



# The Steeple

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

JUNE 2020



Dearest Family,

**I greet you in the strong Name of Jesus Christ!**

I am extremely excited to report that according to the most recent information given by Bishop Beard, we are able to hold services outdoors here at St. Paul again. The occupancy limit has been lifted for outdoor events/services, from a maximum of 10 people to as many as can safely meet. For everybody's safety, we will still have to maintain social distance requirements and we will have to wear masks. Since most of our outdoor attendees already sit in family groups, that should not be a problem.

Our present goal is to **begin outdoor services on Sunday, June 21st at 8:45 or 9:00 a.m.** Please note, my goals and God's plans often do not coincide with one another. The way information has been changing at the last moment has left us all a little unsettled. This date could change, but I want to offer that date to all my prayer warriors so that we can be praying that God makes a way for us to meet safely starting on that date.

**I foresee us continuing into September with outdoor services**, rather than stopping at Labor Day. When we do begin to hold services indoors again, we have many more issues to ponder. Worshiping indoors brings with it many more potential areas of risk because of the enclosed space, proximity to other people, and frequently touched surfaces. We will take this process one step at a time. By the grace of God, we will be meeting again in our beautiful sanctuary.

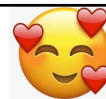
Why not start meeting right now? We have several concerns that we must address for everyone's safety and peace of mind before we can begin to meet again outdoors. We want to meet in such a way that our set-up crew feels safe and protected. We need to figure out how to offer communion safely. The small hymnals will not be used because of the potential for passing the virus. How will we collect the offering without passing a plate? What about bathroom usage? Do we have special close-by parking for those who don't want to get out of their cars? Can we safely have congregational prayers and singing if we are wearing masks? Do we offer some form of written bulletin with announcements? If rain threatens, we will have to cancel the service for that day. These issues and more are being discussed by our church leaders. As you can see, there are many things to think about before we begin meeting again. I am confident that we will find a way for us all to meet again in safety.

As you ponder some of the issues being discussed, you may have some thoughts that we are not considering. If you have questions or ideas you would like us to think about, please send an email to the church and we will welcome your thoughts as we go forward. **Church Email: [info@stpaulwired.org](mailto:info@stpaulwired.org) or call the Church Phone: 618-259-5210.**

Even with all the safety measures we are taking, some people will not feel comfortable meeting for worship. For those especially vulnerable people who just don't feel safe, please stay home. If going out is just too risky for your health situation, do not feel badly about remaining in quarantine. We are planning to continue our on-line services. We hope to begin to record our services live, but presently we don't have the ability to do that. In recent weeks I have been sending a brief letter and a copy of my message manuscript to our friends and members who do not have access to the Internet.

**"REFLECTIONS" Continued on Page 5**

REFLECTIONS...



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Ruth Perrin**, sister-in-law of Ruth 'Perrin' Harris, and friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; the family of **John Holland**, twin brother of Joan Ford; and the family of **Pastor Charles West**, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Bethalto, known by many in our church family. **May all who are touched by a loss know God's comfort and peace now and in the days ahead.**



**Robert E. Hinkle, Sr.** 90, passed away at 6:48 a.m. Saturday, May 16, 2020 at his home. Born May 10, 1930 in Mason, IL, he was a son of Chester & Mabel (Scruggs) Hinkle.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Bob served in the 82nd Airborne Division. He worked as a station superintendent for Shell Oil. One of his favorite things to do was hunt for mushrooms.

He married Ella Marie Ray Dec. 18, 1951. She preceded him in death. He later married Evelyn (Tubbs) Ford. She survives.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Bob (JoAnn) Hinkle, Jr. of Dorsey, IL, and Steve (Jenifer) Hinkle of Rosewood Heights, IL; a daughter, Linda Henderson of Lima, OH; a step-daughter, Sharon (Randy) Duncan of Moro, IL; six grandchildren, Johnna, Joseph, Kaleb, Katie, Kerri, and William; two brothers, Ted (Rosalie) Hinkle of Teutopolis, IL, and Jim (Susan) Hinkle of New Baden, IL; and a sister-in-law, Betty Findley of Tahlequah, OK.

