



The Steeple



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

JULY 2025



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Paul writes in Colossians 4:2-4:

***² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;
³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;⁴ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.***

Hello everyone and **Happy 249th Birthday America!!** I hope that you are all well and encouraged even though our country has been experiencing numerous disruptions, disorder, and even a taste of a short-lived war between two opposing countries. We thank God because we are at peace and can celebrate the freedom that America has! For the time being ongoing negotiations have been happening...we need more prayers from the faithful in God. The gospel of **Matthew** says in **24:6** where Jesus is speaking: *"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come."*

So, these past months should not be a surprise, especially to those who are reading God's Word. We are indeed seeing the signs, but we should not allow our emotions to take over because it will just cause more anxieties and troubled hearts. Instead, our passage in Colossians has been reminding us to find refuge and peace in the Lord by praying and worshipping him at all costs. When we all devote ourselves to prayer, with thanksgiving and always staying alert, the Lord will definitely give us comfort and guidance on what to do. So what then should we do? As Paul has said, let us get down on our knees and pray; praise and keep on doing what the Lord has commanded us to do and that is... to preach the love of Jesus to all, make them disciples, and let them see in all of us the joy of a Jesus follower.

On May 27-June 1 we had a successful turnout of our combined **VBS (Vacation Bible School)**. This was between East Alton 1st and St Paul United Methodist Churches. More than 40 kids attended the week and at the culmination of the gathering, these kids ministered to the congregation of East Alton 1st and sang songs of praise and about Jesus. Unfortunately, a big protest in LA California happened just days after and other places participated as well. I mean, talk about the work of the enemy; he could not disrupt VBS, so might as well take it out on some other means. And I thank the Lord that not only our kids heard about Jesus, but they also became instant missionaries of Hope and Encouragement. You can watch the livestream of EAFUMC on Facebook or YouTube dated June 1, 2025. They were wonderful and awesome!

Folks, our devotion is not to worry or be troubled by this depraved world. Our focus is not on our leaders and their political issues and rivalries. Our main concern is Jesus and the teaching and preaching of the gospel and God's redemption and forgiveness for all. Our call to make disciples of others has not changed since Christ commanded His followers with the great commission written in **Matthew 28:16-20**. One thing I have observed is that the world is getting angrier and angrier every day and before you know it, it has escalated into something more destructive. That is a big problem.

Unless the Christian community will do its part of praying with much urgency, giving all our petitions to God, peace will never be achieved. A life of prayerlessness is a dangerous path. Those who do not believe may have an excuse but for believers not to pray leads to uncertainty and vulnerability. We must not allow this to happen. Therefore, my two cents worth for this reading: **Pray unceasingly, pray with hope, find means to be with the Lord in troubled times because HE can give us strength, and praying will draw us closer to God. Never allow the enemy to take hold of your emotions and decision-making. Always have the power of the Holy Spirit in and with you, and be assured then that you will never be alone.**



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 YOU!

