

February 10, 2026



Reflections From Our Conference Minister

A Prayer based on Matthew 17:1-11

O Holy One,
how we long for Your glorious light
to break through the shadows of these days.
When fear dims our vision and despair fractures our hearts,
remind us again that Your radiant presence has not faded,
that Your power still shines boldly, beautifully, and without restraint.

Yet we confess how often we retreat.
Like Peter, we want to build shelters of safety,
to linger in comfort,
to preserve moments of peace rather than risk obedience.

We cling to the illusion
that harm done to one is not harm done to all,
that discipleship can exist without cost,
and that following you can be done with complete surrender.

Your glory surrounds us,
and still we mistake it for our own.
But Your voice cuts through our fragile fantasies and calls us back to truth,
"This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

Listen to him.

These words awaken something ancient within us,
a holy remembering of who we were created to be, and why we are here.

And when fear rises,
when anxieties threaten to overtake us,
Jesus, you steady us.
You embolden us.
You speak the words our souls need to hear again,
"Get up. Do not be afraid."

O Holy One,
though it is easier to stay,
easier to avoid the valleys where destruction and death cast long shadows,
let Your voice draw us forward.

Let Your light go before us, clearing the way.

So, Jesus, shine on us.
Jesus, shine in us.

Let the glory we glimpse on the mountain
become the courage we carry into the valley.

Let Your grace fuel our obedience.



Let Your love blaze through our lives,
igniting paths of hope, healing, and renewal in a weary world.

O Holy One, we hear You calling.
Teach us to listen.
Strengthen us to rise.
Send us out, not by our own light, but by Yours alone.
May it be so, in Your holy name.
Amen.

-Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



Zoar UCC, New Hanover-
Rev. R.J. Morgan



O'Fallon UCC, O'Fallon-
Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer

Rev. Lisa Hart- prayers for
a swift and complete recovery
following recent knee surgery.

Rosemary Oglesby- healing
blessings for continued progress
in recovering from knee surgery.

Retired Pastor- Rev. Earl (Rev. Pamela
Smith) Menchhofer

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

UCC Global, National, + Regional News



Please join us as we celebrate the

INSTALLATION SERVICE OF

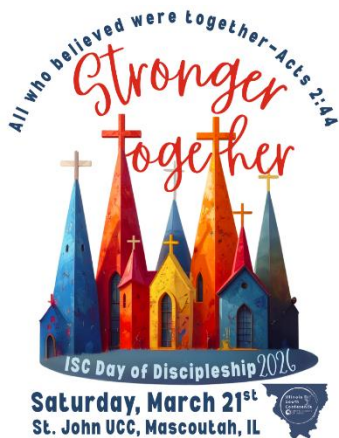
Rev. Debby Harness

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND @ 3PM

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST | 303 S. SMITH STREET | SMITHTON, ILLINOIS 62285

Light reception immediately following.





STRONGER TOGETHER

All who believed were together and had all things in common

-Acts 2:44

Drawing inspiration from Acts 2, this year's Day of Discipleship serves as a profound reminder that, as disciples of faith, we are Stronger Together through sharing our distinctive talents, worshiping collectively, engaging in prayer and fellowship, song and Word. Workshop offerings will encompass a variety of areas, including worship, programming, leadership, and outreach. This shared journey in faith and community illustrates the remarkable power of unity and underscores how each of us contributes to uplift the Church.

Saturday, March 21, 2026
St. John UCC, Mascoutah

Don't wait to get registered! Register online via the QR Code, by clicking [HERE](#), or by completing and forwarding this fillable and printable [REGISTRATION FORM](#).
 Registration will close Friday, March 6th.



Schedule-

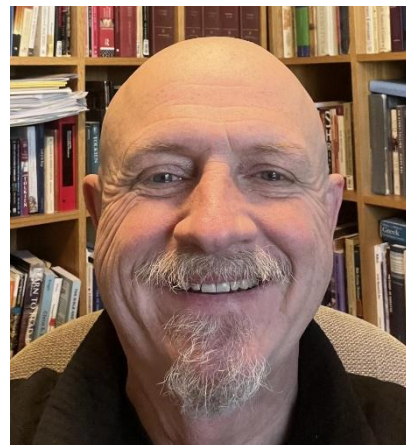
8:00 am to 8:45 am Check-in and Continental (light) breakfast
 9:00 am to 9:15 am Opening Devotion
 9:15 am to 9:45 am Introduction of Workshop Leaders and Workshops
 -Break-
 10:00 am to 11:00 am Worship with Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore
 11:00 am to Noon Lunch
 Noon to 12:45 pm Workshops
 12:45 pm to 1:00 pm Gathering Back in the Sanctuary for Closing Time

