



The Steeple

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

MARCH 2024



1 Peter 3:18-20

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

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

Grace and love be to all in this Lenten season. A season of reflection and meditation. Although as Christians, these practices must be done on a regular and spiritual manner be it every day, maybe before retiring at night or perhaps like the prophet Daniel did it, 3 times a day... morning, noon, and nighttime. But what matters most is how your hearts are when you go through your personal moments with God. We must always remember; "God sees the heart when it comes to our relationship with HIM." The passage that you have just read above spoke to me personally. I used it on Sunday Feb 18th. Some preachers would center on Christ's suffering, His death and resurrection. They may preach about His sacrifice for the unrighteous. Or make an exegesis (interpretation/explanation) on Noah and the Ark. But I saw only one thing, and for me... that message gave me peace. I learned about the Patience of God on all His creatures. Animals, big and small, birds in the air and creatures of the sea, they are all special to God. But for humans, God has a special place in His heart.

In **Hebrews 2:5-8** it says: *"⁵It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is **mankind** that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? ⁷You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor ⁸and put everything under their feet." In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them."*

Believe it or not, in spite of all of the things we have done and what we have said against our GOD, he patiently waits for us. He continues to call us and pray for us, hoping that we get right with Him. For 120 years, before the flood came and destroyed the people of disobedience, God, through Noah, spoke and preached about repentance. I believe Noah and His family were laughed at, mocked, and experienced tremendous attacks during those days. But Noah kept his faith and did what needed to be done. Unfortunately, only his family was saved, 8 in all. You know what? I felt the broken heart of God seeing all those people being swallowed by the great waters. But the Lord was ready to show mercy and forgiveness to those who would come back to Him. But... nobody came. Only these few survived.

And so, I pray that we make this Lenten season a time to yield to our Lord's voice by submitting and presenting ourselves wholly and acceptable in his glorious sight. We have many ways to connect with God. We pray, we fast, we serve, we worship, and we are with other believers to sing songs of praise. I mean... we have all the means. But the bottom line... make it a goal to meet our Lord in Christ sincerely and intimately in these coming Holy days. Let us be one with the FATHER, one with the SON, and one with the HOLY SPIRIT. To sing Psalms and Hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God (**Colossians 3:16**). Let us not get used to the world's culture of "Eat, Drink, and be Merry for tomorrow you die." I tell you... this is not God's purpose. There is more to life than these things. We need to deepen our purpose by being with the Lord; live a Christ-like life and share the blessings of the Lord with others. Through these means, not only do we please God, but we make our lives more meaningful and significant. The Bible says in **Psalms 147:11** "The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy." Praise be to God!

And so... I call on you, my brothers and sisters in the Lord, find God's heart in this observation of Lent. In CHRIST JESUS... SEE HIM, LISTEN TO HIM, OBEY HIM, AND LOVE HIM with all your heart. Have a wonderful and purposeful Lent. God bless you until my next letter.

Blessings to all!

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 family & friends of **Samantha Nelson (32)**, granddaughter of Ron & Flo Nelson; **Father Jerry Wickenhauser (89)**, known and appreciated by so many in the RiverBend; **Billy Staggs, Jr. (41)**, sweet amazing friend of Lois Mitchell since he was 8 months old; **Richard "Dick" Propes (94)**, well-known, incredible educator and community volunteer friend of so many folks; and **Joe Hanfelder (82)**, custodian at St. Paul UMC for 14 years. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

THANK YOU! I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for the outpouring of love and support during this time of the loss of my mom, Phyllis Daughhete. Mom was the true matriarch of our family and fought a hard battle until the very end. I have been so touched by all the phone calls, cards, texts, and time spent with us to console. I am truly blessed to have each and every one of you in my life. *~Love, Jeannie Huddleston~*



The 2024 Women Of Worship Spring Rummage Sale will be:

Fri. & Sat., 8:30a.m. - Noon
April 12 & 13

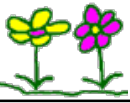
(and a Pre-Sale Thursday evening, April 11, 6 - 8p.m. \$2 entry fee)

