



The Steeple

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



AUGUST 2019

Greetings, People of Infinite Worth!

Soon, the children will be back in school and we will assume our 'normal' schedules. This has been an amazing summer for me at St. Paul. I celebrated my first anniversary as your pastor. This June and July we have experienced two thirds of another season of outdoor worship, Joe & I went on a mission trip to Honduras, and St. Paul hosted an Encounter high school choir concert! I don't know about you, but I am ready to head into August!

I love the energy of this congregation, so many of us are travelers. Like many of you all, I love to travel. However, it is so great to return home, to unpack the suitcase, and settle into a familiar routine again. Travel is fun and exciting, but it is always great to come back home.

Time away is a pleasure, but one of the drawbacks of travel is the breaking of routines. Sometimes it takes time to return to our normal habits.

Let me offer a gentle reminder about our giving. We are presently in what is known as the **"Summertime Slump."** It is a period every church leader dreads with good reason. What happens during the Summertime Slump? People go on vacation and have fun with their families. Vacations usually occur over a Sunday or two, maybe even more. People on vacation are thinking about fun and relaxation, but they sometimes forget their giving is important to the life of the church. When people don't give on a regular basis, our budget suffers, and we struggle to meet our financial obligations. Our expenses continue, regardless of the attendance numbers.

One way to avoid missing a tithe or gift is to begin an autopay option with your bank or credit union. The rules are different for each financial institution, but in a nutshell, you decide on the day and amount to send, and it comes to the church on time and regularly. You don't have to worry about missing a Sunday, whether you are out of town or not. This method really helps us to plan ministries and reduces our stress level, because we know the funds will be there when it's time to take care of our obligations. If autopay is not for you, that's okay; it's not for everybody.

We have another way to help the church budget get back on track. We are holding a **"Catch-Up Sunday"** on the second Sunday in September. If you know you have missed a tithe (or two), here is your opportunity to make it up. I know that Joe & I missed our regular giving while we were gone; we plan to make it up in the weeks to come. Catch-up Sunday, on **September 8th, at both services**, will give us an opportunity to get past the dreaded Summertime Slump.

Please be in prayer about how you can help us "catch-up" as we will head into fall before you know it.

Blessings!
Pastor Debra Hoertel

REFLECTIONS...



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- **Robert Hoertel**, son of Pastor Debra & Joe, will be leaving on August 7th to go to China for 4 months with Campus Target. There he will share the gospel with university students. Please keep him in your prayers as he follows the call God has given to him.
- Congratulations to **Jim Herndon**! He has been named to the SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame class of 2019. More info in the September Steeple!
- Congratulations to Alton High School Varsity Cheerleader **Grace Napp** for being named the senior scholarship winner at Xperience Chicago cheer camp in July. (See photo to the right!)



- Congratulations to the Montclair Marlins Summer Swim Team (**with McLain, Liam, Logan, and Gracie Oertle**) for 1st place in SWISA! And to **Gracie Oertle** for getting the 3rd place High Point Award! (See the photos to the left!)



- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Larry Chamness**, cousin of Rosalie Toner; the family of **Elladee Marin**, mother/mother-in-law of Tom & Karen Martin and grandmother to Brianne Bourne, Kara Martin, and Megan Parker; the family of **Deborah Ruppert**, friend of Jim & Jane Herndon; the family of **Vera Chiles**, mother of Harvey Chiles (our former music director); the family of **Paula Warwick**, (niece of George Tappy) cousin of Karen Martin and Mike Tappy; the family of **Todd Strohbeck**, cousin to Dorothy Kasinger, Marjorie Hall, & Ruth Champlin; the family of **Krissy Reedy**, friend of Lee Johnson; the family of **Patricia Ann Maher**, cousin of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; and the families of **Tarrie Marshall** and **Lois Lobbig**, extended family of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell. May God give to all His comfort, healing, and peace in this time of loss.

- **THANK YOU:** Thank you St. Paul UMC for your gracious gift for my graduation. It has been a pleasure being a church member for so long and I wish all the best for the future! Thank you, **Sam Brown**
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you so much for all of your prayers, cards, and calls as I have had my two surgeries. Your prayers have certainly helped and I am healing quite nicely. A special thank you to the Craft Ladies for their cheerful cards and notes. God bless you all as you have blessed me! **Sally Lay & family**
- **THANK YOU:** St. Paul United Methodist Church, thank you so much for investing in my future! I really appreciate it... Thanks again, **Hailey Keller (one of the 2019 Hickerson Scholarship recipients)**



We Say Goodbye To Our Extended Family Friend...



