

September 23, 2025



61st ISC Annual Meeting

Saturday,
October 18, 2025

St. Paul UCC
Belleville, IL

Reflections From Our Conference Minister

"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy."
--Psalm 94:19 (NIV)

"Put your attention on suffering—which is constant and everywhere—and it is all you will see. Joy will come, and laughter, but you will find it brief, possibly a distraction.

Put your attention in joy, being connected, and feeling whole, and you will find it everywhere. Your heart will still break, you will know grief, but you will find it a reasonable cost for the random abundance of miracles, and the soft wild rhythms of love.

Return to love as many times as you can."

- adrienne maree brown



Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



St. John's UCC, Collinsville

Rev. Jennifer Sowell

Retired Pastor-

Rev. Dr. Robert E. (Jay) Lee



St. Paul UCC, Columbia-

Rev. Jonathan (Sharon) Bangera

Please keep Rev. Kenneth Knobloch, his wife Jean, and their children in your prayers as Rev. Ken has been moved to Randolph County nursing home and is now under hospice care.

Please continue to pray for Rev. Tarrah Vaupel, an authorized minister of our Conference, and her family as they recover from a devastating fire at their home.

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

UCC International, National, + Regional News



“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for catch.’” -Luke 5:4

If you are planning to attend the Annual Meeting 2025 but haven't registered yet, please register as soon as possible [HERE](#).

Registration closing
Friday, September 26th at Noon.

Annual Meeting Checklist:

~Register one of three ways:

- Scan the QR code
- Go to online [online registration link](#)
- Or- Click [HERE](#) for mail-in registration form



Registration will close at noon on Friday, September 26th. Please register by that date so that we can know how many attendees the caterer will need to prepare for.

~**Share** Share the information with all those you would like to invite to register and attend.

- [Church Bulletin Insert](#)
- [Flyer](#)
- [Graphic for Posting](#)

~**Download Delegate Packet** [HERE](#). Please note, printed copies will not be provided at the Annual Meeting.

~**Mark Your Calendar and Find Your Route**, if you haven't already done so, to join us on **Saturday, October 18th** at [St. Paul UCC, 115 W B St, Belleville, IL 62220](#).

~**Get ready to make some waves as we go INTO THE DEEP !**

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY:

8:30 am	Doors Open and Check-in Begins
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Opening Session
9:30 am – 9:45 am	Break / Visit the MarketPlace
9:45 am – 11:00 am	INTO THE DEEP Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00 am - Noon	Updates and Celebrations
Noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch / Visit the MarketPlace
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	State of the Conference Address
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Business Session
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Break / Visit the MarketPlace
3:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Resourcing Sessions
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Break / Visit the MarketPlace
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Closing Worship

2025 ISC Annual Meeting Event

Meet and Greet

Rev. Shari Prestemon, UCC Associate General Minister



Join us -

Friday, October 17th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

St. Paul UCC Belleville, IL

r.s.v.p. to dkesner@iscucc.org



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



*****Please note new time of our Friday Meet and Greet Event**

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

Deadline September 26th!

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!



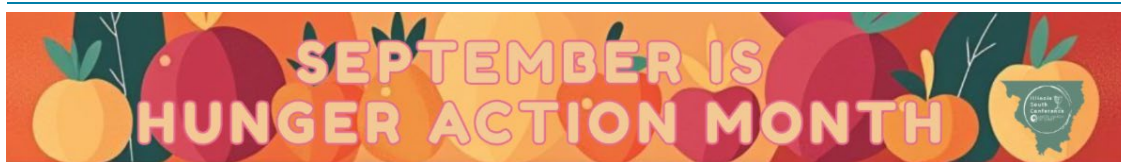
From music to bread recipes, UCC global partners bring the world to World communion Sunday resources by [Donna Jackson](#) | published on Sep 23, 2025 United Church of Christ congregations are heading into the Oct. 5 celebration of World Communion Sunday (click [here](#) for worship resources), with a sense of urgency. After all, if ever there was a time to reaffirm the oneness in Christ with its siblings near and far, it is now. [Read more>>](#)



