



The Steeple

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

MAY 2025



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

This month of May includes the **National Day of Prayer (May 1st 2025)** with its theme written by Paul to the Romans chapter 15 verse 13:

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13**

HOPE is a word that this world has been longing for since Humans fell into the trap of sin that led to death. As the Word of God wrote in Genesis chapter 3, Adam & Eve, the first man and women, disobeyed God by eating of the forbidden fruit from the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. It was a Holy Ordinance from the Almighty God that I believe HE was able to make them understand the consequences if ever they even thought of touching this prohibited food. They did touch and ate it without any remorse. In fact, they were even blaming each other and not taking responsibility. Woman blamed the man. Man blamed the serpent, and all were cast out of the presence of God and out of the eternal garden of peace. Since then, chaos has broken loose. Pain and destruction is everywhere. Men, women, and even children have not been spared from afflictions and hardships. It has become a "dog-eat-dog" culture. That is indeed unfortunate. To this day, this earth has been suffering a lot.

Although this world has already been heading down a different path, which is away from God; by HIS grace, mercy, and love, HE found a way for hope to enter into the realm of the living again. Now, this hope is not of earthly origin. Not of human descent. But hope that was/is only founded by God himself. And this Hope can only be made possible through Jesus, the resurrected Christ. That is why the message of Easter is hope. Hope for the lost and weary. Hope for the poor and the powerless. Hope for the troubled heart and hope for the faithless and sinful people. **Romans 15:13** to me is a powerful blessing and prayer from Paul who was once lost and did not know who Jesus was until God found him one day. He was blinded by the radiance of the risen Christ that humbled his prideful heart, but he was given hope when Jesus opened his eyes and he saw who he really was in the sight of YHWH. A sinner who was saved by the grace of our Lord. From a hopeless and helpless mercenary to a redeemed and restored missionary. Now that is hope in action in the life of the Apostle Paul!

Therefore, if Paul who was one of the great persecutors of his time yet turned evangelist, then whoever or whatever you are in the sight of God, his HOPE will find a way to give you peace and unending love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Indeed, HE will encourage you to receive Him as your Savior. He will fill your heart with gladness by the power of the Holy Spirit and HIS message of abounding **HOPE** will forever follow you all the days of your life. Let this **National Day of Prayer month** speak to your heart and to the years to come. Amen! To God be the Glory!

Blessings to all and until the next issue, just believe--

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 **Pope Francis (88)**, head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State; **Harold “Richard” Baird, Jr. (71)**, neighbor of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Phillip “Phil” Walker (76)**, husband of the late Mary Walker and father of Christopher Walker (see obit on page 3); and **Alice Clayton (89)**, cousin of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God’s peace through it all.**
- **Congratulations to Tim Bunt**, President of the Rosewood Heights Fire District Trustees, who was honored by Wood River Township Supervisor Mike Babcock. Tim has served the Fire Department for over 45 years. He served 16 years as Fire Chief and is starting his 4th year as Fire District President. Tim has served the community well and we are thankful to the Township and Mike Babcock for honoring him! (see photo →)
- **Congratulations to Eve Kasinger** (daughter of Sean Kasinger and granddaughter of Dorothy Kasinger) who is graduating from Calhoun High School. Blessings on your continued life journey!
- **Congratulations to Will Korinek** (grandson of Dorothy Kasinger) who graduated from the Fireman Academy in Champaign, IL. He works for the Wood River Fire Department and they sent him there for extra training. Blessings as you serve the community!
- **Congratulations to Audrey Pena** for being inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. We are so proud of you!



THANK YOU! On behalf of the family of Florence “Flo” Nelson, we would like to give a special thank you to both Pastor Ed and the Women’s group. The ladies accepted the challenge last minute, told me with confidence that they would make it work, and they did! I heard so many nice comments from family members praising the ladies for a beautiful luncheon. And Pastor Ed, what a beautiful service and heartfelt song as a tribute to a beautiful lady, our mom Flo. The service truly touched our hearts. God Bless you all! Sincerely,
-The Nelson Family



**WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES
ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH
AMPHITHEATER**

**8:45 a.m.
BEGINS JUNE 8th
(second Sunday)**

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



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Phillip Walker, 76, passed away at 10:23pm on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at OSF St. Anthony's Hospital in Alton. He was born on March 15, 1949, in Alton, the son of the late Paul & Delores (Crabtree) Walker. He married the former Mary Lawrence on February 27, 1982, in Alton, and she preceded him in death on December 9, 2021. Survivors include a son: Christopher Walker of Roxana, and many other extended family and friends.

