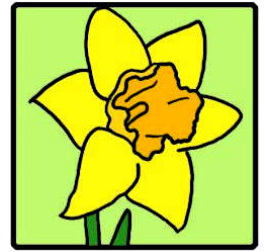




The Steeple

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

MARCH 2018



*"I'd had a phrase banging around in my brain for some time:
My life exists to put Christ at the PULSE of a generation.
I knew that's what God was calling me to do."*

Nick Hall

What began as an effort to bring spiritual renewal to a college campus in North Dakota has spread across the nation to other campuses and churches. Nick Hall and his friends were Christians—trying to live faithful lifestyles—but the passion that should be burning in their bones was lacking. Hall says: *"My buddies and I looked inside the church and saw disunity, hypocrisy, and way too many people bored out of their minds, and we looked outside the church and saw despair that was leading to self-harm, substance abuse, and suicide. Something had to give."* So, they prayed for wisdom and change upon their campus.

With the blessing of a professor, Nick Hall developed for a class assignment a fifteen-page proposal and a fifteen-minute presentation on some product or service that he thought could impact the campus. After explaining the devastating trends on campus, he proposed the answer: **Jesus' invitation for us to start again. To reset.**

Hall sent his proposal to friends who joined him in founding PULSE on campus. Their first efforts were to involve as many people as possible in prayer groups. Soon they had 20 prayer groups that met every morning and every evening of the week and some afternoons. The next was to sponsor a spiritual renewal event that attracted 5,000 students the first year and 10,000 the next. The reason I mention this isn't because we are striving to replicate the response that Nick Hall received on his campus in North Dakota.

I want to remind you that we are spending an entire month exploring what a spiritual reset might involve for us and to invite you to get involved. We all wish we had a reset button that would allow us to start over. While we may not have a physical button to push, we have the forgiveness of Jesus Christ that enables us to begin life anew.

Hall observes in his book, *Reset*, that he has met people across the nation seeking a reset. He says: *"They are dog-tired from pretending they have it all together, they are disillusioned by their letdown of a life, and they are desperate for a solution that works. They need a do-over in their marriage. Or in their finances. Or in their relationships with their friends. They need a do-over at work, at school, at home, or in their thought life. Their habits are distracting them. Their priorities are paralyzing them. Their self-talk is beating them down. And by the time they are standing there in front of me, they've reached what is now a very frayed end of their rope."*

If this describes you, we invite you to join us for the sermon series, *Reset*. Last week, I spoke about *Jesus, Reset My Heart*. You will find that talk on the Awakening page. From March 4-18, I will discuss: *Jesus, Reset My Mind*; *Jesus, Reset My Voice*; and *Jesus, Reset My Hands*. For those desiring to delve deeper into these topics, a small group is meeting on Sundays at 5 p.m. and Mondays at 6:30 p.m. The small group books are available on the Welcome Table in the entryway.

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

There is an old joke: *How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb? One, but the light bulb has to want to change.* Life may be different for us, but we have to want to change...with Jesus' help. That is the assumption at the core of *Reset*. Make this a season of significant, glorious change in your life. Pastor Daryl



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- **Confirmation Sunday** was held on February 4th. Confirmation banners made by each youth are hanging upon the pillars in the sanctuary. During Confirmation, our youth learned how our church is distinctive in its faith and practice of the Christian faith, and the importance of confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. For Pastor Daryl, every Confirmation Class is a reaffirmation that God is speaking to the next generation. Our youth are not the future of the church, they *are* the church. They are people of profound faith and deep prayer. We welcome as our newest members: **Payton Hartman, Eli Kasinger, Piper Martin, and Taylor Scroggins**. In addition to joining the church, **Eli Kasinger** was baptized.
- Congratulations to **Oliver Bacus** who played the lead character, Tartuffe, in Moliere's play, *Tartuffe*, at SIUE!
- **Thanks to everyone** who brought food for the potluck following the Dysart Family concert on February 11th. The fellowship time was great and our spirits were uplifted by the beautiful harmonies of the Dysart family.
- We welcome **Rev. Andrew Paton** who is the interim pastor at the Roxana Church of the Nazarene, **Rev. Tom Plogue** who is the interim pastor at First Baptist Church of Wood River, and **Rev. Phil Gardner** who is serving as the interim pastor at Wood River First and Wanda United Methodist Churches.
- **Thank you to the Praise Band** whose music lent the right mood to our Ash Wednesday Worship Service. While the service reminded us of God's judgment, it also celebrated our forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has lost a loved one recently. This includes the family of **Norma Whyers-Lorch**, mother of Ginger Bartholomew; the family of **Edward "Leroy" Emerick**, father/father-in-law of Dana & Micki Emerick, husband of the late Helen Emerick of our Sweet Sounds; the family of **Robertta Graham**, grandmother of Jackie & Mark Smith, great-grandmother of Jacob & Kaleb (Eagle Scout—Prayer Walk Project) Smith; the family of **Buford Clarke**, son of Colette Sawyer (a friend of Christina Johnson); the family & friends of **Priscilla Mathus**, former member of St. Paul; and the family of **Cheryl Johnston**, friend for 50 years of Lee Johnson. May you all know God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.

