



The Steeple

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



SEPTEMBER 2018

Greetings people of infinite worth!

My first six weeks as your pastor has been a warm and welcoming experience, and I thank you all for your kindness and generosity! The trustees have been so helpful and hardworking getting the parsonage ready for Joe and me. The children have created beautiful, hand-made cards to welcome me as the new pastor. Our secretary extraordinaire has been a wealth of knowledge and guidance! I have enjoyed hanging-out and drinking coffee with the Women of Worship as they create amazing crafts to sell this fall. My husband Joe and I have breakfasted with the men's group at Polly's. Our Parish Visitor has been so kind as to take me to visit some of our dear, faithful, homebound folks. Our youth group, Kind, has been fun to spend time with; last night we went to a movie together. The fact that I am, well...um shall we say, vertically challenged, created a minor obstacle with pulpit height. However, that little problem was met with grace and speed as I now have a riser to stand upon while I preach! The sound crew has been so very helpful to work with me so that I can be heard despite my soft spoken ways. Certainly, St. Paul has exemplified the love of Christ toward me and my husband!

One of my roles as your pastor is to cast a vision for the future of the church. As I come into your midst with 'new comer's eyes' I have something on my heart. I am not alone in thinking about this because some of our members have commented on it. The issue that deeply concerns me is the low numbers of children and youth engaged in Sunday School, youth group, and in the life of the church. We have heard it said that, children are the future of the church. While that is true, children are also the 'present' of the church; they are the 'now' of the church. If we don't serve them now, connect them with Christ, and allow them to serve and participate in the life of the church, how will they lead the church in the future?

This is a concern that must be met head-on by the entire church. I ask that you would be in prayer with me as we walk this path together. Let's proceed in faith to prepare our church for our future. While we are praying and discerning together about how we will reach more children/youth for Christ, here are some actions we can take right now to serve the children God desires to send our way.

Nursery workers – We must have a loving, and well-staffed nursery for the young families. We presently have one youth who is willing and available to serve in the nursery, but we need at least two more adults. We need to have two nursery workers at a time with our littlest members. With three (or more) people agreeing to serve in this way, we can make a schedule in which no-one is scheduled to work every Sunday.

Safe Sanctuaries – This is a training program sanctioned by the United Methodist Church. Anyone in the church who works with children/youth should have this training. Children are our greatest treasure; let's learn ways to protect them from harm.

Calming the Chaos – From time to time, local training opportunities come to my attention; this is one of them I plan to attend and I am inviting anyone in the congregation to come with me. This training will help prepare us for working with children. Please see the flyer in the Steeple on Page 8 (and on the bulletin board) for further information.

I am so grateful for the children who presently attend worship, Sunday School, and youth group. They bring such joy to our church! And I want to thank the parents, and grandparents who bring them to participate in the life of the church! You are giving them an education that the world will not; a Christian education has eternal consequences.

Let's prepare for the way that God is going to answer our prayers!

Blessings!

Pastor Debra

REFLECTIONS...



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **Sydney Martin** was a member of the cast of "An Evening of Disney Magic: Beloved Characters, Beautiful Music, Dance & Storytelling" at the **Liberty Bank Alton Amphitheater**, **Saturday, August 18 at 7 p.m.** Kevin Frakes, Lee Cox and others conceived an original script that pays tribute to Disney's most popular theatrical shows and movies. Many of the area's most talented performers (including Sydney) came together to appear in this production which was the Alton Little Theater's Summer Showcase fundraiser. Congratulations Sydney!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Betty Contreras**, mother/mother-in-law of Steve & Jean Kainz and the family of **Josh Whitehead**, cousin of Christina Johnson. May you each know God's comfort and peace now and in the days ahead.

