



# The Steeple

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

SEPTEMBER 2023



Dear St. Paul UMC and East Alton 1st UMC,

Blessed be the name of the Lord. His goodness, His faithfulness, His promises, His plans, guidance, and deliverance have all been called into fruition for the glory of His name in Christ Jesus our Lord. So far, this month has been the busiest for 2023. Being a 2-point charge Pastor is indeed a challenge. Prepping on a weekly basis 2 bulletins, 2 sermons, and 2 congregations are difficult tasks, but it keeps me on-guard, which I appreciate. Sometimes I have the tendency to be comfortable and complaisant with myself, so these churches are keeping me on my toes. I also did my on-line schooling at Garrett Theological Seminary with deadlines and paper works submitted on time, and lastly, accomplished the 17th annual conference of the National Association of Filipino-American United Methodists held in Honolulu, Hawaii, as their Music Coordinator. All happened this month of August. How did I do? Well, only by the Grace of God, I am writing this letter to you meaning... God lifted me with His power and love. Praise be to God. But again, I wouldn't have done all these things without your dedicated support and love. Your prayers, the volunteers, and considerate hearts made everything impossible...possible. For that, my sincere gratitude. I believe without all of you and God's leading, I would have not finished the race. Yes, after those hurdles, I felt exhausted but looking at the bright side of what we all did... nothing compared to the many lives we have touched. I always say, I would rather be busy for the glory of God than be busy for something meaningless and purposeless. A great reminder is this verse in Paul's letter to the Colossians... 3:17 *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

Folks, things are happening in the world and in our churches. In good or bad, we see the work of the Spirit of God around and in all of us. The recent fire in Maui, the hurricane that hit California, worship services, establishments of ministries like outdoor worship, pet blessing, and the NAFAUM Hawaii event. We may see the former unpleasant but guess what... all of these events drew us closer to God through prayers and petitions. From the beginning, all God ever wanted was for us to look up and trust HIM more than ever. IN my honest opinion no matter what, we must keep on doing the Lord's work. We need to demonstrate a faith that can move mountains. We need to be bold and declare that the world needs a Savior. Jesus Christ the righteous. Jesus Christ the Son of GOD. Jesus Christ, the only hope of the world!

Let me close with this passage: <sup>21</sup>*"Since we have a great priest over the house of God,* <sup>22</sup>*let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.* <sup>23</sup>*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."*  
(Hebrews 10:21-23)

Blessings to all!

*Edward Granadosin*

Edward Granadosin

Pastor of East Alton 1st UMC and St. Paul UMC

**Happy Labor Day**

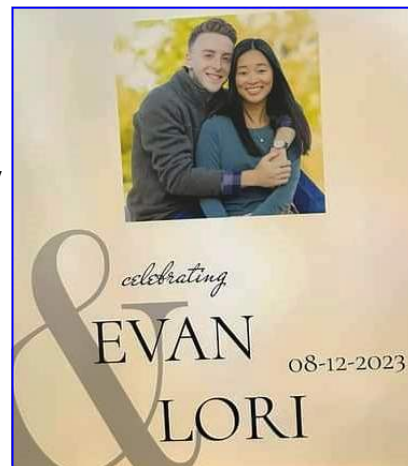


**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
ON LABOR DAY, SEPT. 4th!**



# OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **Congratulations!** We are so excited to help celebrate the wedding of **Lori Hickerson & Evan Hutson** on **August 12, 2023!** Lori is the daughter of Jim & Connie Hickerson. We pray God's blessing on their home and on them as they begin this new life journey together! (see photo➔)
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the families & friends of **Larry Champa (70)**, husband of Cheryl Champa (see obit, page 3); **Frank Yankovich, Jr. (71)**, member and husband of Tana Yankovich (see obit page 3); **Brandon Followell (22)**, grandson of Dennis & Becky Tuchalski; and **Joshua Bertrand (39)**, First Grade teacher at South Primary School of the Roxana School District . **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**
- **Congratulations to Don Bunt Sr.** on his upcoming **95th Birthday!** To celebrate there will be an Open House Celebration for Don on **Sunday, September 10th from 2:00-5:00p.m. in the Wood River Moose** located at 730 Wesley Drive in Wood River (up the hill from the Walmart). Please, they want everyone to come and wish him a Happy Birthday and enjoy some of his birthday cake! (see photo➔)
- We are so very excited for **Harvey Birmingham** who will be honored by going on an **Honor Flight on September 12th** with his daughter, Stacey Moore. We will remember them in prayer asking that they have a really great day and safe travels. Thank you for your service Harvey! (see photo➔)



## SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:

The Outreach Ministry Team thanks everyone for giving to help the students!! The counters are away so we still need to count the items and divide them between the schools! God Bless your giving hearts!





