

October 14, 2025



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



61st ISC
Annual Meeting

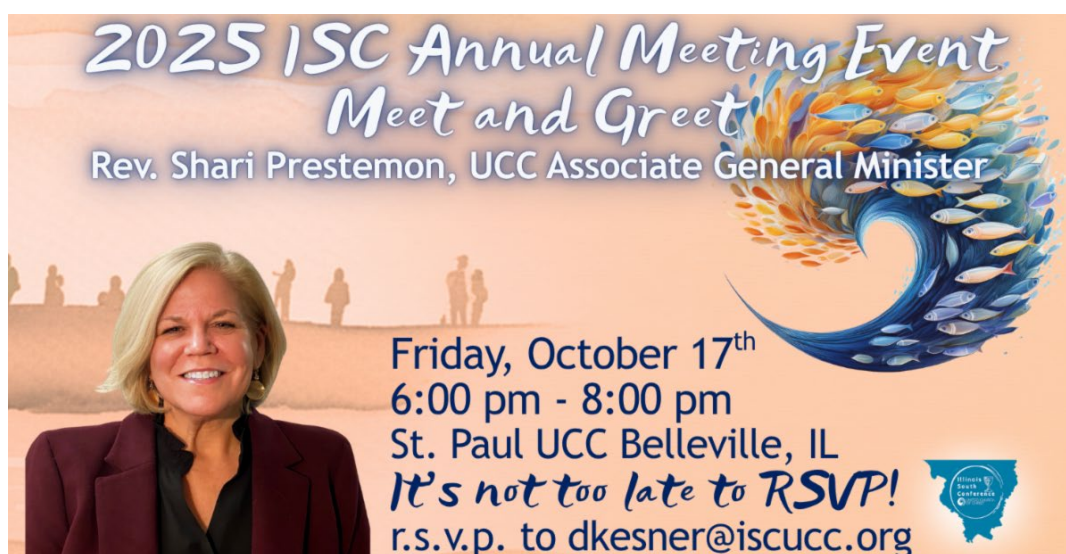
Saturday,
October 18, 2025

St. Paul UCC
Belleville, IL

Set your nets for the 2025 ISC Annual Meeting! We set sail on a fishing trip together with ISC friends and colleagues into new depths of discipleship to create unceasing waves that will ripple throughout our Church and beyond!

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

~Find Your Route [St. Paul UCC, 115 W B St, Belleville, IL 62220](#) and prepare to make some waves as we go *INTO THE DEEP*! See you there!



While registration has ended for this year's Annual Meeting, plan on attending the Friday Meet & Greet with Rev. Shari Prestemon from 6pm -8pm. Email dkesner@iscucc.org to RSVP.

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



St. Paul UCC, Belleville-
Host of our upcoming 2025
ISC Annual Meeting



Good Shepherd of Faith UCC, East St. Louis-
Pastor Norma Patterson

Retired Pastor-
Rev. Fred (Shirley) Wehrenberg

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

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.

UCC International, National, + Regional News



Rev. Tarrah Vaupel
(pastor at Holy Ghost
UCC Darmstadt and
Trinity UCC
Biddleborn) and her
family of 7 recently
lost their home to a
devastating fire. Her
congregation is
hosting a chili cook-off
among local churches
to benefit the family as
they navigate this
difficult journey.

Chili COOK-OFF

**BENEFIT FOR
REV. TARRAH VAUPEL FAMILY**

Location: Trinity United Church of Christ
5698 Biddleborn Rd., Biddleborn, IL

Date: Sunday, Oct. 19

Time: 11 - 3

Cost: Donations
All proceeds go to the Vaupel family

chili, desserts, bounce house, and more!

Is your church's confirmation class registered for Confirmation Retreat, yet? Friday - Saturday or Saturday Only options. Ensure that your confirmands join us for Team's Course, horseback riding, and discovering what it means to be "fearfully and wonderfully made".

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

If you have questions or to register, contact Jill Mayer- jill@stpaulonline.org.

