



Reflections From Our Conference Minister

The 20th chapter of John, verses 19–23, is more than a “part two” resurrection story; it is our divine commission. It reminds us that in this specific generation, at this exact moment, **we** are the ones called by the Spirit of the Risen Lord to be vessels of his presence, power, and peace.

In the Gospel of John, the breath, the Spirit, frames the narrative of Jesus from beginning to end. While the other Gospels begin with the birth of Jesus, John begins with something deeper and more eternal. God entering humanity. Divine breath-taking on human life. *“The Word became flesh. (John 1:14)”*

The first glimpse we are given of Jesus in John’s Gospel is not in a manger, but on the banks of the Jordan River. There, John the Baptist sees him and testifies: *“I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him... the one on whom the Spirit remains is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. (John 1: 32-33)”*

This Spirit, this breath of God that descends and remains upon Jesus, empowering him for ministry, is the same breath that hovered over creation and gives life. It is the same sacred breath at the center of the story in John 20:19–23, reminding us that the work of the Spirit is not finished.

Verse 19 tells us that after Jesus’ death, the disciples hid behind locked doors. They were afraid to speak as Jesus spoke, afraid to act with the boldness he showed.

They feared the very forces that had conspired against him: leaders threatened by his influence and crowds stirred into division and violence, which ultimately led to the death of their teacher and friend, would conspire against them. They had seen firsthand the cost Jesus paid for speaking against oppression, confronting systems of power bent toward violence and war, and challenging injustice that stripped people of their dignity and left so many without even the basic means to care for themselves or their loved ones. So, they huddled together in their grief, fear, and pain.

Church, we know that feeling, don’t we? We recognize the religious division, the mob mentality, the violence, the injustices, and the inhumanity. We don’t have to look far to see it again, day after day, in every corner of our world. Out of self-preservation, we, like the disciples, often give in to fears, convincing ourselves that we have no power to make a difference; we withdraw, do nothing, and say nothing. Yet, our silence only multiplies the pain. For as Father Richard Rohr has said, *“If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it.”* We will pass along the pain to others.

I believe Jesus understood this. John tells us, *“And with that, he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’ If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. (John 20:22-23)”* Jesus shows us that transformation is not merely human effort. It is the work of the Spirit, and mercy is its most powerful expression. Instead of passing on their pain, Jesus calls them to pass on his peace.

The same breath--the very Spirit--Jesus received at his baptism, now fills his disciples. He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them and sends them into a wounded and divided world, not empty-handed, but empowered with grace.

Reflecting on this moment in John 20:22–23, the late Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann wrote, *“Without the work of the Spirit, without the power of forgiveness, the world will be devoured in anger, in violence, and in vengeance.”* We know this is true. We see it, we feel it, and at times, we feel ourselves living in its shadow. But we are called to live in the light of the resurrection instead.

And with that, he breathed

on them and said,

‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’

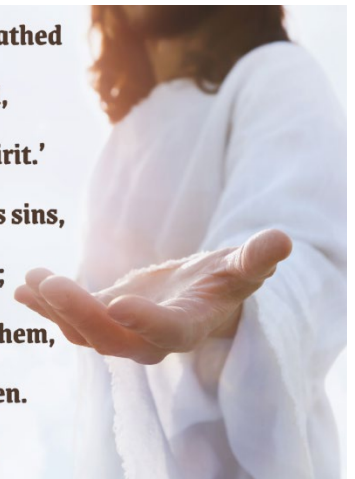
If you forgive anyone’s sins,

they are forgiven;

if you do not forgive them,

they are not forgiven.

(John 20:22-23)



Yes, Jesus was crucified in a world consumed by anger, violence, and vengeance. Yet he rose from the dead, because God's love is stronger than hatred, and God's eternal presence is stronger than the forces of death. God did not abandon us. Instead, God sent the risen Christ, alive, restored, and victorious, breathing out the very Spirit of God upon his disciples, and upon us, so that the pain of this world would not have the final word.

