



The Steeple



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

JULY 2021

REFLECTIONS...

***"If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget
its skill." (Psalm 137:5 NIV)***

This line was written by a Hebrew in exile as he dreamed about his beloved homeland. Today, an American might express the same sentiment in this way, "If I ever forget you, United States of America, may my right hand become useless." The love of homeland is powerful; it is just as important for us today, as it was for the writer of this Psalm. **In July, we celebrate the birthday of our nation.** We remember the daunting struggles that brought us to where we are today from the Revolutionary War to our present struggle for racial equality. We are a people who have known trouble and sorrow.

Yet to be born into this nation is a great blessing. We are a people who encourage our citizens to work hard to make their lives better. Yes, we have people who are struggling with food insecurity, homelessness, and poor health, but we have resources and programs to assist those who are living in poverty. We are not a perfect people, we are a divided people over many issues, but I do not think many of us would relinquish our citizenship to live in another country.

It was two years ago that Joe and I travelled with 16 other people to go to Honduras. I am still haunted by some of the images. I remember the muddy rutted roads, the hungry children, the lack of adequate health care. The troubles plaguing the people of Honduras are not of their own making. They are a warm, loving, hard-working, and resilient people. They, too, love their homeland, but many do not have hope of a bright future. Many of them are looking to the north for help and hope.

They want to come to the United States; it might sound cheesy, but truly, they do look to us as a beacon of hope. I am not wanting to begin an argument about illegal immigration; I think immigrants should enter the country legally. Ask yourself this question, how desperate would you have to be to walk away from your home, your family, and your community and travel surrounded by danger and uncertainty on the chance that you might be able to live in a better place? In fact, there are instances in which a parent who is too ill to make the journey north sends their 10-year-old child to travel alone because the prospects of life are so extremely dim in Honduras. That child's chances of surviving and making it to the U.S. are better than remaining in Honduras. These are not negligent parents; they are desperate and without hope. They are the "Dreamers."

During this month of celebrating liberty and justice, let's not forget what God has done for us in this nation. Let's remember that we are blessed beyond measure and praise God for his goodness. Happy Fourth of July!

**Love to all,
Pastor Debra**





OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- We are delighted to welcome **August Grey Campbell** into the world! He arrived on June 25, 2021 weighing 8lbs 7oz. He is the son of Luke & Mallory Campbell. His grandparents are Steve & Sarah Campbell and his great-grandmothers are Elinor Blacklock and Betty Campbell! Congratulations and God's Blessings to everyone!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the families and friends of **Nancy Sue (Sidwell) Crockett, (Pensacola, FL)** sister/sister-in-law of Jane (Jim) Herndon; **Shirley Waide (91)**, mother of Jaris Waide and long time friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Dorothy Wiegand (85)**, mother/mother-in-law of David (Barbara "Blacklock") Wiegand; and **Toni Fagan (79)**, sister-in-law of Jim (Maggie) Funke. **May all who are touched by loss know God's peace now and in the days ahead.**
- **THANK YOU!** Thank you to all of the children and the VBS volunteers/helpers who gave to the 2021 VBS Offering! The amount added up to **\$226** which will now be given to the work and ministry at the Community Hope Center! Your gifts are so appreciated!
-**Outreach Ministry Team**
- **THANK YOU!** Thank you Church for the Love Gift of **\$410** you gave to Darla McFadden and her ministry in response to her visit on June 27th. -**Worship Ministry Team**
- **THANK YOU!** Thank you to **Jamie Gwaltney** for her many, many years as our VBS Director! You and your crew are amazing!



Wesley Sunday School Class

meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor!

Adult Bible Study Sunday School Class

meets at 9:15 a.m. in our classroom on the main hallway!

ONGOING BIBLE STUDY *(moved to in-person)*

PLEASE JOIN US!

We continue to meet for **Bible Study which has moved to IN-PERSON.**

There are no books to buy, no videos to watch. The lessons are based on the current sermon series. **Every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the Parlor** we will read and discuss scripture together. If you are interested, please, message me on FB or email me so I know you are coming! I hope you will try out this fun learning experience.

