



The Steeple

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

FEBRUARY 2025



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

I can't believe how much time has passed and it is now February 2025. I mean, I remember buying flowers for my wife for Valentine's 2024, and now the "love month" is here again? Oh well, that goes to show that the world will not stop for me or anybody; that is why it is better to go with the flow and make every bit count. Maybe many of us had a great start for 2025. Sadly, not for others... Tragedy struck and many have been going through tremendous challenges. Like our brothers and sisters in the LA county area.

For me, these "Wildfires" were out of the ordinary. They say in Filipino culture, "we would rather get robbed 10 times in our homes than get our houses burned by fire." During a fire, you not only lose the property but all the good memories with it. We also heard that lives were lost as well. So, they need our prayers. If you have family and friends who were victims of this unbelievable destruction, I suggest that you give them a call and say a prayer for them. Give them the encouragement that the Lord will continue to raise them and be able to recover and be blessed a hundred-fold. They need to trust God more than ever.

I remember the story of Job in the Bible. He not only lost everything, but he also lost many of his loved ones. Although faithful to God, his faithfulness was rewarded with overwhelming afflictions and misfortune...?? That my dear friends would indeed be a good reason to turn away and get mad at God, right? But throughout Job's story, although tragic, he always remained obedient and loyal to God. Look at these passages in the Book of Job:

Job's faith

Job 13:15a: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."

Job 19:23-25: "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever!"

Job 1:21: "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job 42:1-6: Job submitted to God's sovereignty and wisdom.

Job's suffering

Job lost his wealth, health, and children.

His friends accused him and questioned his faith.

His wife tried to convince him to turn away from God.

Job's restoration

God restored everything Job had lost, and gave him twice as much

God blessed Job with a long life and more children

Honestly, it is easy to say "all will be well; just have faith for the Lord will be with you" when you are not the one in a difficult situation. But we still need to do what God wants all of his children to do and... God, through His Son Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, can bring the dead back to life. God will be our source of hope and recovery. God will bring HIS glory to those who have lost everything.

Proverbs 3:5-6... "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths".

Psalms 91:1-6... "He is my refuge and my fortress".

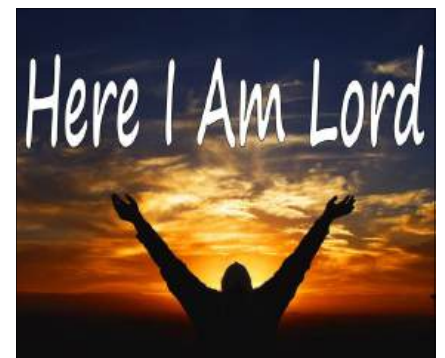
Psalms 56:3-4... "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"

As the song says, "God will make a way, where there seems to be no way." Stay faithful. Stay strong and encouraged and have a wonderful and powerful Love month.

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 **President Jimmy Carter (100)**, the 39th President of the United States of America; **Mary Jane Fester (88)**, wife of the late Rev. William Fester who served at Main St. UMC-Alton; **Warren Neff, Jr. (58)**, friend of Lois Mitchell; and **Charlie Gaber (98)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell from Cherry St. Baptist Church. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

THANK YOU: Midwest Distribution Center Midwest Mission Work Day Food Packing Event 1/18/25

We want to thank the Women of Worship from St. Paul UMC, East Alton FUMC, and the Hearts N Mission group (Wesley House) from Main Street UMC for their donations of \$200 each for the supplies.

Thank you to Iris Uzzell; Joyce and Mia Brueggeman; Donna Badman; Donna Hamilton; Becky Tuchalski; Pastor Ed, Dru, Ruth, Bella, and Khaelene Granadosin; and Tracy Franks for assembling 320 meals. The meals consist of dehydrated vegetables, rice, vitamins, and soy protein. Add water to each meal and cook it to feed a family of six.

These meals are shipped all over the world wherever food is in short supply. Many have already been shipped to Ukraine and Gaza. Thanks to Dennis Tuchalski for organizing the event and for picking up and returning the supplies and meals.





Children's Church begins at the start of our 8:45a.m. Worship Service. Into the beginning of the service we have a **Children's Moment**. A variety of activities are then held in the Children's Church room after the Children's Moment. See you on Sundays!

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

WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!



The Women of Worship will have their annual **RUMMAGE SALE** on **March 27, 28, & 29.**

Please, start saving items as you clean out closets, cabinets, and garages. (NO ELECTRONICS please, as we have no way of disposing of them after the sale; small kitchen appliances are ok as long as they work.)

You may begin bringing items and placing them on the stage STARTING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12.

As always, we appreciate all the donations we receive from folks to help make this a successful annual event. Please, make sure that everything is clean and in working order!

THANK YOU in advance!





St. Paul Sunday Service in **FEBRUARY** 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 **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 on **Youtube.com** starting with a 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 to serve the Lord. Thank you!

2nd: Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30*



9th: Scouting Sunday.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11*

16th: 6th Sunday After Epiphany.

