



61st ISC Annual Meeting

Saturday,
October 18, 2025

St. Paul UCC
Belleville, IL



Get ready to make some waves

Registration is now open!

Scan the QR or [**CLICK HERE**](#)
to register today.

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



St. John's UCC, Breese



St. John's UCC, Brighton- Rev. John (Jackie Gordon-Pawloski) Pawloski

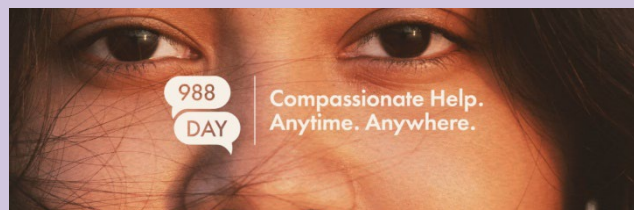
Retired Pastor-

Rev. Jack (Barbara Van Ausdall) Spratt

[Submit prayer requests here](#)



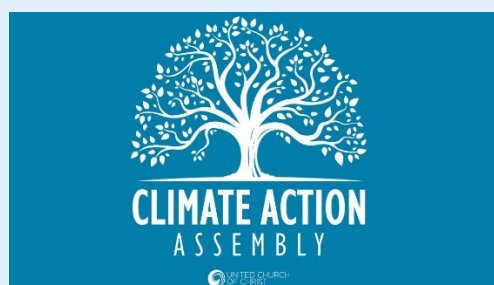
Our 2025 Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker Rev. Shari Prestemon is the Associate General Minister and Co-Executive of Global Ministries. Her role includes overseeing [Global H.O.P.E.](#), [Gender and Sexuality Justice Ministries](#), [the Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington, D.C.](#), and 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!



988 Day is 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](#).



Climate Action Assembly

Happening tomorrow - September 3rd 12pm CT!!

The UCC Council for Climate Justice is hosting a Climate Action Assembly to further the connectedness & action for pursuing climate justice.

In this gathering, we will hear from the Rev. Jim Antal about the upcoming national day of action on September 21st called Sun Day, and Rebeca 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: <https://ow.ly/NFNC50WOMgT>



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.

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.



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering October 5th is the **Neighbors in Need offering** which supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

While many of our churches collect the offering on part of World Communion Sunday, contributions to this offering can be collected on any Sunday during the calendar year. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Strength is at the Table by [Kayla Berkey](#) | published on Sep 2, 2025

This year marks the milestone 300-year anniversary of a predecessor tradition of the United Church of Christ. [Read More>>](#)





Emerging Strategies to Fight AI Data Centers September 10 Noon to 1:00pm

Central

Emerging threats demand emerging strategies. The rise of AI data centers has been a driver in the rise in power demand and increasing greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Moreover, the advanced cooling systems required by these data centers... [Learn More and Register](#)

Clergy Conversation Series on Addiction & Families: Family Matters/Families Matter - Part I September 11

2:30pm Join us for a 3-part series on Addiction & Families: Family Matter/Families Matter. Part I, Language Matters: Defining the Words We Use. In this webinar, we (Erica Poellot and Dee-Dee Stout) discuss how our language around substance use has changed... [Learn More and Register](#)



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](#)



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 ST. PAUL UCC, WATERLOO. They partnered with the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service for their 12 week "FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROJECT". St. Paul members were invited to share non perishable food and cash donations benefitting students age 18 and under. This mission project was needed more than ever. Students in need did not have access to their free school breakfast and lunch during summer break. This year, nearly 1500 weekly food bags were shared with families in need from Waterloo, Columbia, Valmeyer, Hecker, and Prairie Du Rocher. Heartfelt thanks to St. Paul for making sure that no child went without lunch this summer. Neighbors helping neighbors. Under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. Kyle Timmons. - 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...

to share stories of fighting hunger in YOUR community



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

Closing in on our first-ever Mother-Son Day!

Moms, bring your sons; Step moms, bring your stepsons; Aunts, bring your nephews; all types of families are welcome to come and experience a day of camp fun and grow your bond! Rachael Bearth, the Minister of Youth & Christian Education at St. John UCC in Mascoutah will be leading us in faith activities. **Registration closes September 14th** Pricing: \$46 for adults, \$41 for youth (ages 12-17), and \$36 for children (ages 5-11). Check-in: 9:00 am

Check-out: 4:00 pm

For more information or to register, go to: <https://duboiscenter.org>



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.



Hoyleton Youth & Family Services: “From Sea to Shining Sea” Summer Campaign Expands Donor Reach Across the Nation

This summer, Hoyleton Youth & Family Services launched its ambitious 2025 campaign titled “**From Sea to Shining Sea**,” a heartfelt initiative designed to bring awareness and support for youth and families in need—one state, one donor, one life at a time.

The campaign began with Hoyleton having donors from 21 states and has successfully grown to include **donors from 30 states**, each highlighted in Hoyleton's signature teal, the color of hope. The campaign not only marked a significant expansion of geographic reach but also sparked a powerful movement of sharing and storytelling.

At the core of this effort was a call to **Hoyleton's current staff, supporters, and stakeholders**: share why the work matters explained Hoyleton Marketing Director Andrea Nafziger. Whether through social media, email, or word of mouth, individuals were encouraged to amplify Hoyleton's mission—providing trauma-informed care, safe homes, and skill-building opportunities for vulnerable youth. One supporter from South Dakota shared that even after moving away from Illinois, her connection to a Hoyleton staff member kept her engaged and inspired to give.

The campaign's success shows the power of community advocacy and personal storytelling. Each newly highlighted state represents a child whose future just got brighter because someone chose to share Hoyleton's story.



Scan the QR Code go to
[http://namiswi.betterworld.org/
campaigns/nami-swi-2025-
walk-teams/p/hoyleton-youth-
family-services](http://namiswi.betterworld.org/campaigns/nami-swi-2025-walk-teams/p/hoyleton-youth-family-services) to join
Hoyleton's team

Please join us as we walk alongside **NAMI** at their Annual Walk to promote Mental Health Awareness. We are walking in an effort to end the stigma and change the narrative surrounding mental illness. Click

here [http://namiswi.betterworld.org/.../hoyleton-
youth-family...](http://namiswi.betterworld.org/.../hoyleton-youth-family...) or scan the QR code to join Team Hoyleton. If you sign up by Friday, September 5th and email marcommdept@hoyleton.org you will get a free MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS Team

Hoyleton t-shirt. Members of the Hoyleton clinical team will be onsite before and after the walk answering questions and providing useful tools to manage your mental health.



A Thank You to UPK Supporters!

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)



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.

REGISTER TODAY!

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)



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

A small icon of a red charcoal grill with smoke rising from it, located to the left of the text.

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.

VENDOR FAIR AT ST. PAUL UCC

SEPTEMBER 27 - 12-5 PM

Our vendors include:

- THREADS OF HOPE QUILTERS
- LILLA ROSE
- CARDS BY DEBBY
- SO SEW FUN CREATIONS
- SUGAR RUSH EXPRESS
- SCENTSY
- WASTE NOT, WANT NOT
- KIM'S CREATIONS
- PAMPERED CHEF
- STAMPIN' UP
- AND MORE!



 stpaulucc.org

 618-233-3303

 115 W. B. Street, Belleville, IL

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

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](#)

