



# The Steeple

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

**OCTOBER 2025**



**To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,**

**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."*

The peace of the Lord be with you. May you find this short message encouraging and hopeful. We are now in the final stretch of 2025. In these few months we will go through several exciting holidays, days off, and special events that will bring about more of God's grace and love. Of course, we do not want to pick up speed these last 3 months. That is not the goal. The goal is to continue the work of Jesus Christ with more intention and determination.

I have chosen this passage in Isaiah because there is a need to understand a troubling social disturbance that has influenced many people, especially following last month's assassination of the conservative activist Charlie Kirk, who spoke about the truth. I accept the fact that Mr. Kirk's messages were earth-shaking to some... a guiding light to many. But what I was deeply sad and outraged about was that some people were rejoicing and celebrating over Mr. Kirk's death and posting it on social media as if others who had been affected by the incident would be comforted by their outrageous posts. It showed me that here in America, public execution was ok, glorified, and justifiable. Not only that, many of our public forums, e.g., TV networks, social media, and radio programs also joined in the same way. Instead of condemning the act without any doubt whatsoever... many of them were in total agreement. Talking about free speech... I call these acts of violence, downright selfish, heartless, and evil. Well, I am not surprised, looking back from the time of the Apostles and the 1st generation Christians; they were all persecuted and even executed. Many of them died for the sake of the gospel and the truth. Jesus himself was crucified on the cross because many were indoctrinated away from the original purpose of God, which was and is grace, forgiveness, and love. But this is the sad story of this world. So, what do we do?

We must remain faithful and vigilant. We must continue to be praying servants of God. We must remain connected with God in Christ Jesus our Savior. Through the power of God's Holy Spirit, we shall be able to overcome the powers of the principalities and evil of this world. There is no doubt, evil is real. But let us rejoice, because God's truth, justice, and peace throughout the land have already been written in Christ Jesus, the hope of humankind. He is the victory over all God's enemies. And each one of us can participate in the glory of God through the Son. Such a blessing, indeed. God will strengthen and help all who have believed and put their faith in Christ Jesus. And God will uphold His righteous right hand forever.



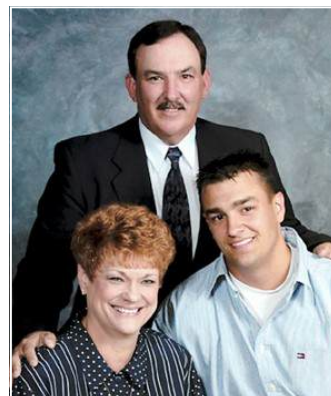
**Blessings to all and until the next issue, just believe--  
In Christ Alone,**

*Edward Granadosin* – **Pastor of East Alton 1st UMC  
and St. Paul UMC**



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **Our deepest sympathy** goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Arthur Joseph "Joe" Huff (78)**, husband of Sherry Brueggeman Huff and father of Brett Huff (See Photos →); **Dorothy "Dottie" Aitken (92)**, mother/mother-in-law of Julie (Steve) Natsch and Scott Aitken, grandmother of Ilona (Braden) Townsend, plus an active and amazing member of St. Paul UMC (see obit on page 3); **Pearl Luttmann (87)**, sister of the late Dottie Aitken who passed away on the day of Dottie's funeral; **Joy Bramley (84)**, an extremely special and most excellent long time friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; and **Donna Reis (90)**, mother-in-law of Cheri Trusty. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**



**THANK YOU!** Thank you so much for the generous donation! Our teachers and students will utilize all of the provided school supplies. We appreciate you thinking of our staff, students, and school when choosing a donation site! **-Ashley Lowe, Eastwood Elementary Principal**



### THANK YOU - **Sweet Sounds!**

It is with a measure of bittersweet sadness that we share the news that unless an influx of new folks want to join the group, the ministry of the **SWEET SOUNDS** has officially come to a close. This group of folks has been through many phases as people have come and gone over **41 years**. There have been many people from St. Paul UMC who have been part of the SWEET SOUNDS, but also many from other congregations across the area...their ministry has been focused on bringing joy and music to those in area nursing homes and care centers from month to month, 9 months out of each year. The best part was that one would join the group to be able to give to those shut-ins and then would end up receiving far more than was given.

The SWEET SOUNDS was always a blessing wherever they went and they always came away blessed! We pray that someday in the future perhaps this group or one similar to it will start up a ministry group and once again bless the lives of the folks in these created communities. Thank you to everyone who served the Lord Jesus and so many people through this ministry.