In addition to his first wife, he was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Mark Hinkle; five sisters, Evelyn, Eileen, Virginia, Ava Nell, and Betty; and four brothers, Arthur, Milton, John; and an infant brother, Adrian.

We have so missed Bob since he has been unable to come to church. Please keep Evelyn and the family in your prayers.



**Lisa K. Bell** 68, formerly of Wood River, unexpectedly passed away at 3:18 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2020, in the emergency room at Alton Memorial Hospital.

She was born on October 4, 1951, in Wood River, the daughter of the late Jack & Janet (Childers) Williams. She married Paul "Mike" Bell on June 25, 1974, in Edwardsville, and he preceded her in death on May 15, 2014.

Survivors include a daughter and son in law: Heather & Brock Hendricks of Alton, a son and daughter in law: Corey & Melissa Bell of Godfrey, six grandchildren: Jaxson Hendricks, Carter Hendricks, Brody Hendricks, Jayden Bell, Kamryn Bell, Lawson Bell, a sister and brother in law: Laurie & Stan Griffin of Waterloo, IN, and many nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

Lisa was formerly employed at Mercy Hospital as a medical assistant and retired from Mercy Heart Hospital. Lisa loved spending time with her grandkids. She loved to garden and work with flowers. She liked to watch the Food Network Channel and HGTV.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by a brother: Randy "RB" Williams.

This is a huge shock and Lisa will be greatly missed by her church family at St. Paul UMC. Please remember to keep her family in your prayers.



Our Annual Conference has been moved from the beginning of June to **August 15, 2020**. It will be held online.



**Congratulations to our two recipients of the 2020 Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship!**  
The scholarships go to **Malynn Hannaford** of Civic Memorial High School and **McLain Oertle** of Edwardsville High School!

## ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

**June 7:** Sponsored by **Vicki Graham** in memory of **Robert & Ilene Harris**.

**June 14:** Sponsored by **Tom & Ruth Voorhees** in celebration of their 70th Wedding Anniversary!

**June 21:** Sponsored by **The Herndon Family** in memory of **Sam Herndon**.

**June 28:** Sponsored by **Larry & Iola Ballard** in honor of their family!

**July 5:** Sponsored by **Tracy Franks** in memory of **Doloros Taulbee** for her Birthday.

**Thank you! And remember to pay your \$10 sponsorships as the dates come around!**

## → VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

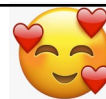
After a lot prayer and consideration, and after many conversations with my family and Pastor Debra, we've decided to cancel Vacation Bible School for this year. It is for the safety of our children and our volunteers that this decision was made.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and energy to teach our children about faith, fun, and setting Godly goals.

Please know I am counting on all of you to help us have a very successful, powerful VBS in 2021. *"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power" Ephesians 6:10*

**-VBS Director, Jamie Gwaltney-**





## Sunday Services at St. Paul in JUNE

**INFORMATION:** *Currently we are unable to meet in-person for our usual services at the usual times. But we are able to bring the message each Sunday to you on the Facebook Pages and the Website until we can meet in-person again. The Facebook Pages are: St. Paul United Methodist - East Alton, IL and AwakeningWorshipSTPUMC*

*The Website is: [www.stpaulwired.org](http://www.stpaulwired.org) - look under **Sermons** for the link.*

**7th:** Communion. Trinity Sunday. SERMON SERIES...GENESIS! Message: *In The Beginning!* Scripture: *Genesis 1:1-2:4a*. Theme: God's voice creates and invites us to create.



**14th:** GENESIS! Message: *God's Timing!* Scripture: *Genesis 18:1-15*. Theme: God's timing may not be our timing, but it is always perfect.



**21st:** MAY BE THE FIRST SUNDAY OUTSIDE!! (8:45 or 9:00 a.m.)  
Father's Day. GENESIS! Message: *Promise Out Of Pain!* Scripture: *Genesis 21:8-21*. Theme: God can use our bad decisions for good.



