



The Steeple

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

JANUARY 2024



LUKE 2:8-14

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. **10** And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. **12** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **14** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

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

May the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Jesus Christ transport you into the realm of HIS glory and grace of Christmas 2023. I sure did have a great time with my family and Church Families. There are not enough words to describe how wonderful and blessed I was to hear Christmas songs and see all kinds of Christmas decorations on residences, Churches, and establishments both complicated and simple. Unforgettable delicious meals that once again, gained me wisdom in my cooking skills. Unfortunately, I gained weight as well. Can I hear an Amen to that? Shopping, gift-giving, traveling, and overwhelming parties and family gatherings all happened in a month. I know some of us got exhausted somehow, but we kept on going and going and going like the Eveready Bunny... Right? But what really kept us going...? It was The Christ of Christmas that kept and sustained us to the end. Our prayers and faithful anticipation of Advent Sunday after Sunday... to the Christmas Eve worship were all God-breathed. What our Lord did was truly remarkable and very very special. Christ indeed, was born on that Christmas and nothing... I mean... no force, known or unknown, can ever stop the message of Christ's birth because God is the source of our strength. He was and is the ultimate power. God's will and plan paved the way for the coming of the King. Now that Jesus Christ is born...now what!!!!? Well, just to give you an idea what to do next, recall the story of Christmas.

After the angels left the shepherds, who also heard and saw the multitude of the heavenly hosts, this is what the gospel of **LUKE 2:15-16** said; **15** And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." **16** And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

This is not really hard to understand what they did. Would you not go and see the newborn babe after that divine performance? Naturally, I would do the same. It's just too good to pass up and ignore. However important the flocks of these so-called outcasts were, guided by the angels, they just left their posts and went to Mary & Joseph and saw the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger. According to the Bible, they worshiped the baby and paid homage to the king with gladness in their hearts.

The Bible also says that after what they saw, they left the place with excitement. So excited, they told the others about what had happened. My dear friends in the Lord, the recent Christmas celebration never changed its message. And the one these Shepherds worshiped and saw, was and is the same Christ that we worship and adore to this day.

May the power of God prompt us all to go like the hardworking herders to tell the Good News of the birth of the King and the saving grace offered to those who need the Christ of Christmas. May we remain excited and courageous in this year 2024 and bring more souls to God because the only way for us to go to God is through HIS son. Acknowledging the Son of God as Lord and Savior will set our lives into the eternal dwelling of God, life everlasting.

Belated Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all. Amen!

Blessings to all!

Edward Granadosin - Pastor of East Alton 1st UMC and St. Paul UMC



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Dale Krepel (68)**, friend of Lois Mitchell since kindergarten; **Dr. Arthur "Art" "Lin" Lippoldt (85)**, brother/brother-in-law of Iris (John) Uzzell; **Diana Kasinger (66)**, wife of Jeffrey Kasinger, nephew of Dorothy Kasinger; **Barbara Deck (68)**, daughter of the late Charley & Lois Woodward, wife of Art Deck, mother of Mandy (Rick) Skiff; **Patricia Magary (73)**, daughter of the late Alice Burrows and sister of Sue Carr; and **Erin Magary (44)**, son of the late Patricia Magary, grandson of the late Alice Burrows, nephew of Sue Carr. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**
- We welcome **Nathaniel Robert Douglas Karbach**, born on December 28 weighing 5lbs. 9oz. He is the son of Sam & Devon Karbach. His Grandparents are Jason & Marissa Hart and his proud Great-Grandmother is Joyce Tappy! Congratulations everyone!

