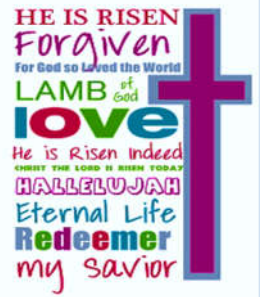




# The Steeple

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

APRIL 2019



Dear Friends,

Thursday, April 18th at 7 p.m., we will hold a **Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) service** at St. Paul UMC of Rosewood Heights. A Maundy Thursday service is a time of quiet reflection; the service is somber and thoughtful in tone. Please join us for this unique service!

**Lent** is a period in the church year that reminds us to slow down. It's a season in which we tune-in to our faith, and to pray about how God wants to change us. The hope is always that our time of introspection will lead us to repent and to open ourselves to become what God wants us to be. With-in the last week of Lent, other services are held depending on the tradition. In the tradition of the United Methodist church we celebrate two special services in the week before Easter. The better-known service of the two is Good Friday, in which we remember the crucifixion of Christ. The lesser known service is called Holy Thursday or some call it Maundy Thursday. This service commemorates the last meal Jesus had with his apostles. His apostles, who were still Jews, would have called it the Passover meal. Indeed, a traditional Passover meal is what they expected, but Jesus had another plan. Jesus was always doing things to surprise his followers: feeding multitudes of people with very little food, healing the sick, raising the dead, and spending time with the poor and oppressed. Jesus introduced the seeds of many beloved Christian traditions at this Passover meal.

Jesus' plan for the Passover meal began a day or so before the meal when he told his disciples to rent the upper room in a particular building. He instructed them to purchase the ceremonial foods necessary for the traditional Jewish meal. (Luke 22:7-13 and Matthew 26:17-19) In the upper room, the words Jesus speaks to his listeners are some the same words we use in our traditional Holy Communion service; they are based on Luke 22:19-20 and Matthew 26:26-28. During the Passover meal, Jesus tells his followers that one of them will betray him to the religious leaders. (Luke 22:21-22 and Matthew 26:20-23) Jesus demonstrated his servant's heart when he humbles himself to wash their feet in John 13:3-5. In the culture of the day, only the lowest servant of the household would wash the feet of guests, but Jesus took that task for himself. He was making a point about love and service.

Finally, Jesus ended the meal with a new commandment, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."* (John 13:34) The word Maundy comes from the Latin word, "mandatum," which means mandate or command. The Maundy Thursday service is named for the new mandate or command that Jesus gave his followers at the last meal he would share with them before his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. On Maundy Thursday we remember how Jesus met people where they were; he taught people from what they knew, he blessed his betrayer, he humbled himself as the servant of all, and he pointed the way to love.

**Blessings now and throughout our season of Lent**  
Pastor Debra

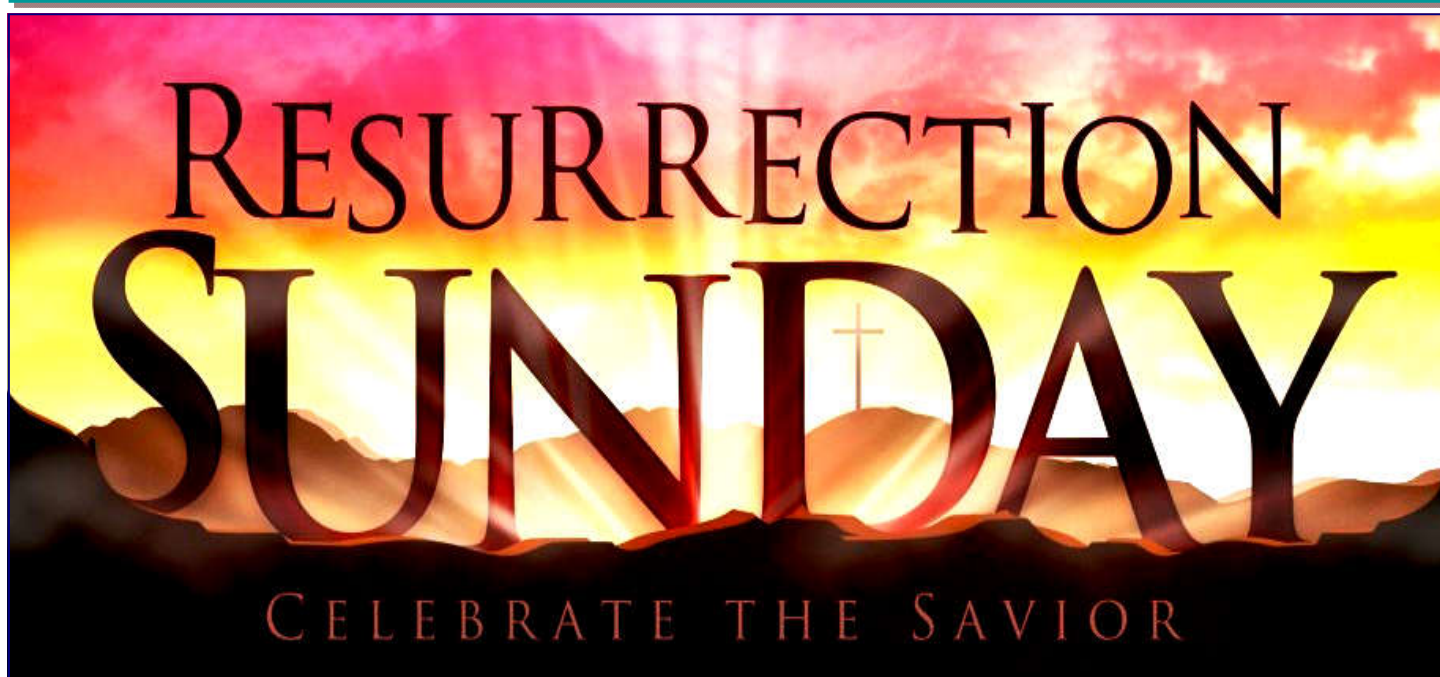
REFLECTIONS...



