



The Steeple

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

FEBRUARY 2026



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,



Colossians 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

The peace of the Lord be with you all this new month of February. I hope and pray that everyone has been staying warm and safe in this winter season. January 24th, 25th, and 26th was an experience we will not soon forget. Forecasters said, and I quote:

"The severe winter storm dated January 24-25, 2026, was rated as a 'colossal' and a 'historic' event, characterized by the National Weather Service as a widespread 2,000-mile system. It caused 'catastrophic' ice accumulation, widespread power outages for over 800,000 customers, and record-breaking cold, with wind chills as low as -30°F to -40°F in some regions."

Thank God that the USA has the capability to contend with these kinds of weather conditions. As advanced as we are, many lives have been affected. If not for the knowledge of this nation, many more could have lost their lives and their livelihood as well. We are blessed indeed. We are grateful to God for making this country what it is today. And we continue to pray for its strength to remain. A faith that is only given by God. The saying "In God we Trust" is in a constant struggle. Only in God through Christ, can all Christians stand in the truth found in our Lord. That is why Colossians 3:17 made me think deeper. You would agree with me that any form of violence in "words and deeds" is not godly. They are not! Just as "oil and water" cannot mix on its own. They separate when you let them stand. Paul saying... "In words or in deeds" does not mean verbal abuse and aggressive actions are justified as godly. They are not! Peaceful protests are good. Praying in churches, synagogues, and on the streets, and asking God for peace and reconciliation. Calling for a revival and showing the goodness of God are godly acts.

It is so sad that people on both sides of the fence would rather rely on their emotions rather than do what is "righteous" based on the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Come to think of it, Jesus in His final hours... he protested. He protested against the evilness of the heart. He protested against the enemies of His Father God. He protested against sin that will lead to eternal separation from the creator. He protested so righteously... that HE DIED! He endured man's torture, He suffered by being beaten, bruised, mocked, spat at, and crucified on that cruel cross of Calvary. Did he show any violence? Certainly not. Indeed, HE was the lamb that was slain. He even asked the Father to forgive the people because they did not know what they were doing. But what is my point? If you are a follower of Jesus and have faith in HIS all-powerful nature (He did raise from the dead) let Him be our example. For God said, **"not by might nor by power but by God's Spirit says the Lord."** (**Zechariah 4:6**). So that means, the Spirit of the Lord, filled with the attribute of God, can be the answer to the growing troubles of the time. Violence and verbal perversion towards others cannot solve anything.

What is the solution? **2 Chronicles 7:14** says **"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."** This is my prayer today and into the future.

**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 YOUS!

- **Our deepest sympathy** goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Harold Wright (92)**, friend of Lois Mitchell from her church; **Mike Franks (57)**, stepson of Tracy Franks and father of Autumn Franks; **Blythe Ann Hitch Cooper (72)**, Big Sis of Lois Mitchell from Judson College; **Richard Huebner (90)**, husband of our Vi Huebner (see obit below); and **Leta Lora Harshbarger (101)**, mother of Becky Chester and long time member of St. Paul UMC (see obit on page 3). **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

THANK YOU! Thank you so very much for the generous donation of hats and gloves. Our students will greatly benefit from these items on our cold days. We appreciate you thinking of our school when choosing a donation site. **-Ashley Lowe, Eastwood Elementary Principal**

THANK YOU! We would like to thank the families and friends of Jim Stewart, Sally Lay, Dottye Aitken, Rod Croxford, and Judy Glassmeyer for their contributions to the St. Paul United Methodist Church memorial fund during the year of 2025. We appreciate all you and your loved ones have done for our Church, and we will miss each one of them very much. God Bless you. **-Joyce Brueggeman, Chairperson of the Memorial Committee**

