



# The Steeple

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church  
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois



## NOVEMBER 2017

*"Shout happily to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD cheerfully. Come into his presence with a joyful song. Realize that the LORD alone is God. He made us, and we are his. We are his people and the sheep in his care. Enter his gates with a song of thanksgiving. Come into his courtyards with a song of praise. Give thanks to him; praise his name. The LORD is good. His mercy endures forever. His faithfulness endures throughout every generation.*

**~Psalm 100, God's Word**

One Sunday in church, members were praising the Lord for all he had done in their lives that week. Mr. Smith rose to report that the roof of his house had caught on fire, but, fortunately, a neighbor had seen it and immediately called the Fire Department. The firemen arrived and quickly put out the fire. Because of the neighbor's quick action, the damage to his roof was only minor. Mr. Smith said: **"I praise God that the fire wasn't worse."** A minute later, a woman stood up. **"I, too, praise God that the fire wasn't worse."** she said. **"You see, I'm Mr. Smith's insurance agent."**

Christians are called to live with an attitude of gratitude—continually lifting up praise to God for all that he has done. For us, thanksgiving isn't a yearly event, but rather a daily occurrence. We should pause each night to thank God for the little blessings that have come our way during this day. When we are surrounded by blessings and don't know we're blessed, we are pretty poor. It is only by living with an attitude of gratitude that our life becomes rich. We are rich with an awareness of the free and boundless mercy of God.

Psalm 100 shows us how to cultivate this attitude of gratitude within our lives:

**We always come into God's presence with thanksgiving.** Thanksgiving is not a reflection of whether life has treated us more kindly this year than last. It is not an accounting of whether our health is better, our family situation is more stable, or our bank account is bigger.

Paul reflects the true attitude of gratitude when he advises us to **give thanks in all circumstances**. Paul isn't glossing over the struggles and trials of this life. Paul isn't telling us to keep a stiff upper lip in the midst of life's tragedies. No, Paul and this Psalmist believe that even when life slaps us down. Even when tears fill our eyes. Even in these times we may come into God's presence with thanksgiving.

**Psalm 100 promises that God is faithful.** Vs. 5 reveals why we may always approach God with thanksgiving: *The LORD is good. His mercy endures forever. His faithfulness endures throughout every generation.* We can count on God. As I read the Bible, I do not find promises that my trust in Him will save me from life's troubles.

Our faith is not a teflon shield that causes the woes of this world to slide by us. Instead, Jesus warns that if we do follow Him our troubles will double.

In the Bible, I do find the promise that God will not leave us orphans in this universe. God will be our companion throughout life. As this psalmist says: *we are his people and the sheep in his care.* In all the seasons of our life, God is with us.

**Psalm 100 promises that God's love endures forever.** If we question God's love for us, we have only to look in the eyes of Jesus hanging upon the cross and know the reality of this love. We find the height, the width, and the depth of God's love for us embodied in Jesus Christ. There is no greater expression of God's love for us than Jesus Christ. Jesus is God-in-the-flesh, come to reveal God's love for us. Come to draw us back to God. Come to die that we might know this love is for real. Come to rise from the dead that we might know this love is forever. If we question whether God's love endures, we have only to look in the eyes of the risen Lord as he assures us: *surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.*

**Psalm 100 promises that God is good.** As Christians, we affirm with Paul that *in all things God works for the good of those who love him.* In ways we do not fully understand, in ways we are not fully aware of, God is at work in each of our lives. God is working—not to bring us harm—but to bring us good.

Our good friends, the Eisenharts, made numerous trips to Haiti—to build churches and schools. This is the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere. Whenever the Eisenharts returned from Haiti, they talked about here are Christians who have nothing and, yet, they have everything. They live praising God for the little blessings they receive every day.

**Finally, Psalm 100 reveals that I am endowed with a will, but the will is not mine. It is God's will filling my life and guiding my actions!** When we are mired in sin, we may turn away from God. We may cease to worship Him, to follow His commandments, and to acknowledge His presence. Still, this does not sever our relationship with God. Just because we ignore God doesn't mean that He goes away.

