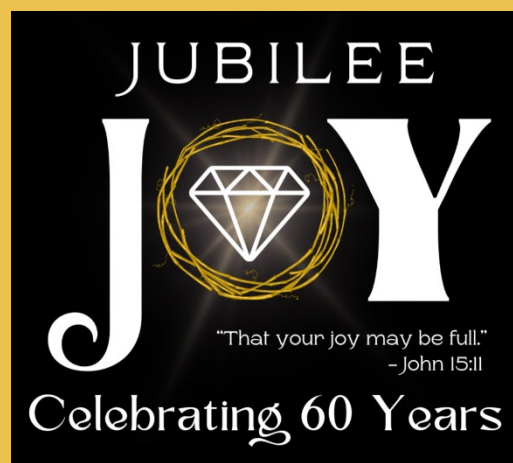
**-Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC
Rev. Sharon Patton**

Please remember Rev. Bill Kapp and his family and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers as he mourns the loss of his father.

Submit prayer requests here

REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!

60th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
THE ILLINOIS SOUTH CONFERENCE



Dear Churches of the Illinois South Conference,

We know it's only July, but the planning for our 2024 Annual Meeting/60th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 19, is in full swing. So, we seek your help preparing for our Jubilee Joy celebration.

Here are the top 5 ways you can help.

1. Please email a list of the names and contact information of voting delegates who will be representing your church at the Annual Meeting to Julie Riechmann at jriechmann@iscucc.org by noon on Monday, July 29. (Your church is entitled to 3 lay voting delegates. In

addition, the authorized UCC clergy from your church are also voting delegates.)

2. Please send up to 3 photos of your church being *Church*, whether in fellowship, celebration or being the hands and feet of God, to Missy at mloyet@iscucc.org by noon on Wednesday, July 31, for our slide show presentation.

3. Register your pastors and delegates. Registration is now open and will close at noon on Friday, September 27. Here is the [Registration form 2024 Annual Meeting](#) and the [Jubilee Joy Invite Flyer](#) for your church's bulletin boards, worship bulletin inserts, newsletter, website, and Facebook page.

4. Share the information about the afternoon's 60th Anniversary celebration with all those you would like to invite to register and attend. The invitation for the afternoon Jubilee Joy celebration is [HERE](#), and you are welcome to share it.

5. Stay tuned for more details on how your church can participate in the festivities.



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!

Click to learn more about the event and presenters

Rev. Harold Wilke: Disability Rights and the "Breaking of Chains"

Date July 26, 2024 **Time** 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Location Chapel, Eden Theological Seminary
475 E Lockwood Ave. St. Louis, MO 63119

ADA Celebration

Each year Paraquad celebrates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, with a special celebration. Since the justice champions that secured the ADA are passing away, it is important that we preserve memories of their courageous actions. In 2024, we celebrate the life of Rev. Harold H. Wilke (1914-2003), a minister who gave an invocation at the White House signing of the ADA with Pres. George H.W. Bush. Wilke was born without arms on a farm in Washington, Missouri, and had to fight discrimination in school, in religious institutions, and in society throughout his life.



Without his efforts and that of our disability rights ancestors, there would be no ADA.

Co-sponsored by:



Please use the QR code to register for the celebration. You may attend in person or virtually. Peace UCC is providing light refreshments, beginning at 9:15 a.m. Your RSVP helps us plan hospitality.



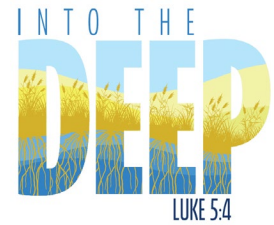
Narrative Budgets: Telling your Story by the Numbers July 24th 2:00pm

A narrative budget translates the line items of a traditional budget into a story of how your congregation makes a difference in the world. It can be a helpful tool for a stewardship campaign or annual meeting. By telling the story of our congregations' impact, we can inspire

generosity in our donors. For more information and to register click [HERE](#).

INTO THE DEEP AT GENERAL SYNOD 35

Come **July 11-15, 2025**, the UCC will welcome thousands from across the country to the [Kansas City, Missouri Convention Center](#) – and the country’s barbecue capitol. It is there UCC members will discern resolutions of witness, church structure and function, and celebrate faith. The theme of the gathering is “Into the Deep,” based on Luke 5:4, which says, “When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’” More on GS35 [HERE](#)



ISC Hunger Action Team



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize Christ UCC, Dupo for partnering with the TWIGS FREE LUNCH PROGRAM. Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:30 to noon. Recipients are local students in need. Thanks, Christ UCC. Under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. Todd Muschaney. Such a blessing!

Click here & share your food insecurity outreach stories with the ISC HUNGER ACTION TEAM.

