



The Steeple

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

APRIL 2025



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,



The seven last statements of Jesus:

1. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34)
2. "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43)
3. "Woman, behold your son... Behold your mother" (John 19:26-27)
4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34)
5. "I thirst" (John 19:28)
6. "It is finished" (John 19:30)
7. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

At 6 years of age, I grew up with my other 5 older brothers listening to these topics from the 1st word to the last. My brothers and I can attest that nothing compares to how the Lenten season is celebrated in the Philippines. Holy week is so Holy... the government declared 1 week of paid holidays to the entire workforce. No work, no school, and a whole lot of family time. But with our family, since our father was a pastor, we were required to be in church. We were all part of the choir so you can just imagine the music we brought at the church we all attended. Beginning from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, the church was filled with glorious music and powerful sermons given by guest speakers behind the pulpit. But in my opinion, our father, Bishop Granadosin, gave the best "7 last statements" sermon in the world. And I tell you, for the whole 3 hours of worship, people were all in awe of how the Word of God was being preached.

In the Philippines on Easter Sunday, we would do a combined Easter Sunrise service @7a.m. attended by different denominations with a combined choir conducted by my mom, Mrs Granadosin, singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" as our benediction. Our church still has a regular worship service at 10:30a.m. but back then it was a "worship through Music" Easter Cantata. I sure miss those days. But it is what it is. There was something about worship back in those days that we don't see as much in this present day. How I wish we could bring those days back. Times have changed. We need to adapt and continue the work because as far as I am concerned, the message remains the same...

For it is written, ² **"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."** ³ **For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires** ⁴ **and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.** ⁵ **As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully."** (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

Therefore, we will never stop until God says... stop. Our ministry, our love for God and others, and the preaching of the good news will forever be in our hearts. For Jesus, the resurrected Christ, is the reason we can be saved, and for that, we give him the glory, honor, and praise! Have a meaningful holy week and a powerful Easter Sunday (Resurrection Day) celebration!

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 YOU'S!

- We welcome **Matthew & Tori Ludwig** as new members here at St. Paul UMC! Please, welcome them to the congregation!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Eugene Sackett (73)**, cousin of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Barbara Kay Bentley (81)**, wife of Ray Bentley; **Steven Copley (71)**, nephew of Joan Ford; **Florence "Flo" Nelson (81)**, mother of Cathy Toner, wife of the late Ron Nelson, member of St. Paul UMC, and active in WOW (see obit on page 9); **Carrol Howard (86)**, daughter of the late Charles & Prattie Hinkle and sister of the late Mary Meyer all of St. Paul UMC; and **Joanne (Gent) Bowles (88)**, co-owner of Gent Funeral Home and mother of Ralph Bowles. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

THANK YOU! I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and Pastor Ed for his visits. I am blessed to have such a caring church family! I am getting better and better! **-Larry Ballard**

THANK YOU! A big thank you to my St Paul family for the many cards and for joining me to help celebrate my 90th birthday. I thoroughly enjoyed the celebration. I've been blessed! **-Harvey Birmingham** (see photos ➡)



RUMMAGE SALE

THANK YOU!

The **WOMEN OF WORSHIP** would like to thank **EVERYONE** who helped in any way to make our **2025 RUMMAGE SALE** a huge success! Whether you donated or shopped for items, helped organize items, helped during the sale itself, or were one of the guys who helped carry things out to cars...you were very much appreciated! God's blessings on all of you! **\$2,701.25** was raised for missions!



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!!



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN



Maundy
Thursday
Holy
Communion

**April 17th
@6:30 p.m.**

We will be at St. Paul UMC for a combined service with East Alton FUMC. This is the night Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and they shared the Last Supper together... With bread and cup we remember the darkness of deceit which is a prelude to the dawn of God's great truth: Jesus Lives! Join us and please, bring your family and friends!

Scavenger
Hunt!

EASTER BUNNY STOP 'N HOP!

Saturday, April 12
10:00am-12:00pm

Treats will be passed out inside the church!

Games!



Photo Opportunity
with the Easter Bunny!

Bring an Easter basket to
collect your goodies!

East Alton First United Methodist Church
1001 Third Street, East Alton
If you have questions, EAFUMC@gmail.com



St. Paul Sunday Service in **APRIL** 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](https://www.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!

6th: Fifth Sunday of Lent. Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8*



13th: Palm Sunday.

Scriptures: *Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49*

17th: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 6:30p.m. at St. Paul UMC.

A combined service with EAFUMC.

Scriptures: *Exodus 12:1-4, 5-10, 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35*



20th: Easter! Resurrection Day!

