March 10, 2026

One Great Hour of Sharing 2026 Our Love Offering to the World
Suggested Offering Date-Sunday, March 15th

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Thank you for your gifts!

I manage the finances for my family. I take great effort to double check bank statements and account balances, making sure that our money is being used just as we intended. I often carry that over into my practice of giving. I love to hear reports and stories of how my donations have been used.

I also know that giving can sometimes require gently letting go of some of this control. I find this often at practice in love offerings. When we collect love offerings for an individual, it might be for a specific purpose, but we might also trust them to use these resources in the best way that they need at that time.

When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, it is, in fact, Our Love Offering to the World. We have plenty of reports and stories to track where our giving goes. And yet, the resources are dispersed in a way that allows global partners to utilize gifts in the way that they most need. Our trust and love for our partners, not acting out of control, is a beautiful expression of our faith.

There's nothing wrong with double checking your financial statements. But I encourage you to join in giving to One Great Hour of Sharing to join in this great outpouring of love. Together, our gifts are a sign of God's compassion, given freely and generously.

-The Rev. Rachel McDonald works for the National Ministries of the UCC as Generosity Officer, OCWM and Special Mission Offerings. The four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ are One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. Together they demonstrate a commitment to building a just world for all. To learn more, go to ***https://www.ucc.org/smo***

You provide for all of our needs, O God, even when we do not realize or recognize it. You are the source and we are the resource. You modeled generous giving when you freely offered us your Son, Jesus Christ. Nothing is too wonderful for you. Stir up in us the desire to give cheerfully from the great wellspring of gifts you have gifted to us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...

St. Peter UCC, Red Bud
Pastor Cory (Geraldine) Hartz

St. John UCC, Smithton
Rev. Jason (Petrice) Eisele

Retired Pastor- Rev. Fred (Shirley) Wehrenberg

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Rev. Allen Reiter on Sunday, March 1st, 2026. Rev. Reiter faithfully served the United Church of Christ as an ordained minister for 52 years. Ordained in 1974, he began his ministry in the state of Ohio, before returning home to the Illinois South Conference. In 1982 he accepted the call to become Pastor of St John UCC in Granite City, where he served until his retirement in December of 2003.

Visitation and funeral arrangements have been made through Irwin Chapel in Glen Carbon, IL.

The visitation will take place on Tuesday, March 10th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Irwin Chapel - located at 591 Glen Crossing Road, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 11th at 10:00 am at Immanuel United Church of Christ - Hamel - located at 5838 Staunton Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Below is a link to Rev. Allen Reiter's obituary:
https://www.irwinchapel.com/obituaries/Rev-Allen-J-Reiter?obId=47469537#/obituaryInfo

Please continue to remember the family of Rev. Allen Reiter in your prayers during this difficult time.

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of another
longtime serving pastor in the Illinois South Conference, Rev. Kenneth A Knobloch of Maeystown, IL. He passed away on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026.

Rev Ken Knobloch first became a licensed minister in December of 1963 when our conference was known as the South Illinois Synod, an Acting Association. The following summer he became an ordained minister in 1964.
He served congregations at Friedens UCC in Irvington, Illinois and St Peter UCC in Red Bud, Illinois. He also served on numerous committees in the Illinois South Conference of the UCC. His full obituary may be found on-line on the Quernheim Funeral Home website. Hyper-link below.
Rev. Kenneth A. Knobloch Obituary March 3, 2026 - Quernheim Funeral Home

There will be visitation on Friday, March 13th at Quernheim Funeral Home -
800 S. Market Street, Waterloo, IL 62298 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

There will also be visitation on Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 am to 10:00 am at St Paul UCC - 200 North Main St., Waterloo, IL 62298

The funeral service will begin at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 14th
at St Paul UCC - 200 North Main St., Waterloo, IL 62298

Interment will follow at St John UCC Cemetery in Maeystown, IL

Please continue to remember the family of Rev. Kenneth A Knobloch in your prayers during this difficult time.

Submit prayer requests here

ISC Clergy Retreat

April 28th - 29th 2026

2026 Clergy Retreat: Time Well Spent

"Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people, but as wise, making the most of time." --Ephesians 5:15-16a

The Local Church Ministries Team invites all Illinois South Conference clergy to gather at DuBois Center for a day of spiritual renewal and connection. The retreat will be led by Rev. Betsy Happel, a retired UCC pastor from the Missouri Mid-South Conference.

