



The Steeple

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

JUNE 2023



REFLECTIONS...

Dear Friends,

This is my last newsletter article as your pastor. Wow, the past five years have gone by so quickly. We have shared so much together; baptisms, weddings, funerals, hospital visits, home visits, a world-wide pandemic, a transition to online only worship for a while, and of course our transition to one service. I cannot tell you how your love and support has encouraged me at St. Paul. I will never forget the relationships and the things we shared together.

As I prepare to hand over the ministry at St. Paul to the next pastor, there are a few things I need to say. Your incoming pastor will need your love and support, just as you have loved and supported Joe and me. He or she will be looking at everything with “outsider’s” eyes at first. It is quite a challenge to begin a new ministry assignment. There are so many names to learn, traditions to observe, and a whole new community to explore. In all likelihood, your new pastor will want to change some things to match his or her style. I know you will be helpful and kind when that happens.

My role will be to step aside completely so that you and your new pastor can bond together. As much as I feel connected to you all, I will not be able to return to officiate at funerals or weddings. Please, don’t ask; it is an honor I must decline. To do so would be disrespectful to the new pastor. Many people have asked us where we will worship starting in July. Joe and I would love to worship with you all on Sundays; we cannot. We will have to look for another place to worship. I imagine we will be doing some church shopping as we look for a church home for this season of our lives.

I thank you for your generosity with all the dental care donations you provided for our 2019 trip to Honduras and now for our upcoming trip this July. Our Honduras team members are extremely impressed with all of the product you have given. Your generosity will reach far into Honduras blessing the children with better dental hygiene.

I think you know that Joe will be retiring at the end of this year. Early in 2024, we plan to visit our son, Robert, in Hong Kong. I thank you for all your prayers regarding him and his calling to live and work in Hong Kong. He is already excited and telling us about all the places he wants us to see. Joe and I have purchased a home in Wood River, we love the area. Don’t be surprised if we run into you, our St. Paul and Bethalto friends, as we run errands and go about our business.

My deepest prayer for all of you is that you continue to be strong in your faith, that you keep growing in your spiritual life, and that you continue to love and support your church family.

**Love to all!
Joe & Pastor Debra**



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- Congratulations to **Eli Kasinger** who graduated from high school this May! Rejoicing with him are his siblings, Libby, Lucas, and Eve; his dad, Sean Kasinger; and his grandmother, Dorothy Kasinger. Eli immediately starts a new job that will hopefully lead to an internship! We know that God will continue to bless his life journey! (See photo →)



- Congratulations on the birth of **Rylan Jaine Mortland** who was born on May 10, 2023 weighing 6lbs.15oz. She is the daughter of Will & Halie Mortland, great-granddaughter of Maggie & Jim Funke and great-great-granddaughter of Sally Lay! Thank you God for this growing family. (See photo →)



- Congratulations to **Emmett Nicholas Hobbs**, son of Nicholas & Julie Hobbs, on his May 4th baptism! Celebrating with him was his older brother, Leo.

- Join us in celebrating the May 15th recognition of the Greater St. Louis Area Council BSA's outstanding volunteers. Congratulations go to **Bob Blacklock**, Piasa Bird volunteer, for receiving the **Silver Beaver Award** this year. The Silver Beaver Award is the highest recognition a Boy Scout council can bestow on an adult volunteer leader. The award is presented to those volunteers who have provided noteworthy service that impacts the lives of youth and who have made outstanding contributions to the Scouting program. (See photo →)



- Congratulations to **Bosten Tinnon**, the latest **Shine Like Spencer Kindness Award** winner at Roxana High School. This is the fifth year of presenting the honor. The award is presented annually to a Roxana High School senior by the Bacus family in honor of their son Spencer Bacus. The **Shine Like Spencer Kindness Award** is not a scholarship. Students cannot apply; they must be nominated by a member of the faculty or staff as someone who exemplifies outrageous kindness and amazing perseverance. (See photo ↑)



- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the families & friends of **Lathey "Bill" Malson (89)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Leroy "Jerry" Lyons (92)**, husband of JoAnn Lyons (see obit on page 3); and **Rev. George Humbert (76)**, retired (after 31 years there) as the pastor of College Avenue Presbyterian Church Alton and a friend to so many. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.** (MORE ON PAGE 3)

