



The Steeple

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

MAY 2024



To the People called United Methodists,

May the Peace and Love of our Savior Jesus Christ be upon us all as we continue to do God's work. I believe by this time you have heard of the news of the recent decisions of our General Conference 2024. As with all Holy conferencing, you cannot deny the fact that there will always be 2 opposing poles. But before any final voting takes place... conversations, decisions, debates, arguments, and discussions of any issue, amendments, laws, and ordinances go through tremendous dialogues and exchanges of thoughts between groups and individuals. Generally speaking, most of the time it is not a pretty sight, especially if the gathering was/is a religious one.

People can be difficult at times and the only powerful way to counter tension and anxiety is through prayers, more love, and understanding. After all, these are some of the ways the graces of God can be demonstrated. Right? But as far as we know, the General Conference did not say... "Stop Preaching Jesus" in hundreds of their agendas and issues. So, let's stop our whining and complaining. Let us do what the Lord has commanded us to do and stay faithful to His teachings. There are still people out there who do not know Jesus and we need to tell them that Jesus Saves and Jesus Transforms. Sometimes, we are just so preoccupied with the little things that the main thing has been set aside already. To keep the main thing, the main thing...our faith... has only one agenda... we started with Jesus... we end with Jesus and will be with Jesus forever.

I hope and pray that we remain vigilant, attentive, and watchful. The gospel has gone through enormous analyses and dissections to conform to the image of the world. Many so-called "Christians" now pick and choose from the Bible. They only read what they want to read and hear. The Word of God has become a "Convenient book, As Needed book, Emergency book." I hope it does not become a "Horoscope book" someday. That will be a good sign for Christ's return in my opinion. But whatever or however we take all these new inserts under the UMC flag, we proclaim and preach Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6 says: *1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. 6 For it is God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*

Until the next newsletter,

Blessings to all!

Edward Granadosin

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

**"A ship in a harbor is safe,
but that is not what ships
are built for."**

~William Shedd~



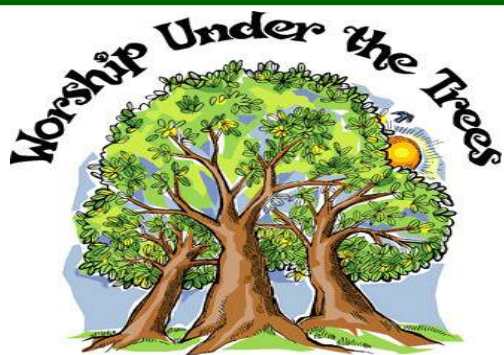
OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **OUR YOUTH:** Congratulations to **Madelynn Cranmer** for being a Silver Medallion recipient - the top 8% of scholars for her school!
- Congratulations to **Marjorie Cranmer, Tabby Barclay, and Audrey Peña** for being inducted or continuing their membership in the National Junior Honor Society. We are so proud of your accomplishments!!
- **Madelynn Cranmer** will graduate high school on Wed., May 8th from East Alton-Wood River High School. She will be graduating in the top of her class with plans to attend SIUE on a full tuition scholarship, majoring in English with plans to pursue a law degree in the future.
- **Marjorie Cranmer and Tabby Barclay** will be graduating from 8th grade on Tuesday, May 14th. We wish them well on their next adventure...high school!!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Michael Bostick (62)**, son of Mary Lou Beck and stepson of the late Rev. Fred Beck (longtime chaplain of Alton Memorial Hospital). **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace.**

THANK YOU! a **BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped on the Spring Work Day to catch up on some needed fixes around the facility! We have been blessed with an amazing place to do ministry and to worship...thank you for helping us take care of it! **-Board of Trustees**

THANK YOU! Thank you so very much to **John Edru "Dru" Granadosin** for stepping into the pulpit on April 21 and 28. We appreciate you and your willingness to serve! **-Worship Ministry Team**

THANK YOU! Thank you so very much to each person who sent a card, sent a gift, or sent appreciative words of love to me for this year's Administrative Professional Day! I felt very appreciated and I really love ministering with all of you here at St. Paul UMC! Have a glorious day! **-Lois Mitchell, Administrative Assistant - St. Paul UMC**



**WORSHIP
UNDER THE TREES
ON SUNDAYS IN THE
CHURCH AMPHITHEATER**

8:45 a.m.

BEGINS JUNE 2nd!

