

August 26, 2025



2025 ISC Annual Meeting Event

Meet and Greet

Rev. Shari Prestemon, UCC Associate General Minister



Save the date -
Friday, October 17th
2:00p- 4:00pm
St. Paul UCC Belleville, IL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



Trinity UCC, Biddleborn-
Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel



Trinity UCC, Belleville-
Rev. Tim (Shea) Powers-Reed

Retired Pastor-
Rev. Janis (Rev. Bob Goddard) Dashner

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

61st ISC Annual Meeting - Saturday, October 18, 2025



Come join in worship with your Illinois South Conference siblings. There will be opportunities to connect and share resources, meet Rev. Shari Prestemon, visit the MarketPlace, and just be in fellowship with one another as we go Into the Deep!

Get ready to make some waves! Registration Opening September 1st

Our 2025 Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

Rev. Shari Prestemon is the Associate General Minister and Co-Executive of Global Ministries. Her role includes overseeing **Global H.O.P.E., Gender and Sexuality Justice Ministries, the Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, D.C.,** and the **UCC presence at the United Nations**, as well as serving as Co-Executive of **Global Ministries**, the shared witness of the UCC and the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**. We look forward to joining Rev. Prestemon in common witness!



Poetry&Arts Event! 10/18



Deadline for Submission
September 26, 2025

INTO THE DEEP: Poetry & Arts at Annual Meeting

This year's Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting invites you to wade *Into the Deep*—where worship meets the creative spirit.

Join **Rev. Tim Powers-Reed** for a breakout session exploring the power of **arts and poetry in worship**. Together, we'll discuss how words, images, and creative expressions can breathe new life into our liturgy and community.

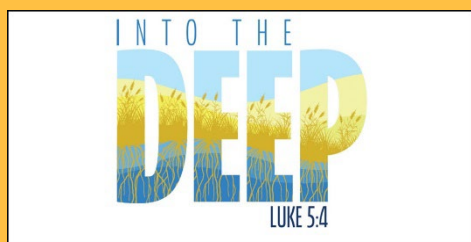
We are also seeking poets, spoken word artists, painters, sketchers, photographers, and other creators to share their masterpieces with the Conference.

- One poetry/spoken word submission will be chosen to be featured during worship at the Annual Meeting.
- Five other written submissions will be shared during the breakout session.
- Visual art—paintings, sketches, photography, sculpture—will help create a sacred atmosphere in the worship space and breakout room.

Submission Deadline: September 26, 2025

Please send written works and/or photos of visual pieces (paintings, sculptures, etc.) to illinitchr@gmail.com by the deadline for consideration.

Come share your gifts. Come inspire. Come create space for God to speak in ways that words alone cannot.

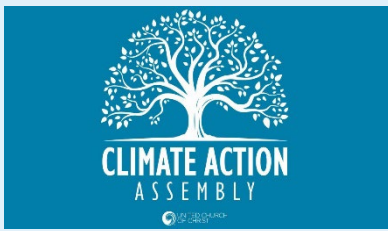


Watch: General Synod 35 video highlights

by **Bob Lormor, Charles Jefferson, Jr.** | published on Aug 26, 2025

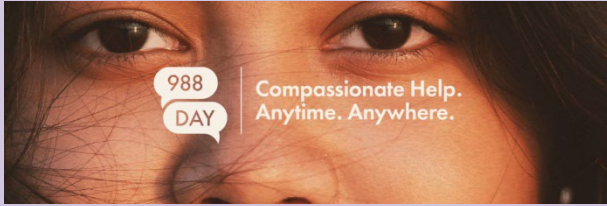
The United Church of Christ's 35th General Synod, held July 11-15, 2025 in Kansas City, Missouri, included memorable moments, joyous reunions, communal prayer, and faithful witness.

Many of these moments were captured on video by Bob Lormor, the UCC's longtime video services coordinator, which showcases the impact and significance of this year's gathering. Read more and watch the 26 minute recap [HERE](#)



September 3rd: Climate Action Assembly

The next Climate Action Assembly will be on **Wednesday, September 3rd at 12 pm CT**. We will hear from the Rev. Jim Antal about the upcoming national day of action on September 21st called Sun Day. We will also hear from Rebecca Perera, the Chief Credit Officer for the Cornerstone Fund, on the present and future outlook for churches going solar after the reconciliation bill. [Register to join us!](#)

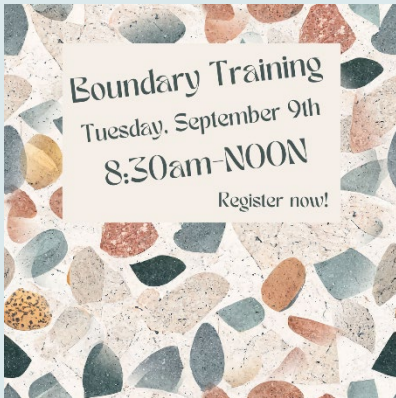


988 Day is coming up on 9/8

Join in celebrating the second annual 988 Day - a day to shine a light on mental health and ensure everyone knows where to turn for support. Get involved with our free [#988Day](#) Toolkit and help spread the word: [988DayToolkit.org](#).