And friends, as those called to be Christ's voice, hands, and feet in the world, there has never been a more urgent time for us to move beyond our fears and find the courage to speak, act, and respond as Christ would. As people of the resurrection, may we boldly share the love, compassion, justice, and mercy of Christ, transforming pain where we encounter it into peace. **This** is our divine commission.

-Rev. Shana Johnson
Conference Minister

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



St. John UCC, Valmeyer-
Rev. Steven (Carla) Boorsma



St. Paul UCC, Waterloo-
Rev. Kyle (Jacquelyn) Timmons

Retired Pastor-
Rev. Dr. Herbert
(Bennie) Schafale

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

UCC Global, National, + Regional News



April 19th – Creation Justice Sunday – Celebrated on the Sunday closest to Earth Day. Creation Justice Ministries has developed resources for 2026. The theme is [Canopy of Creation](#). Across the United States, tree canopy maps trace the same fault lines as historic redlining, revealing how access to shade, clean air, and climate resilience has been shaped by systemic injustice. The Canopy of Creation invites the church to look up, tell the truth about tree apartheid, and rediscover trees as gifts, witnesses, and instruments of healing. Multiple resources are shared for a full worship

service or as parts of a service.

EARTH SUMMIT
A Future with Hope
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REV. DR. KENNETH SAMUEL
PANEL ON ENERGY JUSTICE
CELEBRATIONS
• Dollie Burwell Prophetic Action Award
• Climate Hope Art Contest Winner
• New Creation Justice Churches & Climate Hope Affiliates

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 12 pm CT**. Gather church members to watch together or connect on your own. [Register now!](#)

MEET THE NOMINEE

April 16th @ 5:45 PM Eastern

Join us for an opportunity to meet the nominee for the position of Associate General Minister, Love of Church-
REV. JENNIFER SOWELL
Rev. Sowell will offer her remarks, with time for Q&A.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meet the Nominee

Apr 16, 2026 04:45 PM CT

Ahead of the special meeting of General Synod Thirty-five which will take place on May 9, this is an opportunity to meet the nominee for the position Associate General Minister, Love of Church. General Synod Assistant Moderator Susan Cartmell and Search Committee Chair Rev. Cean James will introduce the nominee, Rev. Jennifer Sowell, who will then offer some remarks. The majority of the time is dedicated for Q&A with the nominee. [Register](#)



Help us restock our shelves.



Special Church World Service Kit and Bucket Drop Off Location in St. Louis

-A message from Priscilla Self, ISC Disaster Recovery Coordinator

There will be a local site receiving CWS kits. The special drop off location and event date is:

Sharefest at the LifeWise location at 1321 South 11th in St. Louis, MO 63104

Saturday, October 10, 9:30- 11:30 am

Susan Kendrick - Sharefest Coordinator

skendrick@moumethodist.org

(573) 473-6850

Your support helps CWS put hope into the hands of families recovering from disaster. From hygiene items to clean-up tools, your generosity fills the kits that help communities rebuild. Our warehouse shelves are running low. Help us stock up and stay prepared: <https://cwskits.org/>

[Matching grant through the Global HOPE office](#)

<https://www.ucc.org/post-disaster-resources-for-churches/>

Contact Priscilla if you need more info or have any questions.

Priscilla Self, ISC Disaster Recovery Coordinator

618/318-0083

pjj48@hotmail.com



More than just another summer job!

The most impactful piece of our summer camp programming is our staff. Year after year, young adults dedicate the bulk of their summer to providing the best experience possible for the children and youth in their care – from time in the lake to vespers around the campfire. Campers look to their counselors for guidance, safety, inspiration, leadership, and fun. Counselors spend long hours in hot weather cultivating “camp magic,” and in return they build life skills and lifelong relationships with their fellow staff members.

Camper numbers this summer have already surpassed last year, and we still have time for kids to sign up. In order to provide the best experience for our campers, we need your help to recruit additional counselors. If you or someone you know is a responsible, caring, fun-loving young adult in search of a fulfilling and exciting summer job, please email us at director@duboiscenter.org or visit duboiscenter.org/summer-camp-staff/ for an application.



Congratulations to Zion UCC - St. Joe, Waterloo and Pastor Tim Burns on the installation of Pastor Tim as the settled pastor, which took place on Sunday, April 12, 2026.

