

The Steeple

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



DECEMBER 2019

Greetings People of Infinite Worth!

If you have ever been in my office, you know that I have a few plants...okay more than a few. The one I am referring to right now is the one on my desk. It is a three-leaf shamrock that was placed in my care from one of our members; I have named it Arabella. Arabella has happily lived in my office for well over a year. She had delighted me with delicate white blossoms; she has been robust, vigorously growing her entire time under my care. Recently, however, she has begun to look sickly. A few of her little triangle-shaped leaves are still perky and a healthy green, but more and more leaves are becoming limp and brown with raggedy edges.

As a plant grower, I am dismayed to think that I have done something that caused this poor little shamrock to become ill. Have I over-watered, or under-watered; have I over-fed, or under-fed? My first impulse is to hide Arabella, lest people think I am engaging in plant abuse or neglect. Not one to give up easily, I did a little Internet research. Here is what I learned; Arabella Shamrock is going into a dormant phase; shamrocks do this occasionally. She does not have roots like other plants, instead, she is a bulbous plant. Plants grown from bulbs need time to rest and re-energize. As she prepares for her dormant period her leaves will drop and she will appear to be sickly, but she is just preparing to take a break. After a rest period, she will begin to grow and thrive again!

Rather than hide her from public view, I plan to keep her on my desk to remind me, and anyone else who enters my lair, that it is okay to take a break. It is smart to allow ourselves to rest, and regenerate. If you wander into my office and see Arabella looking peaked and limp, be assured that she is only resting from her labor. Let us take a lesson from Arabella, take time to rest. Ah, the wisdom of nature!

As we all know, the weeks from Thanksgiving, through Christmas and into the New Year are hectic: shopping, wrapping, baking, decorating, community events, family gatherings, and office parties. We schedule so many activities and obligations during this period, we feel like we are on a treadmill of never-ending movement. Let take a lesson from Arabella. Sometimes we just need to take a break. Even if the activities on our schedule are fun and exciting, there is great wisdom in resting and taking some quiet time. Jesus never intended his birth month to be so full of activities that we forget the reason for the season. Schedule some time in the weeks ahead to rest in Jesus!

Joe, myself, and our family pray that God will richly bless you and your loved ones during this glorious and holy season! Merry Christmas!

Love, Joe and Pastor Debra



"Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'"



~Mark 6:31~

DECEMBER · 2019 · STEEPLE



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- Rachel Schiber was in her school play on Nov. 15 & 16. It was called "Captain Dangerous" and it's a play-in-a-play about a dress rehearsal that goes completely wrong in all the hilarious ways it can. Congratulations Rachel!
- Roxana High School presented their Fall School Play, "A Christmas Carol," on November 22-24. We are delighted to congratulate Sydnie Palmer, Marlo Schiber, and Piper Martin for their parts in making this play a great success!
- Congratulations to our sixth graders who were presented with Study Bibles on Bible Sunday, Nov. 24: Clayton Bartony, Nicholas Dawson, Grace Oertle, and Hayley Schlemer. May you learn and grow in the Lord as you read your Bible. (PLEASE, LET US KNOW IF WE MISSED A 6th GRADER!)
- We thank the **Worship Ministry Team and others** for decorating the church beautifully for Christmas. Your efforts will definitely enhance our celebration during this holy season.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of Krissy Little (the Littles, Kurths, Vinyards), dear friend of Jim & Jane Herndon (she was a Roxana HS/Jr High teacher and coach); the family of Billy West, brother of Chaplain Eddie West of the Wood River Police Department; the family of Donna Stokes, friend of Ron Cathorall; and the family of Ashly & Vince Maynard, known by many at St. Paul UMC. May you each know God's comfort and peace now and in the days ahead.
- Ian A. Napp recently graduated from the University Of Illinois College Of Engineering with a degree in Electrical Engineering. The son of Allan L. Napp and Judge Kyle Napp, he has accepted a position with the Motorola Corp. in Schaumburg, IL, where he has been assigned to the Central Systems Engineering division.
 Congratulations!
- THANK YOU: to everyone who participated in the recent COAT & SHOE COLLECTION! We received 27 coats, 8 jackets/clothing items, 18 scarves/mittens/hats, 2 pairs of socks, and 4 shoes/boots! You are a blessing! -Riverbend Head Start & Family Services and the St. Paul UMC Outreach Ministry Team