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides emotional support for people in distress in the U.S. 24/7 via text, call, and chat services.

No judgment, just help ❤️ Learn more at [988lifeline.org](#).



Boundary Awareness Training

ISC has scheduled a Fall Boundary Awareness Training for Tuesday, September 9th from **8:30 a.m. – Noon on Zoom**. This training will be for both active and retired clergy.

Please contact Debbie at dkesner@iscucc.org to register and get the zoom meeting info. Cost: \$40 for active/retired ISC pastors, \$50 for non-ISC active/retired pastors. Checks may be mailed to the conference office. Please make checks payable to Illinois South Conference and write Boundary Training in the memo line. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please contact Debbie for how to do so.



UCC Churches Rebuild Capacity for disaster Response

by [Kayla Berkey](#) | published on Aug 26, 2025

As communities in the Southeast continue to rebuild after Helene and Milton, UCC churches are responding to best ways to serve their communities. [Read more>>](#)



ISC Justice and Mission Resources

When the Justice and Mission survey results were analyzed, hunger concerns overwhelmingly were identified as a priority within the ISC churches that responded. Once again, we thank you for your responses. The ISC Justice and Mission Team researched, and found links that we think you may find interesting and useful. [>> ISC J & M Bible Study Resources](#)



Decolonizing Mental Health and Empowering Holistic Wellness August 28, 2025 2:30pm CT

Join us for an introductory conversation that invites faith leaders into a transformative and lifelong process of letting go of supremacist theologies and monocultural care paradigms of mental wellness. This webinar will explore the intersections of mental wellness, spiritual formation, [Learn More/Register](#)



ORDER YOUR 2025
**STEWARDSHIP
THEME MATERIALS**

Coordinated stewardship materials for your congregation's annual stewardship efforts.

"Dreaming God's Dream" helps people understand the impact our congregations can make in our communities if we generously support them. Order [HERE](#)

ISC Hunger Action Team - Facing Hunger in Your Community



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize Zion UCC, Marion for their continued support of local families in need. For over 5 years, Zion has hosted a free Sunday Community Breakfast. This is a ministry of deep compassion and Christlike love for the vulnerable in Marion. The commitment of Zion volunteers and supporters has been life-changing for their community. Serving a hot, delicious breakfast every Sunday morning to their neighbors and the many unhoused individuals. This has significantly impacted countless lives. Heartfelt thanks to Zion for ensuring that everyone who walks up or drives through for breakfast feels welcomed and cared for. Serving others as faithful stewards of God's grace, under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. John Holst. Such a blessing!

In sharing your stories of being in service to others, you shine God's Light to all of us in the ISC and beyond! Click below...

Share stories of fighting hunger in YOUR community

News from DuBois Center



Welcome Hickory!

This pretty girl is already settling in to the herd!
A HUGE thanks to St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Freeburg, IL for the fundraising and donations that brought Hickory to our horse ministry.



Join us for Men's Retreat Activities could include fishing, card games, disc golf, and archery. Rev. Bill Kapp from EvUCC in Highland, IL will be leading us in faith exploration. It'll be a great day for some guy time! Check-in: 6:30 pm on **Friday, Sept 26**
For more information or to register: <https://duboiscenter.org>



Mother-Son Day Sunday, September 28

"Moms, bring your boys for a day of camp fun! Splash in the creek, row a canoe, shoot archery, and spend time together in nature. Rachael Bearth, the Minister of Youth & Christian Education at St. John UCC in Mascoutah will be leading us in faith activities. It is a day dedicated to strengthening the bond between mother and son! For more information or to register, go to: <https://duboiscenter.org>

FALL FESTIVAL DuBois Center

VOLUNTEER AT FALL FESTIVAL!



Support DuBois Center by volunteering at Fall Festival! Join us on Sunday, October 5 to help with boat rides, hayrides, horses, Sweet Treats, Kidz Corner, and more. Sign up to volunteer by Friday, September 26: <https://www.signupgenius.com/.../10C084DA4AD28A2FCC34...>



Less than 2 months until DuBois's Fall Fest **October 5**, so be gathering those items for your Silent Auction baskets! Be creative with your themes this year--as always--and put together those unique baskets, large or small, to benefit our wonderful ISC camp and retreat center. Baskets can be dropped off at St. Paul UCC, Waterloo 9:00am - 4:00pm Monday through Thursday or DuBois Center or brought to DuBois the **morning** before or day of. Contact Audrey Hicks 618-939-8673 or audhicks@hotmail.com with any questions.