News from DuBois Center



At our event, you will find crafts, live music, kids’ activities, delicious food, and more. It’s a family-friendly event, so all ages are welcome. Younger guests will enjoy our Kids Korner featuring crafts and games, or any one of our numerous activities around the grounds. Ride a horse, take a cruise on the pontoon boat, or tour DuBois Center via hay wagon.

More info and CRAFTER/MAKER application can be found [HERE](#)

We still have spaces for crafters and makers at our 2024 Festival!

If you are interested register online at <https://duboiscenter.org/.../fall-festival-vendor.../>

For more information email FallFestival@DuBoisCenter.org and please don't fall for the scammers that post in the comments pretending to be us.

Our Fall Festival is an exhibition for those who make and sell crafts and other handmade items. No direct sales vendors--i.e. Scentsy, Pampered Chef, Thirty-One...are allowed.

Calling ALL BAKERS: Our Sweet Treat Shop accepts donations of baked goods. We accept all kinds of baked goods – cookies, cakes, pies, candies, all of the good stuff! All money raised is used for scholarships to attend camp. Please consider donating and contact FallFestival@duboiscenter.org to coordinate!

PLAN NOW FOR SILENT AUCTION AT DUBOIS FALL FESTIVAL

Yes, Fall Festival is Sunday, October 6!

No, it is not too soon to begin thinking of your donation to the Silent Auction.

Yes, get that creative person in your church, organization or family to put together a themed basket.

No, size does not matter--any size that attracts bidders will work.

Yes, get thinking, take advantage of summer sales and put together your donation for DuBois. Contact Audrey Hicks, St. Paul UCC Waterloo, 618-939-8673, audhicks@hotmail.com with questions.

Council for Health and Human Services Ministry News



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



Hello from Uni Pres Kindercottage!

We are having so much fun in the sun, and we have many of you to thank for your kind donations. We are eagerly seeking gently used tricycles and other outdoor toys so all our little ones can enjoy the joys of summer. Additionally, we are in need of bubbles, summer snacks like popsicles, cases of water and other supplies such as, sippy cups, paper plates, paper towels, and baby wipes.



Please feel free to send Amazon or Walmart gift cards, or have these items shipped directly to our center. If you need more details regarding how to ship the items and the best days for shipping, please reach out to us at 61874-6505, Ask for Ms. Aimee or Mr. Rose

We appreciate your continuous support!
Thank you, The Uni Pres Kindercottage Team



Congratulations, Mr. Antron Rose!

Antron Rose, Uni-Pres Kindercottage's Program Director, recently received recognition for his work with Kindercottage and with the families of East St. Louis. Antron was one of 12 "Men of Distinction" honored by the Top Ladies of Distinction of East St. Louis. The Gala was held at the Regency Center in O'Fallon on June 23, 2024. Congratulations Antron!

Thanks to St John's UCC, Waterloo!

Your support of June's mission raised over \$3,600 donated to Kindercottage. Your generosity will be helping to make a positive impact in the lives of the children and families of East St. Louis.



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)**

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 sktk1987@yahoo.com or Pastor Tim Powers-Reed at 636-248-6468. Thank you!

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



Concordia UCC Belleville Hosting Ladies' Day out Event August 3, 2024, 10:00am - 3:00pm. Visit with numerous vendors and crafters, enjoy a scrumptious summer chicken salad and fruit lunch for just \$8, visit the book sale, and take home some wonderful baked goods. Proceeds go to Concordia UCC and DuBois Center scholarships. [7600 State Rt. 163, Belleville, IL 62223](#). Call 618-476-3377 or 219-805-6022 for more info.



Mark Your Calendars
AUGUST 9-10, 2024

RAINBOW CAMP

An LGBTQIA+ Friendly Family Camp Experience!

At the Dubois Center in Dubois, Illinois

Sponsored by the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ!

For more information
<https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/rainbow-camp/>



Illinois South Conference presents

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 28TH
 9 AM TO 4 PM

AT CAMP WARTBURG
 5705 Lrc Rd, Waterloo, IL

Chose Your Own Adventure!
 Participants can choose to add-on the high ropes experience, if desired.

Low Ropes Course w/ Team Building (Incl. lunch)	\$30 (per participant*)
Optional High Ropes Course	\$30 (per participant)
	\$60** (per participant)

*Cost is for each youth participant. Chaperones do not need to pay unless they plan on participating in the high ropes activity.
 ** Contact the Illinois South Conference Office if scholarship assistance is needed.

TEAM-BUILDING . LUNCH . OPTIONAL HIGH ROPES

DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE!

Confirmation Retreat 2024 Registration will open August 1, 2024. Questions? Contact Jill Mayer (jill@stpaulonline.org or 618.978.7123)

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! Click on the image to register.

[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.

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. 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](#)

[Uplands Village](#) [UCC Campus Ministry](#) [Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#)
[UCC Newsletter](#)