Christ has called us to so much more and died for so much more than our comfort. We need to love Him and love people the way that He commanded us to do. Are we ready for Christmas this year? Is it ever really possible to be "ready"? My prayer is that as the church we will be ready to embrace the seasonal visitors with the open arms of Christ to the extent that they will no longer be seasonal visitors, but fully devoted Christ followers enamored by His love for them. "Jeremy Mika"





FOR YOUR INFORMATION -

If bad weather requires the cancellation of worship services, we will:

- ACTIVATE OUR PHONE TREE
 CALLING SYSTEM!
- leave a message on the office answering machine
- **※ contact TV Channel 5**
- post a notice on our website www.stpaulwired.org
 (if possible)
- contact those on the e-mail & phone prayer chain (if possible)

Hand Bell Choir Director



Familiarity with sacred music a must. Performance monthly during worship at both

services - 8:15am & 10:30am. Rehearsals are for an hour on Wednesdays from Sept. to May. Please call the church office for more information, 259-5210.

Application and job description are on our website.

stpaulwired.org

Christmas Offering

The Finance Committee and Church Council have decided that the undesignated amount of the Christmas Offering will be used for the **general budget**. The general budget provides the funds for the ministry and operating expenses of the church. As always, you are encouraged to designate your Christmas Offering for missionaries, ministries, or projects supported by St. Paul. There is a Christmas Offering envelope included in your box of envelopes. You may also use any pew envelope to make the Christmas Offering. Simply mark the envelope as your "Christmas Offering." Although your Christmas Offering may be placed in the offering plate on any Sunday or mailed to the Church Office. many people like to lay their offering at the feet of the baby Jesus during the March to the Manger. March to the Manger occurs during both worship services on Dec. 15th. Some people choose to wrap their offering as a gift for the baby Jesus.



Sundays at St. Paul in DECEMBER 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. 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 lead by a worship & praise team. Words to the songs are projected on the screen or are available on the entry-way 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.





8th: Second Sunday of Advent.

Birthday Sunday.

Sermon Series: The

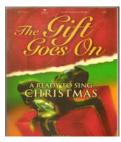
Gifts of Christmas. Message: Joy! Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

Theme: Joy does not depend on our circumstances. Mary &

Joseph were in stressful and frightening circumstances, yet they were full of joy!



15th: Third Sunday of Advent. Christmas
Cantata: The Gift Goes On, and the March
To The Manger at both services. Sermon Series: The Gifts of
Christmas. Message: Hope! Scripture: 1 John 3:1-3 Theme:
Our hope is in God!





22nd: Fourth Sunday of Advent.

<u>Sermon Series: The Gifts of Christmas.</u>

Message: Jesus! Scripture: Colossians 1:12-20 Theme: Jesus is the best gift we could ever receive!



22nd: Christmas Eve Services. At 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Feast Of Light!. Please join us for one of our services and bring your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the best gift, ever!





29th: Sunday After Christmas. Message: When God Walks The Earth! Scripture: *Matthew 2:13-23* Theme: Mary & Joseph settle in Nazareth to raise their Son!



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CAP N Mitten Tree 2019



NOV. 10 - DEC. 4th!

2020 NEWSLETTERS:

It is time to start thinking about the 2020 Newsletter (The Steeple). The cost to have the newsletter mailed directly to you at home will be \$8.50. Of course we will still email the Newsletter, place it on the website, and have copies at the church for you to pick up, to have extras to give to friends you invite to church, and for visitors to take. Send your request to have it mailed to you to the Church Office and your check for \$8.50.

Any questions...call 259-5210.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES THE FEAST OF LIGHT:

5:00 p.m. <u>Family-Oriented Service</u>. We tell the Christmas story, sing carols, interact with the children, and end with a candlelight service. **The children are welcomed to wear their PJs to this service!**

7:00 p.m. <u>Traditional Service</u>.
A Christmas Service with the Scripture readings, familiar carols, and the Christmas story. The evening concludes with a candlelight service. This service lasts about one hour.



THE WOMEN OF WORSHIP SAY...