Don't Wait! REGISTER CLOSES NOV 3rd!



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)

**VIRTUAL
TIX NOW
AVAILABLE**

REGISTER NOW

CONVERGENCE MUSIC PROJECT'S
CONVERGING 2025
OCTOBER 15-18 | COLUMBUS, OH

The Convergence Music Project

October 15-18, 2025

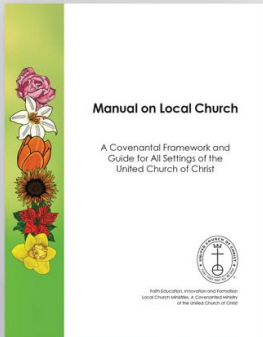
Convergence Music Project is about new music for a just and generous expression of Christianity.

It's getting close. Do you have your tickets yet? Join us in Columbus Oct. 15-18 or get a virtual ticket and join us online.

For more info on Speakers and Artists visit <https://www.cmpconverging.com>



On October 8th, a group of Godfrey Evangelical UCC church members delivered almost 800 pieces of bedding and \$2,150 in Lowe's gift cards to [Sleep In Heavenly Peace](#) totaling more than \$20,000. Our 175th anniversary project has been a rousing success and may be the largest donation ever made to SHP. It is a wonderful demonstration of our church's love for our community and for children. Amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!



**ORDER YOUR
MANUAL ON
LOCAL CHURCH
TODAY**

The Manual on Local Church

The Manual on Local Church is for all settings of the UCC to use, to fully live into their covenantal responsibilities and privileges under the Constitution of the United Church of Christ. It includes a three-part covenantal framework centering Local Churches; *Marks for Faithful and Vital Local Churches*, designed to affirm and expand your ministry; *Local Church Governance*, practical tools for building and sustaining healthy leadership; *Standing Support and Accountability*, processes for Associations and Conferences in covenant with Local Churches, resources for new and affiliating Local Churches and resources for recognizing Local Church standing. [Order HERE](#)



Cornerstone Funds partners with churches investing in Creation Care projects! Here's the latest on the Zion United Church of Christ of Marion project building a solar panel canopy above a section of their parking lot in order to help power the church.

Cornerstone FUND Clergy Investment Program

Clergy Term Note

18-months at 3.850%* interest
(Minimum \$200)

The Cornerstone Fund gives individuals and institutions the opportunity to not just earn interest on their investments, but also help churches and non-profits create change in their communities.

United Church of Christ clergy in good standing, as affirmed by the appropriate judicatory body, are eligible to invest in this note

More from the Cornerstone Fund!

Cornerstone Fund provides low cost, no-fee **loans** to churches and faith-based non-profits.

Our **investing** program offers an opportunity for individuals and organizations to take part in projects ranging from worship space renovations to transitional housing developments and everything in between.

When you invest with Cornerstone Fund, you are investing in **church vitality, antiracism, climate care, and more**

For more information or questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Courtney Stange-Tregear at cstange-tregear@cornerstonefund.org.



Disability Justice in Congregational contexts Third and final part of 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 16, 2025 02:30 pm Part III

Book Release Celebration

Featuring
Rev. Michael Malcom
&
abby mohaupt

2:00 PM ET / 11 AM PT NOVEMBER 12, 2025

Book Release Celebration: Climate Justice, Climate Hope Nov 12, 2025 01:00

PM The Reverends Michael Malcom and abby mohaupt have released a new book that acknowledges the stark horrors of climate change while building hope and moral-spiritual agency for a brighter future. Read more and register [HERE](#).

ISC Hunger Action Team - Facing Hunger in Your Community

St Paul UCC with House of Neighborly Services

Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE

Mission and Stewardship will once again be collecting food for the HNS Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive.

DRIVE THRU COLLECTION
NOVEMBER 8 from 10am-Noon

The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize **ST. PAUL, COLUMBIA** for their **THANKSGIVING MISSION PROJECT**.