THANK YOU: I wanted to take a moment to thank the church for their generous contribution to our school! These supplies are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. I understand that there are many needs in our community and I am grateful the St. Paul UMC chooses to help provide for the students of Eastwood Elementary School. Thank you for all the good you do for our community! Warmest regards, *Matt Stimac, Principal*

THANK YOU: Thank you so much for your generous donation of school supplies to Central Intermediate School! These will really help so many students get their school year started on the right foot! Thanks again, *Jim Miller*

THANK YOU: A BIG THANK YOU to Randy McLain and all the guys who helped with sound & equipment handling for the outdoor service this summer. We all appreciate your willingness to volunteer so we can enjoy our 8:15 services in the church park! *The Worship Ministry Team*

TO: Seniors (70 & over in 2018) of St. Paul UMC
WHAT: A Luncheon and a Celebration of You!
WHERE: St. Paul UMC, Fellowship Hall
WHEN: September 19th, Wednesday
TIME: 12:00 p.m. (NOON)

7th SENIOR LUNCHEON

Won't you plan to join us for the **7th annual senior luncheon** served in your honor! Included will be time for fellowship & fun. Bring your spouse, a family member, or a friend; an appetite; and a smile to have a great time! We would love to know that you will be coming and who you might bring. Please call Lois at the **church office 259-5210** by *Monday, Sept. 17th* to make a reservation. Arrangements for **door-to-door service or valet parking** are just a phone call away because we want you to be here! Let us, with God's help, bless you with food, fellowship, & friendship on September 19th! We look forward to seeing you!

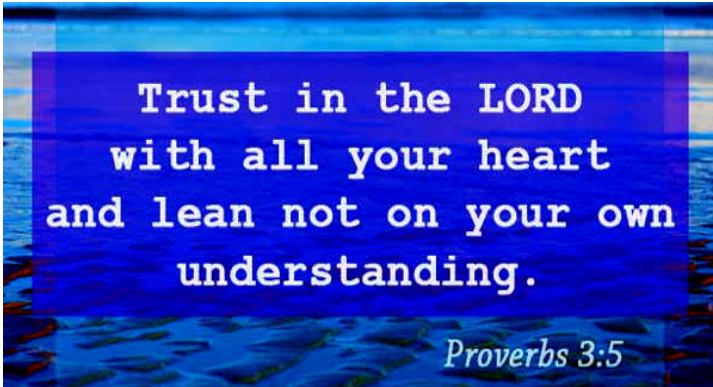




Paws in the Park

originally scheduled for **September 30th**, has had to be cancelled. We are sorry for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused. We are planning to hold this event next year.

Pastor Debra & Awakening Planning Team



BOWLING WITH ST. PAUL!

Are you interested in joining the St. Paul UMC bowling team this season? We bowl on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. but we rotate people so you would not have to bowl every Monday night...sometimes you have other plans. To find out more please call Mark Mayer at 377-6463 today!



EPHESIANS 3:14

BROKEN

SEPT
26

SEE YOU AT THE POLE™

See You at the Pole™ was inspired by students in a youth group in Burleson, TX, early in 1990. The teen-

agers felt led to go & pray at night at several area schools during a weekend youth retreat. Their experience was shared with thousands of other youth from across Texas in the form of a challenge in June 1990 at a large conference. More than 56,000 students on 1,200 campuses in Texas and three other states were documented at the first See You at the Pole™ in September that year. Since 1991, See You at the Pole™ has grown to God-sized proportions. The movement began to spread to other nations through missionaries from the U.S. Now each year, more than 3 million students from all over the world participate in See You at the Pole™. Students in more than 20 countries are responding to God and taking seriously the challenge to pray.

For 2018 the date is Wed., September 26th! Pray for our youth and their schools!



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

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



Our 10:30 a.m. service—*Awakening*—is a contemporary service. 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 are available on the entryway table. Communion is celebrated at the end of every service. The intent of both worship services is to connect, to reconnect, and to draw people into a closer connection with Jesus Christ.

“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.

3 Simple Rules

1. DO NO HARM
2. DO GOOD
3. STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD



2: Communion celebrated in both services. New Sermon Series: Three Simple Rules - Simple, But Not Easy



based on the book, “Three Simple Rules,” by Bishop Job. There are three simple rules that have the power to change the world. Living out these simple rules will return us to our Wesleyan heritage. These disciplined practices gave power and strength to the early Methodists; they can

do the same for us today. The rules are simple, but the way is not easy. Today Pastor Debra speaks on how to **Do No Harm**- *Galatians 5:13-26*.

