

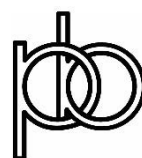
November 11, 2025



Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



St. Paul's UCC, Freeburg-
Rev. Dr. Andrew (Brenda) Lovins



The Pension Boards
United Church of Christ, Inc.
WHERE FAITH AND FINANCE INTERSECT

Pension Board-UCC National Staff-
Rev. Krista Betz

Retired Pastor-
Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr.

John Mier, spouse of retired ISC Minister Joan Mier, had his 2nd knee replacement surgery. Requesting healing prayers for a speedy recovery.

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

UCC Global, National, + Regional News



[St. Paul UCC Waterloo Installation Service 11/9/25 YouTube Video](#)



Peace UCC in Jerseyville Reopening

On Sunday, November 9, members and friends of Peace UCC, Jerseyville, gathered in their newly renovated building for worship, laughter, fellowship, and gratitude for the journey they have been on. On the evening of Saturday, April 13th, 2024, their church caught on fire, destroying the kitchen, fellowship hall, and offices, and leaving the sanctuary damaged by the smoke and water. Under the direction of their office administrator, Harlan Simpson, and their pastor, Rev. Dr. Deborah Lawson, the projects for complete restoration are now complete.

**Caught in the nets
cast at the
ISC Annual Meeting**

*Keep the
waves rolling—*

[VIEW the celebration video here](#)



ISC
PRIDE

Meetings:
3rd Sunday of
Each Month
Via Zoom @
7pm

**PROUD
to be ME!**

"Faith in Full Color"
Organizational Meeting
November 16, 2025
7pm

ISC Pride Coordinator:
Rev. Tim Powers-Reed
636.248.6468
illinitchr@gmail.com

Faith in Full Color

The Illinois South Conference is reigniting ISC Pride, a space where every color of God's creation belongs. Join us for the organizational meeting on November 16, 2025, at 7 pm via Zoom as we dream together about what this ministry can become.

Meetings are held the third Sunday of each month at 7 pm on zoom.

For more information and to get the zoom link, contact Rev. Tim Powers-Reed at illinitchr@gmail.com or 636.248.6468.

Let us build a faith community that celebrates every shade of sacred.



Advocacy Tips and Resources

In responding faithfully to God's call for abundant life for all people, a common life in which no one is left behind, we are drawn inevitably to engage in public policy advocacy.

Whether you're new to advocacy or looking to refine your approach, this guide offers practical tools and strategies to help you make your voice heard. <https://www.ucc.org/advocacy-101-resources/>



Church World Services Hurricane Response

Thousands of kits are on their way to Jamaica. Thanks to your support and close collaboration with our local partner LIFT Non-Profit Logistics, we are actively responding to the devastating Hurricane Melissa.

Your continued support is crucial in helping us prepare for and respond to disasters before, during, and after they occur. The Emergency Response Fund allows us to quickly respond to emergencies as soon as they occur. By standing with CWS, you can remind our neighbors on the journey from response to recovery to thriving, they are never alone.

Donate today: <https://bit.ly/4iD6jWa>

Click on the image below to plan a CWS Kit Party

You Bring the Love-We'll Bring the Rest

Looking for a fun, meaningful way to give back?

CWS Kits Party Packs make it easy to help your neighbors in need—no shopping lists, no guesswork, just love in action.

How It Works – As Easy as 1-2-3!

1

Choose Your Kits

Select the type(s) of kits you'd like to assemble:

2

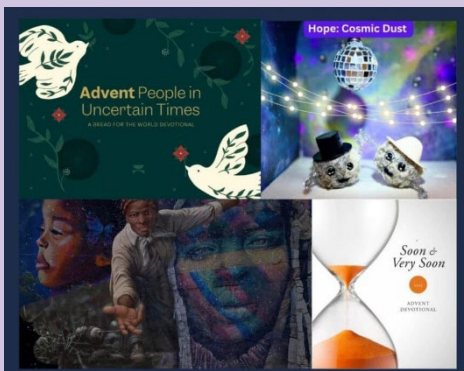
Receive Your Supplies

We'll ship you a ready-to-go box with everything you need:

3

Gather Your Group & Get

Packing!



Advent 2025 resources offer paths for 'awaking and preparing, expecting and dreaming' by [Kayla Berkey](#) | published on Nov 4, 2025

As the 2025 Advent season nears, new United Church of Christ resources invite people to engage with past prophets, abolitionists, and wisdom in order to make a way forward – carrying hope and expectation through difficult times....[read on](#)



"For when I was hungry, you gave me food. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."
--Matthew 25: 35, 40

St. Paul UCC Waterloo is filling their sanctuary with Thanksgiving Blessings Bags to donate to the House of Neighborly Service, helping the people in their community be nourished through a Thanksgiving meal.