Money from <u>all</u> of our projects will be distributed at our Christmas Potluck Luncheon Party on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at NOON with the business meeting to follow at 1:00 p.m. <u>ALL</u> women of the church are invited to participate. Bring your favorite dish of food and join us! Also, instead of gifts bring new children's underwear and socks for the Cap N Mitten Tree!





01-Dec Harvey Chiles01-Dec Amy Gowan

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01-Dec Bobbie Jean Schlemer

02-Dec Al Ortegren
04-Dec Sandy Harlan
05-Dec Meghan Sparling
05-Dec Laura Voorhees
08-Dec Will Blacklock
08-Dec Tammy Davis
10-Dec Reid Adams
10-Dec Erika Ramirez
11-Dec Ruth Harris

10-Dec Erika Ramirez
11-Dec Ruth Harris
12-Dec Dorothy Kasinger
13-Dec Jon Cameron
13-Dec Jamie Gwaltney
13-Dec Elise Myers
14-Dec Mike Liedtke
15-Dec Devin Eyster
15-Dec Jessica Giddings
15-Dec Becky Sullivan
16-Dec Elaine Hart

16-Dec Rick Helmkamp

16-Dec Stephanie Palmer

December Birthdays

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

16-Dec	Emily Wells
18-Dec	Joan Ford
19-Dec	Heather Adams
19-Dec	Gary Brown
19-Dec	Kailynne Cruthis
19-Dec	Megan Parker
20-Dec	Jenn Champa-Kumar
20-Dec	Wayne Cloninger
20-Dec	Brody Hendricks
23-Dec	Joe Hoertel
24-Dec	Ben Brown
24-Dec	Kaydence Harlan

23-Dec Joe Hoertel
24-Dec Ben Brown
24-Dec Kaydence Harlan
24-Dec Kristina Harlan
24-Dec Steve Kainz
26-Dec Don Ford Sr.
28-Dec Orisa Babcock
28-Dec Madilyn Ross
29-Dec Ada Brueggeman
29-Dec Glenn Hubbard

29-Dec Billy Laws
29-Dec Doug Pascoe
30-Dec Devin Caldwell
30-Dec Jack Caldwell
30-Dec Ruth Voorhees
31-Dec Jim Herndon
31-Dec Lillian Maxwell
31-Dec Susan Phelps



December Anniversaries

06-Dec George & Donna Hamilton Sr.

14-Dec Tom & Shana Vore

16-Dec Anthony & Erika Ramirez

19-Dec Steve & Jill Oertle

20-Dec David & Donna Badman

22-Dec Gary & Julie Brown

24-Dec William & Jill Taylor-Sullivan

26-Dec Randy & Karen Roberts 28-Dec Steve & Sarah Dawson 29-Dec Greg & Lana Mortland



Church Directory - Help Us Keep It Up-To-Date!



Always be sure to contact the church office if you have had a <u>change of address</u>, <u>phone number</u>, or <u>email address!</u>
Thank you!

Merry Ghristmas to the St. Paul family!







NOVEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 11/30/2019	\$11652.00
Designated Giving:	through 11/30/2019	\$1477.78
	Capital Improvements	180.00
	Loose Change	192.78
	Charles McKnelly	500.00
	Flowers	149.00
	Upper Room	11.00
	Helping Hands	100.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	85.00
	UMCOR	50.00
	Memorials	210.00
Student Offering		20.00
Thanksgiving Offering	492.00	
Capital Campaign		755.16
Total:		\$14396.94

January 2020
STEEPLE,
FRI., DEC. 20th!

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

Average Attendance for NOVEMBER 2019

Early Service	44
Late Service	54
Sunday School	27
Visitors	3





MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

The December Change Project is the Salva-

tion Army in Alton. The Salvation Army helps individuals and families facing special hardships with food, transportation, rent, and utility assistance, as well as providing meals and shelter for the homeless. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER

400 N. Central Ave.

Roxana, IL

FREE FAMILY

MOVIES

EACH MONTH!

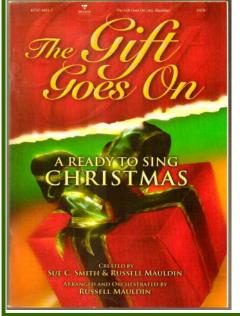
Friday, November 29 @ 7 p.m. Saturday, November 30 @ 6 p.m.







