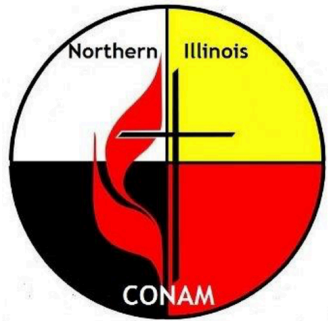




ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE
of the Northern Illinois Conference

the Conference Committee on Religion & Race to continue its fruitful, missional, and sustainable purpose. umcnic.org/antiracism



The Northern Illinois Conference's Committee on Native American Ministries has led our conference for many years on learning about, understanding, and prioritizing Native American history, culture, learning and understanding. CONAM provides resources to explore the history, culture, and theology of Native Americans, explore the 2012 United Methodist General Conference call to repentance, and support the conference's relationship with the St. Kateri Center of Chicago.



**Midwest SOARRING
FOUNDATION**

In Honor of Our Ancestors

Midwest Save Our Ancestor's Remains & Resources Indigeneous Network Group Foundation is a Native American 501(c)(3) organization whose

mission is to work toward repatriation, protect sacred sites, educate the public, and promote community building among all people regarding indigenous lifeways. midwestsoarring.org



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church is a diverse, justice-seeking body of Christ followers. We invite and form disciples for the transformation of the world. Several colleges and universities, social-service ministries, and health-care institutions are affiliated with the conference. About 300 churches and new faith communities in rural, small-town, suburban, and urban settings constitute the conference. umcnic.org

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATION

**OCTOBER 14, 2024
10AM-3PM**

**“With all things
and in all things,
we are relatives.”**

Lakota Proverb

Presented by the UMC/Northern Illinois Conference

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATION

Agenda

10:00 Gathering and Sage Blessing

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Brian "Fox" Ellis

Taylor Thornton

Noon Lunch (*for those who pre-registered*)

If available, meals may be purchased onsite for \$25 each (CASH ONLY).

1:00 Gathering

Gerald Savage

Jody Roy

2:45 Closing Words

Advanced Learning Sessions

Advance preparation for the event included presentations from some experts on indigenous peoples' concerns and cultures. You can find links to the presentations at umcnic.org/IndigenousPeoplesDay2024.

- Gerald Savage
A Brief History of the Reintroduction of Native Americans into Illinois
- Amy Allan
Harmonious Kinship with the Land
- Dr. Dorene Wiese
Healing the Urban American Indian Erasure
- Rev. Chebon Kernell
Indigenous Sovereignty: Respecting the Voices of Self-Determination

Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge that our meeting place here in Starved Rock, Illinois, lies on the ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk, Kickapoo, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, Sauk, Fox, and Potawatomi tribes, as well as many other Native peoples, for hundreds of generations. We know the French established its furthest outpost in North America, called Fort St. Louis deRocher, along the shores of the upper Illinois River and then left when it was no longer useful. About 6,000 Illinois Indians resettled at Kaskaskia in 1683. The village, also known today as the Grand Village of the Illinois State Historical Site, is located about a half mile east of Starved Rock and on the north side of the river along Dee Bennett Road.

We recognize the long-standing significance of these lands for the indigenous people of the past, present, and future. We acknowledge that they were forcibly and inhumanely removed from this homeland, which was stolen by invaders who came from Europe. Later, our federal government continually broke treaties, starting some 200 years ago. This land became a state park in 1911.

We acknowledge and honor Ruth Mallory "Stands-On-A-Cloud" Sine and Sampson C. "Chief Walks-With-The-Wind" Sine, Gerald Savage's grandparents, who homesteaded in 1935 here at Starved Rock. They lived and worked here at the park by sharing their knowledge, culture, and love of this land through cultural sharing, powwows and other events. We celebrate this family and are thankful for the legacy and cultural sharing that continues through their family, and we are grateful for Gerald and his sharing with us today.

