



The Steeple

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

DECEMBER 2023



COLOSSIANS 3:15-17 *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

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

Grace and peace to all after this Thanksgiving month. I believe each one of you has your own way of celebrating the yearly Family Thanksgiving gathering. I hope and pray that it was better than last year and that everyone was able to make it on time for the turkey dinner and party. As for me and my family, we just stayed at home and enjoyed each other's company with a touch of Filipino flavors on our dinner table. It was indeed a Happy Thanksgiving Day for all of us. I remember my Dad, Bishop Paul Granadosin... and I will never forget his sermon about thanksgiving, entitled... **"Thanksgiving is Thanksliving."** Since then, I always made it a point to thank God not just for one day but to thank him always in my life. It is sad, most of the time, we take HIS blessings for granted, and that we only thank him for major things we think important. And the minor or little things... less. But think about it, the moment we wake up in the morning to the moment we retire at night... must not be taken lightly. And why is that? Because if not for the grace, love, and protection of the Lord, we wouldn't be here and enjoy our families, loved ones, and friends. We wouldn't have created fond memories that will serve as inspirations later on when we are downhearted and lonely. We wouldn't have savored all those sumptuous Thanksgiving meals. Right?! How can we not say a prayer of thanks to HIM? We must learn how to give God the glory and thanks for all... not some... but for all the many blessings He has given. In that way, thanksgiving... becomes **thanksliving**. So that means thanking God is a way of life. Thanking God is a source of Life and thanking God becomes you and me.

IN this season of thanks and hope, we may be busy with everything from our Christmas decorations, dinner and lunch gatherings, shopping, to gift givings. But may we never forget to bring Christ back in Christmas. Let the Spirit of God encourage all of us.

Paul reminded the people in **EPHESIANS 5:18-20 (NASB)**... *but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord; **always giving thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father.*

So, my friends in Christ, always give thanks. Always give praise and glory to our God. Make it a habit; you and I must give thanks with a grateful heart. Belated Happy Thanksgiving, Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and to God be the glory. Amen!!

Blessings to all!

Edward Granadosin

Edward Granadosin

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





OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **Congratulations to Pastor Ed & Ruth** on their 24th Wedding Anniversary! It was so great to celebrate with them over at EAFUMC!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Glen Greenwood, Sr. (85)**, the father of Rev. Dr. Glen Greenwood, Lois Mitchell's pastor at Godfrey Baptist Church. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

THANK YOU! Thank you all! Our Community Thanksgiving Lunch was a great success! Thank you for your support, serving, preparing, and donating. Most of all for your prayers! Blessings were many in working together to serve our communities. Thank you! **-EAFUMC**

THANK YOU! To those who set-up and have donated to our "Cap 'N Mitten Tree." It is covered with cozy items for our local kids and youth who may not have warm clothing.

THANK YOU! To our **Worship Ministry Team** who decorate our sanctuary and makes it look fabulous for the Christmas season. You are an amazing group of workers!

THANK YOU! To the ones who bring treats for **coffee-fellowship time** before our service.

THANK YOU! To the **Sweet Sounds** who bring smiles, sunshine, and music to local nursing home and care center facilities.

THANK YOU! To all our generous givers, who donate food to our "Continuous Food Drive" year-round, and for **those who transport** the food to Operation Blessing.

THANK YOU! To our wonderful **musicians, Rayford & Martha Raby**, who share their amazing talent in our worship services. You are such a blessing to us!

THANK YOU! To our **communion steward, Linda Scroggins**, who prepares and sets up the bread and juice for our celebration of the Holy Meal.

THANK YOU! To our new **custodian, Charles Slone**, who is keeping things looking well cared for and clean!

THANK YOU! To our **Church Council and Finance Committee**, who with grace and wisdom, guide us through the year with decisions of faith in our finances and projects.

THANK YOU! To the **Board of Trustees** who keeps an eye on the beautiful facility we have been blessed with and makes sure everything is in working order.

THANK YOU! To **anyone and everyone** who helps out and serves at St. Paul UMC in big ways and small ways. It is all important and we should thank you more than we do. May God bless you as you are a blessing to each other and to our community!

Merry Christmas and a very Blessed & Happy New Year!