THANK YOU: I would like to thank my Church Family for everything you have done to show me how much you care about me...your prayers, cards, calls, visits. It all makes a difference and I am on the road to recovery! God Bless you all, **JoAnn Hill**

THANK YOU: We want to take time to say thank you to everyone at St. Paul UMC for all the love you have poured out on us during this time of loss. Your prayers, cards, calls, visits, etc. have all been greatly appreciated. Chuck's Celebration Of Life service was just what we had hoped for and the meal afterwards was delicious. What a blessing to have such a gracious church family. God bless you, **Rosalie Toner & the whole Toner family**



The small group led by Debra Fansler continues meeting **Sundays at 5 p.m.** in the parlor to discuss *RESET* #JesusChangesEverything. The small group led by Ryan Tite continues meeting **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** in the parlor for the same discussion topic.

Here are each week's discussion topics:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Feb. 25 & 26 | <i>Jesus, Reset My Heart—It All Starts Here</i> |
| Mar. 4 & 5 | <i>Jesus, Reset My Mind—I Am What I Think About</i> |
| Mar. 11 & 12 | <i>Jesus, Reset My Voice—Good News for Bad Times</i> |
| Mar. 18 & 19 | <i>Jesus, Reset My Hands—Soul at Peace, Hands at Work</i> |



Celebrate!

The Joy Of Giving...

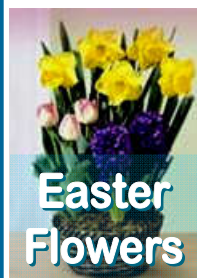
→ **RESULTS OF COMMITMENT SUNDAY!**

Thank you to all who have sent in their Estimate of Giving cards ! From Sunday, Jan. 28 through Feb. 28th we have received cards from **65** individuals, couples, and families. To-date the **Estimate of Giving for 2018** is **\$151,532**. 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!



**Easter
Flowers**

It is time to order your Easter Flowers for 2018. The order forms will be in the worship bulletins starting Sunday, March 11th. Remember to pay for your flowers when you order them. The flowers cost **\$7.00** each this year.

If you have any questions, call the church office @ **259-5210**.

Deadline to order: Sunday, March 25th!



**SUNDAY,
MARCH 11TH**

**Set your clock
ahead one hour!**



**Happy St.
Patrick's Day,
March 17th**

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*.



**RENEW A
STEADFAST
SPIRIT
WITHIN ME.**

PSALM 51:10, NIV



Sundays at St. Paul in **MARCH** 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 on 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 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.



RESET

#JesusChangesEverything

4: 3rd Sunday in Lent. Communion celebrated in both services. In the sermon series, *Reset*, Pastor Daryl discusses *Jesus, Reset My Mind*. Nick Hall says in the book, *Reset*: "When we allow Jesus to reset us, heart and mind, we begin to fight not for VICTORY but from it. At last, confidence and hope are ours."



11: 4th Sunday in Lent. Birthday Sunday. Girl Scout Sunday. United Methodist Committee on Relief Sunday. Daylight Savings Time begins.

