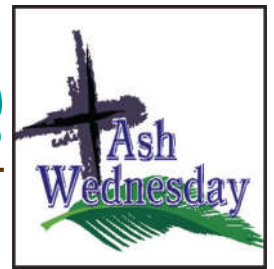




The Steeple

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

MARCH 2019



REFLECTIONS...

Greetings people of infinite worth!

On **Saturday, March 16th, from 9 a.m. to Noon**, St. Paul UMC Rosewood Heights will host our first annual **Body & Spirit Health Fair**. We are inviting local vendors/organizations to share information, tips, and seminars with our guests. Our own Iris will be talking about Prayer Beads. She will have a sign-up sheet for Prayer Bead workshops. Our retired nurses will be performing blood pressure checks. Other local vendors will be: Essential Oils, Chair Massage, Diabetes Care, Healing Touch, and others! This is a family-friendly event; we will have a kid's section where the young ones can do crafts and enjoy healthy snacks, while the adults enjoy the health fair.

This promises to be a wonderful time of fellowship, education, and inspiration. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend. We are asking for donations at the door and the vendors have paid a 'table fee.' All the proceeds will go to build-up our children and youth groups. We want to expand our programs and activities for our children and youth so that they know who they are in Christ. Our younger members are precious to us!

Let's face it; we only get one body per lifetime. I am grateful that some parts can be repaired or replaced, but the fact remains, we still have one body each. We each have one spirit as well. I have never heard of a person's spirit being replaced, but spiritual renewal is one of the beliefs we hold onto as Christians. Some might think that bodily health and spiritual health are separate from one another. While each is different, they are uniquely tied together. When our body and our spirit are in tune with one another, life is great! We feel the presence of God, our thoughts are clear, and we are free from worry and fear.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sinful nature. He came first in bodily form to walk with us, but then he died and rose. He said he had to leave us, but he promised us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not *only* our comforter and advocate, but he is our constant companion. He lives within our heart. Scripture tells us, "*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

We know we were bought at a price by the work done by Jesus on the cross. It makes sense that we would take care of our body, the temple of the Holy Spirit we have been given. Bring your friends and family to our **Body & Spirit Health Fair!**

Blessings!
Pastor Debra



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

Jack L. Adams, 87, who served nearly 20 years as a pastor in the former Southern Illinois Conference, died Jan. 28 in Chesterfield, MO.

Adams served a four-point charge in and around Crab Orchard; East St. Louis, Carbondale, East Alton, and Carmi. He transferred to the Missouri East Conference in 1973, serving at Union UMC and Salem-in-Ladue UMC until his retirement in 1995. He was the third pastor here at St. Paul UMC.

Memorial gifts may be made to Manchester UMC, Epworth Children & Family Services, or Siteman Cancer Center. As a final gift of service Rev. Adams donated his body to Washington University School of Medicine.

- We rejoice in the birth of **Logan Dennis Roberts** on Feb. 1st to Jason & Katie (Murbarger) Roberts! His Grandmother is Diane Murbarger and his Great Aunt is Beulah Moore. We ask God to bless this growing family in all His many ways!
- **Roxana High School** presented “**Into the Woods**” by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine on Feb. 22-24. In this musical tale **Sydney Palmer** was in the role of Little Red Riding Hood. Congratulations on doing a magnificent job!
- Congratulations go out to **McLain Oertle** who qualified in four events for an upcoming state swimming meet! We pray you will be super successful!
- Congratulations to **Christine Stoner** who stopped by the church office in late February to show how she was doing with her new prosthetic leg! She has had it for a little over 4 months now and is getting the “hang of it.” May God bless all her efforts with great results!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Rose Heet**, friend of JoAnn Hill; the family and congregation of **Rev. Kevin Weaver**, interim pastor at St. John UCC in Wood River (this is where our custodian, Joe Hanfelder, is a member); the family of **Richard “Dick” Stice**, brother-in-law of Norma Stice; and the family of **Velma Standefer**, mother/mother-in-law of Paul & Angie (Goss) Standefer. May God give to all His comfort, healing, and peace in this time of grieving.

