



61st ISC Annual Meeting

**Saturday,
October 18, 2025**

**St. Paul UCC
Belleville, IL**

"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

Setting Sail for Discipleship

We hoisted our sails and cast our nets on an enriching fishing trip with our ISC friends and colleagues, diving into new depths of discipleship to generate unceasing waves that will ripple throughout our Church and beyond! We are immensely grateful to St. Paul UCC in Belleville for their generous hospitality; to our keynote speaker, Rev. Shari Prestemon; to the presenters, MarketPlace vendors, musicians, tech booth staff, planning and decorating teams, tech crew, and everyone who participated, both in person and in spirit!
A heartfelt thank you to ALL!



Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



St. Paul UCC, Edwardsville-

Rev. Dana (David) Schindler



St. John UCC, Evansville

Retired Pastor-

Rev. Michael (Mary Ann) Krewson

[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 Global, National, + Regional News





OCTOBER 19-24, 2025
CONGO WEEK 2025



Congo Week

Theme: "Lift Every Voice"

Congo Week is October 19-24, 2025 and is a time to shine a light on the ongoing impact of conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and to rally support for its people. As members of the Body of Christ, we join in solidarity with our siblings in the DRC who continue to face injustice, exploitation, and environmental harm. Together, we commit to breaking the silence, promoting justice, defending the vulnerable, caring for creation, and standing alongside the Congolese people. [More](#)



The chili cook-off was a hit! Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Vaupel family, thank you to everyone who sent donations, and thank you to Braeutigam Orchards for donating the pumpkins!



Love of Neighbor

The [Love of Neighbor Ministry](#) (LON) encourages and supports local churches, Associations, Conferences, and the national expressions of the United Church of Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church and to support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. LON assists the Church in all its expressions, provides support for the Church's ministry of service, and provides public witness on behalf of the policies and resolutions of the General Synod.

[Global Ministries](#) is the shared world mission board of the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Established in 1996, it represents a step toward the Christian unity we proclaim through global partnerships, the presence of mission co-workers, insightful

perspectives on the world, advocacy for justice, and prayers for peace.

- [Worship Resources](#)
- [Child and Elder Sponsorship](#)
- [Weekly Prayers](#)
- [Mission Co-workers](#)
- [People to People Pilgrimages](#)
- [Global Justice and Advocacy](#)
- [Partner Relations](#)

Global H.O.P.E. encompasses the domestic and international humanitarian ministries of the United Church of Christ and distributes One Great Hour of Sharing offerings.

- [Disaster Response and Recovery](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Refugee and Migration Ministries](#)

[Volunteer Ministries](#) offers a variety of service opportunities for groups and individuals across the U.S.A. Our historic programs connect individuals with vibrant opportunities to learn, serve, and grow in faith.

The Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C. offers leadership for social action concerns in the UCC and provides resources to the national, conference and local churches. We work to identify, analyze and forecast emerging social issues and legislation which call for the attention of the denomination.

- [Justice and Peace Action Network](#)
- [Understanding the Issues](#)
- [Justice Training Resources](#)
- [Our Faith Our Vote](#)

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! [Registration 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)

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
CONFERENCE

NURTURE THE SOUL

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 PM ET

NURTURE
THE SOUL

LET THE CHILDREN COME

Thursday, October 23rd | 3:30 PM Eastern

Let the Children Come Oct 23, 2025 02:30 PM

Through the Love of Children program we are exploring ways to create spaces where children are welcomed and embraced to come as they truly are. One of the most important places children gather is during worship/Sunday morning. Three of our current Love of Children cohort members will share experiences and best practices on how to create safe and welcoming spaces for children in the local church and beyond. [Learn and Register](#)

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](#)



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize ZION UCC, NEW BADEN for their continued support of local families in need. Zion members are invited to help restock the shelves of their food pantry. Priority items are canned goods, cereal, pasta, peanut butter and other staples. Cash donations or checks payable to ZION UCC are especially appreciated. Non perishable food and monetary gifts can be taken to [414 W. Hanover Street, New Baden](https://www.zionucc.org/) 62266. For more information, please call the church office at 618 - 588 - 4135. Heartfelt thanks to Zion, for helping their neighbors in need - under the the leadership of pastor and teacher - Rev. Stephen