Children's Church began on Sunday, Dec. 3rd during the 8:45a.m. Worship Service. It is currently for children ages 5-10 yrs. old. The time will include things like an activity, a story that matches up with the sermon, a Bible Verse, a Song of the Month, a craft, and learning the Lord's Prayer.

There will be a teacher & a helper each Sunday at Children's Church! Watch for a handout filled with more information as things progress!

WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!

**SEASONAL ITEMS and
CHRISTMAS ITEMS!**

There are several decorations and gifts available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall from the Fall Festival! *-Women Of Worship-*



**THE FLOWER
CHART FOR
2024 HAS
BEEN POSTED!!
START FILLING IT
UP TODAY!**



St. Paul Sunday Service in **DECEMBER** 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: First Sunday Of Advent. Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;*
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



10th: Second Sunday Of Advent. Birthday Sunday.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15;*
Mark 1:1-8



17th: Third Sunday Of Advent. Pastor Ed on vacation on this Sunday; Frank Akers will fill the pulpit in his place!

Scriptures: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;*
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28



24th: Fourth Sunday Of Advent. CHRISTMAS EVE!

Scriptures: *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46-55; Romans 16:25-27;*
Luke 1:26-38



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE! Come to the 4:00p.m. Christmas Eve Service here at St. Paul UMC! We will be joined by members of our connection church, East Alton 1st UMC.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20*



31st: New Year's Eve!

Scriptures: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7;*
Luke 2:22-40

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!



BIBLE STUDY!

We meet on **Mondays** at 1:30p.m. in the Parlor! To be ready to study ... just bring your Bible! Hope to see you when we return in 2024! ~Pastor Ed~
NOT MEETING IN DECEMBER!



2023 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

Dec 3: by **Randy & Joyce Brueggeman** in honor of their **Family & Friends!**



Dec 10: by **Beulah Moore** in honor of her **Family!**

Dec 17: by **Steve & Jean Kainz** in memory of her **Parents, Bill & Janet Pullen.**

Dec 24: by **Jim & Jane Herndon** in honor of **St. Paul United Methodist Church!**

Dec 31: by **Mike & Ricci Voorhees** in memory of his mom, **Ruth Voorhees.**



Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.

- Steve Maraboli

Sometimes you need a "stop doing" list as badly as you do a "to do" list.

~varun singhal~



CONTINUOUS FOOD DRIVE: The Outreach Ministry Team will keep a "Food Drive" going. 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, Dish Detergent, Spices, Sugar, Flour, etc.) You are awesome! Thank you!!

DECEMBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

December 4-5,11-12,18-19,26 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

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

December 1,7-8,14-15,21-22,28 = 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

ON December 4 & 14 WILL BE GONE FROM 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH

ON December 25th OFF for CHRISTMAS and 29th OFF on a VACATION DAY!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Dec Harvey Chiles
- 01-Dec Amy Gowan
- 01-Dec Bobbie Jean Schlemer
- 02-Dec Al Ortegren
- 04-Dec Sandy Harlan
- 05-Dec Meghan Sparling
- 05-Dec Laura Voorhees
- 08-Dec Will Blacklock
- 08-Dec Tammy Davis
- 10-Dec Reid Adams
- 10-Dec Erika Ramirez
- 12-Dec Dorothy Kasinger
- 13-Dec Jon Cameron
- 13-Dec Jamie Gwaltney
- 13-Dec Elise Myers
- 14-Dec Mike Liedtke
- 15-Dec Devin Eyster
- 15-Dec Jessica Giddings
- 16-Dec Elaine Hart
- 16-Dec Rick Helmkamp
- 16-Dec Stephanie Palmer
- 16-Dec Emily Wells
- 18-Dec Joan Ford
- 19-Dec Heather Adams

- 19-Dec Gary Brown
- 19-Dec Kailynne Cruthis
- 19-Dec Megan Parker
- 20-Dec Jenn Champa-Kumar
- 20-Dec Brody Hendricks
- 23-Dec Joe Hoertel
- 24-Dec Ben Brown
- 24-Dec Kaydence Harlan
- 24-Dec Kristina Harlan
- 24-Dec Steve Kainz
- 26-Dec Don Ford Sr.
- 26-Dec Chloe Blacklock
- 26-Dec Wynter Blacklock
- 28-Dec Orisa Babcock
- 28-Dec Madilyn Ross
- 29-Dec Ada Brueggeman
- 29-Dec Glenn Hubbard
- 29-Dec Billy Laws

