



The Steeple

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

MAY 2023



REFLECTIONS...

Dear Friends,

I read a story about a woman who was leading an eight-week Bible study on generosity. Before everyone left the first lesson, she placed a large bowl in the middle of the table and asked everyone to dig into their pockets and change purses and put all their coins into the bowl, just coins, no bills. Everyone contributed. Every week they followed that pattern; they collected spare change from everyone. By the end of the study, they had collected \$300.00 which they donated to the "Nothing but Nets" ministry. Nothing but Nets gives mosquito nets to children in Africa to protect them from malaria. They raised enough money to purchase 30 nets! Thirty children have a better chance of avoiding the debilitating and often fatal illness called malaria because people were generous with their spare change! Isn't it great how seemingly small acts of kindness can make such a wonderful difference across the world?

Another case in point is the wonderful generosity seen whenever I have requested dental hygiene supplies for our Honduras trip in July. Both churches have surpassed my hopes and expectations...and we are not even leaving until July!

When we went to Honduras in 2019, we received donations of hundreds of toothbrushes and toothpaste for the children. Many dentists donated fluoride treatment kits for us to treat the children's teeth. At our most recent Honduras team meeting, we learned that subsequent missionaries noticed that the children who had been treated with fluoride and have learned how to brush and care for their teeth had much better dental health than children who did not. We are making a difference!

This May, we have a four-week sermon series in which we will talk about generosity, extravagant generosity. Generosity is one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Each week we will hear stories about how generous giving brings us closer to God; it stretches our faith, and it binds us together as a congregation. Giving changes the giver, the recipient, and the congregation.

On a more personal note, both St. Paul UMC Rosewood Heights and Bethalto UMC will be welcoming new pastors soon. Let's be in prayer for these pastors as they make their transition from their previous appointments. It is a challenging thing to be a "new pastor." There so many names to learn and so many new routines to establish. Moving is stressful at any time as people unpack their things and as they learn how to get around in a different community. Be sure to keep these families in your prayers.

Love to all!
Joe & Pastor Debra



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- Congratulations on the birth of **Lincoln Albert Ernst**, son of Roger & Felicia Ernst, who was born on March 8th and weighed 10lbs. 4oz. Lincoln is the new brother to Gabriella and Eliana; he is the grandson of Orisa Babcock and Ray Babcock, Jr.; and he is the great-grandson of Gene Babcock! Many blessings on this growing family!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the families & friends of **Freda Mastbergen (89; almost 90)**, sister of Don Bunt, Sr.; **Marilyn Smith (85)**, aunt of Karen Martin and Mike Tappy; **John Keith (50)**, son of Jim Keith and the late Katherine Magurany, and brother of Jamie Keith; and **Brenda Summers (79)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**
- **THANK YOU!** a **BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped on the Spring Work Day to catch up on some needed fixes around the facility! We have been blessed with an amazing place to do ministry and to worship...thank you for helping us take care of it! **-Board of Trustees**



**WORSHIP
UNDER THE TREES
ON SUNDAYS IN
THE CHURCH
AMPHITHEATER**

8:20 a.m.

BEGINS JUNE 2nd!

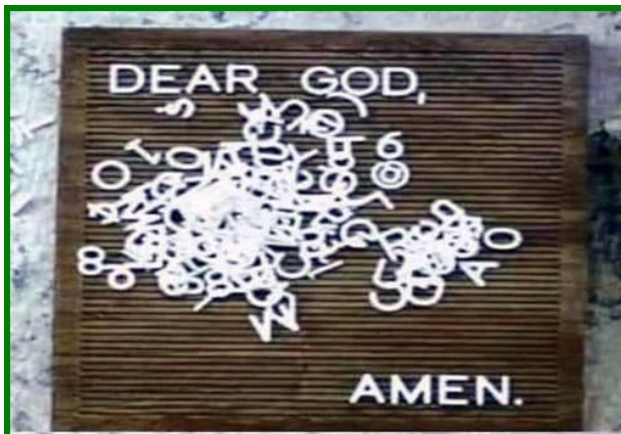
(In case of extreme weather the service
is held in the sanctuary!)



“A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for.”
~William Shedd~

2023 Annual Conference June 8-10

Pastor Debra will be going to Peoria for the conference this year. Please, pray for all that is accomplished at this conference.



IT'S ALMOST TIME!!