Workshop Offerings-

- Strengthening Local Church Governance and Communication Practices
 Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore, Senior Pastor, Webster Groves Christian Church
- Strengthening Youth Programming
 Dr. Jill Mayer, Director of Christian Education and Faith Formation, and Andy Mayer, Youth Leader, St. Paul UCC, Waterloo
- Strengthening Outreach Through Community-Based Programs
 Rev. Jennifer Sowell, Senior Pastor, and Amanda Voegelé, HHH Director, St. John UCC, Collinsville
- Strengthening Praise and Worship Through Contemporary Music
 Evan Bosaw, Musical Director and Praise Band Leader, Friedens UCC, Troy
- Strengthening Creative Worship Through Liturgy and Poetry
 Rev. Tim Powers-Reed, Pastor, and Eileen Hoag, Lay Leader, Trinity UCC, Belleville

Meet our Day of Discipleship Keynote Speaker - Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore

An ordained United Church of Christ Minister with partner status in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Jeff has been pastor of Webster Groves Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since March of 2008. Jeff has a Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Leadership from Aurora University, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Eden Theological Seminary, and a PhD from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. His Doctor of Ministry work focused on the question of "Christian Connectedness," and explored this from biblical and liberation standpoints in conversation with the poetry of Guatemalan poet and theologian, Julia Esquivel. Jeff's PhD dissertation focused on Theological Education in the Lesotho Evangelical Church as it relates to the church's vision and commitment to "abundant life" (John 10:10), and presents a descriptive study following a three-year program of ethnographic and theological research in Lesotho, southern Africa. [Read full bio at iscucc.org](#)





Rev. Jennifer Sowell nominated to serve as next Associate General Minister, Love of Church by [Charles Jefferson, Jr.](#) | published on Feb 9, 2026

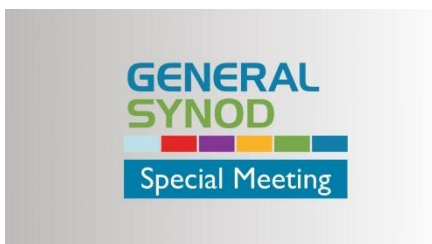
The Rev. Jennifer Sowell, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with more than two decades of pastoral leadership experience, has been nominated to serve a full term as the next Associate General Minister, Love of Church. If confirmed by the General Synod of the UCC, Sowell would fill a role that has been vacant since the [December 2023 departure of the Rev. Traci Blackmon](#).

The search committee was relaunched right after the conclusion of General Synod 35, [when the original search committee, which began its work in August 2024 came](#)

[up short in identifying a candidate](#). The search committee unanimously voted to choose Sowell as their nominee. The United Church of Christ Board, at a special meeting on January 12, 2026, voted to nominate her for election by the General Synod. The next step is a special meeting of the General Synod in May.

Sowell, who currently serves as senior pastor of [St. John United Church of Christ in Collinsville, IL](#) says this call to serve the national church is deeply personal.

"I still believe the church is the first place of resistance to and healing from the brokenness of our world," Sowell said. "It is where we celebrate the rainbow of God's diversity, repent when we fall short, and offer real healing to those who have been rejected. A thriving church can transform both lives and communities." [Read](#)



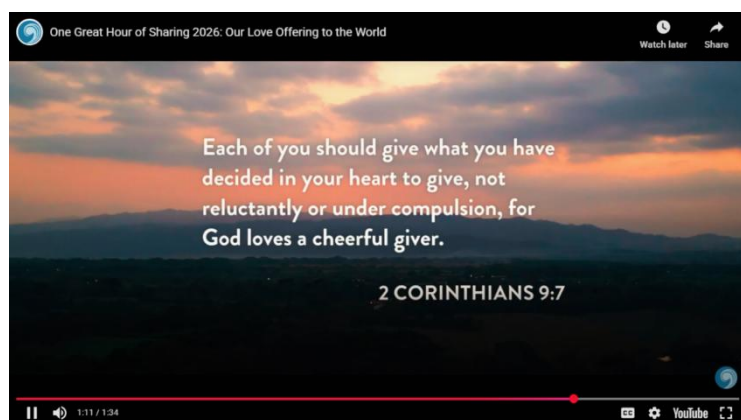
Special Meeting of General Synod 35 to take place in May by [Kayla Berkey](#) | published on Feb 10, 2026

To accompany [the announcement of a candidate for Associate General Minister for Love of Church](#), the United Church of Christ General Synod 35 has been called for a Special Meeting.