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



RUMMAGE SALE

THANK YOU!

The **WOMEN OF WORSHIP** would like to thank **EVERYONE** who helped in anyway to make our **2024 RUMMAGE SALE** a huge success! Whether you donated or shopped for items, helped organize items, helped during the sale itself, or were one of the guys who helped carry things out to cars...you were very much appreciated! God's blessings on all of you!

\$2,991.00 was raised for missions!



St. Paul UMC is invited to **Madelynn Cranmer's High School Graduation Party** on **Sat. May 11th** from **1-4p.m.** This will be an open house style event. There will be light snacks and beverages. The party will be held at **East Alton First UMC** in the **Fellowship Hall!** Please, stop by!



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!

WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!



St. Paul Sunday Service in **MAY** 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](https://www.youtube.com) and search for **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!

5th: Communion Sunday.

Scriptures: *Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-5;
John 15:9-17*



12th: Birthday Sunday. Ascension Sunday.

Mothers' Day Sunday. Festival of the Christian Home.

Scriptures: *Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19*

19th: Pentecost Sunday.

Scriptures: *Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27;
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*



26th: Memorial Sunday. Trinity Sunday. Peace with Justice Sunday.

Scriptures: *Acts 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17;
John 3:1-17*

Members are remembered and Memorial Projects are dedicated

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 there! ~Pastor Ed~



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 the church for us to give to the food pantries!

Some suggestions: Oil, Can Opener, Mayonnaise, Powdered Milk, Milk/Oat Milk/Almond Milk/Coconut Milk – kind that is non-refrigerated until opened, Coffee, Peanut Butter, Crackers, Tea Bags, Salt & Pepper, Spaghetti Sauce in a Can or Plastic Jar, Pasta, Canned Vegetables or Meats, Ketchup & Mustard, Spices, Sugar, Cereal, Tuna Fish, Rice, Flour, Dish Detergent, Hand Lotion, Rolls of Paper Towel, Boxes of Facial Tissues, etc. You are doing so wonderful! **THANK YOU!**

2024 STEWARDSHIP

→ REMEMBER YOUR GIVING!

***keep the ministry of St. Paul UMC growing; a ministry which is needed now more than ever! Thank you!!**



2024 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

- May 5:** by **Betty Burns** in honor of **Chad & Walker**.
- May 12:** by **Shelley Heigert** in memory of **Shirley Birmingham**.
- May 19:** by **Joan Ford** in memory of **Phill’s Birthday!**
- May 26:** by **Dorothy Kasinger** in memory of **Margie Hall**.



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 HAS BEEN POSTED AND IT HAS JUST A FEW SPOTS LEFT! PLEASE, HELP FINISH FILLING IT!

MAY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

May 6-7,13-14,20-21,28 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

May 1,8,15,22,29 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday weekday off

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

ON May 7 & 9 GONE FROM 10:45a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH.

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY - MONDAY, MAY 27th = OFFICE CLOSED.



may BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-May Kennedy Scroggins
- 03-May Bowen Ayres
- 03-May Brian Eyster
- 03-May Sharon Fulks
- 03-May Shelley Heigert
- 04-May Zack Toner
- 05-May Sydney Martin
- 05-May Keri Whaley
- 06-May Mike Tappy
- 07-May Alex Barnes
- 07-May Ian Napp
- 07-May Jeff White
- 08-May Brayden Decker
- 08-May Bruce Hatten
- 08-May Trudy Lehnen
- 08-May Joy Virgin
- 09-May Jackie Beth Burt
- 10-May Brandon Bentley
- 10-May Katie Ford
- 10-May Jake Toner
- 12-May Aaron Bottorff
- 12-May Liam Cincoski
- 12-May Heather Hendricks

- 12-May Connie Hickerson
- 12-May Laura Mae White
- 13-May Troy Cameron
- 13-May Ethan Martin
- 13-May Aaron Rich
- 13-May Shelby Whaley
- 13-May Tana Yankovich
- 15-May Joshua Giddings
- 15-May Wyatt Parker
- 16-May Paul Bowman
- 16-May Adelyn Spurgeon
- 17-May Debbie Bacus
- 17-May John Uzzell
- 19-May Kylie Winchester
- 20-May Barbara Baggett
- 21-May Ray Babcock Jr.
- 21-May Jocelyn Toner
- 22-May Tyler Babcock
- 22-May Ridgely Hubbard

