



The Steeple

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

JUNE 2024



To the People called United Methodists,

Hello everyone. It's newsletter time again. I hope and pray as you are reading this message you are in good health and high spirits. May the peace and love of God in Christ Jesus encourage us all to be in prayer and with much supplication. Our strength and the renewal of our minds come from the Lord. I have always said that these are challenging times so let us not be surprised if the signs from heaven are being revealed. Let us be prayerful and loving no matter the cost. And so... please, take your time to read the Pastoral Letter from Bishop Frank Beard who is the current Episcopal Bishop of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. I believe many of us would like to know the outcome of the recent General Conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina this April 23-May 3, 2024. And with this information, may it help you to better understand the future of the United Methodist Church. Please, do not hesitate to come to me with your thoughts and questions. Thank you and God bless us all.

(VERY IMPORTANT: See the insert of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter found in the middle of the printed newsletter. If this comes as an email, it is an attachment.)

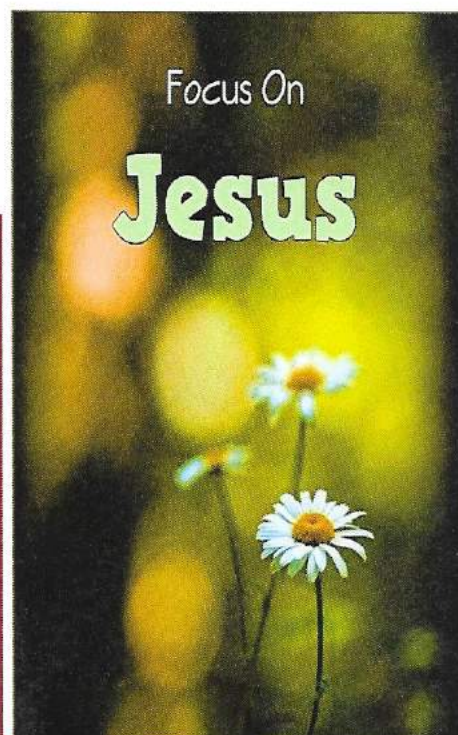
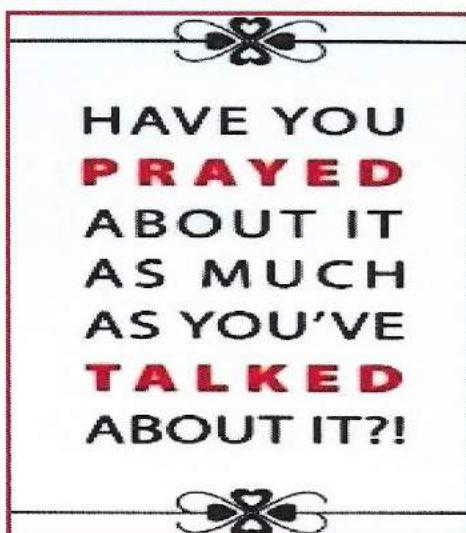
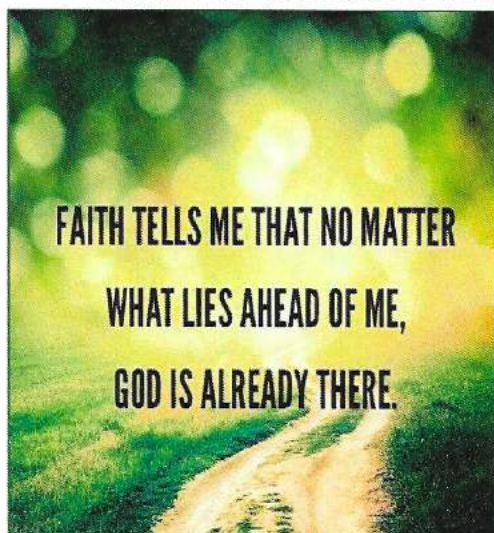
The Apostle Paul said in ***Galatians 5:13-14*** "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Until the next newsletter,

Blessings to all!