Join us
for
Bible
Study



Pastor Debra



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

Greetings in Christ's Love & Kindness!

This summer is shaping up to be one of the best summers our youth have ever experienced! We will soon be getting deep into the heart of summer and we still have so much fun to get through! **The youth will continue meeting throughout the summer ONLY on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm at EAFUMC** (with the exception of June 30 when we met from 7:30-9:30pm for campfire devotions and flashlight tag) until school begins again. Then we will add back in the Sunday gathering.

In **August** we will be having a week-long youth camp. Mark your calendars! The dates are **August 2-6** and the time is **from 3-9pm**. We will be having **"Camp 4:13-a camp focusing on doing all things through Christ."** We will have daily themes, worship, small group discussions, The Evening Show (featuring some of your favorite fun-spirited adults!), games, food, and each night will end with reflection around the campfire before we dismiss.

Don't miss this opportunity for your youth to grow closer with God and with others in fellowship. Even if they haven't been able to attend a youth function - we invite them to try this ministry out.

So, how can you help? Please pray for the youth! But other than your prayers, we could use volunteers each night to help in the kitchen, start the fire, spiritual guides that are willing to sit in on a group or lead a group, donations of s'more items or monetary donations to put toward dinner for the youth.

Youth camp week will end with a lock-in on August 6th that ends at 8am the next morning (8/7) and Youth Sunday on Sunday, August 8 during the 10:30am service. Church, we ask that you join us to celebrate and worship with these youth, hear them share their testimonies, and be a part of the service!

Thank you for your continued love and support! If you have any questions or want to help, please contact Lauren at 618-660-7967 or laurenfrieese20@gmail.com. Love you all!

In Christ's Love & Kindness, Lauren Frieese - Youth Director



Important account information for St. Paul United Methodist Church:

Dear St. Paul UMC,

The eScrip program for Schnucks customers concluded on June 30, 2021. Participants of the eScrip program who shop at Schnucks continued to earn money for their designated charities through that date.

Schnucks has announced the launch of the new "Donate Your Rewards" program, which allows Rewards customers to select a nonprofit organization from a short, preselected list, based on the customer's home Schnucks store. Schnucks Rewards points earned will then be donated to the selected nonprofit organization as a monetary donation.

Customers with questions can call our Customer Care team at 314-994-4400 or online at [Schnucks.com/Contact Us](https://www.schnucks.com/ContactUs).



St. Paul Sunday Services in **JULY** 8:45 & 10:30 a.m.

We meet in-person each Sunday. The **8:45** Traditional Service meets in the **Amphitheater** and the **10:30** Awakening Service meets in the **Sanctuary!** **Communion** is served at every Awakening Service and **on the first Sunday** at 8:45! The online service continues for those who cannot join us in-person. The Facebook Pages are: [St.PaulUnitedMethodist-East Alton,IL](#) and [AwakeningWorshipSTPUMC](#). The Website is: www.stpaulwired.org - look under **Sermons** for the link.



Geared Up for Life

WORSHIP SERIES



4th: Happy Birthday America!
Independence Day!

Communion Served at Both Services.

SERMON SERIES: Geared Up For Life

Message: **Bones And Flesh**

Scripture: *2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10*

11th:

SERMON SERIES: Geared Up For Life

Message: **Setting Our Hope**

Scripture: *Ephesians 1:3-14*

18th: **SERMON SERIES: Geared Up For Life**

Message: **He Is Our Peace** Scripture: *Ephesians 2:11-22*

25th: **SERMON SERIES: Geared Up For Life**

Message: **Rooted And Grounded** Scripture: *Ephesians 3:14-21*



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

GOES THROUGH ALL OF SEPTEMBER OUTSIDE!

(In case of extreme weather the service will be moved into the Sanctuary. The 10:30 service will continue to be in the Sanctuary.)



ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

- July 4:** Sponsored by **Larry & Iola Ballard** in celebration of **their 60th Wedding Anniversary!**
- July 13:** Sponsored by **Tom & Ruth Voorhees** in celebration of **their 71st Wedding Anniversary!**
- July 20:** Sponsored by **Sue Carr** in memory of **her mom, Alice Burrows, who would be 99 on her birthday, July 27th.**
- July 27:** Sponsored by **Joan Ford** in memory of **her husband, Phill Ford.**

➔ **Thank you!** Please remember to pay your **\$10 sponsorships!**



In exchange for you choosing to sponsor a particular Sunday's flowers we ask that you only pay **\$10** toward the ALTAR FLOWERS. This will help offset the cost of the materials that the crafters buy to create the bouquets. **Please, continue to sign up for the 2021 Altar Flowers.** **HOW?** Just call the church office (259-5210) to check on a date or sign-up when you are here on Sundays!!
Thank you!

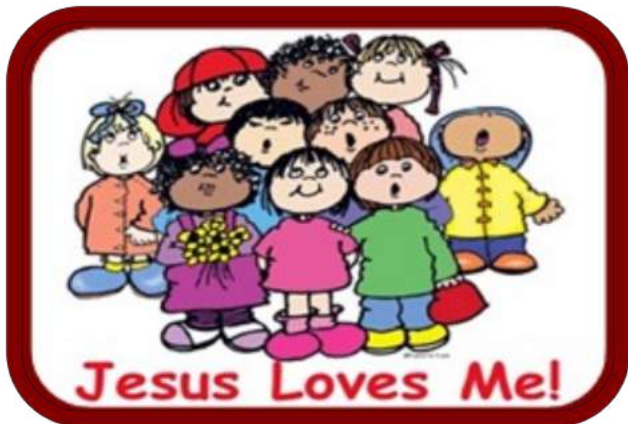
2021 STEWARDSHIP

➔ **REMEMBER YOUR GIVING!**



...to keep the ministry of St. Paul UMC growing; a ministry which is needed now more than ever! Thank you!!

BATTLES ARE WON LIKE THIS. TRUST IN THE LORD!





JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Jul Layne Chester
- 01-Jul Marjorie Cranmer
- 01-Jul Terry Poston
- 02-Jul Mark Bacus
- 02-Jul Steve Campbell
- 02-Jul Maggie Funke
- 02-Jul Taylor Rich
- 04-Jul Terri Fincher
- 04-Jul Brynleigh Mormino
- 04-Jul Peyton Mormino
- 05-Jul Colton Bourne
- 05-Jul Zoe Hart
- 06-Jul Phil Acton
- 06-Jul Jordan Brown
- 06-Jul Luke Campbell
- 06-Jul Jim Hickerson
- 07-Jul Alex Ford
- 08-Jul Nate Ford
- 08-Jul Carol Russell
- 08-Jul Stella Sims
- 09-Jul Deb Mayer
- 09-Jul Carol Stamper
- 10-Jul Drew Standefer
- 10-Jul Ella Toner
- 10-Jul Emma Toner
- 11-Jul Clayton Bartony
- 11-Jul Chancey Sims
- 12-Jul Matthew Hamlin

- 12-Jul Herrell Lewis
- 14-Jul Carter Hendricks
- 15-Jul Emma Harper
- 15-Jul Jaymie Voorhees
- 17-Jul Donna Redden
- 18-Jul Alysia Bailey
- 18-Jul Sarah Griffin
- 19-Jul Cathy Cameron
- 21-Jul Connie Martin
- 21-Jul Robin Uzzell
- 22-Jul Chris Challandes
- 22-Jul Cory Crandall
- 22-Jul Dell Demond
- 22-Jul Daniel Emerick
- 22-Jul Evan Spurgeon
- 23-Jul Kynlee Bunt
- 23-Jul Diane Ford
- 23-Jul Donovan Hale
- 24-Jul Kathy Bunt
- 24-Jul Chris Cameron
- 24-Jul Anna McLain
- 24-Jul Tony Wood