*Pastor's Corner Continues On Page 3*



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- We celebrated two baptisms on Sunday, Oct. 29. Both mothers are Jim & Anna Mae Stewart's granddaughters. **David Ambrose Laufersweiler** is the son of Pete & Sarah. Big brothers, William and Logan, welcome David into their family. **Grace Fiona McPheters** is the daughter of Kelly & Rachel. Our prayer is that we as a church may keep our commitment to surround both David and Grace with God's love. Let us support their parents as they raise their children in a Christian home.
- Pastor Daryl officiated at two weddings on Saturday, October 14. **Kimberly Seitzinger & Kraig Daniels** were united in marriage at St. Paul at 1 p.m. **Krysta Wooley & Nicholas Yates** celebrated their union at East Alton First United Methodist Church at 3 p.m. We pray that Christ will always be at the center of their homes and bless their marriages.
- Pastor Daryl presented **Wood River First United Methodist Church** with a certificate during the service on October 7th recognizing their 100th birthday. We are a connectional church and share a common commitment to offer Christ to those in our region. Both of our churches are members of the Wood River Township Ministerial Alliance. Rev. David Rose is the pastor at Wood River First United Methodist Church.
- **Rev. Dr. Rose Booker-Jones, our new District Superintendent**, led our Charge Conference on Sunday, October 22nd. We appreciated Rev. Dr. Booker-Jones emphasis upon getting to know our church and listening to the stories of how lives are being transformed through our ministry. Those attending celebrated our accomplishments this past year as well as adopting our goals for 2018. We are excited by the ways in which Christ is using our church to share His love with the people in our neighborhood. Copies of our Charge Conference materials may be obtained from the Church Office.
- **Pastor Daryl and Matt Johnson** from our church attended the Men's Conference held at St. John's UMC on October 28th. We were inspired and challenged by the speakers to be more intentional men of faith! We are looking forward to next year's conference.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Mike Love**, nephew of the Gwaltneys; the family of **Belinda Lindley**, friend of Kathy Link; the family of **Joanne Michaels**, wife of Pastor Keith Michaels of East Alton First UMC; the family of **Chance Shewmake**, 5 yr. old from Bethalto – student of Beth Norris; the family of **Don Arnold**, friend of Matt & Christina Johnson; the family of **Helen Emerick**, wife of Leroy Emerick, member of Sweet Sounds, and mother/mother-in-law of Dana & Micki Emerick; the family of **Bryan Huff**, relative of Joe & Sherry Huff; the family of **Edwina Greenwood**, mother of Rev. Dr. Glen Greenwood, Lois Mitchell's pastor; and the family of **Donald Davis**, brother of Dolores "Dee" Dodson. May you all know God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.

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**THANK YOU:** Thank you to everyone who came out to help with our Fall Church Work Day! It is very important to be good stewards of that which God has blessed us with. *The Board Of Trustees*

**THANK YOU:** A special thank you to everyone who donated items for the Awakening kick-off celebration. We are grateful for the tremendous amount of support being shown. *Lauren Cranmer*

**THANK YOU** to all who helped make **Trunk Or Treat** a great success! The donors, workers, families and children, and all who brought their "trunks" to offer treats from...all who contributed in any way!  
(Article coming in December Steeple!)

**THANK YOU:** To Pastor Daryl & the Congregation: To thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated... thank you all for the beautiful plant basket—a great remembrance of Dad.  
*In Love, Amy (Sullivan) Komnick and Becky Sullivan*

**THANK YOU:** To Rev. Fansler & the St. Paul Congregation: You're so thoughtful! Thank you for sharing your tables and chairs for our celebration...they helped make our Fellowship Hall look beautiful! Also, thank you Rev. Fansler for presenting the declaration. *Pam Davis, 1st United Methodist Church of Wood River*

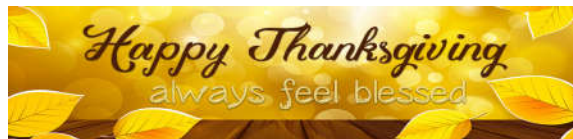
**Pastor's Corner Continued From Page 1**

We cannot wipe out the image of God seared within each of our souls. It is God who made us, and we are His sheep.

Sometimes, the song playing in our hearts is *"It's my life and I'll do what I want to."* When we sing this song, our lives go so wrong. The song that should be playing in our hearts is: *"It's your life; use it as you will."* God is our creator and we were created to praise Him. We were created to live before God in an attitude of gratitude! We were made to sing God's praises forever.

