



The Steeple

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



FEBRUARY 2020

Change is in the air in the United Methodist Church. First, I offer a quick recap of what happened at last year's conference in St. Louis. Last February in St. Louis, the traditionalist plan enjoyed a slightly higher percentage of acceptance among delegates. The delegates voted not to change the UMC stance on same sex weddings and the ordination of LGBTQ persons. The margin was slim, but the decision was to stay with our traditional views. It was heavily supported by the African and Asian churches. In their countries, homosexual behavior is against the law. Their culture is hostile toward gay and lesbian relationships. If the decision had gone the other way, rejecting the traditional stance, many of the African and Asian delegates would have been immediately executed upon their return home. After the conference of 2019 in the US, there was a huge outcry against the traditional language in our Book of Discipline. People were asking, since our culture in the west is more accepting of gay and lesbian relationships, why should we follow the dictates of the African and Asian cultures?

Here we are three months away from the general conference of 2020. I think everyone hopes that it will end the deadlock that has been hampering our witness and distracting us from ministry. **Presently, there are five plans on the table.** One of the plans maintains our adherence to the traditional views, the other four plans offer some sort of way to split the UMC. Many of our members have read articles about the potential for a split in the UMC. Some of the articles have been based on the writer's opinion and others have been slanted toward a particular plan that the writer supports. The truth is, we don't know which plan is going to be accepted or how exactly it will work out. No matter which of the five plans is adopted, it will take time to implement it. Nothing is going to happen quickly; it is rather like trying to turn an ocean liner to go in a different direction. It's a big job and will require patience and time to sort it all out.

Below is a quote from the UM news that offers some data about the delegates to the GC2020. *"The 2020 General Conference in Minneapolis will have **862 delegates** overall, equally split between clergy and laity. That total is two fewer than the number elected to 2019. Of the 2020 delegates, 55.9% will be from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church."* Please see this link for the full article. <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/us-elections-see-shift-in-gc2020-delegates>

People are curious about the plans that are being considered. Below is a **link to a chart** that explains briefly what the plans entail. Go to this link, scroll down and you have the option to download or view the chart:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/comparing-plans-headed-to-gc2020-revised-12-2019>


As GC2020 approaches, here are my goals for St. Paul. I will be in fervent prayer that God's will be done at GC2020. I will stay informed and pass on to you any helpful information that comes my way. I will continue to hold all our members in tender prayer as we navigate these uncharted waters. Together we will implement the new service, Messy Church; we will worship God and love each other through this time of uncertainty. We will plan for the future. We will spend extra time in prayer for the UMC and for our brothers and sisters on both sides of the issue. We will remember that God is in control; he is working his plan in our lives.

Love, Pastor Debra

REFLECTIONS...



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- **Thank you** to all of the St. Paul folks who stood out in the cold on Friday, December 13, 2019 to ring bells for the Salvation Army (**Larry & Iola Ballard, Doug Pascoe, Ken Gimmy, Iris Uzzell, Anita Dawson, Jerry & Cathy Cameron, Rod & Virginia Croxford, Mike & Kathy Link, Tabatha Barclay, Maggie Funke, Vi Huebner, Randy & Mindy McLain, Randy & Joyce Brueggeman, John & Leona Hendricks, Sydney Martin, and Sean Pontow**). Your efforts raised **\$849.34** toward their goal!
- 
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Sandy (Bowling) Klopfer**, longtime friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell (daughter of our former pastor Rev. Bob Bowling at Cherry St. Baptist); the family of **Nancy (Beachum) Flatt**, friend & former colleague of Jim & Jane Herndon; the family of **Bill Mygatt (former member)**, father of Cheryl Champa; the family of **Timothy Scoggins**, brother of Tom (Tracy Crews) Scoggins; the family of **Betty Gillis**, dear friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell (former organist at Cherry St. Baptist); and the family & friends of **Attorney Randy Gori**, known by so many in the area. **May all touched by a loss know God's comfort and peace now and in the days ahead.**