**-From St. Paul UMC**



**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!!**





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



**Dorothy "Dotty" K. Aitken, 92**, of Bethalto, passed away on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Barnes Jewish Hospital. She was born in Red Bud, IL, on January 14, 1933, the daughter of Emil & Olinda (Hoth) Koenig. She married Dwight Robert Aitken on May 30, 1953. He preceded her in death on January 7, 1998.

Dorothy worked as an Administrative Assistant at the Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois in Alton for over 20 years. She was a devoted member of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights since Feb. 4, 1962 where she was active in the Women of Worship group and enjoyed bowling in the church league. Dorothy was known for her love of crocheting - especially the towels she lovingly gifted to the church, friends, and family. She also enjoyed sewing, crafting floral arrangements, and was a passionate animal lover, especially fond of cats. A proud St. Louis Cardinals fan and winter snowbird to Fort Myers, FL, Dorothy also loved camping, going to the Muny, watching game shows, and playing cards with friends on Tuesday and Friday nights. Her kindness, creativity, and joyful spirit will be deeply missed.



She is survived by her children, Scott Aitken of St. Louis, MO, and Julie (Steve) Natsch of Boss, MO; a sister, Pearl Luttmann of Red Bud, IL; four grandchildren, Ryan Natsch, Matt Natsch, Catherine (Ryan) Shoemaker, and Ilona (Braden) Townsend; and two great-grandchildren, Avery and Bobby Shoemaker.

We are missing Dotty a lot as we journey on without her, but are rejoicing with her loved ones on her entrance into Paradise. Please, keep her friends and family in your prayers.



## OCTOBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

October 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

October 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

ON October 3 GONE FROM 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH MEETING.

ON October 9 GONE FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH MEETING.

ON October 14 Office Hours are earlier so can go to a 2:15p.m. appointment.



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

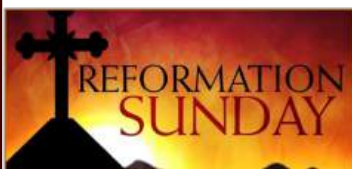
### **5th:** World Communion Sunday. Laity Sunday. Communion.

Scriptures: *Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137;*  
*2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10*

**12th:** Scriptures: *Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12;*  
*2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19*

### **19th:** Children's Sabbath.

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104;*  
*2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8*



### **26th:** Reformation Sunday.

Scriptures: *Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65;*  
*2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14*



**Thank you to everyone who was able to order their poinsettias by the "really early" October 5th date.**  
**If you missed it we did order 2 or 3 extras in case you want to be included!**

**Please, call the church office ASAP!**



### 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:

Oct 5: by **Dorothy Kasinger** in celebration of **her Grandkids!**

Oct 12: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **Lincoln Challandes' Birthday!**

Oct 19: by **Mark & Deb Mayer** in celebration of **their 47th Wedding Anniversary!**

Oct 26: by **Jim & Connie Hickerson** in celebration of **Lori's Birthday!**



**THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2025 HAS ONE REMAINING  
SIGN-UP ON **NOVEMBER 16th!**  
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! A large chunk of it needs to be replaced. If you would like to donate 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-**

EAFUMC is having their annual Trunk or Treat and they are looking for people who want to come out, decorate their trunks, and pass out candy. They are also looking for donations of store bought cookies to wrap up and bags of candy donations to hand out. Thank You!!!

See flier for the information!

**Sunday,  
October 12  
Haunted House  
5-8p.m.  
Trunk or Treat  
6-7p.m.**







## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Oct Daryl Fansler  
 01-Oct Susie Pruetzel  
 01-Oct Jessie Springer  
 01-Oct Tom Vore  
 02-Oct Michael Cathorall  
 02-Oct Adam Schroedter  
 03-Oct Cody Blacklock  
 03-Oct Karen Hamm  
 03-Oct Lucas Hartman  
 03-Oct Jeannie Huddleston  
 04-Oct Mickey Dorsey  
 04-Oct Una Faye Garland  
 04-Oct Dena Tite  
 05-Oct Ronda Crain  
 05-Oct Emmaleigh Ford  
 05-Oct Sherry Huff  
 06-Oct John Palmer  
 07-Oct Rosalie Toner  
 08-Oct Henry Ricketts  
 08-Oct Brady Cranmer  
 08-Oct Kelly Cruthis  
 09-Oct Gary Clark  
 09-Oct Drew Huddleston  
 09-Oct Douglas Phelps  
 10-Oct Emily Bowman  
 10-Oct Gracie Napp  
 11-Oct Bill Hale