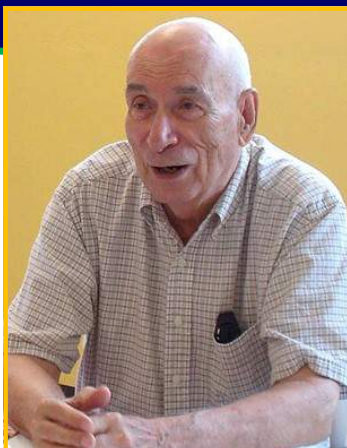
**(FROM PAGE 2)**

- On **Memorial Sunday, May 28th**, 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: **Mary “Pat” Colclasure, Lynn Evans, Ruth Harris, Mary “Joyce” Hutchens, Joy Kissack, Gregg Liedtke, Leroy “Jerry” Lyons, Raymond Shaffer, Carol Stamper, Christine Stoner, Minnie Tindall, Karen Trimm, and Ruth Voorhees.** We also dedicated our memorial projects, groups, activities, items, etc. advanced or completed during this time: **Memorial Bench In Church Park** - Don Gwaltney; **Women Of Worship** - Carol Stamper; **New Back Door** - Patsy Goss, Patrick Hamm, Mary “Pat” Colclasure, Carol Stamper, Ruth Voorhees, Joy Kissack, Bill & Gloria Basden; **VBS & The General Fund** - Kathy Link; **Project New Air Conditioner** - Joy Kissack.

THANK YOU! We want to thank our church family for all of the prayers & cards sent for Paul as he recuperated. We are so blessed by you! *-Paul & Gerry Ward*

THANK YOU! Thank you to the folks of St. Paul UMC for all of the prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, and words of encouragement sent my way. You have been such a blessing to me through all of this! *-Iola Ballard*

We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Leroy “Jerry” Lyons, 92, passed away May 14, 2023 after a long cancer battle. He was born March 18, 1931 in East St. Louis, the son of Roy Lyons & Lola (Shaum) Lyons-Katonah.

Leroy graduated from Alton High School in 1949 and served in the Military Air Force from 1949-1953. He was a proud member of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Local #553 for 69 years.

Leroy, also known as, "Jerry," pitched baseball for Alton High School and was recruited to pitch for the Air Force. He excelled at corkball, was an avid bowler, and a St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan.

Leroy was an active constituent of St. Paul UMC of Rosewood Heights since January 2010.

Leroy was a devoted husband and most loving brother, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, JoAnn Anderson Lyons; son, Patrick Lyons; daughter, Kelle (Chris) Wright; granddaughters, Laura (Luke) McKenney, Jill (Dr. Robert) Pampel, Melissa (Adam) Nixon; and four great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Leo Pampel, Adam and Andie Nixon.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Eileen Scroggins-Burk; and daughter-in-law, Ellen Robinson Lyons.

We have missed Jerry as his illness had kept him away from us. Please, keep JoAnn and the family in your prayers.





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

St. Paul UMC currently 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: The Path Of The Disciple

4th: Outdoor Worship in the Park begins today! Communion Sunday.

New Sermon Series:
The Path Of The Disciple
Message: How Majestic
Scripture: Psalm 8



11th: Birthday Sunday.

Sermon Series: The Path Of The Disciple

Message: Trusting The Unknown Scripture: *Genesis 12:1-9*



18th: Father's Day.

Sermon Series: The Path Of The Disciple

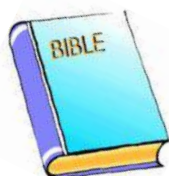
Message: Is Anything Too Wonderful? Scripture: *Romans 5:1-8*

25th: Final Sunday With Pastor Debra and Joe...

Sermon Series: The Path Of The Disciple

Message: Learning To Grow Scripture: *Romans 6:1-11*

**HAPPY RETIREMENT PASTOR DEBRA...
 WE SURE WILL MISS BOTH OF YOU!**



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:**

June 4: by Jean & Steve Kainz in memory of Eric Wood.

June 11: by Jim & Anita Dawson in celebration of Family!

June 18: by Herndon Family in memory of Sam Herndon on Father's Day.

ALSO: by Shelley, Stacey, & Jon in celebration of Harvey Birmingham!

June 25: by Larry & Iola Ballard in celebration of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary!

THE 2023 FLOWER CHART HAS 5 OPENINGS! PLEASE, HELP FILL IT IN!



PLEASE, sign up for 2023 Altar Flowers! The Flower Chart is posted on the large bulletin board in the main hallway. Please, help get **SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, and **NOVEMBER** filled in! Only costs **\$10.****



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
- 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 Katy Hoertel
- 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
- 17-Jun Jay & Tracy Bentley
- 20-Jun Neil & Jade Herndon
- 22-Jun Larry & Cheryl Champa
- 24-Jun Larry & Iola Ballard
- 25-Jun Matt & Cara Gwaltney
- 26-Jun Richard & Dell Demond
- 26-Jun Mike & Teresa Toner

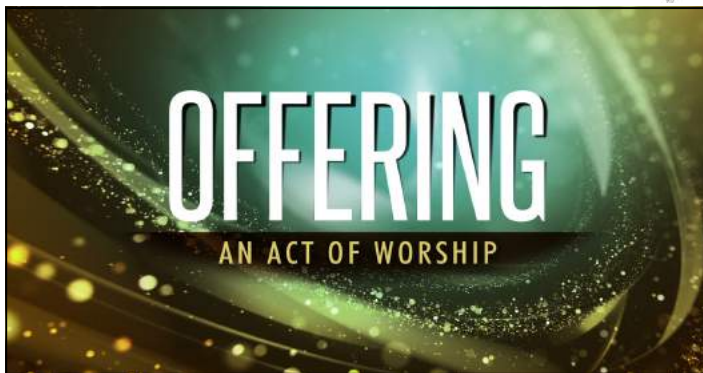
WE NEED INFO FOR THE NEXT CHURCH DIRECTORY!