The **GREAT ST. PAUL WOW Rummage Sale** is almost here! **Items for sale will be accepted beginning Monday, March 18th and ending Monday, April 8th.** We appreciate all of the great regularly donated items that are brought. There is still time to collect your clean, working, sellable items to bring to the church. **PLEASE, NO** lotions, perfumes, etc. that have been opened. **NO** computer monitors, printers, VCRs, TVs that are not flat screen, or other electronics. **They do not sell and we have no way to dispose of them.** Make sure any clothes or bedding items are clean, stain free, and in good condition...Do not bring if they are not! Please, **NO** sharp knives or child car seats. Books, puzzles, magazines, kitchen & household items, etc. are good selling items.

NOTE: **WE WANT TO TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR** – We have been given permission by the Trustees to use the garage of the parsonage to sell used furniture from. We are accepting **GOOD, CLEAN, USABLE FURNITURE TO BE BROUGHT BY APPOINTMENT ONLY!** To make an appointment or ask a question about this, **call Karen Martin at 618-792-7303. DO NOT** bring the furniture items to the basement of the church. You **must** have people to help unload and move your furniture into place at the garage as we will have no one to help with that.

➔ **Help Wanted: the week of April 8th** to sort and prepare items for the sale. We will also need workers to total purchase amounts, keep tables neat, and to assist shoppers in any way needed during the sale. We need a few men to help carry items to shoppers' cars all 3 days. Any amount of time you can help will be appreciated **AND** you get first chance at all of the bargains!

LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT SALE - REMEMBER ALL OF THE PROFITS GO TO UNITED METHODIST AND LOCAL GROUPS NEEDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



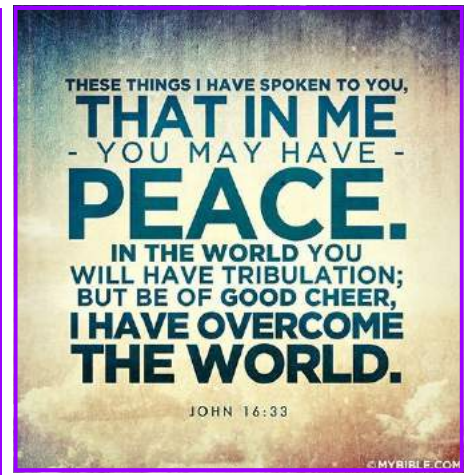
SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

Set your clock
ahead
one hour!



Sunday March 17th...

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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 years old. The time may include things like an activity, a story that

matches up with the sermon, a Bible Verse, singing, a craft, or 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!!



St. Paul Sunday Service in **MARCH** 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. The St. Paul UMC service is also **LIVE STREAMED** Online! You are able to go to our Facebook Page and click on a link to watch it as it happens. You can also go directly to Youtube.com and find it at [St Paul UMC 1167.](#)

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: Third Sunday In Lent. Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22*



10th: Fourth Sunday In Lent. Daylight Saving Time BEGINS! Birthday Sunday.

Scriptures: *Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21*

17th: Fifth Sunday In Lent.

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33*



24th: Palm Sunday.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16, 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 11:1-11, 14:1-47*

28th: MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE. At St. Paul UMC at 6:30p.m. It is a combined service with East Alton FUMC.



31st: RESURRECTION SUNDAY / EASTER SUNDAY!

Scriptures: *Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8; John 20:1-18*

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!
~Pastor Ed~



SAVE THE DATES

VBS 2024 June 10-13



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!!