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26*

23rd: 7th Sunday After Epiphany.

Scriptures: *Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38*

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 CLASSES!!**

hoooray



BIBLE STUDY!

Bible Study meets on
Tuesdays at NOON in the Parlor!
To be ready to study ... bring your
Bible! Hoping to see you in 2025!

~Pastor Ed~

Nightly Prayer Time On Youtube.com

Join in by going to youtube.com and searching for
"East Alton First United Methodist Church"

Livestream begins at 4:45p.m. - Live program at 5p.m.

**NOTE: Check dates and check "live" for live worship.
Held on Monday thru Thursday evenings most weeks!**



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:** 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 awesome! Thank you!!

2025 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

- Feb 2: by **St. Paul UMC** in thanksgiving for **our incredible pastor, Pastor Ed Granadosin!**
- Feb 9: by **Beulah Moore** in memory of **her husband, Ben Moore.**
- Feb 16: by **Shelley Heigert** in memory of **Harv & Shirley Birmingham’s 2/12 Wedding Anniversary.**
- Feb 23: by **Tori & Matthew Ludwig** in celebration of **their daughter, Sophie’s Birthday!**



PLEASE FILL IN THE 2025 FLOWER CHART!!

FEBRUARY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

February 3-4,10-11,17-18,24-25 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

February 5,12,19,26 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

February 6-7,13-14,20-21,27-28 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

ON February 13 GONE FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH

PLEASE NOTE:

If there is snow on a morning when the Church Office is to be open, the Church Secretary will get to the office as soon as safely possible. If there are 3-4 inches on the road, she must wait for her street to be plowed before being able to get down the street. That gives her time to shovel her driveway with her sister. Please, be patient and pray for her safety on those days. If there are 6 inches or more of snow, she might not make it in at all and will work more the next possible day or in the afternoon of her day off. Thank you for understanding!





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Feb Dylan Brueggeman
 01-Feb Phillip McCammon
 01-Feb Erin Suermann
 02-Feb Sally Lay
 02-Feb Trenton Liedtke
 02-Feb Teagan Plummer
 03-Feb Amanda Bailey
 04-Feb Reese Brueggeman
 04-Feb Tori Newingham
 04-Feb Randy Roberts
 05-Feb Rodney Adams
 05-Feb Brooklyn Boeshans
 06-Feb Nick Dorsey
 07-Feb Mitch Scroggins
 08-Feb Jane Herndon
 08-Feb Sydnie Palmer
 08-Feb Tom Poore
 09-Feb James Birmingham
 09-Feb Dillon Henderson
 09-Feb Jaida Justice
 09-Feb Kimberly McGilvrey
 09-Feb Chris Stamper
 09-Feb Madeline Wood
 10-Feb Tony Garland
 10-Feb Laurie Myers
 10-Feb Jayme Scroggins
 10-Feb Sandy Scroggins
 12-Feb Tyler Cameron
 13-Feb Kari Moore

13-Feb Kathy Nash
 14-Feb Addyson Huddleston
 14-Feb Mark Scroggins
 14-Feb Amber Tappy
 14-Feb Amy Tappy
 14-Feb Joshua Williams
 14-Feb Meagan Winchester
 15-Feb Nicholas Hobbs
 15-Feb William Laufersweiler
 15-Feb Mike Toner
 16-Feb Brandy Mormino
 17-Feb Chloe Allshouse
 17-Feb Carleen Balzraine
 17-Feb Megan Ricketts
 17-Feb Tyler Sims
 17-Feb Jordyn Skjerseth
 18-Feb Chris Greer
 19-Feb Jackie Boeshans
 19-Feb Nicholas Dawson
 19-Feb Joshua Toner
 20-Feb Joni Bunt
 20-Feb Victoria Garrison

20-Feb Brian Liedtke
 20-Feb Emerson Mayer
 20-Feb Grady Mayer
 21-Feb Tesla Plummer
 21-Feb John Yunker
 22-Feb Nicole Poston
 23-Feb Don Roberts
 23-Feb Eldon Wold Jr.
 24-Feb Amber Harlan
 24-Feb Ian Wheat
 25-Feb Debbie Eggebrecht
 25-Feb Nikolas Ward
 26-Feb Noah Martin
 26-Feb Lynda Wheat
 27-Feb Kansas Scoggins
 28-Feb Katelyn Garrison



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 14 Bunt, Dan & Kathy



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 will soon begin the process of completing a new Church Directory! **Please, check the Workbook in the Entryway once it shows up!** Thank you for your help!



JANUARY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	1/1/2025 thru 1/31/2025	\$7980.00
Designated Giving:	1/1/2025 thru 1/31/2025	698.74
	Capital Improvements	325.00
	Loose Change	26.74
	Flowers	150.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	75.00
	Upper Room	.00
	Helping Hands	.00
	Parking Lot Work	50.00
	Women of Worship	.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	.00
	Memorial	.00
	Postage	.00
	UMCOR	.00
	Offering Envelopes	72.00
Reimbursements/Dividends		0.00
Online Giving		351.50
Total:		\$9030.24



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!