Pastor Daryl

**P.S.** Throughout this month, you are invited to praise God by your presence in worship and also by bringing an offering of food for our local food pantries. We will praise God with our voices and our actions. **ON BOUNTY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, WE WILL BLESS OUR OFFERINGS OF FOOD AND THEN ON MONDAY TAKE THEM TO COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER IN COTTAGE HILLS AND OPERATION BLESSING IN WOOD RIVER. YOU HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING TO THOSE IN NEED.**

**COMMUNITY  
THANKSGIVING  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21st  
7:00 P.M.**

**St. Paul United Methodist Church  
10 N. Center St., East Alton**

Rev. Daryl Fansler, host pastor

**Special Speaker**

**Special Music**

**Special Offering**

Sponsored by the Wood River  
Township Ministerial  
Alliance

**Worship Choir  
Prepares For  
Cantata!**

Each year at Christmas we celebrate Emmanuel: God with us. This year, stand in the shoes of those who first heard the incredible news that Christ was coming! Imagine being present on the night Jesus was born--

knowing that you were chosen to be part of delivering, witnessing, and receiving the Good News.

How would it feel to cast your eyes on a baby lying in a manger, and know that at this moment you are in the presence of God--that on this very night, everything's changed: God is among us!

**Practice is on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary! There is still time to join us if you want to sing in the cantata this year! Just come to practice!**

**The Cantata will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 17th  
at the 10:30 a.m. service.**





## Sundays at St. Paul in NOVEMBER 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services

***"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.***

Our 8:15 a.m. service is a traditional service with hymns played upon our beautiful pipe organ by Rhonda Griffin. The Pastor leads worship clothed in a robe and stole. Communion is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

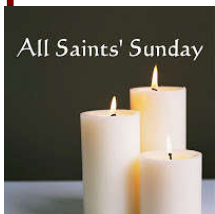


Our 10:30 a.m. service—*Awakening*—is based upon this verse from 2 Chronicles 16:9: *"God's eyes range from to and fro throughout the Earth looking to strengthen the person that would bend their heart toward Him."* The music is songs you hear played on JOY-FM while the preaching focuses upon life lessons from the Bible. Music is played by a worship band. Words to the songs are projected on the screen or available on the entryway table. The Worship Choir and Hand Bell Choir provide special music. Communion is celebrated at the end of every service.

The intent of both worship services is to connect, reconnect and draw people into a closer connection with Jesus Christ.



All Saints' Sunday



**5: All Saints Sunday. Communion celebrated in both services. Veterans Sunday.** Daylight Savings Time ends. Pastor Daryl continues his sermon series, *Overwhelmed*. These are times when we need faith to keep us afloat emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and physically.



**12: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Birthday Sunday.**

Pastor Daryl concludes his sermon series, *Overwhelmed*. We focus upon the truth that God is our refugee and helper in times of trouble.



PRAY  
for the  
PERSECUTED



**19: Bounty Sunday. Bible Sunday.** Our focus today is upon thanksgiving for God's presence in our lives. God has blessed us to be a blessing. Throughout this month, we have brought food for our local food pantries. During the 10:30 a.m. service, we hand out Bibles to our 6th graders.



**26: Christ the King Sunday. United Methodist Student Day.** The anniversary of Princess Diana's death and the success of the Netflix series, *The Crown*, revealed our continuing fascination with kings and queens. Christ is King, but quite unlike our earthly kings. He came to establish His Kingdom within our lives. This is our focus today. *You have the opportunity today to give a special offering to support loans and scholarships for our United Methodist students. Simply use the envelope in your pack of envelopes or designate on your regular envelope a gift for "UM Student Day."*



**Nurse's Notes for NOVEMBER 2017 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.****"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."****Romans 8:28**

As many of you already know, the parish nurse program is coming to an end at Alton Memorial Hospital. The Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation board has decided not to renew or pay for the program. My position at the hospital ends on December 15th. (Hence, the Bible verse from Romans 8!)

As I sit and type what will be one of my final newsletters, I must say that I do not like change. I am a creature of habit, and like my routine. I don't like my roles to change, whether its mom or nurse assignments. For example, my son Jonathan had to "wean" me from being his little kid "supervisor, truant officer, and CEO" mom and help me to transform into "adviser only when asked and friend" mom. Erma Bombeck described this transition –"it's as if you are on center stage and suddenly all the lights go out and no one even warned you." Thankfully, Jonathan has been patient and I think that I am getting the hang of this new role. As far as my career, over the past six years I have enjoyed my routine. On any given morning, I wake up and know where I will be each work day of the week, what office I will drive to, and most likely who I will see or talk to that day. Yes, there are some things that pop up, but for the most part I have my days planned out.