Last week to register for the ISC Clergy Retreat

Click [HERE](#) to sign up



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>

Dedication Ribbon Cutting Light Refreshments April 26th at 1:00pm
930 W Cherry St. Marion IL North Parking Lot
A time to celebrate our contribution to a more resilient future for our church, our community, and our shared world.
Progress – Stewardship – Hope

Zion UCC, Marion: Celebrating a Milestone in Environmental Stewardship

"We are thrilled as a congregation to witness this project reach completion and see our kiosk display show our congregation the impact it is having on our energy consumption. Welcome to Green Energy. Today, we are at 50% capacity for our solar panels and already meeting 75% of our electricity needs. I can not wait to see when the Earth rotates enough for us to get a full gift of direct sunlight.

Grateful to all the folks who have been praying for us through this long process! We have arrived! We Care, We Share, We Serve."

-Rev. John Holst



The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC.

The theme for 2026 is "Sent Forth in Love." Congregations are invited to participate in a scripture study, share announcements in your newsletters or bulletins, and display a poster to promote the offering. Participating in the offering helps foster connections with the wider church and create possibilities for the church of tomorrow.

Grab your materials here: <https://ow.ly/XYBc50YIjK6>

NURTURE THE SOUL
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: MENTAL HEALTH SUNDAY
Thursday, April 23rd | 3:30 PM Eastern

Abbie Chronister, MD
Chair, UCC Mental Health Network & Campus Ministry Associate at ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries

Rev. Sean Witty
Vice-Chair, UCC Mental Health Network, Ordained Minister in the UCC & American Baptist Churches USA, founder of Unshattered Minds

Rev. Stephanie Niemela
Michigan Conference, Alumni of the United Theological Seminary Twin Cities, & licensed counselor

United Church of Christ MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK
Register

Mental Health Sunday The UCC recognizes the third Sunday in May as Mental Health Sunday, this year it lands on May 17, 2026. What is Mental Health Sunday? Why should you host one? How do you go about planning a worship service dedicated to mental health? You are invited to join Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (UCC National Staff) and members of the [United Church of Christ Mental Health Network's](#) Board of Directors as they discuss implementing Mental Health Sunday in your own ministry context. Register: <https://ow.ly/HZPR50YHany>



Boundary Awareness Training

Training through Enkei Resolutions

September 8 & 9, 2026

Registration cost: \$65

To register, please use the link below: <https://enkei-resolutions.com/2026-boundary-training-registration/>

Trainings through Southern New England Conference via Zoom

- Wednesday, June 3, 2026, (2.0 level) - Registration closes 5/27/26
- Thursday, May 7, 2026, (3.0 level) - Registration closes 4/30/26

Cost for the training is: SNEUCC Clergy - \$65.00; all other Clergy - \$85.00

<https://www.sneucc.org/clergy-boundary-awareness-training>



The rise of Christian Nationalism was the focus of a UCC event featuring the General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches by [Renee DeLuca](#) | published on Apr 14, 2026

On Sunday, April 12, the United Church of Christ welcomed the [Rev. Philip Peacock, the General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches](#) (WCRC), and a leader in global ecumenism and justice advocacy, to reflect on how Religious Nationalism appears in different cultural contexts around the globe. [Read](#) - You can watch the entire event [HERE](#) -



Economic Justice and the Special Mission Offerings

Apr 21, 2026 02:00 PM CT

Join Seth Wispelwey and Rachel McDonald to talk about the intersection of our giving and economic justice. Explore how the Special Mission Offerings, an all-church commitment of the UCC to designated gifts throughout the year, highlight concepts like mutual aid and responsibility for our neighbor. Participants will deepen their understand of money beyond occasional moments of generosity into a lifelong practice of justice. [Register](#)



What's happening at your congregation?

Are you witnessing "justice in action" through your congregation? Share your story by sending a short blurb to ucctakeaction@ucc.org for a chance to be featured in the Justice & Peace Action Network newsletter and inspire others across the church! When you email your submission, please put "JPANet

Justice Story" in the subject line.