THANK YOU: To Pastor Doug, Pastor Debra, the kitchen ladies, Lois, and all others involved to make the service for Marcella so special. We appreciate all of your efforts and kindness. The dinner was wonderful and so appreciated. Thank you for all you do! *The Family of Marcella Gimmy*

HAVE A HAPPY SPRING

This is the day the
Lord has made;
We will rejoice and
be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24 NKJV





WORSHIP SERVICE

MARCH 6th @ 7 p.m.

Service includes: Imposition of ashes (optional), Holy Communion, & Music

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our preparation for Easter. This time is called Lent. Tonight we begin our Lenten Sermon Series: *With All Your Heart*. We invite you to join us throughout the Sundays of Lent.



SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

Set your clock ahead one hour!



Happy St. Patrick's Day, March 17th

CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING

Pick up *Connecting Campers, Nature, And Christ*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps. It is available in the wall rack 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.



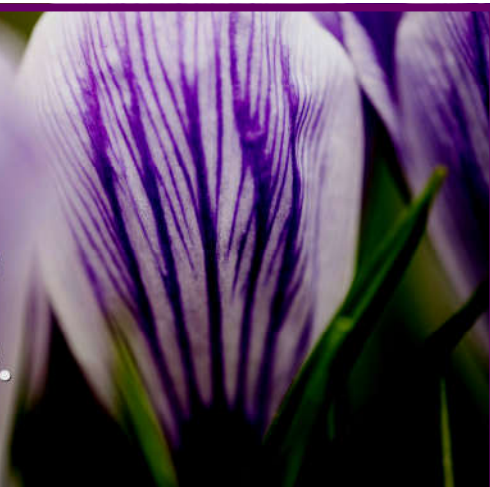
Everything you need to know about being a camper or counselor is found in *Connecting Campers, Nature, And Christ*.

“Getting over a painful experience is much like crossing monkey bars. You have to let go at some point in order to move forward.”

- C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) Writer, Theologian, Scholar

RENEW A STEADFAST SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

PSALM 51:10, NIV



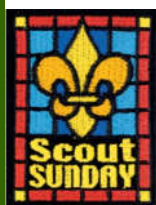


Sundays at St. Paul in MARCH 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services

Our 8:15 a.m. service is a traditional service with hymns played upon our beautiful pipe organ as . 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. **A Nursery and "More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.**



3rd: Sermon Series, "Not A Fan" concludes. Communion served at both services. Scout Sunday. Faith-Filled Follower - Matthew 23:1-12. What is a faith-filled follower? A faith-filled follower is one who says yes to the commitment to follow Jesus. He or she allows the power of the Holy Spirit to change them from the inside out. A follower doesn't seek to be exalted, but lives as a servant/leader.



10th: 1st Sunday of Lent. Birthday Sunday. Lenten Sermon Series: With All Your Heart. God's Generous Heart - Deuteronomy 26:1-11 & Romans 10:9-13. As we face the wilderness of our hearts, let's never forget the goodness of God who has seen us through so much.



17th: 2nd Sunday of Lent. Lenten Sermon Series: With All Your Heart. Imitating - Genesis 15:1-6 & Philippians 3:17-21. When we meet Abram, he has been on a journey of faith. He has followed God's direction at every turn. Yet, despite his faith and obedience, he is wondering about God's promise of an heir.

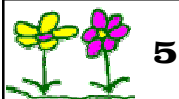
24th: 3rd Sunday of Lent. Angel Choir sings! Lenten Sermon Series: With All Your Heart. Repenting - Isaiah 55:1-9 & 1 Corinthians 10:1-5. Lent is time to think about feasting and fasting. Why do we feast on the things that do not satisfy? Can we fast from scarcity, fear, and distrust?

