



The Steeple

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

MARCH 2025



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Praise and Peace to everyone in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. I hope and pray that you are healthy and well as you are reading this newsletter. This winter season has been a bit troubling because compared to when I came to Illinois in 2019, this season brought a lot of snow and frigid temperatures. Even those who do not usually get snow got a taste of mid-west and East Coast winter chills. I guess the shifting of the earth's axis back in the 1990s has taken its toll and we are feeling its effect. The study said it is because of melting glaciers from climate changing. But still, I am thankful because our country was built to endure whatever season there might be and most of all the people's resilience stands the strongest. Why? Because I believe that the silent majority of this country still believes in the power of our Holy God, therefore, we will not be moved!

Isaiah 41:10

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"

Psalms 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"

These verses remind us that we can find strength in God and rely on Him in times of need. So, March 2025 will be the starting point of the Lenten season. **March 5 in particular will be Ash Wednesday** and then we come to **Holy Week which will be in April**. As believers and followers of Jesus Christ, I'd like us to prepare our hearts for this important observance and try our very best to be closer to God than ever before. Reading His word, praying, meditating, and serving HIM and others. The world continues to be in crisis. Our beloved country has been in crisis and needs our help because those people whom we have trusted to uphold what this country stood for broke their many promises and who is suffering? That's right! It's us, the citizens of the United States of America! Folks this is not about being Republican or Democrat anymore. This is about the survival of this nation. A great shift must happen. A dramatic change must take place. Let us not depend too much on the wisdom of Man, but we must bring our hearts back to our total dependency on our Almighty God. In this way, God will restore any nation who would call upon HIS name. So, I'd like to leave you with this passage...

2 Chronicles 7:14

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Think about this promise. Think about how God forgives and restores. Think about our future. Only God can carry us through. Thank you for your time. This is Pastor Ed.

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 **Betty Henkhaus (101)**, neighbor and lifelong friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Edward Luttmann (87)**, brother-in-law of Dottie Aitken (husband of her sister, Pearl); **Norma Jean Church (92)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell from Cherry St. Baptist Church; and **James Toner (94)**, brother of the late Charles Toner and brother-in-law of Rosalie Toner. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

THANK YOU! This is Al Ortegren. I have moved to Pensacola, FL, permanently. I am writing this note to tell all the people there that I have a real soft spot in my heart for St. Paul. The church was a big part of Bobbi's and my life for over 40 years. I have a wonderful new church here at St. Mark but I will be forever thankful for having been a part of St. Paul. Thanks and best wishes to everyone there. Your friend **-Al Ortegren**



The 2025 Women Of Worship
Spring Rummage Sale will be:

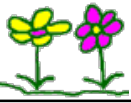
Fri. & Sat., 8:30 a.m. - Noon
March 28 & 29

**(and a Pre-Sale Thursday evening,
March 27, 6 - 8 p.m. \$2 entry fee)**

The **GREAT ST. PAUL WOW Rummage Sale** is almost here! **Items for sale will be accepted beginning Wednesday, March 12th and ending Monday, March 24th.** We appreciate all of the great regularly donated items that are brought. There is still time to collect your **clean, working, sellable items** to bring to the church. **PLEASE, NO** lotions, perfumes, etc. that have been opened. **NO** computer monitors, printers, VCRs, TVs that are not flat screen, or other electronics. **They do not sell and we have no way to dispose of them.** Make sure any clothes or bedding items are **clean, stain free, and in good condition...Do not bring if they are not!** Please, **NO** sharp knives or child car seats. Books, puzzles, magazines, kitchen & household items, etc. are good selling items. **NO** large pieces of furniture. **Small** kitchen appliances are okay as long as they work.

→ **Help Wanted: the week of March 17th** to sort and begin to prepare items for the sale. We will also need workers to total purchase amounts, keep tables neat, and to assist shoppers in any way needed during the sale. We need a few men to help carry items to shoppers' cars all 3 days. Any amount of time you can help will be appreciated **AND** you get first chance at all of the bargains!

**LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT SALE - REMEMBER ALL OF THE PROFITS GO TO UNITED METHODIST AND LOCAL GROUPS NEEDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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!!