## We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friends...



**Larry T. Champa**, 70, passed away at 1:40a.m. on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at his residence. He was born on November 5, 1952, in St. Louis, the son of the late Frank & Virginia (Berg) Champa.

He married the former Cheryl Mygatt on June 22, 1979, in Columbia, IL, and she survives. Other survivors include two daughters and sons in-law: Amanda & Keith Armon of Collinsville, Jennifer & Vinay Kumar of Katy, TX, a granddaughter: Zoya, a brother and sister-in-law: Gary & Lanie Champa of Kirkwood, MO, many nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

Larry was employed at Olin Winchester in the production department for over 42 years prior to his retirement. He loved street rods and was a member of the FBI Street Rod Club. He loved his 1938 Chevy Sedan Delivery. He loved to collect signs, license plates, and coins, going to swap meets, flea markets, and finding Winchester memorabilia. Larry will be missed and we pray for Cheryl and his whole family at this time.

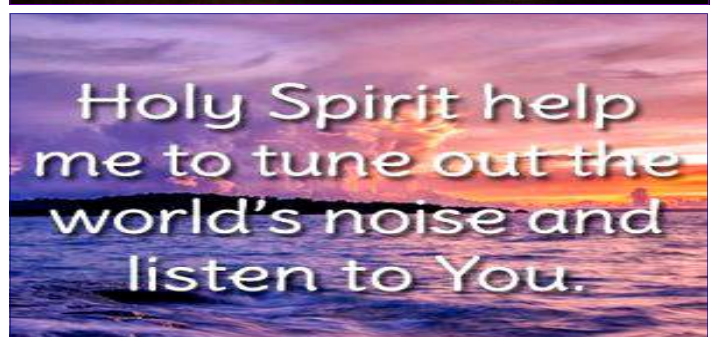
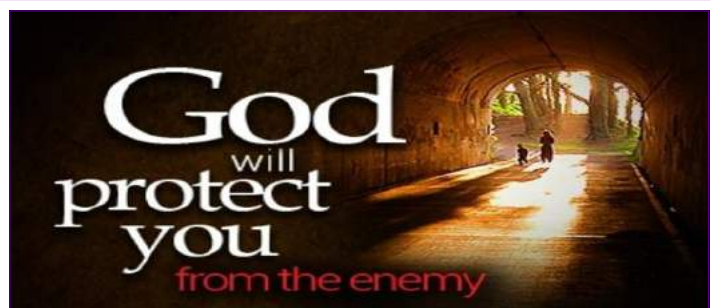
**Frank Arthur Yankovich Jr.**, 71, passed away at 1:40a.m. on Friday, July 28, 2023 at Alton, IL. He was born on November 17, 1951 in Alton, IL to the late Frank & H. Wanda (Lewis) Yankovich Sr.

He married Tana Crouch on April 24, 1982 in Rosewood Heights, IL.

Frank worked at Emerson Electric for 15 years before working as a salesperson for GMAC. He loved fishing, working on electronics, and going to yard sales. Frank had been a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church since April 18, 1982.

Frank is survived by his wife, Tana; sister, Stephanie Hackethal of CO; nieces, Erin and Kelly; and great-nieces, Hannah and Emma. He was preceded in death by his parents.

We know that Frank had had health issues over the years and with his life journey ended, we now lift up Tana and his family in our prayers that they would be comforted.







## St. Paul Sunday Service in **SEPTEMBER** at 8:45 a.m.

St. Paul UMC is part of a two-point charge with East Alton First UMC. Each congregation has one service on Sundays and Pastor Ed serves as the pastor in both places. The service at St. Paul UMC begins at 8:45 a.m.