Bernice Ann Oertle (nee Watson) - "Bernie" passed on Tuesday, July 2, 2019, fortified with the Sacraments of the Holy Mother Church.

Dear mother of Stephen C. (Jill) Oertle; loving grandmother of McLain, Logan, Grace, and Liam Oertle; beloved sister of the late Thomas Watson, Theodore Watson, and Robert Watson; loving daughter of the late Thomas Sr. and Gertrude Watson; dear aunt of Dianne (Dan) Johnson, Thomas III "Beau" (Lisa) Watson, Denise Obermeier, Dennis (Linda) Watson, the late Glenn, (Beth) Watson.

Bernie's selfless life passion was helping others and being granny to her 4 grandchildren.

We will all miss Bernie's visits to St. Paul UMC. Please remember her family in your prayers.



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES
ON SUNDAYS IN THE
CHURCH AMPHITHEATER AT 8:15 a.m.
JUNE 2nd-AUGUST 25th

(In case of extreme weather the service is held in the sanctuary! The 10:30 a.m. service is held in the sanctuary.)

Hand Bell Choir Director



needed. Familiarity with sacred music a must. Performance monthly during worship at both services - 8:15am & 10:30am. Rehearsals are at least an hour on Wed. from September to May.

Please call church for more information, 618-259-5210. Application and job description are on our website.

www.stpaulwired.org

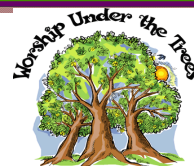
"The other side of the pillow; bakery air; when socks from the dryer match up perfectly; finding your keys after looking forever; the friendly nod between strangers out doing the same thing; celebrating your pet's birthday even though they have no idea what's going on; when you hear someone's smile over the phone."

**~from The Book of Awesome,
a compendium of the
often-overlooked joys in life**



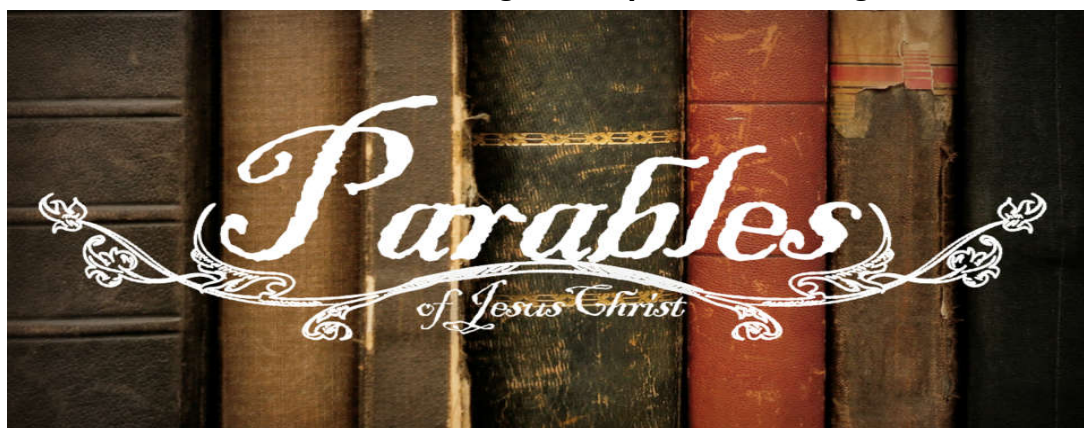
Sundays at St. Paul in AUGUST 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services

The 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park. Wear casual clothes and bring your coffee and lawn chair. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary.