31st: 4th Sunday of Lent. Lenten Sermon Series: With All Your Heart. Coming Together - Joshua 5:9-12 & 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. When we repair things, first we have to place them close together. In welding, the ends of pipe need to be placed close enough for the solder to join them. When we sew, the fabric needs to be close enough to stitch and draw together. When a broken relationship is on the path to healing, first we must bring the parties together. Now is the time for us to look toward reconciling our relationship with God.



Calling all kids who like to sing! ANGEL CHOIR practice continues every Sunday during the 10:30 service after the SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN time. Ages 3-18 are all welcome! Be sure to bring your friends!

-Noël Schiber, Director



Why Celebrate Lent?

By Elliott Ryan

For many years, I never associated the celebration of Mardi Gras with any sort of religious observance. Growing up in a Protestant denomination that did not observe Lent, the whole holiday just seemed to be an excuse for public intoxication. For many of the people celebrating in New Orleans and other parts of the world, that is all that the celebration seems to represent.

But as I've grown older, I have learned of the beautiful traditions of some of the other denominations. For Catholics and some Protestant denominations, Mardi Gras (literally translated "Fat Tuesday") is the final day before the observance of Lent. Mardi Gras originated as a final opportunity to feast prior to the fasting of Lent.

While Mardi Gras has gained quite the reputation, Lent is known as a time of prayer, repentance, and recommitment leading up to the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, and culminating 40 days later, Lent is a time of spiritual preparation for the most important religious holiday for believers. (Sundays are not included in the observance of Lent as Sundays are supposed to be holy days of celebrating the resurrection for all Christians.)

Traditionally, observers participated in Lent by abstaining from certain types of food (particularly meat, eggs, and milk products). In some traditions, partial fasts were observed where participants would eat only one meal on certain days. Many who observe Lent today are not as strict. Often they choose to abstain from a particular food or particular behavior (such as watching TV, for example) during Lent. The idea is to abstain from enjoyable activities and instead use the time and energy usually spent in those activities to focus on taking stock of one's own spiritual condition and repenting for spiritual failures. This idea seems foreign even to many Christians in our culture of immediate gratification.

The 40 days of Lent are also a time of grief. Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ each Easter. Unfortunately, we often don't spend much time grieving over our sins that needed the crucifixion of Christ. This tradition begins with the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. Ashes are put on believers' foreheads on Ash Wednesday as a sign of repentance. The practice of putting ashes on one's head is an ancient sign of mourning that was often done at funerals or similarly sorrowful occasions. In this case, the ashes represent sorrow over our sins and the pain and death caused by sin. Perhaps if we are to truly appreciate the great cost to Christ of our salvation, we should meditate on our sinfulness. This meditation should lead observers of Lent to turn away from their sins and recommit themselves to holiness.

Perhaps, after we examine our hearts and lives, we will be led to cry out to God as David did; "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:9-10).

I have come to appreciate the relevance of Lent. As we prepare to celebrate Easter, perhaps we should all use the next few weeks to focus less on our physical appetites and more on our spiritual needs. Perhaps such meditation would lead us to appreciate anew the cost of grace and the victory of the empty tomb.

May this season of Lent be an amazing time for each of you; may it bring you into a renewed and improved relationship with your Savior & Lord, Jesus Christ! Happy Lent!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Mar Lisa Betts
- 01-Mar Ava Toner
- 02-Mar Kristin Baker
- 02-Mar Robert Brown
- 02-Mar Ricci Voorhees
- 03-Mar Ted Toner
- 04-Mar Iola Ballard
- 04-Mar Lee Hanley Jr.
- 04-Mar Allan Napp
- 04-Mar Brent Springer
- 05-Mar Alexis Plummer
- 05-Mar Ava Sandbach
- 07-Mar Judy Glassmeyer
- 07-Mar Mark Mayer
- 08-Mar Pat Hamm
- 09-Mar Corey Bell
- 09-Mar Landon Clark
- 09-Mar Meg Fansler
- 09-Mar Claudia Herndon
- 10-Mar Micki Emerick
- 10-Mar Donna Hamilton
- 11-Mar Kasey Diveley
- 11-Mar Ashley Laws
- 11-Mar Jill Oertle
- 12-Mar Brooke Toner
- 13-Mar Hunter Bonds