Annual Rosewood Heights
Fire Department

Saturday, May 20

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**TICKETS ARE \$10 IN ADVANCE!
TICKETS ARE \$12 AT THE DOOR!**

MAY OFFICE HOURS (subject to change): (ALSO, IT IS POSTED ON THE CHURCH OFFICE DOOR)

- May 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 30 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
- May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 = Office Closed for regular week day off
- May 29 = Office Closed for Memorial Day (Holiday day)
- May 11 = 1-5p.m. Due to Morning Commitment
- May 4-5, 12, 18-19, 25-26 = 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.



St. Paul Sunday Services in **MAY** at 8:20 a.m.

St. Paul UMC is part of a two-point charge with Bethalto UMC. Each congregation has only one service on Sundays and Pastor Debra serves as the pastor at both places. The service at St. Paul UMC begins at 8:20 a.m. You are also welcome to attend the service at Bethalto UMC which begins at 9:15 a.m. if you cannot get here at the earlier time. Please, keep both congregations in your prayers as we work together. Thank you!



Sermon Series: Extravagant Generosity

7th: Communion Sunday.

New Sermon Series:
Extravagant Generosity

Message: Ministry Flows From The Heart

Scripture: *1 Timothy 6:17-19*



14th: Mothers Day. Birthday Sunday.

Sermon Series: Extravagant Generosity

Message: The Art Of Relationships

Scripture: *John 13:34-35*



21st:

Sermon Series: Extravagant Generosity

Message: What Is On Your Bucket List?

Scripture: *Joel 2:28; Matthew 6:33*

28th: Memorial Sunday.

Sermon Series: Extravagant Generosity

Message: Declaration Of Your Heart

Scripture: *John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 8:2-4*

Members remembered and

Memorial Projects dedicated



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 ... PLEASE JOIN US!

Join us
for
Bible
Study



Join us for **Monday** afternoon Bible Study at **1p.m.** in the **Parlor**. We are using the devotionals and questions for discussion from the **Upper Room** for our study material. Come, give it a try!

Pastor Debra

THE OUTREACH MINISTRY CONTINUOUS FOOD DRIVE:

If you can, whenever you shop, get a few extra non-perishables to bring to church for us to give to the food pantries!

(Suggestions: Oat Milk or Coconut Milk the non-refrigerated kind, Powdered Milk, Mayonnaise, Can Opener, Oil, Coffee, Tuna Fish, Crackers, Tea Bags, Spaghetti Sauce in a can, Pasta, Salt & Pepper, Canned Vegetables or Meat, Ketchup & Mustard, Cans of Gravy, Cereal, Dish Detergent, Spices, Sugar, Flour, Jell-O or Pudding boxes, etc.)



You are awesome! Thank you everyone!!

2023 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

May 7: Sponsored by Nicholas, Julie, & Leo Hobbs in celebration of Emmett's Baptism day!

May 14: Sponsored by Harvey, Shelley, Stacey & Jon in memory of Shirley Birmingham on Mother's Day.

May 21: Sponsored by _____.

May 28: Sponsored by _____.

THE 2023 FLOWER CHART HAS BEEN POSTED! PLEASE, HELP FILL IT IN!



PLEASE, sign up for 2023 Altar Flowers! The Flower Chart is posted in the usual spot on the large bulletin board in the main hallway. Please, help get

MAY, JUNE, and SEPTEMBER filled in! Only costs \$10.



may BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-May Kennedy Scroggins
- 03-May Bowen Ayres
- 03-May Brian Eyster
- 03-May Sharon Fulks
- 03-May Shelley Heigert
- 04-May Zack Toner
- 05-May Sydney Martin
- 05-May Keri Whaley
- 06-May Mike Tappy
- 07-May Alex Barnes
- 07-May Ian Napp
- 07-May Jeff White
- 08-May Brayden Decker
- 08-May Bruce Hatten
- 08-May Trudy Lehnen
- 08-May Joy Virgin
- 09-May Jackie Beth Burt
- 10-May Brandon Bentley
- 10-May Katie Ford
- 10-May Jake Toner
- 12-May Aaron Bottorff
- 12-May Liam Cincoski
- 12-May Heather Hendricks
- 12-May Connie Hickerson
- 12-May Laura Mae White
- 13-May Troy Cameron
- 13-May Ethan Martin

- 13-May Aaron Rich
- 13-May Shelby Whaley
- 13-May Tana Yankovich
- 15-May Joshua Giddings
- 15-May Wyatt Parker
- 16-May Paul Bowman
- 16-May Adelyn Spurgeon
- 17-May Debbie Bacus
- 17-May Jeremy Nairn
- 17-May Bobbi Ortegren
- 17-May John Uzzell
- 19-May Kylie Winchester
- 20-May Barbara Baggett
- 21-May Ray Babcock Jr.
- 21-May Jocelyn Toner
- 22-May Tyler Babcock
- 22-May Ridgely Hubbard
- 24-May Marjorie Hall
- 24-May Ryan Spurgeon
- 26-May Kelly McPheters
- 26-May Brendan Palmer
- 27-May Betty Campbell