Dates: Tue, April 28th at noon to Wed, April 29th at noon
Day events with overnight options

Location: DuBois Center

Focus: Reflect upon how we intentionally and wisely use our time to make a lasting impact in our own lives and in the lives of those we serve. The retreat will include discussion, prayer, shared meals, optional group and individual activities, reading, rest, fellowship with colleagues, and time in God's creation.

Cost: $55 for the day (this includes programming & meals)
$115 for the day and overnight (this includes programming, meals, & lodging)

Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 14th

Follow the link to register

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/bvacjds

Rev. Betsy Happel - ISC Clergy Retreat Leader

Betsy Happel (she/her) is a certified spiritual director who has been mentoring and encouraging others for over 30 years. Centering on the mantra, "Be yourself and the world you love will come to you," she enjoys accompanying seekers as they explore their passions and gifts, notice holy synchronicities around them, and journey through significant transitions of life. Betsy is certified in Spiritual Direction through the Haden Institute, and serves as a mentor in Haden's Spiritual Direction training program. She earned her MDiv degree from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis following twenty years in the human resources field. Before retiring from settled ministry in 2023, Betsy served as Pastor at Red Top Christian Church (DOC) in Hallsville, MO; and Kirkwood UCC in the St. Louis area.

UCC Database is open for Yearbook information entry

Thank you to the churches that have completed their Yearbook Reporting!

We have about 2/3 of our churches that need to enter their data. Instructions were emailed again to the churches' email addresses on **Monday March 9th**. If you need the instructions emailed to someone else, please let Debbie know.

Our goal is to be done by March 26th – questions please email Debbie at **dkesner@iscucc.org**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
ISC Staff

St John's UCC Johannisburg to Resume Services Following Storm Damage

After a windstorm on June 30, 2023, caused significant damage to their church building, the congregation of St. John's UCC in Johannisburg is delighted to announce that the sanctuary is nearly fully restored.

To celebrate this achievement, the congregation warmly invites members of the Illinois South Conference to join them for their 8:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 15, at 11360 Main St., Johannisburg, IL 62214-1420. This service will serve as their soft opening.

A dedication service for the sanctuary and other refurbished rooms will be scheduled in the future, with the date to be announced soon.

Our Faith Our Vote 2026: Is Your Primary Election Approaching?

Election season has begun! Don't get caught off guard. Take a minute today to visit **VOTE411.org** to find your state's primary date and confirm your voter registration. Stay tuned for more election resources at **ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote**
Polling Place Locator

Open Call for Worship Resources: "Love Knows No Borders"

To support the theme of "Love Knows No Borders" in UCC congregations, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay, Minister for Worship & Theology, is inviting submissions of original content, including: devotionals, faith formation material, liturgy, Living Psalms, meditations, poetry, prayers, sermons, spiritual practices, theological reflection, and visual arts. **Learn more and upload a submission here.**

Renee DeLuca
UCC Public Relations Coordinator

The United States of Kindness Campaign

(Interview with Renee DeLuca)
Tell us more about "**The United States of Kindness**" campaign, an initiative to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday.

A: The campaign encourages kindness across the country, hoping to inspire Americans to commit 250 acts of kindness in 2026. Sponsored by the Values in Action Foundation, a partner of the United Church of Christ, this movement celebrates everyday good deeds, creating a wave of positivity that unites and uplifts people.

The kindness movement builds on three decades of research-based programs that have reached more than 9,000 schools and 2.6 million students.

Q: Keeping track of 250 acts of kindness is overwhelming. Is there an easy way to log my progress?

A: You can begin your acts of kindness at any time. However, there are 250 days between April 25 and December 31. Consider setting a goal on April 25th to complete one act of kindness per day until the end of the year.

Register your commitment **here**. You'll receive updates on an official launch, resources and ways to participate.

Most of us extend kindness without giving it a second thought. This initiative will draw more attention to our love and compassion for our neighbors, both nearby and around the world. Thank you for participating!

ISC Pride March Meeting

Our next ISC Pride meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**. During this gathering, we will be spending time discussing Rainbow Camp, which ISC Pride assists in organizing in partnership with the Illinois South Conference. With camp dates set for August 7–8, 2026 at the Dubois Center, this meeting will be an important opportunity for those interested in supporting, planning, and promoting this vibrant ministry to get involved.
If possible, I would appreciate including the meeting date and time, along with a brief note that we will be focusing on Rainbow Camp planning and coordination. This is a meaningful collaboration between ISC Pride and the Conference, and we are eager to broaden engagement.

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

Upcoming Boundary Training for Active or Retired Authorized UCC Ministers

Next class is March 12th for Retired Clergy
Click **HERE** to view a listing of dates, times and registration links.