- 26-Jul Kathy Crews
- 27-Jul Joy Kissack
- 27-Jul Giuliana Sims
- 28-Jul Caleb Betts
- 28-Jul Ashlyn Birmingham
- 28-Jul Marie Brown
- 28-Jul Addison Lusicic
- 28-Jul Maddox Parker
- 28-Jul Adam Phelps
- 28-Jul Kristen Toner
- 29-Jul Randy McLain
- 30-Jul Tim Plummer
- 31-Jul Lindsey Williams



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01-Jul Matt & Christina Johnson
- 05-Jul Don & Vivian Sands-Franklin
- 06-Jul Glenn & Paula Hubbard
- 07-Jul Tom & Ruth Voorhees
- 08-Jul Paul & Gerry Ward
- 09-Jul Greg & Kathy Crews
- 09-Jul Paul & Brandy Mormino

- 13-Jul Josh & Amy Gowan
- 15-Jul Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon
- 22-Jul Robert & Gina Brown
- 23-Jul Rick & Amy Helmkamp
- 31-Jul Mike & Kathy Link



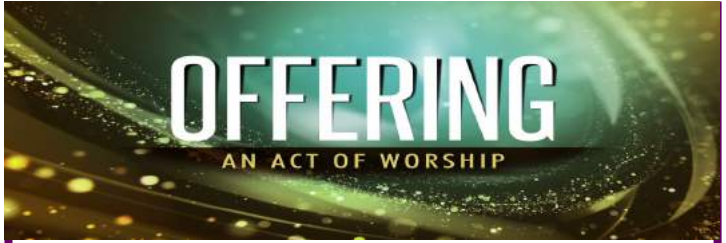
Information to update the Church Directory!

Please contact the church office if you (OR A FAMILY MEMBER) have had a **change of address, phone number, or email address since the last printing!** A NEW Church Directory will not be ready until sometime during 2021! Thank you for your patience and for your help!



JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 6/30/2021	\$11631.00
Designated Giving:	through 6/30/2021	\$458.00
	Capital Improvements	180.00
	Loose Change	89.00
	Flowers	50.00
	Women of Worship	10.00
	KIND Youth	25.00
	Upper Room Devotional	4.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	100.00
Darla McFadden-Love Gift		410.00
VBS Offering for the	Community Hope Center	226.00
Online Giving		375.00
Capital Campaign		530.00
Total:		\$13630.00



An important reminder...
 at this time when we are now holding our services in-person again, there are ways to send your tithes & offerings if you cannot be here. You can send through the **US Mail**, through **Bill Pay** with your bank, through our website's **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 know you are on the way.
Thank you so much!

**DEADLINE FOR
 AUGUST 2021
 STEEPLE,
 Monday,
 JULY 19th!**

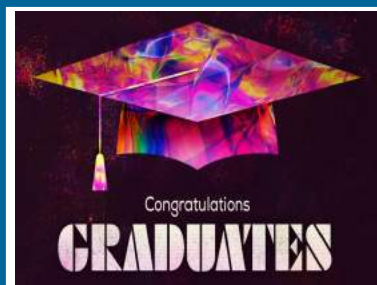
GENERAL CONFERENCE

General & Jurisdictional Conference updates:
 Recently the General Commission on General Conference announced that it was, once again, postponing General Conference. The global gathering is now scheduled to meet in-person on **Aug. 29-Sept. 6, 2022**, in Minneapolis, MN.
Keep this 2022 meeting in your prayers!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

JULY's Loose Change Project is the **Lessie Bates Neighborhood House in East St. Louis**. The Methodist Church established this center to minister to the Croatsians early in the last century. Since then the Neighborhood House has ministered to the waves of immigrants and poor in East St. Louis. It is one of the few remaining institutions in East St. Louis offering social and health services. May God bless & multiply your gifts!