We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Richard Huebner, 90, passed away at 9:19pm on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at his residence. He was born on May 29, 1935, in Alton, the son of the late William & Marie (Duffy) Huebner. He married the former Vi Greeling on June 10, 1955, in Alton, and she survives. Other survivors include a son and daughter in law: Richard & Jodie Huebner of Bethalto, a daughter and son in law: Donna & Ron Baker of Edwardsville, five grandchildren: Ricky (Tara) Huebner, Mandie (Kyle) Dowling, Stacey (David) Nevins, Kristin (Alberto) Romero, Halee Baker, eleven great grandchildren: Averie, Reed, Brody, Tucker, Hank, Milo, Mia, Maris, Abigail, Daniel, Olivia, many nieces, nephews, and other extended family and friends.

Richard worked as a switchman for over forty-two years at Alton Southern Railroad. He owned and operated Huebner's Engine Repair in South Roxana. He was a member of the Model Railroad Club in Glen Carbon. Richard was a campground host at Pere Marquette Park for fourteen years.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother: William T. Huebner and a sister: Jean Fritch.

Please, lift his family and friends up in prayer. Pray comfort and peace especially for Vi as she journeys on without him.





We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



LETA LORA HARSHBARGER

"The sorrow we feel when we lose a loved one is the price we pay to have had them in our lives." — Rob Liano

The good Lord called an angel home. **Leta Lora Tennis Harshbarger** gained her heavenly wings on December 4, 2025, in Great Falls, MT. **She was 101 years old.** Born in Minatare, NE, on August 20, 1924, she was the daughter of Delbert Walter & Millie (Gray) Tennis. Leta graduated from Meadowbrook High School in Truckee, CA, in 1942.

She met the love of her life, George W. Harshbarger, and the two were married on June 8, 1942, in Reno, NV. At that time, George was serving in the U.S. Army and preparing to deploy to the Pacific. While he served our country, Leta proudly did her part by working in clerical services at the U.S. Naval Station in Oakland, California. In 1945, she moved to Wood River, IL, to reunite with George and begin their life together.

Leta loved quilting, crocheting, working jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, and so much more. Her favorite pastime was fishing, and she was a devoted fan of the St. Louis Cardinals—either listening to the game on the radio or glued to the TV. Knowing how much she loved her team, her family and friends made sure her home was filled with treasured Cardinals memorabilia.

A cherished part of Leta's weekly routine was her Friday evenings at Casa. She adored the food, the atmosphere, and especially the wonderful people who became her "Casa family." They welcomed her with open arms, and she brightened every room she walked into. Those evenings brought her joy, laughter, and a deep sense of belonging.

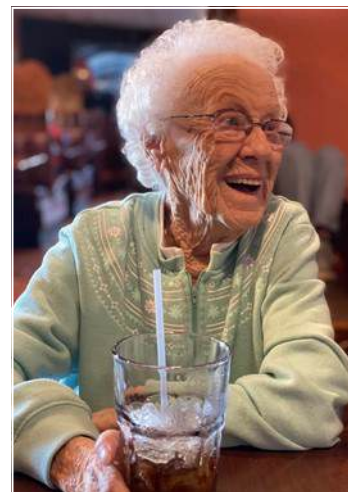
Leta also spent about 11 years as a school monitor at Rosewood Elementary School, where she touched countless little lives with her patience, kindness, and gentle spirit. And Leta was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights since March 5, 1961.

She is survived by her daughters, Mickie (Jay) Garrison of Great Falls, MT, and Rebecca Chester of Rosewood Heights; two grandsons: Jason Garrison of Great Falls, MT, and Jeff (Jenifer) Benner of Wood River, IL; and additional grandchildren Billy (Tanya) Wright of Fosterburg, IL, and Doug Rensing of Cadet, MO.

She is also survived by six great-grandchildren: Connor Benner of Wood River; Brittney Danbrook of Great Falls, MT; Duncan (Makayla) Benner of Wood River; Kyle Garrison of Great Falls, MT; Aiden (Melody) Benner of East Alton; and Jayden Garrison of Great Falls, MT. Her legacy continues through six great-great-grandchildren: Ashton, Aiden Lee, Emma Alora, Waylon, Skylar Alora (expected end of December 2025), and Adeline (expected March 2026).