The meeting is planned as a virtual gathering on May 9, 6-9:00 p.m. ET. Delegates to the Special Meeting will be the same delegates who served at the regular General Synod meeting in 2025.

"This will be the first time a special General Synod was called for decision-making purposes," said General Minister and President/CEO, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson. "To be able to bring the General Synod back together for this important decision in the life of the church, affords the church to live into the governing documents and allows the wider church to elect and affirm the ministry of the AGM."

The search committee has presented the Rev. Jennifer Sowell, who currently serves as senior pastor of [St. John UCC in Collinsville, Illinois](#), as the candidate. [Read](#)



**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

[Click to watch One Great Hour of Sharing \(OGHS\) video](#)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

2026 Suggested Offering Date: March 15th

[Order Print Resources](#)

[Download Leader's Guide](#)

[Download Resource Bundle](#)



Upcoming Boundary Training for Active or Retired Authorized UCC Ministers

~Next class- March 3rd and 4th~

Click [HERE](#) to view a listing of dates, times and registration links.

Join us for the
43rd Annual
Hoyleton Honors

130 YEARS:
A Legacy of Care

FEBRUARY
27
2026

REGENCY CONFERENCE
CENTER BALLROOM
400 Regency Park
O'Fallon, IL 62269

*Please join us in celebration
of our legacy and the future.*

6:00PM- Cocktail Reception
7:00PM- Dinner, Program, and Auction
9:00PM- Music and Dancing

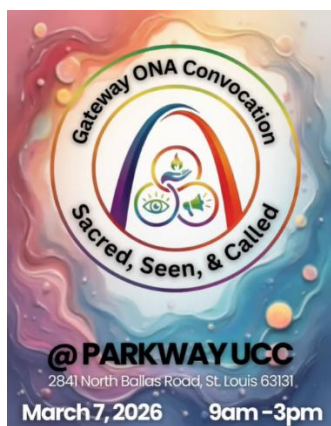
Honorees

Mission Champion Salem United Church of Christ of Alhambra
Community Partnership Computype
Community Impact The Maschhoffs
Hoyleton Enthusiast Donna Davis
Empowerment Champion Tom Benedick

Purchase tickets at
hoyleton.org/events

Contact us at philanthropy@hoyleton.org or
618-688-4742


Hoyleton Youth & Family Services



Gateway ONA Annual Convocation Saturday, March 7, 2026

Doors open at 8:00 AM and light breakfast food available; Worship will begin at 9:00 AM.
Ending at 3:00 PM

Place: Parkway UCC on Ballas Road, St. Louis, MO

Theme: "ONA: Sacred, Seen, and Called"

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Derek Terry, Interim Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ

[2025 General Synod - Derek Terry Full Speech](#)

Workshops for 2026

Gender Inclusivity; Leader: Jordan Braxton (she/her/hers)

ONA 101 The ONA Process; Leader: Barb Biedenstien (she/her/hers)

The Sacred Honor of Parenting our Trans Kids; Leaders: Lisa Brennan (she/her), Kyle Friels (he/him), Rene Friels (she/her), Karen Rudolph (she/her), Nancy Slusarski (she/her)

Trans in StL - My Experience; Leader: Krissy Avis-Rouse (they/them/she/her)

ONA 201 Living into Your ONA Covenant; Leaders: Rev. Richard Oberle (he/him) and Ashley Ramirez (she/they)

Legislative Issues; Leaders: Katy Erker-Lynch (she/they) & Atem Richardson (they/them)

The Wide Wonderful World of Advocacy: Be Not Afraid; Leader: Jeanette Mott Oxford (ze/zir/zirs)

Purple Sundays A Unique Way to Support Brain Health and Connection; Leader: Sarah Lovegreen (she/her)

Finding My Place; Leader: Beth Boemler (she/her)

Seeds for the Resistance?; Leader: Rev. Monty Jackson (he/him)

Joy at the Crossroads: Intersectionality, Faith, and Resistance; Leader: Rev. Derek Terry (he/him)

Biblical "Clobber" Texts: Leader: Rev. Dr. Deb Krause (she/her)

Rejecting the Christian Nationalist Homophobic Bible and Reclaiming the Heart of Our Faith; Leader: Rev. Dr. Deb Krause (she/her)

Having Difficult Conversations; Leader: Rev. LaVetta J. Ross (she/her)

The Eden Seminary Bookstore will again be on site with lots of resources.

