



The Steeple

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

OCTOBER 2023



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

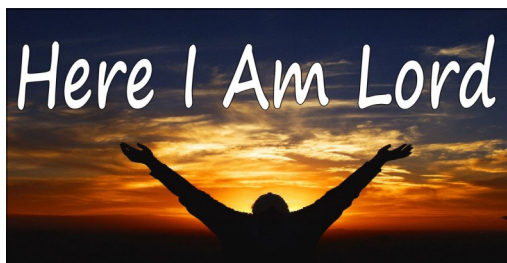
Grace and peace to all this beautiful day of the Lord. You know, at one point in my life, I took for granted God's abundant blessings, kindness, and goodness. But when I believed and committed myself to HIM, he taught me many great things, especially to be grateful in all kinds of situations in my life. So, whatever you are feeling right now as you are reading this short message may God's encouraging words in Psalm 105:1-2 lift you up and fill your empty hearts with riches far beyond gold and silver. Indeed, we have been made new and will continue to be new every morning. Great is your faithfulness, O Lord!

It is a brand new month, October 2023. Time flies when you are having fun. It seemed September went by like a rushing wind; like blinking your eyes, they were just too slow to catch up. But then again, I am thankful that all of you are still here... waiting, serving, praying, and worshipping with me in Spirit and in Truth. Despite your busy schedules, your commitment to the church has been a meaningful reason for me to walk an extra mile with you. Honestly, I feel tiredness of my body right after 2nd service. Why? Because I cannot afford to be complaisant before and after 1st service or else... 2nd service will go through sluggishness and lack of excitement. I thank God, my strength is in the Lord. I hope and pray that you also claim this power in your everyday activities. For God is our greatest source of energy, full of faith, hope, and love.

Let me remind everyone, these final 3 months of 2023 will be our busiest. Our starting point will be **Oct 12th, St. Paul Fall Festival** and **East Alton 1st Trunk Or Treat, Oct 29th** ... then District conference, Thanksgiving dinners, joint fellowships, and gatherings...then Advent, Christmas, and New Year. All major activities within a 3-month period. (Are you getting tired already? LOL) Top that with our individual days of decoration preps, meal preps, and shopping preps. The travels and outreach. Worship services, camps, communion, and much more. These, for sure, can be overwhelming. I pray we will not get distracted. I hope that we will not get so deep into the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season that it might cause severe stress and anxieties. It is imperative that we must avoid these apprehensions because in the first place, worry and meaningless agitations are not being celebrated, but God in Christ Jesus. Right?

So, here are some of **my suggestions**. **1. If you will be busy...** make sure that you are enjoying your busy-ness. **2. If you feel tired or feel weary...** stop, rest, and breathe. Remember, God rested on the 7th day, so take a breather and be renewed. **3. If you feel down and are having a hard time getting your enthusiasm up...** stay strong and courageous. FYI, God trusted the leadership of Joshua with 3 million souls to cross to the promise land, so why will he not keep his promise to us knowing HIS name will be glorified? He will see us through. Let us remain faithful. Let us find comfort in the Lord. And let us continue to serve God with a purpose.

Psalm 105: ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. ² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Amen.



Blessings to all!

Edward Granadosin

Edward Granadosin

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



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the families & friends of **Roberta “Bobbi” Ortegren (77)**, wife of Al Ortegren (see obit page 8); and **Shirley Pauley (95)**, mother/mother-in-law of Connie (Jim) Hickerson and grandmother of Lori “Hickerson” Hutson. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God’s peace through it all.**
- Welcome to **Grace Alexandra Campbell** born on September 8, 2023 weighing 5lbs. 15 oz. She is the daughter of Luke & Malory Campbell and her big brother is Auggie. Proud grandparents are Steve & Sarah Campbell; proud great-grandmothers are Elinor Blacklock and Betty Campbell. Blessings on all of the days that are ahead!



THANK YOU! A big thank you to the guys who took care of equipment setup and running the sound, etc. for the outdoor services throughout the summer ... **Randy McLain, Mark Mayer, Joe Hoertel, and Mike Tappy.** We sure appreciated your commitment to this ministry task! **-Worship Ministry Team**

THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who sent me cards and letters of thanks, love, and support that I received during **Mail Call** on the Honor Flight I was able to experience in September! It all meant such a great deal to me...God Bless you all! **-Harvey Birmingham**

THANK YOU! Dear St. Paul UMC Congregation...We want to thank you for your support and help in collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste for the children of Honduras. We treated about 600 children during our recent mission trip. Extra dental supplies were donated to a past translator of ours who is also a dentist and is affiliated with an orphanage. So kids are still being helped, although we are not there. Thank you again... Bendiciones! **-Team Honduras 2023**

THANK YOU! To Whom It May Concern at St. Paul UMC...Thank you so very much for the generous donation (of school supplies) to our school! We appreciate you thinking about our school and students when choosing a donation site. Our students and staff will greatly benefit from all of the items received. **-Ashley Lowe, Eastwood Elementary Principal**

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:

The Outreach Ministry Team thanks everyone for giving to help the students!! The counters counted **208** items and have divided them between the 3 schools! God Bless your giving hearts!