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.**



4th: Communion Both Services. Series: The Parables of Jesus: **Message: Who is My Neighbor?** **Theme: We need to be willing to get our hands dirty to help others.** **Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 the story of The Good Samaritan**



11th: Birthday Sunday. Series: The Parables of Jesus: **Message: Persistent Prayer Pays-Off.** **Theme: Persistent Prayer Pays-Off!** **Scripture: Luke 18:1-8 the story of The Persistent Widow**



18th: Series: The Parables of Jesus. **Message: God's Priority.** **Theme: God seeks out the lost ones.** **Scripture: Luke 15:1-7 the story of The Lost Sheep**

25th: Series: The Parables of Jesus. **Message: Whence Came the Weeds?** **Theme: God ways are different from ours.** **Scripture: Matthew 13:24-29 the story of The Wheat and Tares.**





Be yourself.



**No one can say
you're doing it wrong.**



God gave you a
fingerprint that no
one else has, so
you can leave an
imprint that no one
else can.

**CHARACTER IS
HOW YOU TREAT
THOSE WHO CAN
DO NOTHING
FOR YOU.**

*Being a Christian is less
about cautiously avoiding sin
than about courageously and
actively pursuing God's will.*

—DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

**ALMOST EVERYTHING
WILL WORK AGAIN
IF YOU UNPLUG IT
FOR A FEW MINUTES,
INCLUDING YOU.**

**It's better to have
LAUGH WRINKLES**



**than WORRY
WARTS!!**

Not enough
hours in the day?
Stop
doing things that
don't matter.

**FORGIVE THEM EVEN IF
THEY'RE NOT SORRY.**



they'll know we are
Christians
by our love.



**When I stand
before God at the
end of my life,
I would hope that
I would not have
a single bit of
talent left, and
could say,
"I used everything
You gave me."**

—ERMA BOMBECK

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

01-Aug Savannah Cincoski
 01-Aug Finnegan Plummer
 02-Aug Josh Brown
 03-Aug Nealy Budde
 03-Aug Linda Tillery
 05-Aug Ryan Scroggins
 06-Aug Norris Dorsey
 07-Aug Jessica Roberts
 09-Aug Tracy Franks
 09-Aug Nic Hale
 10-Aug Lois Mitchell
 11-Aug Betty Burns
 11-Aug Alex Davis
 11-Aug Erin Hall
 11-Aug Mary Meyer
 11-Aug Tyler Skinner
 12-Aug Jaxson Helmkamp
 13-Aug Elinor Blacklock
 13-Aug Brandie Brown
 13-Aug Jennifer Garrison
 13-Aug Katie Herndon
 13-Aug Grace McPheters
 14-Aug Alicia Herndon
 14-Aug Jim Stewart
 15-Aug Chandra Redden

15-Aug Anika Richter
 16-Aug Ryne Emerick
 16-Aug Stephanie Redden
 17-Aug Andrea Reed
 17-Aug Tracy Scoggins
 19-Aug Chance Foss
 19-Aug Alan Uzzell
 20-Aug Leta Harshbarger
 20-Aug Jo Ann Hill
 20-Aug Gracie Mortland
 22-Aug Brooke Standefer
 23-Aug Carol Carn
 23-Aug Dave Herndon
 24-Aug Michael Scroggins
 25-Aug Lauren Cranmer
 25-Aug Emily Hall
 25-Aug Bethany Rain
 26-Aug Teri Sabo, RN
 26-Aug Terry Sitze
 27-Aug Keith Armon

27-Aug Logan Scroggins
 28-Aug Noel Schiber
 29-Aug Kristin Cameron
 29-Aug Doug Clouatre
 29-Aug Danny Redden
 29-Aug Joanna Scroggins
 29-Aug Lori Seba
 30-Aug Karah Phelps
 31-Aug Mike Scroggins
 31-Aug Juliana Sullivan

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

06-Aug Duane & Sandy Moore
 10-Aug Rod & Virginia Croxford
 12-Aug Randy & Mindy McLain
 13-Aug John & Leona Hendricks
 15-Aug Duane & Tamara Atchley
 17-Aug Steve & Sarah Campbell
 18-Aug Bill & Amy Hale
 19-Aug John & Barbara Yunker



20-Aug Nathan & Lydia Chester
 22-Aug Tim & Joni Bunt
 22-Aug Ashley Sheppard
 22-Aug Keith & Ashley Sheppard
 23-Aug Terry & Betty Sitze
 24-Aug Scott & Jamie Gwaltney
 26-Aug Jim & Maggie Funke
 30-Aug David & Lisa Betts

Be sure to pick up your Church Directory for 2019!**ALWAYS** be sure to contact the church office if you have a **change of address, phone number, or email address!** Thank you!