THANK YOU: Thank you to all so much for your thoughtful Graduation gift after my December Graduation! I am already putting your gift to use in my room! I'm glad to be finished with college and am taking a short break to enjoy the holidays, but after that starts the job hunt! Thanks again, *Love Ben Brown*

THANK YOU: Dear St. Paul and all... I very much appreciate the Christmas gift from the congregation! The St. Paul family has been so welcoming in my first year as organist. Blessings -- *Cherilyn Trusty*

THANK YOU: Thank you so very much for your kind donation of food to the Oasis Women's Food Center on 11-9-19. Your kindness is greatly appreciated and was a real treat for our clients! *Oasis Women's Center*

free
stuff



The Board of Trustees have a set of older wooden kitchen cabinets and a wooden desk. If you are interested in these FREE items contact **Jim Herndon 618-795-6179.**



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)**



2020 NEWSLETTERS:
 Please think about the 2020 Newsletter (The Steeple). The cost to have the newsletter mailed directly to you will be **\$8.50**. 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.



ANGEL CHOIR
Calling all kids who like to sing!

ANGEL CHOIR practices on Sundays! We practice every Sunday during the 10:30 service after the SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN time. We practice as part of MORE JESUS TIME. Ages 3-8th grade are all welcome! Be sure to bring your friends! We will be singing in the 10:30 service on these Sundays:
Feb. 23, March 22,
April 5 (Palm Sunday),
and May 10 (Mother's Day)!
-Noël Schiber, Director-

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
 CLOSER TO JESUS



Sundays at St. Paul in FEBRUARY 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 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.**



2nd: Communion Both Services.
New Sermon Series: God, The Promise Keeper! Message: Beauty From Ashes! Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12
Theme: God promises to bring something beautiful from our bad experiences.



9th: Birthday Sunday. Sermon Series: God, The Promise Keeper! Message: He Gives Us Purpose! Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20
Theme: We have a purpose, to be the light and salt of the world.



16th: Sermon Series: God, The Promise Keeper! Message: He Guides Us! Scripture: Psalm 119:1-8
Theme: God gives us a clear path to his goodness.



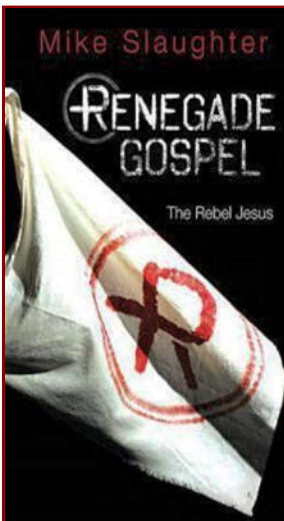
Transfiguration Sunday

23rd: Transfiguration Sunday. Sermon Series: God, The Promise Keeper! Message: He Is Faithful! Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9
Theme: Jesus brings his closest friends up to the mountain where despite their confusion, they realize that God is working through Jesus his Son.

Healthy Heart



Healthy You



Our first Bible Study of 2020 is **Renegade Gospel: The Radical Road to the Cross**, by Mike Slaughter. Jesus did not come to start a religion; he came to start a revolution. Mike Slaughter teaches a challenging message to inspire us in the New Year. **Renegade Gospel** is a 6 week, video-driven study that focuses on the words of Jesus. We will meet **Sundays at 5 p.m.** Please come for a time of learning & discussion. Sign up today! It began **Jan. 19** but you can still join in!

Dates still to come:

- February 2nd - The Most Important Question You Will Ever Have To Answer
- February 9th - (no meeting)
- February 16th - Seeing Jesus Today
- February 23rd - The Way Of The Cross
- March 1st - Resurrection



Hickerson Scholarship 2020



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: Wednesday, April 1, 2020

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



Easter Cantata

2020 EASTER CANTATA

We will be doing an Easter cantata this year! A final decision on the actual piece is in the works!

Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Practice will begin on February 19.