- **Our deepest sympathy** goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Bob Gowin (90)**, brother of Joyce Tappy; **Margarette Trushel (74)**, co-founder and Executive Director of Oasis Women's Center in Alton; and **Robert Ballard (69)**, classmate and friend of Lois Mitchell since 2nd grade. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**
- On **Graduate Sunday, June 29th**, we celebrated the accomplishment of these our wonderful graduates: **Lincoln Challandes**, son of Chris & Karen Challandes and grandson of John & Leona Hendricks, is a Pre-K Graduate from the Kids Club Child Development Center in Edwardsville! Congratulations! **Gary Hart**, son of Tad & Yvonne Hart and grandson of Joyce Tappy, graduated 8th Grade from Collinsville Middle School! **Jaxson McBride**, son of Amber Tappy and grandson of Mike Tappy, graduated 8th Grade from Roxana Middle School! **Kate Garrison**, daughter of Andrew & Jennifer Garrison and granddaughter of Randy & Mindy McLain, graduated 8th grade from Trinity Lutheran School in Edwardsville! **Harper Herndon**, son of Matt & Allison Herndon and grandson of Jane & Jim Herndon, graduated 8th grade from Triad Middle School! **Audrey White**, daughter of Jeff & Laura Mae White and granddaughter of John & Rita White, graduated 12th Grade from Edwardsville High School! **Eve Kasinger**, daughter of Sean Kasinger and granddaughter of Dorothy Kasinger, graduated 12th grade from Calhoun High School! **"Lizzie" Dawson**, daughter of Steve & Sarah Dawson and granddaughter of Jim & Anita Dawson, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Creighton University, Omaha NE. She has been accepted to St. Louis University Medical School and will begin in July! **Will Korinek**, grandson of Dorothy Kasinger, graduated from the Fireman Academy in Champaign IL. He works for the Wood River Fire Department! **If we missed anyone, please, be sure to let the church office know! Thank you!**

THANK YOU! We praise God for a good recovery and are thankful for daughter, Amanda (FL) and daughter-in-law, Jess (NC) who came to help! Thank you to Dr. Stirton for the great job he did and to all of you for your prayers, calls, and for those who went to the airport to pick up these our helpers! We are so very blessed! **-Dot Elliott & Vicki Stewart**



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

8:45 a.m.

CONTINUES!

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



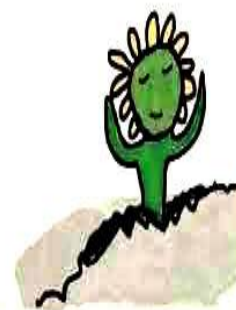
The face of prayer has changed. The need for prayer has not.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Blessed is the nation  whose God is the LORD...
—Psalm 124

Happy Independence Day!!

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



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 or outside after the Children's Moment...this will look different each week while we are outside for worship!

See you on Sundays!

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

WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!

JULY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

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

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

July 3,10-11,17-18,24-25,31 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

ON July 4 THE OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY!

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



St. Paul Sunday Service in **JULY** 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 **LIVESTREAMED** 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: HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

6th: Communion Today.

Scriptures: *2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:1-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20*



13th: Outdoor Worship in the Park continues!

Scriptures: *Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37*

20th: Scriptures: *Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52 or 82; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42*

27th: Scriptures: *Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-19; Luke 11:1-13*

Adult Classes

- ⇒ Wesley Sunday School Class
- ⇒ Adult Bible Study Sunday School Class

BOTH CLASSES ARE TAKING A VACATION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY! THEY RETURN ON AUGUST 3rd!



BIBLE STUDY! (New Time)



Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 11a.m. 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:

July 6: by **Tracy Franks** in honor of her Kids & Grandkids!

July 13: by **Sue Carr** in memory of her Mom, Alice Burrow’s birthday.

July 20: by **Shelley Heigert** in honor of her Son, Jared Gore’s birthday.

July 27: by **Tom & Karen Martin** in memory of Karen’s Dad, George Tappy.



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2025 HAS ONE SUNDAY EACH REMAINING IN **SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, & NOVEMBER!**
PLEASE, HELP FINISH FILLING IT IN!

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-

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!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Jul Layne Chester
01-Jul Marjorie Cranmer
01-Jul Terry Poston
02-Jul Mark Bacus
02-Jul Steve Campbell
02-Jul Maggie Funke
02-Jul Taylor Rich
03-Jul Ruth Rawson
04-Jul Terri Fincher
04-Jul Brynleigh Mormino
04-Jul Peyton Mormino
05-Jul Colton Bourne
05-Jul Zoe Hart
06-Jul Phil Acton
06-Jul Jordan Brown
06-Jul Luke Campbell
06-Jul Jim Hickerson
07-Jul Alex Ford
08-Jul Nate Ford
08-Jul Carol Russell
08-Jul Stella Sims
09-Jul Deb Mayer
10-Jul Drew Standefer
10-Jul Ella Toner