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- **Scout Sunday** (rescheduled to March 3rd) reminded us how blessed we are to have Boy Scout Troop 777, Cub Scout Pack 3030, and Venture Crew 2777 meeting at St. Paul UMC. As the charter organization for these groups, we are instrumental in shaping the character of the young people in our community. The quality of our Boy Scout Troop is shown by the number of scouts who ascend to the elite group of Eagle Scouts. We are blessed to have great leadership and motivated youth!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Frances Short**, extended family of Sally Lay; the family and friends of **Capt. Jacob "Jake" Ringering**, Godfrey firefighter, former East Alton Firefighter, and grandson of Thelma Ballard; the family of **Keith Huff**, father of Cindy Workman; the family of **Charles "Charlie" Biggs**, friend of Susie Pruetzel; the family & friends of **SPC Patrick McDill** from our "Military" list; and the family of **Lou Ann Botterbush**, sister/sister-in-law of Harvey (Elaine) Gowan. May God give to all His comfort, healing, and peace in this time of loss.
- Thank you to **Cheri Trusty**, church organist, for sharing her beautiful harp music with us on her harp friend, Abigail!
- Thank you to **the Scouts** for raking up most of the gumballs in the park in preparation for our outdoor services that start in June!
- The swim team **McLain Oertle** is a part of made finals at Nationals with a 2-second time drop, in the 200 Medley Relay! Congratulations!

**THANK YOU:** Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, cards, and assistance while I was recuperating! I am blessed with the best church family! **Kathy Link**





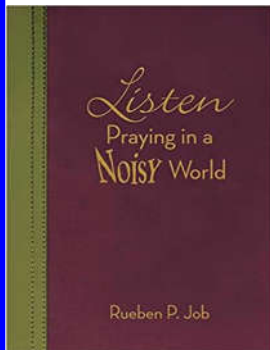
## CHURCH SPRING WORK DAY!

**Saturday, April 27th**  
**8:00 a.m.-Noon**

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

### Small Group Study

*Listen: Praying in a Noisy World*  
by Rueben P. Job  
Sundays at 5:00 P.M.



This study is a six-week video driven study that includes a daily devotional reading. Jesus is always with us and communicating with us, but our lives are so noisy (TV, music, radio,

Netflix, cell phones, YouTube, to do lists) we seldom hear his gentle voice. What if we could slow down, quiet the noise in our heads, and really hear what Jesus wants to tell us? Let's learn to listen to Jesus! **The books are here and there is a sign-up sheet on the table outside the office.**

**April 7th** – This Is My Son, Listen to Him

**April 14th** – Pray Like This

**April 28th** – A Trusted Mentor

**May 5th** – Everyone Needs Help

**May 19th** – Flying Solo

**June 2nd** – Getting into Position

### 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*.



Give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday to:

Empower

Educate

Equip

Did you know that more than 20,000 Native American people are part of The United Methodist Church? On **May 5**, we will celebrate **Native American Ministries Sunday**. You may give a special offering that will directly support all of the different parts of the Native American Ministries.