In the sermon series, *Reset*, Pastor Daryl discusses *Jesus, Reset My Voice*. Nick Hall says in the book, *Reset*: "What we say has the power to birth life or to quicken death in the people we say it to." We will take up a special offering that pays for the administrative costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This offering means that 100% of what you give for UMCOR projects like hurricane, flooding, or tornado relief goes to direct aid to those impacted by natural disasters. UMCOR also provides short-term and long-term hunger relief.



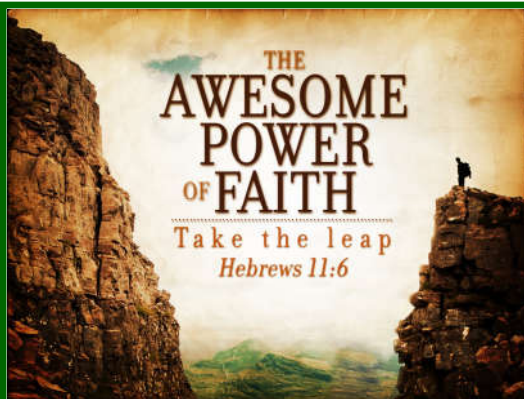
18: 5th Sunday in Lent. Pastor Daryl ends the sermon series, *Reset*, by discussing *Jesus, Reset My Hands*. Nick Hall says in the book, *Reset*: "When your hands get reset by Jesus, you develop an insatiable appetite for accepting, forgiving, loving, enjoying, serving, helping, and persevering with the people he died to save."



25: PALM SUNDAY. At the beginning of 10:30 a.m. service is a Palm Processional by our children. Meet in parlor at 10:15 a.m. to pick up you palms. We love the victors in this world. We pay attention to whoever is number one in every sport and we chronicle the travails of those who fall from greatness. For one week, Jesus was number one in the hearts and minds of his people. With such lofty rankings come expectations that people project upon you. And, when you disappoint people like Jesus did you slip from being number one to becoming a has been. Urged on by the Jewish leaders, the people went even farther; calling for Jesus' death. Today, we affirm that it is more important to be number one in the eyes of God than of the world!



APRIL 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.*



THE HEALING POWER OF FAITH:

Science Explores Medicine's Last Great Frontier

by Harold Koenig, M.D.

Healing can include dramatic, sudden physical cures, but is not confined to the 'miraculous' or the spectacular. Perhaps for most people, the healing power of **faith** involves a healing of the mind and emotions, the intangible spirit, and of relationships with others.

Faith can put physical illness beneath us, where it belongs, return dominion to us, and give us power to live victorious and fulfilling lives.

People who regularly attend church service, pray individually, and read the Bible are 40% less likely to have diastolic hypertension than those who seldom participate in these religious activities.

People who attend religious services regularly may have stronger immune systems than their less religious counterparts. Those who never or rarely attend church or synagogue tend to have the highest levels of Interleukin-6, perhaps indicating a weakened or overactive immune system.

People who attend church regularly are hospitalized less often and leave the hospital sooner than people who never or rarely participate in religious services. The deeper a person's religious faith, the less likely he or she is to be crippled by depression during and after hospitalization for physical illness.

Religious people have healthier lifestyles. According to one study, people who attend church at least weekly have about 1/3 the rate of alcohol abuse and are about 1/3 as likely to smoke than those who seldom participate in congregational worship.

Religious youth show significantly lower levels of drug and alcohol abuse, premature sexual involvement, and criminal delinquency than their non-religious peers. They are also less likely to express suicidal thoughts or make actual attempts on their lives.

Elderly people with a deep, personal religious faith have a stronger sense of well-being and life satisfaction than their less religious peers.

Religious people live longer and physically healthier lives than their non-religious counterparts.



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 we could send someone to pick it up).

