

September 1, 2026



**Registration for the ISC Annual Meeting is now open!**



**Join Us for the ISC Annual Meeting!**

The ISC Annual Meeting is a valuable opportunity for our Conference to come together, foster community, and provide education on matters that affect our shared life within the Church. We will gather and joyfully discern under the theme of "Counting the Cost in all seasons" (-Luke 14: 27-28) to engage clergy, delegates, and visitors in discussing the important issues facing our Conference while participating in uplifting worship.

Our meeting will again be anchored by the dedicated gathering space of the Covenantal Commons (formerly the MarketPlace) connecting us with our ministry partners as we co-create a just world through shared resources, ministries, and investments.

Follow the link to secure your spot >> [Register online](#)

Download the [Registration Form](#) to register my mail

#### **AGENDA**

**8:30 am** Doors Open

**9:00 – 9:15 am** Opening Session

**9:15 – 9:30 am** Break/Visit the **Covenantal Commons**

**9:30 – 10:30 am** Opening Worship  
**10:30 – 10:45 am** State of the Conference Address  
**10:45 – 11:00 am** Introduction to our Covenantal Conversations  
**11:00 – 11:45 am** Break/Visit the **Covenantal Commons**  
**11:15 – 11:45 am** Covenantal Conversations  
**11:45 am – 1:00 pm** Lunch/Visit the **Covenantal Commons**  
**1:00 – 2:00 pm** Gathering in the sanctuary  
 - Covenantal Conversation Feedback, DuBois Center Report, Financial Presentation  
**2:00 – 2:15 pm** Break/Visit the **Covenantal Commons**  
**2:15 – 3:00 pm** Covenantal Conversations  
**3:00 – 3:15 pm** Gathering in the Sanctuary-Covenantal Conversation Feedback  
**3:15 – 4:00 pm** Business Session - Presentation from Nominating Committee, Voting on the 2027 Proposed Slate of Nominees, Voting of the 2027 Proposed Budget  
**4:00 – 4:15 pm** Break/Visit the **Covenantal Commons**  
**4:15 pm** Closing Blessing & Commission

More information to follow on our [website](#). Stay tuned!

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week...



**Evangelical UCC, Highland-**  
Rev. William (Sally) Kapp



**St. Peter UCC Hookdale, Smithboro**

**Retired Pastor-** Rev. Dr. Robert E. (Jay) Lee

[Submit prayer requests here](#)

UCC Global, National, + Regional News

## Global HOPE

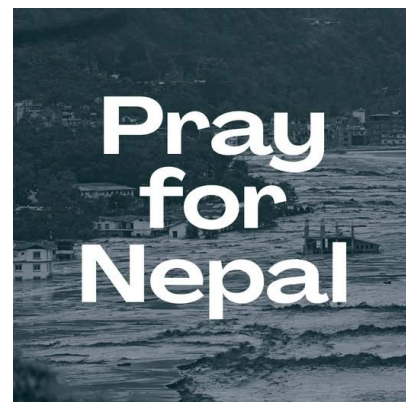
### August 28, 2026 | Devastating Floods in Nepal

On 26 August 2026, ground supporting a glacier in the Himalayan mountains gave way causing a major avalanche of ice and rock to fall into the Bhote Koshi River. The debris caused a dam to form in the river which suddenly and violently gave way, releasing a torrent of water and debris that flooded the river valley of the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers. Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) has classified the emergency as a large-scale and catastrophic emergency requiring a coordinated national and international response.

As of 28 August 2026, CBS reported that 579 people have been confirmed dead and roughly 2,500 remain missing. Since the flood occurred on the 26th of August, more than 3,700 people have been evacuated from the area via helicopter.

We are in contact with and supporting partners through Global Ministries and ACT Alliance who are responding in the impacted area. Right now, the immediate needs are search and rescue, food, hygiene, shelter, logistics and access, and early recovery/livelihood support.

If you are interested in supporting the victims of the flooding in Nepal and other major international disasters, you can give here: [Global H.O.P.E – United Church of Christ](#) and select “international emergency” from the drop-down menu.



*(Please send support to the link above and not to the Illinois South Conference office to ensure resources are available most expeditiously.)*



***Congratulations, Rev. Dr. Tim Harrison, on your retirement! Enjoy the adventures ahead!***



See more AMAZING celebratory photos on Friedens UCC Troy's Facebook page  
>><https://www.facebook.com/FriedensUCCtroyIL>

## 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**

Please join us as we celebrate the

# INSTALLATION SERVICE OF

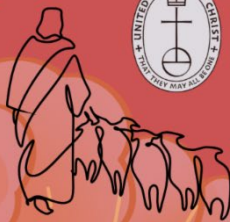
*Pastor David Edwards*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> @ 3<sup>PM</sup>**

Fellow clergy are invited to arrive at 2:45pm to robe & wear their favorite stole. Light reception immediately following.

**GOOD SHEPHERD OF FAITH UCC | 1514 KANSAS AVE | EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS 62201**






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](mailto: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](mailto:sjohnson@iscucc.org). I hope you will join us, and I look forward to seeing you online on Monday, September 14.