World Communion Sunday, October 1st

On World Communion Sunday - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **You may give your World Communion Offering throughout October.** The gifts will be used to help students here and around the world have access to higher education.



YES, we know it is **October** but it is time to order your poinsettias.

This is not our idea but is the request of the place we order the flowers from. They need our information now! So, here we go... The cost **will be \$10** per poinsettia. **The absolute order deadline will be Friday, October 13th at 3p.m.** Poinsettias may be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. **Order forms are in the entryway on the table.** Remember to indicate when you order to whom it is "in memory" or "in honor" of and it is **important** to include your payment when you order. Questions? Call **618-259-5210.**

FALL CHURCH WORK DAY

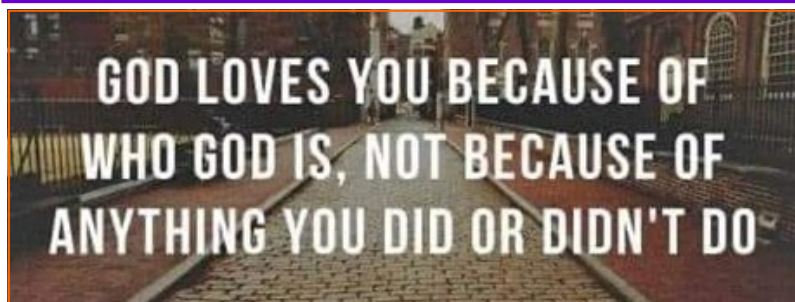
Saturday, October 21st 8:00 a.m.-Noon

Jobs inside and outside matching all skill levels. Come and join the work and help keep all we have been blessed with in great shape!



Even if you only have one hour to give, it sure would help!

Sponsored by the Board of Trustees





St. Paul Sunday Service in **OCTOBER** 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!

1st: World Communion Sunday.

Message: The True Heart Of God! Scripture: *Philippians 2:1-13*

8th: Columbus Day Sunday. Birthday Sunday.

Scripture: *Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19; Phil 3:4b-14; Matt 21:33-46*

15th: Scripture: *Ex 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23; Phil 4:1-9; Matt 22:1-14*

22nd: Scripture: *Ex 33:12-23; Ps 99; 1 Thess 1:1-10; Matt 22:15-22*

29th: Reformation Sunday.

Scripture: *Deut 34:1-12; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thess 2:1-8; Matt 22:34-46*



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!

October Is...



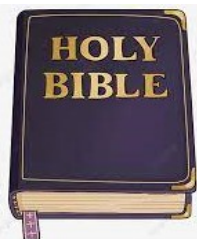
Pastor Appreciation

MONTH!



It's time for EAFUMC annual Trunk or Treat! Please, bring your children dressed in their costumes to get a treat! Due to the overwhelming success of our haunted house last year, we will have one again!

Sunday, October 29, 2023
East Alton FUMC
Trunk or Treat 6pm-7pm
Haunted House 5pm-8pm



BIBLE STUDY RETURNS!

We are now meeting on Mondays at 1:30p.m. in the Parlor! To be ready to study... simply bring your Bible! I hope to see you there! ~Pastor Ed~

2023 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

Oct 1: by **Mike & Linda Scroggins** in honor of **their Children!**

Oct 8: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **their Grandson Lincoln's Birthday!**

Oct 15: by **The Hickerson Family** in memory of **Carole Taylor.**

Oct 22: by **Carol Warner** in memory of **husband, Dean and daughter, Terri.**

Oct 29: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **Karen & Chris' Wedding Anniversary!**



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!!

OCTOBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

October 2-3,9-10,16-17,23-24,30-31 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

October 4,11,18,25 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

October 5-6,12-13,19-20,26-27 = 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

ON OCTOBER 6 WILL BE GONE FROM 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH

ON OCTOBER 12 WILL BE AT FALL FESTIVAL LUNCH 11:30a.m. to 1:00p.m.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Oct Daryl Fansler
- 01-Oct Joe Martin
- 01-Oct Susie Pruetzel
- 01-Oct Jessie Springer
- 01-Oct Tom Vore
- 02-Oct Michael Cathorall
- 02-Oct Adam Schroedter
- 03-Oct Cody Blacklock
- 03-Oct Karen Hamm
- 03-Oct Lucas Hartman
- 03-Oct Jeannie Huddleston
- 04-Oct Mickey Dorsey
- 04-Oct Una Faye Garland
- 04-Oct Dena Tite
- 05-Oct Ronda Crain
- 05-Oct Emmaleigh Ford
- 05-Oct Sherry Huff
- 06-Oct John Palmer
- 07-Oct Rosalie Toner
- 08-Oct Brady Cranmer
- 08-Oct Kelly Cruthis
- 09-Oct Gary Clark
- 09-Oct Drew Huddleston
- 09-Oct Douglas Phelps
- 10-Oct Emily Bowman
- 10-Oct Gracie Napp
- 11-Oct Ashley Cameron
- 11-Oct Bill Hale
- 11-Oct Lincoln Challandes
- 12-Oct Grace Oertle
- 13-Oct Leah Butler
- 13-Oct Carly Campbell
- 13-Oct Jennifer Liedtke
- 14-Oct Dana Clutts
- 14-Oct Jaxson Hendricks
- 14-Oct Erica LaTempt
- 14-Oct Joy Pascoe
- 14-Oct Gianna Vore
- 15-Oct Duane Atchley
- 15-Oct Paul Ward
- 17-Oct Madelyn Adams
- 17-Oct Danielle Baggett
- 17-Oct Jim Baggett
- 17-Oct Angelina Frantz
- 17-Oct Ryan Bentley
- 18-Oct Jonathan McCammon
- 18-Oct Patty Peters
- 20-Oct Amy Helmkamp
- 21-Oct Jacobb Uzzell
- 22-Oct Mandy Armon
- 23-Oct Morgan Hatten
- 23-Oct Mike Schlemmer
- 24-Oct Matthew Gowan
- 24-Oct Ian Martin
- 25-Oct Gene Babcock
- 25-Oct Jamie Keith
- 26-Oct Lori Hutson
- 26-Oct Joe Huff
- 27-Oct Stella Lusicic
- 27-Oct Anthony Ramirez
- 28-Oct Caleb Bentley
- 28-Oct Reagan Hubbard
- 29-Oct Oliver Bacus
- 29-Oct Anna Mae Stewart
- 30-Oct Greg Crews
- 30-Oct Cecilia Suermann
- 31-Oct Don Bunt Jr.
- 31-Oct Deanna Ford
- 31-Oct Stephanie Sabatino

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 02-Oct Brock & Heather Hendricks
- 04-Oct Glenn & Debbie Bowman
- 04-Oct DJ & Brandy Lusicic Jr.
- 09-Oct Stan & Laurie Griffin
- 09-Oct Ted & Cathy Toner
- 10-Oct Dave & Noël Schiber
- 11-Oct Todd & Joy Virgin
- 12-Oct Rodney & Heather Adams
- 12-Oct Scott & Kelly Cruthis
- 15-Oct John & Donna Bailey
- 16-Oct Jamie & Jennifer McLain
- 16-Oct Chris & Emily Elliott
- 17-Oct Alex & Nicole Barnes
- 17-Oct Al & Terry Poston
- 24-Oct Ronald & Monna Bishop
- 24-Oct Aaron & Kristen Arbuthnot
- 24-Oct Chris & Stephanie Redden-Oliver
- 25-Oct Geno & Amy Hartman
- 27-Oct Mark & Deb Mayer
- 30-Oct Chris & Karen Challandes
- 31-Oct Larry & Megan Newingham



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!**



SEPTEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	9/1/2023 thru 9/30/2023	\$15332.00
Designated Giving:	9/1/2023 thru 9/30/2023	2333.50
	Capital Improvements	360.00
	Loose Change	45.50
	Flowers	40.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	745.00
	Upper Room	18.00
	Coats 4 Kids Drive	25.00
	Memorials	50.00
	UMCOR	50.00
	Reimbursement	1000.00
World Communion		10.00
Online Giving		454.25
Capital Campaign		50.00
Total:		\$18179.75



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 the church 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
NOVEMBER 2023
STEEPLE,
Friday,
October 20th!**

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!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

October's Loose Change Project is the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY. Long associated with the United Methodist Church, Red Bird Mission provides a school, dental care, health care, food pantry, thrift store, and other services in one of the most impoverished areas of Appalachia. It has many success stories of helping children rise out of poverty. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Roberta "Bobbi" Ortegren, age 77, of Rosewood Heights, passed away at her home after a battle with cancer. Bobbi was born in Oak Park, IL, the daughter of Dr. Robert & Thelma Elwell and grew up in Oakland, IL. She cherished having been raised in such a small, close-knit community and often shared fond stories of her childhood there.