11-Oct Lincoln Challandes  
 12-Oct Grace Oertle  
 13-Oct Leah Butler  
 13-Oct Carly Fuentes  
 13-Oct Jennifer Liedtke  
 14-Oct Dana Clutts  
 14-Oct Jaxson Hendricks  
 14-Oct Erica LaTempt  
 14-Oct Joy Pascoe  
 14-Oct Gianna Vore  
 15-Oct Duane Atchley  
 15-Oct Paul Ward  
 17-Oct Madelyn Adams  
 17-Oct Danielle Baggett  
 17-Oct Jim Baggett  
 17-Oct Angelina Frantz  
 17-Oct Ryan Bentley  
 18-Oct Jonathan McCammon  
 18-Oct Patty Peters  
 20-Oct Amy Helmkamp  
 21-Oct Jacobb Uzzell

22-Oct Mandy Armon  
 23-Oct Morgan Hatten  
 23-Oct Mike Schlemer  
 24-Oct Matthew Gowan  
 24-Oct Ian Martin  
 25-Oct Gene Babcock  
 25-Oct Jamie Keith  
 26-Oct Lori Hutson  
 27-Oct Stella Lusicic  
 27-Oct Anthony Ramirez  
 28-Oct Caleb Bentley  
 28-Oct Reagan Hubbard  
 29-Oct Oliver Bacus  
 29-Oct Anna Mae Stewart  
 30-Oct Greg Crews  
 30-Oct Cecilia Suermann  
 31-Oct Don Bunt Jr.  
 31-Oct Deanna Ford  
 31-Oct Stephanie Kainz

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

02-Oct Brock & Heather Hendricks  
 04-Oct Glenn & Debbie Bowman  
 04-Oct DJ & Brandy Lusicic Jr.  
 09-Oct Stan & Laurie Griffin  
 09-Oct Ted & Cathy Toner  
 10-Oct Dave & Noël Schiber  
 11-Oct Todd & Joy Virgin  
 12-Oct Rodney & Heather Adams  
 12-Oct Scott & Kelly Cruthis  
 15-Oct John & Donna Bailey  
 16-Oct Jamie & Jennifer McLain

16-Oct Chris & Emily Elliott  
 17-Oct Alex & Nicole Barnes  
 17-Oct Al & Terry Poston  
 24-Oct Ronald & Monna Bishop  
 24-Oct Aaron & Kristen Arbuthnot  
 25-Oct Geno & Amy Hartman  
 27-Oct Mark & Deb Mayer  
 30-Oct Chris & Karen Challandes  
 31-Oct Larry & Megan Newingham



**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!

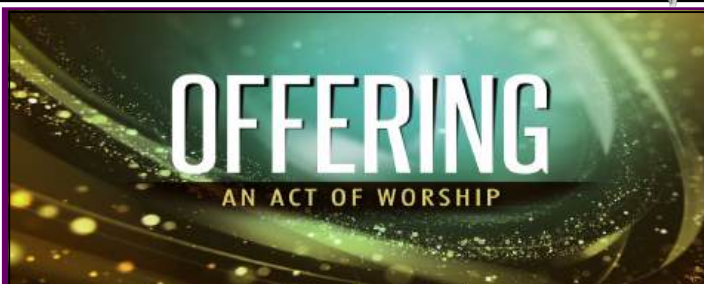
**SEPTEMBER Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	9/1/2025 thru 9/30/2025	<b>\$8,504.00</b>
Designated Giving:	9/1/2025 thru 9/30/2025	<b>2,505.83</b>
	Capital Improvements	475.00
	Loose Change	45.83
	Flowers	163.00
	Pastor Love Offering	285.00
	Helping Hands	50.00
	Memorials	795.00
	Parking Lot Work	225.00
	World Communion Offering	40.00
	Upper Room Donations	5.00
	Aug. 31 Concert Love Gifts	422.00
Online Giving		<b>451.50</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$11,461.33</b>

**DEADLINE FOR  
NOVEMBER 2025  
STEEPLE,  
MONDAY, OCTOBER  
20th!**

**WE ARE NOT CALLED  
TO BE LIKE OTHER CHRISTIANS  
WE ARE CALLED TO BE  
LIKE CHRIST**

@JESUS.AREAK



**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**

**October's Loose Change Project** is the **Red Bird Mission** in Beverly, KY. Long associated with the United Methodist Church, Red Bird Mission provides a school, dental care, health care, food pantry, thrift store, and other services in one of the most impoverished areas of Appalachia. It has many success stories of helping children rise out of poverty. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



# 2025 FALL FESTIVAL

Coming on SATURDAY, October 18th,  
(a different day of the week) 10:00a.m.-7:00p.m.  
Fill in a sign-up sheet today to help!