St. Paul members are invited to donate nonperishable

Thanksgiving dinner items. They are partnering with the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service, who plan to share 250 "Blessing Baskets". Recipients are families in need from Waterloo, Columbia, Hecker, Valmeyer, and Prairie Du Rocher. **Nonperishable food and monetary gifts can be taken to St. Paul UCC at 127 St. Paul Street in Columbia.** Heartfelt thanks to St. Paul, under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. Jonathan, Bangera. Neighbors helping neighbors!

By 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.

2026 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Registration Opens November 24th
Early Bird Registration ends February 14th

	MAIN CAMP	RUSTIC
June 14-19	*Discovery (1 st - 3 rd) Settler (3 rd - 5 th) **Quest (1 st - 3 rd) Leadership in Training (11 th - 12 th)	Horse Play (5 th - 7 th) Outback (7 th - 9 th)
June 21-26	Settler (3 rd - 5 th) Art Explosion (5 th - 8 th) Base Camp (6 th - 8 th)	**Rustic Sampler (4 th - 6 th) Splash (5 th - 7 th) Saddle Em Up (7 th - 9 th)
June 28-30	Just You & Me (Ages 5-8 & adult) Main Camp Cabins & Hickory Lodge	
July 5-10	High School Week Drenched (9 th - 12 th) - Wrangler (9 th - 12 th) - X-Plore (9 th - 12 th) All camps are on Rustic	
July 12-17	*Discovery (1 st - 3 rd) Settler (3 rd - 5 th) **Quest (1 st - 3 rd)	Trekkin It (5 th - 7 th) Giddy Up (6 th - 8 th) Dunk'd (7 th - 9 th)
July 20-22	Just You & Me (Ages 5-8 & Adult) Main Camp Cabins & Hickory Lodge	
August 7-8	Rainbow Camp ALL Ages Welcome! Main Camp Cabins & Hickory Lodge	

The grade listed next to each camp is the grade campers have completed.
* Partial-week camp: Sunday-Tuesday / ** Partial-week camp: Wednesday-Friday

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT DUBOISCENTER.ORG

Our 2026 summer camps sneak peek schedule was released at Fall Festival!

Here it is in case you missed it.

Registration opens November 24th



Messy Church Family Retreat is November 21-22nd! Join us for interactive worship designed for every age and all types of families - plus some DuBois activities!

Check out the details and register at <https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats/>

Council for Health and Human Services Ministry News



Uni Pres Kindercottage Presents

CHICKEN DINNER

— Fundraiser Party —

NOVEMBER 2, 2025
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

TICKET COST
ADULTS: \$12.00
CHILDREN 12 & UNDER: \$6.00

EDWARDSVILLE MOOSE LODGE
7371 MARINE ROAD EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62025

Kindercottage Chicken Dinner

Please join us in fellowship and giving! Come together with us as we raise funds to support the mission and ministry of Uni Pres Kindercottage, serving children and families in East St. Louis. Your presence and generosity help us continue this vital work of love, learning, & community care. For more information, contact Ms. Aimee via email at aimee@unipreskindercottage.org or call (618)874-6505



It's the final week to snatch up your Glo Bingo tickets, and you definitely don't want to ghost this high-energy night! Join us for a fang-tastic time filled with spook-tacular prizes and glow-in-the-dark thrills. Grab your tickets before they vanish into thin air!

[Click Here for Tix](#)



Emmaus Homes Trunk or Treat Wednesday, October 22nd 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM at the Dutzow Deli (11861 MO-94, Marthasville, MO)

Decorated cars overflowing with treats and spooky surprises await your trick-or-treaters! Don't forget to bring your sweet tooth and spookiest costume as we transform The Dutzow Deli into a Halloween wonderland!

This is a FREE event and is open to all members of our community. So, gather your family and friends and make some unforgettable Halloween memories together.



JOIN US FOR **TAI CHI**



Join us for Tai Chi classes designed to support:

- Balance and mobility
- Improving relaxation
- Decreasing pain and falls

A suggested donation of \$6 is appreciated.