So I had to ask myself, why would God close a door to a ministry where I get to love and serve His people? I have always felt the call to help other people and enjoy watching God work in others' lives- and this job is going so well, so what is up? I have had change happen in the past and I did not do very well at all- in fact the last job change I had the Lord strongly called me to change, and I was obedient, but, but I kicked and screamed the entire way there! But then I recalled that during that season, I learned a lot about this heavenly father whom I serve, and His faithfulness in very dry seasons. Some of the sweetest moments that we have with the Lord are when we don't see or understand what He is doing, we simply have to walk by faith and be obedient. I also recall that each time the door of a new opportunity opened it began opening (looking back) when things were going well in what I was doing, but I had become a bit stagnant. It's as if God says, "Okay, your assignment is complete." Some are called to stay in one place 20 or 30 years, some are called to a shorter time. Sometimes the assignment just ends- and God is already calling/preparing you for something else! Those "end of season" experiences have been a time of enormous growth for me, and yes with some upheaval and uncertainty along the path- and yet God always knows the most excellent way!

**Changes: Christ Has A New Gift Each Second** - I ran across this acronym, and find it to be fitting. We need to think of change as a gift and embrace what God gives to us. As I wrestled with this change and what I would do, the one thing that I kept coming back to is my relationship with Him. My first priority in life must always be to develop an increasingly intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. As my job comes to a close I will have the opportunity to rest for a while- and it will be a joy to have it right at the holidays. What a gift the Lord is giving to me! I have decided to use that time to be in prayer and in His word. He calls us to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength--and to love others as we love our self. The more passionately I pursue these callings, the better equipped I will be to hear His voice and do the things God has created me to do in my next assignment. God will lead me right where He wants me to be!

The one sad thing about this new adventure is that I have to leave behind some wonderful people. I have made so many new friends along the way in both the Roxana Church and St. Paul's United Methodist Church- and had the joy of being with old and new friends at the United Methodist Village. What a blessing.

I have had so many words of wisdom spoken over me. We have shared many laughs, great joy, and also some tears. I have been invited into some very intimate moments of pain and suffering- and had the privilege of seeing faith played out and the Lord working within those times.

And so my dear friends, as I close this November newsletter, I am reminded that it is also the month of Thanksgiving. Let's remember that God is good. God loves us, forgives us and encourages us through each other. He has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community. He put us together for a season- and I will always be thankful for all of you. I will never forget your love, kindness, encouragement, and your own life lessons that you have shared with me. Pray for me during this transition, and I will continue to pray for all of you. You are a wonderful people! May God's glory always shine around each of us and within us! I am sure we will see each other again!

**In Christ's love- Eileen****"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."****Hebrews 10:23-25**



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

“Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!”

01-Nov Richard Demond

01-Nov Kyle Norris

02-Nov Larry Ballard

03-Nov Monna Bishop

04-Nov Maximus Justic

05-Nov Larry Champa

05-Nov Raegan Martin

05-Nov Amber McCammon

06-Nov Karen Hatten

06-Nov Brett Huff

06-Nov Madelaine Ramirez

06-Nov Morgann Ramirez

06-Nov Lilly Shaffer

07-Nov Corinne Crandall

07-Nov Courtney Dorsey

08-Nov Donna Badman

08-Nov Christopher Ricketts

09-Nov Caroline Crandall

10-Nov Gloria Basden

11-Nov Julie Brown

11-Nov Bill Crain Jr.

12-Nov Daniel Jensen Jr.

13-Nov Charles McNelly

14-Nov Jim Funke

14-Nov Julie Natsch

15-Nov Cathy Dorsey

15-Nov Joe Hanfelder

15-Nov Steve Natsch

15-Nov Vivian Westhoff

17-Nov Lydia Chester

17-Nov Kristi Ward

17-Nov Frank Yankovich Jr.