9: Birthday Sunday. Sermon Series: Three Simple Rules -Simple, But Not Easy. Today Pastor Debra speaks on how to **Do Good** - *Acts 10:34-43*.



16: Sermon Series: Three Simple Rules -Simple, But Not Easy. Today Pastor Debra speaks on how to **Stay in Love With God** - *Psalms 105:1-4* as she concludes the series.

23: Pastor Debra is on vacation. Today **Dan Nickel** will be the guest speaker at both the 8:15 and the 10:30 services. Dan's sermon title is: ***The Buried Life***- Scripture is: Mark 5:1-7a & Hebrews 7:25a. (As sometimes happens when the pastor has to be away, there will be no Communion during the Awakening service on this Sunday.) Please come and hear what God has given Dan to share!

30: Today Pastor Debra's sermon title is ***A New Day for Nick*** and the Scripture is John 3:1-12.



OCTOBER 7: World Communion Sunday. Communion celebrated in both services. Pastor Debra's sermon for today is titled: ***He Took Bread...*** – Scripture is 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.

9: Birthday Sunday. New Sermon Series: The Verse After The Verse. Today, Pastor Debra will be launching a New Sermon Series; ***The Verse After the Verse.*** More information to come!



Leaning on the Healing Power of the Holy Spirit



By Joyce Meyer

It's wonderful to know that you can lean on the Holy Spirit in the tough times.

It's wonderful to know that, as believers in Christ, we can live in close fellowship with God. Jesus said in John 16:7 (AMP), "I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]."

When Jesus walked the Earth, He could be in one place at a time and He could be *with* the disciples. But the Holy Spirit can be everywhere, all the time, and He lives *IN* those who have accepted Christ as their Savior. Being *with* Jesus is good, but having the Holy Spirit *in* us is even better. We don't have to go looking for God because He's as close as close can get!

See, when we receive Christ and we're born again, it literally means that God—through the power of the Holy Spirit—comes to live inside us. He makes us new on the inside, and as He works in us, the fruit of what He's doing is seen in the way we live and does some good for the people in the world around us (2 Cor. 5:17, 21; John 14:17, 26; Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22-23).

Who He Is to You.

John 16:7 tells us who the Holy Spirit is: Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthened and Standby. John 14:26 (AMP) says "He will teach you all things." The Holy Spirit is THE Teacher and He guides us into all truth.

Think of this in the standpoint of recovering from things in the past that have hurt you. Many people come to God because their lives are messed up and they don't know what to do to fix it. They've tried everything they know to do, and nothing is working. So finally, in their desperation, they ask for His help.

Thankfully, God wants to help us and heal us—spirit, soul and body. He wants to bring restoration to us so we won't live in a state of recovery forever. He wants us to be whole in Christ so we can help someone else. We need the Holy Spirit to lead us to truth one step at a time, and we need His strength to confront things that are hard to face so we can get victory over them.

In my journey with Christ, He's brought so much healing and restoration to my soul—my mind, will, and emotions. My father sexually abused me throughout my childhood. When I left home at 18, I thought, "That's over! I'm putting that problem behind me." But I took the problem with me because the wounds of the abuse were still in my soul.

The pain of my past affected my thinking, how I operated emotionally, all of my relationships and even my will. I was rebellious and stubborn, and promised myself no one would ever hurt me again. And then I was born again. It's so important to understand that we cannot do this on our own, but as we lean on the Holy Spirit for the strength to face our problems, we can overcome them.

Run to Your Source of Healing, Not From Him.

If you have hurts from abuse, disappointments, an injustice or any other kind of mistreatment, you will have to face them with the help of the Holy Spirit to be healed of them. Anything you run from has a certain amount of power over you, and until you face it, every time it raises its ugly head, you have to run some more. Thank God you don't have to do it alone!

As I began my journey to wholeness in Christ, I had to face some painful things I had been avoiding and, at times, running from. I had to take responsibility for my wrong attitudes, mindsets, and behavior and lean on God for the wisdom and strength to change.