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 13-Mar John Huddleston | 22-Mar Kyle Napp |
| 13-Mar Stephanie Schroedter | 22-Mar Matt Toner |
| 13-Mar Codey Terry | 23-Mar Justin Sandbach |
| 16-Mar Clark Cranmer | 24-Mar Lucy Grizzle |
| 17-Mar Kelsey Foiles | 24-Mar Logan Oertle |
| 17-Mar Sophia Henderson | 24-Mar Audrey White |
| 17-Mar Jean Kainz | 25-Mar Anita Dawson |
| 17-Mar Rachel Schiber | 25-Mar Tonya LaTempt |
| 17-Mar Carol Upple | 26-Mar Jayden Bell |
| 17-Mar Andy Workman | 26-Mar Toby McCammon |
| 18-Mar Harvey Birmingham | 27-Mar David Laufersweiler |
| 19-Mar Rick Huddleston | 28-Mar Tyler Watt |
| 19-Mar Joe Tillery | 29-Mar Tracy Bentley |
| 19-Mar Gerry Ward | 29-Mar Mark Hamlin |
| 19-Mar Tim Witthoft | 30-Mar Chris Eyster |
| 20-Mar Katie Clark | 30-Mar Amy Wells |
| 20-Mar Matt Gwaltney | 31-Mar Betsy Blacklock |
| 21-Mar Krista Bishop | 31-Mar Don Gwaltney Sr. |
| 21-Mar Phyllis Hill | |
| 22-Mar Randy Brueggeman | |
| 22-Mar Lucas Gebhardt | |
| 22-Mar Lori Kamp | |



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



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

It is time to UPDATE our Church Directory for 2019!

The church office will be updating the Church Directory for 2019 this month! 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 on **March 10, 17, and 24!** The 2019 Church Directory will be available the last Sunday in March! Thank you!



FEBRUARY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 2/28/2019	\$15399.00
Designated Giving:	through 2/28/2019	\$3065.10
	Capital Improvements	90.00
	Loose Change	124.10
	Flowers	125.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	20.00
	2019 Steeple Postage	17.00
	Offering Envelopes	5.00
	UMCOR	100.00
	Upper Room	2.00
	Charles McKnelly	50.00
	Memorials	2232.00
	Funeral Dinners	300.00
Capital Campaign		1100.00
Total:		\$19564.10

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

Average Attendance for FEBRUARY 2019

Early Service	38
Late Service	66
Sunday School	31
Visitors	1



Capital Campaign money received as of 2-28-19: \$324,901.92

**DEADLINE FOR
APRIL 2019
STEEPLE, Friday,
March 22nd!**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

March's Loose Change Project is McKendree

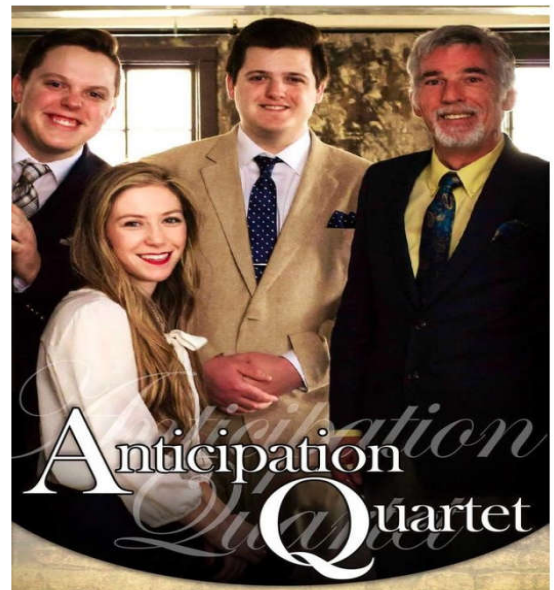
University. This university was established as a private Methodist College. It currently has over 2,000 students and 150 staff. The university needs financial support for scholarships, building funds, and the many other needs always present in maintaining an ongoing educational institution.