On Feb. 26th - Ash Wednesday - there will be a service here at the

church at 7 p.m. but no Cantata practice before or after!

There is a **sign-up sheet** for you to sign if you will please join us! You may also receive a phone call or email if you have been in the choir in the past. We hope to have a great group of singers!

The **director** will be our wonderful 8:15 a.m. Organist, **Cherilyn Trusty!** Questions? Check with the church office. Thank you!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Feb Dylan Brueggeman
- 01-Feb Phillip McCammon
- 01-Feb Erin Suermann
- 02-Feb Trenton Liedtke
- 02-Feb Teagan Plummer
- 03-Feb Amanda Bailey
- 04-Feb Reese Brueggeman
- 04-Feb David Elliott
- 04-Feb Tori Newingham
- 04-Feb Randy Roberts
- 05-Feb Rodney Adams
- 05-Feb Brooklyn Boeshans
- 06-Feb Nick Dorsey
- 07-Feb Mitch Scroggins
- 08-Feb Jane Herndon
- 08-Feb Sydnie Palmer
- 08-Feb Tom Poore
- 09-Feb James Birmingham
- 09-Feb Dillon Henderson
- 09-Feb Jaida Justice
- 09-Feb Kimberly McGilvrey
- 09-Feb Chris Stamper
- 09-Feb Madeline Wood
- 10-Feb Tony Garland
- 10-Feb Laurie Myers
- 10-Feb Jayme Scroggins
- 10-Feb Sandy Scroggins
- 12-Feb Tyler Cameron
- 13-Feb Kari Moore
- 13-Feb Kathy Nash

- 14-Feb Addyson Huddleston
- 14-Feb Mark Scroggins
- 14-Feb Amber Tappy
- 14-Feb Amy Tappy
- 14-Feb Joshua Williams
- 14-Feb Meagan Winchester
- 15-Feb Cassie Cameron
- 15-Feb Nicholas Hobbs
- 15-Feb William Laufersweiler
- 15-Feb Zane Maxwell
- 15-Feb Mike Toner
- 16-Feb Brandy Mormino
- 17-Feb Chloe Allshouse
- 17-Feb Carleen Balzraire
- 17-Feb Megan Ricketts
- 17-Feb Tyler Sims
- 17-Feb Jordyn Skjerseth
- 18-Feb Chris Greer
- 19-Feb Jackie Boeshans
- 19-Feb Nicholas Dawson
- 19-Feb Joshua Toner
- 20-Feb Joni Bunt
- 20-Feb Victoria Garrison
- 20-Feb Brian Liedtke
- 20-Feb Emerson Mayer
- 20-Feb Grady Mayer

- 21-Feb Tesla Plummer
- 21-Feb John Yunker
- 22-Feb Nicole Poston
- 23-Feb Don Roberts
- 23-Feb Eldon Wold Jr.
- 24-Feb Amber Harlan
- 24-Feb Ian Wheat
- 25-Feb Debbie Eggebrecht
- 25-Feb Nikolas Ward
- 26-Feb Noah Martin
- 26-Feb Lynda Wheat
- 27-Feb Kansas Scoggins
- 28-Feb Katelyn Garrison



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- February 04 Hamm, Pat & Karen
- February 14 Bunt, Dan & Kathy



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

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




JANUARY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 1/31/2020	\$11119.00
Designated Giving:	through 1/31/2020	\$602.20
	Capital Improvements	90.00
	Loose Change	118.70
	Steeple Postage	8.50
	Flowers	150.00
	Upper Room	6.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	60.00
	Offering Envelopes	169.00
Reimbursements		768.64
Easter Offering		200.00
Capital Campaign		300.00
Total:		\$12989.84

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

Average Attendance for JANUARY 2020

Early Service	35
Late Service	57
Sunday School	28
Visitors	3



DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2020 STEEPLE, Tuesday FEBRUARY 18th!

MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT



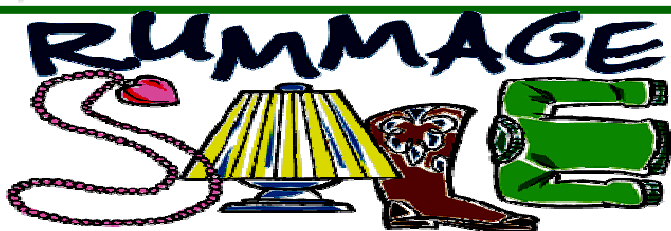
February's Loose Change Project is designated for one of our most valuable assets within our church— **the St. Paul Youth (KIND)**! These funds are to be used to help with youth activities throughout the year. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER

400 N. Central Ave. Roxana, IL

FREE FAMILY MOVIES EACH MONTH!

Saturday, February 22 @ 6 p.m.



**The 2020 Women Of Worship
Spring Rummage Sale**
will be held on
**Friday & Saturday,
March 27th & 28th**
**(with a Pre-Sale opportunity on
Thursday, March 26th).**

It is still a few weeks away but we thought that we would give you notice on the dates so you can start collecting items to bring to the church once the time gets here. When you do your Spring Cleaning in the next couple of months be on the lookout for the many things that you can donate to this annual mission fund raiser! Thank You!



**THE
WOMEN OF
WORSHIP
ARE GOING
TO OFFER
UP THEIR...**

**FAMOUS CHICKEN
AND NOODLES!**

**Sunday, February 16
At NOON**

In the Fellowship Hall

PLATE LUNCH INCLUDES:

- Chicken & Noodles-**
- Salad & Green Beans-**
- Dessert & Beverage-**

COST:

**Adults = \$9.00
Children = \$5.00
(10 and under)**



**You don't have to wait until
the Fall Festival to enjoy
this delicious meal!
Sign-up today! Bring your
family & friends &
neighbors!**

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT G4, INC.



Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33) 01-04-2008
**PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH
STRONGER IN THE WINTER**



Ash Wednesday

WORSHIP SERVICE

FEBRUARY 26th @ 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 our message is **NOW IS THE TIME** and scripture is **2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10**. We invite you to worship with us throughout the Sundays of Lent.

“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

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.

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



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.

<https://igrc-reg.brtaapp.com/igrcscholarship> **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.



A new monthly worship service is starting at St. Paul and it **begins on Saturday, February 29th.**

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. and Messy Church begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 6:45 p.m.

The theme for February is Valentine's Day: it's all about love! **Wear Red!**

This service is open to everyone. Messy Church brings families together for fun, worship, and learning about Jesus!

Activities include:

Fun Music

Bible Lesson

Crafts

Light Supper

We will need **donations of food items**; please bring them to the church by **Wednesday, February 26th:**

Hot dogs & buns,
Chips,
Valentine cookies
and/or cupcakes,
Lemonade drink mix





SOMETIMES GOD WILL PUT A GOLIATH IN YOUR LIFE, FOR YOU TO FIND THE DAVID WITHIN YOU.