JULY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 7/31/2019	\$15548.00
Designated Giving:	through 7/31/2019	\$1070.82
	Capital Improvements	130.00
	Loose Change	132.82
	Flowers	200.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	550.00
	Upper Room	13.00
	Encounter	20.00
	Preachers' Aid Society	25.00
Reimbursements		1000.00
Endowment		1000.00
Capital Campaign		575.00
Total:		\$19193.82

**DEADLINE FOR
September 2019
STEEPLE,
Tues., August 20th!**

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

Average Attendance for JULY 2019

Early Service	50
Late Service	32
Sunday School	27
Visitors	3



Capital Campaign money received as of 7-31-19: \$336,137.92



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

August's Loose Change Project is UMCOR, the

United Methodist Committee on Relief. This ministry assists in disasters in our country and throughout the world. Help is given for flood, tornado, hurricanes, and fire. In addition this agency supports ongoing programs in parts of the world that have nutrition and food supply problems. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER

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

Friday, August 2 @ 7 p.m.
Saturday, August 3 @ 6 p.m.





IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING... BE KIND!

The summer is slowly winding down and school is on the horizon. On **Friday, August 9**, **KIND** will host a **Youth Back to School Worship & Activities** gathering here at St. Paul UMC from **6-10 p.m.** We will open with worship, have

breakout sessions, and close with worship. Pizza will be enjoyed in between it all. (Our lock-in has been postponed until another time.)

KIND Youth meetings will start again in **September** on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m. here at the church building. Please continue to pray for our youth as they ask questions and strive to grow in their faith and understanding! Thank you Church for all of your support!

If you would ever like to help with the **cost of our snacks** for our meetings, please contact Lauren to make arrangements. We do have a peanut allergy and a gluten allergy in the youth group. We are always open to suggestions from parents and the youth on how to better reach as many as possible! God bless you!

We love you, church!

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



**PLEASE
HELP US
HELP YOU!**

*Hospice...
Hospital...
Nursing/Care Center...*

Whenever you or a member of your family enters the hospital, rehab/care/nursing

center, or hospice, you need to call the Pastor or the Church Office. None of the area institutions will notify the church when you enter their facility due to privacy laws. We want to reach out to you at a time when you and your family may need it the most. Your call may be the only way for us to know of the situation. Thank you for your help!



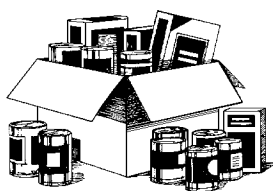
2019 is posted on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing. There are still openings on:

**SEPT. 29TH
AND NOV. 10TH**

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



Food Drive & School Supply Collection---



Each year the Outreach Ministry Team sponsors the collection of food & school supplies. This year the collection **began July 21 and continues through August 11th.** This is so the school supplies can be distributed to the children before school starts. **Please place food and school supplies in separate bags.** The school supplies go to schools in Bethalto, Roxana, and East Alton.

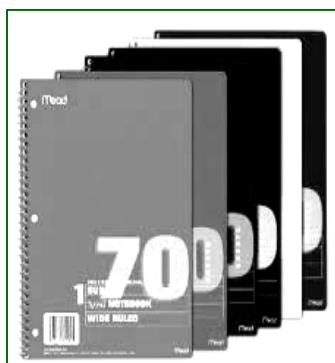
Paper, crayons, scissors, erasers, folders, and binders are always needed.

Food collected will go to the food pantries at Operation Blessing and the Community Hope Center. These are the places we refer people to for food.

Place all items in the coat area/hallway where we traditionally gather items for various collections. So fill up a sack or a bag (or more) and bring them to church!

Thank you in advance!!

The food & school supplies will be distributed the week of August 11th!



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 the fall. The general guidelines they have given us are for **new** or **gently used** items:

- ▶ Coats and 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 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** during the summer. Then just hang on to them.



The collection usually occurs in **October/November.** When you see the big box in the main hallway it will be time to place these items in it. Thank you so much as we plan ahead!



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!



Sunday, September 8th is Catch-Up Sunday!