- 29-Dec Doug Pascoe
- 30-Dec Devin Caldwell
- 30-Dec Jack Caldwell
- 31-Dec Jim Herndon
- 31-Dec Lillian Maxwell
- 31-Dec Susan Phelps
- 31-Dec Iris Uzzell



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 06-Dec George & Donna Hamilton Sr.
- 14-Dec Tom & Shana Vore
- 16-Dec Anthony & Erika Ramirez
- 19-Dec Steve & Jill Oertle
- 20-Dec David & Donna Badman
- 22-Dec Gary & Julie Brown

- 24-Dec William & Jill Taylor-Sullivan
- 26-Dec Randy & Karen Roberts
- 28-Dec Steve & Sarah Dawson
- 29-Dec Greg & Lana Mortland



WE NEED INFO FOR THE NEXT CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Merry Christmas to the St. Paul family!

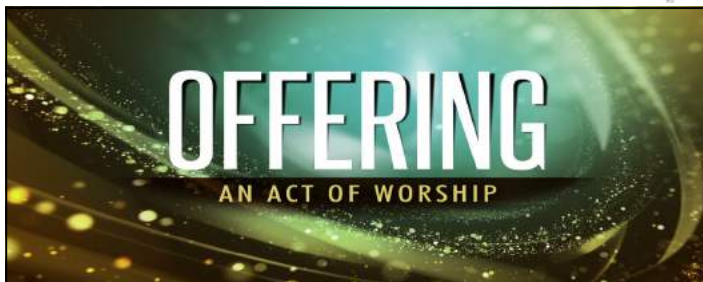


Please contact the church office if you (OR A FAMILY MEMBER) have had a **change of address, phone number, or email address since the last printing!** We will begin the process of completing a new Church Directory in mid to late January!



NOVEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	11/1/2023 thru 11/30/2023	\$12733.00
Designated Giving:	11/1/2023 thru 11/30/2023	2102.58
	Capital Improvements	280.00
	Loose Change	42.58
	Flowers	0.00
	Women of Worship	50.00
	Upper Room	30.00
	Coats 4 Kids Drive	120.00
	Offering Envelopes	20.00
	MidWest Dist Center	50.00
	Staff Christmas Gifts	750.00
	UM Student Offering	10.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	70.00
	Christmas Offering	50.00
	Thanksgiving Offering	630.00
	Online Giving	454.25
	Capital Campaign	50.00
Total:		\$15339.83



An important reminder... 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
JANUARY 2024
STEEPLE,
Thursday,
December 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!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

December's Loose Change Project is the Salvation Army in Alton. The Salvation Army helps individuals and families facing special hardships with food, transportation, rent, and utility assistance, as well as providing meals, clothing, and shelter for the homeless. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



Annual
Coats 4 Kids
Drive



Thank you everyone for your donations to the Coats 4 Kids Drive 2023! We were able to send them a check for **\$320** to help buy coats for the kids this winter!
-OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

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!!



THERE ARE IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN THE SWEET SOUNDS

Qualifications: Must be male or female; young, middle age, old, older. Must be able to walk and to step onto the van.

NO EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED! If you like to sing that is a **BIG PLUS**. You don't have to be trained in opera or even country music. Can't read music? That is **OKAY**; we only use the words. Must be able to shake hands & spread some sunshine! You need no computer savvy, bookkeeping skills, or accounting degree.

Should be available most Fridays (at 12:45 p.m.) of the month and one Monday (at 1:00 p.m.).

APPLY IN PERSON AND BE PREPARED TO STAY. *Excellent benefits to your mind, body, and soul. God and Sweet Sounds need you in this outreach ministry today!*

Music IS a powerful memory!

Our members have come from several churches and communities. For more information call

Dorothy Kasinger at 618-259-7255 or email to her at dorothydlk@charter.net.

Give us a try this year!

MY HOPE DOES NOT REST IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIS WORLD. IT RESTS IN CHRIST WHO IS COMING AGAIN.

-Billy Graham

Find *joy* in every day, not because life is always good but because **God is.**



No Perfect Church, No Perfect Family, No Perfect People, But we have a Perfect **God.**
Amen.