The **ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** will soon be here!

It will be on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th** this year from 10:00a.m. to 7p.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 11:00a.m. to 1:30p.m.

Dinner to be served from 4:30 to 6:30p.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 has begun! The sheets are available on the tables! 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. Items that need to be refrigerated can only be made here. Also 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!





**Annual Rosewood  
Heights Fire  
Department  
Saturday,  
October 4th**

**11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.**

**TICKETS ARE \$10 IN ADVANCE!  
TICKETS ARE \$12 AT THE DOOR!**

**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!!**



**World Communion Sunday,  
October 5th**

On World Communion Sunday - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers world-wide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **You may give your World Communion Offering throughout October.** The gifts will be used to help students here and around the world have access to higher education.

**October Is...**



Pastor Appreciation

**MONTH!**

THE ENEMY  
WILL TRY  
TO LIMIT  
YOUR PRAYING  
BECAUSE HE  
KNOWS YOUR  
PRAYING WILL  
LIMIT HIM



**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING TIME  
ENDS  
SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 2**



## Annual Coats 4 Kids Drive



It is time to collect donations for the **Riverbend Head Start & Family Services** so they can buy new & used, coats & shoes for the children they work with. We do this in the fall. This year, they have indicated that they still **prefer** to receive monetary donations. For us, the drive goes **from Sept. 28 thru Nov. 2**. We ask that if you can, please, add a gift for the **COATS 4 KIDS DRIVE** in with your tithe and offerings. **Mark on the front of your offering envelope or check memo line what amount we should direct to them for this annual drive!** Thank you so much in advance! Call the church office with questions! **-OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM**

## Upcoming 2025 Lay Servant Classes

**Anyone can take the classes, not just Lay Servants or Certified Lay Speakers.**

**Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course** is the foundational course for individuals wanting to become Certified Lay Servants. But this course can also be used as part of a discipleship plan for anyone in the church to acquaint them with spiritual gifts, calling, and responsibilities as followers of Jesus. Training is offered by district committees of Lay Servant Ministries. It is offered in a variety of formats, times and places. The required text is available through Upper Room, Amazon, Kindle, and Cokesbury.

**Dates:** Saturdays, October 25 **and** November 1 (**both dates required**)

**Time:** October 25, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. **and** November 1, 9 a.m. - noon.

**Location:** Belleville Union UMC

**Cost:** \$35.00; includes morning coffee, a light lunch, bottled water, and snacks.

**Instructors:** Becky & Dennis Tuchalski

**Registration deadline:** October 16.

**Register at:** <https://igrc-reg.brtapp.com/CentralBasicLaySpeaking>

**Contact:** Becky Tuchalski [rtuchalski522@gmail.com](mailto:rtuchalski522@gmail.com)

**Required Text:** Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson (ISBN 978-0-88177-626-3). Individuals are expected to purchase, read, and study this book prior to the first class. Available through Upper Room, Amazon, Kindle, and Cokesbury. Must have a minimum of four participants to hold the class.

We are also offering Advanced Classes in Spiritual Gifts taught by Pastor Bobby Davis and in Methodist Church Polity taught by DS Bradley Watkins, which are on the Certified Lay Speaker Track. We are offering an Alternate Advanced Class, Connectional Living and Connectional Giving, taught by Pastor Jeremy Volkmar. This class is not on the Certified Lay Speaker track. These classes will be held at Belleville Union on **October 25**.

**If you are interested in taking any of these classes, contact Becky Tuchalski.**





## RIVERBEND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Tammy Iskargous announced at the organization's annual banquet on September 18 that she will be retiring. We thank you for all that you have done over the past many, many years to help us help others!

**- St. Paul UMC -**



- 7 KEYS TO LIFE:
1. GOD FIRST.
  2. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
  3. NEVER HATE.
  4. GIVE GENEROUSLY.
  5. LIVE SIMPLY.
  6. FORGIVE QUICKLY.
  7. BE KIND ALWAYS.