2019 Christmas Cantata



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The 2019 Christmas Cantata:
The Gift Goes On, will be presented at both services on December 15th! Please plan now to join us! At the end of both services we will have our March To The Manger!



Church outreach for Christmas- Thank you for all you gave to help the Children this Christmas!





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JOY OF

CHRISTMAS



Illinois Great Rivers

Christmas Dinner & Program

It is a St. Paul tradition for the church to gather for Christmas Dinner. You are now able to make reservations for this year's catered Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 14th at 6p.m. There is no set charge for the dinner. Instead, we all make a donation for the meal from what we can give. Reservation forms are in the Sunday bulletins 2 more times in the month of December. Please fill One out for your family. If you cannot be here to do this, please call the

church office (259-5210) during the week or email **info@stpaulwired.org** to leave your information with the church secretary.

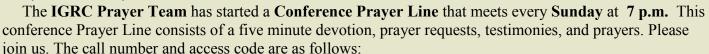
Dinner will be followed by "The Joy Of Christmas." Our kids ages 3 - 8th grade are in this Christmas show! They will present "The Joy of Christmas" after the St. Paul Christmas Dinner. This is a Christmas musical for kids celebrating the amazing joy found in Jesus. It will help kids understand that the joy of Christ is not only the greatest gift they could ever receive, but the greatest gift to share with the world. The show will feature speaking parts, a video, a Nativity, and some fun songs! Bring your friends and your family to join you for this wonderful event! It is

a wonderful evening filled with the joy of Christmas fellowship around the table as well as enjoying our children & youth sharing the news of the baby Jesus!

UPCOMING IGRC & MISSISSIPPI RIVER DISTRICT EVENTS

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.



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

Grace and Peace - Aletha Weatherall - IGRC Prayer Team Coordinator

IGRC Scholarship applicants sought

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is offering a scholarship opportunity for the 2020-2021 school year to undergraduate students.

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Illinois Great Rivers Conference 2020 Undergraduate Scholarship is being offered. Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for a minimum of one year. Scholarships awarded will be sent to the community college, college or university that the student will be attending during the 2020-2021 school year to help pay for their undergraduate tuition. The scholarships awarded will be a minimum of \$500.

Applications must be submitted by midnight on March 1, 2020. If you have any questions, contact Christy Blickensderfer at cblickensderfer@igrc.org or Amy Shreve at ashreve@igrc.org.

<u>https://igrc-reg.brtapp.com/igrcscholarship</u> **Please note:** There is no way to save this application in process. Once you have submitted your application you will not be able to review or edit it. It is recommended to review the entire application process before beginning.



MESSY CHURCH

What is Messy Church, and why is this a good thing? In the new year, we are looking for ways to serve and encourage families in our community. Messy Church is a worship option we will offer for our members and neighbors. It is a relaxed experience that includes a friendly welcome zone and a time for busy families to reconnect to one another. Activities include crafts, music, story and prayer. Finally, the worship experience ends with a light supper, shared by all. Messy Church is based on the values of intergenerational worship, celebration, creativity, hospitality, and centering ourselves in Christ.

At the monthly Messy Church gathering we will explore a biblical theme through hands-on creative activities, a short worship celebration of story, song and prayer, and conclude at a table sharing a meal. It does not prioritize either the needs of children or adults but intentionally welcomes and provides for all ages. Messy Church is an intergenerational experience for people who are looking for an interactive form of church. People of all ages and sizes are welcome!

Rev. Greg Ross from Australia describes Messy Church in this way. "It introduces people to the risen Christ by offering the unconditional hospitality of God in a way that has all ages sharing together in all parts of Messy Church and in ways that strive to engage people."

Be in prayer with us as we seek to bring this beautiful ministry to St Paul.

Blessings!
Pastor Debra

Annual Coat & Shoe Collection

Riverbend Head Start & Family Services says thank you so much for blessing the children!



The 2020
Offering
Envelopes
will be handled
just like last
years.

ALL 2020 Envelopes may be picked up in the church entryway beginning on Sunday,

December 8th.

PLEASE, do not use them until January 2020.

If you would like to trade weekly envelopes for monthly or vise versa, call the office as soon as possible.

Thank you!!

Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

- Steve Maraboli





Salvation Army
Bell Ringing
will be on Friday,
December 13th
10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Walmart in
Wood River (Grocery Doors)

We ring at the grocery entrance with teams of two people for one hour at a time... come and make a kettle donation while we are ringing the bells!