HYMN SING

Our thanks to Dorothy Kasinger for scheduling and promoting the HYMN SING. It was such a blessing to hear the gathered congregation worship in song. Thank you to Pastor Ed, Dru, and Bella for providing inspiring music. We are always thankful for Mark who ably handled the technical needs. Special thanks to the dessert bakers and kitchen crew for a wonderful reception. Thank you Wesley Class for your gift card. It is our joy to be part of the ministry of St. Paul United Methodist Church. We love this church family!

Rayford & Martha Raby



IN JAPAN, BROKEN OBJECTS
are OFTEN REPAIRED WITH
GOLD. THE FLAW is SEEN
as A UNIQUE PIECE OF the
OBJECT'S HISTORY, WHICH
ADDS TO its BEAUTY.

CONSIDER THIS
WHEN YOU FEEL BROKEN.

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS



St. Paul Sunday Service in **MARCH** 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. Transfiguration Sunday.

Scriptures: *Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43*



5th: ASH WEDNESDAY. @EAFUMC, will be a combined Ash Wednesday service at 6:30p.m. for the congregations of EAFUMC and SPUMC! Please, join us on this special night!

Scriptures: *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

9th: First Sunday of Lent.

Scriptures: *Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 92:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13*

16th: Second Sunday of Lent.

Scriptures: *Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35*

23rd: Third Sunday of Lent.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9*

30th: Fourth Sunday of Lent. UMCOR Sunday.

Scriptures: *Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-3*

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!



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~



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:

Mar 2: by **Betty Burns** in memory of her Mother, Geneva Stein.
Mar 9: by **Rayford & Martha Raby** in celebration of their 64th Wedding Anniversary!
Mar 16: by **Shelley Heigert** in celebration of Harv Birmingham's Birthday!
Mar 23: by **Jim & Jane Herndon** in celebration of their 54th Wedding Anniversary!
Mar 30: by **Kay Gwaltney & Family** in memory of Don Gwaltney's Birthday.



PLEASE FILL IN THE 2025 FLOWER CHART!!

IF YOU
WANT
GOD TO
CLOSE
AND
OPEN
DOORS,
LET GO
OF THE
DOOR
KNOB.



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 eve-
nings most weeks!**

MARCH OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

March 3-4,10-11,17-18,24-25,31 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

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

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

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Mar Lisa Betts
 01-Mar Ava Toner
 02-Mar Kristin Baker
 02-Mar Robert Brown
 02-Mar Ricci Voorhees
 03-Mar Ted Toner
 04-Mar Iola Ballard
 04-Mar Allan Napp
 04-Mar Brent Springer
 05-Mar Alexis Plummer
 05-Mar Ava Sandbach
 07-Mar Judy Glassmeyer
 07-Mar Mark Mayer
 09-Mar Corey Bell
 09-Mar Landon Clark
 09-Mar Meg Fansler
 09-Mar Claudia Herndon
 10-Mar Micki Emerick
 10-Mar Donna Hamilton
 11-Mar Kasey Diveley
 11-Mar Ashley Laws
 11-Mar Jill Oertle
 12-Mar Brooke Toner
 13-Mar Hunter Bonds
 13-Mar John Huddleston

13-Mar Stephanie Schroedter
 13-Mar Codey Terry
 16-Mar Clark Cranmer
 17-Mar Sophia Henderson
 17-Mar Jean Kainz
 17-Mar Rachel Schiber
 17-Mar Carol Upple
 18-Mar Harvey Birmingham
 19-Mar Rick Huddleston
 19-Mar Joe Tillery
 19-Mar Gerry Ward
 19-Mar Tim Witthoft
 20-Mar Katie Clark
 20-Mar Matt Gwaltney
 21-Mar Krista Bishop
 21-Mar Phyllis Hill
 22-Mar Randy Brueggeman
 22-Mar Lucas Gebhardt
 22-Mar Lori Kamp
 22-Mar Kyle Napp

22-Mar Matt Toner
 23-Mar Justin Sandbach
 24-Mar Lucy Grizzle
 24-Mar Logan Oertle
 24-Mar Audrey White
 25-Mar Anita Dawson
 25-Mar Tonya LaTempt
 26-Mar Jayden Bell
 26-Mar Toby McCammon
 27-Mar David Laufersweiler
 28-Mar Tyler Watt
 29-Mar Tracy Bentley
 29-Mar Mark Hamlin
 30-Mar Chris Eyster
 30-Mar Amy Wells
 31-Mar Betsy Blacklock



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



02-Mar Norris & Mary Lou Dorsey
 03-Mar David & Cherie Buatte
 07-Mar Andrew & Jennifer Garrison
 07-Mar Nathan & Samantha Shewmake
 09-Mar Brent & Jessie Springer