Rev. Shana Johnson

## 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.

**Clergy Workshop on Christian Nationalism**

featuring Rev. Hannah Kardon

**Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
4 pm to 5:30 pm  
via ZOOM

hosted by the ISC  
Justice & Mission Team

Register by September 10<sup>th</sup>  
email [dkesner@iscucc.org](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org)

ISC  
JUSTICE  
& MISSION  
helping to be the good



Every 40 seconds,  
someone loses  
their life to suicide.

It's time to raise awareness and  
recognize our role to help prevent it.

Ask. Listen. Encourage them to seek help.





- **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 Kick-Off** 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>



## 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!



## ISC Pastor Releases First Book

Pastor Kyle Timmons at St. Paul UCC in Waterloo, IL released his first book earlier in August.

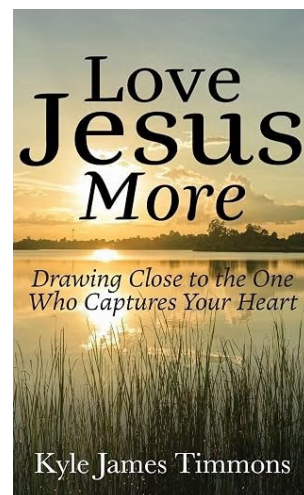
You believe in Jesus. You serve Him. But do you truly love Him most?

You attend church, serve faithfully, and believe the right things. But something feels quietly off. There is a gap between what you profess and what your heart actually treasures. You love comfort. You love approval. You love the life you have built. None of these things are sinful, but somewhere along the way, they slipped into the place only Jesus was meant to fill. You are not rebellious. You are not walking away. You are just slowly drifting, and you can feel it.

In [Love Jesus More: Drawing Closer to the One Who Captures Your Heart](#), minister Kyle Timmons offers a disarmingly honest confession: he preached Jesus, served Jesus, and believed in Jesus, but secretly loved other things more. Rooted in the Apostle Paul's stunning declaration in Philippians 3:8, this book traces a path from divided affection to wholehearted devotion. Timmons does not pile on guilt or demand more discipline. Instead, he invites you to see Jesus so clearly that every competing love loses its grip. This is not about trying harder. It is about treasuring deeper.

Inside this book, you will discover:

- Why good things quietly become ultimate things, and how to recognize the subtle drift before it defines you
- How beholding the supremacy and beauty of Christ reawakens genuine, lasting affection
- A path from dutiful faith to a living, joyful surrender that transforms every part of your life



For the weary believer, the wandering heart, and anyone hungry for a faith that is alive rather than merely routine, this book is a window back to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy, you may [click here](#). Books are also available on Barnes and Noble, Walmart, and other online book retailers.

### 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

### 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](#).



**JUST PEACE**  
SUNDAY 9.20.2026  
God's Economy:  
People Over Profit  
"I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you... The last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:14-16  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### 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.



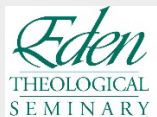
**Eden**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
MINISTRY COHORTS  
**FALL 2026**  
**Expand Your Range**  
6+ makes a cohort, so bring a friend!  
Theological Themes • Peer Learning • Ministry Context

### 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](#).

## 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)

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](https://cmpconverging.com)

**CMP  
CONVERG-  
ING 2026**

### SING THROUGH IT!

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



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](#).







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](mailto: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 Table Talk: The UCC @ The United Nations - Human Rights Council & the UN General Assembly

Sep 15, 2026 01:00 PM Central Time

Join the United Church of Christ UN Team for the first webinar in our new monthly series, Global Table Talk: The UCC @ The United Nations.

In this September conversation, we'll explore current developments at the United Nations, with a focus on the UN Human Rights Council and the United Nations General Assembly. Learn more about how the UCC is engaging in these global spaces, the issues and conversations shaping this work, and why they matter to our shared commitment to building a just world for all.

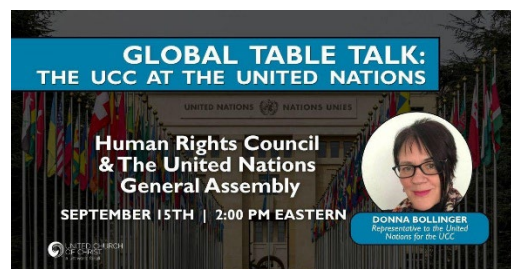
[Read More and Register](#)

## 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 EvUCC Highland, Grantfork UCC, and Salem UCC Alhambra for thier SUMMER LUNCH BUNCH

ministry. These Loving United Neighbors Crush Hunger by ensuring the children of Highland, Pierron, Alhambra, New Douglas, and Grantfork have access to nutritious lunches throughout the 11 week summer recess. Since its inception 10 years ago, three ISC congregations have been dedicated to serving the L.U.N.C.H. Bunch: Evangelical UCC in Highland, Grantfork UCC, and Salem UCC in Alhambra. This ecumenical initiative has expanded and is now supported by volunteers



and donations from 17 local churches of various denominations. The children and families are deeply appreciative of these meals. This summer alone, **10,312 lunches** were distributed, bringing smiles to countless faces—both from the children and those who served. Praying that your light will go forth, and any gloom be lifted, so that you will shine as bright as a L.U.N.C.H. Bunch lunch hour!

