



The Steeple

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

SEPTEMBER 2024



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Greetings everyone! May the love and grace of Jesus Christ be upon each of you and sustain you this new month of September. Just a bit of a cultural revelation from the other side of my heritage. It is with great joy and excitement that Sept. 1, 2024 is the start of our Christmas countdown in the Philippines. Isn't that wonderful? Where did that come from? Well, Christmas is a big celebration for us. I believe we are one of those countries who celebrate this time until Jan. 6 which is "Three Kings" (Epiphany). You would never think that the decorations are up now...on the streets, Malls, people's homes, buildings, offices, schools, and churches. You would be amazed at how the people will show the Yuletide Spirit all over the country. FYI, in our culture, we never say happy holidays because the Philippines believe in the birth of Jesus, the Savior and Messiah. I am very proud to say that that is one divine piece of culture that will never go away. And the best thing...this tradition has been passed on to the younger generation and will go into the next. To me...that is a God-thing.

But reflecting on this culture, this way of life...unknowingly was not about evangelism and discipleship; the people involuntarily became evangelists and proclaimers of the gospel. The Good News of the coming of the Messiah is all over the place. And the greetings of Merry Christmas have started Sept. 1st. How cool is that?

As a church, this is what makes us who we are as followers of "THE WORD." The spirit of the Good News must always be exciting and encouraging in us for others to hear. And that, whatever time, whatever season, whatever occasion, and situation we are in... as a disciple of Christ, we must continue to spread the love of GOD through HIS WORD. JESUS CHRIST, who is THE WORD, is the center of our message. He saved us and he loved us beyond our comprehension. This is the reason why we follow Him. The very core of our faith is what HE did 2000 years ago. HIS life, death, and resurrection must never depart from our hearts because as promised in **Matthew 28:20** "and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

We have been designated to be His followers. Call it servants, disciples, preachers, and sharers of the word, or Christians. Whatever or however people will call us, the message of a true Disciple will always be Jesus. **Isaiah 50:4-5** said;

⁴The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back.

Now, I'm not saying that we must start bringing out our decorations and be like the Filipinos. What I am sharing is about how we celebrate Jesus. Since we have heard the Good News of Jesus Christ, shouldn't we be excited about telling Him to others or must we be silent, or just not care? If we have chosen the latter and call ourselves Christians...then we are living a pseudo-life. A false or fake follower.

But if we have chosen the former...then live it, own it, and tell it to the world; **JESUS CHRIST is LORD!**



**CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON LABOR DAY, SEPT. 2nd!**

Blessings to all and until the next issue--

In Christ,

Edward Granadosin

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



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Sharon Allshouse (66)**, mother/mother-in-law of Eric & Michele (Trimm--Granddaughter of Mildred Ballard) Allshouse; **Gerald Fritz (77)**, nephew of Joyce Tappy; **Ruth Ernst (97)**, Grandmother of Roger & Felecia (Babcock) Ernst; and **Maurice Toner (89)**, brother/brother-in-law of the late Chuck & Rosalie Toner. **May everyone touched by loss know God's peace.**

THANK YOU! Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for all of the prayers and for your support! Rohland is doing much better and things are on the mend! You are amazing prayer warriors! **-Rohland & Susie Pruetzel**

THANK YOU! A big thank you to the people who made sure that our outdoor services ran smoothly. We are especially thankful to Randy McLain, Mark Mayer, Mike Tappy, and John Hendricks, who took care of sound, equipment, coffee, and overall setup. We appreciate these guys and also all of the folks who brought snacks each week for the coffee table. Thank you so much! **-Worship Team**

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:

The Outreach Ministry Team thanks everyone for giving to help the students!! Donated items will be counted and divided between the schools! **May God Bless you whenever you give!**



See You at the Pole (SYATP) started in Burleson TX, in 1990 and is now a global movement of Christian students, burdened for their schools and classmates, who gather around the flagpole early in the school year for a time of prayer and worship.