2021 Graduates

These are our Graduates. Please let us know of any we missed or got wrong. **Congratulations!!**

8th Grade:

- Annabelle Chester,
- Elaina Gowan,
- Lucas Hartman,
- Avery Huddleston,
- Jaida Justice,
- Eve Kasinger,
- Kaden Sandbach,
- Jonathan Scroggins,
- Richard Skiff,
- Cecilia Suermann,
- Audrey White,
- Madeline Wood

High School:

- Madelyn Adams,
- Lizzie Dawson,
- Lauryn Decker,
- Autumn Franks,
- Logan Scroggins,
- Grace Skiff

College:

- Carolyn Campbell,
- Luke Dawson,
- Ilona Natsch

This special, monthly worship service is returning to St. Paul UMC! **“MESSY CHURCH” – remember?** We just got started and then the pandemic happened and shut it down. This service is open to everyone. **Messy Church** brings families together for fun, worship, and learning about Jesus!

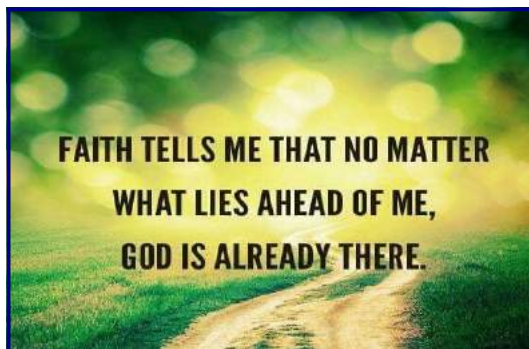
Activities include: Fun Music – Bible Lesson – Crafts – Light Supper

Messy Church begins again **Saturday, August 14th.**

Registration is **@5:00pm – Activities @5:30pm**

Closing **@6:45pm.** Messy Church will then continue to meet every second Saturday of the month.

Please keep Messy Church in your prayers.



A thousand times in history a baby has become a king to **RULE** a nation.



Only one time has a King become a **baby** to save **ALL** nations.



VBS 2021



I want to **thank everyone** for the vital role you have played in the ministry of the children of our church and neighborhood! To all who volunteered, thank you for participating in the powerful gift of God through the work you did to make VBS a success. To the church family, let me say how deeply I appreciate the gifts of time, talents, donations, service, and prayer. A special thank you to the youth and young adult volunteers. You have always been a powerful resource for VBS. You bring a fresh perspective to the kids that seems to never run out. The VBS program was very successful!

We have had a great experience at the **“Go For Gold With God: During The Race Of Faith VBS 2021.”** This year we invited our Olympians on an adventure race to discover where God’s power could take them. This year was a new and unique week as we challenged our volunteers and children to a VBS that was 90% outside and as socially distanced and safe as possible.

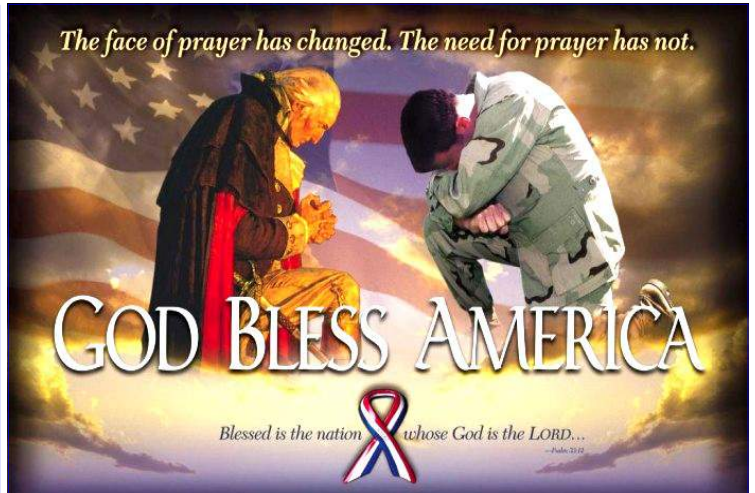
We started each morning with High Energy Praise Songs. After singing our Praises, we raced to several stations. Our story classroom introduced **five Wisdom Words: GO - OBEY - TRUST - FORGIVE - SAVE.** We expanded on lessons through these activities: Crafts, Snacks, Music, Recreation, Olympic Events, Mission Projects, and Painting & Popsicles. Each station had the purpose of teaching our Olympians that a life of faith is one of loving, trusting, and confidently obeying God regardless of the circumstances. Our two Adventure verses were: **1 Timothy 4:7a** - “Train yourself to be Godly” and **Hebrews 12:1** - “Let us run with perseverance the race marked for us.”

