

CARBONDALE INTERFAITH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2013

*The purpose of the Interfaith Council is to make God's love visible in our community by fostering interfaith cooperation, sharing religious experiences, engaging in service, discovering unity while respecting differences, and speaking with courage and strength for justice.
(Statement of Purpose adopted c. 2001)*

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ by Luke Tolley, President of the Council. The amended minutes for August were approved.

Carolyn Donow from the Southern Illinois Pioneer Coalition spoke to us about the program. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals receiving care from professionals and family caregivers in long term care facilities and in the home. The focus of pioneering is on allowing the individual receiving care to choose how and when their care is provided. The Southern Illinois Pioneer Coalition is available to help individuals and organizations learn more about pioneering. For more information, call 618-985-8311.

As discussed at a previous meeting, the Council has started asking one or two of its members per meeting to speak about the beliefs and traditions of their community. Pastor Sonja Ingebritsen spoke about the Church of the Good Shepherd, the United Church of Christ, and her calling to ministry. Joy Nur spoke about Islam, Sufism, Dayemi Tariqat, and her studies of mystical traditions.

Harry Treece, Treasurer of the Council, provided an update on the Council's finances. The only recent expense was a payment for web development and online outreach. There are still some members who haven't paid member dues this year. Harry Treece will send a reminder letter to those members who haven't paid. He will also give a check to Good Samaritan and send an update to Dia Parr about the funds set aside for the Spirit of Christmas program.

Mike Heath provided an update about Good Samaritan Ministries. Demand for the shelter was up in August due to the heat. Food pantry demand is way up. On October 1, the band Widespread Panic will be performing in Carbondale and supporting Good Samaritan with fundraising activities including a food drive and a large signed poster to be auctioned off for the benefit of Good Samaritan. There are also several other upcoming Good Samaritan fundraisers including a trivia night on October 5 at First Presbyterian Church, a food drive by the Boy Scouts in November, and a special two-part event on February 15 and February 22 of 2014.

For Kids' Sake is holding its 3rd Annual 10K/5K Run/Walk-a-Thon on Friday, September 27 at 5:30 pm. Registration on the day of the event starts at 4:30 pm. All proceeds benefit orphanages and schools in Bangladesh. For more information, call 618-525-5044 or email info@forkidssake.net. In related news, Betsy Herman has a team for the event and invites any members of the Carbondale Interfaith Council who don't already have a team to join her.

The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be holding their annual Fall Fest on Saturday, October 12 at 306 W. Monroe Street. The festivities start at 3:30 pm with a craft sale, plant sale, and silent auction, and continue with an old-fashioned chicken-and-dumplings dinner from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Gaia House Interfaith Center will be having a 70th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 12. The festivities start at 1 pm with an interfaith ceremony lead by Father Bob Flannery of the Church of Saint Francis Xavier. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception and a group discussion of the

history of the organization from its inception as the Student Christian Foundation to its current identity as Gaia House Interfaith Center. Past and present participants in the center as well as members of the general public are invited to attend. For more information on this event, contact Treesong at treesong@ourgaiahouse.org or 618-525-0625.

University Baptist Church will be hosting a coat giveaway on Saturday, October 12 from 1 pm to 3 pm. This event provides coats to those in need. Volunteers will be needed on Friday and Saturday morning to prepare for and run the event.

Southern Illinois Healthcare will be hosting their Annual Spiritual Care Day on Thursday, October 10 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at the SIH corporate office. This will include sessions on Stephen Ministry, Laughter Yoga, and Reflections on Life, Death, and Resurrection. There is no cost but preregistration is required by October 1. To register, contact Sara Hess at 618-457-5200 ext. 67801 or sara.hess@sih.net.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF will take place on or near October 27 this year. Faith communities whose youth groups would like to participate should contact Betsy Herman at 618-559-1641 or carbondale.aol@gmail.com to obtain collection boxes and routes. Betsy is available for presentations to introduce the UNICEF fundraising activity to groups who have not participated in the past.

Carbondale in Thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday, November 19 at 7 pm at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ will be having its annual yard sale on this coming Saturday, September 28 at their church on 515 S. Orchard. They will also be having a Blessing of the Animals on October 5 at 2 pm and will be participating in the AIDS Walk on December 5.

Nonviolent Carbondale's 11 Days for Peace series is on October 18 through 28. For a full list of events (TBA), visit their website at nonviolentcarbndale.org. This is scheduled to coincide with the upcoming Peace History Society conference on the SIU campus on October 24-26. Most conference events require registration, but there will be a free keynote address on Thursday, October 24 at 6 pm at the Morris Library rotunda.

The Native American Church is holding a new weekly Talking Circles event every Monday at 5:30 pm at Gaia House Interfaith Center. The next event on September 30 will feature an introduction to the Keetoowah foundational principles.

Given the number of special events in October, the Council requested a table with the names, dates, and contact information for the events. This table is included at the end of the meeting minutes.

Dia Parr from the Spirit of Christmas has contacted the Women's Center to see how many names of children they might submit if they are included in the program this year. The Spirit of Christmas is striving to include the Women's Center in their holiday gift-giving to children in need but will need to find more donors to take the names of children and supply the gifts. Spirit of Christmas is open to suggestions for churches or other organizations that may be interested in participating in the program.

The next meeting of the Carbondale Interfaith Council will be on Tuesday, October 22 at Gaia House (potluck) and December 3 at Congregation Beth Jacob. The November meeting will be replaced by Carbondale in Thanksgiving on November 19 at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Meeting minutes submitted by Treesong, secretary of the Carbondale Interfaith Council.

Date/Time	Title	Location	Contact
09/27	For Kids' Sake 10k/5k Run/Walk-A-Thon	Turley Park	618-525-5044 info@forkidssake.net
09/28	Yard Sale	Church of the Good Shepherd UCC	618-457-2232 cogs@goodshepherd-ucc.org
09/30	Talking Circle (Every Monday) (Native American Church)	Gaia House Interfaith Center	fourrivers@findnewhope.com
10/01	Widespread Panic performance (Good Sam benefit)	SIU Arena	618-457-5794 goodsam@mchsi.com
10/05 2 pm	Blessing of the Animals and Food Drive (Good Samaritan)	Church of the Good Shepherd UCC	618-457-2232 cogs@goodshepherd-ucc.org
10/05	Trivia Night (Good Sam benefit)	First Presbyterian	618-457-5794 goodsam@mchsi.com
10/10 8:30am - 3pm	Annual Spiritual Care Day (Southern Illinois Healthcare)	SIH Corporate Office	618-457-5200 ext 67801 sara.hess@sih.net
10/12 3:30-6:30pm	Fall Fest	First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	618-457-6817
10/12 1pm	Gaia House Interfaith Center 70th Anniversary Celebration	Gaia House Interfaith Center	618-549-7387 treesong@ourgaiahouse.org
10/12 1-3pm	Coat Giveaway	University Baptist Church	618-457-0323 ubc11@frontier.com
10/18 - 10/28	11 Days for Peace (Nonviolent Carbondale)	Various	nonviolentcarbondale.org
10/24 6 pm	Peace History Society keynote	Morris Library Rotunda	peacehistorysociety.org
10/27	Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF	Various	618-559-1641 carbondale.aol@gmail.com
11/19	Carbondale in Thanksgiving	First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	618-457-6817
2/15 & 2/22	Special Two-Part Fundraiser (Good Samaritan)	TBA	618-457-5794 goodsam@mchsi.com