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER

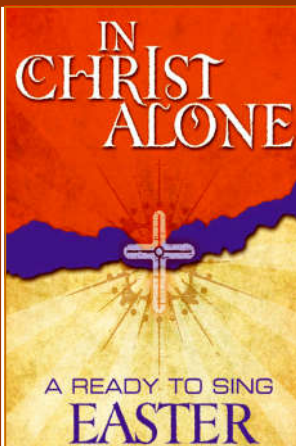
400 N. Central Ave.
Roxana, IL
FREE FAMILY MOVIES
EACH MONTH!

First Friday,
7 p.m.
First Saturday,
2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

MARCH MOVIE



Saturday, March 9, 2019
Concert at 6:00 PM



2019 EASTER CANTATA

We will be doing the Easter cantata, 'In Christ Alone.' It is a mix of newer contemporary worship songs and well-known Easter hymns. Our hearts rejoice as hope rises like the Sunday sun over Jerusalem that first Easter morning. The music will bring it all to life once more!

Rehearsals will be Wed. evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., immediately following handbell practice. Practice began on Feb. 27 and will continue through March & April. If you

decide you want to sing please join us! We hope to have a fine group of singers!

The **director** will be our wonderful 8:15 a.m. Organist, **Cherilyn Trusty!**

Questions? Check with the church office. Thank you!



Women's Retreat

"I praise you. I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

-Psalm 139:14

Saturday, April 27th from 9am-3pm
(registration begins at 8:30am!)

Godfrey First United Methodist Church
1100 Airport Road, Godfrey, IL 62035

Key Note Speaker: Shelly Harvey

Cost: \$10

Checks may be made payable to Godfrey First UMC, please denote Women's Retreat in memo line

Breakout Sessions with:

Betsy Blacklock- Natural Options for Wellness

Judy McGill, author of *Then God Said to Me*

Deb Fansler- Maintaining Faith in a Busy Life

Christy Phillips-Christian Woman Balancing Act

Tamee Beachum- Positive New Beginnings

Iris Uezell- Prayer Journaling



VBS 2019 JUNE 11-14

It is time to think about VBS again
There are a couple of items we need you to start collecting:

- ➔ Empty, clean frosting containers = 50-75 needed
- ➔ Empty toilet paper rolls = 50-75 needed

POSITIONS NEEDED:

Song Leader, Craft Leader, Outdoor Activity Leader, and all the Class Leaders & Assistants we can find.

Contact Jamie Gwaltney 692-0898.



The Flower Calendar for 2019 is posted

on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing.

There are openings in several months: **March, April, May, and June.**

This is a great ministry to honor or remember someone or a special day.

Please, help fill it in! Thank you!



In a world where you can be anything... Be Kind!

The KIND youth group will be having a Lock-in with FUMC-EA (held there) from 7 p.m. on Friday, March 1st to Saturday, March 2nd at 8 a.m. We are excited to have other youth friends that we can spend time with for this fun event!

Please join us at St. Paul in the Fellowship Hall for a youth-sponsored Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 17 in-between services. Pancakes & sausage will be served by the youth in exchange for a donation as we raise funds to go to AIR Camp at Little Grassy this summer. We do hope that you will plan to join us!

On April 6th – We will all attend the Beautiful U Conference in Troy, IL with Harvest Ministry.

Thank you to everyone for keeping KIND in your prayers and supporting our efforts to learn and grow and become the best Children of God we can be!

In God's Love and Kindness,
Lauren Cranmer - Youth Director

MEN'S BREAKFAST



SATURDAY, MARCH 9th - 8:00-9:30 a.m.

@ GODFREY - FUMC (on Airport Road down from Godfrey Walmart)

No cost! Put your name on the sign-up sheet outside the church office or call the church office if you want to attend!

