

September 1, 2026



Registration for the ISC Annual Meeting is now open!



Join Us for the ISC Annual Meeting!

The ISC Annual Meeting is an 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 - Presentations, Voting on Nominees, Voting on 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

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



St. John UCC, Hookdale-

Rev. Debra Harness

[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 pics 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 20TH @ 3^{PM}

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.

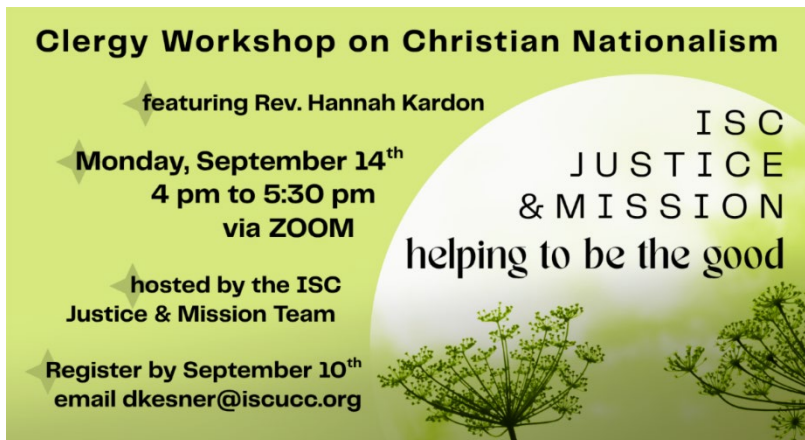
I encourage you to join us for what promises to be an engaging time of learning, conversation, and reflection—one that I hope will strengthen and enrich your ministry.

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 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



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

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.

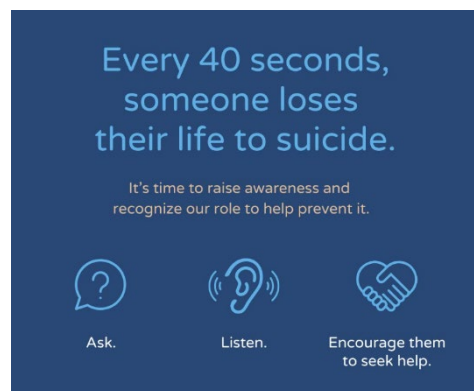
The 988 Lifeline provides specialized responses and resources for ALL, including:

- **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>



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.

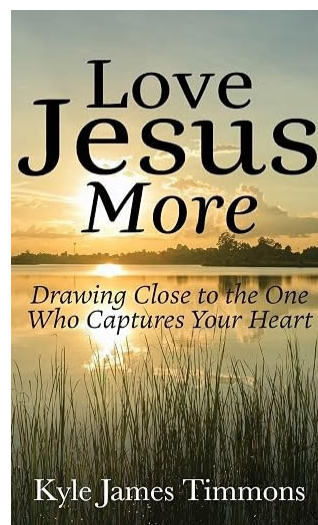
In Love Jesus More: Drawing Closer to the One who Captures Your Heart, minister Kyle Timmons offers a disarmingly honest confession: he preached Jesus, served Jesus, and believed in Jesus, but secretly loved other things more. Rooted in the Apostle Paul's stunning declaration in Philippians 3:8, this 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](#).



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.

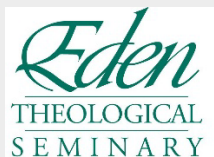
MINISTRY COHORTS
FALL 2026
Expand Your Range
6+ makes a cohort, so bring a friend!
Theological Themes • Peer Learning • Ministry Context

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)

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
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.

SPEAKERS & ARTISTS

 Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III Preacher Author	 Jim Wallis Writer Advocate
 Rev. Dr. Cynthia Wilson Ken Medema Bryan Sirchia Mark Miller Andra Moran Christopher Grundy Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Monty Jackson	 Cole Arthur Riley Writer Creator of Black Liturgies

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

Church World Service Drop Off Locations and Dates



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.



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.

News from DuBois Center

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
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!!!!

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 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.



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



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR



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>

Our ISC Churches News + Events

New Hanover
Zoar United Church of Christ
Annual BBQ
Saturday, September 12th
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Pork steak plate | Brat plate
Choose 2 Sides: Cole Slaw / Potato Salad / Baked Beans
Brat Sandwich | Pork Steak Sandwich
Entertainment by:
Sam Morgan and Friends
There will also be a "Country Store"
with homemade items for sale
Basket prizes will be available at silent auction
Pie Auction held @ 5:30 pm
Church is located at:
9103 D Road, Columbia, IL 62236

St. John UCC
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

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 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 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.

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact **Missy Loyet** at mloyet@iscucc.org.

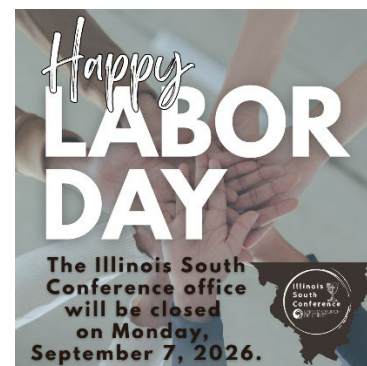
For DuBois Center Co-Executive Directors, contact **Jason Petry** or **Leah**

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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