THANK YOU! Dear Church Family, Our heartfelt thanks for your monetary Christmas gift. It is truly a blessing to provide worship music to this loving church family. We count it a blessing to minister through music with Pastor Ed and it is a joy to work with Administrative Assistant, Lois Mitchell. She keeps us all organized and with such a sweet spirit. Our prayer for our St. Paul family is for a joyous New Year as we continue in His service. God is so good! **-Blessings, Rayford and Martha**

THANK YOU! Thank you so much Church Family for the gift you gave to us! It was very much appreciated! God bless you all in 2024! **-Patterson & Lauren Friese**

THANK YOU! My ministry with you means so very much to me. The blessing of your generous Staff Christmas gift and all the other cards & gifts received has been wonderful. Thank you! Happy New Year! Blessings on you all! **-Lois Mitchell**

THANK YOU! Thank you to all who helped at the Christmas Dinner Potluck (setting-up, cleaning up, etc.). And thank you to all who helped by bringing a favorite dish to share! God Bless you in the New Year! **-Nurture Ministry Team**

THANK YOU! Thank you to the family who portrayed the Holy Family during this year's **March To The Manger**. We thank **Nicholas, Julie, Leo, and baby Emmett Hobbs** for helping at the service on December 17th. (SEE PHOTO →→)





Welcome back to
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church begins at the start of the 8:45a.m. Worship Service with the children gathering in the sanctuary. After the Children's Moment they move together to their classroom. It is currently for children ages 5-10 yrs. old. The time may 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!!



**WE'VE BEEN
MISSING YOU
AT CHURCH!**

**Have you been
away too long?
Start 2024 off in
the right way;
reconnect with God
and the Church!**



**2024 THE FLOWER
CHART FOR
2024 HAS
BEEN POSTED!! HELP
FILL IT UP TODAY!**



St. Paul Sunday Service in **JANUARY** 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.

Beginning in February the St. Paul UMC service will also be **LIVE STREAMED** Online! You will be able to go to our Facebook Page and click on a link to watch it as it happens. (More information coming in January!)

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!

7th: Communion Today. Wesley Covenant Sunday. Baptism of the Lord.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12; Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11*



14th: Birthday Sunday. Human Relations Day (for Martin Luther King, Jr.).

Scriptures: *1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51*

21st: Scriptures: *Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20*

28th: Scriptures: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28*

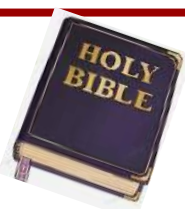
Adult Classes

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~



2024 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

Jan 7: by **John & Rita White** in honor of **her Mom, Beulah Moore's, Birthday!**

Jan 14: by **Mark & Deb Mayer** in memory of **their Parents.**

Jan 21: by **Elinor Blacklock** in memory of **her Husband, Bill Blacklock.**

Jan 28: by **Jim & Maggie Funke** in memory of **her Father, Bill Shoppell.**



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!!

JANUARY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

January 2,8-9,15-16,22-23,29-30 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

January 3,10,17,24,31 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

January 4-5,11-12,18-19,25-26 = 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

ON January 11 GONE FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH

PLEASE NOTE:

If there is snow on a morning when the Church Office is to be open, the Church Secretary will get to the office as soon as safely possible. If there are 3-4 inches on the road, she must wait for her street to be plowed before being able to get out of her subdivision. That gives her time to shovel her driveway with her sister. Please, be patient and pray for her safety on those days. If there are 6 inches or more of snow, she might not make it in at all and will work more the next possible day or in the afternoon of her day off. Thank you for understanding!





