



ISC Day of Discipleship 2026 - Registration is now open

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.



Jeff has served UCC congregations in Mascoutah, Illinois, Darmstadt and Biddleborn, Illinois, and Pana and Dollville, Illinois. He has served as Director of Outdoor Ministries in the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC, and from 2003-2007 served, along with his spouse, Susan, as a Common Global Ministries Missionary in Lesotho. While in Lesotho Jeff taught at Morija Theological Seminary and the National University of Lesotho; served as the HIV and AIDS Coordinator for the Lesotho Evangelical Church; and served as Interim Pastor for Maseru United Church - an international, nondenominational congregation. Upon his return to the United States, Jeff lived and taught on campus at Eden Theological Seminary, where he was Missionary in Residence during the 2007-2008 academic year. Jeff has continued to teach Biblical Studies and Ministry Studies courses as an adjunct to the Eden faculty, and teaches Biblical Studies and Theology courses as an adjunct to the Saint Louis University faculty.

His research interests include the book of Revelation, International Contextual Biblical Interpretation, and the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Jeff has taught and presented in these areas in over a dozen countries on five continents. In addition to his pastorate at Webster Groves Christian Church, Jeff served as part-time Interim Minister at Memorial Boulevard Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from 2020 to 2022, and he serves as Chaplain for Doorways, a housing and healthcare agency for people living with HIV & AIDS. He enjoys reading, the outdoors, and riding his motorcycles whenever he can. Jeff and Susan have three adult children - Abigail, Daniel, and Khotso.

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



St. John UCC, New Athens-
Rev. Dr. Robert (Cathy) Koch



Zion UCC, New Baden-
Rev. Stephen (Molly) Stark

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

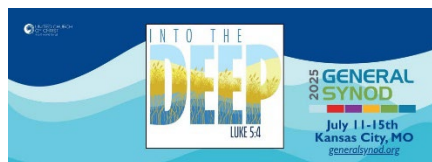
Rosemary Oglesby- healing blessings for continued progress in recovering from knee surgery.

Retired Pastor- Rev. Charles (Rev. Karla Frost) Preston

Sending prayers for our ISC Members in Discernment. May God shine light on the paths of Kathleen Gallivan and Angela Nolan, granting them clarity, openness, and peace as they make choices on their journey in harmony with God's plan.

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

UCC Global, National, +Regional News

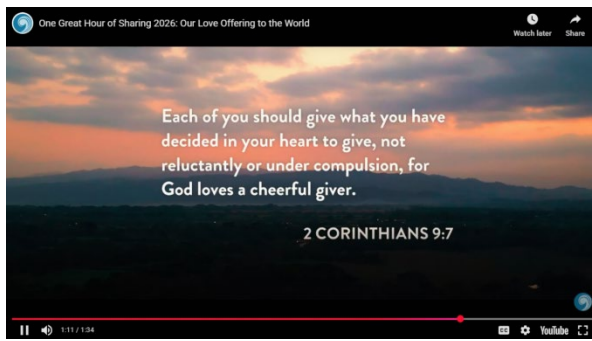


CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH GENERAL SYNOD

We have been notified by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia, the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, that on January 12, the United Church of Christ Board voted to call a Special Meeting of the Thirty-Fifth General Synod (UCC Bylaw 188) for the sole purpose of the meeting of electing an Associate General Minister to an unexpired term.

The special meeting will take place on **May 9, 2026, at 5:00 pm CT**, and is expected to conclude by 8:00 pm CT.

Our Illinois South Conference General Synod delegates elected to attend the last in-person General Synod meeting will represent our Conference as they attend this special-called meeting of the UCC remotely via communications equipment (UCC Bylaw 191).



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

-One class is this coming Thursday!-

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

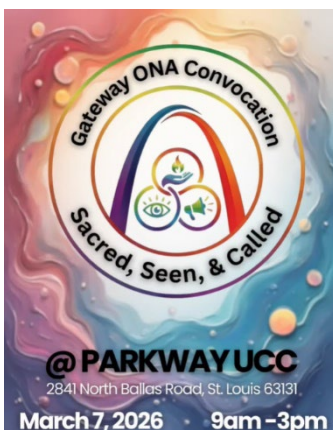
Honorees

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](#)

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

Registration information will be sent in mid-January. If you have event questions or if you believe you are not on the Gateway ONA monthly mailing list and would like to register for this event, please send an emailed request to: buckeyeohio@hotmail.com. Cost: \$25 per person



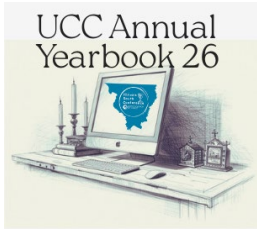
ISC Pride Update

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.