Recovery and restoration of our souls takes time. One step at a time, the Holy Spirit guides us into truth that sets us free. The truth is, you can't heal yourself, but you can be completely healed and whole in Christ, because all things are possible with God!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Sep	Christi Baggett	13-Sep	Susan Cameron	23-Sep	Harvey Gowan
01-Sep	Jay Bentley III	13-Sep	Chelsea Georgeoff	23-Sep	Nathan Shewmake
01-Sep	Arik Newingham	13-Sep	Kathy Link	24-Sep	Tanner Betts
02-Sep	Ron Nelson	14-Sep	Dan Bunt	24-Sep	Tim Bunt
02-Sep	Jenni Ortegren	14-Sep	Kiley Herndon	24-Sep	Kellie Greer
03-Sep	Al Poston	16-Sep	Jerry Cameron	25-Sep	Hayley Schlemer
04-Sep	Cherie Buatte	16-Sep	Dick Redden	25-Sep	Phil Tite
04-Sep	Rod Croxford	16-Sep	Jeff Skjerseth	26-Sep	Bob Blacklock
04-Sep	George Hamilton Sr.	17-Sep	Jeff Greer	26-Sep	Sarah Laufersweiler
04-Sep	John Hendricks	17-Sep	Nic Weigler	26-Sep	Ashley Poore
05-Sep	Damian Newingham	18-Sep	Christian Greer	26-Sep	Lily Roberts
06-Sep	Josh Gowan	18-Sep	Linda Scroggins	26-Sep	Debbie Tite
06-Sep	Jason Henderson	19-Sep	Bettie Lewis	26-Sep	Jan Williams
06-Sep	Ryan Tite	19-Sep	Paul Skjerseth	27-Sep	David Betts
07-Sep	Kamryn Bell	19-Sep	Ashley Springer	27-Sep	Becky Chester
07-Sep	Jim Dawson	20-Sep	Blake Boeshans	27-Sep	Donna Ewing
08-Sep	Justin Bottorff	20-Sep	David Buatte	27-Sep	Joyce Hutchens
09-Sep	Angie Hansard	21-Sep	Ella Clark	27-Sep	Sharon Inman
09-Sep	Liam Oertle	21-Sep	Marcella Gimmy	29-Sep	Jordan Brown
09-Sep	Matthew Poston	21-Sep	Dani Wilson	29-Sep	Kara Martin
10-Sep	Jake Birmingham	22-Sep	Neil Herndon	29-Sep	Steven Tite
10-Sep	Zelda Plummer	22-Sep	Carol Warner		
10-Sep	Christy Scroggins	23-Sep	Baylee Allshouse		
11-Sep	Don Bunt Sr.				
11-Sep	Marc Ortegren				
12-Sep	David Badman				
13-Sep	Tamara Atchley				



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

04-Sep	Daryl & Deb Fansler	20-Sep	Ross & Debbie Eggebrecht
06-Sep	Jason & Lindsey Mayer	24-Sep	Nicholas & Julie Hobbs
13-Sep	Phil & Debbie Tite	26-Sep	Ryan & Savannah Cincoski
15-Sep	Kevin & Lindsey Rader	26-Sep	Don & Diane Ford Sr.
16-Sep	Christopher & Megan Ricketts	27-Sep	Ryan & Megan Parker
17-Sep	Chris & Susan Cameron	29-Sep	Gary & Shirley Clark
18-Sep	Jerry & Cathy Cameron		
19-Sep	Cory & Caroline Crandall		
20-Sep	Bryan & Katie Clark		



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!

**AUGUST Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	through 8/30/2018	\$18039.00
Designated Giving:	through 8/30/2018	\$482.80
	Capital Improvements	80.00
	Loose Change	67.80
	Flowers	25.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	60.00
	Upper Room	0.00
	Dar Bryant Ministry	10.00
	UMCOR	50.00
	Memorials	0.00
	Helping Hands	190.00
Capital Campaign		1192.00
Total:		\$19713.80

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

Average Attendance for AUGUST 2018

Early Service	51
Late Service	53
Sunday School	23
Visitors	8



**Capital Campaign money received as
of 08-30-18: \$314,361.92**

**DEADLINE FOR
OCTOBER 2018
STEEPLE, Thur.,
September 20th!**

MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

**September's Loose
Change Project** is Trinity
United Methodist Church in
East St. Louis/Washington
Park. The ministry of the

church has expanded to provide worship services, VBS, and a food pantry to the growing Hispanic Community. The need is greater than the resources of the local church which is why we help. There is a dedicated membership and a strong youth program at both sites. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

**NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER
FREE FAMILY MOVIES!**

**Friday, September 7 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, September 8 at 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.**





Flu Vaccines Tuesday, OCTOBER 9th 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m. Plan now!