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!



MAY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	5/1/2023 thru 5/31/2023	\$10232.00
Designated Giving:	5/1/2023 thru 5/31/2023	\$3150.07
	Capital Improvements	1310.00
	Loose Change	68.07
	Flowers	10.00
	Team Honduras-Dental	20.00
	Upper Room	2.00
	WOW	20.00
	VBS	20.00
	AC Project	1700.00
	Online Giving	504.25
	Capital Campaign	50.00
Total:		\$13936.32



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
JULY 2023
STEEPLE,
Monday,
JUNE 19th!!**

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

June's Loose Change Project is the **Riverbend Family Ministries**. The vision at Riverbend Family Ministries is to provide resources for smaller non-profit organizations to work together under one roof, providing families and individuals the tools they need to be self-sufficient. May God bless your gifts!



VBS 2023

Join us for VBS this month!

WHEN: June 19-22 (M-Th)

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - Noon

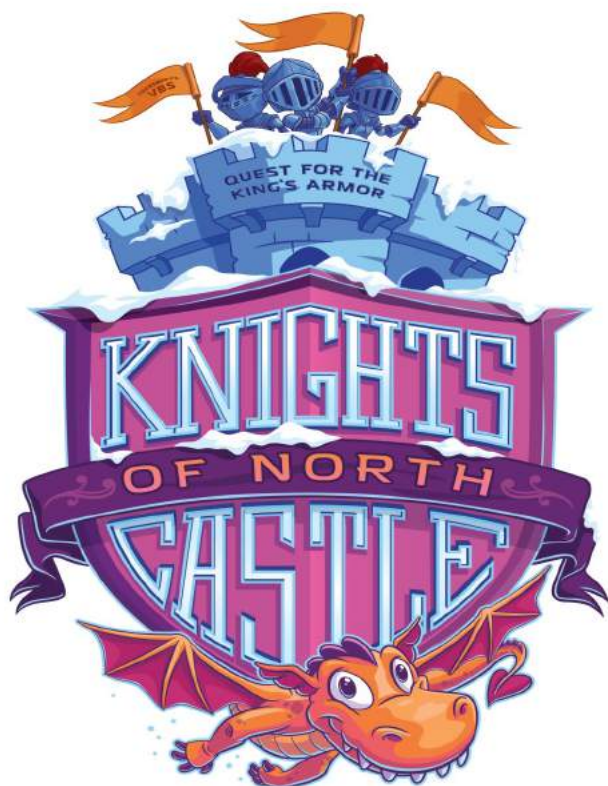
THEME: Quest For The King's Armor: Knights of North Castle

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 may still be a list of needed supplies to help make our week perfect (**CHECK 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?





WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

8:20 a.m.

BEGINS JUNE 4th!

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

Note From The Trustees

The Trustees are replacing the air conditioner which cools the east side of the sanctuary. If you would like to help defray the cost, we are short approximately **\$2,000** and welcome anyone's donation to **Project New A/C**. Thank you!

-Board of Trustees



This mighty oak tree in the park had died and so we were able to work with someone to cut it down. Thanks to the Trustees for the cleanup!

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!!



→ **COFFEE BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS:**

Do you enjoy having coffee waiting for you when you arrive? 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!



EVENING RE-AWAKENING SERVICE

The Re-Awakening Service usually 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!!**

We have decided not to try and meet in JULY because it is close to the 4th of July holiday and families may be planning activities together or vacations! Check back to see what we have planned for August 3rd!

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 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** in place of meeting on the 3rd Thursday, the youth are invited to attend “Youth Week” at Shiloh UMC **June 13-15, 5:30-9:30p.m. each night** (Lauren will be providing transportation there so let her know if you want to go). **There will be a trip to Six Flags on June 16.** Please, contact Lauren for more information and let her know **ASAP** if you want to go! There is a form (we have copies in the church office) to fill out and turn in by June 11 **(618-660-7967)**.

Remember, friends of the church, we need your help, more than ever, encouraging young people to get involved.

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



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.

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

June 5-6, 12-13, 26-27 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

June 7, 14, 23, 28 = Office Closed for regular week day off

➔ June 19-22 VBS Week - here M-Th 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

June 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 29-30 = 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.