You are also welcome to attend the service at East Alton First UMC which begins at 10:15 a.m. if you cannot get here at the earlier time. Please, keep both congregations in your prayers as we work together. Thank you!

### 3rd: Communion Sunday.

Message: In Serving We Worship Scripture: *Exodus 3:1-15*



### 10th: Birthday Sunday. Patriot Day Sunday.



### 17th: Final Outdoor Service for 2023.

### 24th: PASTOR ED IS AWAY AND WE WELCOME HIS SON, "DRU" (JOHN EDRU) GRANADOSIN TO THE PULPIT TODAY!



We are currently looking for anyone in the congregation who would be interested in and able to offer **rides** to folks who would like to be coming to church but have no way to get here...perhaps they have had to sell their car or the person that used to bring them has to work on Sunday now, etc. **If you are someone** who might be able to help at least one Sunday a month, please contact **Tammy Atchley** at **618-466-7930** or call the **church office** at **618-259-5210**. Thank you in advance!!



## Wesley Sunday School Class

meets **After Service Ends** in the Parlor!

## Adult Bible Study Sunday School Class

meets **After Service Ends** in classroom on the main hallway!

## SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

(ALSO, IT IS POSTED ON THE CHURCH OFFICE DOOR)

September 4 = Office Is Closed For Labor Day!

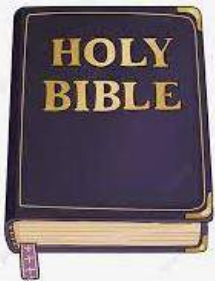
September 5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

September 6, 13, 20, 27 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

September 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 = 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

**ON SEPTEMBER 12 MUST LEAVE AT 1:00p.m. FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

**ON SEPTEMBER 14 WILL BE GONE FROM 11:30a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH**



## BIBLE STUDY RETURNS!

We will begin meeting on Mondays at 1p.m. in the Parlor starting Monday, September 11th! To be ready to study... simply bring your Bible! I hope to see you there! ~Pastor Ed~

## 2023 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

- Sep 3: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **John's Birthday!**
- Sep 10: by **Dorothy Kasinger** in memory of **her parents, Victor & Beulah Stroheck.**
- Sep 17: by **Jan Poore** in memory of **her mom, Ruth Voorhees.**
- Sep 24: by **John & Rita White** in honor of **her mom, Beulah,** and in memory of **her dad, Ben.**



**THANK YOU FOR FILLING IN THE CHART!**

## 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!!**



Friends in Christ,

LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church is looking for handbell ringers who would like to join us. Our 3-octave bell choir currently has 2-3 positions empty that we would like to fill. We try to ring one Sunday a month at a 10:15a.m. service. Currently we rehearse from 9:00 to 10:00a.m. on Tuesday mornings but could negotiate rehearsal time according to need. We will begin very soon and welcome a chance to begin with all positions filled and ready to ring.

If this "rings a bell" with you, contact Ann French by phone or text at 618-917-4368, or by email at [frenchterry65@gmail.com](mailto:frenchterry65@gmail.com). **Ann French, Music Director**