On **Tuesday, Oct., 9th**, Jill Woodward (RPH) from The Medicine Shoppe in Wood River will be providing Flu Vaccines here at St. Paul UMC in the office. (*Shingle & Pneumonia vaccines available, too, if you let her know ahead of time that you want one so she brings it with her. 259-0085*) **The self-pay cost is \$30.** If you have **Medicare or Health Insurance**, bring your cards so the paperwork can be filled out. Vaccines are available for adults and youth 13 and older.



CALMING THE CHAOS IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Psalms 147:3

Trauma Informed Care Training Event

Join us for this 4 hour training designed to help ministry leaders and volunteers that work with children and teens to better understand the behaviors of children that have been through trauma.

Open to all churches and denominations.

All leadership and volunteer staff are encouraged to attend.

Guest speakers, Angie Darden & Erin Bickle from Refuge will be sharing about:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Mental and physical impacts of childhood exposure to trauma
- Understanding the behaviors of children with trauma
- Tools to use in the church setting
- Burnout of volunteers: How to stop secondary trauma
- The Trauma-Informed Church and paradigm shift



**Saturday, September 29, 2018
12:00 pm-4:00 pm**

**Abundant Life
Community Church
3986 Humbert Rd.
Alton, IL 62002**

**Call (618) 474-5433 or
register online:
care.abundant.church**

**\$25 Registration fee covers
you and your team of
volunteers!**



A trauma-informed, holistic program provided out of Riverbend Family Ministries for families with children ages 0-11 who have experienced abuse/violence.

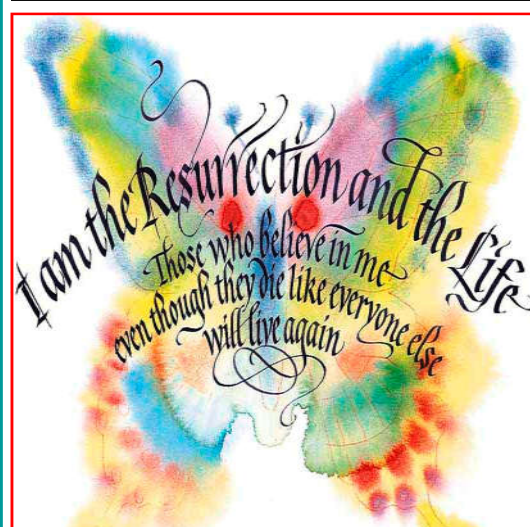
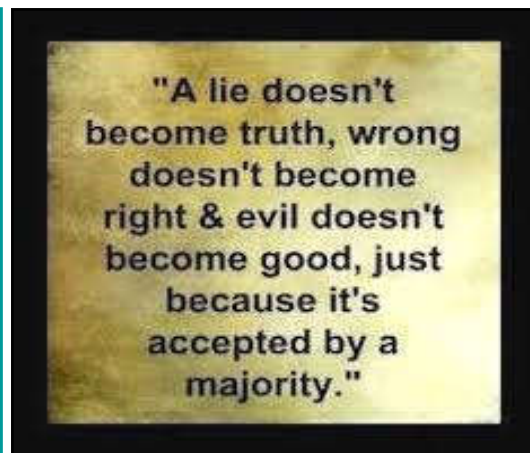
refuge4kids.org
618-251-9790
131 E. Ferguson Ave.
Wood River, IL 62095



Erin Bickle,
Executive Director
of Refuge



Angie Darden, Case
Worker & Parent
Educator





Awakening Coordinator

Sometimes life throws a curveball our way. It is with great sadness that I report our Awakening Coordinator, Lauren Cranmer, has taken a job at a different church. She will be unable to continue as the Awakening Coordinator. This was not an easy decision for her. Rest assured, she and I spent several hours in prayer and tears as we discussed the possibilities. Please know she has not made this decision lightly. Lauren will however continue leading the KIND Youth group which meets on Sunday afternoons. It is her desire to continue here at St. Paul as an involved and supportive member, but will not be here on most Sunday mornings. She has plans to chair the Finance Committee and to be as involved as she is able. I would ask all our members to continue to love and support her during this change. Keep her and her sweet family in your prayers as they make this transition.