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

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

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01-Mar Lisa Betts | 13-Mar Stephanie Schroedter | 23-Mar Justin Sandbach |
| 01-Mar Ava Toner | 13-Mar Codey Terry | 24-Mar Lucy Grizzle |
| 02-Mar Kristin Baker | 16-Mar Clark Cranmer | 24-Mar Logan Oertle |
| 02-Mar Robert Brown | 17-Mar Kelsey Foiles | 24-Mar Audrey White |
| 02-Mar Ricci Voorhees | 17-Mar Sophia Henderson | 25-Mar Anita Dawson |
| 03-Mar Ted Toner | 17-Mar Jean Kainz | 25-Mar Tonya LaTempt |
| 04-Mar Iola Ballard | 17-Mar Rachel Schiber | 26-Mar Jayden Bell |
| 04-Mar Lee Hanley Jr. | 17-Mar Carol Upple | 26-Mar Toby McCammon |
| 04-Mar Allan Napp | 17-Mar Andy Workman | 27-Mar David Laufersweiler |
| 04-Mar Brent Springer | 18-Mar Harvey Birmingham | 28-Mar Rick Sparling III |
| 05-Mar Alexis Plummer | 19-Mar Rick Huddleston | 28-Mar Tyler Watt |
| 05-Mar Ava Sandbach | 19-Mar Joe Tillery | 29-Mar Tracy Bentley |
| 07-Mar Judy Glassmeyer | 19-Mar Gerry Ward | 29-Mar Mark Hamlin |
| 07-Mar Mark Mayer | 19-Mar Tim Witthoft | 30-Mar Chris Eyster |
| 08-Mar Pat Hamm | 20-Mar Katie Clark | 30-Mar Amy Wells |
| 09-Mar Corey Bell | 20-Mar Matt Gwaltney | 31-Mar Betsy Blacklock |
| 09-Mar Landon Clark | 21-Mar Krista Bishop | 31-Mar Don Gwaltney Sr. |
| 09-Mar Meg Fansler | 21-Mar Phyllis Hill | |
| 09-Mar Claudia Herndon | 22-Mar Randy Brueggeman | |
| 10-Mar Micki Emerick | 22-Mar Lucas Gebhardt | |
| 10-Mar Donna Hamilton | 22-Mar Lori Kamp | |
| 11-Mar Kasey Diveley | 22-Mar Kyle Napp | |
| 11-Mar Ashley Laws | 22-Mar Matt Toner | |
| 11-Mar Jill Oertle | | |
| 12-Mar Brooke Toner | | |
| 13-Mar Hunter Bonds | | |
| 13-Mar John Huddleston | | |

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 02-Mar Norris & Mary Lou Dorsey | 11-Mar Brian & Jennifer Roberts |
| 03-Mar David & Cherie Buatte | 14-Mar Bill & Gloria Basden |
| 07-Mar Andrew & Jennifer Garrison | 19-Mar Jim & Jane Herndon |
| 07-Mar Nathan & Samantha Shewmake | 20-Mar Jeff & Laura Mae White |
| 09-Mar Al & Bobbi Ortgren | 21-Mar Doug & Joy Pascoe |
| 09-Mar Brent & Jessie Springer | 21-Mar Mike & Linda Scroggins |

It is time to UPDATE our Church Directory for 2018!

The church office is updating 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! You may also make the changes in the rough copy that will be in the Narthex during the first 3 Sundays of March! The 2018 Church Directory will be available the last Sunday in March! Thank you!

**FEBRUARY Stewardship**

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Offering: | through 2/28/2018 | \$18532.05 |
| Designated Giving: | through 2/28/2018 | \$1925.25 |
| | Capital Improvements | 180.00 |
| | Loose Change | 79.25 |
| | Flowers | 50.00 |
| | Hickerson Scholarship | 40.00 |
| | Upper Room Donations | 27.00 |
| | Offering Envelopes | 47.00 |
| | UMCOR | 60.00 |
| | Memorials | 1025.00 |
| | Helping Hands | 150.00 |
| | Funeral Dinner | 250.00 |
| | 2018 Newsletter Postage | 17.00 |
| Capital Campaign | | 3860.00 |
| Total: | | \$24317.30 |

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

Average Attendance for FEBRUARY 2018

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Early Service | 32 |
| Late Service | 79 |
| Sunday School | 28 |
| Visitors | 3 |



**Capital Campaign money received as
of 02-28-18: \$296,269.55**

**DEADLINE FOR
APRIL 2018
STEEPLE, Mon.,
MARCH 19th!**



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)



You are invited to join the men from our church who are attending the **IRON SHARPENS IRON** gathering on

Saturday, March 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:55 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Springfield, IL. The gathering features inspirational music and speakers as well as sixteen breakout sessions on men's topics. **Early registration is \$56 while standard registration is \$62.** If you are joining us, please contact the Church Office so we may provide you with registration materials or register on your behalf.