## Sundays at St. Paul in APRIL 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 draw people into a closer connection with Jesus Christ and with each other. **A Nursery and “More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.**



**7th: 5th Sunday of Lent. Communion served at both services. Harp at both services. Lenten Sermon Series: With All Your Heart. Making A New Thing - *Philippians 3:4-14*. Theme: God promises us a new thing, resurrection. Just like a river will change a desert, or a hope will enlighten a dark path, God is working transformation into our hearts and minds.**



**14th: 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.) Birthday Sunday. Lenten Sermon Series: With All Your Heart.**



**Preparing - *Philippians 2:5-11 & Luke 19:28-40*. Theme: The people lined the streets when Jesus rode into town.**

The coats they wore were precious to them; likely they only owned one coat. Yet to welcome Jesus, they laid their precious coats on the road to honor and welcome him. They offered up one of the few possessions they had to prepare the road for him. What precious possession are we called to lay before Jesus?



**21st: EASTER SUNDAY—RESURRECTION DAY! Easter Cantata - “In Christ Alone” – Both Services! Angel Choir sings! Baptism! Lenten Sermon Series: With All Your Heart. Believing - *John 20:1-18*. Theme: Mary discovers that Jesus’ body is gone! Did someone take him away? Where did they put him? Jesus meets her at the empty tomb, filled with hope and joy, Mary tells the disciples that Jesus is risen!**

**28th: Sunday After Easter. Grace Upon Grace - *John 20:19-31*. Theme: God meets our sincerest doubts with grace.**



## HEALING AT THE CROSS

We know when Jesus was crucified  
Upon the wooden cross,  
Our every sin was laid upon Him  
All for loving the lost

And we know that when He rose again,  
He conquered death and hell  
Through His resurrection we have  
Eternal life as well

For this we praise our gracious Lord  
And thank Him for His love,  
For we could never have had this hope  
If it wasn't for His spilled blood

But we can know His resurrection power,  
Right now, while we are here,  
For we can come to the cross of Christ  
And lay down our burdens there

For everything that may hold us back,  
The hurts from yesterday,  
At the foot of the cross we lay it down  
And then just walk away

For I believe that there is healing  
At the cross of Christ  
We do not need to carry these loads,  
For they've all been crucified

Receive from Jesus the healing you need  
For your spirit, body and soul  
Then you can arise, freed from your past  
To walk completely whole

For what He accomplished on the cross  
Goes on into eternity,  
Just reach out your hand and He will too  
And receive His victory.

© By M.S.Lowndes



**Calling all kids who like to sing! ANGEL CHOIR  
practice is 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**

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

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

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

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

**april ANNIVERSARIES**

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

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

**We are UPDATEING our Church Directory for 2019!**

The church office is updating the Church Directory for 2019 this month! **ALWAYS** be sure to contact the church office if you have a **change of address, phone number, or email address!** The 2019 Church Directory will be available on **Sunday, April 14th!** Thank you!



**MARCH Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	through 3/31/2019	<b>\$19944.27</b>
Designated Giving:	through 3/31/2019	<b>\$2346.50</b>
	Capital Improvements	170.00
	Loose Change	210.20
	Flowers	217.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	40.00
	Reimbursements	17.00
	Offering Envelopes	2.00
	UMCOR	75.00
	Upper Room	20.00
	Health Fair	330.00
	Memorials	590.00
	Helping Hands	300.00
	Youth	375.30
Easter Offering		<b>25.00</b>
Capital Campaign		<b>1425.00</b>
Total:		<b>\$23740.77</b>

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

**Average Attendance for MARCH 2019**

Early Service	38
Late Service	55
Sunday School	30
Visitors	1



**Capital Campaign money received as of 3-31-19: \$326,676.92**

**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT**

April's Loose Change Project is the Community Hope Center

in Cottage Hills. Not only do they run a food pantry which our church uses as a referral source, but they offer free clothing and other programs to help people in need. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