Edward Granadosin

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





OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- Congratulations to **Timothy Unverzagt & Jessica Zarantonello** who were married here at St. Paul UMC on May 4th. May God richly bless your life together and may He be ever-present in your home!
- On **Memorial Sunday, May 26th**, we celebrated the lives of those from our church family who have joined the church triumphant since our last Memorial Sunday service. We miss you but rejoice that today you are in the presence of our Lord: **Larry Champa, Barbara Deck, Marjorie "Margie" Hall, Ronald "Ron" Nelson, Roberta "Bobbi" Ortegren, and Frank Yankovich, Jr.** We also dedicated our memorial projects, groups, activities, items, etc. advanced or completed during this time: **Memorial Bench In Church Park & Trustees Emergency Reserve Fund** - Don Gwaltney; **New Bunn Coffeemaker For The Kitchen & Sweet Sounds** - Marjorie "Margie" Hall; **The General Fund** - Roberta "Bobbi" Ortegren.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Daisy Augustine (89)**, sister of Beulah Moore; **Harry "Neal" Funk (88)**, brother/brother-in-law of Lola (Larry) Ballard; **Sally Ray (65)**, sister/sister-in-law of Betsy (Bob) Blacklock and sister of Sharon Szegedy; **Ronald "Ron" Nelson (81)**, husband of Flo Nelson and father/father-in-law of Cathy (Ted) Toner (see obit on page 3); and **Marion Garrigres (98)**, brother-in-law of George (Joyce) Tappy, uncle to Karen Martin, and uncle to Mike Tappy. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace.**
- This is the sixth year of presenting the **Shine Like Spencer Kindness Award**. The award is presented annually to a Roxana High School senior by the Bacus family in honor of their son Spencer Bacus. The **Shine Like Spencer Kindness Award** is not a scholarship. Students cannot apply; they must be nominated by a member of the faculty or staff as someone who exemplifies outrageous kindness and amazing perseverance. **Congratulations** to the 2024 recipient, **Jayden Miles**, nominated by Jenny Pointer and Bethany Martin. Pictured at Roxana Senior High School: Oliver Bacus, Jenny Pointer, Bethany Martin, Rachel Schiber, Debbie Bacus, Jayden Miles, Mark Bacus, Noël Howard Schiber, and (not pictured) Jolie Howard Alois. (See photo ↑)



- **Rachel Schiber**, at the Roxana High School Fine Arts awards banquet, received recognition for her years in the band, received an award for her Thespian status, and received her TriM honors chord which she wore at graduation! She also did an excellent job being part of the team of presenters at the banquet. **Congratulations Rachel** for all of your accomplishments!



THANK YOU! a **BIG THANK YOU** for all of the prayers and calls. Rohland is doing much better. The doctors are pleased with his progress! Please, keep praying that all continues to go well! God Bless You! **-Susie & Rohland Pruetzel**



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Ronald Wayne Nelson, Sr., 81, devoted husband, father and grandfather, passed away Thursday, May 9, 2024 at his home. Born Sept. 2, 1942 in Alton, he was a son of Kenneth W. & Norma J. (Coons) Nelson. He married Florence E. Soto Jan. 10, 1961 in Granite City. She survives.

Ronald worked as an electrician for Laclede Steel for 37 years. A devoted father, he served as his kids' coach and was involved in their Boy Scout and Girl Scout activities. He was Past Governor of the Alton Moose Lodge, and he enjoyed NASCAR.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Cathy (Ted) Toner of Rosewood Heights, Ron Nelson, Jr. of Wood River, Ken Nelson of Smithville, TN, Joey (Tammy) Nelson of Monterey, TN, Kimberly Ludwig of Yorktown, VA, and Don (Diana) Nelson of Liberty, TN; 10 grandchildren, Ashley (Nate) Kamp, Jessica (Michael) Rowell, Jake (Jessica) Toner, Zach Toner, Eric Nelson, Christian Nelson, Sydney Nelson, John Tyler Ludwig, Jordan Ludwig, and Nick Bramlet; 11 great grandchildren, Keegan Rowell, Reese Rowell, Everly Rowell, Sutton Rowell, Kendall Kamp, Karsyn Kamp, Knox Kamp, Jocelyn Toner, Nora Toner, Sophia Nelson, and Maddie Clark; a brother, Richard (Donna) Nelson of Columbia, IL; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a granddaughter, Samantha Nelson; and two sisters, Donna Martin and Kenna Sue Roberson.

Please, remember Flo and the family in your prayers. May God pour out His comfort on them all.



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!)