**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT**

March's Loose Change Project is McKendree

University. This university was established as a private Methodist College. It currently has over 2,000 students and 150 staff. The university needs financial support for scholarships, building funds, and the many other needs always present in maintaining an ongoing educational institution. May God bless your gifts!



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 still a few weeks away but we thought that we would remind you of the dates so you can be collecting items to bring to the church once the time gets here. When you do your Spring Cleaning in the next weeks be on the lookout for the 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) BEGINNING
MONDAY, MARCH 26th
THROUGH MONDAY,
APRIL 9th! Thank You!**



**THE WOMEN OF
WORSHIP ARE
GOING TO OFFER
UP THEIR...**

FAMOUS CHICKEN AND NOODLES!

Sunday, March 18th

(after the second service to 1:30 p.m.)

In the Fellowship Hall

PLATE LUNCH INCLUDES:

Chicken & Noodles

Salad & Green Beans

Dessert & Beverage

COST: Adults = \$9.00

Children = \$5.00

(10 and under)



***You don't have to wait until the Fall
Festival to enjoy this delicious meal!
Bring lots of people with you!***

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.



PALM WAVERS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY!

On Palm Sunday, March, 25, the children open our 10:30 a.m. worship service with a Palm Processional. We remember how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of "Hosanna" which means "God save us." Our children remind us that Jesus has come to save us all, big and small. All children who wish to participate should meet in the Parlor, the room off the entryway, at 10:15 a.m. to receive their palm and instructions.

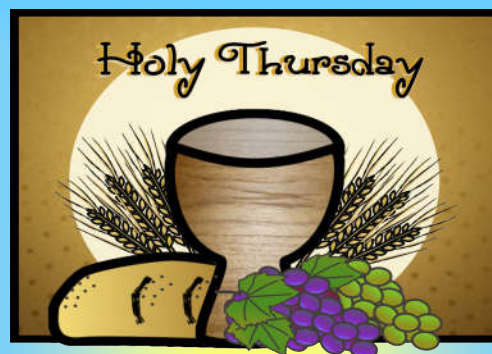
Easter Egg Hunt



Palm Sunday, March 25th, in the church park after the 10:30 a.m. Service!

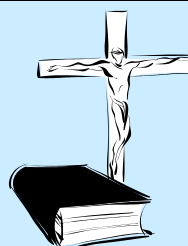
It is a St. Paul tradition to hold an Easter Egg Hunt for our children after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday. Children leave from "More Jesus Time" in the Fellowship Hall for the church park where the hunt is held. If it rains, the Easter egg hunt is held in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to donate wrapped candy that fits into an Easter egg, already filled plastic eggs, or empty plastic eggs for this event there will be a box set-up in the entryway. Place your donations there. Thank you in advance!



**Thursday, March 29th
7:00 p.m.**

**Celebrates the Last Supper
Of Jesus with the disciples**



COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**March 30th @7 p.m.
Roxana Church
of the Nazarene**

This will be a TENEBRAE Service

Special offering taken for our
parachurch organizations:

- Community Hope Center
- Options Now/THRIVE
- Riverbend Family Ministries

Plan now to attend!

Sponsored by the Wood River
Township Ministerial Alliance



Thank you to everyone who donated to the youth group during the month of February. Our **silent art auction** was a fun, successful way to teach the youth about earning money to support activities we want to be involved in. The girls will be attending the **Beautiful U Conference, April 7th in Troy, IL. THANKS AGAIN!**

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



Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Pastor Daryl has been giving a sermon series on resetting ourselves to be more in tune with Christ. This seems fitting, as we are in the season of Lent and many people use this time to reflect on vices that they can give up that maybe take away too much of their time, or cause them to lose focus of their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Forty days almost does not seem long enough to reset ourselves. Rather, it is an ongoing process to keep our minds focused on the cross. Day by day we face challenges and temptations, and those temptations will never go away.