- 24-May Ryan Spurgeon
- 26-May Kelly McPheters
- 26-May Brendan Palmer
- 27-May Betty Campbell
- 27-May Brandy Lusicic
- 27-May Lana Mortland
- 27-May Parker Kainz
- 28-May DJ Lusicic Jr.
- 29-May Gina Brown
- 29-May Laurie Griffin
- 29-May Richard Huebner
- 30-May Steve Dawson
- 30-May Sarah Gebhardt
- 30-May Sam Griffin
- 31-May Jessica Braun



may ANNIVERSARIES



- 01-May Mark & Sandy Scroggins
- 02-May Jim & Connie Hickerson
- 12-May Chris & Kellie Greer
- 15-May Bob & Betsy Blacklock
- 17-May Brian & Trista Liedtke
- 19-May Troy & Kristin Cameron

- 21-May Tom & Karen Martin
- 22-May Jimmy & Brianne Bourne
- 25-May Bruce & Karen Hatten
- 26-May Keith & Mandy Armon
- 27-May Brennen & Samantha Hermens
- 27-May Steve & Jean Kainz

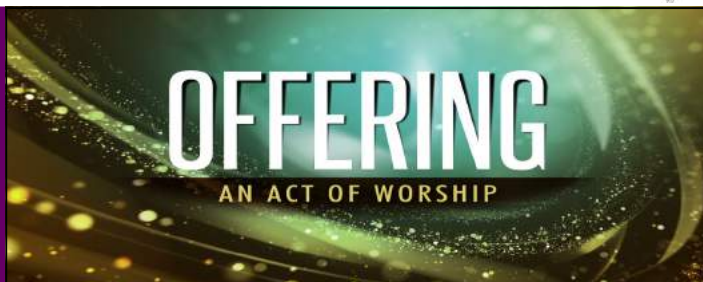
BE SURE TO PICK UP A 2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Please contact the church office if you (OR A FAMILY MEMBER) have had a **change of address, phone number, or email address!** Pick up your copy of the 2024 Church Directory the next time you come to the church! If they are all gone, just let the Church Office know so we can print a copy for you!



APRIL Stewardship

Budget Offering:	4/1/2024 thru 4/30/2024	12424.00
Designated Giving:	4/1/2024 thru 4/30/2024	793.09
	Capital Improvements	230.00
	Loose Change	38.09
	Flowers	40.00
	Women of Worship	60.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	70.00
	Community Hope Center	50.00
	Helping Hands	100.00
	Easter Offering	195.00
	Reimbursement	10.00
	Online Giving	351.50
Total:		\$13568.59



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 to 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!

IT'S ALMOST TIME!!

Annual Rosewood Heights Fire Department



Saturday, May 18
11:00 a.m.
to 4:00 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$10 IN ADVANCE!
TICKETS ARE \$12 AT THE DOOR!

DEADLINE FOR

JUNE 2024

STEEPLE,

Monday, MAY 20th!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

May's Loose Change Project is the Liberian Mission of the Methodist Church. The church continues to rebuild. This will help support pastors in the churches there who only earn a small amount per month in salary. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



VBS 2024

Join us for VBS this summer!

WHEN: June 10-13 (M-Th)

TIME: 9:30 a.m. - Noon

THEME: G-FORCE: God's Love In Action

We need plenty of volunteers; folks

6th grade and up to and including our senior members are needed! Please, let Jamie know if you will be available to help out this year. **Call Jamie Gwaltney at: (618) 971-9589**

We need your prayers & support, and the children in your life age 3 years old - 5th grade to make the week a success! Bring your children, your grandchildren, neighborhood kids, and everyone's friends to this important week!

We are hoping to have a very short program on Thursday immediately following VBS so the children can share a few songs, stories, and Bible verses with their parents or caregivers.

→ Remember...there are so many ways to help make VBS happen! If you cannot join us that week, there will be a list of needed supplies to help make our week perfect (**KEEP CHECKING THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MAIN HALLWAY**). If you don't have time to shop, a cash donation always works! We will be happy to shop for you.

THE COLORS OF THE DAY FOR VBS WEEK WILL BE:

Monday - Blue, Tuesday - Red, Wednesday - Purple, and Thursday - Orange (in memory of Spencer Bacus).