We are so grateful for all the contributions and support we received this summer at Uni Pres Kindercottage! Because of your generosity, our children and families have been able to enjoy quality care and meaningful experiences. Now, as we gear up for the new school year your continued support will help enrich the educational experiences of so many children who might not otherwise have these opportunities. Together, we are making a lasting difference!

-Aimee Hart, Executive Director

aimee@unipreskindercottage.org

618-874-6505(work)

618-799-1417 (cell)



Thank you
to everyone who helped out with our
Back To School Extravaganza



Hoyleton Thanks Donors at Back to School Extravaganza

Thank you to all our donors who contributed school supplies and backpacks so all of our youth in care can start the school year off right! Special thanks to our volunteers that worked alongside us at our annual Back-to-School event hosted by our Foster Care Team. We truly appreciated the helping hands of [The Maschhoffs](#), the fire safety lesson provided by [Belleville Fire Department](#) entertainment from Magic by Joshua, lunch provided by [Raising Cane's](#) and additional support from The Boy Scouts and [St. Paul United Church of Christ - Belleville, Illinois](#). Thanks to [Place of Grace](#) for joining us at our office to fill the backpacks with school supplies. Your support ensures every child is prepared and celebrated for the school year ahead.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Receptionists
Program Assistants
Craft Assistants

You choose a time, we'll find a place.

If interested, please call
St. John's Community Care
618-344-5008



Volunteers Needed at St John's Community Care

I know we've said it before, but we finally have someone ORGANIZED looking after our volunteers! Call us now to see how you can assist us - helping in the Adult Day, answering phones and helping with admin work, assisting with events, or maybe something we don't even know we need yet! Talk to Becky and make a difference in someone's life.

Our ISC Churches News + Events

REGISTRATION OPENED AUGUST 1st!

Illinois South Conference
presents

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

NOVEMBER 14TH-15TH

AT DUBOIS CENTER
OVERNIGHT & DAY ONLY
OPTIONS!

Saturday Only Retreat (incl. lunch)	\$30 (per participant/adult)
Saturday Only Retreat (Incl. 2 meals breakfast & lunch)	\$45 (per participant/adult)
Overnight (Friday - Saturday Afternoon)	\$85* (per participant/adult)

Horseback Riding available as add-on option. \$25 for trail ride.

* Contact the Illinois South Conference Office if scholarship assistance is needed.

TEAM-BUILDING . LUNCH . OPTIONAL OVER NIGHT

DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY MADE!

Confirmation Retreat 2025

Registration will open
August 1, 2025.

Questions?
Contact Jill Mayer
(jill@stpaulonline.org or
618.978.7123)



O'Fallon United Church of Christ
Craft & Vendor Fair

Saturday, August 30th
 9am - 2pm

For more info contact:
 oucc@sbcglobal.net
 618-632-3496
 206 W. Adams
 O'Fallon, IL 62269

\$10 for Table



38th Annual Schlachtfest Sunday, Sept 7th 11am-3pm Mark your calendar for this fun and DELICIOUS time in the country! Meals are served buffet style in our church pavilion. Click [HERE](#) for menu, scheduled events and more! Trinity Biddleborn UCC, 5698 Biddleborn Rd, Marissa, IL 62257

Zoar United Church of Christ

Annual BBQ

Saturday, September 13th
 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm



Zoar UCC New Hanover Annual BBQ Saturday, September 13th 4:00pm - 7:00pm Good Food, Country Store, Basket Prizes, Pie Auction, and Entertainment by Sam Morgan and Friends. 9103 D Road, Columbia, IL 62236 [Click for Flyer](#)

GriefShare®
SUPPORT GROUP

Consider joining us or passing along the information to someone you know who is grieving a loss.

Mondays - Sept. 22 - Dec. 22
 6:00 - 8:00 pm
 Evangelical United Church of Christ
 2520 Poplar Street, Highland

Join us for a safe, compassionate space where healing begins. Whether you're grieving the loss of a loved one or supporting someone who is, our GriefShare group offers comfort, understanding, and hope.

The group will meet on Mondays starting **September 22, from 6-8 pm**. The group will convene weekly at the Parsonage located at 2520 Poplar Street (look for signage). This 13-week session includes an additional meeting in November titled "Surviving the Holidays". To register, please contact the church office at 618-654-7549. We kindly request a \$10 registration fee, if possible, to offset the cost of workbooks. We look forward to welcoming you.

[Click to submit your EVENTS + NEWS to the Weekly Connection](#)

Opportunities + Resources

[Part Time Organist/Pianist - Friedens UCC Marissa](#)

[Part-time Music Leader - St. Paul UCC Pinckneyville](#)

[Part-time Office Administrator - Zion UCC New Baden](#)

Contact Us - Your OCWM Monies at Work



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.

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.

***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](#)