Children's Church is going to continue this summer with a few changes. Children's Church still begins at the start of our 8:45a.m. Worship Service. We will have the Children's Moment at the table where Randy McLain and Mark Mayer operate sound at the back of the amphitheater.

Activities will then be held inside the fenced backyard of the parsonage after the Children's Moment. Due to the changes in people's schedules for vacations, etc. we will have some guest teachers. Iris Uzzell and Tori (Leona Hendricks's

niece) have graciously agreed to help out. If you think you would be interested in teaching a Sunday, I will have a sign-up list available starting June 2. Maggie Funke and I are currently putting together packets about different Bible Characters to hand out to teachers so you will not have to do all the preparation for stories or crafts. See you on Sundays! Becky Tuchalski, Lay Servant

**It is currently for children ages 5-10 years old.
WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!**



St. Paul Sunday Service in **JUNE** 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. During the summer you may be able to watch it later on Youtube.com starting with a search for **St Paul UMC 1167**.

You are always 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!

2nd: Outdoor Worship in the Park Begins Today! Communion Sunday.

Scriptures: *1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;*
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6



9th: Birthday Sunday.

Scriptures: *1 Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-15); Psalm 138;*
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35



16th: Father's Day.

Scriptures: *1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20 or 72;*
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13); Mark 4:26-34

23rd: Scriptures: *1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20;*
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

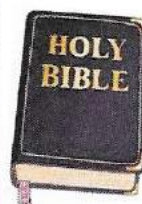
30th: Scriptures: *2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15;*
Mark 5:21-43

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 **Tuesdays** at
Noon in the Parlor! **A New**
Day and a New Time!...
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:

- June 2: by **Tracy Franks** in honor of her **Grandchildren!**
- June 9: by **The Herndon Family** in memory of **Sam Herndon.**
- June 16: by **Jan Poore** in memory of her brother, **Mitch Voorhees.**
- June 23: by **Larry & Iola Ballard** in memory of their **Parents.**
- June 30: by **St. Paul UMC** in celebration of **2024 VBS** and all who helped!



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

JUNE OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

- June 3-4, **10-11-12-13 (VBS)**, 17-18, 24-25 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
- June 5, 19, 26 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday weekday off
- June 6-7, 20-21, 27-28 = 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

ON June 14 the Office will be closed instead of on Wed. June 12.



01-Jun Jansen Helmkamp
 01-Jun Eric Scroggins
 02-Jun Sarah Campbell
 03-Jun Sarah Dawson
 04-Jun Jon Birmingham
 04-Jun Katie Lair
 04-Jun Karen Roberts
 04-Jun Jonathan Scroggins
 05-Jun Jennifer Sandbach
 06-Jun Donna Bailey
 06-Jun Ruth Champlin
 06-Jun Scott Cruthis
 06-Jun Don Franklin
 07-Jun Joyce Brueggeman
 07-Jun Pastor Debra Hoertel
 07-Jun Benson Friese
 08-Jun Vi Huebner
 09-Jun Jimmy Bourne
 09-Jun J.J. Burt Jr.
 09-Jun Jacob Gwaltney
 09-Jun Tori Standefer
 10-Jun Aubrey Sandbach
 10-Jun Olivia Virgin
 10-Jun Claire McPheters
 11-Jun Gary Hart
 11-Jun Lindsey Jensen

12-Jun Debbie Bowman
 12-Jun Cheryl Champa
 12-Jun Deb Fansler
 14-Jun Harper Herndon
 14-Jun Dave Schiber
 15-Jun Autumn Betts
 15-Jun Ashley Sheppard
 16-Jun Trista Liedtke
 17-Jun Brianne Bourne
 17-Jun Jenny Spurgeon
 18-Jun Nicole Barnes
 18-Jun Madelynn Cranmer
 18-Jun Samantha Hermens
 18-Jun August Suermann
 18-Jun Xavier Vore
 18-Jun Zoe Vore
 19-Jun Dustin Caldwell
 19-Jun Sydnie Yates
 20-Jun Karen Martin
 20-Jun Annie Redden

20-Jun Amie Tillery
 20-Jun Abigail White
 21-Jun Lawson Bell
 22-Jun Ethan Virgin
 23-Jun Wanda Graves
 23-Jun John White
 24-Jun Lynn Evans
 25-Jun Caden Clark
 25-Jun Summer Standefer
 25-Jun Steve Voorhees
 27-Jun Jamie McLain
 27-Jun Kaden Sandbach
 28-Jun Katy Hoertel
 30-Jun William Lair
 30-Jun Sharon Szegedy
 30-Jun Jeri Williams