18-Nov Ashley Babcock

18-Nov Heather McCammon

19-Nov Nathan Chester

20-Nov Elaine Gowan

21-Nov Emma Martin

21-Nov Jason Ortegren

22-Nov Steve Dunnagan

22-Nov Ryleigh Spurgeon

25-Nov Jill Taylor-Sullivan

26-Nov Emma Wood

27-Nov Paul Mormino

27-Nov Greg Mortland

28-Nov Dan Davis

29-Nov Jacob Crews

30-Nov Sam Brown

30-Nov Adyson Bunt

30-Nov Dot Elliott

30-Nov Rachel McPheters



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

01-Nov Mark & Debbie Bacus

01-Nov Douglas & Susan Phelps

03-Nov Mickey & Cathy Dorsey

03-Nov Jim & Anna Mae Stewart

05-Nov Daniel & Lindsey Jensen Jr.

07-Nov Mike & Bobbie Jean Schlemer

18-Nov Ian & Tamera Martin

19-Nov Gregg & Lana Liedtke

19-Nov Jeremy & Tiffany Nairn

21-Nov Christian & Lauren Cranmer

23-Nov Allan & Kyle Napp

26-Nov Jim & Anita Dawson

29-Nov Mike & Ricci Voorhees



Be Sure To Pick Up A copy of the **current** church Directory!

Please be sure to contact the church office if you have a change of address,  
phone number, or email address! Thank you!





## MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

November's Loose Change Project is the Mid-West

Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, IL. This is a United Methodist warehouse/depot out of which materials and supplies are distributed throughout the United States and the world at times of natural and man-made disasters. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you would like to be a Greeter for either Sunday service!

### Average Attendance for OCTOBER 2017

Early Service	48
Late Service	69
Sunday School	36
Visitors	3



Capital Campaign money received as of 10-31-17: **\$272,194.00**

## OCTOBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 10/31/2017	<b>\$26289.00</b>
Designated Giving:	through 10/31/2017	<b>\$1449.25</b>
	Capital Improvements	120.00
	Loose Change	107.25
	Flowers	80.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	20.00
	Upper Room Donations	5.00
	Helping Hands	357.00
	WOW	500.00
	Funeral Dinners	20.00
	UMCOR-Hurricane Relief	140.00
	Red Bird Mission	50.00
	One Great Hour	50.00
PASB Fund		<b>52.00</b>
World Communion Offering		<b>175.00</b>
Capital Campaign		<b>5210.00</b>
Total:		<b>\$33175.25</b>

**DEADLINE FOR  
DECEMBER 2017  
STEEPLE, Mon.,  
NOVEMBER  
20th!**

## COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

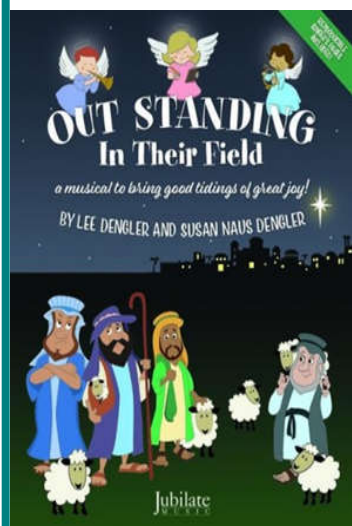


Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:  
— PSALM 103:2 KJV



## Christmas Dinner & Program

It is a St. Paul tradition for the church to gather for a Christmas Dinner. During November you will have an opportunity to make reservations for this year's **Christmas Dinner** (prepared by Chef Bob) on **Saturday, December 9th at 6 p.m.** There is no set charge for the dinner. Instead, **we all make a donation for the meal.** **Reservation forms** will be in the Sunday bulletins 4 times in the month of November/December. Please fill **one** out for your family. If you cannot be here to do this, **please call the church office (259-5210)** during the week or email [info@stpaulwired.org](mailto:info@stpaulwired.org) to leave your information with the church secretary.



Dinner will be followed by **"Out Standing In Their Field,"** (a musical featuring our children & youth) tells the Christmas story, using both familiar carols and fun, new songs, with a ragtag group of shepherds and a colorful company of angels. Meet Clarence, the concerned angel, Gabriel, the "cool" trumpet-playing angel, Oscar, the grouchy shepherd, Missy, the exuberant shepherd-in-training, and more as they find their way to the manger...while learning that with the birth of Jesus, everyone is truly outstanding!