She was preceded in death by her husband, George, in 1991; her daughter Lora Faye and son-in-law Gary Wright in 2013; her granddaughter Lynnnann in 2012; her grandson Chet in 2025; as well as her parents, brothers, and sisters.

Leta has already been greatly missed here at St. Paul UMC and we ask you to remember her family in your prayers as they learn to journey on without her.





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

1st: Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31;*
Matthew 5:1-12



8th: Scouting Sunday.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12;*
Matthew 5:13-20

15th: Transfiguration Sunday.

Scriptures: *Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or*
Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21;
Matthew 17:1-9

18th: Ash Wednesday. Combined service with EAFUMC at EAFUMC, 5:00p.m.

Scriptures: *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;*
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



22nd: First Sunday of Lent!

Scriptures: *Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32;*
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

WORSHIP SERVICE:
FEBRUARY 18th
@ 5:00p.m. at
EAFUMC - Combined service
for both congregations!



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!!



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!!

2026 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

Feb 1: by **Steve & Jean Kainz** in memory of **Jean's mom, Jan Pullen.**

Feb 8: by **Tracy Franks** in honor of **her Kids and Grandkids.**

Feb 15: by **St. Paul UMC** in celebration of **All Who Tithe And Give Offerings At St. Paul UMC! Thank you!**

Feb 22: by **Tori & Matthew Ludwig** in celebration of **Sophie's 3rd Birthday!**



**THE 2026 FLOWER CHART HAS BEEN POSTED!
KEEP FILLING IN THE DATES!**

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 Hall Classroom!

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU
JOIN A CLASS!!**



BIBLE STUDY!
Bible Study is every Tuesday,
at 11a.m. in the Parlor!
Join us! ~Pastor Ed~



PECANS

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Feb Dylan Brueggeman
01-Feb Phillip McCammon
01-Feb Erin Suermann
02-Feb Trenton Liedtke
02-Feb Teagan Plummer
03-Feb Amanda Bailey
04-Feb Reese Brueggeman
04-Feb Tori Newingham
04-Feb Randy Roberts
05-Feb Rodney Adams
05-Feb Brooklyn Boeshans
06-Feb Nick Dorsey
07-Feb Mitch Scroggins
08-Feb Jane Herndon
08-Feb Sydnie Palmer
08-Feb Tom Poore
09-Feb James Birmingham
09-Feb Dillon Henderson
09-Feb Jaida Justice
09-Feb Kimberly McGilvrey
09-Feb Chris Stamper
09-Feb Madeline Wood
10-Feb Tony Garland
10-Feb Laurie Myers
10-Feb Jayme Scroggins
10-Feb Sandy Scroggins
12-Feb Tyler Cameron
13-Feb Kari Moore

13-Feb Kathy Nash
14-Feb Addyson Huddleston
14-Feb Mark Scroggins
14-Feb Amber Tappy
14-Feb Amy Tappy
14-Feb Joshua Williams
15-Feb Nicholas Hobbs
15-Feb William Laufersweiler
15-Feb Mike Toner
16-Feb Brandy Mormino
17-Feb Chloe Allshouse
17-Feb Carleen Balzaine
17-Feb Megan Ricketts
17-Feb Tyler Sims
17-Feb Jordyn Skjerseth
18-Feb Chris Greer
19-Feb Jackie Boeshans
19-Feb Nicholas Dawson
19-Feb Joshua Toner
20-Feb Joni Bunt
20-Feb Victoria Garrison
20-Feb Brian Liedtke

20-Feb Emerson Mayer
20-Feb Grady Mayer
21-Feb Tesla Plummer
21-Feb John Yunker
22-Feb Nicole Poston
23-Feb Don Roberts
23-Feb Eldon Wold Jr.
24-Feb Sophie Ludwig
24-Feb Amber Harlan
24-Feb Ian Wheat
25-Feb Debbie Eggebrecht
25-Feb Nikolas Ward
26-Feb Noah Martin
26-Feb Lynda Wheat
27-Feb Kansas Scoggins
28-Feb Katelyn Garrison

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



February 14 Bunt, Dan & Kathy



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!** We will soon begin the process of completing a new Church Directory! **Please, check the Workbook in the Entryway once it shows up!** Thank you for your help!