Let our prayers be heard to reset our hearts, minds, and spirits to be more in tune to with God. Let us be more open to new ideas, more understanding of the feelings of others, and more willing to live and love in the image of Christ. We are not created to be perfect people, but as Pastor Daryl reminded us, we are created in His image, and it is in His blood that we are redeemed and given hope for our future.

Join us on Sunday mornings for worship and reset yourselves to be one with Christ, our Lord.

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



Easter Baskets for Needy Children

Once again our congregation has the opportunity to make Easter Baskets for needy children. We have delivered approximately 395 baskets over the last 9 years to the Community Hope Center and Operation Blessing. We deliver baskets before Easter.

Baskets can be homemade or bought. Traditional Easter candy, a small toy, a stuffed animal, or some personal items, or school supplies can go into them. We do ask that you cover the basket with cellophane or some kind of see through protection, so the items do not fall out. Place

these in the food collection area.

You can also bring individual items which will be made into baskets by the craft ladies. Put the items in the bins labeled for such in the same area. The craft ladies will then assemble baskets from these. We need "empty" baskets and we need lots of good things to fill them with.

**Easter is on April 1st this year...
Individual items need to be in the
collection area by *Sunday, March 18th.*
Completed Baskets need to be in the
collection area by *Sunday, March 25th.*
Delivery will happen the week of March 26th.
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!**



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Charles L. (Chuck) Toner, Jr., 89, surrounded by his family at home, peacefully left us at 1:29 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018. He was the eldest child of Charles L. Toner, Sr. & Lula Belle (Red) Toner born March 5, 1928 near Casey, IL. He graduated in 1946 from Roxana High School, enlisting immediately in the Navy and serving proudly for the next three years stationed in Hawaii.

Chuck married Rosalie Lang in Wood River, IL. They celebrated 65 years of marriage April 16, 2017. Besides his wife, surviving are one daughter and husband Debbie & Ross Eggebrecht, two sons and their wives, Mike & Teresa Toner, Ted & Cathy Toner. Grandchildren Josh & Brooke Toner, Matt & Kristen Toner, Cory & Caroline Crandall, Jake & Jessica Toner, and Zachary Toner, Andrea Kasten (Harry Reed), Tommy & Emily DeGrand, and Meghan DeGrand (Jake Inman). Six great-granddaughters, Ella, Emma, and Ava Toner, Jocelyn and Nora Toner, and Corinne Crandall. Two brothers, Jim and Maurice, one sister Judy Toner Cohn and numerous step-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

He retired from Illinois Power in 1989. He and Rosie then became Florida snowbirds returning full time to their Rosewood Heights home in 2007.

He was the 1966 Alton City bowling champ. After switching from right-handed to left-handed bowling in 1972 he continued to bowl at least two times per week until the spring of 2017. He qualified through the State of Florida Senior Olympics in 2004 and participated in the finals held in Reno, NV.

An avid Chicago Cubs fan his entire life, he often said he wanted to live at least long enough to see the Cubs win the World Series. To the delight of many he accomplished that goal.

He was active in the Wood River Masonic Lodge #1062 for 62 years and Past Worshipful Master at Bethalto Lodge #406. He was also a member of the Ainad Shrine, Alt-Wood Shrine Club, Wood River Moose Lodge, and the South Roxana American Legion, participating in the Land Of Lincoln Honor Flight to Washington D.C. in 2012. A special thank you to the BJC Hospice staff for their care of Dad during the past year.

The Don Williams song, "*Lord, I Hope This Day is Good*" that we played was one of Chuck & Rosalie's favorite from the Country Church show on WBGZ. The stanza:

**I DON'T NEED FORTUNE AND I DON'T NEED FAME
SEND DOWN THE THUNDER, LORD, SEND DOWN THE RAIN
PLAN WHEN YOU'RE PLANNIN' JUST HOW IT WILL BE
PLAN A GOOD DAY FOR ME.**

especially captures Chuck's life for me. Chuck found pleasure and value in the simple things of life.

What I appreciated most about Chuck is that life gave him opportunities to complain or to be bitter or angry, but instead Chuck spoke of God's blessings. He told how easily he could have died in the accident where he lost his arm. And, yet he lived and went on to live a good life. Several years ago, when he had the heart problem at DePaul Hospital it was touch and go for a while. He emerged on the other side of surgery testifying once more to the goodness of our great God and the power of his healing.