Great music, audience participation, & surprises will be in store for those who join us on **Dec. 9!** So plan now to attend it all! It is a wonderful evening filled with the joy of Christmas fellowship around the table as well as enjoying our children & youth sharing the news of the baby Jesus!

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE

On **Sat., Dec. 9th** will be our Annual Church Family Christmas Dinner & Play beginning at 6 p.m. The children will be practicing for the Christmas Play during "More Jesus Time" (10:30 a.m. every Sunday) during the months of October, November, & the start of December. Do you have children or grandchildren who want to be involved in the Christmas Play? Bring them to "More Jesus Time!"



### PECANS:

This year's pecans will be here sometime in **NOVEMBER**, so plan now...The costs will be:

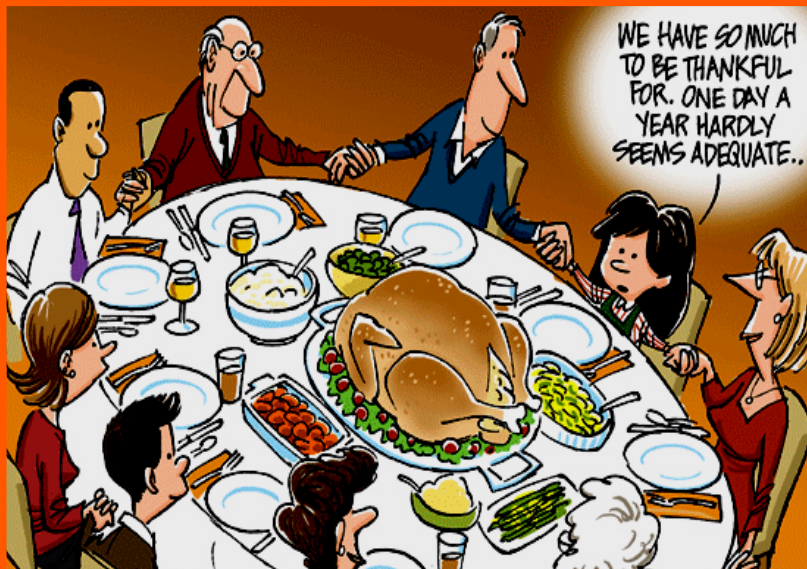
**\$10.00** for the 1lb. bag of plain and  
**\$8.00** for a bag of the chocolate covered.

The pecans being sold are a Fundraiser for the Women of Worship to add to the mission money raised so far this year!

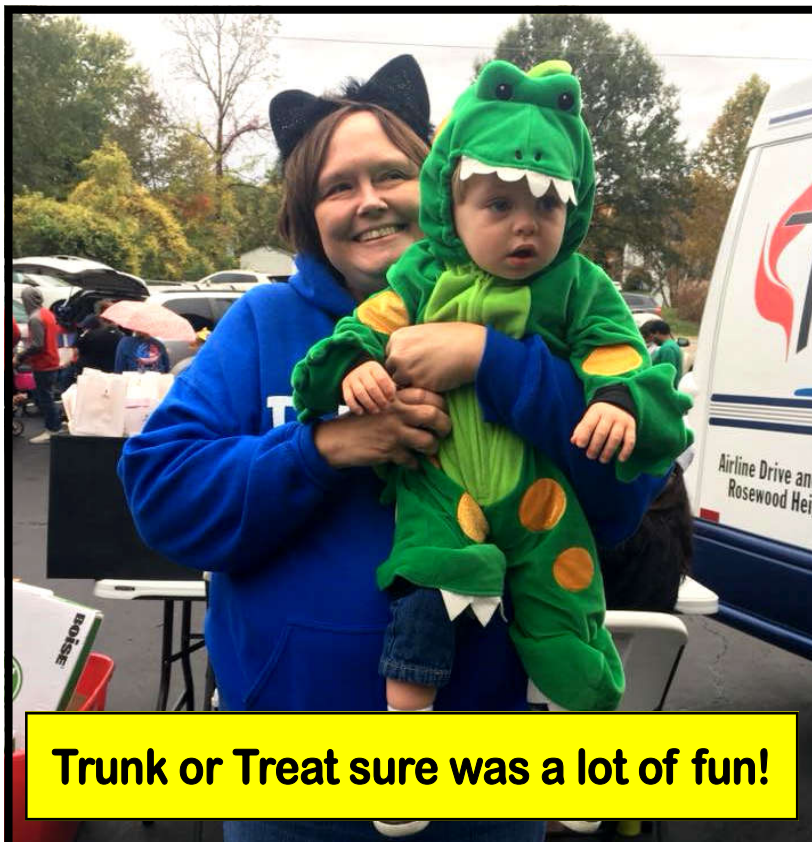
**ENJOY!!**







Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!