Catch-Up Sunday will be September 8th. We invite you to join the others at St. Paul in giving a special gift to help us catch-up on our bills. We have special envelopes for this special offering or you may designate an amount labeled "Catch-Up" on your regular offering envelopes or you may stop by the Church Office with a gift or you may give online through our website.

Our income this year has fallen short of what we need to meet our necessary expenditures. Currently we are particularly behind in our apportionment payments having only made one.

Many areas of our ministry are thriving. We had another great week of Vacation Bible School this summer and we again sent youth to camp at Little Grassy! We have been able to help many folks through the Helping Hands fund and we invested in the future of two more young adults with the Hickerson Scholarship fund.

We understand that some of our families are struggling financially. We have prayed with those who are unemployed, those supporting children, those who are underemployed, those helping aging parents, and those living on fixed incomes. We know your situations and we care. Our intent isn't to make you feel guilty if you are unable to give financially on Catch-Up Sunday, but only to be honest and transparent about our situation. You should expect nothing less from us.

God does expect all of us to worship Him. Jesus makes it clear that His goal is that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that *"He is Lord."* Whether you are able to make a special *Catch-Up* gift, we expect **the gift of your presence in worship on September 8th.** The services are at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. both inside.

We leave you with this thought from Billy Graham: **"GOD HAS GIVEN US TWO HANDS -- ONE TO RECEIVE WITH AND THE OTHER TO GIVE WITH. WE ARE NOT WELLS MADE FOR HOARDING; WE ARE CHANNELS MADE FOR SHARING."** Your *Catch-Up Sunday offering* (envelope coming next month in the mail to you) will enable us to be a wide channel for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our community! **The Finance Committee**

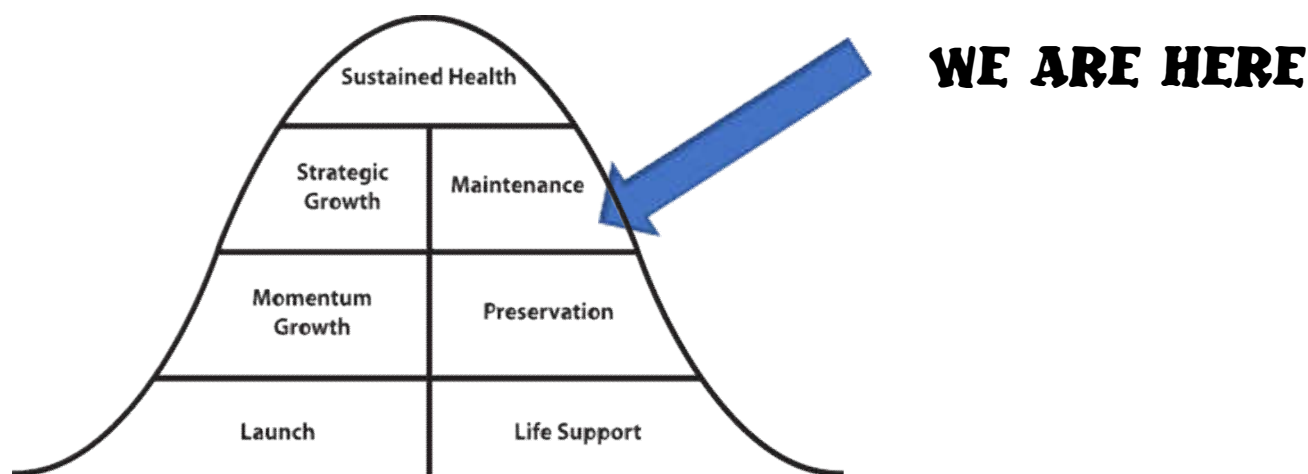


Congratulations to our 2019 Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship recipients: Cassidy Harvey and Hailey Keller...with Connie Hickerson. Blessings on your journey!



Greetings People of Infinite Worth!

Late last year, some of our members participated in a survey created by **The Unstuck Group**. The Unstuck Group is an organization that assesses churches and helps them to achieve sustained health. A church in sustained health has certain general characteristics, which are: collaborative culture, focused vision and strategy, and takes calculated risks. The survey we took last year was designed to help us determine where St. Paul is located on the church lifecycle.