Registration Link: <https://www.zeffy.com/.../open-and-affirming-annual...>

Any questions, contact Lorin Cope at buckeyeohio@hotmail.com or 314-772-4772



ISC Pride Update

ISC Pride continues to build momentum—and we're still actively inviting new voices to the table. We are seeking people across the Illinois South Conference who are interested in supporting our churches as they navigate LGBTQIA+ inclusion in all its realities: struggle, growth, healing, and joy. More voices matter. More stories matter. That's where ISC Pride comes in, as we work to broaden participation so the richness of our conference is truly reflected.

Alongside this work, ISC Pride is proud to support Rainbow Camp through ideas, presence, and leadership, helping ensure it remains a life-giving space of affirmation and belonging for all.

Our ISC Pride logo tells this story visually. The phoenix—an ancient symbol used by early Christians to represent resurrection, hope, and new life—rises alongside a rainbow over the state of Illinois. Together, they embody the

resilience of LGBTQIA+ Christians: faith reborn from ashes, courage forged in struggle, and hope that refuses to be extinguished.

The next ISC Pride meeting will be held **February 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm** via Zoom. The meeting link can be received by contacting Rev. Tim Powers-Reed at illinitchr@gmail.com.

CLIMATE HOPE AFFILIATES



'A ray of light in the darkness': Climate Hope advocates celebrate limited cuts for EPA by [Kayla Berkey](#) | published on Feb 10, 2026

In recent months, a new group formed in East Lansing, Michigan, to become one of several Climate Hope Affiliate chapters spread across the country. Their very first action was a meeting with the staff of their Republican Representative, Tom Barrett, to advocate protecting federal funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). [Read](#)



THE UCC'S 2026 CLIMATE
HOPE ART CONTEST
NOW OPEN!

The 2026 Climate Hope Art Contest!

The theme this year is "A Future with Hope." Children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color works of art that bring this theme to life. We will have winners for different age groups and an overall winner who will receive an all-expense paid trip to visit Washington, DC with a parent or guardian.

[Register your congregation now to participate!](#)

We'll accept art submissions from February 6th to March 20th.



Pastor keeps end-of-life conversations alive, touts the ease of UCC's FreeWill by [Donna Jackson](#) | published on Feb 10, 2026

O death, where is thy sting?

Pastors can answer this Pauline question with great theological prowess. They can also answer on a more practical level, having witnessed the sting among the living when a loved one dies without a will.

"It can be traumatic for the survivors when there's no will," said the Rev. Cheryl von Ehrenkrook.

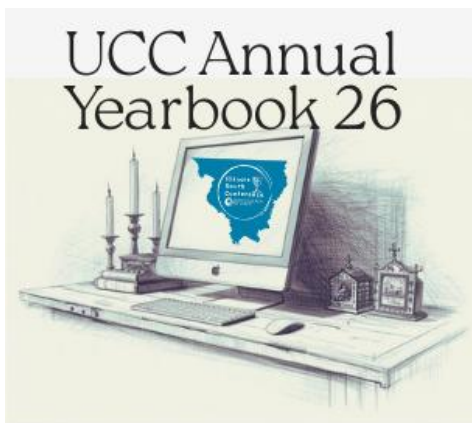
As Minister of Congregational Care for [Kingston Congregational Church](#) in Rhode Island, von Ehrenkrook never hesitates in getting the final-plan conversation started. In the grief groups she facilitates, von Ehrenkrook often broaches the oft-hushed topic of preparing for one's death. She does so because of her unique perspective. Ehrenkrook was a lawyer. [Read](#)



New HANDBOOK FOR VISITATION with CHILDREN AND YOUTH from UCC Wellness Ministries

Visiting a child or youth with one or more family members present differs from visiting adults. Meeting the needs of these two distinct age groups simultaneously can be challenging.

Pediatric chaplains and faith formation leaders are the primary contributors to this Handbook. Some visits will occur in a hospital, while others will take place in pediatric rehabilitation, and many more will happen in their family homes. [Read more and order](#)



UCC Database is open for Yearbook information entry as of January 26th

Emails with instructions for Yearbook Reporting were sent to the churches on Friday, January 23rd. We are so grateful for your efforts in helping us to keep records up to date. Thank you!