Scriptures: *Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12*

27th: Second Sunday of Easter.

Scriptures: *Acts 5:27-35; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31*

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~





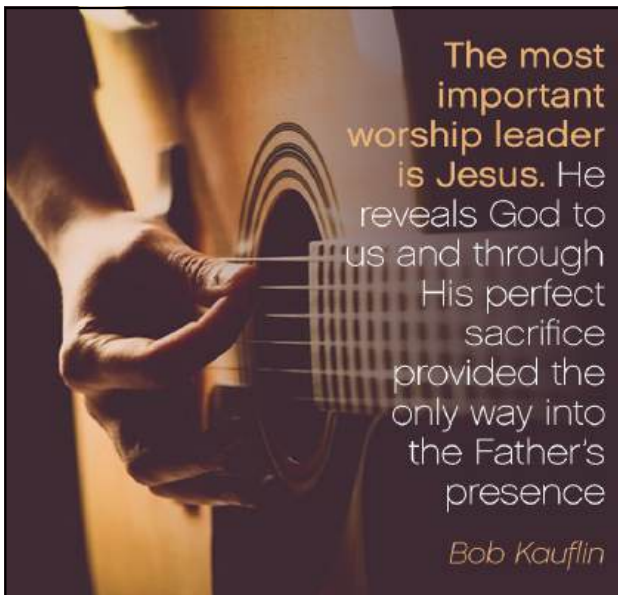
CONTINUOUS FOOD DRIVE: The Outreach Ministry Team will keep a “Food Drive” going. If you can, whenever you shop, get a few extra non-perishables to bring to church for us to give to the food pantries! (**Suggestions:** Mayonnaise, Can Opener, Oil, Powdered Milk, Milk/Oat Milk/Almond Milk/Coconut Milk – 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:

Apr 6: by **Donna Badman** in memory of her Parents, Charles & Irene McKean.
Apr 13: by **Tracy Franks** in memory of her Parents, Lute & Doloros Taulbee.
Apr 20: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **Leona's Birthday!**
Apr 27: by **St. Paul UMC** in celebration of **being EASTER PEOPLE every day!**



PLEASE FILL IN THE 2025 FLOWER CHART!



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!

APRIL OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

April 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

April 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

ON April 10 GONE FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Apr Amy Hartman
 02-Apr Jarod Foiles
 03-Apr Karen Challandes
 03-Apr Mike Voorhees
 04-Apr Donald Ford Jr.
 04-Apr Payton Hartman
 04-Apr Tom Martin
 05-Apr Jason Mayer
 05-Apr Kelly Moore
 05-Apr Rohland Pruetzel
 06-Apr Barb Sitze
 06-Apr Jessica Winchester
 07-Apr Vicki Acton
 07-Apr Ashley Bunt
 07-Apr Jaxson McBride
 08-Apr Patrick Bottorff
 09-Apr Abbygail Skjerseth
 10-Apr Bryan Clark
 10-Apr Virginia Croxford
 10-Apr Lizzie Dawson
 11-Apr Jennifer Roberts
 11-Apr Alyssa Tite
 14-Apr Terry Inman
 14-Apr Mindy McLain
 14-Apr Rilyn Chester
 14-Apr Nora Toner

15-Apr Alexander Lair
 16-Apr Nathan Bishop
 16-Apr Lauren Davis
 16-Apr Peter Laufersweiler
 17-Apr Lauryn Decker
 17-Apr Brittney Harlan
 17-Apr Brooke Harlan
 17-Apr Vivian Sands-Franklin
 17-Apr Scott Tillery
 17-Apr Cathy Toner
 18-Apr Michael Bunt
 18-Apr Luke Dawson
 18-Apr Brandon Plummer
 19-Apr Ilona Townsend
 19-Apr Madison Scroggins
 19-Apr Patsy Scroggins
 20-Apr Kay Gwaltney
 20-Apr Rosalind Hovan
 21-Apr Edith Mayer
 21-Apr Ryan Parker

24-Apr Leona Hendricks
 24-Apr Mike Plummer
 25-Apr Logan Laufersweiler
 25-Apr Madison Williams
 26-Apr Logan Eyster
 26-Apr Andrew Garrison
 27-Apr Jaden Henderson
 27-Apr Bob Kissack Jr.
 27-Apr Keith Sheppard
 28-Apr John Bailey
 28-Apr Tabatha Barclay
 28-Apr Taylor Scroggins
 29-Apr Jacob Giddings
 29-Apr Stacey Kathriner
 29-Apr Darin Redden Sr.
 29-Apr Rita White
 30-Apr Chase Cameron