Stark. 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.](#)

News from DuBois Center



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) <i>Leadership in Training (11th - 12th)</i>	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) <i>Main Camp Cabins & Hickory Lodge</i>	
July 5-10	High School Week Drenched (9 th - 12 th) - Wrangler (9 th - 12 th) - X-Plore (9 th - 12 th) <i>All camps are on Rustic</i>	
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) <i>Main Camp Cabins & Hickory Lodge</i>	
August 7-8	Rainbow Camp ALL Ages Welcome! <i>Main Camp Cabins & Hickory Lodge</i>	

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 CAMP SNEAK PEEK SCHEDULE
WAS RELEASED AT FALL FESTIVAL!

HERE IT IS IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 24TH.



Merry 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/>



Hoyleton Youth & Family Services (HYFS) is thrilled to announce it has received a transformative \$60,000 grant from The Maschhoffs Impact to fully fund the creation of an All-Abilities Playground — a first-of-its-kind inclusive play space designed for children of every ability. The playground, to be located on HYFS's therapeutic residential campus, will provide a safe, welcoming environment where all children — regardless of physical or developmental challenges — can play, explore, and thrive together. "This project perfectly embodies our mission to make lasting contributions in the communities we call home," said Danielle Solis, Chair of The Maschhoffs Impact. "We're proud to partner with Hoyleton Youth & Family Services in creating a space that will bring joy and inclusion for generations to

come." Meghan Seipp, Director of Philanthropy at HYFS, expressed gratitude for the gift: "The Maschhoffs Impact has made our vision a reality. This playground will ensure every child in our care has a place where they can enjoy being a child while feeling accepted, included, and celebrated." The All-Abilities Playground represents a milestone in HYFS's ongoing mission to empower youth and families to experience wholeness of life. By providing inclusive, developmentally focused care, HYFS continues to expand opportunities for children in the child welfare system to grow and heal in supportive, community-centered environments.



Emmaus Homes Trunk or Treat Wednesday, October 22nd 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM at the Dutzow Deli ([11861 MO-94, Marthasville, MO](https://www.google.com/maps/place/11861+MO-94,+Marthasville,+MO+65357/@37.458,93.858,15z))

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.

**National Drug Take Back Day**

Bring any unused or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications to dispose of them properly.

Bring any unused or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications to dispose of them properly.

Doehring's Pharmacy
143 S Washington St,
Nashville, IL 62263

October 25, 2025
9am to 1pm



Scan here to learn more, donate, or get involved!

This community event provides the public with a safe and convenient way to dispose of unused or expired prescription medications. Both prescription and over-the-counter medications will be accepted. Participants may bring medications in their original containers, and labels do not need to be removed. Medications not in original packaging will also be accepted.

The take-back event is part of ongoing youth substance use prevention efforts led by Hoyleton Youth and Family Services and the Healthy Communities Alliance in Washington and Clinton counties. These

efforts aim to educate young adults, parents, and older community members about the dangers of prescription drug misuse and the importance of proper medication storage and disposal.

For more information about other Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, visit www.hoyleton.org and for more information about Drug Take Back Day, please visit www.dea.gov/takebackday

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



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

Grantfork United Church of Christ
55th Annual
SAUSAGE SUPPER
Saturday, November 8, 2025
Serving From 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
[Full Flyer](#)



Salem UCC Exhale
Haunted House
October 24th - 26th

All Ages Welcome!
Friday & Saturday: 7pm-11pm
Sunday: 7pm-10pm
\$5 Admission

Madison County Fairgrounds
4H Barn
Highland, Illinois

Proceeds go towards Exhale Youth Group Mission Trips



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](#)

[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](#) [CHSM](#)

[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](#)