For some students, this may be their initial opportunity to take a stand for their faith with their peers in an environment like this. It is an opportunity for parents and youth leaders to encourage students to pray for their classmates and for their teachers.

Although this must be a student-led event, parents and other adults can stand in a circle around the students as a show of protection, support, and to pray for them.

Students are facing greater challenges to their faith than ever before. Some will be attending schools where the leadership is very anti-Christian. Some will sit in classrooms with teachers who will challenge their faith or teach things totally contrary to biblical truth.

We need to stand with our students. Support them. Encourage them and help them navigate these challenging times.

For 2024 the date is Wed., September 25th! Pray for our youth & their schools!



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

8:45 a.m. CONCLUDES ON SEPTEMBER 1st!

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



The Children's Church team has met and the leaders are getting ready to move back inside with the conclusion of our outside services.

Children's Church begins at the start of our 8:45a.m. Worship Service. We will have a **Children's Moment**. A variety of activities will then be held in the Children's Church room after the Children's Moment. We will be learning the Ten Commandments in Children's Church. Part of that will include learning

"The Ten Commandment Boogie" which the children and leaders will present during the **Children's Moment on Sunday, September 29.**

Don't miss it! See you on Sundays!

This is currently for children ages 5-10 years old.

WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!

Sweet Sounds!



The Sweet Sounds NEEDS YOU!! Have you retired in the last few years? Do you like to sing? We could sure use a few more voices in the group when we start up on **Sept. 13 at 12:45p.m.!** Think and pray about joining in and then give Dorothy Kasinger (618-259-7255) a call if you need more info or to let her know of your interest. Give it a try!



St. Paul Sunday Service in **SEPTEMBER** 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 will also 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!

1st: Outdoor Worship in the Park Concludes! Communion Sunday.

Scriptures: *Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or Psalm 72; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*



8th: IMPORTANT INFORMATIONAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after service. Grandparents Day.

Scriptures: *Proverb 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125 or Psalm 124; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37*

15th: Scriptures: *Proverb 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38*

22nd: First Day Of Autumn!

Scriptures: *Proverb 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3; Mark 9:30-37*

29th: Scriptures: *Esther 7:1-6, 9-10: 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50*

Adult Sunday Classes

⇒ Wesley Sunday School Class
After the Service in the Parlor!

⇒ Adult Bible Study Sunday
School Class
After the Service in the Main
Hallway Classroom!

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU
JOIN ONE OF THESE TWO
ADULT CLASSES!!**



BIBLE STUDY!

We meet on Tuesdays at
Noon in the Parlor! ...
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: Mayonnaise, Can Opener, Oil, 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:

- September 1: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **John’s Birthday!**
- September 8: by **Jan Poore** in honor of **FIRST Great-Grandson, Drew, born 9/3/24 (maybe)!**
- September 15: by **Dorothy Kasinger** in memory of **her Parents.**
- September 22: by **Beulah Moore** in memory of **her husband, Ben Moore.**
- September 29: by **Jim & Jane Herndon** in celebration of **Granddaughter, Lily Roberts’, 16th Birthday!**



**THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 IS ALL FILLED IN!
 THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

September 3,9-10,16-17,30 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

September 4,11,18,25 = Office Closed/regular Wednesday off

September 5-6,12-13,19-20= 9 or 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

On September 2 the Office will be closed for LABOR DAY!

On September 10 the Office will be closed at 2p.m. for dr. appt.

On September 12 the Office will be closed during lunch time.