SAVE THE DATES

Thank you and God Bless You All!
-- VBS Director, Jamie Gwaltney

VBS asks folks to collect empty rectangle-sized (NO CUBES)

Kleenex or Scotties

Facial Tissue boxes! We need about

40 of them! **ALSO** we need empty cardboard egg cartons ...any size =

6, 12, 18. We need 40 of these.

Thank you! ~Jamie Gwaltney





2024 Annual Conference June 6-8, 2024

Pastor Ed will be going to Peoria for the conference this year. Please, pray for all that will be accomplished at this event.

**May 18, 2024
3:00-5:00p.m.**

On this Saturday at the **East Alton First UMC** the IGRC will be holding a **Pre-Annual Conference Briefing** for the Central District. It will cover a lot of information; it is hoped you will attend if you are able.



MMDC collection in Peoria! Bring items to the church by June 2nd!

Attendees to the 2024 Annual Conference are urged to have congregations collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Supplies can be collected and brought to Annual Conference. Items most needed are:

- Liquid laundry detergent, Any size bottle 100-150 oz.**
 - Liquid Dish soap, Any size bottle 42-64 oz.**
 - Liquid Household Cleaner, Any Size Bottle 56-80 oz.**
 - 5 Gallon Round Buckets with Resealable Lids**
- ALSO:** Washcloths & handtowels, boxes of one gallon resealable bags, along with these new or gently used non-kit items: canes, crutches, foldable walkers, and electric sewing machines. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Please, place them on or under the table across from the food drive table! Thank you for any help you can offer!



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 is 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 laurenfriese20@gmail.com or give her a call at **(618-660-7967)** if you would like to be a part of this.

We are still 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 Friese (618-660-7967)



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

The East Alton First and St. Paul UMC youth groups will be taking a **day trip to Six Flags on Monday, June 10th**. Youth must already be in Middle School or High School to attend. **We will need chaperones to attend**. If any church members would like to designate a love gift for the kids to help cover the cost of lunch or a snack, please, designate for the youth fund. **Permission slips are due back by Monday, June 3rd**. We are hoping to start campfire devotions back up for the summer months, so be on the lookout for the plans in the bulletins and newsletters.

Middle School youth are invited to attend the Fueled Camp with Lauren July 14-19 at Little Grassy. Please Contact Lauren ASAP !!

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 or in the offering plate. Thank you!!

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 Friese - Youth Leaders
(217-851-4651) (patterson.friese@gmail.com) (Lauren 618-660-7967)



PECANS

BUY SOME NOW!!

Several 1lb. Bags available = \$12 each



STELLAR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SHINE YOUR LIGHT ON JESUS!

MAY 28-31 FROM 6:00-8:00

GALACTIC GRUB STARTS AT 5:30



EAST ALTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ACROSS FROM EASTWOOD

1001 EAST 3RD STREET

618-259-1306



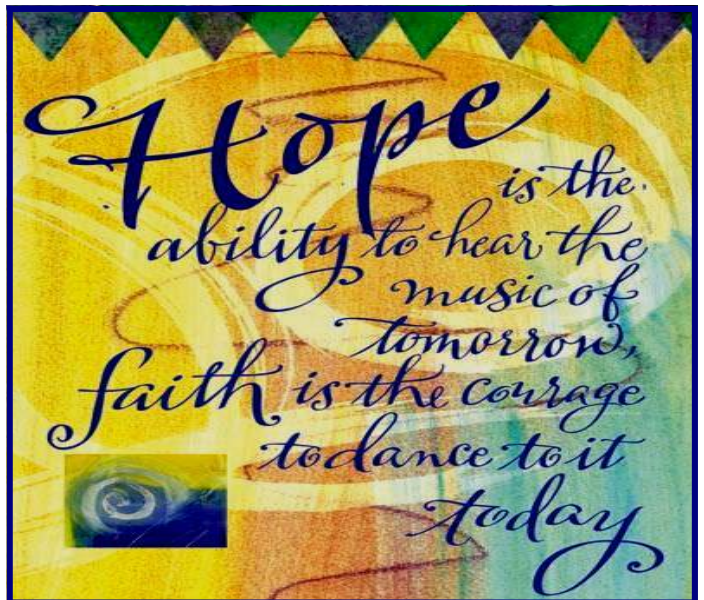
Introduction Video

Register Here



MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27th



Hope is the ability to hear the music of tomorrow, faith is the courage to dance to it today