**DEADLINE FOR  
MAY 2019 STEEPLE,  
Monday, April 22nd!**

**NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER**

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

**EASTER  
COMMUNITY  
EVENT  
Sat. April 13  
@ 5 p.m.  
WORSHIP AND  
THIS MOVIE!!**



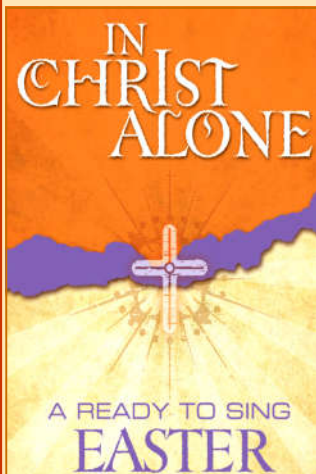
**"COMMON BOND QUARTET"**  
**Sat., April 27th @ 7 p.m.**



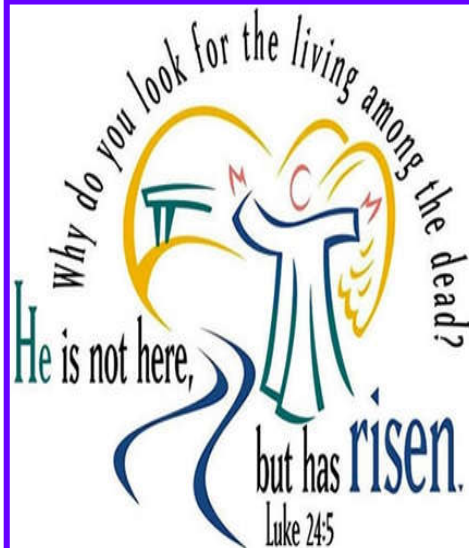


## 2019 EASTER CANTATA

### ‘In Christ Alone’



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! **So join us on Easter morning, April 21st, at 8:15 or 10:30 a.m. to worship through the music of the Resurrection!**



## VBS 2019 JUNE 10-14 9:30 A.M.-NOON

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

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

**Volunteers are always needed and welcomed! We will have classes for children age 3 (who are potty trained) through 6th grade. The stations are: Recreation, Crafts, Movie, Story, Snacks, Praise Songs, Science Lab, and Puppet & Song.**

**If you are in 7th grade or older and are interested in helping with VBS, please talk to Jamie Gwaltney or call her at 692-0898. If you are 18 years old or older, please pick up a policy packet with a background check form in it to fill out and drop off at the church office, if you have not done so before. CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN MAY FOR THE SUPPLIES NEEDED! We pray this is another fun and inspiring year!**

### **POSITIONS STILL NEEDED:**

**Class Leaders, Class Assistants, Station Assistants & extra helpers—Please come join us as a student or a volunteer. It's a fun and rewarding week of learning more about God!**

**Remember to contact Jamie Gwaltney and tell her how you can help 692-0898.**





## FLOWER CALENDAR

for 2019 is posted on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing. There are openings in the months of:

### June. & September

This is a great ministry to honor or remember someone or a special day. Please, help fill it in! Thank you!

<sup>24</sup> Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer. Hebrews 10:24-25 (GNT)



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

Church- Thank you for your support of our youth during their Pancake Break-

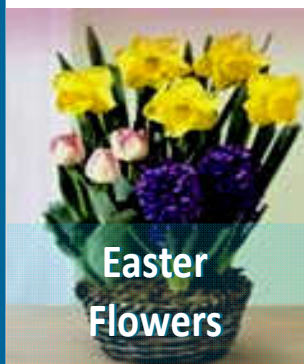
fast fundraiser! **We are so excited to send FIVE great young ladies to camp this summer.** We are in prayer that even more will want to join us. Our youth group has grown to five regular attenders, and we have had four other youth that join us for outside functions. **THIS IS A PRAISE!** Keep praying that our youth group will continue to reach others in the months to come.

We have a lot of exciting activities coming up. In April we will be attending the **Beautiful U Conference** at Troy UMC, playing **Capture the Flag** with EAFUMC, and putting on a camping fundraiser. → If you would like to **"Adopt a Youth"** on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** from 9am-12pm, the fee is \$25 for one hour, and \$50 for three hours. If you would like to adopt a youth to do your yard or house work, please contact **Lauren Cranmer** at (618)660-7967.

Be on the lookout for **KIND** t-shirts! This fundraiser will also help us pave our way to camp.

**We love you, church!**

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



Easter Flowers

It is time to order your Easter Flowers for 2019. The order forms are in the worship bulletins. Remember to pay for your flowers when you order them. The flowers cost **\$9.00** each this year. If you have any questions, call the church office @ **259-5210**.