Disability Justice in Congregational contexts Part I: What is Disability and What is Ableism?" You're invited for a 3-part series to go deeper into the All Church Read, "Building Up a New World: Congregational Organizing for Transformative Impact," focusing on Chapter 5, "Disability Justice in Congregational Contexts" with current and former members of the UCC Disability Ministries Board. [Register](#)

- Oct 2, 2025 02:30 PM Part I
- Oct 9, 2025 02:30 PM Part II
- Oct 16, 2025 02:30 PM Part III

Future of Faith: Grace in the Wilderness Oct 6, 2025 So many of us are living in the most divided times we've known collectively. Between fascism, genocide, war, famine, environmental collapse, and uncertainty about our relationships and what we are called to be in such a time – we find ourselves deepening or returning to our faith. Join New Hampshire Conference Minister Rev. Gordon Rankin for an engaging conversation around the future of faith in their local and regional contexts and discover how finding grace in the wilderness can be a counter-cultural practice of living into our faith expressions. [Register](#)



September is Hunger Action Month There is enough food for everyone-the problem lies in access. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate yourself. Educate others. Host a drive. Wear orange. **AND**...Visit the ISC Justice and Mission Resources link below!



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](#)



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize Evangelical UCC

HIGHLAND for their continued support of the HACSM Food Pantry. EVUCC members are invited to help stock the shelves of their local food pantry. Requested items are canned pasta with meat sauce, canned spaghetti sauce, chicken noodle soup, and vegetable beef soup. Heartfelt thanks to EVUCC for this ministry of love and compassion, under the leadership of

pastor and teacher, Rev William Kapp. 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

News from DuBois Center



Mother-Daughter Retreat October 10-12

Gather the generations of girls together to celebrate and build relationships for our annual Mother-Daughter Retreat! Get ready to relax – activities could include chair massages, pontoon boat rides, crafts, horseback riding, yoga, and walks in nature! Dr. Jillian Mayer, Director of Christian Education & Faith Formation at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo, IL will be leading us in faith discussion and activities!

Click to Register by Friday, Sep 26

VOLUNTEER AT FALL FESTIVAL!



JOIN US SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

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!** Especially need volunteers for Saturday set up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/.../10C084DA4AD28A2FCC34...>



Less than 2 weeks 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.

FALL FESTIVAL DuBois Center

Sunday, Oct 5
from 11-5



Family-Friendly Event FREE Parking FREE Admission



Great Food Trucks!

Tater Headz Fry, Dizzy's Wheels, and more!
Plus local non-profits with Kettle Corn, Spiral Potatoes, & Sweet Treats!



Activities for EVERYONE!

Pony Rides, Hay Rides, Crafts @ the Kids Korner,
Pontoon Boat Rides, Rope Making, Silent Auction, and...

Over 40 Crafters & Artisans

Live Music

1:00 Sheltered Reality (on the BB Court)
2:15 Emery Bass (on the main stage)
3:30 Venedy Band (on the BB Court)

No ATM on site! Cash only for DuBois Center activities
We love pets, but only service animals are welcome



DuBois Center

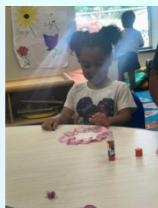
The Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South
Conference of the United Church of Christ



2651 Quarry Rd. DuBois, IL

www.DuBoisCenter.org





Dear UPK Families,

Welcome back to a new school year at Uni Pres Kindercottage! September is always such a special month as we welcome our little learners, reconnect with families, and prepare for a year filled with growth, discovery, and joy.

This year, our focus is on developing young learners through a fun learning curriculum and building stronger partnerships to help support our mission. At UPK, we believe education begins with relationships – between teachers and children, families and staff, and our center and the wider community. Together, we can ensure that each child feels loved, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential.

We are excited about the learning opportunities and special events planned this fall, including our pumpkin patch field trip, family literacy night, and fall health screenings. Please keep an eye on our monthly calendar for updates and important dates.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care and education of your children. Your partnership means so much to us, and we look forward to walking alongside you this school year.