2024 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

- Mar 3: by **St. Paul UMC** to acknowledge our confession and preparation **during Lent.**
- Mar 10: by _____ .
- Mar 17: by **Mike & Linda Scroggins** in celebration of their **54th Wedding Anniversary (3/21)!**
: by **Shelley Heigert** in celebration of **Harvey Birmingham’s Birthday (3/18)!**
- Mar 24: by **Tom & Karen Martin** in memory of her **Mom, Jean Tappy.**
- Mar 31: by **Tracy Franks** in memory of her **Brother, Duke Taulbee.**
: by **Kay Gwaltney & Family** in memory of **Don Gwaltney.**



MARCH OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

- March 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
- March 6, 13, 20, 27 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off
- March 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28 = 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
- ON March 14 GONE FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH.
- ON March 29 OFFICE IS CLOSED for the GOOD FRIDAY Holiday.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Mar Lisa Betts
 01-Mar Ava Toner
 02-Mar Kristin Baker
 02-Mar Robert Brown
 02-Mar Ricci Voorhees
 03-Mar Ted Toner
 04-Mar lola Ballard
 04-Mar Allan Napp
 04-Mar Brent Springer
 05-Mar Alexis Plummer
 05-Mar Ava Sandbach
 07-Mar Judy Glassmeyer
 07-Mar Mark Mayer
 09-Mar Corey Bell
 09-Mar Landon Clark
 09-Mar Meg Fansler
 09-Mar Claudia Herndon
 10-Mar Micki Emerick
 10-Mar Donna Hamilton
 11-Mar Kasey Diveley
 11-Mar Ashley Laws
 11-Mar Jill Oertle
 12-Mar Brooke Toner
 13-Mar Hunter Bonds
 13-Mar John Huddleston

13-Mar Stephanie Schroedter
 13-Mar Codey Terry
 16-Mar Clark Cranmer
 17-Mar Kelsey Foiles
 17-Mar Sophia Henderson
 17-Mar Jean Kainz
 17-Mar Rachel Schiber
 17-Mar Carol Upple
 18-Mar Harvey Birmingham
 19-Mar Rick Huddleston
 19-Mar Joe Tillery
 19-Mar Gerry Ward
 19-Mar Tim Witthoft
 20-Mar Katie Clark
 20-Mar Matt Gwaltney
 21-Mar Krista Bishop
 21-Mar Phyllis Hill
 22-Mar Randy Brueggeman
 22-Mar Lucas Gebhardt
 22-Mar Lori Kamp

22-Mar Kyle Napp
 22-Mar Matt Toner
 23-Mar Justin Sandbach
 24-Mar Lucy Grizzle
 24-Mar Logan Oertle
 24-Mar Audrey White
 25-Mar Anita Dawson
 25-Mar Tonya LaTemp
 26-Mar Jayden Bell
 26-Mar Toby McCammon
 27-Mar David Lauferweiler
 28-Mar Tyler Watt
 29-Mar Tracy Bentley
 29-Mar Mark Hamlin
 30-Mar Chris Eyster
 30-Mar Amy Wells
 31-Mar Betsy Blacklock

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



02-Mar Norris & Mary Lou Dorsey
 03-Mar David & Cherie Buatte
 07-Mar Andrew & Jennifer Garrison
 07-Mar Nathan & Samantha Shewmake
 09-Mar Brent & Jessie Springer

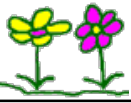
11-Mar Brian & Jennifer Roberts
 19-Mar Jim & Jane Herndon
 20-Mar Jeff & Laura Mae White
 21-Mar Doug & Joy Pascoe
 21-Mar Mike & Linda Scroggins

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 have begun the process of completing a new Church Directory!

Please, check the Workbook in the Entryway!

We want to have the directory ready before Easter! Thank you for your help!



FEBRUARY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	2/1/2024 thru 2/29/2024	14391.00
Designated Giving:	2/1/2024 thru 2/29/2024	2070.46
	Capital Improvements	335.00
	Loose Change	55.46
	Flowers	470.00
	Women of Worship	20.00
	Upper Room	0.00
	Offering Envelopes	35.00
	Helping Hands	100.00
	AED	875.00
	Memorials	70.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	70.00
	All Kind of Postage	40.00
	Online Giving	402.88
Total:		\$16864.34



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
APRIL 2024
STEEPLE,
Friday,
March 22nd!**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

March's Loose Change Project is McKendree University. This university was established as a private Methodist College. The university needs financial support for scholarships, building funds, and the many other needs always present in maintaining an ongoing educational institution. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