Today, all these Native American communities work to thrive and maintain their identity, culture, beliefs, spirituality, and languages in a world where injustices are still occurring in their lives. Within The United Methodist Church, we commit to create awareness, to claim our role in the injustices toward native people, and to work together to stop those injustices, and to stop those injustices and to advance education that invites truth, relationship, and positive change. We pray this journey of reconciliation provides ways to love, serve, and support our indigenous neighbors and fellow citizens, while still honoring their native lands. We celebrate the contributions Native Americans make in all areas of life, which benefits us today.



We hereby recognize and honor our fellow sisters and brothers of this land we now share and express our sincere repentance and deep regret as we continue to inspire ongoing awareness of current injustices and positive healing for the heavy pain that remains.

Land acknowledgments are used by native peoples and non-natives to recognize indigenous peoples, who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live.

Guest Speakers



Bill Buchholtz is a highly respected Indian flute player. Music has always been at the center of Bill's life, especially after he was given a Native American flute by a Lakota elder. He had been taught by elders to accept a gift with gratitude. He told her he didn't know how to play it, to which she replied, "Yes, you do." By listening to the Creator speak to his heart he learned it well. His cultural presentations feature his flute music and talks

that touch upon the history and the cultural and spiritual significance of the instrument. He regularly plays both flute and piano at the bimonthly services at the St. Kateri Center as part of the United Methodist ministry of presence. playingfromspirit.com



Brian "Fox" Ellis is a storyteller, historian, author, and a museum consultant who presents more than 300 programs a year at schools, conferences, museums, chautauqs, libraries, and theaters around the world. Of Cherokee descent, Brian performs at powwows and has written over 30 books, *Learning From The Land*, *Singing Up The Sun*, *Song Of The Red Fox*, and *Frog Songs*. foxtalesint.com



Jody Roy is the director of the St. Kateri Center of Chicago. She is Ojibwe and originally from Canada, of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation. The St. Kateri Center is currently the only Native American Christian church in Northern Illinois. stkatericenterchicago.org



Gerald Savage is a tribal elder with the Ho-Chunk Nation and a lower-level chief in the Bear clan. He is an Illinois Humanities Road Scholar Speaker who has spoken at many colleges, museums, historical societies, schools, and libraries. His formal native name is Ho-Chunk Ska Ga (White Winnebago). Gerald's grandparents were Chief Walks with the Wind and Princess Stands on a Cloud. They were very influential in the teaching of Gerald the native

customs and ways. He carries on his grandfather's tradition of educating people about their tribal ways and customs. ilhumanities.org/speakers/gerald-savage

Guest Speakers



Taylor Thornton, who hails from LaSalle County, IL, is a member of the LaSalle County Historical Society. She is a researcher for the University of Toronto and has worked with indigenous peoples there. Her specialty is community archeology and collaborative research (working with Indigenous peoples) and data sovereignty. She is a Ph. D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto and longtime member and

research associate with the LaSalle County Historical Society. As an archaeologist and geographer, her work is grounded in a commitment to community-based practices that recognize the authority of local knowledge, particularly in relation to historically excluded communities. She is currently collaborating with the Kitikmeot Heritage Society of Iqaluktuuttiaq/Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Canada, on a digital atlas prefaced on shared knowledge production between archaeologists and Inuit families. Prior to her graduate studies, Taylor completed two bachelor's degrees at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and taught archaeological field methods for the Center for American Archeology, a not-for-profit research and education center in Kampsville, IL.

Resources

Read the true stories of the people who lived here before us, in their own words.

Start with:

Black Hawk: An Autobiography, by Black Hawk, edited by Donald Jackson.
The life story of the Sauk leader in his own words.

Other books:

- ***Every Warrior Has His Song***, by Alan Walker
- ***Citizens of a Stolen Land***, by Stephen Kantrowitz
- ***To Banish Forever***, by Cathy Coats
- ***Braiding Sweetgrass***, by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- ***Custer Died for Your Sins***, by Vine Deloria Jr.
- ***The Inconvenient Indian***, by Thomas King

Resources were suggested by our presenters.