**28th:** GENESIS! Message: *God Provides!* Scripture: *Genesis 22:1-14*. Theme: God will give us what we need, not always what we want.

**July 5th:** Communion. Commemorating 4th of July. GENESIS! Message: *Designing Love!* Scripture: *Genesis 24:34-38, 42-44*. Theme: God brings people together for life long relationships.



**WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES  
ON SUNDAYS IN THE  
CHURCH AMPHITHEATER AT  
8:45 or 9:00 a.m.**

**WE HOPE TO BEGIN ON JUNE 21st AND GO  
THROUGH MOST/ALL OF SEPTEMBER OUTSIDE**  
(In case of extreme weather the service will have to be  
cancelled. Please watch for more information as things can  
change daily!)

**"REFLECTIONS" continued from Page 1**

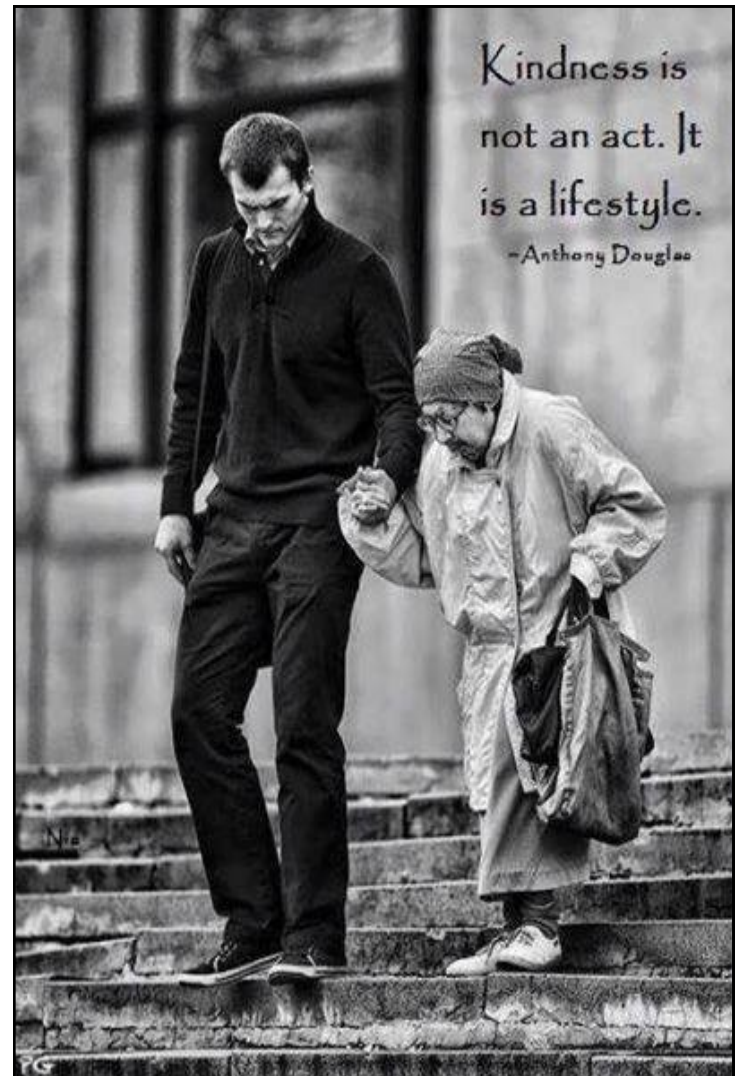
If you know of someone who would appreciate the weekly message and letter, it would be our pleasure to add their name to our list. They do not need to be a member of St. Paul UMC. My goal is to help us stay as connected as we are able right now. I will close this letter with a prayer:

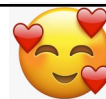
**Gracious Lord,**

We bow before your power and your grace. You have created all that the world contains; it is yours and it is under your power. Be with all our congregations as we begin to take steps to worship together. We pray for wise counsel, humility, and acceptance of the many changes we will see as we begin to gather again.