Are you interested in Serving as 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



Global Ministries

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



Now Hiring: Development Officer (Hybrid – Indianapolis, IN)

Global Ministries is seeking a relationship-driven Development Officer to help grow fund development efforts and connect generosity to global impact.

In this role, you'll cultivate donor relationships, lead campaigns, and support work advancing justice, reconciliation, and peace in partnership with Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ.

Learn more: <https://ow.ly/yjPe50YviGV>

Now Hiring: Controller (Hybrid – Indianapolis, IN)

Disciples Overseas Ministries is seeking a skilled and mission-driven Controller to lead financial operations and support global ministry work.

In this key leadership role, you'll oversee budgeting, financial reporting, audits, and internal controls while collaborating with partners like United Church of Christ. This position plays a vital role in ensuring strong stewardship and advancing impactful work around the world.

We're looking for someone with strong accounting experience (CPA preferred), a deep understanding of nonprofit financial practices, and a commitment to collaboration, equity, and the mission of the Church.

Learn more and apply: <https://ow.ly/PAJs50YvImY>

ISC Hunger Action Team - Facing Hunger in Your Community



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize ZION, MARION for partnering with the LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER IN MARION. It's a faith-based organization dedicated to helping the homeless in Southern Illinois. Zion members help prepare and serve the Sunday meal on the second Sunday of every month. The Zion Church family is committed to Hunger Action projects. Food is "their thing" and an avenue for ministry. Heartfelt thanks to Zion - under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. John Holst. 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



DUBOIS CENTER
SERVICE SATURDAY
MARCH 7 & MAY 9, 2026



RSVP at duboiscenter.org/support-dubois/work-days/

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](#)

FALL FESTIVAL DuBois Center



Folks, it is not too early to start thinking about those creative baskets you donate for the Silent Auction at DuBois's Fall Festival **October 4**. Take advantage of end-of-season sales, which combined with your imaginative spirits will yield good returns from those baskets Fest participants cannot resist. Again, we appreciate your support of DuBois in this way and look forward to seeing you in a few months.

WISHLIST WEDNESDAY!

Summer Program Needs

- Hammocks & Shelters
- Craft Supplies
- Personal/Health Items
- Program Supplies
- Barn Needs

Thank you!

DuBois Center

WISHLIST WEDNESDAY is here!

As always, THANK YOU to those who have already contributed to our list of summer camp needs!

For this week, we will highlight **Canopies**

Our Amazon list ships directly to us. If you purchase online anywhere else, simply add our address as the shipping address. If you purchase in person, just reach out to arrange drop off or pick up! Monetary donations to the cause are also welcome!

Our current Amazon Wishlist is found at: <https://a.co/0gHfHUGc>

RIDE DAY
at DuBois Center
MAY 9, 2026

SPACE LIMITED:
10 riders max
per ride

Arena Ride (ages 3-7): 10:30am
Trail Rides (ages 8+): 1:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm

REGISTER NOW!
REGISTRATION CLOSES APRIL 25

duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats DuBois Center, 2651 Quarry Road, Du Bois, IL 62831

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/>

Mark Your Calendars

AUGUST 7-8, 2026

RAINBOW CAMP

An LGBTQIA+ Friendly, Family Camp Experience!
At the DuBois Center in DuBois, Illinois



For more information

<https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/rainbow-camp/>

Summer Camp 2026
347 campers now registered!
 See graphic below update April 14, 2026
 Hurray - get your camp registration secured.

[MORE INFO](#)

[REGISTER](#)



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



Hoyleton Youth and Family Services to Celebrate New All-Abilities Playground Donation from The Maschhoffs Hoyleton Youth and Family Services will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, April 6, to celebrate the donation of a new all-abilities playground on its residential campus, made possible by The Maschhoffs. The ribbon cutting event will bring together representatives from The Maschhoffs, employees of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, and youth in the residential program to mark the official opening of the playground, which will serve youth living on the residential campus. [Read](#)



Hoyleton Youth and Family Services open Medication Management Clinic Hoyleton Youth and Family Services hosted an open house April 7 from 4-6pm, at their Fairview Heights office to celebrate the opening of a new Medication Management Clinic, expanding access to critical behavioral health services to the clients they serve. The new clinic is part of Hoyleton's ongoing effort to provide better access to mental health services. The expansion includes the addition of telepsychiatry services, and an onsite pharmacy operated by Hoyleton's community partner Bandy's Pharmacy. [Read](#)

Uni Pres Kindercottage Spring Newsletter Highlight

This spring season at Uni Pres Kindercottage (UPK) has been filled with joy, generosity, and community spirit. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was nothing short of amazing, thanks to the outpouring of support from local churches and children's ministries who gave so generously of their time, resources, and love.

