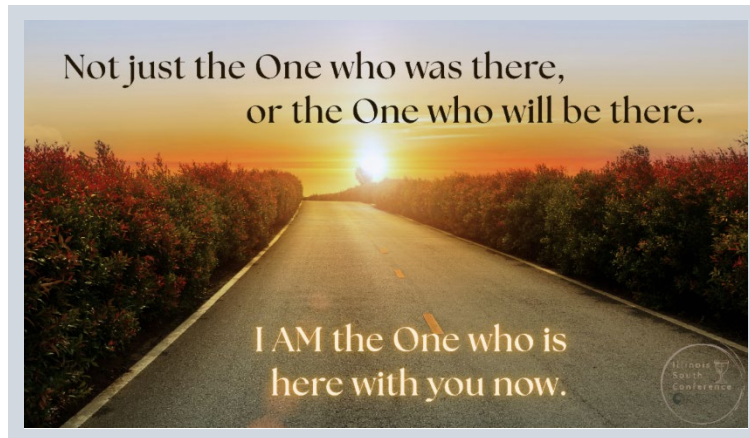


August 25, 2026



Reflections for Our Conference Minister



When Moses questions whether he is truly the one God is calling to go to the Israelites and proclaim that they should worship God, Moses asks God, "But if I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

The Holy One responds, "**I AM who I AM.**"

I AM the One who has seen their misery.
I AM the One who has heard their cries.
I AM the One who has witnessed their oppression.
I AM the One who knows their pain and will deliver them.

And the Holy One still responds to us, "I AM who I AM."

I AM the One who is present with you in this moment.

Not just the One who was there,
or the One who will be there.

I AM the One who is here with you now.

I AM the One who sees what others don't.

I AM the One who hears the prayers you can't find the words to speak.

I AM the One who has heard your cries of frustration, pain, loneliness, and exhaustion.

I AM the One who has witnessed your heartbreak, your disappointments, your struggles, as well as those moments when you wonder if you are enough.

I AM the One who knows your fears and doubts, your questions and uncertainties.

I AM also the One who knows your laughter and knows what brings you joy.

I AM the One who delights in what delights you, celebrates your successes, and sings when your spirit sings.

I AM the One who created you, designed you, imagined you, and fashioned you into being by my very breath.

I AM the One who knows you completely, and loves you completely, without end, unconditionally, for all time.

I AM the One who will never leave you, desert you, abandon you, or forsake you.
So, wherever you go, whatever you face, whatever today or tomorrow may bring:

I AM with you.

I AM holding you.

And I AM loving you, my beloved, now and forever.

-Rev. Shana Johnson
ISC Conference Minister

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



Immanuel UCC, Hamel-

Rev. Paul (Rev. Cherie Hambleton) Burden

Retired Pastor- Rev. Elmer (Linda) Bowman



Friedens UCC- Hecker

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

UCC Global, National, + Regional News

Rev. Dr. Tim Harrison
Retirement Celebration

Sunday, August 30, 2026 10:00 am

Friedens United Church of Christ
207 E Center St., Troy, IL

Join us as we celebrate the retirement of our beloved pastor after years of faithful service, leadership, and care for our church family. Following the worship service, please stay and join us for a retirement reception as we celebrate Pastor Tim's ministry, share memories, and wish him God's richest blessings in this new chapter of life..

*Farewell & Best Wishes
Pastor Tim & Danielle!*



Join us to Celebrate



Pastor Bob

On September 13, 2026 Pastor Bob will lead his last worship service at St John UCC. After 37 years of faithful service to our congregation and the village of New Athens, we would like to invite family, friends, and the community to join us in an open house to help us celebrate his retirement.