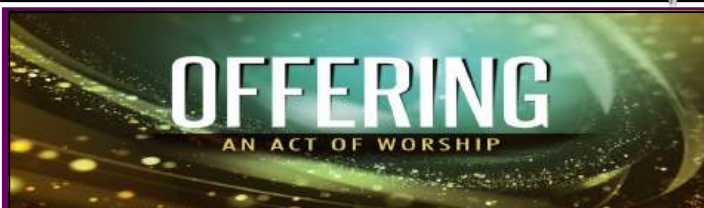


JANUARY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026	\$9,831.00
Designated Giving:	1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026	639.17
	Capital Improvements	0.00
	Loose Change	43.17
	Flowers	40.00
	Helping Hands	75.00
	Memorials	40.00
	Parking Lot Work	150.00
	Upper Room Donations	11.00
	Offering Envelopes	100.00
	Oasis Women Center	100.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	80.00
Online Giving		351.50
Total:		\$10,821.67

**DEADLINE FOR
MARCH 2026
STEEPLE,
Thursday, February
19th!**

when God puts a calling
on your life, He has
already factored in
your inadequacies.



Every year, churches face moments when giving and ministry don't perfectly align, but the good news is that God always provides through faithful people like you. As we review our ministry year, we're deeply grateful for your generosity, which has sustained worship, outreach, and care for our community.

If you find that your giving hasn't quite matched your intentions this year, we invite you to consider a "catch-up" gift to start the New Year. Your contribution, no matter the size, helps close the gap and opens new possibilities for mission and ministry in the coming year.

John Wesley taught that generosity is both a means of grace and a fruit of faith. When we give, we participate in God's work of transforming lives — including our own.

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.

Thank you so much!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

February's Loose Change Project is designated for **Operation Blessing!** They provide food supplemented by the USDA's Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and other things. May God bless your gifts!



The **Annual Women of Worship Rummage Sale** will be coming your way in **APRIL** this year! So, don't wait ... start looking and sorting through your things **NOW** to see what we can help you find a new home for!

Remember: look for items that are not broken, not torn up, that work, and that are clean!

Plan to bring your items to the church between **March 12th and April 12th** (not on Wednesdays please).
The sale is on April 23-25!



EASTER FLOWER INFORMATION

We start filling out forms today, **February 1st!**
The Easter Flowers will cost **\$11** each and we ask that you try to pay for them when you order them.
The **deadline** to place an order is Sunday, **Feb. 15th.**

-Worship Ministry Team

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!



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If bad weather requires cancellation of our worship service & Sunday School, we will:

- ✕ **ACTIVATE "OTTO" OUR PHONE TREE CALLING SYSTEM!**
- ✕ contact TV Channel 5 to list it
- ✕ post a notice on our Facebook page (**St. Paul United Methodist-East Alton IL**)
- ✕ contact those on the e-mail prayer chain (if possible)

PLEASE NOTE: If there is snow on a morning when the Church Office is to be open, the Church Secretary will get to the office as soon as safely possible. If there are 3 or more inches on the road, she must wait for her street to be plowed before being able to get out of her subdivision. That gives her time to shovel her driveway with her sister. Please, be patient and pray for her safety on those days. If there are 6 inches or more of snow or lots of ice, she might not make it in at all and will work more the next possible day or in the afternoon of her day off. Thank you for understanding during the Winter weather months!