Comfort our most vulnerable members so that they will feel your loving presence during this time of seclusion. Be with those who are facing depression; some who face it during good times are truly struggling right now. We pray especially for our loved ones in care centers; they are frightened and lonely. Remind them of how much you love and value them. During all this difficulty, sadness, and stress, help us to hear your voice; help us to learn whatever it is you are trying to teach us. You are in control of it all and we look to you for hope and consolation. Amen.

**May God bless and protect you  
and your loved ones,  
Pastor Debra & Joe**





## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Jun Jansen Helmkamp  
 01-Jun Eric Scroggins  
 02-Jun Sarah Campbell  
 03-Jun Sarah Dawson  
 03-Jun Patsy Goss  
 04-Jun Jon Birmingham  
 04-Jun Katie Lair  
 04-Jun Karen Roberts  
 04-Jun Jonathan Scroggins  
 05-Jun Jennifer Sandbach  
 06-Jun Donna Bailey  
 06-Jun Ruth Champlin  
 06-Jun Scott Cruthis  
 06-Jun Don Franklin  
 07-Jun Joyce Brueggeman  
 07-Jun Pastor Debra Hoertel  
 08-Jun Vi Huebner  
 09-Jun Jimmy Bourne  
 09-Jun J.J. Burt Jr.  
 09-Jun Jacob Gwaltney  
 09-Jun Tori Standefer  
 10-Jun Aubrey Sandbach  
 10-Jun Olivia Virgin  
 11-Jun Gary Hart  
 11-Jun Lindsey Jensen

12-Jun Debbie Bowman  
 12-Jun Cheryl Champa  
 12-Jun Deb Fansler  
 14-Jun Harper Herndon  
 14-Jun Dave Schiber  
 15-Jun Autumn Betts  
 15-Jun Ashley Sheppard  
 16-Jun Trista Liedtke  
 17-Jun Brianne Bourne  
 17-Jun Jenny Spurgeon  
 18-Jun Nicole Barnes  
 18-Jun Madelynn Cranmer  
 18-Jun Samantha Hermens  
 18-Jun August Suermann  
 18-Jun Xavier Vore  
 18-Jun Zoe Vore  
 19-Jun Dustin Caldwell  
 19-Jun Sydnie Yates  
 20-Jun Karen Martin  
 20-Jun Annie Redden

20-Jun Amie Tillery  
 20-Jun Abigail White  
 21-Jun Lawson Bell  
 22-Jun Ethan Virgin  
 23-Jun Wanda Graves  
 23-Jun John White  
 24-Jun Lynn Evans  
 25-Jun Caden Clark  
 25-Jun Summer Standefer  
 25-Jun Steve Voorhees  
 27-Jun Jamie McLain  
 27-Jun Kaden Sandbach  
 28-Jun Deb Link  
 30-Jun William Lair  
 30-Jun Sharon Szegedy  
 30-Jun Jeri Williams



## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



07-Jun J.J. & Jackie Beth Burt  
 07-Jun John & Laurie Myers  
 08-Jun Brian & Chris Eyster  
 08-Jun Joe & Sherry Huff  
 09-Jun Terry & Sharon Inman  
 10-Jun Cory & Jackie Boeshans  
 10-Jun Richard & Vi Huebner  
 11-Jun Randy & Joyce Brueggeman  
 11-Jun Rick & Jeannie Huddleston  
 14-Jun Steve & Julie Natsch

16-Jun Don & Kay Gwaltney  
 17-Jun Jay & Tracy Bentley  
 20-Jun Neil & Jade Herndon  
 22-Jun Larry & Cheryl Champa  
 24-Jun Larry & Lola Ballard  
 24-Jun Herrell & Bettie Lewis  
 25-Jun Matt & Cara Gwaltney  
 26-Jun Richard & Dell Demond  
 26-Jun Mike & Teresa Toner  
 28-Jun Matt & Kristen Toner

### It is time to **UPDATE** our Church Directory for 2020-2021!

The church office will be updating the Church Directory for 2020-2021! Please contact the church office if you have had a **change of address, phone number, or email address since the last printing!** The 2020-2021 Church Directory will be completed as soon as possible after we get back to coming to church again! Thank you!