September 13, 2026 Worship 10:00am St John UCC
Open house to follow till 4pm The Bullpen Bar and Grill

Music from The St Louis Stompers

Appetizers, tea, coffee, & cake provided
Questions, please call Susan in the Church office 618-475-2947
St John UCC
301 S Market St
New Athens IL 62264
The Bullpen Bar And Grill
101 N Van Buren
New Athens IL 62264

**St. John UCC
New Athens
invites you
to join in
celebrating the
retirement of
Rev. Dr. Robert
Koch**

Clergy Workshop on Christian Nationalism

featuring Rev. Hannah Kardon

Monday, September 14th
4 pm to 5:30 pm
via ZOOM

hosted by the ISC
Justice & Mission Team

Register by September 10th
email dkesner@iscucc.org

ISC
JUSTICE
& MISSION
helping to be the good



Dear ISC Clergy,

The Justice and Mission Team has created a unique opportunity for us to gather as colleagues for a timely and important workshop exploring how the principles of Christian Nationalism often stand in direct contradiction to the core teachings and witness of Jesus Christ.

Our presenter, Rev. Hannah Kardon, a United Methodist pastor with roots in the United Church of Christ, will offer valuable insights into how churches can clearly distinguish themselves from messages of hate and exclusion that are driving many people away from the church. Together, we will explore how we can instead embody the welcoming love and transformative message of Jesus found in the Gospels.

This free workshop, originally scheduled for Monday, August 10, has been rescheduled for **Monday, September 14, from 4:00–5:30 p.m. via Zoom.**

Because this workshop will be interactive, with opportunities for participants to ask questions and reflect on their own experiences in ministry settings, we will not record our time together. This will help us create a braver space for honest conversation and sharing.

I encourage you to join us for what promises to be an engaging time of learning, conversation, and reflection—one that I hope will strengthen and enrich your ministry.

Because we will not be publicly sharing the Zoom link, and our presenter would like to know how many people will be attending, please **email Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org by noon on Thursday, September 10**, to let her know that you plan to attend. Debbie will then send the Zoom link to everyone who has registered.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at sjohnson@iscucc.org. I hope you will join us, and I look forward to seeing you online on Monday, September 14.

Rev. Shana Johnson



Registration for the
2026 ISC Annual
Meeting opens
Tuesday, September 1

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. In 2026, the suggested offering date is **October 4**, but churches collect the offering for a month or any other season throughout the year. Thank you for your support and generosity!



Fall 2026 Eden Seminary Ministry Cohorts!

Ministry cohorts allow you to sample many theological themes, offering peer learning with your ministry context in mind. Scholars have chosen a specific lens on a particular topic and share their expertise through digital content you watch on your own time. Four monthly online meetings are interspersed, where you and your cohort members gather for facilitated discussion with an experienced church leader.

Cohorts support lifelong learning and are for anyone-authorized clergy, chaplains, Christian educators, lay leaders and anyone interested in the topic. UCC members will recognize the Marks for Ministry woven throughout the cohorts, though anyone from any denomination, or no denomination, is welcome to attend.

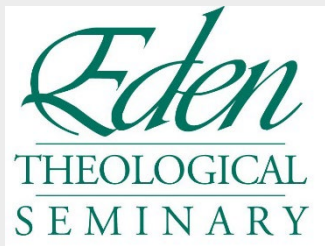


Fall 2026 Themes

- Spiritual Care Basics for Lay People
- Race, Class and Gender in the Forgotten Creed
- United Church of Christ History and Polity
- Spiritual Care for the Unhoused
- Gender and Sexuality in the Bible

Fall 2026 Eden Ministry Cohorts

Upcoming Boundary Trainings approved by Illinois South Conference Committee on Ministry



Beyond Don't Sleep with the Sheep: Boundary Training for Clergy
Friday, September 11 9:00AM - 3:00PM CT via Online Together, we'll look at power and positional authority, historical impact, and our roles as leaders within congregations and the communities we are called to serve. [Register](#)



A boundary awareness training for members in discernment and authorized ministers of the UCC. **Thursday September 24, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM CST** via Zoom and the Damascus Project Learning Network. [Register](#) by September 22nd.



Led by the UCC's Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization Team (MESA) This training is recommended for retired clergy and for pastors who are preparing for retirement. **Thursday, October 15, 1:00 – 4:00pm CT**, Boundary Training for Retired Clergy; register [here](#), with the Revs. Tara Barber and Melanie Oommen.