TOBYMAC #SPEAKLIFE

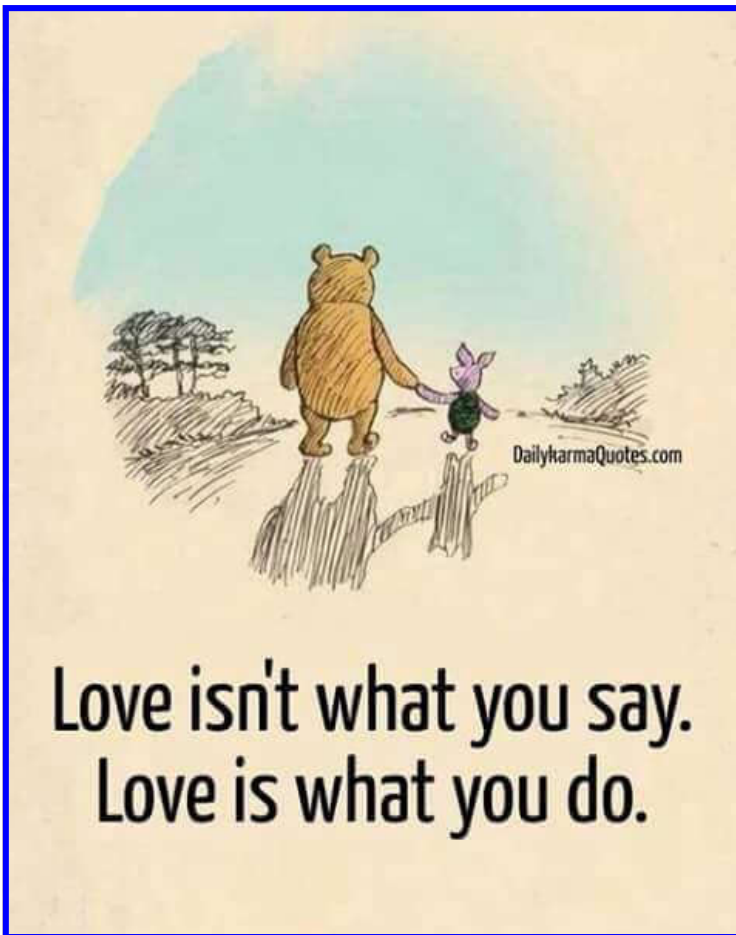


**PECANS!
PECANS!
PECANS!**

Are still available in the office throughout the week! The cost is: **\$11.00** for the 1lb. bag of plain

The pecans are being sold as a Fundraiser for the Women of Worship missions.

Rachel Schiber's first hockey game of 2020! Go Rachel!



Love isn't what you say.
Love is what you do.

DailyHarmaQuotes.com



2020 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

➔ RESULTS OF STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!

Thank you to all who have sent in their Estimate of Giving cards this week! As of Sunday, Jan. 26th through Thursday, Jan. 30th's mail we have received cards from **31** individuals, couples, and families. To-date the Estimate of Giving for 2020 is **\$80,060**. Please continue to bring or mail in your cards!



✧ ATTENTION ✧ ANYONE WHO HAS SIGNED UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS OR WHO IS THINKING ABOUT DOING SO:

After receiving feedback on the "altar flower" dilemma, a decision has been made on how the altar flowers will be handled from February on through the year (or at least on how we are going to try to handle them).

We have stopped any arrangement with Dick's Flowers for them to bring fresh flowers. The **WOW** craft ladies will instead create bouquets to go where the altar flowers have been going and will change them every month or so.

In exchange for you choosing to host a particular Sunday's flowers we ask **\$10** be paid toward the ALTAR FLOWERS the same way you were paying \$25 for them. This will help offset the cost of the materials that the crafters buy to create the bouquets.

➔ ➔ Should you also want to put a fresh flower arrangement on the altar it is up to you and you are welcomed to pick one out at the florist of your choice, buy it, and put it on the altar either on Friday before the office closes or bring it before the service begins on your scheduled Sunday and place it then. Be sure to take it home with you after the service.

We hope that this is all ok with you as we move forward. Obviously it is a work in progress and we will see how this goes as the year progresses. Thank you for your patience and helpfulness as we work thru this very unexpected situation.

You have been so wonderful this year at filling in the flower chart and we hope to see the rest of the chart completed soon.

Have a great day!





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

The KIND youth are currently meeting on the 1st three Sundays of the month, immediately following service until 1 p.m. We are currently going through a Sticky Faith curriculum called “Can I Ask That?” We are dealing with challenging questions that young people face that might cause them to question what they thought they knew about faith. We serve lunch and dive into a group discussion, and usually participate in an exciting activity which ties into our lesson. All middle and high school students are invited to attend!