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.



UCC clergy members among those arrested at "Pray with Your Feet Day of Action: ICE Out of Our Communities" by [Hannah Santos](#), [Renee Deluca](#) | published on Feb 3, 2026

United Church of Christ clergy and many others sat peacefully inside the Hart Senate Building Atrium of the U.S. Capitol office complex as an act of moral witness on Thursday, January 29, as part of "Pray with Your Feet Day of Action: ICE Out of Our Communities." During that act of civil disobedience, the Rev. Michael Neuroth, Director of the [United Church of Christ Washington, D.C. Office of Public Policy and Advocacy](#) was among those arrested, along with [Bishop Dwayne Royster](#), Executive Director of [Faith in Action](#), and senior pastor of [Faith United](#)

[Church of Christ](#) in the North Michigan Park Section of Washington, D.C.

More than 500 people from across the country gathered to demand the Senate say no to any funding to the Department of Homeland Security in a bill that would support Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The event was born from an interfaith prayer call earlier in the week in support of Minneapolis and all those being terrorized by ICE. The call had more than 10,000 participants. Participants heard from UCC General Minister and President/CEO the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Bishop Royster, [Episcopal Bishop of Washington, Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde](#), and many others. You can view the [full livestream HERE](#).

The day opened with an interfaith prayer service held at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill in a standing-room-only sanctuary. The service included a communal prayer and song centered on moral opposition to ICE, grounding the day of action in spiritual practice. The service was [livestreamed](#) through Faith in Action. Speakers emphasized immigration enforcement as a moral issue and called on Congress to reject any budget or legislation that expands ICE funding.

The [UCC's Associate General Minister the Rev. Shari Prestemon](#) spoke on the importance of moral courage, urging lawmakers and faith communities to act boldly in defense of immigrant dignity. "Do justice and love kindness and grow a spine," she encouraged those gathered. "Have a sense of moral outrage and moral courage that will not be stopped by any evil empire, but that will stay in the streets, will speak loud, will speak with wisdom, will speak with fire. As you go into those offices today, show your faith and show your spine."



Prestemon said it was important to be there. "Our churches and faith leaders in Minnesota are offering such an inspiring, bold example to us all, showing up every day in their streets to call for justice and offer generous care to their neighbors. It was important for faith leaders and organizers from around the country to do our part by going to Capitol Hill and speaking truth directly to power. We declared our collective, determined commitment to love our neighbors, and told those who have the power to stop this that not one more dollar should support the violence and terror ICE is raining down on Minneapolis and communities across the country." [Read more](#)

Who Are We?

by [Shari Prestemon](#) | published on Feb 3, 2026

"Who are we?!" my friend shouted in agony after Alex Pretti was killed by federal agents in Minneapolis on January 24. Her question was a gut-level lament born of utter shock, dismay, and grief.

Yes. Who are we? We are a nation unraveling at its center, our democracy at dire risk. A Minnesota city is occupied by masked, armed agents who show no restraint or decency and killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti on Minneapolis streets. Individuals are "disappeared". Children are used as bait. Racial profiling is widespread. Families and communities are gripped by fear, terrorized by death and violence.

We are a country that has been here before, a country with a long history of government-sanctioned violence against non-white people that we've never fully reckoned with or atoned for.

But: this is not all we are. (Thank God.) [Read](#)

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.



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

ISC Clergy Retreat

April 28-29, 2026

Save the dates



Global Ministries

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



Global Mission Interns

The application due date is
March 31, 2026. [Apply today!](#)

"Becoming a GMI was a life-changing experience. Along the way, my faith grew as I had to open myself up to discovering what parts of my faith were affected by my own culture, and how to open myself up to worship not only in other languages but with a spirit of unity when traditions were different than my own. I did not anticipate how so many young lives would affect my own. One of the greatest lessons I learned is missions is far more than serving."

— Carla, former GMI

The Global Mission Intern program invites you to challenge yourself in a one to three-year international mission service opportunity. As you offer yourself in service, you will also learn more about yourself, your relationship with God, and your place in God's world. You will build relationships that will change the way you look at the world. You will be a part of a growing group of young adults who have been transformed by these experiences and will provide you with a new community in return. You will come back from your year in mission equipped to provide a global perspective on issues facing the church in our hurting world today. Read more and find the application [HERE](#).