Because of these meaningful partnerships, our children experienced more than just a day of fun—they felt the warmth of a community that truly cares. From beautifully prepared Easter baskets to hundreds of colorful eggs filled with treats and surprises, every detail reflected intentional giving and kindness. The laughter, excitement, and smiles shared across our playground were a direct result of these blessings.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each church and ministry that contributed. Your commitment to uplifting children and families aligns with our mission to provide enriching, joyful experiences that support the whole child. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community where every child feels valued and celebrated.

With gratitude,

Uni Pres Kindercottage

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



PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

For individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers. These groups are open to anyone, free of charge. Participants will find both emotional support and practical tools to help navigate the day-to-day challenges of Parkinson's.

LOCATION:

St. John's Community Care
222 Goethe Ave, Collinsville IL, 62234

4th Wednesday of the month
12:00pm

www.seniorservicesplus.org
Questions? Call 618-465-3298 ext 120



PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

For individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers. These groups are open to anyone, free of charge. Participants will find both emotional support and practical tools to help navigate the day-to-day challenges of Parkinson's.

LOCATION:

Belleville Health & Sports Center
1001 S 74th St, Belleville, IL 62223

Last Thursday of the month
12:00pm-12:45pm

www.seniorservicesplus.org
Questions? Call 618-465-3298 ext 120



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Add fulfillment to your life. Come join our team helping aging and disabled adults. We are in need of:

Receptionists
Program Assistants – help with games/crafts
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

RUMMAGE SALE

APRIL 17 & 18

8AM-2PM

ST. PAUL UCC
127 ST. PAUL STREET
COLUMBIA, IL 62236

150 YEARS

Shining Brightly

O'FALLON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

150th Anniversary Event April 15, 2026 • 206 W Adams St. • 6:30 PM

Brian Keller, president of the **O'Fallon Historical Society**, will speak on the history of this church and its impact on the social development of O'Fallon.

Question and answer period will follow. **Refreshments will be available.**

SPONSORED BY ST JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – FAIRVIEW

HEIGHTS (Across from Chuck Wagon in Fairview Heights)

SO MANY GREAT FINDS AND LOW LOW PRICES TO SELL!!

RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 – 8 AM – 2 PM

ST JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10207 LINCOLN TRAIL

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS IL 62208

COME FIND YOUR TREASURE!

• Shoes/Purses	• Home Décor	• Household Items
• Tools	• Children Books/Toys/Games/Activity Items	• Area Rugs
• Lg Collection of Candy Molds	• Seasonal Items	• Elephant Figurine Enthusiasts
• Jewelry	• AND SO MUCH MORE!!	



EvUCC to Host “Raise the Roost!” Auction & Chicken Dinner [Full Flyer HERE](#)

Highland, IL — Evangelical United Church of Christ (EvUCC) invites the community to join us for our annual *Raise the Roost!* Auction and Chicken Dinner on **Saturday, April 18**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Highland. This beloved community event combines great food, great fun, and great generosity to support EvUCC’s ministries and mission. Doors open and the silent auction begins at 5:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM and the live auction will begin at 7:30 PM. Guests can purchase individual tickets or fill a table of 8. We encourage larger parties to have one person place a single order for the entire group. [Raise the Roost: EvUCC Dinner Auction 2026 Tickets, Saturday, Apr 18 from 5 pm to 9 pm | Eventbrite](#)



EvUCC Auction committee members show featured items, including a quilt from Rosemary’s Fabrics and an autographed football and bobblehead from Detroit Lions tight end and Highland native Sam LaPorta, along with just a few of the hundreds of items that are being collected for the event on April 18 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Highland, IL.