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Sep	Christi Baggett		
01-Sep	Jay Bentley III		
01-Sep	Arik Newingham		
02-Sep	Ron Nelson		
02-Sep	Jenni Ortegren		
03-Sep	Al Poston		
04-Sep	Cherie Buatte	13-Sep	Chelsea Georgeoff
04-Sep	Rod Croxford	14-Sep	Dan Bunt
04-Sep	George Hamilton Sr.	14-Sep	Kiley Herndon
04-Sep	John Hendricks	15-Sep	Nora Gwaltney
05-Sep	Damian Newingham	16-Sep	Jerry Cameron
06-Sep	Josh Gowan	16-Sep	Dick Redden
06-Sep	Jason Henderson	16-Sep	Jeff Skjerseth
06-Sep	Ryan Tite	17-Sep	Jeff Greer
07-Sep	Kamryn Bell	17-Sep	Nic Weigler
07-Sep	Jim Dawson	18-Sep	Christian Greer
08-Sep	Justin Bottorff	18-Sep	Linda Scroggins
09-Sep	Angie Hansard	19-Sep	Bettie Lewis
09-Sep	Liam Oertle	19-Sep	Paul Skjerseth
09-Sep	Matthew Poston	19-Sep	Ashley Springer
10-Sep	Jake Birmingham	20-Sep	Blake Boeshans
10-Sep	Zelda Plummer	20-Sep	David Buatte
10-Sep	Christy Scroggins	21-Sep	Ella Clark
11-Sep	Don Bunt Sr.	21-Sep	Dani Wilson
11-Sep	Marc Ortegren	22-Sep	Neil Herndon
12-Sep	David Badman	22-Sep	Carol Warner
13-Sep	Tamara Atchley	23-Sep	Baylee Allshouse
13-Sep	Susan Cameron	23-Sep	Harvey Gowan
		23-Sep	Nathan Shewmake
		24-Sep	Tanner Betts
		24-Sep	Tim Bunt
		24-Sep	Kellie Greer
		25-Sep	Hayley Schlemer
		25-Sep	Phil Tite
		26-Sep	Bob Blacklock
		26-Sep	Sarah Laufersweiler
		26-Sep	Ashley Poore
		26-Sep	Lily Roberts
		26-Sep	Debbie Tite
		26-Sep	Jan Williams
		27-Sep	David Betts
		27-Sep	Becky Chester
		27-Sep	Donna Ewing
		27-Sep	Sharon Inman
		29-Sep	Jordan Brown
		29-Sep	Kara Martin
		29-Sep	Steven Tite

happy birthday



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

02-Sep	Jason & Gretchen Henderson	19-Sep	Cory & Caroline Crandall
04-Sep	Daryl & Deb Fansler	20-Sep	Bryan & Katie Clark
06-Sep	Jason & Lindsey Mayer	20-Sep	Ross & Debbie Eggebrecht
13-Sep	Phil & Debbie Tite	24-Sep	Nicholas & Julie Hobbs
15-Sep	Donovan & Caitlyn Hale	26-Sep	Ryan & Savannah Cincoski
16-Sep	Christopher & Megan Ricketts	26-Sep	Don & Diane Ford Sr.
17-Sep	Chris & Susan Cameron	27-Sep	Ryan & Megan Parker
18-Sep	Jerry & Cathy Cameron	29-Sep	Gary & Shirley Clark

**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!**



### AUGUST Stewardship

Budget Offering:	8/1/2023 thru 8/31/2023	\$14163.00
Designated Giving:	8/1/2023 thru 8/31/2023	\$510.56
	Capital Improvements	200.00
	Loose Change	55.56
	Flowers	95.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	140.00
	WOW	20.00
	Online Giving	454.25
	Capital Campaign	100.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$15227.81</b>

**DEADLINE FOR  
OCTOBER 2023  
STEEPLE,  
Thursday,  
September 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 APRIL 2024.**  
**Keep this important meeting in your prayers!**



**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!**



**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT**

**September's Loose Change Project** is Trinity UMC in East St. Louis/Washington Park. The ministry of the church has expanded to provide worship services, VBS, and a food pantry to the Hispanic Community. The need is greater than the resources of the local church which is why we help. There are a dedicated membership and a strong youth program at both sites. May God bless and multiply your gifts!





# WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

## 8:45 a.m.

### We Go Through September 17th!

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



### Annual Coats 4 Kids Drive

It is time to collect dona-  
tions for the Riverbend  
Head Start & Family

Services to buy new & used, coats &  
shoes. We do this in the fall. This year, they  
have indicated that they **prefer** to receive  
monetary donations, but if you have a gently  
used or even new child's coat, they can take  
that, too. For us, the drive will go **from**

**October 1 thru November 5.** We ask that if  
you can, please add a gift for the **COATS 4  
KIDS DRIVE** in with your tithe and offerings.  
Mark on the front of your offering envelope  
or check what amount we should direct to  
them for this annual drive! Thank

you so much in advance! Call the  
church office with questions!

**-OUTREACH MINISTRY  
TEAM**







# 2023 FALL FESTIVAL

Coming October 12th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm!  
Watch for the sign-up sheets!

