



# The Steeple

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

SEPTEMBER 2025



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

## Ephesians 4:17, 23-24

*17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,*

*23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,*

*24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

Hello everyone. I hope that you are reading this newsletter with a calm and encouraged spirit. I have been having my challenges as well, but thanks be to God for God's faithfulness and grace. Let the Spirit of God guide and lead us through whatever difficulties or circumstances we are in. I am sharing with you my devotion from InTouch ministries:

*By placing faith in Jesus, a person becomes a believer and is sanctified—that is, set apart for God's purposes. Unlike salvation, which takes place in a single moment, sanctification is a lifelong process. We who are followers of the Savior should be letting the Spirit lead us. If that's already the case, we are now being sanctified. In other words, we're progressively maturing in our faith.*

Logic dictates that for us to be progressing, we must be working our way toward something. Paul explained the Christian's mission: **"For those whom God foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son."** (Romans 8:29). A believer's character, conduct, and conversation should be reflections of Jesus. God has given each believer His Holy Spirit as a teacher and guide. The Spirit works to transform the mind and heart so that we reflect the Lord to those around us. When we allow the Spirit to direct us, we speak and act in accordance with our true identity as a child of God.

Our Father wants His children to be living examples of Him. However, He doesn't expect perfection—He knows we can't be totally sinless. But His Spirit will give guidance about how to think and act so we may **"walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have been called."** (Ephesians 4:1).

Indeed, God does not expect us to be perfect. I've always thought that as long as we are in this bodily form, we will fall into sin. But the good news is, God's Spirit is always there directing us to the path of righteousness and not sin. And dealing with sin on our own will just lead to more failures and disappointments. Most of all, our relationship with God will be affected. We have the great High Priest; we have the life and image of God's Son Jesus. We have the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome our transgressions so let us put our complete trust and faith in Jesus. My friends, our God is more than enough. Let God's will be done in our lives today and forever. Have a great month of September and to God be the glory. Amen.



**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 **Sally Lay (95)**, mother, mother-in-law of Maggie (Jim) Funke (see obit on page 3); **Paul Sauls (73)**, pianist/organist at many churches, 50 years in the office at Marks Mortuary; **Robert Morris Tschannen (74)**, son of the late Morris & Helen Tschannen, brother of Beverly Webber and Joe Tschannen; and **Melba Hendricks (89)**, mother/mother-in-law of Brock (Heather) Hendricks (Heather is the daughter of the late Mike & Lisa Bell and granddaughter of the late Janet Williams). **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

- **Congratulations** to our 2025 Megan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship Recipients: **Aubrey Falk** and **Meredith Pitchford**! May God richly bless you on your life journey! (See Photo →)



**THANK YOU!** We would like to thank our church family for all of the prayers, thoughts of comfort, calls, and cards during mom's hospital stay and her rise to Heaven. Thank you also to the Women Of Worship workers for the delicious lunch. We are truly blessed to have such caring and loving people in our lives. God Bless all of you! **-The Sally Lay Family**

**THANK YOU!** Thank you to absolutely everyone who did anything for the **Community BBQ and Concert on August 31st!** (Organizing, cooking, donating, setting-up, taking-down, carrying, cleaning, eating, clapping, singing, smiling, talking, playing, and so on!) A delightful time of fun, food, fellowship, and music was had by all! And thank you to the **Rivers Of Life Clergy Band** for the magnificent music! **-From St. Paul UMC**



**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE** The Outreach Ministry Team thanks everyone for giving to help the students!! **286** donated individual and unopened packaged items have been counted and divided between the schools! May God Bless you whenever you give!







## We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



**Dorothy Aliene "Sally" Shoppell-Lay**, 95, passed away Saturday, August 2, 2025 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Born February 2, 1930 in Norris City, IL, she was a daughter of Leo & Nora (Buttry) Raney.