Trunk or Treat sure was a lot of fun!

## FALL FESTIVAL Thank You!

The Women of Worship would like to thank **EVERYONE** who helped make this year's **Annual Fall Festival** a success. There were helpers who set up for the Craft Sale and for the Festival, our faithful workers who cooked and managed the kitchen, servers, dishwashers and dish driers, dining room workers, take-out order folks, cashiers, and people who priced the donations and managed the various booths.

We also appreciate all those who came and enjoyed a meal or two and/or made purchases at any of the booths. Hopefully you became acquainted, or reacquainted, with someone to make the day more enjoyable. The approximate profit to date is **\$5,100**. The money gathered during the entire year from our events will be distributed to our various mission and charity groups at the

**Christmas Party on Thursday, December 7th** – watch for the details in the bulletin. **All women** of the church are invited to join us in distributing these funds. **AGAIN, A BIG THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS A WONDERFUL EVENT!**

~Women of Worship~



## COAT AND SHOE COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN

On behalf of the children who receive these items, the Outreach Ministry Team and Riverbend Head Start & Family Services thank you for all you gave!





# CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

The **Women of Worship** will be sponsoring a **Christmas Boutique** on **Saturday, December 2nd** from **8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** and after each service on **Sunday, December 3rd.**

Crafts and gifts will be displayed upstairs in the **parlor** and **hallway**. Also a table of fall and other seasonal items will be on display. There may again be a discount room. **Get started on your "last minute" shopping ahead of time this year.**



And while the **Women of Worship** are holding their **Christmas Boutique** upstairs...the **Capital Campaign** will sponsor, once again as a fundraiser, a **COOKIE WALK!**

It will be in the **Fellowship Hall** and will be at the same time as the **Christmas Boutique**, **8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.** There are a sign-up sheets on the big bulletin board for volunteers to help and bakers to bring cookies, so we hope you will pitch in and make this a wonderful event, too! **Be sure to let all your family and friends know to stop by and do some Christmas shopping!**





**"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." ~Proverbs 16:9**

As we continue to move forward into fall, so does the direction of St. Paul United Methodist Church. While the traditional service continues to serve in the 8:15 a.m. time slot, the Awakening service has moved to the 10:30 a.m. position and is seeing a positive turn out. As we continue to tweak and adjust to the Awakening service on Sunday mornings, please pray that both services will open the hearts of others and help enter them into a closer relationship with Christ.

God has a plan for us at St. Paul. There are a lot of hearts that love and serve the congregation. As Pastor Daryl mentioned in the conclusion of his five-part sermon series, *"Finding Your Way Back To God,"* we need to be "What Next" people. Instead of settling for what is in front of us, we always need to be willing to go a step further. It is time for us to start wondering what is next in our journey at St. Paul. A "What Next" attitude is going to grow and sustain our congregation in the future!

**Blessings,**

**Lauren Cranmer - Awakening Worship Coordinator**



**"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ~Anne Frank**

KIND is a new youth group being offered at St. Paul UMC. While we will focus on the biblical teachings of the Bible, we will also seek to be agents of change in a world that could use a little more kindness. During the month of October we met twice at the church to get to know one another, and a third time when we served at

the Senior Dinner that was hosted by the East Alton Recreation Center. This community outreach event enabled us to get the youth out in the community, connecting to older generations.

If you're looking for a way to connect your children to both church and community, have them check out the new youth group on the first and third Sunday of each month. The youth group was slated for 6th – 12th grades, however, **4th & 5th graders - we invite you to join us for youth group!** We realize the importance youth ministry plays in the lives of tweens, teens, and above. **We meet from 4-5:30 p.m.**

Community events will be scheduled in advance, and we encourage participation from any and all youth!

