



# The Steeple

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

APRIL 2018



Hailing back to the early days of TV, it was popular to send a reporter out on the street to stop people and ask them to respond to a question. The responses were often entertaining. What would happen if on Easter we sent a mike around the sanctuary and asked each person this question: **“WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?”**

If people were honest, there would be responses like this: *“It’s been a rough year and I’m searching for some good news.” “It makes my mom happy and I love my mom.” “I’m always here.” I received a postcard in the mail and I decided to check out the church.” “I can’t explain it, but I felt a need to be here today.”*

While we would all have a reason for being in worship on Easter that might range from the trivial to the profound, I believe that we are present to hear the message of the angel once more: **“THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR HERE. I KNOW YOU’RE LOOKING FOR JESUS, THE ONE THEY NAILED TO THE CROSS. HE IS NOT HERE. HE WAS RAISED, JUST AS HE SAID. COME AND LOOK AT THE PLACE WHERE HE WAS PLACED.”** We show up on Easter because we need to hear there is resurrection. A resurrection for Jesus. A resurrection for you and me.

The world denies the existence of resurrections. Near the beginning of his classic, *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens writes: *“Old Marley was as dead as a door–nail.”* In the world, dead people stay dead. Tombs are never empty. In the world, people never change. What they have been is what they’ll always be.

We understand the ways of the world. We understand those who keep score by the wealth and power they’ve accumulated. We understand the Harvey Weinsteins of this world. It’s the Mother Teresas that confuse us.

I believe that we show up in church because we identify with Norm when he entered the Cheers bar saying: **“IT’S A DOG EAT DOG WORLD OUT THERE AND I’M WEARING MILKBONE UNDERWEAR.”** We come to church because we’ve been chewed up and spit out by the world. We come to church because whatever else we’ve been doing hasn’t worked so well for us. So, we are looking for a different way.

The world doesn’t count upon resurrections...but we do. That’s why we show up on Easter...because every one of us needs a resurrection.

We need to be raised from despair to hope. From sorrow to joy. From desperation to inspiration. From giving up to getting up. From believing that nothing will ever change to believing that **all things are possible with God.** From the life we’ve been living into a new life with Jesus. Those transitions are not possible unless there is a resurrection. A resurrection of Jesus from the dead; the first of all who shall be raised. A resurrection from the life we’ve been living into the life offered to us by Jesus Christ.

We understand the tombs of this world. **IT IS THE RESURRECTION THAT SCARES US.** The tomb asks us to change nothing. **THE RESURRECTION CHALLENGES US TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.**

As the women walked toward the tomb on Easter morning, they were filled with the dread that they had pinned their hopes on the wrong man. They had followed Jesus with their heart and their heart had betrayed them. Even if Jesus had loved them—not even Jesus could break the bonds of death. The love that Jesus had for them was now as cold as his body lying in the tomb. The women walked toward the tomb believing that they would find **Jesus as dead as a doornail.**

But these women were wrong...every bit as wrong as we are if we believe that death will have the final word with us.

**INSTEAD OF MEETING THE DARKNESS OF A TOMB, THESE WOMEN ENCOUNTERED THE BRILLIANCE OF AN ANGEL.**

**PASTOR’S CORNER—CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- We rejoice at the birth of **Evangeline “Evie” Claire Rader** on March 21st weighing 6lbs.2oz. Her parents are Kevin & Lindsey Rader and her grandparents are Rick & Robin Rader and Phil & Debbie Tite! Her very delighted uncle is Ryan Tite! Congratulations everyone!
- **Sydney & Raegan Martin** and **Sydney Palmer** were in the Roxana High School production of the play, *Children of Eden*, based upon the Creation and Noah stories in Genesis. **Judy McGill** and **Debbie Bacus** were honored on Saturday night since this was their last play. They received theater seats from the auditorium with the names of their plays upon them.
- **Oliver Bacus** wrote and directed a one act play at SIUE entitled, *Letters Of Vincent*. It was performed March 21-22. Congratulations Oliver on a job well done!
- **Tim Witthoft** completed basic training in the Air Force and is awaiting his new assignment. We are keeping you in our prayers.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has lost a loved one recently. This includes the family, friends, and colleagues of **Rev. Billy Graham**, evangelist nicknamed “America’s Pastor;” the family of **Melva Cloutre**, former member of St. Paul UMC; the family of **Wende Winchester**, friend of Jean Kainz and Jamie Keith; the family and colleagues of **Michael Manley**, Director of Hospitality Department at the Community Hope Center; the family of **Shirley Day**, grandmother of Christina Johnson; the family of **James Stille**, brother-in-law of Joe Hanfelder; and the family of **Linda Condray**, friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell. May you all know God’s comfort and peace in the days ahead.