Sally was married to William A. Shoppell for 34 years. He preceded her in death in 1980. She married Orval C. Lay in 1997. He preceded her in death in 2006.

A member of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights, Sally was active in the Women of Worship Mission projects. She was also a past president of the East Alton Women's Club. She worked in the selection/decorating department of Owens-Illinois for 20 years. She then began a career in office work, as a receptionist for a physician. She enjoyed painting and craft projects, and made all the bridal bouquets for the family weddings.

Surviving are 2 sons and a daughter-in-law, Jay Shoppell and Alan & Tina Shoppell, all of East Alton; 2 daughters and their husbands, Debra & Allen Short of Alabama and Margaret & Jim Funke of East Alton; 8 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren.

In addition to her husbands and parents, she was preceded in death by a beloved grandson, Kristofer Robinson; 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

We are missing Sally a lot as we journey on without her, but are rejoicing with her loved ones on her rise to Heaven. Please, keep her friends and family in your prayers.



**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 5-10 years old.**

**WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!**

## **SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):**

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

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

September 3,10,17,24 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

September 4-5,11-12,18-19,25-26 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

**ON September 1 OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY.**

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

**ON September 12 Office Hours are earlier so can go to an appointment.**



## St. Paul Sunday Service in **SEPTEMBER** 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!

### **7th:** Outdoor Worship in the Park Concludes! Communion Sunday.

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;*  
*Philemon 1:17-27; Luke 14:25-33*



### **14th:** Grandparents' Day!

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;*  
*1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10*

### **21st:** Scriptures: *Jeremiah 8:8-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4; 1 Timothy 2:1-7;* *Luke 16:1-13*

### **28th:** Scriptures: *Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16;* *1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31*



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

**8:45 a.m. CONCLUDES ON SEPTEMBER 7th!**

### **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**  
**ADULT CLASSES!!**



### **BIBLE STUDY!**



Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at  
11a.m. in the Parlor! To be ready to  
study ... bring your Bible!

Hoping to see you! ~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:

**Sep 7:** by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **John's birthday!**  
**Sep 14:** by **Jim & Maggie Funke** in honor of **their Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.**  
**Sep 21:** by **Jim & Connie Hickerson** in memory of **Dr. & Mrs. Norman Taylor.**  
**Sep 28:** by **Beulah Moore** in memory of **her Husband, Ben, on their Wedding Anniversary.**



**THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2025 HAS REMAINING SIGN-UPS  
 ON **OCTOBER 5th** & **NOVEMBER 30th!**  
 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! We were able to seal one part, 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!**



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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

01-Sep Christi Baggett  
01-Sep Jay Bentley III  
01-Sep Arik Newingham  
02-Sep Jenni Ortegren  
03-Sep Al Poston  
04-Sep Cherie Buatte  
04-Sep Rod Croxford  
04-Sep George Hamilton Sr.  
04-Sep John Hendricks  
05-Sep Damian Newingham  
06-Sep Josh Gowan  
06-Sep Jason Henderson  
06-Sep Ryan Tite  
07-Sep Kamryn Bell  
07-Sep Jim Dawson  
08-Sep Justin Bottorff  
08-Sep Grace Campbell  
09-Sep Angie Hansard  
09-Sep Liam Oertle  
09-Sep Matthew Poston  
10-Sep Jake Birmingham  
10-Sep Zelda Plummer  
10-Sep Christy Scroggins  
11-Sep Don Bunt Sr.  
11-Sep Marc Ortegren  
12-Sep David Badman  
13-Sep Tamara Atchley

13-Sep Susan Cameron  
13-Sep Chelsea Georgeoff  
14-Sep Dan Bunt  
14-Sep Kiley Herndon  
15-Sep Nora Gwaltney  
16-Sep Jerry Cameron  
16-Sep Dick Redden  
16-Sep Jeff Skjerseth  
17-Sep Jeff Greer  
17-Sep Nic Weigler  
18-Sep Christian Greer  
18-Sep Linda Scroggins  
19-Sep Bettie Lewis  
19-Sep Paul Skjerseth  
19-Sep Ashley Springer  
20-Sep Blake Boeshans  
20-Sep David Buatte  
21-Sep Ella Clark  
21-Sep Dani Wilson  
22-Sep Neil Herndon  
22-Sep Carol Warner

