

December 20, 2024 - Christmas + New Year's Issue



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." --Isaiah 9: 6

Dear Beloved churches, pastors, and friends of the Illinois South Conference,

In this rush toward Christmas celebrations in your churches, communities, and families, may you have an opportunity to pause and experience the holy wonder and awe of remembering for us a child was born. For us, there was no place God would not go, even to the ends of the earth, so that we would know the fullness of God's love. For us, God came to this earth in the most vulnerable form. For us, God chose to experience the human experience. For us, God gave us his Son, Jesus Christ, so we might forever know God's forgiveness and grace.

In this Christmas season, may you and yours be blessed with the presence of the One who is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. We wish you a blessed Christmas filled with peace, hope, joy, and love. We look forward to new opportunities to serve and be in mission and ministry together in the new year.

Blessings,

Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

Debbie Kesner, ISC Executive Administrator

Missy Loyet, ISC Communications Coordinator

Julie Riechmann, ISC Registrar

Jason and Leah Petry, Co-Interim Executive Directors of DuBois Center

-Please note that the Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center offices will be closed for the holidays on December 24, December 25, December 31, 2024, and January 1, 2025.

-Look for the next Weekly Connection on Tuesday, January 7th.

Please Remember in Your Prayers...

-Week of 12/24/2024-



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



Carlinsville St. Paul UCC-
Pastor Eddie Burton

Retired Pastor-
Rev. Gary (Joyce) Kniepcamp

-Week of 12/31/2024-



Carlyle Immanuel UCC-
Pastor Ken (Barbara) Shafer



Central City Zion UCC-
Rev. Nancy Peebles

Retired Pastor-
Rev. Hugh (Bo) Fitz

Healing prayers for Kevin Lee, husband of Rev. Nancy Spier Lee, for a full and complete recovery.

Sending prayers for our ISC Members in Discernment. May God shine light on the paths of Tim Burns, Kathleen Gallivan, and Angela Nolan, granting them clarity, openness, and peace as they make choices on their journey in harmony with God's plan.

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

Please join us as we celebrate the

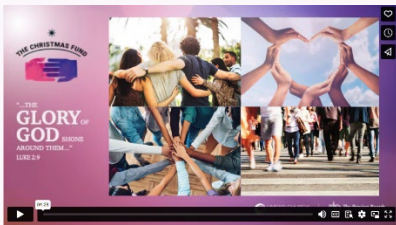
INSTALLATION SERVICE OF Rev. Josiah Accola

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH 3PM

ST. PAUL UCC 123 E. DEE ST., LEBANON, IL 62254

Reception immediately following. RSVP appreciated from clergy attending by emailing to office@stpaullebanonil.org.

God is doing a great work!



The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Click on the above image or [this link](#) to watch a video.

[The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund](#) is one of the UCC's special mission offerings. Churches are encouraged to hold an

offering on a suggested day in December each year or select a date that works for them. Advent worship resources are created each year for congregations. Individuals can also [donate directly online or by mail](#).

Frostbite Fun Registration Ending Soon Go ahead click [HERE](#) to get your youth registered before the January 5th deadline hits! Contact Julie with registration questions at jriechmann@iscucc.org

Frostbite Fun

2025 Youth Event

January 18th - 19th, 2025

Calling all junior & senior high youth!
Join us as we learn to live out loud
and put our faith in action!!!

If inclement weather causes us to postpone this event, it will be held on February 15th-16th.

2 Ways to Participate
 Single Day (\$50): Saturday 10 am to 7 pm
 Overnight (\$100): Saturday 10 am to Sunday 11 am

Registration opens on CampWise December 1st.
Registration closes on January 5th.

Each church is responsible for providing the necessary chaperones for the event.

Questions? Contact Jill Mayer (618) 939-7123

Horseback riding will be available!



Give the gift of Summer Camp

at DuBois Center

This is the perfect gift for anyone who loves camp or even for someone new to DuBois Center!

Gift certificates are available for any value and start at \$25. They can be used towards ANY DuBois Center camp, retreat, or DuBois Center hosted event.

To give the gift of camp, email register@duboiscenter.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 Directors, contact **Jason Petry** or **Leah**

Petry at director@DuBoisCenter.org or (618) 787-2202 ext. 2 for Jason or ext. 3 for Leah.

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](#)