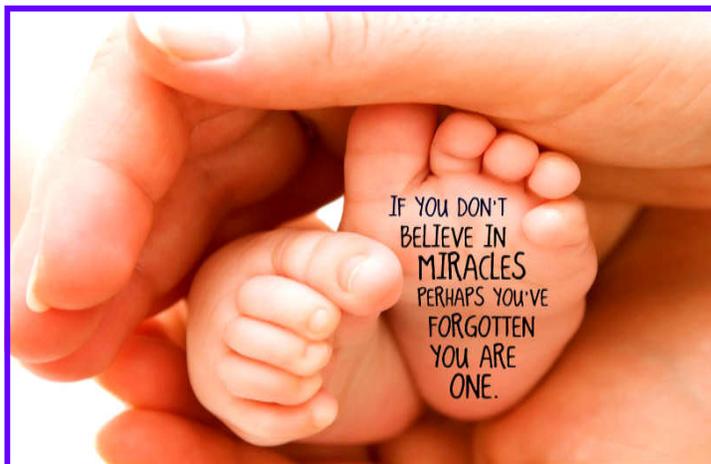
**THANK YOU:** I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your prayers, calls, cards, and thoughts during my recent surgery. I am on the road to recovery and doing quite well. I will get to go back to work soon. God Bless you all! *Leona Hendricks*

**THANK YOU:** to each and everyone of you who donated candy and plastic eggs for the 2018 Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. We had plenty of goodies for all the children to find! And to everyone who donated items or completed Easter baskets! Many children will have nice surprises on Easter Sunday! *Children’s Council—Nurture Ministry Team—Women Of Worship*

### CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING



Pick up *Unplug & Reconnect*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps. It is available on the table in the church entryway. Camps for all ages are available at Little Grassy near Carbondale, East Bay near Bloomington, Beulah in Eldorado, and Epworth near Greenville. College students and adults might consider serving as counselors in our camps. Everything you need to know about being a camper or counselor is found in *Unplug & Reconnect*.





*Celebrate!*  
**The Joy Of Giving...**

**→ RESULTS OF COMMITMENT SUNDAY!**

Thank you to all who have sent in their Estimate of Giving cards! To-date we have received cards from 68 individuals, couples, and families. To-date the **Estimate of Giving for 2018** is **\$165,332**. Please continue to bring in or mail in your cards! **God bless your giving!**



**FLOWER  
CALENDAR**

The Flower Calendar for 2018 is posted on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing. Please, fill it up! Thank you!

**Thank You!**

The Women of Worship sends a huge **THANK YOU** to the young (Junior WOW) ladies, led by Karen Martin, for the fantastic job of preparing and serving the Chicken & Noodle Dinner on March 18th. **\$857** was raised; **\$108.63** was spent on groceries, so **\$748.37** will be given to Mission Possible from this fundraiser!

**PASTOR'S CORNER—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

*INSTEAD OF THE FINALITY OF A SEALED GRAVE, THESE WOMEN ENCOUNTERED THE WARM PROMISE OF AN EMPTY TOMB.*

*AND, INSTEAD OF THE VIVID MEMORY OF A DYING MAN SIGHING, "IT IS FINISHED," THEY MET A RISEN LORD SAYING: "DO NOT BE AFRAID!"*

While the church is in the world, it is not of the world. Here, we believe in Resurrections. We believe that Jesus is risen; just as He said. We believe that because He lives, we live also: today, tomorrow and always. Here, we count on Resurrections. **WHAT HAS BEEN IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT SHALL BE. INSTEAD, WHAT NO EYE MAY SEE NOR ANY MIND IMAGINE, OUR GREAT GOD HAS DONE!**

When we gather on Easter, you won't hear me reciting the proofs of the Resurrection. We aren't gathering to make the case for the Resurrection, but rather to celebrate the resurrection we are living every day. The resurrection is as integral to our life as the act of breathing. We live in and on the resurrection. Resurrection determines what we see and shapes what we believe. We are Resurrection People.

**Those who are sick have experienced the power of the resurrection unleashed in the prayers lifted up for them.**

**Those who mourn, mourn with hope because of the presence of a Risen Lord. Their loved ones are not lost to them forever. We shall be reunited in heaven.**

**Those who have made a wretched mess of their lives are not condemned to live in this sorry state forever. The Risen Lord offers a new beginning. Because of the resurrection, the forgiveness of sin flows in an unending stream from the cross.**

**All around us are those who had given up until the Risen Lord lifted them up. All around us are those who were too weary to continue, but to whom the Risen Lord gave the strength to go on. All around us are those who knew no peace until they found His perfect peace. All around us are people like you and me who count upon the daily power of the resurrection to become more like Jesus.**

*"Why are we here—in the sanctuary of St. Paul on April 1, 2018?" We might have a different answer to a reporter asking this question, but the truth is that we come because we need a resurrection to live the life we want to live. We need a resurrection to live the life that God intended for all His children to live. We come on Easter to receive and celebrate the resurrection that is ours in Jesus Christ. We come to tell each other: "He is Risen!" He is Risen, indeed! I'll see you on April 1st at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Pastor Daryl*



## Sundays at St. Paul in APRIL 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. 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 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.