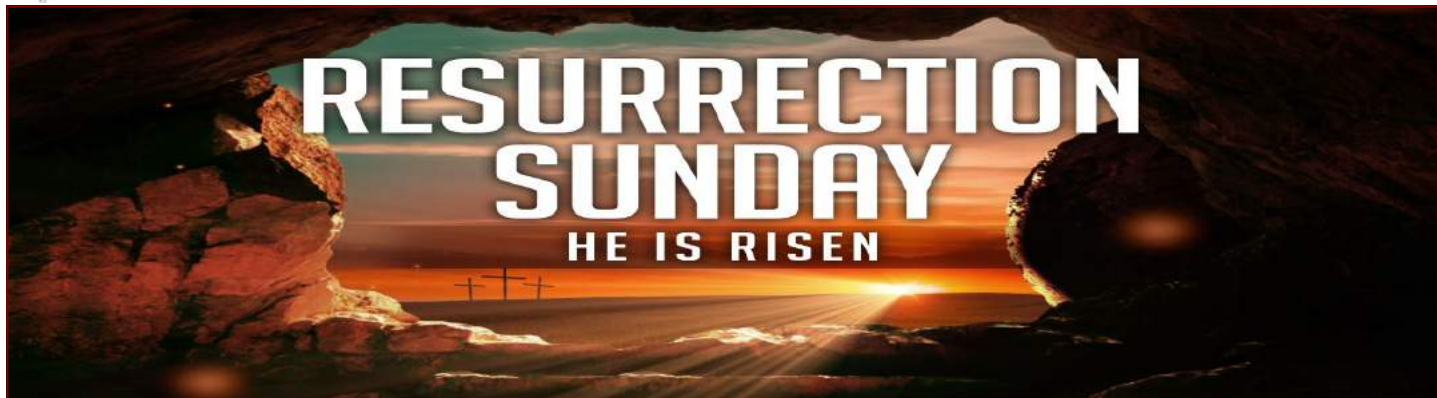
GENERAL CONFERENCE

It has been announced that the General Conference, a global gathering, will meet in

Charlotte, NC in-person from

April 23 through May 4.

Keep this important meeting in your prayers!



**March 28th
@ 6:30 p.m.**

We will be at St. Paul UMC for a combined service with East Alton FUMC. This is the night Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and they shared the Last Supper together... With bread and cup we remember the darkness of deceit which is a prelude to the dawn of God's great truth: Jesus Lives! Join us and please, bring your family and friends!

Hickerson Scholarship 2024



The tragic skiing accident of January 15, 1995, that claimed the life of Meghan Hickerson of Hartford, IL, will never be forgotten.

God has a way of healing hurt and turning tragedy into triumph. Meghan's death immediately gave life to several people, known collectively as "organ donor recipients." Her legacy of faith and service lives on through the "Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship" that is made available through St. Paul UMC.

Meghan was a student leader who set a standard of excellence within the public school system. She also set an example of faith and dedication by spreading God's love through her church and her academic life, to all she encountered. Our goal each year is to reward one or two

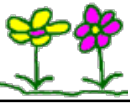
deserving college-bound, graduating seniors who set for him or herself the same standards of outstanding scholastic achievement and faith reflected in their everyday life.

Graduating seniors from the three area high schools (East Alton-Wood River, Roxana, and Civic Memorial) or any who are a member of St. Paul UMC may apply for the **\$500.00 scholarship**.

We encourage members to notify any student that may qualify and have them complete the application process. Application materials are available through the counselors at the above mentioned schools or directly from the church office.

DEADLINE for completed application materials is: Monday, April 1, 2024

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 618-259-5210.



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Joe Hanfelder, 82, passed away at 5:22 p.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024, at Alton Memorial Hospital. He was born on November 15, 1941, in South Roxana, the son of the late William Charles & Josephine (Gascho) Hanfelder. He met the former Judy Tuttle at the East Alton Dairy in 1961 and they married in 1963. They built a house from the ground up and lived there until 1976. They then moved to Moro and had ten acres where they raised chickens, cows, pigs, and rabbits. At one time, he had over five hundred rabbits and every week he took one hundred rabbits to the market.