For the time being, I will step into the role of Awakening Coordinator and will request your prayers and help as we go forward in our times of worship.

Blessings! Pastor Debra



"How do you know what God feels like?"

This question has resounded in my heart for the past several months. After a week at church camp and a very long ride home, this question was asked to me by one of our youth. St. Paul UMC, what **does** God feel like? Well, to be quite honest, God feels differently to everyone.

God feels like the warm blanket that wraps around you whenever you are upset. God feels like the listening ears whenever you are angry and need to let go of words that you just can't hold in. God is the kiss of the warm sun, the gentleness of the breeze, a raindrop on a thirsty flower... the overwhelming power to want to be and do more for somebody other than yourself. God can be everywhere, see everything, hear the unspoken... completely sight unseen... the only thing God can't be is nothing. So why is it that we don't allow God to be our everything? Why do we shut Him out and put Him in that corner as a nothing?

Our youth are seeing God as something. In a world where life barrels at an overwhelming rate and God has become very little, the "youthies" are coming back through the door each and every week... because God is something.

KIND started with two youth, has grown to five consistent youth group attenders, and has seen four visitors in the past few months. Continue to pray that we make God the most important someone in these young hearts.

In Christ's Love and Kindness
Lauren Cranmer



THERE ARE IMMEDIATE WEET OPENINGS IN SWEET SOUNDS

Qualifications: Must be male or female; young, middle age, old, older. Must be able to walk and step into the van. NO EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED! If you like to sing that is a BIG PLUS. You don't have to be trained in opera or even country music. Can't read music? That is OKAY; we only use the words. Must be able to shake hands & spread some sunshine! You need no computer savvy, bookkeeping skills, or accounting degree. **Should be available each Friday (at 12:45 p.m.) of the month and one Monday (at 1:00 p.m.).** APPLY IN PERSON AND BE PREPARED TO STAY. *Excellent benefits to your mind, body, and soul. God and Sweet Sounds need you in this outreach ministry today!*

Music IS a powerful memory!

Our members come from several churches and communities. For more information call

Dorothy Kasinger at 259-7255 or email to her at dorothydlk@charter.net. Give us a try this fall!

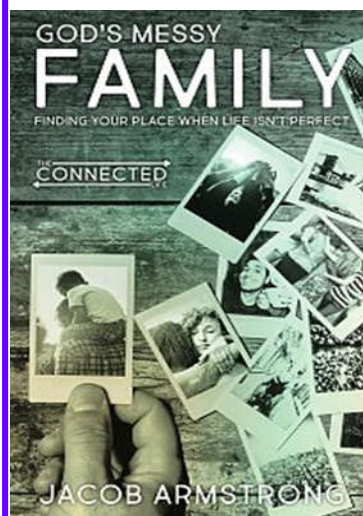


THANK YOU: We had a great group of volunteers from St. Paul who delivered meals in the Wood River/Roxana area during August. This marks the **33rd year** that St. Paul has been involved in the **Meals On Wheels** program.

Through this important community outreach effort, meals are provided for individuals who need a little extra help. We extend a **great big thank you** to our volunteers: *Sydney Martin, Harvey Birmingham, Jim & Maggie Funke, Carol Russell, Francis Eaton, Rich & Vi Huebner, Larry Bryan, Luke Gebhardt, Olivia Gebhardt, Phyllis Hill, Tracy Franks, John & Iris Uzzell, and Randy & Joyce Brueggeman.*

~Larry Bryan & Harvey Birmingham~

New Fall Bible Study Beginning Sunday, September 9th at 5 p.m. - All are welcome!



Drama. Drama. Drama.