PECANS:

The pecans are here now! The costs are:

\$11.00 for the 1 lb. bag of plain and

\$9.00 for a bag of the chocolate covered.

The pecans are being sold as a Fundraiser for the Women of Worship to add to the mission money raised so far this year!



It is now time to order your poinsettias. The cost will be §8 per

poinsettia. The order deadline will be Sunday, December 8th. Poinsettias may be taken home following the services on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. Inserts are in the bulletins. Remember to indicate when you order to whom it is "in memory" or "in honor" of and it is important to include your payment when you order. Questions?

Call 259-5210.



Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

— PSALM 107: 8-9 NIV





2020 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Greetings People of Infinite Worth!

As we prepare to say good-bye to 2019, we think about the year to come. What will 2020 bring to us? We don't know exactly what will come of this new year, but we do know that we intend to follow the mission Christ set forth for us. During the waning days of 2019, we ask that you be in prayer about what shape your stewardship will take in the coming year. In 2020, we are focus-



ing on Gathering and Growing - Investing in Spiritual Community.

When we offer our gifts to the church, we are investing in spiritual community. Through your generosity, we can do wonderful things. We offer Vacation Bible School; this year we were able to demonstrate the love of Christ to 65 local children. We assist many people with rent, gas money, and help with utilities. We contribute to various social services in the community. I will never forget the love and generosity of the church members when I requested dental hygiene supplies for our trip to Honduras. I was overwhelmed! Thank you for the spirit of generosity you exemplify!

The writer of Hebrews reminds us, "Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God" (Hebrews 13:15-16 - NLT).

As you think about your personal budgets for 2020, remember that church leadership is also looking ahead. **We will celebrate Stewardship Sunday on January 26th.** Please prayerfully complete your estimate of giving card after you receive it in the mail and hand it in on the 26th. Your response will allow us to accurately plan our ministries in the future. Your thoughtful gifts will help us to continue to Gather and Grow so that we can invest in spiritual community.

Be Blessed! Pastor Debra



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

KIND Youth will meet on Sunday, December 1st from 4-5:30 p.m.

We will meet again on Sunday, December 22 at 7 p.m. for a Christmas get together and sock exchange. ALL youth grades 4th and up are invited to our holiday party. KIND will then not meet again until after the first of the year on Sunday, January 5th.

If you would ever like to help with **providing snacks** for our meetings, please contact Lauren to make arrangements. We do have a peanut allergy and a gluten allergy in the youth group. Also, 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







Seasons of Life Community Women's Choir
Presents

For Unto Us

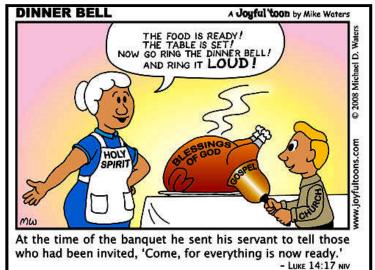
A Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8, 2019
3:00 pm

St. Paul United Methodist Church 10 N. Center St, East Alton, IL

Free Will Donation to Benefit
Oasis Women's Center







He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

- PSALM 147:3 NIV







Mission Possible

As we move to the end of another year it is nice to know that we have completed the planned work in our Mission Possible Campaign. What is equally comforting is the knowledge that we provided in excess of \$500,000 in work, in large part due to your generosity, and have done so with only approximately \$40,000 in remaining debt. We are continuing to lower this debt, with your generosity, on a monthly basis. Please continue your prayers and generosity as we seek to meet our goal of "no indebtedness." Hopefully, the cessation of our debt will then allow us to once again meet our obligations (apportionments) to the greater United Methodist Church.

Finally, it is exciting to report that we have contracted with the same people who performed our parking renovation work out front, to provide a ramp to the front door of the church. This is an important addition to our facility where our ADA (chairlift) items are located. The work will provide a better and safer access to the equipment. We are currently waiting to hear when we will be scheduled for the work!

Many blessings and thanks to all, from your current St. Paul UMC Trustees: Mike Tappy, Scott Gwaltney, Ian Martin, Noël Schiber, Joe Hoertel, John Hendricks, Karen Challandes (secretary), Jim Herndon (chairman), and Pastor Debra Hoertel