Survivors include three daughters and two sons in law: Michele & Dennis Johnson of Meadowbrook, Melissa & Richard Hosto of Edwardsville, Manda Jackson of Bethalto, six grandchildren: Dennis Johnson, Jr., Josephine Johnson, Adam Hosto, Allie Hosto, Nathan Rector, Noah Hanfelder, three sisters and a brother in law: Rita Sutton of South Roxana, Gladys Abernathy of East Alton, Phyllis & Dale Noble of Wood River, many nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

Joe graduated from Roxana High School in 1959. He went to work at the East Alton Dairy and then went into business with Henry Hahnenkamp at Melville Dairy in 1964. He also worked at Wonder Bread and was a 7Up distributor in South St. Louis. In 1978, he started Meadowbrook Dairy Store and later started Joe and Judy's Food and Drink with the aid of his wife. He later went to work for Hilmes Distributing and later founded Riverbend Distributing and worked there until he retired. He was on the ground floor of developing IPSA – Independent Postal System of America. After retiring he worked as a custodian at St. Paul UMC of Rosewood Heights from 2008-2022. He was a member of the United Church of Christ. Joe loved fishing and gardening and he always had a big garden. He would always take a couple of five-gallon buckets full of tomatoes to give to folks who didn't have a garden.



In addition to his parents and his wife, Joe was preceded in death by a grandson: William Johnson, four brothers: Kenneth Hanfelder, Arthur Hanfelder, Robert Hanfelder, Charles "Chuck" Hanfelder, five sisters: Helen Perry, Doris Stille, Margaret Hinkle, Alice Schuessler, and Kathryn Smith.

Please, keep Joe's family in your prayers as they journey on without him. Joe was a very amazing man who took good care of us at St. Paul UMC. He is greatly missed by all of us.

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!!

Lent IS A TIME TO GROW CLOSER TO JESUS



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!!**

→ **Re-Awakening will be taking a pause.**

At this time, Lauren is looking for folks who would be dedicated to joining a vision team that would help rebuild and plan the future of Re-Awakening.

Please, contact Lauren at laurenfrieese20@gmail.com or give her a call at (618-660-7967), if you would like to be a part of this. We are looking to schedule a team meeting on an upcoming Sunday or Monday afternoon.

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 look forward to more worship together!

Lauren & Patterson Frieese (618-660-7967)



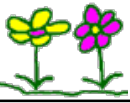
In a world where you can be anything ... Be Kind!

The youth will **continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4-5:30p.m.**

Lauren has been working on collaborating with various other area churches to combine resources. We have all been small in numbers of youth for years, but we do have youth that want to have programming to attend. If you know of a young person or are connected to a young person in your life who is seeking opportunities for Christian fellowship, activities, sporting events, camps, retreats, etc., please, fill out the informational sheet on the table in the entryway alongside the bulletin sheets on Sunday morning! Put the completed informational sheet in the mailbox for the Church Office. Thank you!!

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. **2024 is going to be a great year for our Youth!!**

**In Christ's Love & Kindness, Patterson & Lauren Frieese - Youth Leaders
(217-851-4651) (patterson.frieese@gmail.com)**



HAVE A HAPPY SPRING

This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and *be glad in it.*

PSALM 118:24 NKJV

March 19th!



IF YOU WANT GOD TO CLOSE AND OPEN DOORS, LET GO OF THE DOOR KNOB.



It's better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction.



PECANS

BUY YOURS NOW!!

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



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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If bad weather requires the cancellation of one or both worship services, we will:

- ✦ **ACTIVATE "OTTO" OUR PHONE TREE CALLING SYSTEM!**
- ✦ contact TV Channel 5 to list it!
- ✦ post a notice on our Facebook page (**St. Paul United Methodist-East Alton IL**)
- ✦ contact those on the e-mail prayer chain (if possible)