10-Jul Emma Toner
11-Jul Clayton Bartony
11-Jul Chancey Sims
12-Jul Matthew Hamlin
14-Jul Carter Hendricks
15-Jul Emma Harper
15-Jul Jaymie Voorhees
17-Jul Donna Redden
18-Jul Alysia Bailey
18-Jul Sarah Griffin
19-Jul Cathy Cameron
21-Jul Connie Martin
22-Jul Chris Challandes
22-Jul Cory Crandall
22-Jul Dell Demond
22-Jul Daniel Emerick
22-Jul Evan Spurgeon
23-Jul Kynlee Bunt
23-Jul Diane Ford
23-Jul Donovan Hale

24-Jul Kathy Bunt
24-Jul Chris Cameron
24-Jul Anna McLain
24-Jul Tony Wood
26-Jul Kathy Crews
27-Jul Giuliana Sims
28-Jul Caleb Betts
28-Jul Ashlyn Birmingham
28-Jul Marie Brown
28-Jul Addison Lusicic
28-Jul Maddox Parker
28-Jul Adam Phelps
28-Jul Kristen Toner
29-Jul Randy McLain
30-Jul Tim Plummer
31-Jul Lindsey Williams



JULY ANNIVERSARIES



01-Jul Matt & Christina Johnson
05-Jul Don & Vivian Sands-Franklin
06-Jul Glenn & Paula Hubbard
08-Jul Paul & Gerry Ward
09-Jul Greg & Kathy Crews

09-Jul Paul & Brandy Mormino
13-Jul Josh & Amy Gowan
15-Jul Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon
22-Jul Robert & Gina Brown
23-Jul Rick & Amy Helmkamp

WE NEED UPDATES FOR THE 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! Thank you for your help!

**JUNE Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	6/1/2025 thru 6/30/2025	\$10765.00
Designated Giving:	6/1/2025 thru 6/30/2025	1417.75
	Capital Improvements	525.00
	Loose Change	87.75
	Flowers	80.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	0.00
	Happy Bears	50.00
	Helping Hands	0.00
	Parking Lot Work	275.00
	Missions (Undesignated)	50.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	50.00
	Memorials	300.00
	Online Giving	351.50
Total:		\$12534.25

**DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST 2025
STEEPLE,
Monday, JULY 21st!**

Aging is God's Beautiful
Reminder That This Is Not
Our Home...

OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN
PHILIPPIANS 3:20



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**

JULY's Loose Change Project is the **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House** in East St. Louis. The Methodist Church established this center to minister to the Croatsians early in the last century. Since then the Neighborhood House has ministered to the waves of immigrants and poor in East St. Louis. It is one of the few remaining institutions in East St. Louis offering social and health services. May God bless & multiply your gifts!



VBS 2025 Held on May 27-30 & June 1

Hello Everyone, (SEE SOME VBS PHOTOS!!)

I just wanted to let you know how successful our VBS was this summer. We could not do it without everyone's help. Many hands make light work! We were able to feed, play, sing, and study God's Word together with **45 students**. Our goal was that these students were able to grow as disciples of Jesus.