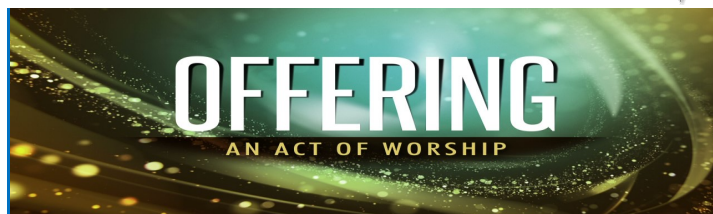
## MAY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 5/31/2020	\$14363.00
Designated Giving:	through 5/31/2020	\$658.00
	Capital Improvements	170.00
	Loose Change	40.00
	Flowers	45.00
	Upper Room	8.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	0.00
	Helping Hands	300.00
	Memorials	45.00
	UMCOR	50.00
Online Giving		1650.00
Easter Offering		275.00
Capital Campaign		480.00
Total:		\$17426.00

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

Organizers have confirmed that the next General Conference will now be on Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 2021, in Minneapolis, despite pleas that the decision-making body not meet at the start of the academic year. The organizers are still looking for ways to ensure delegates, even if they can't meet in person, can participate online in what many expect to be a historic legislative meeting. Keep this meeting ever in your prayers!

**DEADLINE FOR**  
**JULY 2020**  
**STEEPLE,**  
**Monday,**  
**JUNE 22nd!**



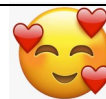
Just a quick reminder... during this time when our in-person services and activities are on hold, please know that our bills are not. *If you are able to send your tithes / offerings, you can send it through the US Mail, through Bill Pay with your bank, through our website Online Giving, and by handing it to us at the door to the building. If you plan to bring it by here, please, call first to make sure we're here. Thank you so much!*



## MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

### June's Loose Change

Project is the Happy Bear Project for our church. Members of the church make bears that are given to Alton Memorial Hospital. These are then offered to children in pediatrics and/or coming through the emergency room in time of crisis. The bears provide security and comfort for the children. May God bless your gifts!



## IN MEMORIAM

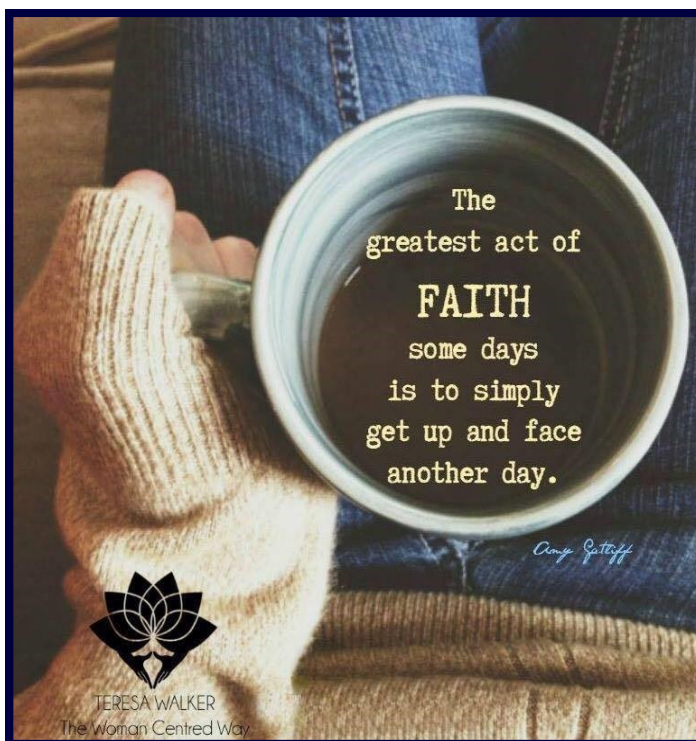
On Memorial Sunday, May 24th, we celebrated the lives of those from our church family who have joined the church triumphant since our last Memorial Sunday service. We miss you but rejoice that today you are in the presence of our Lord: **Gloria Basden, Jake Cathorall, Robert Hinkle Sr., Norma Stice, and Charley Woodward.**