Bobbi graduated from Millikin University in Decatur, IL in 1969 with a degree in History and worked as an elementary school teacher while earning a Master's Degree in Counseling from Eastern Illinois University in 1973. It was at EIU that she met her husband Al—whom she married 6 months later—and began a joyful adventure together that lasted 50 years. Bobbi worked as a teacher and a guidance counselor in Kansas and Arkansas while Al pursued a Ph.D. and after they settled in Rosewood Heights, Bobbi was hired as a counselor at Roxana High School in 1985.

She was a beloved community member, always ready with a hug and a kind (and possibly sarcastic) comment to bring one joy. Bobbi's commitment to her students and colleagues was acknowledged when RHS dedicated the 1990 yearbook to her. She was an active member of the St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights, the American Association of University Women, and Delta Theta Tau philanthropic sorority for many years, and traveled throughout the U.S. every chance she got. Bobbi never met a stranger—only people she had not yet befriended. And she could and would befriend anyone, a quality that her children found as embarrassing in their youth as they found admirable in their adulthood. She will be remembered and missed for her incredible generosity, warmth, and especially her sense of humor.

She is survived by: her husband Al; son Jason (Tabatha) Ortegren of Pensacola, FL; son Marc Ortegren of Bethalto, IL; daughter Jenn (Ajay Verghese) Ortegren of Middlebury, VT; and grandchildren Parker and Siddha Ortegren and Zahina and Aliyah Verghese. The family intends to celebrate Bobbi's life with a private service sometime in the future. We have missed Bobbi being with us in worship and ministry for a long time and ask that you remember to hold up her family in your prayers.



Annual Coats 4 Kids Drive

It is time to collect donations 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**



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5



2023 FALL FESTIVAL

Coming October 12th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm!

Fill out a [sign-up sheet!](#)

The **ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** is almost 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. If you haven’t signed up yet, there is still time!
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!



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!!**

October 5th will be the next service!! Our speaker this night is a surprise right now! The meal is at 5:30p.m. with spaghetti (perhaps someone can also bring 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)

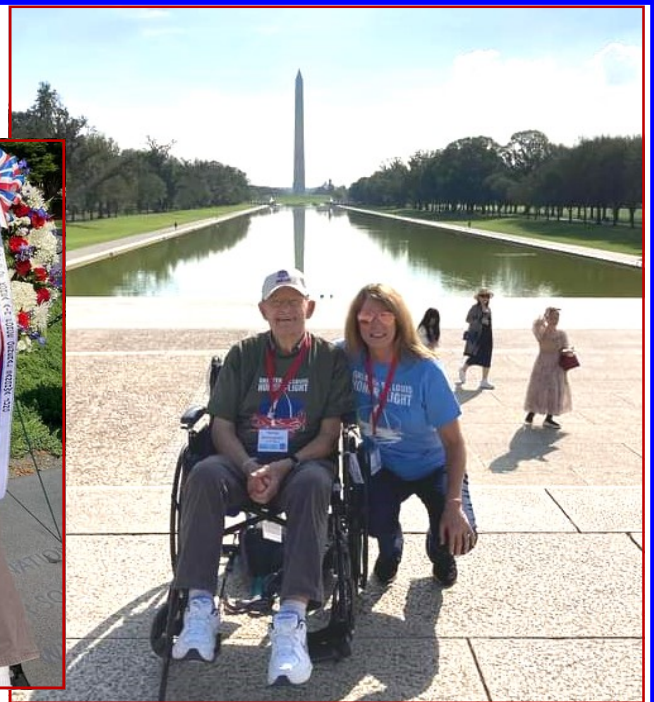


In a world where you can be anything ... Be Kind!

We will continue to regularly meet. We have **returned to a Sunday evening program**. We are **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)

Moments from Harvey Birmingham’s Honor Flight!





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. **We have begun our Fall season!** Think and pray about joining and give Dorothy Kasinger (618-259-7255) a call if you need more info or to let her know of your interest. Give it a try!

2023 Pecans
to arrive after the beginning of November!
There will be **1 lb. bags of Halves** and also **Chocolate-covered**. Costs to be set once we know the cost to us. ~WOW~

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!!



All the forces of darkness cannot stop what God has ordained.
Isaiah 14:27



→ **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!