23-Sep Baylee Allshouse  
23-Sep Harvey Gowan  
23-Sep Nathan Shewmake  
24-Sep Tanner Betts  
24-Sep Tim Bunt  
24-Sep Kellie Greer  
25-Sep Hayley Schlemer  
25-Sep Phil Tite  
26-Sep Bob Blacklock  
26-Sep Sarah Laufersweiler  
26-Sep Ashley Poore  
26-Sep Lily Roberts  
26-Sep Debbie Tite  
26-Sep Jan Williams  
27-Sep David Betts  
27-Sep Becky Chester  
27-Sep Donna Ewing  
27-Sep Sharon Inman  
29-Sep Jordan Brown  
29-Sep Kara Martin  
29-Sep Steven Tite

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

02-Sep Jason & Gretchen Henderson  
04-Sep Daryl & Deb Fansler  
06-Sep Jason & Lindsey Mayer  
13-Sep Phil & Debbie Tite  
15-Sep Donovan & Caitlyn Hale  
16-Sep Christopher & Megan Ricketts  
17-Sep Chris & Susan Cameron  
18-Sep Jerry & Cathy Cameron  
19-Sep Cory & Caroline Crandall

20-Sep Bryan & Katie Clark  
20-Sep Ross & Debbie Eggebrecht  
24-Sep Nicholas & Julie Hobbs  
26-Sep Ryan & Savannah Cincoski  
26-Sep Don & Diane Ford Sr.  
27-Sep Ryan & Megan Parker  
29-Sep Gary & Shirley Clark

**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!

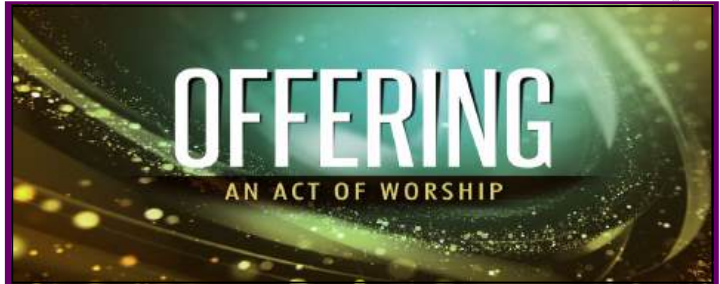
Thank you for your help!



## AUGUST Stewardship

Budget Offering:	8/1/2025 thru 8/31/2025	\$13,313.00
Designated Giving:	8/1/2025 thru 8/31/2025	1,382.42
	Capital Improvements	350.00
	Loose Change	112.42
	Flowers	10.00
	Trustees Emerg. Res. Fund	0.00
	UMCOR	50.00
	Memorials	460.00
	Parking Lot Work	400.00
Reimbursement from Hickerson Scholarship		1,000.00
Online Giving		351.50
Total:		\$16,046.92

**DEADLINE FOR  
OCTOBER 2025  
STEEPLE,  
MON., SEPTEMBER  
22nd!**



**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

**September's Loose Change Project** is Trinity UMC in East St. Louis/ Washington Park. The ministry of the church has expanded to provide worship services, VBS, and a food pantry to the Hispanic Community. The need is greater than the resources of the local church which is why we help. There are a dedicated membership and a strong youth program at both sites. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

I DON'T ALWAYS  
**Sing**...  
OH WAIT. **Yes I do**



### **AUG. 31st BBQ/Concert in the Park**

First and foremost, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the people of St. Paul UMC and East Alton 1st UMC for your love and support during our Family BBQ/Concert in the Park event. Thank you for everything that was donated and brought to contribute to this glorious event

For a Labor Day weekend, I was expecting maybe a smaller crowd would come. But the goodness of the Lord was revealed and people came from everywhere. The number of attendees was about 80. But we believe that it was more than that because some of them had to leave early and neighbors wandered in during the music. So maybe up to about 88+ came to attend and enjoy the beautiful weather and the warm fellowship.