Questions- reach out to Debbie at dkesner@iscucc.org.



Global Ministries

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



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



We're celebrating 30 years of Global Ministries — three decades of faithfully living out One Mission, One Calling! For 30 years, Global Ministries has stood as a shared witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, partnering with communities worldwide to work for justice, foster reconciliation, and empower thriving lives.

Join us in this milestone celebration as we reflect on God's faithfulness and look forward to the future! Explore inspiring stories, engage with special resources for worship and education, and be part of our journey of unity and hope.

Learn more and be part of the celebration at: <https://ow.ly/LYFK50YbP76>

Together, let's honor the past, live fully in the present, and continue sharing God's love around the world.

Global Ministries Job Openings:

-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](#)

-Accounting Clerk The Accounting Clerk supports the financial operations of the organization by performing routine accounting tasks, maintaining accurate financial records, and assisting with reporting and compliance requirements. This position plays a vital role in ensuring the financial integrity and transparency expected of a nonprofit organization. **Location:** Indianapolis, Indiana **Status:** Exempt, Full-time (hybrid) [Download job description](#)

ISC Hunger Action Team - Facing Hunger in Your Community



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize EVANGELICAL UCC, HIGHLAND for putting their faith in action. The Mission Team volunteered at the BACK BAY MISSION in Biloxi, Mississippi. Service projects included: repairing and painting a home, serving meals and volunteering at their food pantry. Back Bay's mission: "to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives". Heartfelt thanks to EVUCC, for this ministry of compassion and love. Bringing hope to those in need. Under the leadership of pastor and teacher - Rev William Kapp. 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...

[...share stories of fighting hunger in YOUR community.](#)

News from DuBois Center

The Early Bird deadline is quickly approaching!!
And 233 Campers registered to date! Hurry and get signed up!

\$50 non-refundable deposit to hold your registration and secure your Early Bird Discount - but you have to register before February 14th.

For more info on summer camp sessions: <https://duboiscenter.org/summer-camps/>

To register: <https://cwngui.campwise.com/apps/onlinereg/pages/Index.html?AppID=DuBoisCtr!d8b2c5&LocCd=e=CA0000&CustRes=Customer/DuBois>



2026 Summer Camp

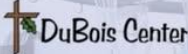
Schedule Updates

Camps are filling up quickly!
Register soon at DuBoisCenter.org

The grade listed next to each camp is the grade campers will have completed as of Summer 2026

	Main Camp	Rustic Village
June 14-16	Discovery (1st-3rd) GIRLS: Almost Full	
June 14-19	Settler (3rd-5th) ALL: Almost Full LIT Camp (11th-12th) Leadership in Training	Horse Play (5th-7th) Outback (7th-9th)
June 17-19	Camp Quest (1st-3rd)	
June 21-26	Settler (3rd-5th) Art Explosion (5th-8th) Base Camp (6th-8th)	Splash (5th-7th) Saddle 'Em Up (7th-9th)
June 24-26		Rustic Sampler (4th-6th) GIRLS: Almost Full
June 28-30	Just You & Me ALL: Almost Full (Adult & Child ages 5-7)	
July 5-10	High School Week on Rustic	Drenched (9th-12th) Wrangler (9th-12th) X-Plore (9th-12th) GIRLS: Almost Full
July 12-14	Discovery (1st-3rd) ALL: Full	
July 12-17	Settler (3rd-5th) ALL: Full	Trekkin' It (5-7th) BOYS: Full Giddy Up (6-8th) GIRLS: Full Dunk'd (7-9th) BOYS: Full
July 15-17	Quest (1st-3rd) GIRLS: Full	GIRLS: Almost Full
July 20-22	Just You & Me (Adult & Child ages 5-7)	
August 7-8	Rainbow Camp (all ages)	

DuBois Center is the Camp & Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.



WE ARE HIRING!

Join Our Team!

Part time positions

- Hospitality Coordinator
- Cooks
- Housekeeping
- Kitchen Helpers

MORE INFO & APPLICATION AT:

<https://duboiscenter.org/support-staff/>

APPLY NOW



DuBois Center needs your TLC!