**1: EASTER.** The joke is on Satan, death, and those who plotted against Jesus. After three days, God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus is the Lord over death and the Lord of Life. Because Jesus lives, we live also. This is the glorious Good News of Easter. Join us for the joyous celebration in music, prayer, and word. *Please note that while Communion will be celebrated as always during the 10:30 a.m. service, we will celebrate communion next week during the 8:15 a.m. worship service.*



**8: 2nd Sunday after Easter. Communion celebrated at both services. Birthday Sunday.** Pastor Daryl begins a new sermon series based upon the story behind Mercy Me’s song, *I Can Only Imagine*. The film *I Can Only Imagine* follows Mercy Me lead singer Bart Millard’s life story. Bart’s mother left home while he was still a child. He was raised in a broken home by his angry and abusive father. It was a childhood of pain, abandonment, disillusionment, and brokenness. For many of us, our view of God is based largely on our life experiences—especially with our own fathers and mothers. Today we talk about God, our loving father, who never fails us. Read Matthew 3:11-17.



**15: 3rd Sunday after Easter.** In *I Can Only Imagine*, Bart Millard’s past became a defining and controlling factor in his life. In order to become spiritually healthy, he had to recall his mother’s absence, his father’s abuse, and his own leaving. The Jewish leaders were offended because Jesus forgave people of their sins; something that only God could do. Forgiveness was at the heart of his ministry. We talk about the forgiveness freely given to us by Jesus Christ. Read Luke 15:11-24.

**22: 4th Sunday after Easter.** In *I Can Only Imagine*, Bart at first could not believe the changes that were taking place in his father’s life. But as Bart discovered that God was working a miracle in his father, he found a new depth to the meaning of redemption. All of us have been redeemed through the grace of Jesus Christ. This thought forms the focus of our service today. Read Matthew 5:2-12.

**29: 5th Sunday after Easter.** In *I Can Only Imagine*, Bart Millard stands in front of his band after a heartbreaking performance and significant rejection from record producers. He realizes that the producers’ rejection of him is not the core issue—it only illuminates a long-neglected pain in his soul. Home, for Bart, is a painful memory. Home is not a place to retreat to, but a place to run from. Standing in front of his band, he tells them, “I need to go home.” Home for us is heaven. It is a place of acceptance, love, and beauty as imagined in Bart’s song. Today we talk about Going Home. Read Matthew 5:21-43.



## Laughter is the Best Medicine

### ◆The Health Benefits of Humor and Laughter!

Sure, it's fun to share a good laugh. But did you know it can actually improve your health? It's true: laughter is strong medicine. It draws people together in ways that trigger healthy physical and emotional changes in the body. Laughter strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from the damaging effects of stress. As children, we used to laugh hundreds of times a day, but as adults life tends to be more serious and laughter more infrequent. By seeking out more opportunities for humor and laughter, though, you can improve your emotional health, strengthen your relationships, find greater happiness—and even add years to your life.

### ◆Why is laughter the sweetest medicine for mind and body?

Laughter is a powerful antidote to stress, pain, and conflict. Nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. Humor lightens your burdens, inspires hopes, connects you to others, and keeps you grounded, focused, and alert. It also helps you to release anger and be more forgiving.

With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for surmounting problems, enhancing your relationships, and supporting both physical and emotional health. Best of all, this priceless medicine is fun, free, and easy to use.

### ◆Laughter is good for your health!

**Laughter relaxes the whole body.** A good, hearty laugh relieves physical tension and stress, leaving your muscles relaxed for up to 45 minutes after.

**Laughter boosts the immune system.** Laughter decreases stress hormones and increases immune cells and infection-fighting antibodies, thus improving your resistance to disease.

**Laughter triggers the release of endorphins,** the body's natural feel-good chemicals. Endorphins promote an overall sense of well-being and can even temporarily relieve pain.

**Laughter protects the heart.** Laughter improves the function of blood vessels and increases blood flow, which can help protect you against a heart attack and other cardiovascular problems.

**Laughter burns calories.** OK, so it's no replacement for going to the gym, but one study found that laughing for 10 to 15 minutes a day can burn about 40 calories—which could be enough to lose three or four pounds over the course of a year.

**Laughter lightens anger's heavy load.** Nothing diffuses anger and conflict faster than a shared laugh. Looking at the funny side can put problems into perspective and enable you to move on from confrontations without holding onto resentment.

**Laughter may even help you to live longer.** A study in Norway found that people with a strong sense of humor outlived those who don't laugh as much. The difference was particularly notable for those battling cancer.

### ◆Use humor to overcome challenges and enhance your life!

The ability to laugh, play, and have fun with others not only makes life more enjoyable but also helps you solve problems, connect with others, and be more creative. People who incorporate humor and play into their daily lives find that it renews them and all of their relationships.

Life brings challenges that can either get the best of you or become playthings for your imagination. When you “become the problem” and take yourself too seriously, it can be hard to think outside the box and find new solutions. But when you play with the problem, you can often transform it into an opportunity for creative learning.

As laughter, humor, and play become an integrated part of your life, your creativity will flourish and new opportunities for laughing with friends, coworkers, acquaintances, and loved ones will occur to you daily. Laughter takes you to a place where you can view the world from a more relaxed, positive, and joyful perspective.



**2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES!** The dates for the 2018 VBS are **June 11-15th!** Please write this down in your calendar as you plan your year. We will need workers and supplies and most of all the children so start praying now and asking God how He wants to use you in this ministry!