Start Date: October 16th, 2025

Classes run every Thursday | 9:00am

Atrium at St. John United Church of Christ
307 W Clay Street, Collinsville IL, 62234

Senior Services Plus | seniorservicesplus.org/wellness-center | 618-465-3298 ext. 109

PACK THE BUS FUNDRAISER!

HOLIDAY SHOPPING TRIP



DECEMBER 6, 2025, 9AM-5:30PM

Each \$100 ticket includes:

- morning snacks, coffee, mimosas, etc.
- stop at West County Mall 10am-1pm
- stop at the St Charles historic area 1:30pm - 4:30pm
- wine and snacks on the way home/an appeal for SJCC!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 618-344-5008!

PRIDE & PURPOSE

Join us for a service of love, hope, and justice



OCTOBER 26, 2025 5:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
214 W MAIN, CARBONDALE, IL

SPONSORED BY:

FIRST UNITED METHODIST	EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	THE WESLEY FOUNDATION
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD	FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL	ST. PETERS UCC

SFUMC will host a service on October 26th to celebrate Pride and Purpose in honor of LGBTQ History Month. Come hear Tesserae Chorus sing, a message from Jerry Anderson of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and an invitation to put YOUR purpose into action. You are welcome, loved, and wanted here. Sponsored in part by ISC churches-Church of the Good Shepherd Carbondale and St. Peter's UCC Murphysboro



307 W Clay St., Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-2526 - office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org
Serving the community for over 130 years.



Wednesday, October 15
11:00 am - 6:30 pm

St John UCC Wurstmarkt 2025 - Wednesday, October 15 11:am - 6:30pm

Click the image for full flyer!

Note date change

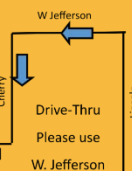
Wurstmarkt

Dine-In Carry-Out Drive-Thru

Thursday, October 16, 2025

crafts
12-7:30

3:30-7 pm



Adult Ticket \$15

Child Ticket \$8

O'Fallon United Church of Christ

206 West Adams St., O'Fallon, IL 62269
(618) 632-3496 www.ofallonucc.org



BBQ Zion United Church of Christ - St. Joe Waterloo- Rural King Parking Lot, 740 N Market St, Waterloo, IL 62298

Featuring Pork Steaks, Brats, Hamburgers and Hot Dogs

Saturday 10/18/2025 10:00 AM - 3 PM OR sold out

33RD ANNUAL WURSTMARKT

Dine-In is Back! Come in
or swing through the
Drive-Thru!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER
19TH 11A.M.-3P.M.



Pork Sausage, sauerkraut, real mashed
potatoes, apple sauce, green beans, &
choice of dessert (gluten-free and
sugar-free options)

ALL MEALS \$15

ST. PAUL UCC,
123 E DEE ST, LEBANON, IL 62254
(618) 537-4991

ST. PAUL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Columbia, IL

Shrimp Boil Fundraiser

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19
DOORS OPEN
AT 5:00PM

JOIN US FOR A SHRIMP BOIL!
PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR
BACK BAY MISSION TRIP.

Shrimp Boil to support St. Paul UCC Columbia's Back Bay Mission trip.
Sunday, October 19th. \$25/Adult \$18/Child Cash or Check. Email
us office@stpaulcolumbia.org to RSVP so we can plan accordingly. Thank you for
supporting our mission trip! Click [HERE](#) for flyer.

ST JOHN UCC
EXTENDING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

INVITES YOU TO THE
RETIREMENT
+ Celebration +
HONORING
Dana Callahan

**Dana Callahan Retirement Celebration Saturday,
November 2nd at 9:30am** with a Special
"Walk by Faith" Worship -10:30am Fellowship in Faith Hall.
St. John UCC, 307 W. Clay St, Collinsville, IL 62234 Dana's
Ministries include: Faith Walking, Homework Help and
Hoops, S.O.S. Soup Kitchen, and more! Click [HERE](#) for full
flyer

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](#)

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](#)