Eden Spring Convocation 2026

The Church needs prophetic imagination.
The world needs transformative leadership.
Join us **April 9–10** for Spring Convocation 2026 at Eden Theological Seminary — in person or online.
On Thursday, we gather for:
• Pre-Convocation Workshop: Church Planting & Growth in the Progressive Christian Movement
• Opening Reception
• Worship honoring the life and legacy of Walter Brueggemann

On Friday, we continue with:
• EBAA Breakfast
• Keynote Address by Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney — A Womanist Imaginary
• Global response from Rev. Dr. Allan Boesak
• Panelists Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome, and Rev. Dr. Cassandra Gould
• Lunch and storytelling celebrating Walter Brueggemann
• Closing session: Womanism Embodied Practice and the Prophetic Imagination
This is more than a convocation. It is a call to re-imagine ministry.
It is a space to belong, to lead, and to thrive.
Be in the room where theological imagination meets faithful action.
Be part of the conversation shaping congregations, communities, and the world.
Registration is now open. Secure your place today!
https://www.eden.edu/events/spring-convocation-2/

In The Weeds by **Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson** | published on Mar 10, 2026

Spring like weather is emerging across the United States. The winter months were challenging with dangerously low temperatures seen even in the Southern states where milder temperatures prevail even when the north is experiencing the joys of winter. With the thaw and the sunshine, come the weeds and the need for managing lawns, patios and flower beds as these unwanted plants return for their share of sunlight. **Read**

Planning for Earth Month: Resources for Congregations published on Mar 9, 2026

April is Earth Month, and for congregations, it can be a great time to further discern how to best answer our first calling as Christians: the caretaking of God's creation. Form a plan for making the most of April. Check out this suggested activities: **Read**

The United Church of Christ Musicians Association has been serving UCC church musicians for over 30 years, and they aim to expand services to as many churches as possible over the next few years.

For more information, visit the ***UCCMA website***, and ***Read the letter from the UCCMA***.

UPCOMING SATURDAY SHARING CONVERSATIONS
March 28 – UCCMA Conference 2026: The Inside Scoop with Conference Director Andrew Blosser

April 25th: Earth Summit

To ground and inspire us as people of faith in difficult times, the Jim Antal Keynote Lecture will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Samuel, a renowned advocate and organizer for justice in the Atlanta, Georgia area. This two-and half-hour summit will additionally feature a panel discussion of leading voices on issues of energy justice. The summit will take place on Saturday, April 25th at 1 pm ET. Gather church members to watch together or connect on your own. **Register now!**

Future of Faith: Movement on the Margins

Mar 16, 2026 02:30 PM CT

We are living in the most divided times we've known collectively. Between fascism, genocide, war, famine, environmental collapse, and uncertainty about our relationships and what we are called to be in such a time – we find ourselves deepening or returning to our faith. Join the Heartland Conference Minister Rev. David Long-Higgins for an engaging conversation around the future of faith in their local and regional contexts and discover how we are called to be generous, gracious, loving, and courageous during these times. **Register**

Leaves of Healing (Only for Some)

Mar 18, 2026 12:00 PM CT

Creation Justice Ministries has released a new downloadable resource for churches just in time for Earth Month. The new resource is entitled "The Canopy of Creation: Trees, Faith, and the Work of Justice." The resource invites us to consider the following truth: in many cities, tree canopy follows the same fault lines as historic redlining. **Register**

Planned Giving: A FREE Resource To Create A Will

Through our partner ***FreeWill***, you can create or update your will in about 20 minutes, completely free and fully secure.
You'll also have the option to include a legacy gift to your congregation, Michigan Conference UCC, or another charity as a lasting act of love that ensures your faith continues to shape lives long after your lifetime.
Your gift costs nothing today, but creates a legacy of compassion, justice, and hope for future generations.

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

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

VOICES OF THE JOURNEY

War & The Valley of the Shadow of Death

by **Shari Prestemon** | published on Mar 9, 2026

It has been just 11 days since the first strikes of the Israeli and U.S. military rained down on Iran on February 28. The daily costs of this war are piling up far beyond the nearly $900 million the U.S. is spending daily to wage it.

"Immediately after our country's first military strikes on Iran, Global Ministries staff reached out to partners and mission personnel in the region."