**NEEDED FOR VBS – We need to borrow artificial Christmas trees for VBS!...any size, but undecorated** Perhaps when you put away your winter things and get out Easter or spring decorations you could find your Christmas tree. **Please let Jamie Gwaltney know that she may borrow yours and she will let you know when to bring it to the church (or maybe send someone to pick it up).**

Call her at **692-0898!** Thank you!



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Apr Amy Hartman
- 02-Apr Jarod Foiles
- 02-Apr Randy Williams
- 03-Apr Karen Challandes
- 03-Apr Mike Voorhees
- 03-Apr Mitch Voorhees
- 04-Apr Evelyn Bunt
- 04-Apr Donald Ford Jr.
- 04-Apr Payton Hartman
- 04-Apr Tom Martin
- 05-Apr Jason Mayer
- 05-Apr Kelly Moore
- 05-Apr Rohland Pruetzel
- 06-Apr Barb Sitze
- 06-Apr Jessica Winchester
- 07-Apr Vicki Acton
- 07-Apr Ashley Bunt
- 07-Apr Jaxson McBride
- 08-Apr Patrick Bottorff
- 08-Apr Florence Nelson
- 09-Apr Abbygail Skjerseth
- 10-Apr Bryan Clark
- 10-Apr Virginia Croxford
- 10-Apr Lizzie Dawson
- 11-Apr Jennifer Roberts
- 11-Apr Alyssa Tite
- 14-Apr Terry Inman

- 14-Apr Mindy McLain
- 14-Apr Rilyn Wesley
- 15-Apr Alexander Lair
- 16-Apr Nathan Bishop
- 16-Apr Lauren Davis
- 16-Apr Peter Laufersweiler
- 17-Apr Lauryn Decker
- 17-Apr Brittney Harlan
- 17-Apr Brooke Harlan
- 17-Apr Vivian Sands-Franklin
- 17-Apr Scott Tillery
- 17-Apr Cathy Toner
- 18-Apr Michael Bunt
- 18-Apr Luke Dawson
- 18-Apr Brandon Plummer
- 19-Apr Brennen Hermens
- 19-Apr Ilona Natsch
- 19-Apr Madison Scroggins
- 19-Apr Patsy Scroggins
- 20-Apr Kay Gwaltney
- 20-Apr Rosalind Hovan
- 21-Apr Edith Mayer
- 21-Apr Ryan Parker

- 24-Apr Leona Hendricks
- 24-Apr Mike Plummer
- 25-Apr Logan Laufersweiler
- 25-Apr Madison Williams
- 26-Apr Logan Eyster
- 26-Apr Andrew Garrison
- 27-Apr Jaden Henderson
- 27-Apr Bob Kissack Jr.
- 27-Apr Keith Sheppard
- 28-Apr John Bailey
- 28-Apr Tabatha Barclay
- 28-Apr Taylor Scroggins
- 29-Apr Jacob Giddings
- 29-Apr Stacey Kathriner
- 29-Apr Darin Redden Sr.
- 29-Apr Rita White
- 30-Apr Chase Cameron



# APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



- 05-Apr Rohland & Susie Pruetzel
- 08-Apr Bill & Ronda Crain Jr.
- 10-Apr Adam & Stephanie Schroedter
- 11-Apr Phil & Vicki Acton
- 11-Apr Joe & Linda Tillery
- 14-Apr Joshua & Brooke Toner
- 20-Apr Kyle & Emily Brueggeman

- 20-Apr Jim & Betty Burns
- 20-Apr Jake & Jessica Toner
- 21-Apr Eric & Heather Decker
- 21-Apr Peter & Sarah Laufersweiler
- 24-Apr Justin & Jennifer Sandbach
- 24-Apr Frank & Tana Yankovich Jr.

## Be Sure To Pick Up A copy of the Church Directory for 2018!

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

Thank you!



### MARCH Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 3/31/2018	\$18968.50
Designated Giving:	through 3/31/2018	\$1654.00
	Capital Improvements	80.00
	Loose Change	71.00
	Flowers	337.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	70.00
	Upper Room Donations	7.00
	Happy Bears	50.00
	UMCOR	366.00
	Memorials	290.00
	Youth	266.00
	Helping Hands	100.00
	2018 Newsletter Postage	17.00
Easter Offering		36.00
Capital Campaign		2035.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$22693.50</b>

- ▶ We believe with Luther that “you have as much laughter as you have faith.”
- ▶ We believe with Elton Trueblood to “never trust a theologian without a sense of humor.”

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

#### Average Attendance for MARCH 2018

Early Service	36
Late Service	83
Sunday School	30
Visitors	4



**Capital Campaign money received as of 03-30-18: \$298,904.55**



**If anyone is interested in developing a Bus Ministry for St. Paul or benefiting from it on Sunday mornings, please call the church office and let your interest be known. (259-5210)**

**DEADLINE FOR  
MAY 2018  
STEEPLE, Fri.,  
APRIL 20th!**



**Happy Administrative Professionals Day - April 25th!**

- ▶ We believe with Chrysostom that “laughter has been implanted in our souls.”
- ▶ We believe with Calvin that “we are nowhere forbidden to laugh.”



#### MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

*April's Loose Change Project* is the Community Hope Center in Cottage Hills. Not only do they run a food pantry which our church uses as a referral source, but they offer free clothing and other programs to help people in need. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



# RUMMAGE SALE



The 2018 Women Of Worship  
Spring Rummage Sale  
will be held on  
**Friday & Saturday,  
April 13th & 14th**  
(with a Pre-Sale  
opportunity on  
**Thursday, April 12th**).

It is almost here and we need you to  
start bringing your items to the  
church. As you are doing your Spring  
Cleaning be on the lookout for  
anything that you can donate to this  
annual mission fund raiser!

**YOU MAY BRING YOUR  
ITEMS TO THE CHURCH  
(TO THE STAGE IN THE  
BASEMENT) THROUGH  
MONDAY, APRIL 9th!**  
Thank You!

## HELP WANTED

Are you bored from the winter weather –  
eager to have something to do? The Women  
of Worship have solved your problem!  
**MANAGERS** are needed to make decisions  
about sorting clothes, kitchen items, seasonal  
décor, etc. on **Monday, Tuesday, and  
Wednesday, April 9-11.** **ACCOUNTANTS**  
and **BAGGERS** are needed on  
**Thursday night, April 12, from 6 – 8 p.m.,  
Friday, April 13, 8:30 a.m. to noon and  
Saturday, April 14, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.**  
**MAINTENANCE CREW** will take over at  
noon on Saturday to pack up unsold items to  
deliver to the arranged for organization.  
**Also needed:** pickup trucks are needed to  
help gather items from folks who have no  
way to get their things to the church AND  
pickup trucks are needed to help move items  
after the sale is over

**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR  
VOLUNTEERING.**



## CHURCH SPRING WORK DAY!

**Saturday, April 28th  
8:00 a.m.-Noon**

*If you are willing & able to help, we  
would appreciate your help!  
Thank you! Questions?  
Call Jim Herndon, 466-6736.*



## Hickerson Scholarship 2018



The tragic skiing accident of January 15, 1995, that claimed the life of Meghan Hickerson of Hartford, IL, will never be forgotten.

Graduating seniors from the three area high schools (East Alton-Wood River, Roxana, and Civic Memorial) or any who are a member of St. Paul UMC may apply for the \$500.00 scholarship.

We encourage members to notify any student that may qualify and have them complete the application process. Application materials will be available through the counselors at the above mentioned schools or directly from the church office.

**DEADLINE for completed application material is: Monday, April 2, 2018**

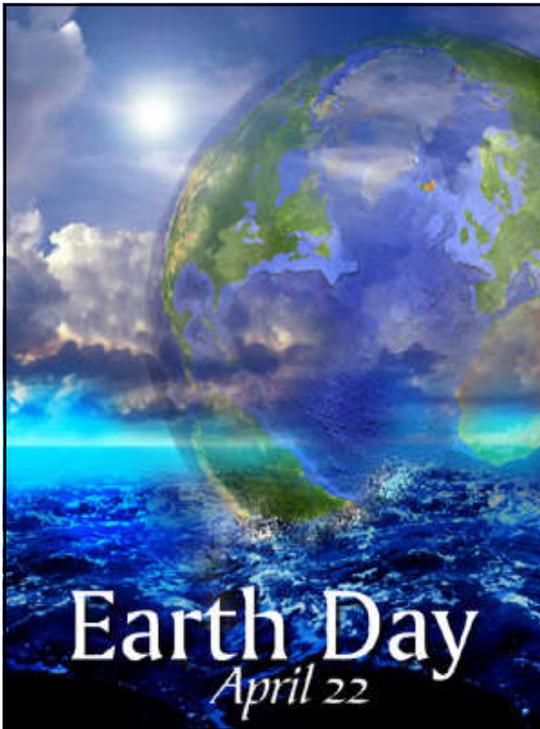
If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 259-5210.

(Ad for Music Position)

## **WORSHIP LEADER/ MUSIC COORDINATOR:**

Part time – varied music background, versed in Traditional/Contemporary music including ability to play pipe organ and piano. Experience in leading choirs a plus. May be split into 3 positions. Job description and application available at [www.stpaulwired.org](http://www.stpaulwired.org).

Send cover letter, resume, & application to:  
**Staff-Parish Committee, St. Paul UMC,  
10 N. Center St., East Alton IL 62024  
by **MAY 1, 2018****



## **NURSERY UPDATE 2018**

It's that time again! It's time to update St. Paul's Nursery! Our nursery has gone through several transitions and has been a happy place for children to play while parents and family worship. Our new update will consist of finishing the flower mural that was started a few years ago, updating some of the existing hardware and toys, and adding a few new items that will accommodate children and babies of various ages.

**Our nursery has a registry at Target if you would like to help!**

### **Volunteers Needed:**

**May 6th-** Come help after 2nd service. We will be sanding tiny wooden chairs so that they will be ready for a new fresh coat of paint.

**May 13th-** Come help after 2nd service as we give everything in the nursery a wipe down/ bath.

**May 20th-** Nursery Open house.

**Target Registry:** Just search for Joy Miller. You will see a registry for St. Paul's nursery.

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/registry/3e27f28f04fb4c8faa3086238917b6f5>

► We believe with Wesley that  
“a sour religion is the devil’s  
religion.”