And, within the last year our conversations were filled with thanksgiving: for his family, for his friends, for his church, and his faith. During every visit, we shared moments of laughter. I never left Rosalie's and Chuck's home feeling depressed because every time Chuck shared how abundantly God had blessed him.

That's why I wanted to read today those verses from Psalm 145.

³ **The LORD is great, and he should be highly praised. His greatness is unsearchable.**

⁴ **One generation will praise your deeds to the next. Each generation will talk about your mighty acts.**

Chuck did not hesitate to talk about God's great deeds and miraculous acts to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. His bedrock faith was always a comfort and help to us in every time of trial.

CHUCK TONER—CONTINUED ON PAGE 13





We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Marilyn A. Cisler, 72, passed away at 1:48 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2018, at her residence. She was born on June 29, 1945, in Olean, NY, the daughter of the late Morris & Alice (Thurber) Heath.

She married Stan Cisler III on Aug. 14, 1971, in Olean, NY, and he survives. Other survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law: Julie Cisler of Bethalto, Carrie & Steve Ross of Columbia, IL, two grandchildren: Sarah and Madilyn, two brothers and sisters-in-law: Alan & Linda Heath of Gilbert, AZ, Dr. Paul & Joan Heath of St. Cloud, MN, many nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

Marilyn was a 1963 graduate of Olean High School in Olean, NY. She furthered her education and graduated from Greenville College with her Bachelor's Degree in Science Music Ed. in 1967. She earned her Master of Science in Music Ed. Degree in 1968 from the University of Illinois. Marilyn taught music for 34 years in the Bethalto and Roxana School Districts. She was the church organist, choir director, and hand bell choir director for 39 years at St. Paul United Methodist Church in East Alton. She later attended Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Alton. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister: Jeannie, and a brother: John.

Sing a new song to the LORD because he has done miraculous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gained victory for him. The LORD has made his salvation known.

He has uncovered his righteousness for the nations to see.

He has not forgotten to be merciful and faithful to Israel's descendants.

All the ends of the earth have seen how our God saves them. Psalm 98:1-3 God's Word

St. Paul is known as a musical church due primarily to the influence of Marilyn Cisler who shaped our music program for 39 years. Although ALS took away Marilyn's ability to play music in later years, she still sang a song of God's praises in the depths of her heart. No disease could stop Marilyn Cisler from singing the Lord's praises. Marilyn was a skilled musician; capable of playing multiple instruments. However, what I appreciated most about Marilyn was her encouragement of the next generation of musicians. Her notes, words of praise and inclusion of children in the Cantatas and worship services kept many like our daughter, Meg, singing the Lord's song of salvation. Pastor Daryl

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: be with your servants who make art and music for your people, that with joy we on earth may glimpse your beauty, and bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ~From Book of Common Worship~

Marilyn Cisler was the definition of an educator. She consistently had the ability to not only see the abilities or skills hidden within someone but she had the ability to draw out that hidden ability or skill and in so doing to make a person feel valued. What a wonderful legacy!! *Jim Herndon*

Marilyn's music is one of the major reasons why I joined St. Paul, and I told her so. Her piano and pipe organ God-given talents were so uplifting. Made my heart happy! I shall miss her very much. *Donna Hamilton*

Marilyn was my dear friend and she was a wonderful organist and choir director at St. Paul for 39 years. She did a great job in that position and did her best to make us all happy and to choose a wide variety of music for our Sunday Anthems. We ended up with a lot of favorites that we sang regularly and she was always willing to take suggestions from the choir members when we wanted to sing something that had a special meaning to one of us. Our choir practices were a fun place to be and she put up with a lot – sometimes she said we behaved worse than her high school students! She was the best – we all loved her – and we will truly miss her. *Tracy Franks*

MARILYN CISLER—CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

**MARILYN CISLER—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

Marilyn brought a beautiful music ministry to St. Paul's and shared her love of Jesus and helped to bring the best out in all of us. From choir, men's quartet, solo's (both singing and instrumental), cantatas, bell choir and concert. She always had a positive way in helping us to correct a 'boo boo' especially over in 'that' area! Love and miss you, but God has another beautiful person and music maker with him now! One of your Ding a Lings 🎵❤️✠! **Deb Mayer**

