



NEW BEGINNINGS E-BLAST



August 2021 E-Blast, Second Edition

 JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Disaster Relief - Request for Assistance in Gibson City

Illinois VOAD requests help with flood recovery - Sat. August 21.

[Click for more information.](#)

Be the Healing Conference with Dr. Joy DeGruy August 27-28

United Church of Christ



At the completion of this conference, participants will:

- Understand how the structural inequalities beginning with the period of enslavement continue to impact African Americans and their communities today.
- Select and apply strategies to enhance empowerment for African American populations at risk, and to promote economic and social justice.
- Examine and investigate culturally appropriate interventions including “Virtues Training” for work with African American individuals, families, groups, organizations and communities.
- And more!

[Register Now for \\$99](#)

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Announces Retirement

Chicago Theological Seminary



Chicago Theological Seminary president, Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray announced his retirement from CTS, effective August 31st. Well known to CTS, Rev. Dr. Marsha Foster Boyd has agreed to serve as interim president while the organization begins an extensive search for Stephen’s replacement.

A celebration and recognition of Stephen’s accomplishments and continuing influence in the CTS community and beyond will be held virtually on Monday, August 30th at 7:30 pm.

[Register online](#) to attend and receive the Zoom link.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

Caring for Persons in Assisted-Living

Rev. Mark Jacobs, Associate Minister for Outreach

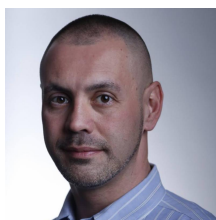


As Associate Minister for Outreach at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Champaign, IL, I have established a ministry comprised of worship, pastoral care, and fellowship for persons in assisted-living facilities. Currently, I serve eleven facilities. ... Before the pandemic, I conducted worship services at each of the facilities every two weeks at various times, usually morning hours, Monday-Friday. All of the units were locked down beginning in March 2020, but I continued to fashion new services every other week, and sent them via email to my contacts, program and activity directors at each unit, and these persons distributed the services to residents and staff.

[Read More](#)

Do You Want to Be Made Well?

Rev. Brandyn Simmons



In John 5, Jesus encountered a paralytic who is lying by the pool where people were healed. I wonder how the man experienced life on his back. Perhaps people were always stepping over him as they made their way to the temple. Maybe he was a master of reading the weather because he always had his gaze affixed on the sky as he laid there day after day waiting for someone to put him in the pool where the angels would stir up the water and make him walk again. When Jesus came across this man, he asked him, *"Do you want to be made well?"*

[Read more](#)

Refugee Advocacy During August Recess

Church World Service

As the world is facing the [worst displacement crisis](#) in history, your voice matters for a lasting change to protect global human rights and dignity. As our Members of Congress return home to their in-district offices for August recess, we have a unique opportunity to let our Senators and Representatives know that our communities welcome refugees and immigrants. It is vital we use this time to urge our Members of Congress to support rebuilding the refugee resettlement program, support the evacuation and protection of Afghan allies and refugees, restore asylum protections, and welcome asylum seekers and unaccompanied children.



[Take Action-Download the CWS Toolkit](#)

Office of General Counsel - New Blog!

United Church of Christ

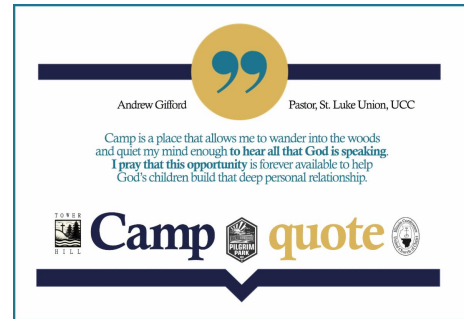
The Office of General Counsel (OGC) serves the National Setting and Conferences of the UCC. OGC provides legal counsel and training on a variety of matters including governance, contracts, abuse prevention policies, and intellectual property compliance.

The OGC has a new blog that will be updated periodically and cover a variety of topics, including inquiries they have received throughout the pandemic.

[Learn More and Read the Blog](#)



We asked various support members of our UCC Illinois Conference **what camp means to them**. These messages are a heartfelt response to their personal experience and a personal pledge for **children of coming generations** to have a camp experience bringing them “**out of the ordinary and into the future**”. If you’d like to **add your own experience**, please do. If you wish to donate **your time**, donate **financially**, or **rent a camp facility** contact [Tower Hill](#) and [Pilgrim Park](#) directly.