We were blessed with **32** different children and about **22** different youth, young adults, adult assistants, helpers, and leaders. Throughout the week we received an offering of **\$226** that has been donated to the **Community Hope Center.** We have always raised money for various projects or charities. Remembering back to 2018 the offering helped buy a garden brick and block that were placed in our Prayer Walkway in the park. They were in memory of Spencer Bacus who lost his fight to Giant Congenital Nevus in 2018. Spencer was part of our VBS family for over 20 years and remains in our hearts at VBS forever. Our love and prayers will continue to be with his family as his light continues to shine through us. (#SHINE LIKE SPENCER)

So until **VBS 2022**, may God Bless You as much as you have blessed these children! **-Jamie Gwaltney, VBS Director**



MORE VBS PHOTOS PAGE 10



MORE VBS PHOTOS!





CONTINUOUS FOOD DRIVE

Today more than ever people are dealing with food insecurities, so the Outreach Ministry Team has decided to keep a “Food Drive” going all the time for the next few months. If you can, whenever you shop for yourself, get a few extra non-perishables (ONLY) to bring by the church for us to give to the food pantries!

(Suggestions: Powdered Milk, Oat Milk or Coconut Milk - non-refrigerated kind, Dish Detergent, Tea Bags, Coffee, Tuna Fish, Crackers, Spaghetti Sauce in a can, Pasta, Canned Vegetables, Canned Meats, Salt & Pepper, Ketchup & Mustard, Oil, Spices, Sugar, Flour, etc.)

YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB!

Thank you!



➔ **For those attending the outside 8:45 service there will be a wagon for you to place the food you bring for the Food Drive. This way you will not have to carry the food in from the amphitheater and up the stairs. We are trying to make this easier and safer!**

MORE OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to **Ilona Natsch** who graduated from St. Louis University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Minor in Theology, and was inducted into the *National Honor Society of Theology*. She is now working as a Botanist and Harvest Manager for an agriculture company. Ilona is the daughter of Steve & Julie Natsch and the granddaughter of Dottye Aitken.



Mission Possible UPDATE 😊

In a continuing effort to be transparent with our St. Paul family we wanted to let you know that, as of **June 30, 2021**, our in-house debt for the "Mission Possible" church facility work is now down to **\$25,156**. This is possible only through the continuing generosity of the St. Paul Church family as we inch closer and closer to being debt-free. Thank you over and over again for your generosity.

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



2021 IGRC Annual Conference meets virtually

By Paul Black

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered online for its second virtual annual conference session June 11-12. The theme of the two-day gathering with a two-hour clergy session and a four-hour plenary session was *A Time for Heal-*

ing, the first of four themes focusing on a quadrennial theme of God Has Made Everything Beautiful in His Time, based upon Ecclesiastes 3.

The start of Annual Conference came with the announcement by the State of Illinois that it was lifting masking and social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated people. Conference leadership, which has provided guidance for the past 15 months through the pandemic, is now returning such decisions to the local church in consultation with local health officials. Despite the limitations brought about by the pandemic, conferees were able to worship and gather for Christian conferencing. IGRC Communications collaborated to produce a hybrid, part-live, part-recorded Annual Conference. Attendees gathered virtually via Zoom web conferencing or by attending one of the eight remote locations throughout the annual conference. Slightly more than 930 attended annual conference from home and another 90 attended through one of the remote sites and voted manually with marshals reporting vote totals via a roll call vote once voting was completed in the Zoom room. Annual Conference secretarial staff aggregated the vote totals.