EAFUMC may host a Drive-By Ash Wednesday event . Call Pastor Ed for more information; 702-583-8851.

**WORSHIP SERVICE:
MARCH 5th @ 6:30p.m. at
EAFUMC - Combined service for
both congregations!**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

February's Loose Change Project is designated for one of our most valuable assets within our church- the St. Paul Youth! These funds are to be used to help with youth activities throughout the year. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



Harvey Birmingham's 90th Birthday! Coming up!!

On Saturday, March 15th from 1-4 pm we will be holding an **OPEN HOUSE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** for Harvey's 90th birthday, to be held at Meridian Village's Bistro Room, 27 Auerbach Place in Glen Carbon. All church family are welcome to attend. Please, **RSVP by text to 815-342-5989** so we know how many to expect!

If unable to attend please feel free to send a card to Harvey's new address:
27 Auerbach Place, Apt 422, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Hickerson Scholarship 2025



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:

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

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

VBS 2025 NEEDS A DIRECTOR! MIGHT THAT BE YOU??

I am writing this with mixed emotions in my heart. **After almost 25 years** of leading our VBS program, **it is time to retire** and **I will not be continuing my role as VBS director in 2025**. It has been my privilege and honor to share in my journey of faith, side by side, with all of my church family and friends. It's time for me to take a step back and know that God is with me to guide me through this decision. As I think back about the years of VBS, I remember, with joy, my children being involved as students and as leaders. I remember my family supporting me every year, and I remember this church, my church, always stepping up to help in whatever capacity was possible for them.

I love and appreciate those pictures that will always be stamped in my heart. I'm overwhelmed by the blessings God brought to me each summer with all of the VBS crew and children. I've felt the power of faith and love of the LORD working this program. I'm completely grateful for being able to have served our children and our congregation. We are all united in our love and faith in Jesus. God Bless you all.

Remember to 'Shinelikespencer!'

-Jamie Gwaltney



**Happy 60th
Birthday, Pastor Ed
...from the
Women of Worship!**



2025 STEWARDSHIP

→ REMEMBER YOUR GIVING!

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



**WE STILL HAVE
SOME!**

New Regular 1lb. bag = \$12
New Chocolate-covered 1lb. bag = \$12
Last year Regular 1lb. bag = \$10

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If bad weather requires the cancellation of our worship service
and Sunday School, we will:

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



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

→ **February:** the Youth Group will be meeting on Tuesdays from 5-6p.m. Please, help spread the word to all middle school and high school students. We may hold a lock-in one weekend in February as we work to revitalize the youth group! If you have a young person in your life who is seeking opportunities for Christian fellowship, activities, sporting events, camps, retreats, etc., please, fill out the information sheet found on the table near the bulletin sheets on Sunday morning! Put the completed information sheet in the mailbox for the Church Office or in the offering plate.

Young Adult/College Age Bible Study also is held on Tuesdays, from 6-7:30p.m. If anyone is interested in signing up to help provide childcare, please, let me know in advance. We will be meeting at St. Paul UMC in the parlor. Join us as we journey through, "What Now?"

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



EVENING RE-AWAKENING SERVICE

→ **Re-Awakening continues a pause.**

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

Please, email 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 Friese

IMPORTANT: A lot of work will need to be done on our parking lot in the year or so ahead! Part is good enough to be sealed, but a large chunk of it needs to be replaced.

If you would like to donate specifically to this work, designate any amount (small or large) to: PARKING LOT WORK and it will be held to pay for the work as it happens... Thank you for any extra you want to give!

-The Trustees-



HYMN SING

**Sunday, February 23rd at 2:30p.m.
@ St. Paul UMC!**

It all begins in the sanctuary and then moves downstairs for desserts and refreshments. Please, plan to come sing some of your favorite hymns, and enjoy the music of Rayford & Martha Raby, and Pastor Ed Granadosin!

EASTER FLOWER INFORMATION should be coming in the next couple of weeks. Please, watch the Sunday bulletin sheets for more about the cost and order deadline.
-Worship Ministry Team

**DEADLINE FOR
March 2025
STEEPLE,
Thurs., February 20th!**



THERE ARE IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN THE SWEET SOUNDS

Qualifications: Must be male or female; young, middle age, old, older. Must be able to walk & step onto the van. **NO EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED!** If you like to sing that is a **BIG PLUS.** You don't have to be trained in opera or even country music. Can't read music? That is **OKAY**; we only use the words. Must be able to shake hands & spread some sunshine! You need no computer savvy, bookkeeping skills, or accounting degree.

Should be available Fridays (at 12:45 p.m.) of the month and one Monday (at 1:00 p.m.). APPLY IN PERSON AND BE PREPARED TO STAY. Excellent benefits to your mind, body, and soul. God and Sweet Sounds need you in this outreach ministry today!
Music IS a powerful memory!

Our members have come from several churches and communities. For more information call Dorothy Kasinger at 618-259-7255 or email her at dorothydlk@charter.net. Give us a try this year!