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Jan Calvin Gowan
- 01-Jan Noah Friese
- 03-Jan Ronald Bishop
- 03-Jan Kathy Hamlin
- 03-Jan Mike Link
- 05-Jan Heather Decker
- 05-Jan Piper Martin
- 05-Jan Samantha Shewmake
- 06-Jan Joyce Tappy
- 06-Jan Emmett Hobbs
- 07-Jan Glenn Bowman
- 07-Jan Chris Fincher
- 07-Jan Christina Johnson
- 07-Jan Shay Poore
- 07-Jan Laura Jo White
- 08-Jan Becky Balzraine
- 08-Jan Avery Huddleston
- 08-Jan Jim Scroggins
- 09-Jan Mary Lou Dorsey
- 09-Jan Beulah Moore
- 09-Jan Marsha Weston-Fiss
- 10-Jan Emily Voorhees
- 11-Jan Riley Eyster
- 11-Jan Paula Hubbard
- 11-Jan Stacy Lyons
- 11-Jan Norma Shaffer
- 12-Jan Lindsey Mayer
- 12-Jan Nathan Rain
- 13-Jan Aiden Napp
- 13-Jan Mylie Ramirez
- 14-Jan Dottye Aitken
- 14-Jan Scott Gwaltney
- 18-Jan Amy Hale
- 18-Jan McLain Oertle
- 19-Jan Eileen Cheatham
- 19-Jan Julie Hobbs
- 19-Jan D.J. Redden Jr.
- 20-Jan Leo Hobbs
- 21-Jan Scott Aitken
- 21-Jan Annabelle Chester
- 21-Jan Russell Wheat Jr.
- 22-Jan Clayton Bunt
- 22-Jan William Garrison
- 23-Jan Tamera Martin
- 25-Jan Lindsey Cameron
- 25-Jan Jan Poore
- 26-Jan Sandy Moore
- 27-Jan David Sheppard
- 27-Jan James Sheppard
- 28-Jan Duane Moore
- 29-Jan Gail Hansard
- 29-Jan Mychal Voorhees
- 30-Jan Logan Sims
- 30-Jan Tom Voorhees
- 31-Jan Jessica Barnes
- 31-Jan Geno Hartman
- 31-Jan Marlo Schiber
- 31-Jan William Sullivan
- 31-Jan Miranda Walters



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01-Jan Dennis & Becky Tuchalski
- 05-Jan Kelly & Rachel McPheters
- 10-Jan Ron & Flo Nelson
- 20-Jan John & Rita White
- 24-Jan Joe & Debra Hoertel
- 27-Jan Dan & Tammy Davis



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!** We will begin the process of completing a new Church Directory in mid to late January! Thank you for your help!



DECEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	12/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023	\$48525.00
Designated Giving:	12/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023	4756.00
	Capital Improvements	200.00
	Loose Change	49.00
	Flowers	150.00
	Women of Worship	20.00
	Upper Room	3.00
	UMCOR	500.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	525.00
	Operation Blessing	20.00
	Staff Christmas Gifts	695.00
	Helping Hands	520.00
	Reimbursement	40.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	70.00
	Salvation Army	50.00
	2024 Steeple Postage	9.00
	Christmas Offering	1860.00
	Thanksgiving Offering	45.00
	Online Giving	454.25
	Capital Campaign	50.00
Total:		\$53785.25



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
FEBRUARY 2024
STEEPLE,
Monday,
January 22nd!**

GENERAL CONFERENCE

General & Jurisdictional Conference:
The General Commission on General Conference announced that the global gathering is hoping to meet in-person **around APRIL 2024.**

Keep this important meeting in your prayers!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

January's Loose Change Project is the SPERO Family Services in Mt. Vernon, IL. Funds will go for youth programs on campus, independent living programs, transitional living, or community based programs. The Chaplain's ministry may also be a recipient of the funds.
May God bless and multiply your gifts!



QUILT OF VALOR

Local veterans were honored on **Saturday, November 11, 2023** at East Alton/Wood River High School during a special Quilt of Valor service. It is part of a larger effort to distribute quilts to area veterans. What is a Quilt of Valor you may ask? A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that was machine or hand quilted. It is awarded to a Service Member or Veteran who has been touched by war. The Quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation." On this night our favorite recipient was our very own, **Don Bunt. Congratulations!**