➔ **September 23-27 the Office will be closed! Lois is on vacation!!!!**



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Sep	Christi Baggett		
01-Sep	Jay Bentley III		
01-Sep	Arik Newingham		
02-Sep	Jenni Ortegren		
03-Sep	Al Poston		
04-Sep	Cherie Buatte		
04-Sep	Rod Croxford	13-Sep	Chelsea Georgeoff
04-Sep	George Hamilton Sr.	14-Sep	Dan Bunt
04-Sep	John Hendricks	14-Sep	Kiley Herndon
05-Sep	Damian Newingham	15-Sep	Nora Gwaltney
06-Sep	Josh Gowan	16-Sep	Jerry Cameron
06-Sep	Jason Henderson	16-Sep	Dick Redden
06-Sep	Ryan Tite	16-Sep	Jeff Skjerseth
07-Sep	Kamryn Bell	17-Sep	Jeff Greer
07-Sep	Jim Dawson	17-Sep	Nic Weigler
08-Sep	Justin Bottorff	18-Sep	Christian Greer
08-Sep	Grace Campbell	18-Sep	Linda Scroggins
09-Sep	Angie Hansard	19-Sep	Bettie Lewis
09-Sep	Liam Oertle	19-Sep	Paul Skjerseth
09-Sep	Matthew Poston	19-Sep	Ashley Springer
10-Sep	Jake Birmingham	20-Sep	Blake Boeshans
10-Sep	Zelda Plummer	20-Sep	David Buatte
10-Sep	Christy Scroggins	21-Sep	Ella Clark
11-Sep	Don Bunt Sr.	21-Sep	Dani Wilson
11-Sep	Marc Ortegren	22-Sep	Neil Herndon
12-Sep	David Badman	22-Sep	Carol Warner
13-Sep	Tamara Atchley	23-Sep	Baylee Allshouse
13-Sep	Susan Cameron	23-Sep	Harvey Gowan
		23-Sep	Nathan Shewmake
		24-Sep	Tanner Betts
		24-Sep	Tim Bunt
		24-Sep	Kellie Greer
		25-Sep	Hayley Schlemer
		25-Sep	Phil Tite
		26-Sep	Bob Blacklock
		26-Sep	Sarah Laufersweiler
		26-Sep	Ashley Poore
		26-Sep	Lily Roberts
		26-Sep	Debbie Tite
		26-Sep	Jan Williams
		27-Sep	David Betts
		27-Sep	Becky Chester
		27-Sep	Donna Ewing
		27-Sep	Sharon Inman
		29-Sep	Jordan Brown
		29-Sep	Kara Martin
		29-Sep	Steven Tite

happy
birthday

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

02-Sep	Jason & Gretchen Henderson	19-Sep	Cory & Caroline Crandall
04-Sep	Daryl & Deb Fansler	20-Sep	Bryan & Katie Clark
06-Sep	Jason & Lindsey Mayer	20-Sep	Ross & Debbie Eggebrecht
13-Sep	Phil & Debbie Tite	24-Sep	Nicholas & Julie Hobbs
15-Sep	Donovan & Caitlyn Hale	26-Sep	Ryan & Savannah Cincoski
16-Sep	Christopher & Megan Ricketts	26-Sep	Don & Diane Ford Sr.
17-Sep	Chris & Susan Cameron	27-Sep	Ryan & Megan Parker
18-Sep	Jerry & Cathy Cameron	29-Sep	Gary & Shirley Clark



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!



AUGUST Stewardship

Budget Offering:	8/1/2024 thru 8/31/2024	11578.00
Designated Giving:	7/1/2024 thru 8/31/2024	15962.60
	Capital Improvements	380.00
	Loose Change	60.87
	Flowers	20.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	70.00
	Upper Room Donations	0.00
	2nd Reserve Acct. Closed & Moved to Reserve Checking	14956.73
	Helping Hands	50.00
	Parking Lot Work	425.00
	Women of Worship	0.00
	Online Giving	351.50
Total:		\$27892.10



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!

HELPING



HANDS

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!

**DEADLINE FOR
OCTOBER 2024
STEPPLE,
Friday, September
20th!**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

September's Loose Change Project is Trinity UMC in East St. Louis/ Washington Park. The ministry of the church has expanded to provide worship services, VBS, and a food pantry to the Hispanic Community. The need is greater than the resources of the local church which is why we help. There are a dedicated membership and a strong youth program at both sites. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SUNDAY, SEPT. 8th...

FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE WE WILL HOLD AN INFORMATIONAL, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! PLEASE, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT

YOU PLAN TO STAY FOR THIS MEETING!

THANK YOU! WE HAVE NOW EMAILED & SNAIL MAILED TWO DIFFERENT DOCUMENTS OF INFORMATION FOR YOU TO REVIEW BEFORE AND DURING THIS MEETING!

WE REALLY NEED EVERYONE TO PLAN ON BEING IN ATTENDANCE! THANK YOU!



PECANS

BUY SOME NOW!!

Several 1lb. Bags available = **\$12 each**



2024 FALL FESTIVAL

Coming October 10th, 9:00 am-2:00 pm!
Watch for the sign-up sheets once back inside!

The **ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** will soon be here!
It will be on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We will have our famous **Chicken & Noodles**, the **Vegetable Soup**, etc. The craft ladies have been busy creating a variety of crafts and gifts – remember to shop your “home church” first! Pick up gifts for the “special people” you want to remember during the holidays including treats for your kids and grandkids. Don’t forget to stop at the baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, plants, farmer’s market, AND This ‘N That tables.

Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you can’t “dine-in” we’ll be glad to fix a “Take-Home-A-Meal.”

In order to make the **FALL FESTIVAL** a success we will need lots of help! Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Sign-up will be starting very soon!

If you miss signing up at church & want to donate or work, please call **Karen Martin at 618-792-7303 or the church office, 618-259-5210, with your information.** Proceeds from this project and all others held during the year will be disbursed to our mission groups at the end of the year. See you at our Fall Festival 2024!



**CRAFTS MEET ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
AT 9:00a.m. ... PLEASE, COME WORK WITH US!!
QUESTIONS? CALL MAGGIE FUNKE 618-259-9490**

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right & evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority."

NEVER MESS WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO PRAY. THEY ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS.





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

➔ We had a fun time of fellowship at our August youth event - a bonfire! We had 15 youth & leaders in attendance. (See some photos on pg. 11!)

In September we will be having a youth pizza lunch and fellowship on **Sunday, September 15th at Noon** at the church. If you plan to attend please, **RSVP** to Lauren at laurenfrieese20@gmail.com or call 618-660-7967.

There is a **Youth Retreat at Little Grassy Nov. 1-3**. If your Middle School/High School student is interested, please, contact Lauren **ASAP** at laurenfrieese20@gmail.com or call 618-660-7967.

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 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 Youth program. **2024 is going to finish as a great year for our Youth!!**

In Christ's Love & Kindness, Lauren Frieese - Youth Leader
(Lauren 618-660-7967)



EVENING RE-AWAKENING SERVICE

The Re-Awakening Service was meeting on the First Thursday of the month. It was not defined as a "contemporary service," but rather as a relaxed style of worship that was fluid with its music and messages. When we restart, **collect up your family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances and join us for a meal and service once a month!!**

➔➔➔ **Re-Awakening continues taking a pause.**

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)** if you would like to be a part of this.

Lauren Frieese (618-660-7967)



Annual Coats 4 Kids Drive

It is soon time to collect donations for the

Riverbend Head Start & Family Services to buy new & used, coats & shoes. We do this in the fall. This year, they have indicated that they **prefer** to receive monetary donations, but if you have a gently used or even new child's coat, they can take that, too. For us, the drive will go **from Sept. 29 thru Nov. 3**. We ask that if you can, please, add a gift for the **COATS 4 KIDS DRIVE** in with your tithe and offerings.

Mark on the front of your offering envelope or check memo line what amount we should direct to them for this annual drive! Thank you so much in advance! Call the church office with questions!

-OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



BRACE YOURSELVES.
PUMPKIN FLAVORED EVERYTHING IS COMING.



Back-to-school Youth Bonfire!