If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday. -Isaiah 58:10

**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.**

## Mother-Daughter Retreat is October 9-11 & 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



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

 [www.DuBoisCenter.org](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org)



**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

Dear Friends,

The 2027 CHHSM 89th Annual Gathering takes place March 16-18, 2027, in Houston at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Houston-Greenway Plaza and, as in years past, among the highlights will be workshops!

CHHSM currently is accepting proposals for workshops for the Annual Gathering, and we invite you to submit a workshop proposal related to our theme. The deadline for proposals is September 15, and we will communicate selections in October.





Annual Gathering workshops will help attendees explore the theme, To the Stars through Difficulties, and build professional skills. Your agency's courage, inspiration, and community collaboration can help other CHHSM organizations jumpstart their own innovations, so we encourage you to submit a workshop proposal.

Moving forward with courage and hope is the emphasis of the Annual Gathering, and aligns with the theme. "To the Stars through Difficulties" recalls not only Houston's nickname—Space City— but the work of our CHHSM agencies. It evokes the hope and courage our CHHSM agencies embody, while acknowledging the challenges they face. In spite of increasingly difficult circumstances, CHHSM members serve with passion, compassion, and resilience.

The Annual Gathering will be anchored by its focus scripture, Isaiah 58. Workshop presenters, keynoters, and preachers are able to choose from the whole of Isaiah in drawing inspiration.

Join us at the 2027 CHHSM Annual Gathering and experience inspiring worship, captivating keynotes, engaging workshops, and valuable networking opportunities. Combined, these elements will ignite fresh ideas and new partnerships.

The Annual Gathering Task Force is working hard to make the Annual Gathering the best meeting ever! We anticipate that registration will open during the fall.

Look for emails with additional details as they become available. We also will post them on [our website](#).

We look forward to your workshop proposal submissions!

Together,  
The CHHSM Team

Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, UCC  
PO Box 91456  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
216.736.2250

## **Back Bay Mission Musicians with a Mission is back, and this year, it's better than ever!**

**September 24, 2026**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Ground Zero Blues Club Biloxi**

It's going to be one BIG dance party with incredible live music, delicious food, great people, and plenty of exciting ways to support the transformative programs at Back Bay Mission.

### **SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

One of the easiest ways to help us reach our \$25,000 goal is by becoming a Friend of the Music! (formerly our Friends of the Mission sponsorship)

#### **This sponsorship includes:**

- A 2026 Musicians with a Mission event T-shirt
- A virtual link to watch the event live from anywhere!
- Your name recognized during the event
- A special thank-you in the following edition of our newsletter, Changing Tides, and Annual Report.



**[Become a Friends of the Music Sponsor](#)**

**[Get tickets](#)**



## 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](mailto:mmccart@hoyleton.org) to sign up or learn more.



## St. John's Community Care is in Highland IL - New Signage

We are thrilled to offer a much needed service to the Highland community and now we are even easier to find with our new beautiful sign! Please stop by or give us a call if you'd like to learn more about what we do! 618-344-5008 or 618-975-6565  
2420 Poplar St. Highland, IL 62249



## 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.




**.1K**  
**Supporting Growth at Every Age**

Inclusion • Community • Opportunity • Belonging



**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

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**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](mailto:lisa@revhart.net)  
Mark Walz- [mewalz5925@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Behavioral Health Nurse - Hoyleton Youth & Family Services](#)

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

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

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, videos and more. It only takes a minute to sign up. Reach out to Missy at 618-654-2125 or [mloyet@iscucc.org](mailto:mloyet@iscucc.org) with any questions or with news for the *Weekly Connection*.



### 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.

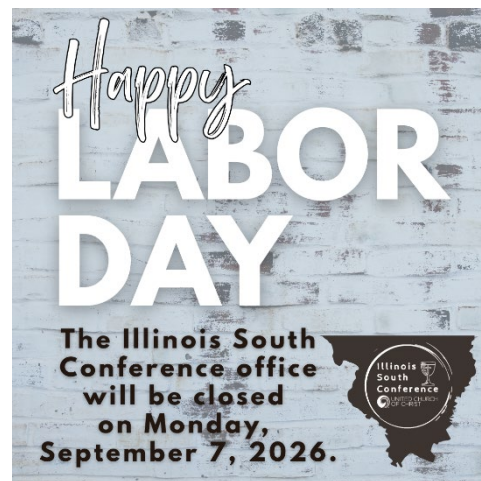
For the work of Conference teams and committees or for financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact **Debbie Kesner** at [dkesner@iscucc.org](mailto:dkesner@iscucc.org).

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact **Missy Loyet** at [mloyet@iscucc.org](mailto:mloyet@iscucc.org).

For DuBois Center Co-Executive Directors, contact **Jason Petry** or **Leah Petry** at [director@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto: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](mailto:jriechmann@iscucc.org) or (618) 357-1809.

For **Rev. Shana Johnson**, ISC Conference Minister, contact her at [sjohnson@iscucc.org](mailto: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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