**In Christ's Love and Kindness,  
Lauren Cranmer - Youth Leader**





## Bounty Sunday, November 19th

is a long-standing tradition within our church. It is a time when we stop and reflect how God has richly blessed us. We do this during the 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. worship services. The best response to God's blessings is to give thanks & praise Him. **Bounty Sunday** is filled with music, prayers, and praises. We bring an offering of food and other necessary items for our food pantries: **Community Hope Center and Operation Blessing**. Inserts with information have been placed in the bulletins. Suggested items are listed. If you will not be in worship on the 19th, please do not let that stop you from bringing in a sack of food. You may place it in the food collection area anytime **before Nov. 19th**. We invite you to participate in our Bounty Sunday. For us, it captures the true meaning of Thanksgiving!



Everyone is welcomed to come help the Worship Ministry Team decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, **November 25th from 9 a.m. - Noon!**



It will *soon* be time to order your poinsettias. The cost may be between **\$7 or \$8** per poinsettia. **The order deadline will be Sunday, December 10th.** The poinsettias may be taken home following the services on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. **Watch for the inserts.** Remember to indicate when you order to whom it is "*in memory*" or "*in honor*" of and it is **important** to include your payment when you order. Questions? Call **259-5210**.



**Congratulations to Don Bunt Sr. who was one of the Honor Flight veterans that served as Parade Marshals for Wood River's 2017 Halloween Parade.**



## Church outreach for Christmas

The last seven years our church has supplied unwrapped gifts for the Roxana Jr. & Sr. High School student councils' annual party for at-risk children. Approximately 150 children are identified by school nurses and teachers from all the area schools. These are children from very low income families. They are invited to a Christmas party at the Roxana School.



**The date for the party this year is Saturday, December 9th.**

The children get a picture with Santa, a meal, and gifts. Our gifts supplement those purchased through funds raised at the school. Details follow:

### What to bring:

Unwrapped toys & clothes for children aged infant to 13 years, wrapping paper, and tape

### Due Date:

Collected now through Sun., Dec. 3rd

### Where:

Place in big Christmas box in the hallway



The gifts will be wrapped by students. **Adult volunteers are needed.** If anyone would like to help out for the party on December 9th, call Jane Herndon for details.



There is a "Thanksgiving Offering" envelope in with your envelopes. As you start planning to give a "thanksgiving offering," you may choose to designate it for a missionary, a mission project, or a local church special fund like the Capital Fund Campaign. You may also leave it "undesigned."

The **undesigned monies** will be divided this way: **the first \$300 goes to our Helping Hands fund and the remainder goes to UMCOR.** The **Helping Hands** is a benevolent fund that we use to assist local folks who need help with utilities, rent, gas, and so on. We send to **UMCOR** to help with disaster relief which is greatly needed this year.

We thank you in advance.



**Salvation Army  
Bell Ringing  
will be on Friday,  
December 8th**

**10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Walmart in  
Wood River (Grocery Doors)**

We ring at the one entrance with teams of two people for one hour at a time...

**WATCH FOR THE  
SIGN UP SHEET!**







## ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PRESERVING THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
AS A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

# Mission Possible

"THROUGH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" MATTHEW 19:26

## UNDERSTANDING & GIVING TO MISSION POSSIBLE

**Mission Possible** is a campaign to provide funding above and beyond our normal operational costs to address much needed maintenance and renovation work at St. Paul. The primary target of the campaign is the replacement of our aging heating and air conditioning system (HVAC) as well as other needed items for our church building and senior parsonage. We do this in large part as we consider the future of the ministry of St. Paul UMC and the over 50 diverse ministries that radiate from our church home. The **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. One can still participate. **In order that we can know where we stand with pledges, we ask that you fill out a commitment card (which is available in the church office) if you plan to give to the Mission Possible Campaign.**

Providing your gift(s):

- If you are interested in a one-time gift, send the donation to the church or place it in the Sunday offering, **but please be sure to note Mission Possible (or CFC for Capital Fund Campaign) on your check memo line and offering envelope.**
- You can also give online through our website.
- You can give using your credit card when you provide that information to the church office.
- You can give by cash or check.
- You can also provide financial contributions via securities, real estate, personal properties, or an estate gift by contacting the church office or Jim Herndon.

Beginning **January 2016**, you were able to place the designated amount for "Mission Possible" gifts on the Capital Campaign line on your offering envelopes. Donations toward the expenses of our Church Operations (i.e. the General Budget) would go on the Undesignated line as always. What was Capital Improvements, funds meant for unexpected major expenses, is now labeled Building & Grounds Improvements on the 2016 –2018 envelopes. **If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.**