- 27-May Brandy Lusicic
- 27-May Lana Mortland
- 27-May Parker Sabatino
- 28-May DJ Lusicic Jr.
- 29-May Gina Brown
- 29-May Laurie Griffin
- 29-May Richard Huebner
- 30-May Steve Dawson
- 30-May Sarah Gebhardt
- 30-May Sam Griffin
- 31-May Jessica Braun



may ANNIVERSARIES



- 01-May Mark & Sandy Scroggins
- 02-May Jim & Connie Hickerson
- 12-May Chris & Kellie Greer
- 15-May Bob & Betsy Blacklock
- 17-May Brian & Trista Liedtke
- 19-May Troy & Kristin Cameron

- 21-May Tom & Karen Martin
- 22-May Jimmy & Brianne Bourne
- 25-May Bruce & Karen Hatten
- 26-May Keith & Mandy Armon
- 27-May Brennen & Samantha Hermens
- 27-May Steve & Jean Kainz

WE NEED INFO FOR THE NEXT 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!



APRIL Stewardship

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Offering: | 4/1/2023 thru 4/30/2023 | \$14601.00 |
| Designated Giving: | 4/1/2023 thru 4/30/2023 | \$587.15 |
| | Capital Improvements | 250.00 |
| | Loose Change | 42.15 |
| | Flowers | 70.00 |
| | UMCOR | 45.00 |
| | Upper Room | 0.00 |
| | Hickerson Scholarship | 80.00 |
| | Community Hope Center | 100.00 |
| Easter Offering | | 650.00 |
| Online Giving | | 504.25 |
| Capital Campaign | | 50.00 |
| Total: | | \$16392.40 |



An important reminder... at this time there are several ways to send your tithes & offerings if you cannot be here. You can send through the U.S. Mail, through Bill Pay with your bank or Credit Union, through our website's Online Giving (VANCO), and by bringing it by during the week. If you plan to bring it by, please, call first to make sure we know you are on the way.

Thank you so much!

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE 2023
STEEPLE,
Friday,
MAY 21st!!**

GENERAL CONFERENCE
General & Jurisdictional Conference:
 The General Commission on General Conference announced that it has had to, once again, postpone General Conference due to unavoidable complications. The global gathering is hoping to meet in-person **around May 2024**.
Keep this important meeting in your prayers!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

May's Loose Change Project is the Liberian Mission of the Methodist Church. The church continues to rebuild. This will help support pastors in the churches there who only earn a small amount per month in salary. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



VBS 2023

Join us for VBS this summer!

WHEN: June 19-22 (M-Th)

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - Noon

THEME: Quest For The King's Armor: Knights of North Castle

We need plenty of volunteers; 6th grade to our senior members! Please, let Jamie know if you will be available to be a part of our VBS this year.

Call Jamie Gwaltney at: (618) 971-9589

We need your prayers & support, and the children in your life age 3 years old - 5th grade to make the week a success! Bring your children, your grandchildren, neighborhood kids, and everyone's friends to this important week!

→ Remember...there are so many ways to help make VBS happen! If you cannot join us that week, there will be a list of needed supplies to help make our week perfect (**KEEP CHECKING THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MAIN HALLWAY**). If you don't have time to shop, a cash donation always works! We will be happy to shop for you.



THE COLORS OF THE DAY FOR VBS WEEK WILL BE:

Monday - Green,

Tuesday - Red,

Wednesday - Orange

(in memory of

Spencer Bacus),

and Thursday - Blue.

God Bless You All!

-- VBS Director, Jamie Gwaltney

VBS 2023 needs your help! We are collecting **plastic milk jug caps** (just the caps) and we

need at least **30** of

them. Please,

would you help?





MMDC collection in Peoria! Bring items to the church by June 4th!

Attendees to the 2023 Annual Conference are urged to have congregations collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Supplies can be collected and brought to Annual Conference. Items most needed are:

- Liquid laundry soap, Any size bottle 32-150 oz.**
- Liquid Dish soap, Any size bottle 16-64 oz.**
- Liquid Household Cleaner, Any Size Bottle 16-80 oz.**
- ALSO: All Midwest Mission & UMCOR kits and kit items will be accepted, along with these new or gently used non-kit items: canes, crutches, wheelchairs, foldable walkers, non-electric tools, shovels, brooms, rakes, blankets, and sewing machines (electric & treadle). Monetary donations are always welcome.**

Please, place them on or under the table across from the food drive table! Thank you for any help you can offer!



