



The Steeple



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

JULY 2024



To the People called United Methodists,

I greet you in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Praying that as you read this newsletter, may it bring joy, peace, love, and encouragement from our loving Father. This is July 2024, and I can hardly believe we have already gone through half of the year. Time flew by so fast as if we were at warp speed. Something the "Star Trek" series taught us when we were still young. But it is what it is. We have to ride it out and make every moment count.

FYI, our church at St Paul UMC has been on a roller coaster ride. In terms of attendance, in terms of ministry for example the Children & Youth Ministry (FYI: These are challenging ones in my opinion). But I am blessed that the Women of Worship is still going strong. Same thing with the Sweet Sounds ministry. Our Sunday Worship with livestream has reached members unable to join us at every service. Thanks to technology and by the grace of God we have become an international ministry. In terms of our giving and the upkeep of our campus, well... they have caused us hurdles and obstacles, but it does not mean we are giving up. The testing of our Faith as a church has been an ongoing struggle, but we remain stronger than ever. Yes, the realities are before us, but God is real, and HE is more than enough to help us face the now and into the future. Back in the day, people flocked to church. But in this generation, some people have been moving away from the church... and that is troubling. Despite the difficulties... we are still here.

Let me share with you what is going on outside our ministry setting. As an encouragement to all of us, I heard from friends and colleagues in the Philippines that their ministries have been thriving and growing. And the young people continue to add in numbers, willing and wanting to serve the church. And of course, faithful members and Pastors are doing a lot of church plants. So many new church plants you have to restart counting your fingers again. So, even if our churches here in the States are restructuring ministry to go head-to-head to the ever-changing times, I would forever be encouraged and strengthened by faith in preaching the Good News to the world for there are others who continue to be excited about the Gospel. If they have not stopped, why would we ever stop? Whatever it takes, God will see us through. And so, I call everyone to stand with me in doing the work of the Lord. The more servants of God the better in making disciples of Jesus. If we put our prayers, hearts, minds, and ideas together, I firmly believe we will continue to grow in numbers and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For nothing in this world can ever stop us from telling everyone about the Love of Christ. Indeed, Jesus saves, Jesus cares, and Jesus is Lord. May his grace be upon us all as we continue the 2nd half of 2024. Until the next newsletter... Sharing with you what the Apostle Paul wrote in:

Romans 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessings to all! In Christ,

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 **Carson Funk (29)**, great nephew of Iola Ballard; **Charles “Jerry” Whitten (77)**, friend and Tai Chi instructor of Lois Mitchell, Ruth Bell, Duane Atchley, Larry Bryan, and Phyllis Hill; **Wayne Hunt (78)**, former constituent of St. Paul UMC along with his late wife, Ramona; **Lester “Les” Graham (81)**, husband of Vicki Graham; and **Glenn Waters (76)**, brother of Darrell Waters and the late Warren Waters, and teacher / friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God’s peace.**

THANK YOU! Dear Church Family, What an unexpected surprise!!! Your words of appreciation for the worship music mean so much to us. Thank you so much for the special cutting board so skillfully created by John Hendricks. What an heirloom for our family. We so appreciate our St. Paul church family. We are truly blessed beyond measure. **-Rayford & Martha Raby**



THANK YOU! Thank you to John Hendricks for all the time and hard work he put into creating these 2 beautiful “keyboard” cutting boards for the Rabys and for Pastor Ed. What a wonderful way to be able to express how much they mean to us!

-Worship Ministry Team



Sweet Sounds News!

Sweet Sounds is hosting an ice cream social for all present, past, and possible new members for the fall. If you have been thinking of joining us, come and meet the gang AND enjoy ice cream with all the toppings on **Friday, July 19 at 2:00p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.** Hope to see you there!





WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

8:45 a.m. CONTINUES!

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



Welcome back to
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is going to continue this summer with a few changes. Children's Church begins at the start of our 8:45a.m. Worship Service. We will have a Children's Moment. 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. We will be teaching about different Bible Characters this summer. See you on Sundays!

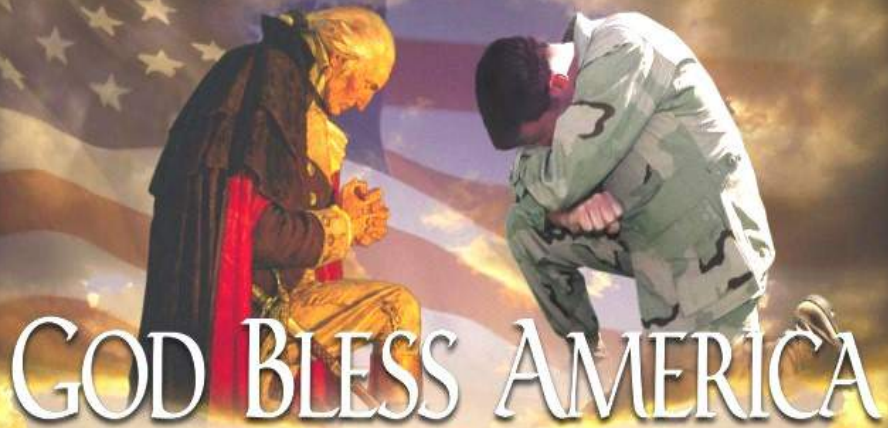
**It is currently for children ages 5-10 years old.
WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!**