On March 6th, we will be hosting a lock-in from 8 p.m.-8 a.m. Our lock-in theme will be “Facing Giants” where we will participate in our own escape room (The Quest for Goliath’s Sword), exciting games, delicious snacks, small group discussion, and we will conclude with worship. Youth are invited to attend and bring a friend! Please let Lauren know if you’ll be attending! Call her at 660-7967.

And we are once again selling t-shirts! You can go online to the Awakening OR St. Paul UMC Facebook pages to order or go to this link.

<https://www.bonfire.com/st-paul-youth-2020/>

The t-shirts are black and cost anywhere from \$22 to \$25 depending on the size chosen. Get yours today!

We love you, church!
In God’s Love and Kindness,
Lauren Cranmer - Youth Director





Mission Possible

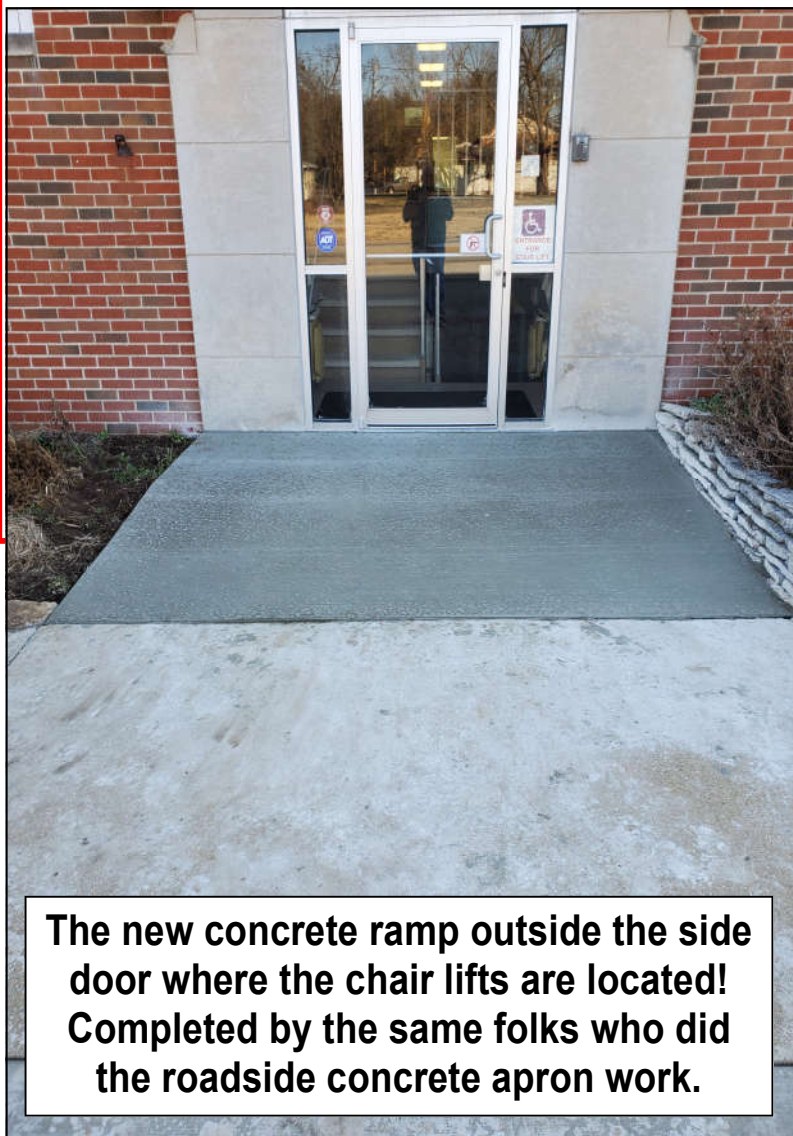
☺ → MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE ← ☺

As we move past 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 to the Endowment Fund. 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.

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



The new concrete ramp outside the side door where the chair lifts are located! Completed by the same folks who did the roadside concrete apron work.

*You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So...get on your way!*

-Dr. Seuss