**Deadline to order: Sunday, April 7th!**





## 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 (children-sized are particularly needed)**! 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  
8:30 am-Noon**



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 non-profit organizations in the area. **NO PURCHASE IS TOO SMALL** to benefit St. Paul. Pick up and sign-up online for your very own account today! **Need help? Call the church office!**



## **PALM WAVERS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY!**

On Palm Sunday, April, 14, 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.



**Maundy  
Thursday  
Holy  
Communion**

**Thursday, April 18th  
7:00 p.m.**

**"Behold Emmanuel!"**

Music provided by our Cantata  
Choir and Cheri Trusty.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**



**Palm Sunday, April 14 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 will 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.



**COMMUNITY  
GOOD FRIDAY  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**April 19 @ 7 p.m.  
LoveJoy United Presbyterian  
Church - 2550 Rock Hill Rd.,  
Wood River IL**

**Special offering taken...  
plan now to attend!**

Sponsored by Wood River  
Township Ministerial





## 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](http://www.igrc.org/fiveday).

Registration has begun at: [www.igrc.org/fiveday2019](http://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.



### 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

### Youth Worker Training events

IGRC Youth Ministries is hosting student ministry training events in three locations May 4 & May 11. Each training session will be from 9 a.m. to noon.

May 4 -- Normal First UMC

May 4 -- Quincy Vermont St. UMC

May 11 -- O'Fallon First UMC

For more information, contact Curt Franklin ([cfranklin@igrc.org](mailto:cfranklin@igrc.org)).



**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**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
 FOR OUR KIDS  
**April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 ADVANCE 6960  
 PRIORITIES TO BENEFIT PERFORMANCE OUR KIDS

**2019 BISHOP'S OPEN**

REGISTER AT: <http://www.igrc.org/bishopsopen2019>

## **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](http://www.igrc.org/bishopsopen2019).



## *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 Now  
Beginnings***

*Iris Uzzell— **Prayer Journaling***



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

## ☺ ➔ **SALE GOES THROUGH** ⬅ ☺

**As of April 5, 2019 St. Paul UMC, via the Trustees, sold the property known as the Jr. Parsonage at 360 Airline Drive!** As you may recall, based upon a majority vote of the church members held at a church conference on March 15, 2018, the decision was made to sell the Jr. Parsonage to reduce existing church debt. Therefore, as a result of that church-wide decision, the proceeds from the sale of said property which sold for \$92,700, after closing costs and miscellaneous costs were taken out of the proceeds, along with an additional \$5,592.67 from the Capital Fund Campaign treasury were all used to eliminate our debt of \$89,092 to 1st Mid America Credit Union for the "Mission Possible" Campaign.

As you know we have spent just under \$500,000 doing much needed renovation work to the church facilities. Through your prayers and generosity we incurred a debt of only \$160,020 of which \$89,020 was to 1st Mid America CU and the remaining \$71,000 to a loan from the St. Paul Endowment Fund. It is important to note that a large part of the remaining Capital Fund Campaign treasury will go toward eliminating part of this in-house debt. Trustees, in a future meeting, will consider keeping some of the funds in reserve as a jump start on future physical needs of the church.

With the elimination of the "outside" debt to 1st Mid America CU **we pray that you will continue your generosity toward erasing our "in-house" debt to our Endowment Fund.** This we do in an effort to respect the long-time philosophy of St. Paul UMC in having a debt-free church.

We are so thankful to the congregation for your vision and generosity. The trustees have gone over and above; they have labored long and hard to make difficult decisions to continue the viability of our physical church & ministry within the community. Pastors Daryl Fansler and Debra Hoertel have provided constant inspiration and spiritual guidance in leading our efforts to a successful fruition. Many thanks to the original "Mission Possible" team for their time and dedication to the vision and for providing wonderful facilities for the future of St. Paul.

None of this much-needed work would have been possible without the congregation's generosity and the willing volunteers to step forward for the benefit of our St. Paul ministries through our physical facilities. God is indeed good and he certainly answers prayers, as none of this would have been possible, for a church who struggles to meet its monthly budget, while all the while looking to the future and what God provides for us!!

**Many blessings and thanks to all involved,**

**From your current St. Paul Trustees:** Mike Tappy, Scott Gwaltney, Ian Martin, Noël Schiber, Joe Hoertel, Karen Challandes (secretary), Jim Herndon (chairman), and Pastor Debra Hoertel