A store room manager at Alton Steel, Phillip was a member of the Rosewood Heights Fire Department. He and his wife Mary were members of the Wood River Hoedowners. They were constituents at St. Paul UMC in Rosewood Heights, IL.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by a brother: David.

In accordance with his wishes, memorials are suggested to go to the Rosewood Heights Fire Department.

We will continue to hold up Phil's family and friends in prayer as we seek all they will need to go on without him. We will miss Phil.



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!!

MAY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

May 5-6,12-13,19-20,27 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

May 7,14,21,28 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

May 1-2,8-9,15-16,22-23,29-30 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

ON May 8 GONE FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH

ON May 26 Office Closed for Memorial Day holiday!



St. Paul Sunday Service in **MAY** 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!

4th: 3rd Sunday of Easter; Native American Ministries Sunday; Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9*



11th: 4th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home.

Scriptures: *Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30*

18th: 5th Sunday of Easter; Heritage Sunday.

Scriptures: *Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-16; John 13:31-35*



26th: 6th Sunday of Easter; Memorial Day Sunday.

Scriptures: *Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29*



Members are remembered and Memorial Projects are dedicated

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!!**



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:

May 4: by **Randy & Joyce Brueggeman** in honor of **their Family!**

May 11: by **Jayme Scroggins** in memory of **Eileen Burke.**

May 18: by **Joan Ford** in memory of **husband Phill's Birthday.**

May 26: by **Dorothy Kasinger** in memory of **sister Margie Hall's Birthday.**



PLEASE, HELP TO FILL IN THE 2025 FLOWER CHART!

Give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday to:

Empower

Educate

Equip

Did you know that more than 20,000 Native American people are part of The United Methodist Church? On **May 4**, we celebrate the **Native American Ministries**. You may give a special offering that will directly support all of the different parts of the **Native American Ministries**.

Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem,
It takes you through the problem.
Faith doesn't always take away the pain,
It gives you the ability to handle the pain.
Faith doesn't always take you out of the storm,
It calms you in the midst of the storm.

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!**



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

01-May Kennedy Scroggins
 03-May Bowen Ayres
 03-May Brian Eyster
 03-May Sharon Fulks
 03-May Shelley Heigert
 04-May Zack Toner
 05-May Sydney Martin
 05-May Keri Whaley
 06-May Mike Tappy
 07-May Alex Barnes
 07-May Ian Napp
 07-May Jeff White
 08-May Brayden Decker
 08-May Bruce Hatten
 08-May Trudy Lehnen
 08-May Joy Virgin
 09-May Jackie Beth Burt
 10-May Brandon Bentley
 10-May Katie Ford
 10-May Jake Toner
 12-May Aaron Bottorff
 12-May Liam Cincoski
 12-May Heather Hendricks
 12-May Connie Hickerson

12-May Laura Mae White
 13-May Troy Cameron
 13-May Ethan Martin
 13-May Aaron Rich
 13-May Shelby Whaley
 13-May Tana Yankovich
 15-May Joshua Giddings
 15-May Wyatt Parker
 16-May Paul Bowman
 16-May Adelyn Spurgeon
 17-May Debbie Bacus
 17-May John Uzzell
 19-May Kylie Winchester
 20-May Barbara Baggett
 21-May Ray Babcock Jr.
 21-May Jocelyn Toner
 22-May Tyler Babcock
 22-May Ridgely Hubbard
 24-May Ryan Spurgeon

26-May Kelly McPheters
 26-May Brendan Palmer
 27-May Betty Campbell
 27-May Brandy Lusicic
 27-May Lana Mortland
 27-May Parker Kainz
 28-May DJ Lusicic Jr.
 29-May Gina Brown
 29-May Laurie Griffin
 29-May Richard Huebner
 30-May Steve Dawson
 30-May Sarah Gebhardt
 30-May Sam Griffin
 31-May Jessica Braun