→ COFFEE BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS:

Do you enjoy having coffee waiting for you when you arrive? Would you like to help this continue? Would you be willing to **volunteer** to help?

It is easy... You can even bring snacks if you want to! Please, sign-up if you will help!

2023 STEWARDSHIP → REMEMBER YOUR GIVING!



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



EVENING RE-AWAKENING SERVICE

The Re-Awakening Service meets on the First Thursday of the month. It is not defined as a “contemporary service,” but rather as a relaxed style of worship that can be fluid with its music and messages. **Collect up your family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances and join us for a meal and service once a month!!**

THIS month we will have HOMEMADE PIZZA for the meal at 5:30p.m. After eating and a time of fellowship we will move to the service time. On JUNE 1st we are planning to enjoy the great outdoors with CHIPS, DRINKS, and HOT DOGS over the fire pit plus time together around the campfire singing songs with the youth! We do hope that you will join us this night for this special time together!

We are hopeful that one day this will reach others and lead to other doors opening, such as a kids’ ministry on Thursday evenings.

We love St. Paul and we love serving at our home church. We are excited and looking forward to being together in the same space of worship.

Lauren & Patterson Friese



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

Youth Group continues to meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at 6p.m. **We will have a special youth gathering in May on the 18th from 5:30-7:00p.m. The details of what will happen at this gathering will be sent out to members of the Youth Group. If you want to be included please, contact Patterson.** We hope that all the youth will attend! We want our youth program to be successful, so let’s make an effort to reach out to our friends, grandkids, etc., so that we can keep building from where we are at!

In **June** the Youth will help with the Re-Awakening meal and service on June 1st. In place of meeting on the 3rd Thursday, the youth are invited to attend “Youth Week” at Shiloh UMC June 13-16. They will be taking a trip to **Six Flags on June 16**. Please contact Lauren for information if you want to go, too! (618-660-7967)

Remember, friends of the church, we need your help, more than ever, encouraging young people to get involved. This includes having consistent helpers on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

**In Christ’s Love & Kindness,
Patterson Friese - Youth Director
(217-851-4651) (patterson.friese@gmail.com)**



Easter Flowers 2023

LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of our Family
RANDY & JOYCE BRUEGGEMAN in honor of our

Family
CHRIS & KAREN CHALLANDES in memory of our
Grandparents

CHRIS & KAREN CHALLANDES in honor of our
Son, Lincoln

CHRIS & KAREN CHALLANDES in honor of our
Parents, John & Leona and Phillip & Kim

BECKY CHESTER in memory of my Father, Roy
Hatcher

BECKY CHESTER in memory of my Mother, Ann
Hatcher

BECKY CHESTER in memory of my Daughter,
Lynnann Chester

JIM & ANITA DAWSON in memory of our Parents,
Bob & Annabelle McLain and Maxine Dawson

JIM & ANITA DAWSON in honor of Steve, Sarah,
Dani, Luke, Lizzie, and Nicholas

TRACY FRANKS in memory of my Parents, Lute &
Doloros Taulbee

JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in honor of our Family
KAY GWALTNEY & FAMILY in memory of our

Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Great-
Grandfather – Don Gwaltney

JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of our Loved
Ones Who Have Gone Before Us

THE HICKERSON FAMILY in memory of Meghan
Hickerson

THE HICKERSON FAMILY in memory of Dr.
Norman & Carole Taylor

JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in honor of Lori
Hickerson

JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in honor of Lori
Hickerson & Evan Hutson's Engagement

CONNIE HICKERSON in honor of the "Church
Ladies"

VI HUEBNER in honor of my Husband and our
Children

STEVE & JEAN KAINZ in memory of Bill & Janet
Pullen and Eric Wood

STEVE & JEAN KAINZ in memory of Bob & Betty
Kainz

DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of my Parents,
Victor & Beulah Strohbeck

DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of my Children,
Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren

MARK & DEB MAYER in memory of our Parents
MARK & DEB MAYER in honor of our Kids and

Grandkids

RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of our Eight
Grandkids

RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of McLain,
Anna, Logan, Grace, Will, Kate, Liam, and Tori

JAMIE SCROGGINS in memory of my Parents,
Jim & Eva Lee Nunn

MICHAEL & LINDA SCROGGINS in celebration
of Easter!

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of Easter!

PAUL & GERRY WARD in memory of our Family
Members

BOB, BEV, & JOE (THE KIDS) in memory of
Morris "Mo" & Helen Tschannen