I didn't love singing anymore because I thought I had nothing to offer. Then Marilyn became the chorus director at my school. I know I drove her crazy with my obnoxious talking, but she rebuilt my joy for singing and helped me and my classmates thrive. I am blessed to have continued to make music under her guidance as an adult. I will always be grateful that our paths intersected in life.
Noël Schiber

Marilyn Cisler was such a great friend and mentor. Her piano playing inspired me to become a better musician. Her strength and faith inspired me to seek a deeper relationship with God. Her laugh could light up a room. She had high standards and I appreciated that. It showed how much she cared. She always wanted others to do their best, but she was also their biggest cheerleader and support whatever the problem was. The earth is a little dimmer without Marilyn's smile and motivating sparkle. I thank God that He blessed this earth with the lovely, elegant, talented, and compassionate Marilyn Cisler. I miss her deeply. I look forward to when we will meet again in heaven. **Julie Brown**

Marilyn was a great musician. She played the organ & piano beautifully and directed the chancel choir & the bell choir. When she started directing the bell choir, she had no experience with the bells. It didn't take her long though to really get in to it and love it. She was always challenging us to play more difficult pieces and encouraging us. On the 20th anniversary of the bell choir, we had a concert. This was totally Marilyn's idea. We never thought we could play more than one piece at a time let alone 10, but she did. It was a lot of work to get ready for the concert and we did it. I think she was really proud of that as were we. Marilyn was also a big Cardinal fan. She & I shared that passion and talked about the Cardinals a lot. When the All-Star game was played in St. Louis, she & I got tickets and went together. I'll never forget that day I spent with her. A once in a lifetime event. Most of all, Marilyn was a faithful Christian. She always put her faith first and led by example. I miss her dearly. **Mindy McLain**

CHUCK TONER—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

I invite all of us to reflect upon this truth:
Chuck Toner's days were good—not because they were so much better than the days we experience—but rather because he saw God present in every day. Chuck's eyes were attuned to see God's blessings; the ones that many of us overlook or dismiss as coincidence. The love of family gathered together at holidays and birthdays. The beauty of God's good earth. The joy of fellowship with friends through his fraternal organizations or bowling. And through Chuck's eyes, we saw those blessings of the Lord as well.

In his song, Don Williams sings:

**LORD, I HOPE THIS DAY IS GOOD
I'M FEELING EMPTY AND MISUNDERSTOOD
I SHOULD BE THANKFUL, LORD, I KNOW I SHOULD
BUT LORD I HOPE THIS DAY IS GOOD.**

We don't see how this day is good. We are certainly feeling empty and misunderstood. We need Chuck here to point out that God has not forsaken us. God remains our faithful companion and friend.

We need Chuck to point out these verses in Psalm 145:

**⁶People will talk about the power of your terrifying deeds, and I will tell about your greatness.
⁷They will announce what they remember of your great goodness, and they will joyfully sing about your righteousness.**

and to remind us that he has not ceased to testify to God's blessing. He now joyfully sings about God's righteousness gathered around the throne of God in heaven. He sings with all the saints. For Chuck the pain and suffering of this earth are gone.

It's O.K. for us to be sad today as long as we cling to this hope. Those who die in the Lord are not lost to us forever. We shall see them again. Because Jesus lives, we live also. We live a life of blessing upon this earth and we will live a life of blessing in heaven to come. For we have been made—not merely to bless God's name upon this earth—but forever and ever. Amen.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

➔ CHURCH CONFERENCE ➔

St. Paul will host a Church Conference on **Thursday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m.** to **formally vote** whether or not to sell the Junior Parsonage for the purpose of paying down our recent Mission Possible debt. Results of the survey/ballot were overwhelmingly in agreement, by those participating, to consider this step. The District Superintendent, Dr. Rev. Rose Booker-Jones, has assured us the District Building & Location Committee will approve our request and she will be present to conduct the Church Conference on March 15. All church members will be eligible to vote. **Now that we have a different church van if you need a ride to come to church to vote please call the church office (259-5210) to let us know. 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.**