Boundary Training for Authorized Ministers Registration closes when limits are reached. All trainings are spread out over two days and take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. CT each day. **November 5 & 12, November 17 & 18**
Links for more [information](#) and to [register](#).

Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries (PAAM-UCC)

National Moderator's

Official Midwest Visit

September 19, 2026 - Eden UCC, Chicago

September 20, 2026 - Christ Church UCC, Des Plaines

Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries (PAAM-UCC) welcomes National Moderator Eppie Encabo to the Chicago area for an official Midwest Region visit.

All UCC congregations are invited to a Hybrid Regional Gathering on Saturday, September 19, from 2–4 pm at Eden UCC in Chicago, with participation also available through Google Meet. Come learn more about PAAM, hear updates and new initiatives, connect with congregations across the region, and help strengthen PAAM's Midwest ministry.

All are welcome—whether your congregation has long been connected with PAAM or is simply interested in supporting and engaging Pacific Islander and Asian American ministries in the UCC. [Click for full flyer](#)
RSVP:

<https://forms.gle/v9Eis4DNjDWsauqM8>

Google Meet:

<https://meet.google.com/mpk-kozg-rbs>



August is National Make-a-Will Month

Create a free and legal will with Freewill for National Make-a-Will Month

The Pension Boards and Rev. Dr. [Paul Leon Ramsey](#), Director Church Relations and Philanthropy, is pleased to partner with the [United Church of Christ](#) in its Together for Tomorrow shared legacy campaign, which offers FreeWill, an estate planning tool to create your, free and legal will. Observe National Make-A-Will Month and secure your legacy today at FreeWill. Visit <https://freewill.com/pbucc>.

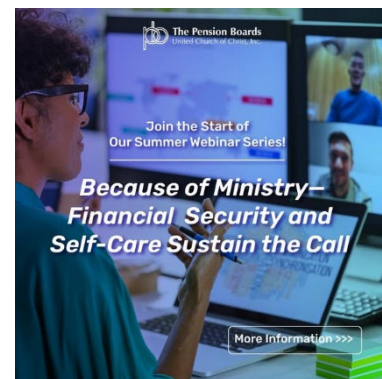


Pension Board Summer Webinar Series

LAST ONE OF THE SUMMER!

Monday, August 31, 2:00 pm CT -

[Employer-Focused Workshop: Building Healthy, Sustainable Ministries Through Better Benefits Education](#)



CMP will host Converging 2026: Sing It in Louisville, Kentucky

October 7–10 This gathering offers continuing education opportunities for pastors and ministry leaders, professional development for worship leaders, and personal inspiration for songwriters and others passionate about music and ministry.

[Converging 2026: Sing It](#) (click this link for more information)

Second, CMP is currently offering a free one-month trial membership for individuals and churches. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the music, videos, and other resources available through their platform.

[Free Trial Membership](#) (click this for more information)

CMP's Converging conference It's a gathering for progressive Christian musicians, songwriters, worship directors, and for anyone interested in finding, sharing, and creating the songs our communities need right now.

Register today at cmpconverging.com

CMP CONVERGING 2026
A gathering for anyone who wants to find, share, and create the songs our communities need to help us *sing through* challenging times.

SPEAKERS & ARTISTS
Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III
Preacher | Author
Jim Wallis
Writer | Advocate
Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson
Ken Medema
Bryan Sirchio
Mark Miller
Andra Moran
Christopher Grundy
Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Monty Jackson
Cole Arthur Riley
Writer | Creator of Rock Songs

LOUISVILLE, KY | OCTOBER 7-10, 2026
REGISTER AT [CMPCONVERGING.COM](https://cmpconverging.com)



Lunchtime Film Series on Caring for the Earth

Join Blessed Tomorrow for 6 lunchtime screenings of the film series: Caring for the Earth: Stories from Faith Communities! Created for pastors and faith leaders of all ages. We will watch each film over the 6 weeks and then hear directly from the powerful faith leaders featured in the films. **Wednesdays from September 2nd through October 7th 12:00 pm- 12:45 pm CT.** Register [here](#)!