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



happy
birthday

05-Apr Rohland & Susie Pruetzel
 08-Apr Bill & Ronda Crain Jr.
 10-Apr Adam & Stephanie Schroedter
 11-Apr Phil & Vicki Acton
 11-Apr Joe & Linda Tillery
 14-Apr Joshua & Brooke Toner

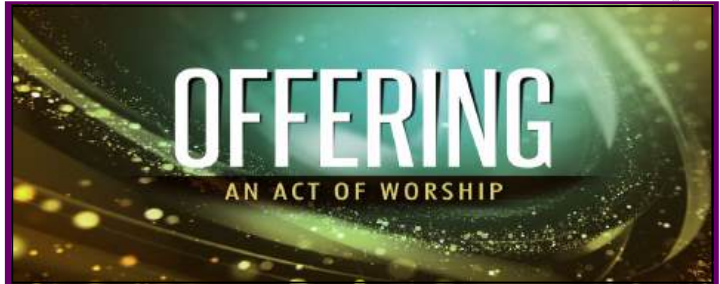
20-Apr Jim & Betty Burns
 20-Apr Jake & Jessica Toner
 21-Apr Eric & Heather Decker
 21-Apr Peter & Sarah Laufersweiler
 24-Apr Justin & Jennifer Sandbach

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 is available!** Thank you for your help!

**MARCH Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	3/1/2025 thru 3/31/2025	\$17014.00
Designated Giving:	3/1/2025 thru 3/31/2025	1218.53
	Capital Improvements	270.00
	Loose Change	41.53
	Flowers	336.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	0.00
	Upper Room	11.00
	Helping Hands	0.00
	Parking Lot Work	175.00
	Women of Worship	0.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	50.00
	Reimbursements	200.00
	UMCOR	130.00
	Offering Envelopes	5.00
Online Giving		351.50
Total:		\$18584.03



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!

Easter Offering

The Finance Committee & Church Council voted to give **50%** of the undesignated Easter Offering to

Helping Hands

and **50%** to the

Philippines Central Conference Retired Ministers Fund.

You may also designate your **Easter Offering** to a specific group, account, or mission.

Offering received throughout April.

**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT**

April's Loose Change Project is the **Community Hope Center** in Cottage Hills. Not only do they run a food pantry which our church uses as a referral source, but they offer free clothing and many other programs to help people in need.

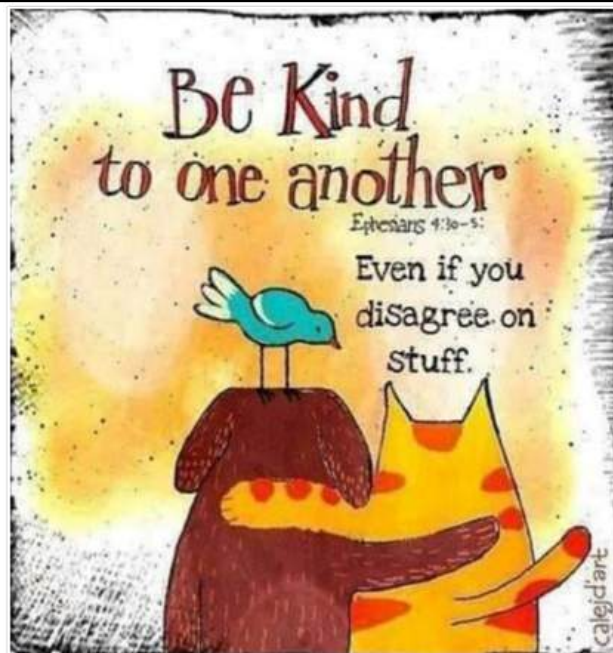
**May God bless
and multiply your gifts!**



CHURCH SPRING WORK DAY!

Saturday, April 12th
8:00 a.m.-Noon

If you are willing & able to work, we would appreciate your help! Thank you! Questions?
Call John Hendricks, 618-978-7771.

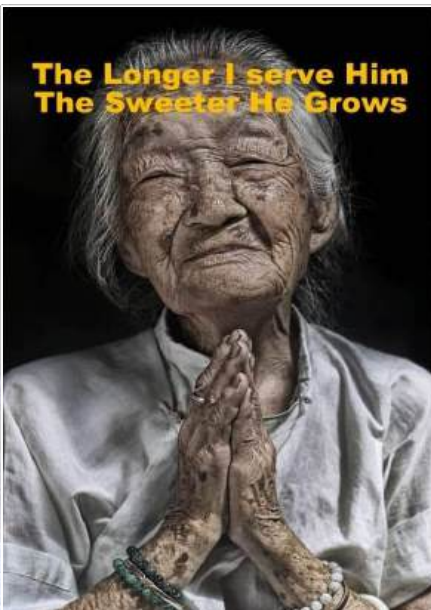


VBS 2025!