Please consider your “own special way” to support our camps, it will be **the best investment** you will ever make.

[Visit Illinois Outdoor Ministries](#)

Events and Training Opportunities

Clergy Boundary Training Opportunities **Aug 24, Sept 9 and 19**

Sponsored by the Western Association Committee on Ministry

You are invited to participate in one of three upcoming sessions of Clergy Boundary Awareness Training, hosted by the Western Association Committee on Ministry. The third session is geared specifically for retired pastors and pastors planning to retire within 12 months. All sessions will be offered on Zoom. The Rev. Laurie Hill, pastor of St. John UCC in Lincoln, serves as the trainer. Her credentials ensure that these training sessions satisfy the five Associations' COM's requirement that all authorized ministers must complete Clergy Boundary Awareness Training every three years to retain their good standing.

Watch your email for more information and details this week. Contact [Naomi Else](#) in the Conference Office with questions and to register.

Pathways to Hope Virtual Conference **August 27-28, 2021**

Chicagoland Trauma Informed Congregations Network



This virtual event is sponsored by NAMI San Antonio, Texas.

Goals of the event include:

- Reduce the stigma of mental illness
- Activate and engage faith communities to help support families and individuals living

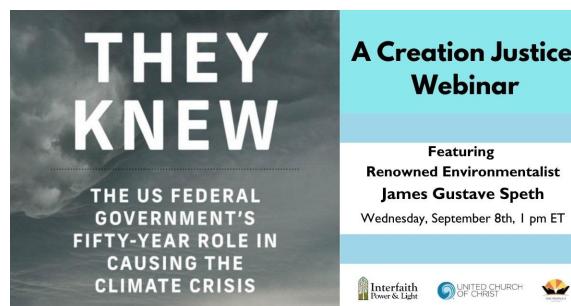
- with a mental health disorder
- Bring faith community leaders and mental health practitioners together to provide better community-wide support
- Provide information on resources for community members
- Promote community inclusion

[Register Here](#)

Creation Justice Webinar Wednesday, September 8

United Church of Christ

The UCC's next **Creation Justice Webinar** will feature one of the leading voices in environmentalism over recent decades: **James Gustave Speth**.



Even if you can't make the scheduled time of 1:00 pm ET on Wednesday, September 8th, still sign-up, and we will send you a recording. [Register now!](#)

Pastoral Care Symposium on Aging Wednesday, September 22

Burr Ridge United Church of Christ

BRUCC is hosting a pastoral care symposium on aging/age-related issues on September 22nd and we would like to invite all clergy and lay leaders involved in congregational care in the area to participate. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. This is a great way for clergy and lay folks to learn more about caring for people and families in their congregations touched by Alzheimer's and Dementia, as well as other age-related issues, and connect them to resources that they can direct congregants towards for help. Contact [Rev. Alicia Reese](#) with questions or for more information.

Partners in Building September 22-23 - Virtual

UCC Church Building & Loan Fund



The UCC Church Building & Loan Fund's **Partners In Building** event is being held virtually on September 22nd and 23rd! **Tickets are \$30 per person**. All workshops are pre-recorded and will be available after their presentations.

Partners in Building (PIB) is a multi-day training event, where leaders from congregations are invited to attend and engage in various informative presentations and workshops that are facilitated by UCC CBLF. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from and engage with experts including a variety of topics: Navigating Land Use, Repurposing Resources for Mission, Faith Based Entrepreneurs, Fund Raising, Social Media & Marketing and so much more.

[Register Here](#)

August Calendar At A Glance

August 17: *FAB Committee Meeting*. 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

August 17: *Outdoor Ministry Committee Meeting.* 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

August 18: [Stronger Together as One Conference.](#) 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Featured Speaker - Mark Burkhart from ACS Technologies who will be talking to us about Realm.

August 21: *Conference Council meeting.* 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

August 23: *CMA Justice & Witness Team meeting.* 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

August 25: [Stronger Together as One Conference.](#) 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Join the Illinois Conference Ministry Leadership Team for a Conference update.

August 27-28: [Pathways To Hope Virtual Conference.](#) Sponsored by NAMI and brought to you by Chicagoland Trauma Informed Congregations Network.

August 30: [Celebration of Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray.](#) 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 12-14: [Faith in Place's Green Team Summit](#) will be held virtually during the evenings of September 12-14th. Register for free online to access all of the Summit's workshops.