Eden' Leadin: Meet the Six-Fingered Pianist

11/06/2025 | **Eden Theological Seminary** Singer-Songwriter. Arranger. Ordained Minister in the United Church of Christ. Working for Disability Justice. Rev. Jacob Nault, known to some as "The Six-Fingered Pianist", has leveraged his disability, his talent as a musician, and his Eden education to become an advocate for social justice locally and nationally, practicing liberation theology across issues

and in unlikely places. [More on Rev. Jacob's Journey](#)



Start Your Degree in January 2026

Have you been considering a Master's program, Doctor of Ministry, or a graduate certificate? You can start your program in January 2026! Learn more and talk to an admissions officer about your options today! [Learn More](#)



Climate Hope Affiliates 101 Webinars

Thursday, November 13th or Wednesday, November 19th 1:00PM Central In a time when many feel powerless to make a difference, Climate Hope Affiliates is a new faith-rooted initiative that is launching chapters across the country to dissolve feelings of powerlessness in addressing the interconnected crises of climate change and societal injustice. With a proven strategy for affecting change, Climate Hope Affiliates supports its members in developing ongoing relationships with members of Congress, the local media,

and the broader community. The immediate focus of the affiliates is to prevent the dismantling and defunding of the EPA. The Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, who serves as the Director of Climate Hope Affiliates and the UCC's Minister of Environmental Justice, will provide an introduction to Climate Hope Affiliates and respond to questions. [Register](#)



Future of Faith: Resisting Overwhelm in Tumultuous Times

Nov 17, 2025 02:30 PM Central

Concerned about clergy burnout, Rev. Nicolette developed a boundary training called "Centered Preaching in Tumultuous Times" that she taught for the first time in May 2025. Many are drawn to the UCC because of our passion for social justice. However, pastors who feel called to address the relevant issues of the day are being overwhelmed by unending waves of newsworthy events. Join us for a conversation with Rev. Nicolette as we talk about the joys and challenges of preaching in this time...[Learn and Register](#)



Global Ministries

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
and the United Church of Christ

Job Opening: Global Engagement and Logistics Manager Global Ministries is seeking a dynamic and detail-oriented Global Engagement and Logistics Manager to oversee the administration of the People-to-People Pilgrimage program, coordinate interpretation for staff, mission co-workers, and international partners throughout the life of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ and provide logistical support for organizational events. [Download job description](#)



SAVE THIS DATE!

Saturday, March 21st, 26

ISC DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

St. John UCC, Mascoutah



ISC Hunger Action Team - Facing Hunger in Your Community



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize ZION UCC-ST. JOE, Waterloo for their continued support of local families in need. Zion members are invited to donate nonperishable Thanksgiving dinner items and cash donations. The Zion Youth Group is partnering with the Monroe County House of Neighborly Service, who plan to share 250 "Blessing Baskets" this year. Recipients are families in need from Waterloo, Columbia, Hecker, Valmeyer, and Prairie Du Rocher. Nonperishable food and monetary gifts can be taken to Zion UCC - [4202 Kaskaskia Road, Waterloo, 62298](#). Heartfelt thanks to the Zion Youth Group, serving others as stewards of

God's Grace. Under the leadership of pastors and teachers, Rev. Patrick Poole and Pastor Tim Burns. Neighbors helping neighbors. Such a blessing!

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



We have ONLINE MERCH!!!

Just in time for the holidays, you can spoil everyone with exclusive DBC merch! Shirts & Hoodies available now--including our OG iconic retro design! Get yours today at <https://www.bonfire.com/store/dubois-center-merch/>



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



Summer Camp Registration opens in just 2 weeks!

Do you know which week works best for your schedule? Do you know what session your camper wants to do? Are you READY?!

<https://duboiscenter.org/summer-camps/>

DuBois Center Spring Events

Join us at one of our spring events or retreats!
Registration opens January 1st, 2026

MARCH 7 Service Saturday
Everyone is invited to lend a helping hand as we prepare our facilities for the spring season. We'll provide lunch;
RSVP at duboiscenter.org/support-dubois/work-days/

MARCH 13-15 Women's Retreat
Get the girls together or come on your own and make new friends! This retreat is all about relaxation and self-reflection! Choose a short getaway (Fri-Sat) or a longer stay (Fri-Sun).

APRIL 11 Father-Daughter Day
Dads and Daughters - spend the day at DuBois Center! Enjoy camp fun - one on one: brunch, horses, crafts, canoeing and worship!

APRIL 24-26 Father-Son Retreat
Join us for our annual Father-Son Retreat. Boating, horses, archery, fishing, games and plenty of guy time! Fathers, sons, grandfathers, uncles, nephews are welcome!