MAY ANNIVERSARIES



01-May Mark & Sandy Scroggins
 02-May Jim & Connie Hickerson
 12-May Chris & Kellie Greer
 15-May Bob & Betsy Blacklock
 17-May Brian & Trista Liedtke
 19-May Troy & Kristin Cameron

21-May Tom & Karen Martin
 22-May Jimmy & Brianne Bourne
 25-May Bruce & Karen Hatten
 26-May Keith & Mandy Armon
 27-May Brennen & Samantha Hermens
 27-May Steve & Jean Kainz

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!

**APRIL Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	4/1/2025 thru 4/30/2025	\$10062.50
Designated Giving:	4/1/2025 thru 4/30/2025	2451.83
	Capital Improvements	175.00
	Loose Change	55.83
	Flowers	47.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	0.00
	Upper Room	9.00
	Helping Hands	700.00
	Parking Lot Work	350.00
	Women of Worship	15.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	225.00
	Easter Offering	800.00
	UMCOR	25.00
	Community Hope Center	50.00
Online Giving		351.50
Total:		\$12865.83

**Annual Rosewood Heights
Fire Department****→→ DATE CHANGED TO**

**Saturday,
October 4th
11:00 a.m.
to 4:00 p.m.**

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE 2025
STEEPLE,**

Monday, MAY 19th!

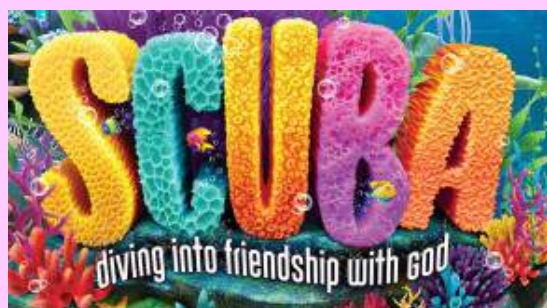
OFFERING
AN ACT OF WORSHIP

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!

**MONTHLY LOOSE
CHANGE PROJECT**

May's Loose Change Project is the Liberian Mission of the Methodist Church. The church continues to rebuild. This will help support pastors in the churches there who only earn a small amount per month in salary. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



VBS 2025!

Tuesday, May 27 – Friday, May 30
(June 1 the VBS Kids are invited to worship at EAFUMC and to stay for a party after!)

Light dinner at 5:30p.m. Activities 6-8p.m.
at East Alton First UMC for children ages 3 to 5th grade!
This year our two churches are working together! We need helpers of all kinds so if you want to help, please, call the church offices at 618-259-5210, 618-259-1306, or email to:

Olivia livielou330@gmail.com, or

Edie jeoscifres@yahoo.com

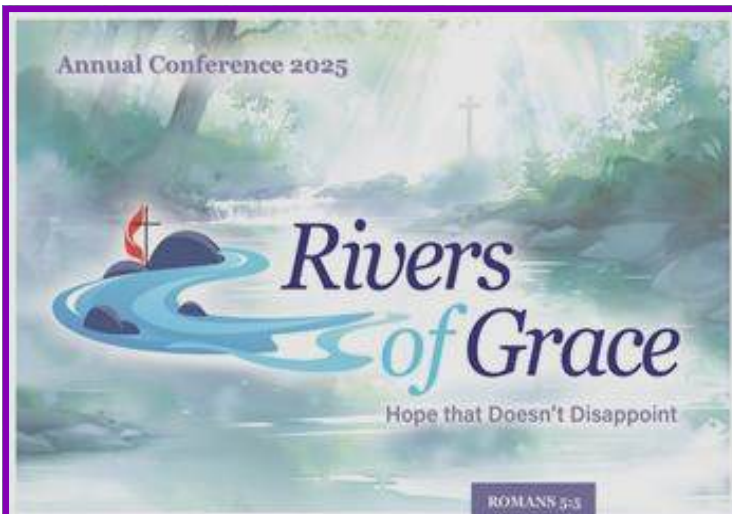
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

**SAVE
THE
DATES**

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-

TRUST
in the **LORD**
with all your
HEART
and lean **NOT**
on your own
UNDERSTANDING
Prov. 3.5



2025 Annual Conference June 5-7, 2025

Pastor Ed will be going to Peoria for the conference this year. Please, pray for all that will be accomplished at this event.