Sept. 22: Burr Ridge UCC presents a **Pastoral Care Symposium on Aging.**

Sept. 22-23: [Partners in Building 2021.](#) Virtual event sponsored by the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund.

Sept. 23: [Strides for Peace Race,](#) 6:00 p.m. Advocate Aurora Health is sponsoring the annual Strides for Peace Race Against Gun Violence held in Chicago and virtually.

Oct. 1-2: [Illinois Conference Women's Retreat.](#) "Choose Joy" is the theme for this year. Remember to mark your calendars! More information coming soon.

Oct. 6-7: Association of Interim Ministers invites you to the **AIM Conference** happening at the **Starved Rock Conference Center.** The theme is "Telling the Real Story" and the event is open to all clergy, as well as lay leaders and anyone who wants to see biblical stories in a new light! [Click here for more information.](#)

Nov. 20: [Illinois Conference Annual Celebration.](#) Save the date!



Resources and More

Trauma and Youth Resources

United Church of Christ Mental Health Network



The United Church of Christ Mental Health Network is pleased to offer a new set of resources to help congregations and other community-based organizations address the mental health effects of trauma on children.

Their development was led by psychologist Dr. Vicki K. Harvey; Rev. Amy Petré Hill, mental health and neurodiversity chaplain; and members of the UCC Mental Health Network Board of Directors. They were created in partnership with Advocate Aurora Health, a Chicago-area health system that is one of the largest not-for-profit health systems in the country.

[Learn More and Access the Resources](#)

Rooted in Love: 2021 Stewardship Theme Materials

United Church of Christ Resources



New stewardship materials available from UCC Resources help congregations tell their story while making a request for financial support. The materials include everything needed to run an effective campaign such as [bulletin inserts](#), pledge cards, graphics, and even [coloring pages](#)! A practical campaign guide provides support for leaders running their first campaign and offers suggestions for those looking to customize stewardship messages to their own setting. Options for purchase include both printed and download formats; prices start at \$39.95.

[View Stewardship Resources Here](#)

COVID-19 Vaccination Updates and More

Advocate Health Care (E-Newsletter)

[COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Getting vaccinated is safe, effective, and will help us beat COVID-19. We're currently vaccinating anyone 12 and older in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Our [Safe Care Promise](#) helps protect you and our team members. Wearing masks, social distancing and washing your hands are important – even after you're vaccinated. It'll take time to immunize enough people to stop the virus from spreading, so mask up!

[COVID-19 Testing](#)

We're offering COVID-19 tests at our Advocate Immediate Care and Aurora Urgent Care locations – regardless of symptoms or exposure. Testing is available via walk-in or by appointment. You can expect to receive your results within 48 hours.

Click here to view the ["Safely Reopening Our Doors"](#) Toolkit.

[Click here for the English-language COVID-19 e-newsletter](#)

[Haga clic aquí para ver Spanish-language COVID-19 e-newsletter](#)

Employment Opportunities

[Ministerial opportunities](#) within the United Church of Christ.

Belleville, St. Paul UCC seeks [Director of Faith Formation and Care](#)

Chicago (and beyond), Faith in Place seeks [Illinois Statewide Outreach Director](#)

Crystal Lake, St. Paul's UCC seeks [PT Youth Director](#)

Crystal Lake, St. Paul's UCC seeks [PT Program Director](#)

Des Plaines, Christ Church UCC seeks [Church Administrative Assistant](#)

Dundee, First Congregational Church seeks [PT Director of Children & Youth Ministries](#)

Evanston, First Congregational Church seeks [Church Administrator](#)

Westchester, Midwest Ministry Development seeks [Contract Counselors](#)

Winnetka Congregational Church seeks [Interim Youth & Children Staff Person](#)

Off the Pews seeks [Executive Director](#)

Please let us know if you have a job opening you would like shared, and also once the position is filled. Contact [Sarah Lohrbach](#).

Church Newsletter Request

Please send us your newsletters so we can keep up with what's going on in your church.

Address for printed newsletters: Illinois Conference UCC, 1840 Westchester Blvd., Suite 200, Westchester, IL 60154. **Electronic newsletters: Please add Sarah Lohrbach at SarahLohrbach@ilucc.org to your church's mailing list.**

Visit our
website



DONATE NOW!



Church of Christ, 1840 Westchester Blvd., Suite 200, Westchester, IL 60154. The Rev. Molly Carlson, Conference Minister; Sarah Lohrbach, Editor. Copy may be sent to: SarahLohrbach@ilucc.org.

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