Special speaker: Pastor David Goins of Morning Star Baptist Church, Alton



Information will be shared concerning the upcoming "Iron Sharpens Iron" Conference for Men held in Springfield, IL on March 23rd.



We Say Goodbye To Our Friend...



Marcella L. Gimmy, 86, passed away 8:30 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2019 at Evelyn's House in St. Louis, MO.

Marcella was born on September 21, 1933, the daughter of Robert L. & Sophie (Happel) Forrest. Marcella lost her mother at the age of three. She was then raised by her loving step-mother, Helen (Beneze) Forrest.

She married Kenneth Lane Gimmy on August 14, 1952 at the United Methodist Church in Wood River, IL.

She was co-owner of Gimmy's Pharmacy and retired after 42 years of service when the store closed. While raising three children, she was active in the community. She enjoyed travel, fishing, boating, and camping. She was a member of the local Zonta organization and served a term as president.

She is survived by her husband; three sons and their wives, Kent (Helen) Gimmy of Gallatin, TN, Kevin (Linda) Gimmy of Camdenton, MO, Kirk (Laura) Gimmy of Marion, IL; eight

grandchildren, Jason, Dustin, Ryan, Keith, Alan, Scott, Brock and Brandy; nine great grandchildren; niece, Francis (husband, Wayne); and numerous other cousins and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Henry and Robert L. Forrest; and a sister, Goldie Miler.

Marcella was a wonderful person and she will be deeply missed. Please, remember her family in your prayers that God would comfort them.



More Honduras News

In the February Steeple, I spoke about our upcoming trip to Honduras this June. Our ministry to the children of Honduras includes fluoride treatments and lessons on dental hygiene. When I say dental hygiene lessons, I am talking about

teaching them how to brush their teeth! Many of the children there have never seen a toothbrush, much less know how to use one. Part of our mission will be to give each child their own toothbrush and teach them to use it.

The Honduras team is asking for donations of **toothbrushes!** Please bring ones that are packed singly, rather than in bunches. That way the child has some place clean to store their toothbrush. **I will have a box outside my office where you can place your toothbrush donations.**

As always, thank you for your generosity!

Blessings! Pastor Debra and Joe





The 2019 Women Of Worship Spring Rummage Sale will be held: **Friday & Saturday, April 5th & 6th**

(with a Pre-Sale opportunity on Thursday, April 4th).

It is still a few weeks away but you can start collecting items to bring to the church. When you do your Spring Cleaning this month be on the lookout for the many things 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 18th THROUGH MONDAY, APRIL 1st! Thank You!

Hickerson Scholarship 2019



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

God has a way of healing hurt and turning tragedy into triumph. Meghan's death immediately gave life to several people, known collectively as "organ donor recipients." Her legacy of faith and service lives on through the "Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship" that is made available through St. Paul UMC.

Meghan was a student leader who set a standard of excellence within the public school system. She also set an example of faith and dedication by spreading God's love through her church and her academic life, to all she encountered. Our goal each year is to reward one or two

deserving college-bound graduating seniors who sets for him or herself the same standards of outstanding scholastic achievement and faith reflected in their everyday life.

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 materials is: Monday, April 1, 2019

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



Today the main grocery store in our area is Schnucks. If you do not already have a Schnucks eScrip card, we have them available on the Welcome table in the entryway. Pick up the whole sheet of 2 cards and 2 key fobs. Schnucks eScrip is based on the amount of money people spend at Schnucks. We are given a monthly amount based on a percentage of the monthly sales of those who have signed up and chosen

St. Paul UMC as the recipient. Then all one need do is show the cashier their key fob or plastic card during check-out to credit St. Paul. THIS IS NOT A CREDIT CARD. This program is to benefit organizations in the area. **NO PURCHASE IS TOO SMALL** to benefit St. Paul. Pick up and sign-up for your very own card account today! Need help? Call the church office!



UPCOMING IGRC EVENTS & MEETINGS

Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

The 2019 Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation will be April 28-May 3 at King's House Retreat & Renewal Center in Belleville.