PRAYER FOR TODAY

Heavenly Father, I may not understand how everything will work out, but I trust You. I don't see a way, but I know You will make a way. I have faith that at this very moment You are touching hearts, opening doors, and lining up the right breaks and right opportunities. Things may look dark and bleak now, but I have faith that my dawn is coming. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The face of prayer has changed. The need for prayer has not.



Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...

Happy Independence Day!!



St. Paul Sunday Service in **JULY** 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 will 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!



4th: HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

7th: Outdoor Worship in the Park Continues! Communion Sunday.

Scriptures: *2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48;*
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13



14th: Hickerson Scholarship Sunday.

Scriptures: *2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24;*
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

21st: Graduation Recognition Sunday.

Scriptures: *2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37, 45b; Ephesians 2:11-12;*
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

28th: Scriptures: *2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21*



Adult Classes

- ⇒ Wesley Sunday School Class
- ⇒ Adult Bible Study Sunday School Class

BOTH CLASSES ARE TAKING A VACATION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY! THEY RETURN ON AUGUST 4th!

BIBLE STUDY!



We now 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:

- July 7:** by **The Hickerson Family** in memory of **their Daughter, Meghan.**
- July 14:** by **Tracy Franks** in memory of **her Parents, Lute & Doloros Taulbee’s Wedding Anniversary.**
- July 21:** by **Sue Carr** in memory of **her Mother, Alice Burrows.**
- July 28:** by **Tom & Karen Martin** in memory of **her Father, George Tappy.**



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 HAS BEEN POSTED AND IT JUST HAS 2 SPOTS LEFT! PLEASE, HELP FINISH FILLING IT!

JULY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

- July 1-2,8-9,15-16,22-23,29-30 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
- July 3,10,17,24,31 = Office Closed/regular Wednesday weekday off
- July 5,11-12,18-19,25-26 = 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.
- On July 4 the Office will be closed for the holiday.**
- On July 11 the Office will be closed during lunch time.**



JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Jul Layne Chester
- 01-Jul Marjorie Cranmer
- 01-Jul Terry Poston
- 02-Jul Mark Bacus
- 02-Jul Steve Campbell
- 02-Jul Maggie Funke
- 02-Jul Taylor Rich
- 03-Jul Ruth Rawson
- 04-Jul Terri Fincher
- 04-Jul Brynleigh Mormino
- 04-Jul Peyton Mormino
- 05-Jul Colton Bourne
- 05-Jul Zoe Hart
- 06-Jul Phil Acton
- 06-Jul Jordan Brown
- 06-Jul Luke Campbell
- 06-Jul Jim Hickerson
- 07-Jul Alex Ford
- 08-Jul Nate Ford
- 08-Jul Carol Russell
- 08-Jul Stella Sims
- 09-Jul Deb Mayer
- 10-Jul Drew Standefer
- 10-Jul Ella Toner
- 10-Jul Emma Toner
- 11-Jul Clayton Bartony

- 11-Jul Chancey Sims
- 12-Jul Matthew Hamlin
- 14-Jul Carter Hendricks
- 15-Jul Emma Harper
- 15-Jul Jaymie Voorhees
- 17-Jul Donna Redden
- 18-Jul Alysia Bailey
- 18-Jul Sarah Griffin
- 19-Jul Cathy Cameron
- 21-Jul Connie Martin
- 21-Jul Robin Uzzell
- 22-Jul Chris Challandes
- 22-Jul Cory Crandall
- 22-Jul Dell Demond
- 22-Jul Daniel Emerick
- 22-Jul Evan Spurgeon
- 23-Jul Kynlee Bunt
- 23-Jul Diane Ford
- 23-Jul Donovan Hale
- 24-Jul Kathy Bunt
- 24-Jul Chris Cameron
- 24-Jul Anna McLain

- 24-Jul Tony Wood
- 26-Jul Kathy Crews
- 27-Jul Giuliana Sims
- 28-Jul Caleb Betts
- 28-Jul Ashlyn Birmingham
- 28-Jul Marie Brown
- 28-Jul Addison Lusicic
- 28-Jul Maddox Parker
- 28-Jul Adam Phelps
- 28-Jul Kristen Toner
- 29-Jul Randy McLain
- 30-Jul Tim Plummer
- 31-Jul Lindsey Williams



JULY ANNIVERSARIES



- 01-Jul Matt & Christina Johnson
- 05-Jul Don & Vivian Sands-Franklin
- 06-Jul Glenn & Paula Hubbard
- 08-Jul Paul & Gerry Ward
- 09-Jul Greg & Kathy Crews
- 09-Jul Paul & Brandy Mormino
- 13-Jul Josh & Amy Gowan
- 15-Jul Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon
- 22-Jul Robert & Gina Brown
- 23-Jul Rick & Amy Helmkamp

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!



JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	6/1/2024 thru 6/30/2024	16373.00
Designated Giving:	6/1/2024 thru 6/30/2024	3090.24
	Capital Improvements	230.00
	Loose Change	75.24
	Flowers	0.00
	Dividend-Church Mutual	1116.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	120.00
	Upper Room Donations	4.00
	Reimbursement	20.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	50.00
	Parking Lot Work	225.00
	Happy Bears	50.00
	Youth Camping 2024	1200.00
	Online Giving	351.50
Total:		\$19814.74



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
AUGUST 2024
STEEPLE,
Friday, JULY 19th!**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

JULY's Loose Change Project is the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis. The Methodist Church established this center to minister to the Croatians early in the last century. Since then the Neighborhood House has ministered to the waves of immigrants and poor in East St. Louis. It is one of the few remaining institutions in East St. Louis offering social and health services. May God bless & multiply your gifts!

Aging is God's Beautiful
Reminder That This Is Not
Our Home...

OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN
PHILIPPIANS 3:20



VBS 2024

I want to thank everyone for the vital role they have played in the ministry to the children of our church and neighborhood. To all who volunteered, thank you for participating in the powerful gift of God through the

work you have done. The tremendous success of our VBS is thanks to your commitment to provide leadership throughout the week!

To our church family, I want to say how deeply I appreciate the gifts of your time, talents, donations, service, and prayers. These are what make us strong and effective!

We had a great adventure at G-FORCE as our navigators learned how to Explore God's Love In Action. Our interactive Bible lessons revealed five action words that taught us how to follow God's plan for our lives:
MOVE-ACT-CARE-FOLLOW-SHARE.

We began each day with Hi Energy Praise Songs and puppetry. After that, we navigated to several stations as we learned that "In God we Live, Move, and Exist." -*Acts 17:28a*. Our station activities expanded our lessons as our action packed adventures took us to Crafts, Movie, Outdoor Fun, Nature, Creation Station, Science Discovery, Snacks, and Story. Each station had the purpose to navigate us so we could learn about God's Love In Action.

We were blessed with a combined total of 30 different children, youth, and adults who came together to experience God's Love In Action. Throughout the week we were able to gather 20 food items and \$2.25 to donate to the Community Hope Center. We have always raised money for various projects and charities. Remembering back, our offering once helped buy a garden brick and a garden block that were placed in our Prayer Walkway in the park in memory of Spencer Bacus, who lost his fight way too early to Giant Congenital Nevus in 2018. Spencer was a big part of our VBS family for over 20 years and remains in our hearts at VBS. Our love and prayers continue to be with his family as his light continues to shine through us (#SHINELIKE SPENCER).

So, until next year's adventures at VBS, may God richly bless you as much as you have blessed these children! (See photos taken by Juanita on pg. 9)

Jamie Gwaltney, VBS Director



**SEE YOU
NEXT
YEAR!**



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 laurenfrieese20@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 Frieese (618-660-7967)



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

The East Alton First and St. Paul UMC youth groups really enjoyed their first summer outing to Six Flags in June!

Two Middle School youth are able to attend the Fueled Camp on July 14-19 at Little Grassy. Please pray for our time at camp! Lauren will be attending with them as a camp counselor. This is our big youth activity for July.

Lauren and Dru are collaborating on an August activity that combines both **EAFUMC and **SPUMC** youth groups. As we rebuild the youth program, we will add more youth meetings into the mix. The August mini camp will 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 inside 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 Frieese - Youth Leaders
(217-851-4651) (patterson.frieese@gmail.com) (Lauren 618-660-7967)**



PECANS

BUY SOME NOW!!

Several 1lb. Bags available = \$12 each



2024

Graduates

These are our Graduates. Please let us know of any one we missed. Congratulations!!

8th Grade:

- Marjorie Cranmer
- Rilynn Chester
- Tabby Barclay

High School:

- Madelynn Cranmer
- Rachel Schiber

College:

- Mclain Oertle

FYI! Pastor Ed will “never” email you and ask you to buy gifts cards for him with odd instructions ... it is a scam! Beware! Should he ever need help with anything out of the ordinary, he would talk to you about it in person.