Run with Purpose. Join Team CWS!

[Church World Service](#)

2026 Indianapolis Monumental Marathon

Saturday, November 7, 2026

CWS is proud to be an official charity partner of the 2026 Indianapolis Monumental Marathon on **November 7, 2026**. Through Team CWS, participants can run either the Half Marathon or Full Marathon while raising funds to support CWS programs around the world and the local work of CWS Indianapolis.

Team CWS runners receive a racing singlet or t-shirt, coaching support from Olympic Trials qualifier Evan Gaynor, access to a private race-day tent, a pre-race team meal, and fundraising support from CWS staff.

[Half Marathon](#) or [Full Marathon](#) , [Download flyer here](#).



September - National Suicide Prevention Month

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATIONS - Reduce the Stigma and Start the Conversation

- The [UCC Mental Health Network](#) has a Suicide Prevention Toolkit and A Congregation/Synagogue/ Organization Toolkit.
- The American Psychiatric Association Foundation [Mental Health - A Guide for Faith Leaders Vol. Two](#) is available as a free download.

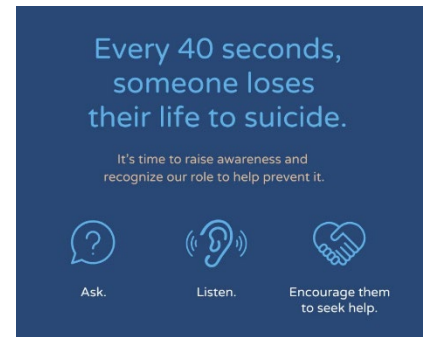
Part 1 provides a Mental Health Overview that includes suicide.

Part 2 focuses on Faith Leader Support for People With Mental Illness and on building community capacity to support individuals with mental health needs. It also addresses compassion fatigue, burnout, and self-care for Faith Leaders.

- **National Suicide Prevention 988 Lifeline** (<http://988lifeline.org>) provides 24/7, free, confidential support for people in distress via call, text, and chat.

The 988 Lifeline provides specialized responses and resources for ALL, including:

- **Veterans** (connecting to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline),
- **Spanish speakers** (with voice, text, and chat options),
- **LGBTQ+ individuals** (connecting with a specialized counselor by texting “PRIDE” to 988 or pressing “3” when calling), and
- **People who use American Sign Language** (using videophones to contact 988 directly).



September is Preparedness Month

Join UCC Disaster Ministries, [Insurance Board](#), [Pension Boards - United Church of Christ](#), and [Cornerstone Fund](#) for a collaborative Preparedness Month kickoff webinar.

Through an interactive mock disaster scenario, participants will explore practical strategies for how churches can effectively care for congregants, support clergy, safeguard facilities, and serve their communities when disasters strike.

Register: <https://ow.ly/Txik50ZAAiK>



Contemporary Complicities

by [Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson](#) | published on Aug 25, 2026

There is a history that is whispered, periodically visited, and at times is changed with attempts to erase and rewrite. This history is not a moment in time, nor is it a singular moment that contributes to the events of today. Instead, there are a series of events, moments in time when complicity becomes the default of people who are committed to their own self-interest.

Complicity is experienced in the activity of silence as a mechanism to excuse oneself from the ownership of policies, thoughts and ideas that are destructive to the lives of others. By saying nothing, by doing nothing, by turning away from the realities of historic and contemporary problematic social policies, complicity has accompanied the establishment of authoritarianism, the affirmation of racism and divisiveness, and the identification of people in our communities as less than human. In those moments, people's lives have been eradicated while the silence effervesces and expands unnoticed. [Read](#)



September 20th: Just Peace Sunday

Each year, the United Church of Christ recognizes the Sunday before International Day of Prayer for Peace as Just Peace Sunday. We take this Sunday to renew our commitment to our Just Peace vision. This year, we gather around the theme “God’s Economy: People Over Profit”. Stay tuned for more worship resources [here](#).