TWO Service Saturdays- March 7th AND May 9th

Youth and adult fellowship groups, families, individuals, everyone is invited to lend a helping hand as we prepare our facilities for the busy spring and summer season. Projects vary, depending on the skills of workers and the weather, but a tired muscle or two and a great sense of satisfaction are guaranteed. There is wood to be stacked, leaves to be raked and buildings to be cleaned and painted. There are carpentry projects, as well as others requiring special skills. The work may not be glamorous, but it makes a BIG DIFFERENCE!

We'll provide lunch, so please [RSVP here](#) so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone! Check out the links below for more information:

- [Typical Schedule and What to Bring](#)
- [Directions and Map to DuBois Center](#)

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 Events

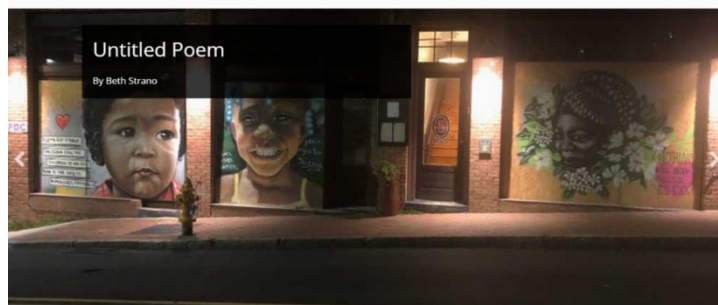
REGISTRATION OPEN !

[More Info Here](#)

Council for Health and Human
 Services Ministry News



CHHSM Anti-Racism Center



CHHSM Anti-Racism Center

[Click to enter](#)

Welcome

At CHHSM, we seek to ground all the work that we do in our vision: "together, we create a just, caring and compassionate world." Such a world cannot exist while white supremacy, racism, and anti-blackness continue to dominate policies, organizations, faith communities, culture, beliefs, and daily life. Yet the

good news of the Gospel offers us a way to engage and transform that dominance, while in the midst of it; to be present to the pain, while feeling the life-force of the resurrection; to heed the wisdom of the prophets of old, while making room for this moment's truth to be born out of us. As Christians, we follow a messiah who preached a message of liberation, lived a life of interconnectedness, and died by state-sanctioned violence for doing so. However, Christ shows us that violence does not have the final say, and thus calls us to the deeply spiritual work of reckoning, repair, and recreating. To be a disciple is to be anti-racist. This page is intended to be part of that work and discipleship. Through self and communal reflection and by continuing to gather resources, ideas, and wisdom, we hope this online collection supports our journey together on the road of justice and grace.



Winter Fun at Uni Pres Kindercottage

As winter settles across Illinois, Uni Pres Kindercottage (UPK) continues to be a place of warmth, joy, and faithful service for our children and families. While the season brings colder days, our classrooms remain filled with laughter, discovery, and meaningful learning experiences that keep our children engaged, safe, and thriving.

This winter, our children have enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities that promote creativity, movement, and social-emotional growth—indoors and outdoors when weather permits. From sensory play and winter-themed literacy to music, art, and group exploration, UPK remains committed to nurturing the whole child while making learning fun and developmentally appropriate.

We are deeply grateful for the continued prayers, encouragement, and acts of kindness from our supporters and community partners. Your generosity allows us to uplift families through consistent care, wrap-around services, and a nurturing environment rooted in Christian values. Together, we are living out our shared mission of service—caring for others with love, dignity, and compassion.

At UPK, we are especially mindful that the work we do is sacred. Serving God's precious little ones is both a responsibility and a blessing, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to provide high-quality, care that supports children and strengthens families.

Thank you for walking alongside us this season. Your continued support helps ensure that even in winter, hope, joy, and faith continue to grow at Uni Pres Kindercottage.

With gratitude and blessings,

Aimee Hart, Executive Director
618-874-6505(work)
618-799-1417 (cell)

[Kindercottage Wishlist](#)



MARCH 24-26, 2026
INDIANAPOLIS

The Gathering: Many Gifts, One Spirit will feature special guest and keynoter the Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF), the nation's strongest and most effective voice for children. He also serves as board chair for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Duke University's Divinity School.

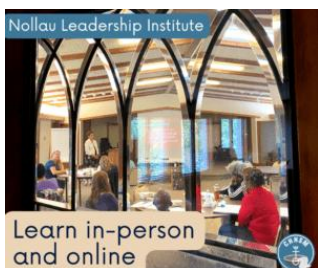
Wilson previously led boards of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) and Forum for Theological Exploration. Prior to joining CDF, he led the

CHHSM member Deaconess Foundation, the Ferguson Commission and Saint John's Church UCC (The Beloved Community) in St. Louis.