MAY 9 Ride Day
Sign up for a ride time that fits your schedule best!
10:30 am: Arena Ride for ages 3-7 with parent walking alongside. \$18 per child.
1:00, 2:30, 4:00: Trail Ride for ages 8+. \$30 per rider.

MAY 9 Service Saturday
Everyone is invited to lend a helping hand as we prepare our facilities for the summer season. We'll provide lunch; please RSVP at duboiscenter.org/support-dubois/work-days/

For information or to register,
visit duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats.

NOTE: RETREATS MAY BE CANCELLED IF FEWER THAN 15 PEOPLE REGISTER.

2026 DuBois Center
Spring Event offerings
announced so you can start
your planning!!

[Info and Register](https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats)



Excitement for The Gathering: Many Gifts, One Spirit is building as a plethora of workshops are formulated for attendees. Thirty-five workshops will take place across the three days, including eight presenters CHHSM participants will find familiar. In addition, some of the 35 workshops will be led by staff from all five health and human service organizations. [ABOUT THE GATHERING](#)

Uni Pres Kindercottage News

Fall into Creativity

Our UPK classrooms were bursting with color as the children created festive fall crafts! Using leaves, pumpkins, and plenty of imagination, they turned simple materials into beautiful seasonal art. Every gluey finger and proud smile showed just how much fun they had expressing their creativity this autumn.



Holiday Gift Giving for UPK



Holiday Gift Giving for Uni Pres Kindercottage

If you are able to bring some joy to the children this holiday season, here is how you can give:

Email Aimee Hart at aimee@unipres-kindercottage.org or text at 618-799-1417. The deadline to donate is December 12th if you request for us to shop for the children. If you purchase the gifts, the deadline to deliver the gifts is December 18th. **We have double the numbers we had last year of children we are serving so, please, give if you can so the children most in need will feel the joy of Christmas.**





Help make the holidays bright for a youth in care
Get involved today

Hoyleton's Hope for the Holidays has begun!

Each year, our community comes together to bring light, love, and hope to youth in foster care and families in need. Through Hoyleton's Hope for the Holidays, you can help make the season brighter — by donating, sponsoring a wish list, or simply sharing this message of hope. Together, we can ensure every child feels valued, supported, and celebrated this holiday season. Learn how you can get involved. <https://linktr.ee/hyfshopefortheholidays>



CELEBRATING
NATIONAL
CAREGIVERS MONTH

ST. JOHN'S
COMMUNITY CARE

Caregivers are the quiet heroes in so many families, giving their time, energy, and love every single day.

This November, during National Family Caregivers Month, we honor YOU. Whether you are caring for a parent, spouse, sibling, or friend, your strength makes all the difference.

But remember, you don't have to carry it all alone. Our Caregiver Support Program is here to support you with resources, encouragement, and community.

Learn more: www.stjohnscc.org/caregiver-support/

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!

ISC Region 2
FAMILY BUNCO NIGHT!
to benefit DuBois Center
Friday, November 21
Zoar UCC, New Hanover

Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.
Play Begins at 7:00 p.m.

\$10 per person

Snacks & beverages available
Silent Auction & Attendance Prizes
Questions? Contact Nancy Prather at
618-973-8559 or prthr73@yahoo.com.

9103 D Road • Columbia, IL • 618-939-8479

**NEW BADEN
FESTIVAL OF TREES**

GENERAL ADMISSION \$5
NOVEMBER 20-21 4-8 PM NOVEMBER 22 9-3

NOVEMBER 20 SANTA'S WORKSHOP
6-8 PM \$10 CREATE A CRAFT OR PAINT A CANVAS
BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS

NOVEMBER 21 KID'S MOVIE
6:30-8:30 PM. \$12 EACH RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED MOVIE,
CRAFT AND SNACKS PROVIDED

NOVEMBER 21 WINE WONDERLAND
7-9 PM \$25 WINE TASTING & HORS D'OEUVRES
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

NOVEMBER 22 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
8-9:30 \$10 EACH INCLUDES BREAKFAST, GAMES, CRAFT,
TREAT BAG & VISIT THE FOREST

NOVEMBER 22 SANTA'S VENDOR FAIR
9AM-3PM. \$5 ADMISSION TO SEE TREES AND 30+ VENDORS
LUNCH MENU AVAILABLE

317 E. MAPLE STREET, NEW BADEN, IL (ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CENTER)

You are invited to attend the
13th Annual EVUCC 2025
Community Thanksgiving Dinner



Come join the feast and giving of thanks...

Sunday, November 23rd 4 - 5:30pm

Come join the feast and giving of thanks - All are welcome
RSVP before 11/17 by calling 618-654-7459



Get in the Christmas spirit and join us for our annual Christkindlmarkt on Sunday, December 7th 11:00am - 4:00pm.

St. John UCC, 1301 Franklin St, Maestown, 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](#)

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](#)