July 2026 CWS Disaster Bucket project at Evangelical UCC of Highland, IL

**A Message from Priscilla Self, Conference Disaster Response Coordinator—
Church World Service now offers a “Host a Party with a Purpose” option to assemble Kits and Cleanup Buckets.**

Whether it's a youth group, Rally Day, mission project, school club, or birthday with meaning—Party Packs are a joyful way to serve together - turn compassion into action; pack some love.

Go to <https://cwskits.org/party-packs/> for all the information about this including an order form. Complete the order form and CWS will ship to you all the supplies needed for these Kits and Buckets: (allow three weeks for delivery after your order is received)

- Hygiene Kits – Case of 24 \$168.00
- Period Packs – Case of 10 \$162.50
- Kids Kits (School supplies) – Case of 12 \$162.00

These Kits include packing boxes and prepaid return shipping labels —just drop completed boxes off at your local FedEx facility.

- Clean-up Buckets – supplies for 36 buckets \$2,160.00

The buckets need to be delivered to a CWS depot and there is still time to order, organize and assemble buckets for the Oct. 10, 2026 drop off at the St. Louis location listed below. Or click the button for additional depot info.

St. Louis, Missouri LifeWise STL
1321 South 11th Street, St. Louis, MO, 63104

Dropoff Dates and Times: First Saturday in October - 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Contact: Krescene Beck, krescenebeck@gmail.com

Church World Service Drop Off Locations and Dates



Global Ministries

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



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

It Started with a Haystack: An Evolution of Ministry Around the World

by [Shari Prestemon](#) | published on Aug 24, 2026

ABCFM.

How's that for some more alphabet soup in the United Church of Christ?

ABCFM stands for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. ABCFM represents an early part of our United Church of Christ history that has enduring impact and influence in our denominational life today. And it all started in a haystack during a rainstorm.

In 1806, a prayer meeting of five students at Williams College in Massachusetts was interrupted by a sudden thunderstorm. They scrambled to find shelter under a haystack, and when they emerged from their meeting after the storm had passed, the five of them had declared their call to be missionaries. [Read](#)



30th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Get ready for a spectacular evening as we celebrate 30 years of impact and giving! Join us at our **30th Anniversary Gala on November 7, 2026, in Indianapolis**. This milestone event will bring together friends, partners, and supporters for a night of celebration! More details on the event will be forthcoming — mark your calendars now!

Reservations will open soon! We look forward to celebrating our past, embracing the present, and embracing a future of continued growth and impact.



ISC Hunger Action Team - Facing Hunger in Your Community



The Hunger Action Team would like to recognize ZION UCC, MARION for their "SHINE" FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROJECT.

"Grab and Go" meals for children and teens were available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays all summer from 11:30 to 12:30 at two locations in Marion. Meals include: 2 lunches and breakfast items. Children who qualify for free school breakfast and



MARION KIWANIS CLUB -
\$7683 DONATION FOR SHINE

lunch didn't have access to these meals during summer break. Kids need the proper nutrition for their learning, growth, and development. Heartfelt thanks to Zion, for their ongoing support of families in need - under the leadership of pastor and teacher, Rev. John Holst. 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...

News from DuBois Center



Fall Ride Day September 12, 2026

A day to bring the family out or get a group of friends together for a horseback ride at DuBois Center. Sign up for a ride time that fits your schedule best. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch for your group to enjoy!

*10 riders max per ride

Arena Ride: 4:00pm. Ages 3-7 with an adult walking alongside the horse. \$18 per child.

Trail Rides: 10:30am, 1:00pm, 2:30pm. Ages 8+. \$30 per rider.

Click [here](#) to register. **Hurry! Registration closes August 29!!!**

Mother-Daughter Retreat is October 9-11 and Mother-Son Day is November 1.

Enjoy camp activities, time to relax in nature, and quality time together!