Your family may be the stuff of a hit reality TV show, but into every family a little...or a lot... of drama must sometimes fall. That's the way we humans have been from the very beginning. Take a look at the lives of

Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau in Jacob Armstrong's newest book, *God's Messy Family*. As you meet these "messy" families in the stories in Genesis, you'll recognize a pattern to their lives: they are called, they mess up, and God continues to redeem them. Sound familiar? Find out how your "messy" family fits into God's family and how you are part of God's plan for the world. *God's Messy Family* is a video driven Bible study that takes a close look at the families in the Book of Genesis. **Please join me! Sign up today and get your book on the table by the office!**

Please join me! Sign up today and get your book on the table by the office!

September

- 9th** The Myth of the Perfect Family
- 16th** The Gap Between What God Says & What You See
- 23rd (no lesson - Pastor Deb & Joe out of town)**
- 30th** No, Nothing is Too Hard for the Lord

October

- 7th** Loss and Promise in the Family of God
- 14th** The Promise Maker and the Promise Keeper
- 21st** The Beauty of Imperfection



FALL FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11th

IT WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...the ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL
on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We will have our great Chicken & Noodles or the Vegetable Soup, etc., etc. The craft ladies have been busy creating a variety of crafts and gifts – remember to shop your “home church” first! Pick up those gifts for the “special people” you want to remember especially at Christmas and check out the Halloween treats for your kids and grandkids. Don’t forget to stop at the baked goods/candy, jams/jellies tables.

Lunch is served 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
If you can’t “eat in” we’ll be glad to fix a “Take-Home-A-Meal.”

Of course, in order to make the FALL FESTIVAL a success we will need lots of help. Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. There will be sign up inserts in the bulletins and on the table in the hallway during September. Please indicate your donations and possible work times and turn them in on any of the Sundays between now and the FALL FESTIVAL. **If you miss signing up at church & want to donate or work, please call Joyce Tappy at 259-8774 or the church office, 259-5210 .** Proceeds from this project and all others held during the year will be disbursed to our mission groups at our December 6th Christmas Party/Meeting. See you IN CHURCH at our Fall Festival!

FREEZER CLEAN OUT!

In an effort to get the freezer ready for the upcoming Fall Festival, an inventory of items in the freezer is listed below. Do any of these items belong to you or your group???

1. 4 bags of steamer vegetables
2. 1 bag of frozen strawberries
3. 2 bags of frozen pineapple chunks
4. 2 pizzas
5. 1 summer sausage
6. 2 containers of ice cream
7. 1 box of Texas Toast
8. 2 packages of slider buns
9. 1 package split potato buns

Any items not identified as belonging to a person or a group might be removed or given away. Please help with this cleaning process. Tell Joyce Tappy what is yours! Thank you!





NURSERY ATTENDANT **JOB OPENINGS:**

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is looking to fill **two** Nursery Attendant positions as soon as possible. If you are interested and would like to know more or if you want to pick up an application and job description, please contact the Church Office by phone (259-5210) or by email (info@stpaulwired.org).

These are paid positions. Thank you!
Staff-Parish Relations Committee

NEXT SERMON SERIES:

**Three Simple Rules -
Simple, But Not Easy**

Dates:

Sept. 2nd - Do No Harm

Galatians 5:13-26

Sept. 9th - Do Good

Acts 10:34-43

Sept. 16th - Stay in Love With God

Psalms 105:1-4



There are three simple rules that have the power to change the world. The Wesleyan movement is a prime example of this new creation that is formed when these three simple rules are adopted as a way of living. The rules are simple, but the way is not easy.

Alton Area Christian Ladies



Their new Bible Study will be on **GENESIS** and will begin on **Tuesday, September 11th at 10 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall classroom. The study will go for 6 weeks! All ladies of the church...please join us!!



Pastor Debra blessed the backpacks Sun., Aug. 19th and prayed over the teachers, students, and parents. We ask God to bless these young hearts and minds abundantly in their new school year! AMEN!