► We believe with Charles  
Schultz that “humor is proof that  
everything is going to be alright  
with God nevertheless.”



The Kind Youth Group will NOT be meeting on Sunday, April 1st (because it is Easter). We will meet on Sunday, April 8th, and Sunday, April 15th from 4-5:30pm. We will begin a 3-part series based on the movie, *A Wrinkle in Time*. The youth will also enjoy a movie night to watch the movie during this study. Please invite a youth to enjoy this time with us! (Grades 4th-12th)

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



**"Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people," Acts 18:9-10.**

As the warmth of spring brings new life and growth all around, take note of God's mysterious ways and His ability to provide us with hope that we can, in fact, start anew. Some people look at the new year as a time to renew themselves, but I also look at spring as a time that we have hope. Flowers, plants, and grass that have died away with the winter months begin to return in their vibrancy, giving way to new life and growth, right before our very eyes.

I have found it hard, at times, to continue to push forward and invite others to church or to youth group. Sometimes, I must admit, it stings to hear a "no," or to see the empty pews where you once hoped a new family would fill that place. I have been guilty of falling into ruts, afraid to speak up and invite others to enjoy one of our worship services. The fear of rejection has overcome my faith, but God reminds me with His daily, unending love, that He is always with us.

As we enter into yet another season, let's put our faith over fear. Do not be silent in your words or actions, but let your faith shine and emerge new. Invite someone to church, small group, or youth group. Do not be afraid of rejection; instead be hopeful that God will work through us in order to reach others.

**In His Love,  
Lauren Cranmer - Awakening Worship Coordinator**



## We Say Goodbye To Our Friend...

**Priscilla D. Mathus**, 92, died on Saturday, February 17, 2018 in Bloomington, IN. The former East Alton resident was born on November 29, 1925, the daughter of Charles Cecil and Phyllis (McCoy) Young, now deceased.

On April 18, 1946, she married Howard A. Mathus in Alton, and he preceded her in death on June 12, 2004.

She enjoyed her role as a wife, mother, grandmother and community volunteer. As a life member of the Edwardsville American Legion Auxiliary, she served in various leadership roles including chairmanships on the local, county, district and division levels. She was a past president of the Wood River American Legion Auxiliary, having twice served alongside her husband; and past president of Madison Bond County Council; and she attended the Arlington United Methodist Church, Bloomington, IN.

She is survived by her daughter, Pamela A. Mathus (Kenneth) Grohman, of Bloomington, IN, with whom she resided; and their daughter, Vanessa M. Grohman, North Palm Beach, FL. She is also survived by her son, Mark A. Mathus, of Brighton, IL; and his children Meagan Choeng, Springfield, MO, Jeffrey Mathus, Republic, MO; and two great-grandchildren Lennon and Callie, Springfield, MO; a sister-in-law, Mary Young of Galesburg, IL.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Lionel Young and sister, Mary Ellen Barber.

These are the words of comfort that I shared with Priscilla Mathus' family. When they lived in Rosewood Heights, Priscilla Mathus' family were active members and disciples at St. Paul.

Rev. Billy Graham once told Time magazine, *"If I were an enemy of Christianity, I would aim right at the Resurrection, because that is the heart of Christianity."*

Paul understands that the resurrection is the heart of our faith. That is why he devotes the whole chapter of Corinthians 15 to a defense of the resurrection. Paul believes in the resurrection because he saw the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus. Only a risen Jesus could transform Paul from a persecutor into a promoter of the faith. Paul tells the church that I would not have been risking my life telling the story of Jesus if I were not convinced that the Resurrection is true!

Having once doubted the truth of the Resurrection, Paul understands how others might dismiss his vision of risen Lord as the delusion of an unstable person. That is why he lists all those who witnessed the risen Jesus...up to 500 followers. He wants the church to know that he has based his life—not upon a delusion—but a fundamental reality. For the Resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything. I love the way The Message puts it: *"IF ALL WE GET OUT OF CHRIST IS A LITTLE INSPIRATION FOR A FEW SHORT YEARS, WE'RE A PRETTY SORRY LOT. BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT CHRIST HAS BEEN RASIED UP, THE FIRST IN A LONG LEGACY OF THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO LEAVE THE CEMETERIES."*

Paul argues that if the resurrection is an illusion, then we should be pitied for clinging to empty promises. We should be out there eating, drinking, celebrating like there was no tomorrow...because there isn't. This world is all that there is.

Paul reaffirms that he stands upon the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. He says: *"IT'S RESURRECTION, RESURRECTION, ALWAYS RESURRECTION, THAT UNDERGIRDS WHAT I DO AND SAY, THE WAY I LIVE."* The Resurrection is God's endorsement of Jesus and His Way. We should listen to Jesus, believe Jesus, and follow Jesus because His Way does not end in death, but life. The Resurrection makes Jesus' life the only life worth living.

The glorious truth is that Jesus' Resurrection is the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries. These are the only words that may give us hope and comfort on this day. For Priscilla Mathus is not lost to us forever. No, the promise is that we shall see her again...and all of our loved ones in heaven.