The food...from hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn, salad, and desserts, to condiments, drinks, and beverages. And the highlight of the day, a powerful musical concert by the Rivers of Life Clergy Band. After a hearty meal, we were fed by the Holy Spirit through songs of praises to the Lord. It was all so very good!

I was hesitant to do an offering, but people were enquiring about it. So, in the middle of the concert we asked for a free will love offering and it came out to be around \$421. (Folks can still donate to this love offering if they want to.) And this money will go to the missions of a chosen institution or church that will be decided by the Church Council.

God is good all the time indeed. So, from the bottom of our hearts we are so grateful to all and praise God for your hearts of Worship. God bless and to God be the glory. Amen.

**Truly grateful, Pastor Ed Granadosin**

**Enjoy some photos of the event!**











# 2025 FALL FESTIVAL

Coming on **SATURDAY, October 18th**,  
(a different day of the week!) **10:00 am-6:30 pm!**  
**Watch for the sign-up sheets once back inside!**

The **ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** will soon be here! It will be on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th** this year from **10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.** We will have our famous **Chicken & Noodles**, the **Vegetable Soup**, etc. The craft ladies have been busy creating a variety of crafts and gifts – remember to shop your “home church” first! Pick up gifts for the “special people” you want to remember during the holidays including treats for your kids and grandkids. Don’t forget to stop at the baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, plants, AND farmer’s market tables.

**Lunch to be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Dinner to be served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

**If you can’t “dine-in” we’ll be glad to fix a “Take-Home-A-Meal.”**

In order to make the **FALL FESTIVAL** a success we will need lots of help! Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Sign-up will be starting very soon!

If you miss signing up at church & want to donate or work, please call **Karen Martin at 618-792-7303 or the church office, 618-259-5210, with your information.** Proceeds from this project and all others held during the year will be disbursed to our mission groups at the end of the year. See you at our Fall Festival 2025!

## ➔ **NEW INFORMATION - PLEASE READ!** ➔

Non-refrigerated items like: cookies, cakes, pies, and breads can be made at home. Candy, jams, and jellies can be made at home as well. Nothing that needs to be refrigerated can be made at home; only here.

Please, keep in mind how much of everything we are going to be needing for this year’s “day-long Fall Festival” after holding shorter ones since the pandemic began. Thank you for your patience as we continue to learn safe ways to nurture our community. And thank you in advance for every bit of your help this year!



## Sweet Sounds!



**The Sweet Sounds NEEDS YOU!!**  
Have you retired in the last few years? Do you like to sing? We could sure use a few more voices in the group .... we started up on September 5! Think and pray about joining in and then give Dorothy Kasinger (618-259-7255) a call if you need more info or to let her know your interest. Give it a try!



**See You at the Pole (SYATP)** started in Burleson TX, in 1990 and is now a global movement of Christian students, burdened for their schools and classmates, who gather around the flagpole early in the school year for a time of

prayer and worship. It is an opportunity for parents and youth leaders to encourage students to pray for their classmates and for their teachers.

Although this must be a student-led event, parents and other adults can stand in a circle around the students as a show of protection, support, and to pray for them.

Students are facing greater challenges to their faith than ever before. Some will be attending schools where the leadership is very anti-Christian. Some will sit in classrooms with teachers who will challenge their faith or teach things totally contrary to biblical truth. We need to stand with our students. Support them. Encourage them and help them navigate these challenging times.

**For 2025 the date is Wed., September 24th! Pray for our youth & their schools!**

## 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!!**



**NEVER MESS WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO PRAY. THEY ARE ARMED AND DANGEROUS.**