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You guide through each day, giving us strength to face the challenges that we face within the walls of our schools. You hold us steady when the words of others might sound hurtful and You put the kind words on our tongues for response. You lift us up and remind us to exemplify You by being a source of strength to those who are struggling. You give us peace of mind that calms the anxieties of our hearts when we are learning new lessons and patience so that we can apply our studies to our everyday lives. You hold our hands through the math tests; You give us courage to play strong and fair with others on the playground or during P.E. You calm our hearts whenever we meet new people and give us wisdom to speak words that would be honoring to You. But most of all, God, You give us hope. Hope for a new year with new beginnings. Bless what is inside the walls of our school, bless the hearts that will be teaching the children, and bless the eager minds of the learners. To You we sing Your praises for a new school year! Amen.



Seeking an Organist

In my short tenure here at St. Paul, one of the most often heard requests is that we employ an organist for our 8:15 service. So many of our dear members grew up worshipping in a church with a pipe organ; the sound of sacred organ music touches their heart in deep and powerful ways. I understand. To that end, we have made many inquiries into the possibility of hiring such a person. What we have discovered is that well-trained pipe

organists are few and far between and already working somewhere. While we might find one to hire, in all likelihood they will only be available one or two Sundays a month. We are not alone in this; the reality of our situation is one that many churches are presently facing.

Please know that your desires for an organist are being heard and acted upon. The SPRC and I hear your desires for an organist and are doing all we can to find and hire such a person. Presently, I am in conversation with a woman who is very gifted in playing a pipe organ. Because of her rare skill, she is much in demand. I ask of you, do not let the temporary lack of an organist keep you away from your church family. I would also ask that you be not only patient, but prayerful that God provides us with just the person for the task.

The referral to the organist we are now considering came out of a casual conversation on a very different matter. As you go about your daily conversations with friends, family, and co-workers, perhaps you might discover a person who could fulfill this role at St. Paul. Great things happen when God's people come together to serve him and one another. Blessings! Pastor Debra



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 **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.**



1400 Main Street
Alton, IL 62002
618-462-2495

Alton Main Street UMC

presents:

Conversations About The Way Forward

The Church & Society Committee of Alton Main Street UMC will be conducting a four evening series considering The Way Forward, based upon Sect. 162(j) of the Social Principles 2017-2020. Each session will be on Thursdays at 7:00 pm at the church.

- ◆ September 20, 2018—LGBTQ 101
- ◆ September 27, 2018—The Legal Basis/Civil Laws and Civil Rights
- ◆ October 4, 2018—Being Non-judgmental-The path to being a welcoming church.
- ◆ October 11, 2018—LGBTQ and the UMC



GLOBAL LEADERS OF WESLEYAN COVENANT ASSOCIATION VISIT

Keith Boyette and Walter Fenton, the President & VP of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) will be in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference to share insights, respond to questions, and engage in discussion with interested clergy and laity regarding the upcoming Special General Conference and the Way Forward Process. Their schedule to date is as follows:

Thursday, September 13 - TBA

**Friday, September 14 - Aldersgate UMC, Marion
from 9 A.M.-Noon**

Friday, September 14 - First UMC, Fairfield at 2 P.M.

**Saturday, September 15 - St. Matthew UMC, Belleville,
at 9 A.M.**

**Sunday - Keith preaching at Main Street UMC, Alton
Walter preaching TBA**

Please spread the word among clergy and laity interested in learning more of the WCA perspective. All are encouraged to bring questions, concerns, and hopes. The intent is a fully informed church and denomination in advance of the February General Conference. No pre-registration required.

Annual Coat & Shoe Collection

For several years we have collected new and used, serviceable coats and shoes for Riverbend Head Start & Family Services families in our area.



We begin this in early October. The general guidelines they have given us are for *new* or *gently used* items:

- ▶ Coats & Jackets - sizes 2T to 7-8
- ▶ Shoes - infant sizes to children size 1



This information is to remind you that if you go to yard sales, have children or grandchildren with outgrown shoes and coats, go to **Goodwill**, or however you come across such items, you may want to buy them for the **fall collection**. If you have children's coats or shoes that would be a hand-me-down but no one to hand them down to, keep them! **Hang on to them.**

The collection usually begins in **early October** and finishes into **November**.

There will be a big box in the main hallway at that time to place these items in. **Thank you so much as we plan ahead!**