This year for VBS we will combine our efforts with EAFUMC so as to connect with more children. The **dates** for VBS are **May 27-30** and the time is **5:30-8:00p.m.** On Sunday, June 1st the children will participate in the **10:15a.m. service at EAFUMC singing VBS Songs. There will be a party after the service!**

There are many St. Paul folks who love to help with VBS and others who have wanted to but could not during the day so we hope this works for all...**If you want to help in ANY WAY, please, let Pastor Ed know ASAP!!** More info in the May newsletter!

**The Longer I serve Him
The Sweeter He Grows**



“

*No matter how
foreboding the
future, the
Christian knows
the end of the story
— and it is
glorious! Don't
lose heart. The best
is yet to be!*

BILLY GRAHAM

**ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE
BECAUSE ONE DAY YOU'LL LOOK
BACK AND REALIZE THEY WERE
THE BIG THINGS.**





We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Florence "Flo" Esther (Soto) Nelson, 81, passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 19, 2025, leaving a void her family cannot fill. Born April 8, 1943, in Alton the daughter of Edward C. & Esther (Moreno) Soto. She married her soulmate, Ronald Wayne Nelson, Sr. Jan. 10, 1961; he preceded her in death May 9, 2024.

Flo worked for the Roxana School District for 23 years where she took special joy in being 'mom' to every student she encountered. Her volunteer work for sporting events and extracurricular

activities, most notably, After Prom parties was legendary. She was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church since June 1995 and loved being able to share her creativity and artistic talents in the Women of Worship's craft group supporting its missions.

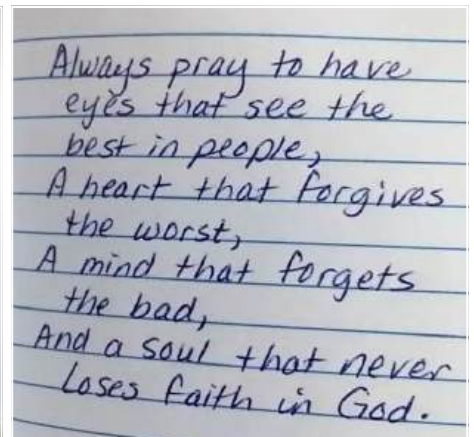
Her love of music and movies was something she passed down to her grandchildren, creating cherished memories through special movie dates. But her true passion in life was making every day magical for her family. Of all the holidays, Christmas was her favorite—she was famous for baking cookies and treats, not just for her loved ones but for neighbors as well, ensuring that everyone around her felt the magic of the season. She will be remembered for her compassion for people and animals, her kind heart, infectious laugh and the beautiful smile she always had on her face.

She was the heart of our home and family and is survived by her 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 (Michael) Sturgiou, John Tyler Ludwig, Jordan Ludwig, and Nick (Kelly) 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; and two sisters, Patricia Stuart of Toledo, IL and Cathy Beiser of Buckeye, AZ as well as her very special nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; a granddaughter, Samantha Nelson; three brothers, Jesse Soto, David Soto and John Soto; and two sisters, Sophia Sheafor and Lucy VanHynning and son-in-law Edward Ludwig.

The family would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Cedarhurst of Bethalto and Dover Hospice for the love and care they provided. Memorial donations may be given to the American Heart Association, the Alzheimer's Association, or Siteman Cancer Center.

We here at St. Paul UMC have missed her joyful presence and glowing smile as she was taken from us by her illnesses. Praise be to God that she now rejoices in the realms of Heaven! Please, keep her huge family in your prayers as they journey on without her.





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

► **April:** the Youth Group will be meeting next on **Wednesday, April 9th** at **4:30 p.m.** in the park, weather permitting. Please, help spread the word to all middle and high school students. Most of the Youth managed to meet at least once during the month of March. Our kiddos that keep in regular contact are very interested in camp and looking for ways to earn money to do so. **If anyone has interest in helping with a youth fundraiser, please, contact Lauren.** She would love to take many kids to camp this summer! 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 offering plate.

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



**DEADLINE
FOR
May 2025
STEEPLE,
Monday,
April 21st!**

God's favor
outweighs all
opposition.

Don't let anyone
rent a space
in your head,
unless they're
a good tenant.
unknown

"Start calling yourself
healed, happy,
whole, blessed,
and prosperous.
Stop talking to God
about how big your
mountains are, and
start talking to your
mountains about
how big your God is!"

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**



April
22



Happy Administrative
Professionals Day - April 23rd!