FEBRUARY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

February 2-3,9-10,16-17,23-24 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

February 4,11,18,25 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off

February 5-6,12-13,19-20,26-27 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

- ➔ **ON February 10 OUT FROM 10:00a.m. to 11:15pa.m. FOR AN APPOINTMENT.**
- ➔ **ON February 12 OUT FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH MEETING AWAY.**





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-*

Hickerson Scholarship 2026



The tragic skiing accident of January 15, 1995, that claimed the life of Meghan Hickerson of Hartford, IL, will never be forgotten.

God has a way of healing hurt and turning tragedy into triumph. Meghan's death immediately gave life to several people, known collectively as "organ donor recipients." Her legacy of faith and service lives on through the "Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship" that is made available through St. Paul UMC.

Meghan was a student leader who set a standard of excellence within the public school system. She also set an example of faith and dedication by spreading God's love through her church and her academic life, to all she encountered. Our goal each year is to reward one or two

deserving college-bound, graduating seniors who set for him or herself the same standards of outstanding scholastic achievement and faith reflected in their everyday life.

Graduating seniors from the three area high schools (East Alton-Wood River, Roxana, and Civic Memorial) or any who are a member of St. Paul UMC may apply for the **\$500.00 scholarship**.

We encourage members to notify any student that may qualify and have them complete the application process. Application materials are available through the counselors at the above mentioned schools or directly from the church office.

DEADLINE for completed application materials is:
Thursday, April 3, 2026

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 618-259-5210.

The 10-year old security system was recently upgraded with new cameras and a new monitor recorder. Thank you to the Memorial Committee (and the donors) for the memorial gifts that made this possible.

-Jim Herndon, Board of Trustees





**DON'T WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER!
FOR A FUNDRAISER, THE
WOMEN OF WORSHIP ARE GOING TO OFFER
THEIR FAMOUS...**

Chicken & Noodle Dinner

Sunday, February 15th

**St. Paul UMC, Corner of N. Center St. and Airline Dr.
11:30a.m. – 1:00p.m.**

**(or as long as the food lasts) in the Fellowship Hall!
Plan to stay or to return with your family and friends for a
delicious meal together!**

PLATE DINNER INCLUDES:

- Chicken & Noodles, Green Beans, & a Roll -**
- Dessert & Beverage (coffee, tea, or water)-**

COST: Pre-paid reservations (by Feb. 8th) = **\$12.50
Price at the door = **\$15.00****

**→ You can get your reservation on Sundays before or after the
worship service at St. Paul UMC...**

**→ During the week you can pay for your reservation during the
regular office hours at St. Paul UMC (call before you come to make
sure nothing has changed them 618-259-5210)...**



**Have you been away
too long? Start 2026
off in the right way;
reconnect with God
and the Church!**



FEBRUARY · 2026 · STEEPLE



ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

of Rosewood Heights

Celebrate!

The Joy Of Giving...



February 2026

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul UMC,

And just like that, we are one month into 2026! We want to thank you all for your generosity in giving of your time, your talents, and your treasures in the past year. Rest assured that the gifts you share with St. Paul UMC are used responsibly and with the greatest care, always looking toward serving Jesus, the community, and the world. What will 2026 bring to us? We never know exactly what will come of a New Year, but we do know that we intend to follow the mission Jesus Christ set forth for us.

The African impala can jump to a height of over 10 feet and cover a distance greater than 30 feet. Yet these magnificent creatures can be kept in an enclosure in any zoo with a 3-foot wall. Why? The impala will not jump if it cannot see where their feet will fall. They will not go where they cannot see. Amazing, isn't it?

Yet in many ways, we Christians are like the impala. Unable to see the future in full detail, we are hesitant to make a financial and personal commitment to the work of Jesus Christ. We are uncertain where our feet will land; we can be paralyzed by this fear.

