

Greetings, beloved in Christ!

We are so thrilled today to be writing you about an amazing opportunity for every youth in the Illinois Conference—not to mention their parents, pastors, and volunteer leaders.

Once every four years, United Church of Christ teens from across the Midwest converge on a single college campus for four days of fun, fellowship, discovery, and play. And this year, it's happening right in our own back yard! Known as the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event, this gathering is an awesome experience full of music, worship, interest-classes for teens and adults, plus—bonus!—an opportunity to meet hundreds of other UCC teens from the Great Lakes region. This is *not* a work tour or mission trip; instead, this is an event designed for teens to gather, grow, and have a good time.

This summer's Great Lakes Regional Youth Event is scheduled to take place from **July 5-8** on the campus of **Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois**. For a full four days, we will celebrate the ways in which young people shape our denomination and world by allowing them to grow their passions, discover new skills, and lift their voices—all under this year's theme: **A Just World for All: Your Voice Matters!** We are excited. We are energized. And we are hopeful that this year we will flood the campus with students from across the Illinois Conference.

GLRYE is open to all youth who are currently in 6th-12th grade. Early Bird registration is open through May 1 at a cost of \$300 per participant for a double occupancy room. Late registration will remain open through June 15 at a cost of \$350 per participant. More information can be found by visiting our website:
<http://www.wcucc.org/event/glrye/>.

We hope you'll all make an effort to join us—and to help spread the word—as we look forward to a four wonderful, Spirit-filled days.

See you in July!

Rev. Emily Ann Davis
Rev. Kim Whisler-Vasko
Co-Chairs, 2018 Great Lakes Regional Youth Event