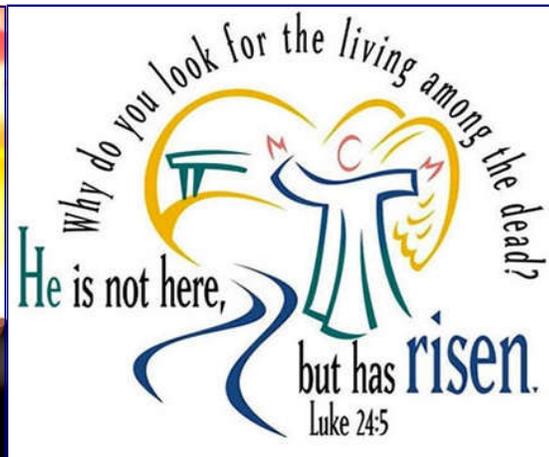
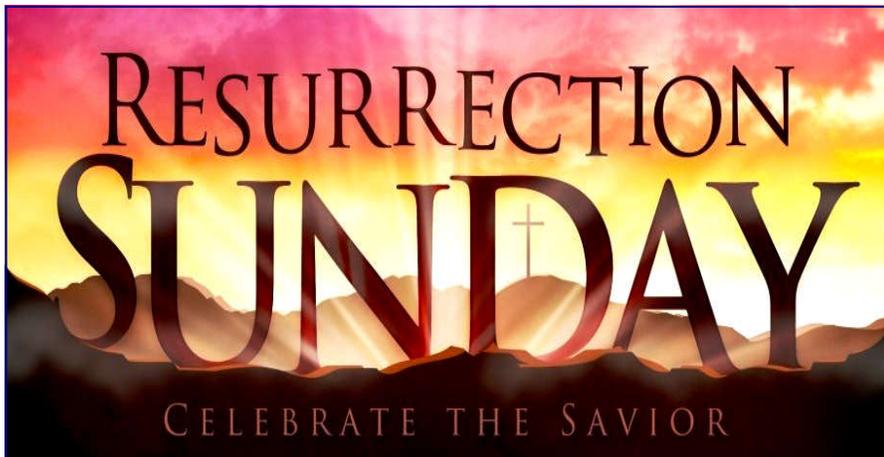
We have gathered this morning because we need to hear about the Resurrection of Jesus. We need to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. And, we need to believe that the Resurrection of Jesus is a promise of our own resurrection.

We gather here because we believe that Jesus' claim is true: *"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in me will never die."*

If we believe this, as Priscilla believed this, then today we will find the comfort we need. It's because of Jesus, this sacrificed Messiah, whom God has raised from the dead and glorified, that we trust God and that we know we have a future in God.

Victor Hugo, author, playwright, philosopher and Christian wrote about our future in this way: *"FOR HALF A CENTURY I HAVE BEEN WRITING MY THOUGHTS IN PROSE AND VERSE; HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, DRAMA, ROMANCE, TRADITION, SATIRE, ODE, AND SONG; I HAVE TRIED ALL. BUT I FEEL I HAVE NOT SAID THE THOUSANDTH PART OF WHAT IS IN ME. WHEN I GO DOWN TO THE GRAVE I CAN SAY, LIKE MANY OTHERS, "I HAVE FINISHED MY DAY'S WORK." BUT I CANNOT SAY, "I HAVE FINISHED MY LIFE." MY DAY'S WORK WILL BEGIN AGAIN THE NEXT MORNING. THE TOMB IS NOT A BLIND ALLEY; IT IS A THOROUGHFARE. IT CLOSSES ON THE TWILIGHT, BUT OPENS ON THE DAWN."*

Today we celebrate that Priscilla has not gone down to the grave, but has been raised with Jesus Christ. She dwells not in the darkness of the tomb, but surrounded by the glorious light of heaven. Please keep Priscilla Mathus' family in your prayers. Pastor Daryl

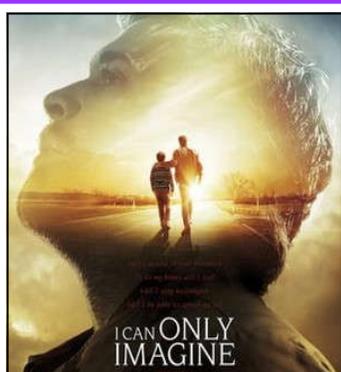


# I CAN ONLY IMAGINE

## Small Group Study

With a new sermon series comes a new focus for our Small Groups to Study. Beginning on **Sunday, April 8th** for **4 Sundays at 5:00 p.m.**, join us in the **parlor** as we discuss what we hear in this series. If Sunday does not work you could come on **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** beginning on **April 9th** in the **parlor** when we will be discussing the same material. If you would like a journal to use, you will find them on the Welcome table in the entryway. Please take one!