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 **ST. PAUL, WATERLOO** for their continued support of families in need. Since 2012, St. Paul hosts a **FREE COMMUNITY MEAL - "MARTHA'S KITCHEN/ MARY'S HEART"** every Monday night. This program has been run by volunteers from the congregation and community. 100 - 120 meals are served each week. All are always welcome to share a meal and share the love of God, reflecting St. Paul's dedication to be welcoming to all. Sustaining this vital mission costs \$400 per week for food, "to go" containers, and other supplies. You are invited to support "Martha's Kitchen", through donations, volunteering your time, or providing homemade desserts. For more information, please call the Church Office at 618-939-7123 or email linda@stpaulonline.org. Pictured in red shirts: volunteers from St. Paul. In blue: St. Vincent De Paul volunteers. Heartfelt thanks to St. Paul for serving others as stewards of God's Grace - Under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. Kyle Timmons. Neighbors helping neighbors, such as 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



Frostbite Fun Youth Event

A few weeks ago, we had over 40 youth and youth leaders brave the cold and join us at DuBois Center for Frostbite Fun!

Thank you to the youth and their chaperones for spending some time at camp playing games, participating in camp activities and thinking about how they can incorporate faith-based habits into their daily lives!



DuBois Center

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



New Merch Added!

Visit our online store for sling bags, travel mugs, and tote bags!

<https://www.bonfire.com/store/dubois-center-merch/>

All proceeds benefit your favorite camp & retreat center!

DuBois Center needs your TLC! March 7th SERVICE SATURDAY

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 OPENED JANUARY 1st !

[More Info Here](#)

The Early Bird deadline is quickly approaching!!

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



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 Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson keynotes and the early bird deadline is approaching!

Register by February 9 for the Early Bird rate.

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.](#)



Register to Attend!

2026 GRANTMAKING INFORMATIONAL

Join us as we share insights into our 2026 grantmaking portfolio and highlight successful proposals.

Thursday, February 12, 2026

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

No fee
Zoom link will be emailed to registered participants

Want to learn more about funding opportunities from Deaconess Foundation? Join us for our 2026 Grantmaking Informational where we will provide an overview of funding opportunities for the year ahead and share about our continued commitment to building a regenerative, liberated future for communities across Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois. The Grantmaking Informational will be held via Zoom. If you're interested in attending, register [here](#).



DEACONESS FOUNDATION
LIBERATION IN 7 GENERATIONS

Seeding the Future Grants

Cycle 1 Request for Proposals

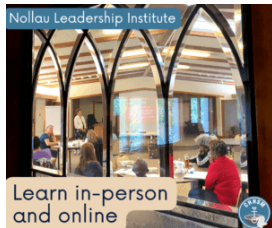
\$20,000 of general operating funds supporting the advancement of efforts impacting systems transformation. Quarterly opportunities to apply.

Cycle 1 Request for Proposals Opens:
Monday, February 2

Cycle 1 Request for Proposals Closes:
Friday, February 27

LEARN MORE & APPLY
deaconess.org/funding

'Seeding the Future' Grants On February 2, we will begin accepting proposals for the first cycle of our Seeding the Future Grants! The grants provide general operating funds for one year to organizations with proposals that align with Deaconess' intended impact. Funding supports organizational and civic infrastructure expansion, advancement of public policies, and/or efforts impacting systems transformation through an intergenerational approach, for the improved health and wellness of people in Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois. Learn more and apply [here](#).



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.



St. John's Community Care Adult Day Program - Sondra D.'s Story

Sondra's husband participates in the Adult Day Program in Collinsville. She shared how much of a difference his participation makes in their lives. [Watch Video](#)



NOW OPEN

HIGHLAND ADULT COMMUNITY CARE

ST. JOHN'S
COMMUNITY CARE

2420 POPLAR ST.
HIGHLAND, IL 62249

Need a safe and enjoyable day program for your loved one? Give us a call or email for more information. Reserve your spot today!

www.stjohnscc.org
Highland: 618-975-6565
Collinsville: 618-344-5008
info@stjohnscc.org



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



**DRIVE-THRU
CHILI & BEEF
VEGETABLE SOUP**



St John UCC Trenton Chili & Soup Drive-Thru Saturday, February 7, 2026 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (or until chili and soup are gone) Price: \$10.00 per quart. View the event flyer [HERE](#). St. John UCC, 21 North Walnut St., Trenton, IL 62293 618-224-9828



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

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(Pancakes: Buttermilk, Oatmeal or Gluten-Free)

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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*.

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.

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