Bishops Sharma J. Lewis, episcopal leader of the Richmond (Va.) Area, was the preacher for the Opening Worship and Bishop Frank J. Beard preached the closing worship service.

Leading up to the single-day conference, services were aired recognizing **26 retirees** with a combined 635 years of service was held June 11; A Memorial Service remembering clergy, clergy spouses and lay members to annual conference that had passed away in the previous year and remembrance of 10 congregations with a combined 1,405 years of ministry that have completed their mission – East Peoria Faith UMC, St. Elmo: Fairview UMC, Florence UMC, Granite City Niedringhaus, Iroquois UMC, Girard: New Hope UMC, Sumner: Olive Branch UMC, Roberts UMC, Saint David UMC and Texas UMC -- on June 10.

The Conference also approved the closure of two congregations -- the former United Church of Altona and the former Fairview Heights Christ UMC -- which have left the denomination to become independent. Both resolutions followed negotiations between the congregations and conference leadership.

The Annual Conference approved a 2022 budget of \$11,040,909 – a reduction of 1.48 percent. However, included in the spending plan is the use of \$700,000 from Conference reserves to enable a second straight year of decrease in apportionments of more than 7 percent. While budgets have been relatively flat over the past 10 years, the \$10,340,909 apportioned total returns spending levels to 2005. The \$893,033 reduction comes on the heels of apportionment collections of 90 percent in 2020, slightly higher than the 88 percent in pre-pandemic 2019, and still lower than 95 percent in 2018. The Conference ended 2020 with a \$352,000 surplus. **(Remainder of report on back of page)**



ancient hebrew tabernacle exhibit

Presented by
Messiah's Mansion

FREE daily tours
July 17-25
Troy, Illinois
All ages welcome!

Explore a life-size replica of the
ancient Hebrew tabernacle!

Travel back 3,000 years into the desert
between Egypt and Palestine, where
more than two million people banded
together to build a sanctuary for their God.

Each element in the tabernacle had deep
significance to the Hebrew people. This
living museum brings each symbol to life.

TOURS 1-7pm each day,
each lasts 75 minutes

Troy United Methodist Church
407 Edwardsville Rd. Troy, IL 62294

618-667-6241
troytabernacle.org

The 2022 Spending Plan also includes funding for a new position -- a Director of Ministerial Excellence -- which will relate to the Conference Board of Ministry, the Bishop and Cabinet, and be a single link for clergy from the beginning of candidacy throughout their active ministry. The position not only includes administrative tasks but it also includes providing direction for the Pastoral Care and Counseling network within the conference. The search process is underway and is being guided by the General Council on Finance and Administration. Applications are being accepted through June 25, 2021.

Legislatively, the conference announced that the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors will remain at \$17,500 for 2022. The conference also approved a 2 percent increase to its minimum salaries. In 2022, the salaries will go to \$46,195 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$42,391 for full-time local pastors. Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 percent increase to \$827 per active service year in 2022, funded by a gift from Preachers' Aid Society and Benefit Fund..

In anticipation that General Conference action may result in a split of the denomination, conferees approved a change to the Preachers' Aid Society's by-laws that would extend benefits to any pastor who is a member of the IGRC at the time of separation when they retired. The measure, which required a 90 percent affirmative vote was approved 714-14.

The Clergy Session approved the election of one elder in full connection and three deacons in full connection. They also approved the commissioning of seven provisional elders and one provisional deacon; and celebrated the graduation of three local pastors from Course of Study. Ordination and Commissioning Services will be held at Champaign Faith UMC on Saturday, June 19. Commissioning will be at 11 a.m. and Ordination will begin at 2 p.m.

Membership stands at 112,122 in 2020, down 3,249 (2.8 percent) from 2019. Average worship attendance is 35,151, down 14,119 (28.7 percent), although congregations also reported 45,665 person attending online, which would result in a substantial increase. Church school attendance stands at 12,509, down 3,697.

The 2022 Annual Conference will be held in-person on June 9-11, 2022, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, IL.