Read

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 ISC Hunger Action Team would like to recognize ST. PETER, RED BUD for their "COMMUNITY BLESSING BOX" It's a 24 hour Mini Food Pantry, stocked with non perishable food and toiletries. St. Peter members are invited to donate to this vital mission project. It's more important than ever, with spring break coming up. Students who qualify for free school breakfast and lunch will not have access to these meals on weekends and holiday break. Reminder: Children need the proper nutrition for their learning, development and growth. Suggested items: cereal, instant oatmeal, pancake mix, muffin mix, powdered milk, breakfast bars, fruit cups, pudding cups, canned soup, canned pasta, and Ramen noodles. Personal care items: shampoo, bar soap and deodorant. Heartfelt thanks to St. Peter for serving others as stewards of God's Grace - under the leadership of Pastor and teacher, Pastor Cory Hartz. 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...

...share stories of fighting hunger in YOUR community.

News from DuBois Center

We are welcoming THREE new horses to our herd!
Meet Selah, Moses, and Ember!
Selah is a chestnut Spotted Saddle Horse mare, Moses is a buckskin paint gelding, and Ember is a black Tennessee Walking Horse mare. The addition of these three horses help fill out our herd to accommodate our growing ride numbers.
A HUGE thank you to **St. Paul's UCC Freeburg** for their fundraising efforts. Their matching donation purchased the front half of each of these horses and camp picked up the back halves!

WISHLIST WEDNESDAY is here!!
As we take inventory of smaller things, we notice the yearly need to replace and replenish items that might sometimes get overlooked.
Here, we have an Amazon Wishlist of items, highlighting our current needs for the summer program! Each following Wednesday, we will highlight certain categories or items on the list.
You can shop from the list and all orders will be shipped directly to camp! If you'd rather shop elsewhere for similar items, that's great too! Just ship to us or contact us to arrange pickup or delivery. **THIS WEEK - YOGA MATS**
Monetary donations to supplement our wishlist are also welcomed, as we truly appreciate the support you have always given us!
Our list is found here: **https://a.co/0gHfHUGc**

DuBois Center needs your TLC!
Service Saturday 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**

Join us for our
Father-Daughter Day
Saturday April 11th
9am-4pm

We'll have brunch, fun camp activities, and faith-time with Rev. Phil Barbier!
We'll be exploring Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."
For more information or to register: **https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats/**

Join us for Father-Son Retreat! April 24-26!
Fishing, archery, boating, and test out our new slingshots!
Rev. RJ Morgan will be leading us through faith times centered around the story of David and Goliath!
For more information or to register: **https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats/**

Ride Day - Saturday, May 9th
Our spring ride day is two months from today. Sign up for a ride time that fits best with your busy schedule!
Arena Ride: 10:30am. Ages 3-7 with an adult walking alongside the horse.
Trail Rides: 1:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm. Ages 8+.
For more information and to sign up: **https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats/**

MORE than just another SUMMER JOB!

Energetic, child-focused, fun-loving with a heart for ministry – sound like you or someone you know? Consider whether an amazing summer at DuBois Center might be the opportunity you have been looking for. We are looking for dedicated individuals ages 18+ to be cabin counselors/activity leaders! FAITH. FUN. HARD WORK. GREAT FRIENDS. LONG HOURS. AMAZING MEMORIES. Gain practical experience, build your resume and make a difference in the lives of hundreds of kids! Job descriptions and application packets are available at duboiscenter.org/summer-camp-staff/. Season runs May 26 – July 24. Questions? Contact us at **director@DuBoisCenter.org** or 618-787-2202

Summer Camp Registration 2026
300 CAMPERS BENCHMARK hit early!
This benchmark was hit April 21st last year

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

DuBois Center

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: 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) GIRLS: Almost Full	**Splash** (5th-7th) **Saddle 'Em Up** (7th-9th)
June 24-26		**Rustic Sampler** (4th-6th)
June 28-30	**Just You & Me** ALL: Full (Adult & Child ages 5-8)	
July 5-10	**High School Week on Rustic (9th-12th grades)**	**Drenched** GIRLS: Almost Full **Wrangler** GIRLS: Almost Full **X-Plore** GIRLS: Almost Full
July 12-14	**Discovery** (1st-3rd) ALL: Full	
July 12-17	**Settler** (3rd-5th) ALL: Full	**Trekkin' It** (5-7) BOYS: Full GIRLS: Almost Full **Giddy Up** (6-8) GIRLS: Full BOYS: Almost Full **Dunk'd** (7-9) BOYS: Full GIRLS: Almost Full
July 15-17	**Quest** (1st-3rd) GIRLS: Full	
July 20-22	**Just You & Me** (Adult & Child ages 5-8)	
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.