According to the survey, St. Paul is in the **Maintenance** part of the bell curve; we are not experiencing sustained health. Here are some characteristics of a church in maintenance mode: **attendance that has plateaued or is declining, it has become insider-focused, and the vision has become unclear.** Please remember that without intentional action by the church, ALL churches have a tendency to slip down the right side of the bell curve illustrated above. Do not despair, we are not alone. **Let's be different**, let's be the church that experiences sustained health and new growth. We are in a wonderful position to begin a new vision for St. Paul. I am excited to think about the possibilities that lay before us.

In the weeks and months to come, church leaders and I will be in prayer and conversation about how to navigate our beloved church toward a healthier future, one in which we grow in numbers and in discipleship. **Please be in prayer for us**; help us discern what God wants to do in the life of St. Paul. We covet your prayers as we discern a new vision for St. Paul.

Blessings!
Pastor Debra





UPCOMING IGRC EVENTS & MEETINGS

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 a five minute 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



Awakening Worship Conference

September 14 @ 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Hosted at Troy UMC in Troy, IL

The Awakening Worship Conference is designed to help raise up the spiritual temperature in worship in our churches. Though worship is not all about music, vocals, and tech, these are some of the common tools the modern church utilizes to help call and inspire people to worship. During the conference, we will invest time growing in skill and heart, all the while praying our leaders, teams, and congregations will come alive in worship.

WHO ATTENDS:

Worship Leaders,
Pastors, Team
Leaders, Team
Members, Volun-
teers in worship
tech, band, vocals,
and other arts.

2019 Worship Conference	REGULAR By 9/8	WEEK OF
Individual	\$45	\$55
Group (3 or more)	\$35	\$45



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in His powerful name! Have you ever been so surprised by something that happened because in the past you'd said that would NEVER happen? Then you know how I feel as your new District Superintendent!

I am humbled to be your servant-leader, especially when I think of the faithful men and women who preceded me as DS for the Mississippi River District. I am trusting in the promises that Jesus gave to us all. If we ask in His name, obey God's Word, and receive the Spirit, we will be equipped for God's call. (John 14:14-16)

I hope to see you **Saturday, August 10th at Troy UMC for the All District Worship Service and**

Welcome Reception. We'll have worship 1 – 1:30 p.m. with the Harvest Band and fellowship until 3 p.m. Come when you can and stay as long as you wish.

I look forward to partnering with you as we love God, love our neighbor and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**In Christ alone, D.S. Allynn Walker
Mississippi River District**



© BK1
"When we say grace, do we look up at Heaven, or down at the food?"



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

☺ ➔ **FINISHING THE WORK...** ← ☺

As announced earlier this year, the work of the Mission Possible (topping over \$500,000) is complete. The Jr. Parsonage has been sold and the proceeds, along with approximately \$5,500 from the CFC checking account, were used to pay off our debt to 1st Mid America Credit Union.

The Trustees along with the Church Finance Committee and Church Council have agreed to move \$5,000 from the total that remains in the CFC account into the Trustee Reserve Fund as a jump start on any physical needs of the church in the future. Approximately \$2,000 will be kept in the CFC checking account to pay for incidental church building physical needs in the next few months and the remaining money, approximately \$26,000, will be transferred to the St. Paul Endowment Fund to pay down our in-house loan of \$71,000. The new transfer plus the \$1,000 we already paid to the Endowment Fund leaves us with a balance of approximately \$43,000 of indebtedness to the fund. The very last of our remaining indebtedness!

We ask that you continue in prayer about our church's physical needs and consider either continuing or beginning a financial contribution to help us pay down our debt to ourselves in the "Endowment Fund." (To do this, pay any monies to the **Capital Fund Campaign designation** as you have done in the past.) Not only is it important to pay ourselves back, to adhere to this church's longtime philosophy of being debt-free, but it is equally important to put ourselves back into a position of paying our fair share of apportionments for the ministry work of the United Methodist Church in general.

Your generosity and prayerful approach to supporting the church's work is appreciated more than mere words can express! God bless...

Many blessings and thanks to all,

From your current St. Paul UMC Trustees:

Mike Tappy, Scott Gwaltney, Ian Martin, Noël Schiber, Joe Hoertel, Karen Challandes (secretary), Jim Herndon (chairman), and Pastor Debra Hoertel