The theme for the 2019 Academy is "*Peace*"-ing Together a Broken World. Faculty speakers are Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and Dr. Amy Oden.

For more information, visit www.igrc.org/fiveday.

Registration has begun at: www.igrc.org/fiveday2019.

The Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation is a program of Upper Room® Ministries, for clergy and laity which provides a daily rhythm of prayer, worship, Eucharist, learning, and reflection, in the context of Christian community.



Reaching New People Workshop

We are excited to announce that the date for a **Reaching New People Workshop through Congregational Development** has been confirmed and will be held on **Saturday, March 23** from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at **Fairfield First UMC**. Lunch and snacks are provided and the cost is **\$10** per person. If you are interested let the church office know!

Prayer team initiates Conference Prayer line

If you are involved in any prayer ministry for the Lord, the IGRC prayer team THANKS you for being faithful. I am hopeful that all is going well as we continue to be in prayer for our conference, our churches, and ourselves.

The **IGRC Prayer Team** has started a **Conference Prayer line** that meets every **Sunday at 7 p.m.** This conference Prayer line consists of five minutes devotion, prayer requests, testimonies, and prayers. Please join us. The call number and access code are as follows:

Conference number: (218) 895-0912 Access code: 339523

Grace and Peace

Aletha Weatherall - IGRC Prayer Team Coordinator



**Annual Conference will
be June 6-8 at the
Peoria Civic Center**

UPCOMING IGRC EVENTS—CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



UPCOMING IGRC EVENTS—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Bishop Beard announces post- General Conference briefings at five sites

Bishop Frank J. Beard has announced he will host meetings throughout the Illinois Great Rivers Conference following General Conference to discuss the action taken by the special session of General Conference. The one nearest to St. Paul UMC is: **Saturday, March 9 - O'Fallon First UMC, 10 a.m.** Please register if you plan to attend: <https://igrc-reg.brtaapp.com/PostGC2019briefings>.



Bishop's Open golf outing April 26

The Bishop's Open will be April 26 at Piper Glen in Chatham. Online registration is open at: www.igrc.org/bishopsopen2019.



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

MISSION POSSIBLE WAS POSSIBLE....

To date we have done just under \$500,000 of work and have borrowed only \$158,000 (\$88,000 from 1st Mid-America and \$71,000 from our Endowment Fund - having paid back \$1,000 to that fund already). Furthermore, the Trustees, in keeping with the long-term philosophy of our church of being debt-free, now will turn their attention to accomplishing that goal. While the physical work is done the work of paying down the debt continues.

Obviously, we hope to retire part if not all of this debt using a combination of the Capital Fund Campaign treasury (which in early December had a balance of \$37,225.59) and, as per the vote of the church members, use the proceeds from the sale of the Jr. Parsonage, which should go on the market sometime in early 2019. However, it is important to say that if you **still have a balance on your three year commitment or if you have paid off that commitment and simply wish to continue** providing funds to pay down the debt, we would sincerely appreciate your on-going generosity so that we can reach the goal of being debt-free.

Again, God bless you for your prayerful efforts and your financial generosity in our “Mission Possible” to continue the spiritual viability of our beautiful St. Paul church building and the ministries housed within the “brick and mortar” part of God’s ministry on the corner of Airline Dr. & Center St.

Yours in Christ, St. Paul UMC Trustees



Body & Spirit Health Fair

**Saturday, March 16th
from 9 a.m. - Noon**

Free to the public, donations accepted
Proceeds to go to our children and youth ministries
Children's activity table—free activities for kids

**Blood Pressure
Checks
Chair Yoga
Prayer Beads
Diabetes Care
First-Aid
Healing Touch
Chair Massage
And More**

**St. Paul UMC of Rosewood Heights
10 N Center Street
East Alton, IL 62024
Email: info@stpaulwired.org
Phone: 618-259-5210**

For more information or to
reserve vendor space, contact
Pastor Debra at: 618-259-5210

**At the corner of N. Center Street
and Airline Drive**