We also dedicated our memorials completed during that time:

Monies given to the Church Bell Project - in Memory of **Ben Moore and Marcella Gimmy**; Monies given for Security Cameras - in Memory of **Janet Williams**; Monies given for Memorial Bricks - in Memory of **Jake Cathorall and Sue Cloninger**; and Some or All Monies Transferred or Designated to the Capital Fund Campaign - in Memory of **Chuck Toner and Janet Williams.**

***Joyce Brueggeman, Memorial Committee Chair***

MY HELP  
COMES FROM  
THE LORD,  
WHO MADE  
HEAVEN AND  
EARTH.  
PSALMS 121:2



TERESA WALKER  
The Woman Centred Way





## THE TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2020

1. The Bible will still have the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

Pray, then let it go.  
Don't try and manipulate  
or force the outcome. Just  
trust God to open the right  
doors at the right time.  
Amen



Current month  
info is posted in  
this newsletter.  
There still are  
openings in the  
months of:

### NOV. AND DEC.

This is a great ministry to  
honor or remember someone or  
a special day. Please, help  
finish filling in the chart!

Just call the church office  
(259-5310) or send an email to  
([info@stpaulwired.org](mailto:info@stpaulwired.org)) if you  
are interested The cost to  
sponsor flowers is only **\$10.**

Thank you!

When people saw a barren  
woman in Sarah, **God saw the  
mother of all nations.**



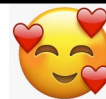
When people saw a poor young  
shepherd in David,  
**God saw a mighty King of Israel.**



When people saw a poor  
prisoner in Joseph, **God saw a  
powerful Minister of Egypt.**



So never mind what people see in you.  
**God has a perfect plan for your life.**



## Calling All Graduates!

Normally we would pass the clipboard around in the midst of the congregation for 2 or 3 weeks and have you sign up your graduates; but we cannot do that right now. So we are asking you to please let us know ASAP if there is an 8th grade or a High School or a College (any degree post High School) student in your life. We want to continue our practice of acknowledging their accomplishments and to offer a Graduate gift we hope will be appreciated and helpful. (Either the student or the parents should be members or active participants @ St. Paul to be included.)



You may let us know by sending an email to: [info@stpaulwired.org](mailto:info@stpaulwired.org) OR calling the church office: **259-5210!**

Thank you so much for your help!

TRUST IN THE LORD  
WITH ALL YOUR HEART  
AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR  
OWN UNDERSTANDING;

PROVERBS 3:5





So whenever something  
arises in your life that may  
challenge your stand in  
Christ, just know that God  
is Greater than THAT TOO

You will never speak  
to anyone more than  
you speak to yourself  
in your head, be kind  
to yourself.



In This House  
We do second chances  
We do grace  
We do mistakes  
We do real  
We do I'm sorry's  
We do loud really well  
We do hugs  
We do love  
*We do Family*

In this  
WORLD  
you will have trouble  
BUT  
**TAKE HEART**  
I have  
**OVERCOME**  
THE WORLD  
JOHN 16:33

HAVING TO DEPEND  
SOLELY ON GOD IS  
WHAT WE ALL DREAD  
MOST. AND OF COURSE  
THAT JUST SHOWS HOW  
VERY MUCH, HOW  
ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY,  
WE HAVE BEEN  
DEPENDING ON  
THINGS.  
C.S. LEWIS

Behold,  
I make  
all things  
*new.*

Revelation 21:5



*Blessed* is the one who  
perseveres and does the hard things.

Tough times never last  
but those who

*hang tight to God*  
always do.