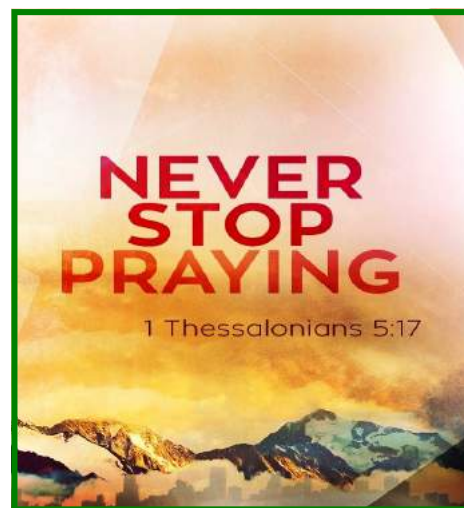


Poinsettias 2023

- LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in memory of their Family Who Have Passed On
- LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of their Family
- DON BUNT in memory of his Wife, Evelyn
- JIM & BETTY BURNS in memory of their Grandson, Chad
- SUE CARR in memory of her Mom, Alice Burrows
- JIM & ANITA DAWSON in honor of all of their Family
- DOROTHY ELLIOTT & FAMILY in memory of Keith Elliott
- TRACY FRANKS in honor of the Taulbee Family
- KAY GWALTNEY & FAMILY in memory of Don Gwaltney
- KAY GWALTNEY & FAMILY in memory of George & Katie Gwaltney
- KAY GWALTNEY & FAMILY in memory of Herb & Katherine Love
- JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of those Who Have Gone Previously
- JIM & JANE HERNDON in honor of their Children, Grandchildren, & Great-Grandchildren
- CONNIE HICKERSON in honor of "The Church Ladies"
- JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in memory of Meghan Hickerson
- JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in memory of Dr. Norman & Carole Taylor
- JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in honor of Evan & Lori Hutson
- JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in honor of John & Iris Uzzell
- STEVE & JEAN KAINZ in memory of their Parents: Bob & Betty Kainz and Bill & Janet Pullen
- STEVE & JEAN KAINZ in memory of Eric Wood
- DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her Parents, Victor & Beulah Strohbeck
- DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of her Children, Grands, & Greats
- TOM & KAREN MARTIN in memory his Parents, Thomas & Elladee Martin
- TOM & KAREN MARTIN in memory her Parents, George & Jean Tappy
- RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of their Kids & Grandkids
- JAYME SCROGGINS in joy of her Children & Grandchildren
- MIKE & LINDA SCROGGINS in memory of his Parents, Paul Scroggins & Eileen Burk
- MIKE & LINDA SCROGGINS in memory of her Parents, Kenny & Marge Bryan

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching."

— C.S. Lewis





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)



PECANS

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.**

2023 WOMEN OF WORSHIP

2023 was even more like normal and the Women of Worship were again up to the challenge. They did not get to do quite all the projects and events in the way they usually do, but they raised enough to donate **\$7000.00** to missions and groups. It was divided up this way:-- **see box →→**

We are sure that 2024 will be a unique year as well, and that will not stop us. There might be a Chicken & Noodle Dinner, there will be a Rummage Sale this spring, and a Fall Festival; we just don't know all that will happen yet. The possibilities are always exciting as we see what God brings our way! Thank you for your willingness to help and support us as we serve!

Karen Martin, President

- St. Paul UMC.....\$2,000.00
- UMCOR.....\$500.00
- Helping Hands.....\$500.00
- SPERO Family Services.....\$600.00
- Salvation Army-Alton.....\$300.00
- Oasis Women's Center.....\$300.00
- Community Hope Center.....\$300.00
- Operation Blessing.....\$300.00
- Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.....\$600.00
- Friends of Troop #8777.....\$150.00
- Cub Scout Pack #8030.....\$150.00
- Dignity Period.....\$100.00
- Roxana School Nurses.....\$600.00
- East Alton School Nurses.....\$600.00

\$7000.00

Joyce Tappy, Treasurer



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!!**

The January Re-Awakening night had to be cancelled due to illness so February 1st will be the next time we meet!! We may try again to do what we were going to do in January! It all begins at 5:30p.m. with a meal. Watch for more information between now and then for the specifics!

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 will next meet and will be hosting a Bring-a-Friend Night on Sunday, January 14th to kick off the youth activities for 2024. They will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4-5:30p.m.

The high school students will attend the 2024 Fire-Up Conference held February 23rd-25th in Troy, IL. More on this as we begin to meet.

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)**



→ 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 on the sheet in the Entryway if you will help!



Annual Coats 4 Kids Drive **UPDATE!**



Thank you everyone for your donations to the Coats 4 Kids Drive 2023! We were able to

send them a check for **\$390 (Updated Amount)** to help buy coats for the kids this winter! **-OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM**

2024 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!