Since joining CDF in 2020—succeeding founder Marian Wright Edelman—Wilson has sharpened the organization's strategy while managing its first leadership transition. He saw the relaunch of the CDF Action Council for grassroots legislative education, advocacy and accountability, and the Black Student Leadership Network to develop the next generation of organizers and advocates for children's policy.

[Discover what Wilson and the other keynoters will share with us.](#)

Additionally, 11.5 NAB continuing education credits are available. [Learn more about our workshop sessions and continuing education credits.](#)



Nollau Institute Class of 2026-27

The program consists of two in-person retreats at [Bellwether Farm](#), online interactions in between the retreats, and an additional day of programming at the CHHSM Annual Conference. Graduation and consecration takes place during closing worship on the final day of the Annual Conference. **2026-27 Schedule:** 1st Retreat: May 18-22, 2026, 2nd Retreat: October 5-9, 2026, CHHSM Annual Gathering: March 15-19, 2027. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2026. [More info](#)



Medical Equipment Loan Program

Equipment Loaned

- Wheelchairs
- Transport Chairs
- Rollators
- Raised Toilet Seats
- Bed canes
- Bath benches
- Walkers with and without wheels
- Canes - straight or 4-prong base
- Commodes
- Knee scooters
- Shower stools
- Crutches

We are open to loan and accept equipment returns and donations Monday-Friday, 9am-4:30pm. Please call 618-344-5008 before coming, to determine if we have the equipment needed available. We hold the equipment in your name until the next scheduled day. Email info@stjohnscc.org for more information or to reserve equipment. Voicemails will be returned within one business day.

ST. JOHN'S
COMMUNITY CARE

222 Goethe Ave,
Collinsville, IL 62234
www.stjohns.org

SJCC is in dire need of medical equipment!

This icy Winter season has the community needing medical equipment, and our resources are depleted! If you have wheelchairs, rollators, knee scooters, or any of the items on this list that are not in use, please don't hesitate to drop them at our Collinsville location Monday - Friday, 9 AM-4:30 PM. Reach out to 618-344-5008 or stjohns.org.

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

St. John's Community Care Volunteers Needed!

St. John's CC is in great need of volunteers to serve as receptionists, program assistants, and/or to assist with craft activities, and craft clean-up. Call 618-344-5008 to volunteer!

Our ISC Churches News + Events

Bowls of Goodness

4TH ANNUAL SOUP AND CHILI COOKOFF

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 21,
2026
3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Adults - \$12.00
Kids - 12 & under - \$6.00
Includes unlimited soup & chili tasting,
drink (water, tea, coffee, or lemonade),
AND dessert
Hog dogs available for purchase separately

St. John UCC
2901 Namecki Rd
Granite City IL
618-877-6060

Come join us...

Concordia United Church of Christ
7600 State Route 163
Corner of 163 & Concordia Road
(Millstadt)

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
(Pancakes: Buttermilk, Oatmeal or Gluten-Free)

February 21, 2026
7:00 am to 10:00 am

PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
(Pancakes: Buttermilk, Oatmeal or Gluten-Free)

February 21, 2026
7:00 am to 10:00 am

Adults - \$10.00
Children - \$6.00
Under 5 - Free

All You Can Eat!!



Baked Goods
For Sale



Are you interested in Pulpit Supply?

Reach out via email to the
ISC Committee
on Ministry Co-chairs.

Rev. Lisa Hart- lisa@revhart.net
Mark Walz- mewalz5925@hotmail.com



If you are reading a print version of the *ISC Weekly Connection*, consider scanning the QR code or click [HERE](#) and subscribe to receive upcoming issues straight to your email inbox. Not only does this ensure you won't miss an issue but it gives opportunity to click on the links to full articles, webinar registration sites, and more. It only takes a minute to sign up. Reach out to Missy at 618-654-2125 or mloyet@iscucc.org with any questions or with news for the *Weekly Connection*.

[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 Bookkeeper - St. John UCC Fairview Heights](#)

[Part-time Facilities Manager - St. Paul UCC Belleville](#)

[Contemporary Band Leader - St. Paul UCC Waterloo](#)

[Contemporary Keyboard Musician - St. Paul UCC Waterloo](#)

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-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](#)