God calls us to place our faith and trust in Him. For example, in **2 Corinthians 4:18**, Paul tells us we must "*fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*" And in **2 Corinthians 5:7**, he reminds us that "*we live by faith, not by sight.*"

God wants us to leap beyond the walls in our lives, trusting that God will plant our feet upon firm ground. God challenges us to get our eyes off ourselves and focused on Him. Rather than focusing upon what we think we cannot do, let us focus upon what God is able to do through us. For God is able to do more than all we ask or imagine (**Ephesians 3:20**). Your tithing and giving are an act of worship to God. It says volumes about your faith and trust in the Lord. And remember to pray for the ministry you are supporting. We are powerless without the support of your prayers.

We invite you to join your fellow worshipers in making a personal financial commitment with God for the 2026 general budget of St. Paul UMC. This budget supports the operating expenses, the local ministries, mission work of our church, etc. Your commitment enables us to continue sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with our children, our youth, our adults, and in outreach to our community.

Galatians 6:6-7 (The Voice) says: "*Make no mistake: God can't be mocked. What you give is what you get. What you sow, you harvest.*" This financial commitment is between you and God.

King David knew about walls. In **Psalms 18:29** he wrote: "*by my God I can leap over a wall.*" David knew that while God does not always lift us over the barriers in our lives, God does help us land safely whenever we make our leaps of faith.

Celebrate the joy of giving! Take a leap of faith! Then rejoice in God's faithfulness!

In God's Name,
The Church Council of St. Paul UMC

"The people rejoiced...because with a perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord!" - 1 Chronicles 29:9

10 North Center Street, East Alton, IL 62024 • phone: 618.259.5210 • fax: 618.259.5232

Website: www.stpaulwired.org • Email: info@stpaulwired.org



FEBRUARY · 2026 · STEEPLE



Stewardship is the responsible and careful management of something entrusted to your care, like resources, property, or even a community, with the goal of preserving and improving it for the future.

We are stewards of our time, talents, finances, and environment. The Church Council, as well as each of the members, are stewards of our church. We have a Board of Trustees that does an excellent job of taking care of our physical property. One thing the Trustees

are doing is working on policies and insurance for us to be able to loan our Church van to East Alton FUMC when they need it. This is good stewardship. Some other physical changes are in the works. Our Worship Ministry Team makes sure that our church building is welcoming each Sunday morning as well as on holidays. The Council on Ministries oversees WOW (Women of Worship), all the Ministry Teams, and Children's Church. We currently don't have a Finance Committee Chairperson so the Finance Committee meets with the Church Council and together they look at our finances every other month. We paid all of our Apportionments in 2025. This is also good stewardship.

As a member of the Church Council I can tell you that we have been aware that St. Paul has had a decline in attendance and in giving. We have been asking, "What can we do to reverse that trend?" One thing we hope will help is having several members attend the **See All the People** workshop to help us reach out to our members and our community.

I volunteered to write an article about giving for the Steeple because one of our members gave me an idea how to increase my giving and making it pretty painless. Many of us get a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) each year from either our pensions or Social Security or both. When I get my first payment with the increase, I figure how much more I'm getting in the current year, and I at least tithe that amount. I don't miss it because I never had it to spend.

Why don't you give it a try?

Blessings,

Becky Tuchalski -- Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Chair and Church Council member

2026 Wednesday Community Lenten Services - February Schedule **Sponsored by the Alton Area Church Women United (full list on bulletin boards)**

The Lenten Services start at 12:00 Noon and last 30 minutes. A free-will offering will be collected and split between Crisis Food Center and Oasis Women Center. Lunch will also be served; it costs \$5.00 and you will get soup, a sandwich, dessert, and a drink.

February Services are:

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18th: Main Street United Methodist Church
1400 Main Street, Alton

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 25th: Unity Fellowship Church
1301 West Delmar, Godfrey (next to Elias, Kallal & Schaaf funeral home)