CHICKEN & DUMPLING DINNER

Sunday, April 19th

Christ United Church of Christ

200 S. 3rd St., Dupu, IL



SERVING 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

(or until we run out)

Dinner also includes: green beans, carrots, coleslaw & dessert

***Dine In (Cafeteria Style) & Carry Outs Available ***

CALL 618-286-4211 IF YOU REQUIRE A LOCAL DELIVERY

Garage SALE

**Garage Sale at
EvUCC Highland**
Friday, April 24
5:30pm to 7:30pm
Saturday, April 25
8:am to Noon
2520 Poplar St, Highland, IL

Marine UCC Trivia Night

April 25
7pm

Doors open at 6:30pm \$15 per person with up to 8 people at a table. Prizes for first and second place teams. To register, call 618-887-4465. If calling after hours, please leave your name and number of people attending.



Proceeds will go to Hoyleton Youth & Family Services to support their mission in our communities. HYFS has been committed to building stronger communities and enabling all people to realize the wholeness of life that God intends since 1895.

111 North Center St. | Marine, IL

ST. PAUL UCC PRESENTS
Christian Illusionist
JARED HALL

**Kids 10 & under: Free (ticket required)
 Adults: \$10**

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 7:00 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 3:00 PM

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the church office or scan the QR code.

618-939-7123

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Tickets can be picked up at the St. Paul UCC church office in advance or held at Will Call on the day of the show.

200 N Main St | Waterloo, IL | 618-939-7123 | www.stpaulonline.org

ST. JOHN UCC CEMETERY

St. John UCC Granite City Glo Bingo

Saturday, April 25th at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2558 Madison Ave, Granite City. Doors open at 6:00pm, bingo starts at 7:00pm. Tickets \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at the door. Admission includes Glo Bingo hat, dauber, and 10 game cards. There will also be a 50/50 Drawing and Silent Auction. Bring your own snacks. All beverages must be purchased through the venue. Proceeds to benefit the Historical Preservation of Nameoki Road Cemetery Site. For more info contact Nina Jackson 618-407-2101 or St John UCC Cemetery 618-876-5811.

Saturday, May 2, 2026

SPRING BBQ

St. John UCC
 2901 Nameoki Rd
 Granite City IL

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Pork Steak Plate with 2 sides \$14.00
Brat Plate with 2 sides \$14.00

SIDES: POTATO SALAD, GREEN BEANS, OR BAKED BEANS
 HOT DOGS, DESSERTS, AND DRINKS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Community Music

Join us for an afternoon of music from local churches!

Sunday, May 3rd • 2 pm
 Evangelical United Church of Christ
 2520 Poplar St.
 Highland, IL

A love offering will be collected to benefit Hamel Alhambra Ministerial Alliance and Highland Area Ministries
 Light refreshments will be served afterwards

Evangelical UCC Highland Music Event
 Sunday, May 3rd, 2026
 at 2:00p.m.

We will gather in song at EvUCC Highland. Along with the joy of voices, music, and togetherness, we will have the opportunity to share in a free will offering to benefit the Hamel Alhambra Ministerial Alliance and the Highland Area Ministries. All are welcome!

If any of your ensembles, choirs, or bell choirs would like to participate, please contact Joan Schuetz at 618-975-2704.

St John UCC, New Athens
Fried Chicken Dinner

1/2 Fresh Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Corn, Slaw, & Dessert

May 3rd, 2026
Adults \$15
Children \$8

Accepting Cash, Check, Venmo, Credit/Debit Card



If you are reading a print version of the ISC *Weekly Connection*, consider scanning the QR code 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](#)

[Part-time Administrative Assistant - St. John UCC Trenton](#)

[Part-Time Secretary/Bookkeeper- Friedens UCC Irvington](#)

[Part-Time Behavioral Health Nurse - Hoyleton Youth & Family Services](#)

[Part-Time Faith Community Nurse - Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#)

[Part-Time Administrative Assistant - St. John's UCC Smithton](#)

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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