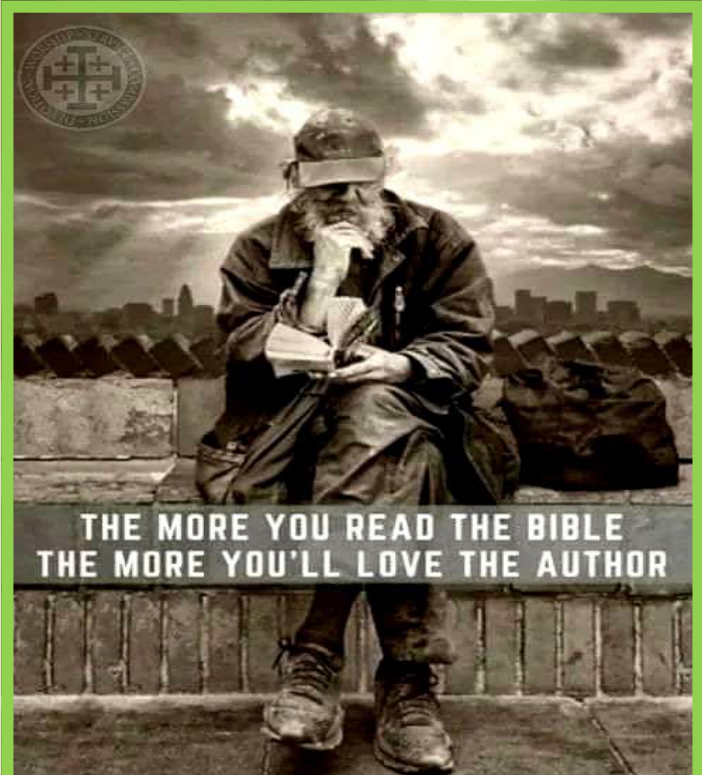
The theme for VBS 2025 was **SCUBA: Diving into friendship with God!** On Tuesday we learned that "God is a friend who is real." On Wednesday we focused on how "God is a friend who loves." On Thursday we thought about how "God is a friend we can trust." On Friday we learned that "God is a friend forever." The last day's focus was how "God is a friend to everyone." The students' favorite song was "Thanks God!" which talks about all the good things God does for us.

The Party in the Backyard was also a big success with bounce houses, a petting zoo, food, and popsicles. VBS is a really fun experience for kids and adults.

I pray that even more folks will be able to volunteer next year and join in on the fun!

Sincerely - Olivia & Edie, VBS Directors





THE MORE YOU READ THE BIBLE
THE MORE YOU'LL LOVE THE AUTHOR

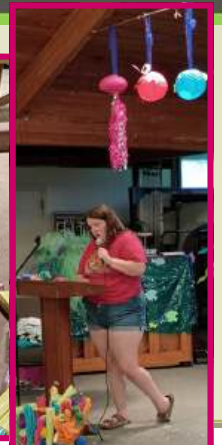


May we think of
FREEDOM

Not as the right to
do as we please,
but as the

OPPORTUNITY TO DO
WHAT IS RIGHT

Peter Marshall





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

**THE YOUTH GROUP WILL BE ON HOLD UNTIL WE HIRE A
NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR.**



**PLEASE
HELP US
HELP YOU!**

*Hospice...
Hospital...
Nursing/Care Center...*

Whenever you or a member of your family enters the hospital, rehab/care/nursing center, or hospice, you need to call the Pastor or the Church Office (and make sure we know the person's official name). None of the area institutions will notify the church when you enter their facility due to privacy laws (a few exceptions). We want to reach out to you at a time when you and your family may need it the most. Your call may be the only way for us to know of the situation.

Thank you for your help!



**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!!



BUY NOW!!

Regular 1lb. bag = \$10

Chocolate-covered 1lb. bag = \$10

Instead of focusing so much on a To Do List, I'm starting a To Be List.

Things I Want To Be:

Happy

Calm

Loving

Healthy

Awesome



**IF DANIEL CAN TRUST
GOD IN THE LION'S
DEN, THEN YOU CAN
TRUST GOD IN YOUR
worries and stress.**





St. Paul United Methodist Church—
Corner of Airline Dr. & Center St., Rosewood Heights
invites you to join us for a:



**COMMUNITY
BAR-B-QUE**



& CONCERT WITH...



This ALL Happens on
Sunday, August 31st
in the church's PARK and AMPHITHEATER!

IT IS COMING!
Put this on your calendar
now! Bring your family
and friends!

BBQ at 3:00p.m.
Concert at 5:00p.m.