For more information: <https://duboiscenter.org/retreats/dbc-retreats/>



Hello,

We hope this email finds you well! Fall Festival at DuBois Center is fast approaching, and we can't do it without LOTS of wonderful volunteers like YOU. Consider joining us on Sunday, October 4 to help with Horses, Soda Stand, Sweet Treats, Kids' Corner, Hayrides, and more. We also need help with set up on Saturday, October 3. Sign up to volunteer by Friday, September 25:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA4AD28A2FCC34-65007262-2026>

Thanks for your consideration - Hope to see you there!

Breanne Beisiegel

Fall Festival Volunteer Coordinator

DuBois Center

2651 Quarry Road

DuBois, Illinois 62831

Office Phone: (618) 787-2202

**FALL
FESTIVAL**
DuBois Center

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

FALL FESTIVAL Sunday, Oct 4 from 11-5
DuBois Center

Family-friendly event!
Admission & parking are free, and there's something for everyone to enjoy. Gather your friends and family!

Food Trucks, Live Music, Rope Making, Kids Korner, Pony & Hay Rides, Silent Auction, and **OVER 40 CRAFTERS & ARTISANS!**

2651 Quarry Rd. DuBois, IL
www.DuBoisCenter.org

DuBois Center
The Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ



Fall Festival Auction Baskets Drop Off! Come Out & Bid!

Folks, we hope your congregations and church boards will be putting together an auction basket this year! Donations of baskets for the Silent Auction at DuBois's Fall Festival **October 4** which, combined with your imaginative spirits, yield good returns Fall Fest participants cannot resist. Again, we appreciate your support of DuBois in this way and look forward to seeing you in just a couple months! Thank you!!!!

Council for Health & Human Services Ministries News



CHHSM Invites Workshop Proposals for 2027 Annual Gathering in Houston

August 11, 2026 | [Barb Powell](#)

CHHSM is inviting [proposals for workshops](#) for the 2027 [Annual Gathering](#), to be held **March 16-18, 2027**, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Houston-Greenway Plaza.

Moving forward with courage and hope is the emphasis of the gathering, based on its theme, "To the Stars through Difficulties." The theme recalls not only Houston's nickname—Space City— but the human spirit and inspiration necessary in the space program. The Johnson Space Center is housed in Houston, and all space program astronauts live and train in Houston.

"This year's theme dovetails with the work of CHHSM agencies," said Jamar Doyle, president and CEO of CHHSM. "It evokes the hope and courage our CHHSM agencies embody, while acknowledging the challenges they face. In spite of increasingly difficult circumstances, our people serve with passion, compassion, and resilience."

The focus scripture of the Annual Gathering is Isaiah 58. "Our hope is that presenters will choose from the whole of Isaiah in terms of where they draw inspiration," said Matt Bishop, CHHSM vice president. [READ](#)



Emmaus on Great Day St. Louis!

We're proud to share this feature highlighting DSP Tyson Ross and our Chief Human Resources Officer on Great Day St. Louis!

Take a minute to watch Tyson talk about his experience supporting his client at the Special Olympics USA Games and what made the experience so meaningful.

And there's more to the story! Keep an eye on your mailbox — you can read more about Tyson, his client and their Special Olympics preparation in the Summer Messenger, arriving this week! [Watch](#)



Emmaus



WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Be part of the action and help make this year's Golf Classic a hole-in-one!

Hoyleton Golf Classic '26

September 18 | Tamarack Golf Course | 800 Tamarack Lane, Shiloh

Volunteer Shifts Available:

9 AM – 12 PM	12 PM – 4 PM
Event Setup	Tent Support on the Course
Guest Registration	Dinner Service Support
Tent Support on the Course	Event Clean-Up

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help make this year's Golf Classic a success!

Interested in volunteering? Contact Mario McCart at mmccart@hoyleton.org to sign up or learn more.



Supporting Growth at Every Age, is happening on September 13th 2026 at 10:45am, and we'd love for you to be part of it.

This fun and inclusive .1K event is designed so that everyone can participate, whether you walk, run, roll, cheer from the sidelines, or simply come out to support the community.

We're also thrilled to partner with The Learning Tree for this special event, bringing together two organizations committed to supporting individuals and families across the Metro-East community.