The **ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** will soon be here!  
It will be on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12th** from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

We will have our famous **Chicken & Noodles**, the **Vegetable Soup**, etc. The craft ladies have been busy creating a variety of crafts and gifts – remember to shop your “home church” first! Pick up gifts for the “special people” you want to remember during the holidays including treats for your kids and grandkids. Don’t forget to stop at the baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, plants, farmer’s market, AND This ‘N That tables.

**Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**If you can’t “dine-in” we’ll be glad to fix a “Take-Home-A-Meal.”**

In order to make the **FALL FESTIVAL** a success we will need lots of help! Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Sign-up will be starting very soon!

**If you miss signing up at church & want to donate or work, please call**

**Karen Martin at 618-792-7303 or the church office, 618-259-5210, with your information.**

Proceeds from this project and all others held during the year will be disbursed to our mission groups at the end of the year. See you at our Fall Festival 2023!

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right & evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority."

**NEVER MESS WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO PRAY. THEY ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS.**

God Loves to use broken vessels





## 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!!**

**September 7th will be the Fall Kick-Off!! Pastor Ed will be our speaker that night! The meal is at 5:30p.m. with chili (perhaps someone can also bring a pot of soup and other folks sides or dessert) and the service starts about 6:15p.m.**

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 are excited and looking forward to being together in the same space for worship.

**Lauren & Patterson Friese (618-660-7967)**



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

This summer has been exciting and now it’s time to focus back on youth lessons and fellowship. We will be regularly meeting **starting in September**. Our meetings did not quite mesh well with school schedules, therefore we will be **returning to a Sunday evening program**. We will be **meeting on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month from 4pm-5:30pm**. We are looking for snack sponsors to help feed the kids. Remember, friends of the church, we need your help, more than ever, encouraging young people to get involved.

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

**wholehearted** JOB 29:13  
SEE YOU AT THE POLE™

**Sept 27**  
2023

**See You at the Pole (SYATP)** started in Burleson, Texas, in 1990 and is now a global movement of Christian students, burdened for their schools and classmates, who gather around the flagpole early in the school year for a time of prayer and worship.

For some students, this may be their initial opportunity to take a stand for their faith with their peers in an environment like this. It is an opportunity for parents and youth leaders to encourage students to pray for their classmates and for their teachers.

Although this must be a student-led event, parents and other adults can stand in a circle around the students as a show of protection, support, and to pray for them.

Students are facing greater challenges to their faith than ever before. Some will be attending schools where the leadership is very anti-Christian. Some will sit in classrooms with teachers who will challenge their faith or teach things totally contrary to biblical truth.

We need to stand with our students. Support them. Encourage them and help them navigate these challenging times.

**For 2023 the date is Wed., September 27th! Pray for our youth & their schools!**





# Sweet Sounds!



The Sweet Sounds NEEDS YOU!! Have you retired recently? Do you like to sing? We could sure use a few more voices in the group when we start up on **Sept. 8th @12:45p.m.!** Think and pray about joining and give Dorothy Kasinger (618-259-7255) a call if you need more info or to let her know your interest. Give it a try!

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE MEET OUR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT FOR A

*Get to know you*  
**WELCOME RECEPTION**

**OPEN HOUSE 2-4PM  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**O'FALLON FIRST UMC  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER  
504 E HWY 50, O'FALLON, IL 62269**

This event is presented by the Committee on the Superintendency and hosted by O'Fallon First UMC and Trinity East St Louis

Direct your questions to the Central District office: Dawn Beavens, Administrative Assistant  
217-529-3257  
centraldistrict@igrc.org



**DS BRADLEY WATKINS**


The Rev. Bradley Watkins II, was appointed Superintendent to ICRC's newly created Central District, which includes the former Mississippi River and Sangamon Rivers districts. Watkins has been the Sangamon River District superintendent since 2020.

A Peoria native and graduate of Wiley College, Reverend Watkins has spent his life trying to build bridges across theological, cultural and ecumenical communities and is excited to meet you!

**WHEN WE MEET, ASK ME ABOUT...**


- The DS and his wife, Debbie are very proud parents biologically, through foster care, and through adoption
- Watkins was active for 43 years in the Scouts
- He has an appreciation for dancing because he was required to take ballet and jazz

**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!