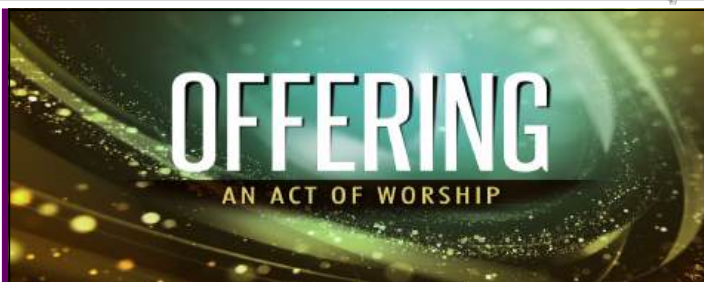
11-Mar Brian & Jennifer Roberts
 19-Mar Jim & Jane Herndon
 20-Mar Jeff & Laura Mae White
 21-Mar Doug & Joy Pascoe
 21-Mar Mike & Linda Scroggins

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!

**FEBRUARY Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	2/1/2025 thru 2/28/2025	\$14124.00
Designated Giving:	2/1/2025 thru 2/28/2025	618.28
	Capital Improvements	225.00
	Loose Change	25.28
	Flowers	143.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	75.00
	Upper Room	.00
	Helping Hands	.00
	Parking Lot Work	.00
	Women of Worship	40.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	20.00
	Youth	50.00
	Postage	10.00
	UMCOR	.00
	Offering Envelopes	30.00
Online Giving		351.50
Total:		\$15093.78



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 an update on that; 702-583-8851.

WORSHIP SERVICE:

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

**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT**

March's Loose Change Project is McKendree University.

This university was established as a private Methodist College. The university needs financial support for scholarships, building funds, and the many other needs always present in maintaining an ongoing educational institution. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



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.

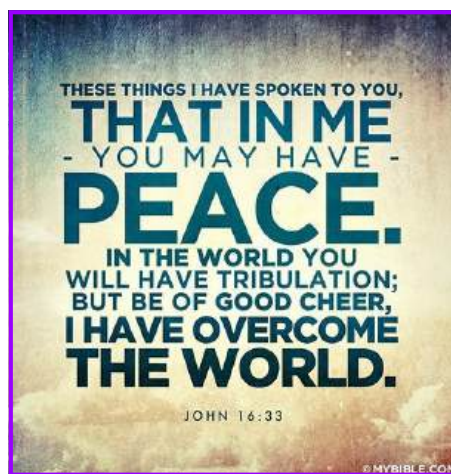
Graduating seniors from the three area high schools (East Alton-Wood River, Roxana, and Civic Memorial) or any who are a member of St. Paul UMC may apply for the **\$500.00 scholarship**.

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:

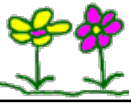
Tuesday, April 1, 2025

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



March 20th!





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



On Saturday, March 15th from 1-4 pm we will be hosting 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, send a card to Harvey's new address:
27 Auerbach Place, Apt 422, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

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

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!!



PECANS

WE STILL HAVE SOME!

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

WHEN LIFE GETS TOUGH
AND YOU'RE FACED WITH DEFEAT,
REMEMBER SOMEWHERE IN THE
WORLD A FLOWER IS POPPING
THROUGH SOME CONCRETE.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If bad weather requires the cancellation of the worship service, we will:

- ✂ **ACTIVATE "OTTO" OUR PHONE TREE CALLING SYSTEM!**
- ✂ contact TV Channel 5 to list it!
- ✂ post a notice 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!

→ **March:** the Youth Group will be meeting on Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. Please, help spread the word to all middle school and high school students. We may hold a lock-in one weekend in March or April 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.

A Young Adult/College Age Bible Study also is held on Tuesdays, from 6-7:30 p.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) 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-



SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

Set your clock
ahead
one hour!



**Monday
March
17th...**

**Happy St.
Patrick's Day!**

EASTER FLOWERS!

Ready or not, it is time to order Easter Flowers! The **forms** are on the table and the deadline is **March 9th**. This is the schedule at the place we order them from... Questions? Call the office **618-259-5210**. The cost is **\$11**; and it is due when ordered! Thank you!

**DEADLINE FOR
April 2025
STEEPLE,
Friday,
March 21st!**



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!