With gratitude and excitement,

Aimee Washington-Hart
Executive Director
Uni Pres Kindercottage





This month, we celebrated a very special milestone: 40 years of compassionate service to families across the Metro-East community. Since 1985, St. John's Community Care has been here to support individuals and caregivers impacted by aging or disabilities. From our Adult Day Programs in Collinsville and Edwardsville to free caregiver support groups and medical equipment loans, our mission has remained the same: to make life a little easier, more dignified, and more connected. To everyone who has volunteered, donated, or simply shared our story — thank you. Your support has helped build a legacy of care that continues to grow stronger with each passing year. We invite you to learn more about the people we serve and how we're continuing to make a difference at www.stjohnscc.org. Here's to 40 years of community, compassion, and care — and many more to come!

Our ISC Churches News + Events

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)

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
- KIMS CREATIONS
- PAMPERED CHEF
- STAMPIN' UP
- AND MORE!



stpaulucc.org 618-233-3303 115 W. B. Street, Belleville, IL

FALL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 11, 2025
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CHRIST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
200 SOUTH 3RD STREET, DUPO IL



Crafters & Vendors Wanted - Table space \$20
For more information, please call 618-286-4211



Dine in: 11:00am-2:00pm
Carry-Out: 11:00am-1:30pm
Drive Thru: 11:11am-1:00pm

St John UCC Wurstmarkt
Sunday, September 28th
301 S Market St, New Athens, IL

Fresh Whole Hog Pork
Sausage, Sauerkraut,
Mashed Potatoes,
Gravy, Green Beans &
Dessert

Adults \$15
Kids 10 & Under \$7



WURSTMARKT DINNER & COUNTRY STORE: Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 12 Noon St. John UCC, 21 N. Walnut Street, Trenton, IL will have a Country Store with homemade applesauce, pork sausage and quilt raffle tickets for sale. Applesauce will be \$5 a pint and \$10 a quart, pork sausage will be \$5 for 1 pound, raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. On **Sunday, October 5, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM** we will have a drive-thru Wurstmarkt dinner of pork sausage, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, sauerkraut, green beans and pie. Price per dinner is \$15. Drive thru will have two lines - one through the alley and the other through the city parking lot. Follow signs for directions.

St. Paul Fine Arts
CONCERT SERIES

SHANNON GOMEZ

More than Wonderful

GARY HUMPHREY

In Concert

OCTOBER 5, 2025
3:00 PM

St. Paul UCC
200 N. Main St.
Waterloo, IL 62298
www.stpaulonline.org

Benefits go toward
St. Paul Fine Arts
Concert Series

Free Concert
A free-will offering
will be accepted.

TRINITY UCC BELLEVILLE

18TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR TRIVIA NIGHT

OCTOBER 11
AT 6:00 PM
(DOORS OPEN @ 5:15 PM)

COSTUME CONTEST FOR ADULTS & KIDS (NO FULL MASKS)

Proceeds benefit the Belleville Interfaith Food Pantry and Trinity UCC Wider Missions

BASKET RAFFLE! BRING A SPOOKY SNACK!

50/50 DRAWING!

WITH ADVANCE RESERVATIONS:
\$10 + 2 FOOD ITEMS / ADULT
\$5 + 2 FOOD ITEMS / CHILD

AT THE DOOR TICKETS:
\$15 + 2 FOOD ITEMS / ADULT
\$10 + 2 FOOD ITEMS / CHILD

47 NORTH DOUGLAS
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADVANCE RESERVATIONS, CONTACT DEBJOVAAG@AOL.COM

Evangelical UCC - Highland

ANNUAL SAUSAGE SUPPER

DRIVE-THRU ONLY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025
Noon-7pm
2520 Poplar St. Highland, IL

Meal Includes: Sausage(1lb), sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, and a dessert

\$14/Dinner
Cash, Check or Credit Cards Accepted

For questions call **618-654-7459**



Friedens UCC - Troy, IL

ANNUAL FALL SAUSAGE DINNER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025
11:30A-4:30P

-DRIVE THRU ONLY-

Dinners are \$15/plate

Menu Includes: Grilled Pork Sausage, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Sauerkraut, Green Beans, and a Dessert

Questions: 618-667-6535 friedens@friedensucc-troy.org

Friedens United Church of Christ
207 E. Center St, Troy, IL 62294



Click to submit your EVENTS + NEWS to the Weekly Connection

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

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

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](#)