- ▶ We believe with Fulton Sheen that “the only time laughter is wicked is when it is turned against He who gave it.”
  - ▶ We believe with Chesterton that “a good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation.”
    - ▶ We believe with Kierkegaard that “humor is intrinsic to Christianity.”
    - ▶ We believe with Francis De Sales the “humor is a foundation for reconciliation.”
- Laughter is very good for body & soul!**



## APRIL SERMON SERIES

Pastor Daryl starts a 4-part sermon series Sunday, April 8th based upon the Mercy Me song, *I Can Only*

*Imagine*. The first sermon challenges us to imagine a loving father. Bart Millard’s earthly father was cruel and abusive which prevented him at first from imagining that God was different. His life (and later his father’s life) changed whenever they experienced the love of God the Father. We all need this love filling the empty places in our life. We offer small group studies based upon the song at 5 p.m. on **Sundays** and 6:30 p.m. on **Mondays**. You can simply show up to discuss the points raised in the videos. For those who wish to delve deeper into each week’s topic, there are daily journals available on the welcome table. You start recording in the journal after the first week’s sermon.



**“MISSION POSSIBLE” Project**

**Original Planned Project:**

- New heating, cooling, ventilation throughout the church. (Including some enhanced work / mechanicals added after work was in progress.)
- Suspended ceilings and lighting throughout the majority of the church.
- Replacement of bell tower windows.
- Replace carpet in the cloak rooms and main hallway.
- Painting throughout the church including adding chair rail in one classroom.
- Repair of 10 windows damaged by squirrel infestation.
- Security system with video/electronic door openers. (Enhanced system from original plan.)
- Replacement of parsonage roof.
- Painted parsonage bathroom.
- Repaired a significant crack in parsonage basement wall.
- New window coverings throughout the parsonage.
- Refinish wood floors throughout parsonage.
- Replaced or refinished baseboards throughout parsonage.
- Replaced ceiling tile and window coverings in parsonage TV room.
- Fixed damaged drywall in parsonage garage.
- Replaced window coverings in parsonage basement.
- Replaced corner post of vinyl fence at parsonage.
- Replaced church van.
- Replaced church garage gutter.
- Renovated handicapped parking in front of church.
- Implemented a cost efficient automatic phone tree call system in the church.

**Add-ons: (Necessitated by previously unknown needs.)**

- Replaced air conditioning at parsonage.
- Replaced bell tower roof.
- Replaced windows in fellowship hall, kitchen, basement restrooms, and choir practice room.
- Replaced flooring in TV room of parsonage.
- Replaced 3 of 4 entry doors at parsonage.
- Replaced several ceiling lights in parsonage.
- Replaced ceiling and additional lights in stairwells of church not on original bid.
- Constructed fencing around outdoor HVAC units.
- Repaired sewer issue at church.
- Replaced outdoor lighting with new LED lights.
- Replaced sound system in fellowship hall.
- Repair of broken floor tile in basement hallway.
- Some contracted cleaning of floors and carpets after construction work.
- Some payments of interest on construction loan.

**Finances:**

Borrowed:	<b>\$ 71,000</b>	church endowment fund
Two draws on construction loan totaling:	<b><u>\$ 88,000</u></b>	
Current total indebtedness:	<b><u>\$159,000</u></b>	

**Total revenues** raised including \$10,000 grant, borrowed dollars, pledges/commitments/gifts, fund raising events, etc.:

Total: **\$500,601.84**

**Total expenditures** as of 2/28/18: **\$480,113.27**

Resulting in a fund balance of: **\$ 20,488.57**

\*The only item remaining from the original planned work is changing the front signage to an electronic LED message board.  
**\$26,000 (Currently on hold.)**

\*It is worth noting that the sale of the Jr. Parsonage, as a way to reduce our indebtedness,  
was an option for consideration by the Trustees from the beginning of our campaign.



**Security Reminder** - Unfortunately, we live in a sometimes unsettling and dangerous time, and because of this fact it behooves all of us to be more security conscious and diligent in maintaining a safe environment not only for ourselves but for others. To that end please review the following information.

The church has a security system in place to mitigate issues of violence should (God forbid) they occur. As you may remember during times of the worship service the doors are open for people to come and go as they please. This means that ushers (as well as congregants) should be diligent and observant in keeping their eyes open for any problems that might occur or individuals who come into the building to disrupt. Should an incident occur and either the Pastor or ushers believe the police should be called a "red" button is located to the left of the door inside the usher closet. If you read the instructions located by the button and pull downward the Sheriff's office will be alerted and should provide assistance. In addition, the Pastor has a "red" button on the pulpit with the same capabilities. Finally, ushers should always have their cell phone on and present with them in case it becomes necessary to call 9-1-1. The Pastor was requested to do the same by the Trustees early in our system process.

Secondly, as you know, we have a facility security system that requires people seeking entry into the building during business hours to use the video button on the front or back doors. This way the secretary can better monitor people entering the building. The secretary also has a "red" button for notification to law enforcement. The security system can only be triggered or stopped at the back door where a white panel is located. If you are one of the individuals who have keys to the building you have received instructions on triggering or turning off the system. Should you attempt to set (trigger) the system and a number flashes on the panel screen if you look below the number buttons on the panel to (back side of cover) you will find a listing complete with numbers corresponding to entry doors that must be secured before the system can work. Once you secure the door listed and try the system again it should set (trigger) the security system. Thank you-**St. Paul Trustees**

## 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. This is how to give 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.**