Council for Health and Human Services Ministry News

The Council for Health & Human Service Ministries
United Church of Christ

Reflections on Disability Rights Legislative Day

By Nicole Lynch | March 4, 2026 | **Advocacy, E-Advocates, Emmaus**

Last Wednesday, several hundred people gathered at the Missouri State Capitol for Disability Rights Legislative Day, and the energy was unforgettable. At one point, hundreds of voices joined together, chanting, "We are not optional," a powerful reminder that Home and Community-Based Services, the supports people with disabilities rely on to live in the community, pursue independence, and thrive, are technically considered optional under Medicaid. States can choose not to provide them. For the people who depend on these services, however, they are essential. Without them, daily life, independence, and participation in the world would not be possible. **Read**

Emmaus Homes is proud to be a United Way of Greater St. Louis Safety Net partner and honored to receive a $205,745.00 allocation for 2026. *"This investment strengthens our ability to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living full, meaningful lives — with choice, independence, and connection at the center of all we do. Because of United Way's partnership, individuals in our community have access to the support they need to grow, build relationships, advocate for themselves, and truly thrive. We are grateful to United Way for investing in inclusion and strengthening the fabric of our community."*

Uni Pres Kindercottage: February Highlights of Learning and Community Care

The month of February was filled with engaging learning experiences and heartfelt community support for the children and families of Uni Pres Kindercottage. Our classrooms explored the theme of winter weather, where children learned about different types of weather and how to dress properly for the cold. Through hands-on activities, stories, and daily conversations, the children discovered the importance of wearing warm coats, hats, and gloves to keep their bodies safe and healthy during the winter season.

We extend a special thank you to the many generous supporters who helped ensure that the children—and even their siblings—at Uni Pres Kindercottage had warm heads and hands during these cold months. Your kindness and thoughtfulness made a meaningful difference for many of our families.

As we know, these are economically challenging times for many families, especially within communities that are considered food deserts. We are deeply grateful to the partners who continue to step forward to support our families. A heartfelt thank you goes to the community of Maeystown and to the partnership with the Illinois Pork Producers through the "Pass the Pork" program. Their generous donation of pork products to families at UPK provided access to nutritious food that many families might not otherwise be able to enjoy. This act of generosity truly made a difference in the homes of the children we serve.

February also included a wonderful educational outing for our young learners. The children had the opportunity to visit the SIUE Library, where they learned about the local musical legend Miles Davis. The experience sparked curiosity and excitement as the children discovered how music is created through instruments and sound. They were especially fascinated by how a record player works and by the beautiful sounds produced by a trumpet. To encourage their musical exploration, each child will receive a small horn so they can continue expressing their own musical creativity.

We are grateful for the many partnerships, donations, and opportunities that help enrich the lives of our children and families. Together, we continue to nurture curiosity, creativity, and care within our growing community of learners.

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

Hitz Memorial Home Stone Garden Project

My Life. My Choice. My Home.

Learn how to purchase an engraved brick or tile to help create and expand a beautiful, permanent stone garden on the grounds of Hitz Memorial Home which will serve as a lasting tribute. **Hitz Stone Garden Project Info**

THE GATHERING
Many Gifts, One Spirit
MARCH 24-26, 2026
INDIANAPOLIS

The Gathering: Many Gifts, One Spirit

The Gathering 2026: Many Gifts, One Spirit is the perfect opportunity to network with peers. Haven't registered? **Register today** for The Gathering.

The Gathering offers our members an opportunity to connect in person for fellowship and learning. Meet up at our networking receptions and special events and explore Indianapolis together during the Dine Around event. **View the full schedule** to plan your own time, including the **keynote speakers**.

Haven't registered? The time is now, so **reserve your spot** by **March 20**. **Learn more on the Logistics page** about the hotel and The Gathering event app.

Continuing education credits are available! **Learn more about our workshop sessions and continuing education credits**.

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

St. Peter UCC Red Bud Fish Fry
February 27th and March 13, 4-7pm.
Indoor Dine-in or Carry-Out. Cod, Catfish, Shrimp, and Chicken Strips plus sides.
Call 618-282-2417 for carry-outs.
415 Madison St., Red Bud, IL 62278

Christ UCC Dupo Wurstmarkt
Sunday, March 15th 11:30 am - 3:00 pm while supplies last $15/plate, Kids ages 5-11 $6
Carry-out or Dine-in: outdoor seating available. 220 S. 3rd St., Dupo, IL

Immanuel UCC Hamel Chicken Dinner
Sunday, March 22 11:30am - 4:30pm Carry-Out only. The menu is included on the **flyer**, along with mention of the Quilt Raffle with 2nd prize a TV, and 3rd prize a $50 gift card. We will also have a basket raffle this year

again. Something for everyone!! 5838 Staunton Rd, Edwardsville, IL 618-633-2277

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**
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