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

happy
 birthday

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



07-Jun J.J. & Jackie Beth Burt
 07-Jun John & Laurie Myers
 08-Jun Brian & Chris Eyster
 08-Jun Joe & Sherry Huff
 09-Jun Terry & Sharon Inman
 10-Jun Cory & Jackie Boeshans
 10-Jun Richard & Vi Huebner
 11-Jun Randy & Joyce Brueggeman

11-Jun Rick & Jeannie Huddleston
 14-Jun Steve & Julie Natsch
 17-Jun Jay & Tracy Bentley
 20-Jun Neil & Jade Herndon
 24-Jun Larry & Iola Ballard
 25-Jun Matt & Cara Gwaltney
 26-Jun Richard & Dell Demond
 26-Jun Mike & Teresa Toner

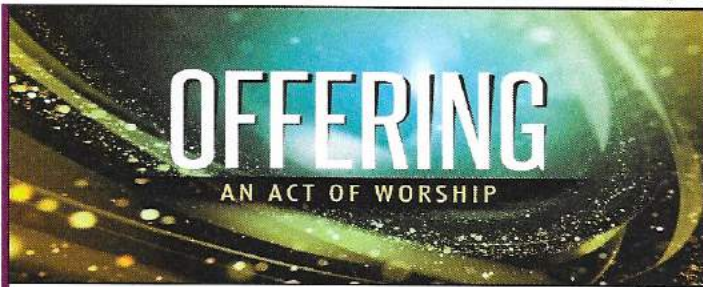
BE SURE TO PICK UP A 2024 CHURCH DIRECTORY!

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!



MAY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	5/1/2024 thru 5/31/2024	11167.00
Designated Giving:	5/1/2024 thru 5/31/2024	974.80
	Capital Improvements	405.00
	Loose Change	38.80
	Flowers	80.00
	AED Fund	100.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	70.00
	Upper Room Donations	6.00
	Youth	50.00
	Wedding Fee	225.00
Transfer From Reserve		50.00
Online Giving		351.50
Total:		\$12543.30



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!

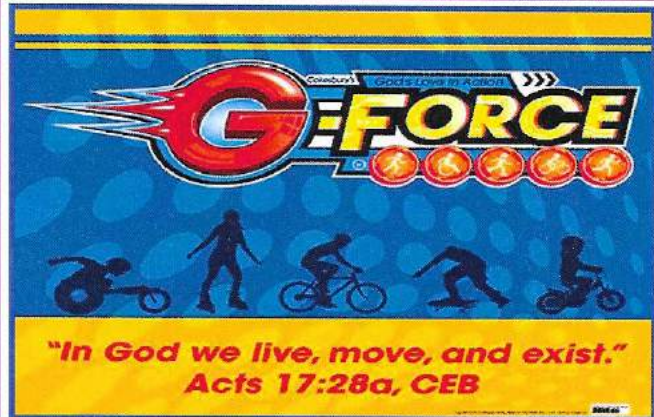
**DEADLINE FOR
JULY 2024
STEEPLE,
Friday, JUNE 21st!**

God does not want you to try harder, He wants you to trust Him deeper. Stop trying. Start trusting. This will change everything, in you.



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

June's Loose Change Project is the Happy Bear Project for our church. Members of the church make bears that are given to Alton Memorial Hospital. These are then offered to children in pediatrics and/or coming through the emergency room in a time of crisis. The bears provide security and comfort for the children. May God bless 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).