Monday, May 26th



**MMDC collection in
Peoria! Bring items to the
church by Sun., June 1st!**

Attendees to the 2025 Annual Conference are urged to have congregations collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Supplies can be collected and brought to Annual Conference. Items most needed are:

**Liquid laundry detergent,
bottle sized 100-150 oz.**

**Liquid Dish soap,
bottle sized 42-64 oz.**

**Liquid Household Cleaner,
bottle sized 56-80 oz. (no spray)
5 Gallon Round Buckets with
Resealable Lids**

ALSO: Washcloths & handtowels, bar soap 3-4 oz., lotion 8-10 oz., boxes of one gallon resealable bags, scrub brush... also new or gently used non-kit items: canes, crutches, foldable walkers, and reusable day / night pads. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Please, place them on or under the table across from the food drive table! Thank you for any help you can offer!



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

**THE YOUTH GROUP WILL BE ON HOLD FOR AWHILE TO FIND A
YOUTH DIRECTOR.**

Members of SPRC,

It is with regret and sadness that I send my letter of resignation from the **Youth Director** position at St. Paul. Youth programming has been increasingly harder to schedule in the past few years and even in recent months has proven to be nearly impossible to schedule and have youth in attendance. I appreciate the time and love I have received from the congregation. I pray that God sends someone who can help grow and revitalize the programming.

Blessings, Lauren Frieze



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.



**THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2025 HAS JUST A VERY FEW
SPOTS LEFT IN **SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, &
DECEMBER!** PLEASE, HELP FINISH FILLING IT!**



**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

BUY NOW!!

Regular 1lb. bag = **\$12**

Chocolate-covered 1lb. bag = **\$12**

HE TURNS COAL INTO DIAMONDS.
SAND INTO PEARLS.
WORMS INTO BUTTERFLIES.
HE CAN TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND, TOO.



EASTER FLOWERS 2025

DONNA BADMAN in memory of her Parents: Irene & Charles McKean

DONNA BADMAN grateful for her Family: Charles & Gayle McKean and Jim & Loretta McKean

LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in memory of our Family Members Who Have Passed

LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of our Family

SUE CARR in memory of her Mom, Alice Burrows

CHALLANDES FAMILY in memory of our Grandparents

CHALLANDES FAMILY in honor of our Son, Lincoln Challandes

CHALLANDES FAMILY in honor of our Parents: John & Leona Hendricks and
Phillip & Kim Challandes

JIM & ANITA DAWSON in memory of her Mom & Dad, Max, Robyn, & Kelly

JIM & ANITA DAWSON in honor of our Family

TRACY FRANKS in honor of her Grandchildren

KAY GWALTNEY & FAMILY in memory of her Parents: Herb & Catherine Love
(Charter Members)

KAY GWALTNEY & FAMILY in memory of Don's Parents: George & Katie Gwaltney

JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of our Family Members Who Have Gone On To Heaven

JIM & JANE HERNDON in honor of our Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren

STEVE & JEAN KAINZ in memory of our Parents

STEVE & JEAN KAINZ in memory of Eric Wood

STEVE & JEAN KAINZ in honor of Steph and Parker

DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her Parents: Victor & Beulah Strohbeck

DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of her Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren

MARK & DEB MAYER in honor of our Kids and Grandkids

RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in memory of our Parents: Bob & Annabelle McLain and
Merle & Norma Davis

RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of our Children and Grandchildren

RACHEL McPHETERS in memory of Jamie Kurucar

RACHEL McPHETERS in honor of Jim & Anna Mae Stewart

JAYME SCROGGINS in honor of her Children and Grandchildren

MIKE TAPPY in memory of Lori Tappy

PAUL & GERRY WARD in memory of our Family Members and Relatives

BOB, BEV, & JOE in memory of our Parents: Helen & Morris "Mo" Tschannen