Proceeds from the event will help strengthen programs and services that support students, older adults, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and families throughout our region.

Whether you've participated in one of our events before or are simply looking for a meaningful and lighthearted way to support the community, we hope you'll mark your calendar now.

Registration details can be found [here](#) and on our website coming soon!

Thank you for helping us continue building a more supportive, connected community for all ages and abilities.



WALK, RUN, OR ROLL TO THE FINISH LINE AND HELP RAISE MONEY FOR ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY CARE AND THE LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL AT ST. JOHN UCC

.1K RACE | MUSIC | RAFFLES | OUTDOOR GAMES | REFRESHMENTS & MORE

BE A SPONSOR!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th

1ST RACE @ 10:45 AM

.1K Supporting Growth at Every Age

Inclusion • Community • Opportunity • Belonging

ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY CARE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR

\$25 PER RACE ENTRANT / FAMILY



Are you interested in making a difference in your community and boosting your business? Don't miss out on this fantastic sponsorship opportunity! <https://charity.pledgeit.org/SupportingGrowth>

O'Fallon United Church of Christ Craft & Vendor Fair



206 W. Adams
O'Fallon, IL 62269
**Saturday,
August 29, 2026
9am - 2pm**

For more info contact:
oucc@sbcglobal.net
618-632-3496



St. John UUC
Annual Chicken & Dumpling Dinner



All you can eat
Adults - \$12.00
Kids (6-12) - \$7.00
5 & under Free
Carry Out - \$12.00

FALL
Bazaar

Sunday,
September 27,
2026
11:00 a.m.
until
4:00 p.m.

2901 Nameoki Road
Granite City



GriefShare Support Group

Are you or someone you know grieving the loss of a loved one? You/they don't have to walk that journey alone. GriefShare is a 13-week program and caring support group that offers hope, understanding, and companionship for those navigating loss. The fall session will be hosted on Mondays, starting on September 14, at Evangelical United Church of Christ in Highland. GriefShare provides practical tools, encouraging discussion, and support from people who understand what you're going through.

To learn more or register, call 618-654-7459. Registration is also available online: [Evangelical United Church of Christ GriefShare - GriefShare](#)

GriefShare® SUPPORT GROUP

Consider joining us or passing along the information to someone you know who is grieving a loss.

Mondays - Sept. 14 - Dec. 14

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Evangelical United Church of Christ

2520 Poplar Street, Highland

For more information call 618-654-7459

O'Fallon United Church of Christ, 206 West Adams, O'Fallon, IL invites one and all to attend:

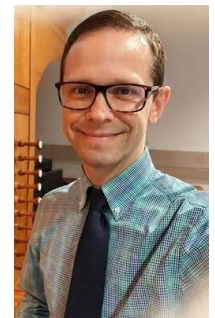
Sept. 27 at 3:00pm

Kevin Chunko, organ recital

Mark your calendar, invite your friends and share this info on social media so the community can attend! The 150th Anniversary Committee requested a series of concerts to be held at our church to celebrate. We want to have a great crowd, so please pass the word!

Other concerts to mark on calendar:

Nov. 15 Tim Jansen, organ recital



RISE: Break of Day Retreat

ISC Winter Youth Event

Save the Date!

January 15 - 17th, 2027

All youth in 6th - 12th grades are invited to attend this ISC youth event at our camp, DuBois Center (2651 Quarry Rd., DuBois, IL.)

The night is over. The horizon is waiting.

There is a universal magic in the sunrise—that specific moment when the darkness finally pulls back, the air clears, and suddenly, everything feels possible again. In January, we'll be heading into the woods to experience that reset for ourselves.

RISE: Break of Day is about stripping away the noise of everyday life to find some much-needed clarity. Whether you're a middle schooler navigating who you are or a high schooler looking at what's next, the sunrise meets you exactly where you are.

If inclement weather causes us to postpone this event, it will be held on February 13th-15th.



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

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](#)

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

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

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

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

[Part-Time Office-Business Manager - Evangelical UCC Highland](#)

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

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

[Director of Nursing - Hitz Memorial Home](#)



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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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