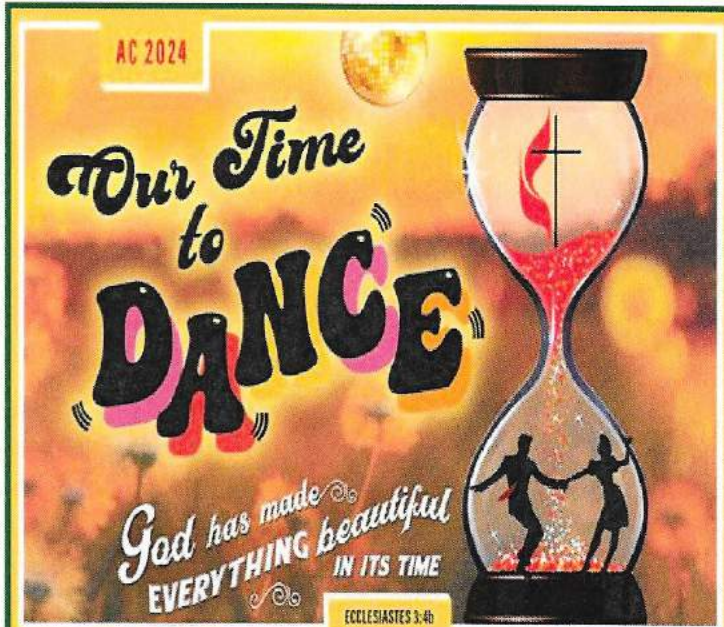
SAVE THE DATES

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.



SALM 37:7,8

"BE STILL BEFORE THE LORD AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM; DO NOT FRET WHEN MEN SUCCEED IN THEIR EVIL WAYS, WHEN THEY CARRY OUT THEIR WICKED SCHEMES. REFRAIN FROM ANGER AND TURN FROM WRATH; DO NOT FRET - IT LEADS ONLY TO EVIL."

Sweet Sounds!

Friday, May 24, was Sweet Sounds last performance for the 2023 - 2024 season.

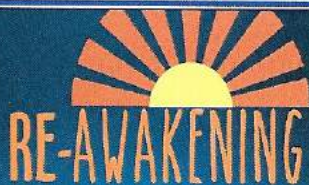
It has been a good year in spite of some cancellations due to COVID. We have entertained at La Bella of Alton, Skyline Towers, Bria of Wood River, Bria of Godfrey, Cedarhurst of Bethalto, and Heritage Manor of Gillespie every Friday from September to May. We sing, have skits, solos, and instrumental playing.

Elinor Blacklock is our comedian as Jules Pearl from Hogs Hollow, TN. She is Minnie Pearl's cousin. **Don Bunt** is our baseball's Mighty Casey at the Bat, narrated by **Dorothy Kasinger**. **Maggie Funke** and **Lori Felts** are our dancing ladies (well, walking and parading ladies) in "Easter Parade" and "Ain't She Sweet."

We sing hymns, popular songs before Elvis, tell the Christmas Story with scripture and song. **Pastor Ed** sings with his beautiful voice. **Jeff Wharford** plays his banjo and sings. **Mike Link** played his clarinet. Oh yes, we also play bells. We bring joy, sunshine, and laughter into the lives of those who can't get out and about. It is good to see the residents smiling, tapping their fingers or toes, and singing along. Our other members are:

Tammy Atchley, Margaret Forstchen, Becky Tuchalski, Gerri & Paul Ward, and Tana Yankovich. Five of us are over 90. We are now on our summer break.

We begin again in September. We need new members. We need younger members. God has been very good and provided for us when we thought we would have to disband. He has blessed Sweet Sounds. We ask for your prayers in finding new recruits for next season. What are God's plans for you? Give Sweet Sounds a try...you won't be disappointed!



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 for summer.**

At this time, Lauren is still 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 [\(618-660-7967\)](tel:618-660-7967) if you would like to be a part of this.

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 for their first summer outing!** Youth must already be in Middle School or High School to attend. **We will need chaperones to attend. Permission slips are due back by Monday, June 3rd.**

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

We will be planning a water park trip for July and we are looking at having a mini camp for August. **Dates for July and August are TBD.** As we rebuild the youth program, we will add more youth meetings into the mix. The mini camp will be take place at St. Paul UMC and serve as the kick-off to the youth programming for the fall.

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 coffee table outside 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
[\(217-851-4651\)](tel:217-851-4651) (patterson.friese@gmail.com) (Lauren 618-660-7967)



Faith is not about everything turning out okay.

Faith is about being okay no matter how things turn out.



“An eclipse is a cosmic reminder that the universe is not a random collection of matter and events that happened by chance. The cosmos is so finely tuned that we can know precisely where every heavenly body will be 200 years from now, down to the minute. These events remind us that the universe is not an accident, and neither are we. God made both, and He is in control.”

-R. L. Solberg

TheBiblicalRoots.org



PECANS

BUY SOME NOW!!

Several 1lb. Bags available = \$12 each