Christmas Party Potluck

Tuesday, December 5th – 11:30a.m.

Potluck – bring your favorite dish of food! Also, **socks & underwear for the Cap ‘N Mitten Tree!** We will also disburse our funds. All St. Paul UMC women are welcome!



BUY YOURS NOW!!

Regular 1lb. bag = **\$12**
Chocolate-covered = **\$11**

2024 NEWSLETTERS: It is time to start thinking about the 2024 Newsletter (The Steeple). The cost to have the newsletter mailed directly to you at home will be **\$9.00**. Of course we will still email the Newsletter, place it on the website, and have copies at the church for you to pick up, to have extras to give to friends you invite to church, and for visitors to take. Send your request to have it mailed directly to you and your check for **\$9.00** to the Church Office. **Questions...call 618-259-5210.**



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!!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If bad weather requires the cancellation of our worship service and Sunday School, we will:

- ✘ ACTIVATE “OTTO” OUR PHONE TREE CALLING SYSTEM!**
- ✘ contact TV Channel 5 to list it**
- ✘ post a notice on our website www.stpaulwired.org (if possible) and on our Facebook page (St. Paul United Methodist-East Alton IL)**
- ✘ contact those on the e-mail & phone prayer chain (if possible)**



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!!**

December 7th will be the next time we meet!! This night is a **FAMILY NIGHT!** Join us for a night of fun, family, fellowship, snacks, hot cocoa, & coffee! It all begins at **5:30p.m.** There will be a craft activity that includes building & decorating your very own Nativity Scene. Awards will even be given for creativity & cooperation! Please, at least one adult is required to be present with children at this event. **RSVP to Becky @ 618-791-0708 or rtuchalski522@gmail.com by Tuesday, 12/5/23.** **This night is for the young and the young at heart! (no meal this night, just snacks)**

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!

The youth volunteered at the Christmas Market in downtown Wood River on **Friday, November 24th from 5-8p.m.** Lots of fun!

We will be meeting **December 12th to go see the Christmas Lights at Rock Spring Park.** Dinner together at 5p.m. and leave for the lights at 6p.m. Dinner will be at the church.

We will not meet the rest of December, and will be hosting a Bring-a-Friend Night on Sunday, January 14th to kick youth off in 2024. We need the help of the church to spread the word to area youth who are in middle and high school. We are fervently praying to successfully rebuild our program that is currently at **4 youth** who regularly get together. **2024 is going to be a great year for our Youth!!**

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

Ponder how valuable your soul must be for Satan to tirelessly pursue it, and the King to lay down his own life for it.



The church doesn’t need more people who think they’re leaders, it needs more people who know they’re servants.



Christmas Offering



It has been decided that the **undesignated amount** of the Christmas Offering will go **50% for UMCOR and 50% for the General Fund**. The General Fund provides the funds for the ministry and operating expenses of the church. As always, you are encouraged to designate your Christmas Offering for missionaries, ministries, or projects supported by St. Paul. There is a **Christmas Offering envelope** included in your set of envelopes. You may also use one of the extra envelopes in the pews. **Dec. 17th** will be our **Annual March To The Manger Sunday**. If you cannot attend in-person, don't let that stop you from giving your Christmas Offering! Put it in the mail, bring it on another Sunday, or bring it to the church office during the week!

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT



The **2023 Staff Christmas Gifts** are being **collected on Sundays**. This year's monetary gifts are for our paid staff (5 people). Also, you may **bring your gifts by the church office** or you can **mail it to the church**. Please be sure to mark your envelope for "**Staff Christmas Gift**" and if you chose to write a check make it to **St. Paul UMC** and be sure to include on the **MEMO LINE** that this is for the **Staff Christmas Gift**. Your gifts are needed by **Dec. 10th**. Thank you!
-Staff-Parish Relations Committee-

→ COFFEE BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS:



Do you enjoy having coffee waiting for you when you arrive? Would you like this to 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!

Offering Envelopes



The **2024 Offering Envelope** instructions are below.

ALL 2024 Envelopes can be picked up in the church entryway beginning on Sunday, December 10th.

PLEASE, do not use them until January 2024.

If you would like to trade weekly envelopes for monthly or vice versa, call the office as soon as possible.

Thank you!!

