



The Steeple

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

JANUARY 2026



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,



Matthew 2:3-6 ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

Hello everyone. Pastor Ed here to greet you with a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am sure you all still may be a bit sleepy from the last of the 2025 celebrations. However, I must say that they were all worth the time and effort. The gathering of family, friends, and church members was very precious. But most of all, bringing to Jesus our worship was the real essence of the season. If you were not able to do this, there is still time to reflect and bring your hearts closer to God. Remember, you have the whole year of 2026 to let the Lord search your heart. If you are willing, the Lord is faithful to do what needs to be done. From my experience, I have never felt the real love from God until I opened my heart to Him. So, God bless you on your quest. This is Epiphany month. I'd like to share with you a reading from one of **Charles Stanley's devotional topics**. I pray that the Lord will speak to your heart:

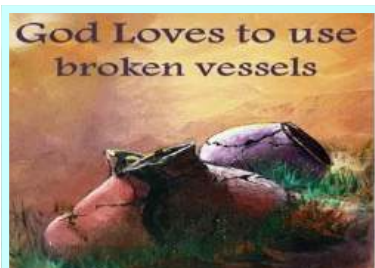
"Each year, there's a variety of responses to the holiday season. Over the next three days, we will examine different reactions to Christmas. Although more than 2,000 years have passed since Christ was born, His birth still elicits similar attitudes.

One common response is apathy. Even if they are filled with the holiday spirit and celebrate Christmas with gifts, decorations, and parties, some people remain indifferent to Jesus. He doesn't even register in their minds because they've lost sight of the reason for Christmas.

*The Bible story about the Magi searching for the newborn King of the Jews reveals a similar indifference on the part of the religious leaders. The entourage from the East caused quite a stir in Jerusalem. It wasn't every day that impressive visitors arrived with such a shocking and exciting announcement. Yet when **King Herod** asked the scribes and chief priests where the Messiah was to be born, they simply told him the answer, but made no attempt to go to Bethlehem as the Magi did.*

Sometimes it's easy to let the activities and pressures of Christmas push Jesus out of our thoughts. Though it may take a deliberate effort, this year let us intentionally make Jesus our daily priority in life."

Let us lovingly and graciously make ourselves available for God in Christ Jesus this
New Year 2026 and in all the years to come. Happy New Year to you all!



**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 **Dorothy Bailey (83)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **David “Wes” Weston Cole, Jr. (72)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Herbert “Herbie” Peel (48)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; and **Judith “Judy” Glassmeyer (86)**, 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.**
- **Congratulations to Brian & Caroline Fuentes** who had a baby girl, **Naomi Jane Fuentes**, born on December 21st weighing 6lbs.15oz. Proud Grandparents are Steve & Sarah Campbell and delighted Great-Grandmas are Elinor Blacklock and Betty Campbell. God bless this growing family! **(SEE PHOTO →→)**



THANK YOU! My ministry with you means so very much to me. The blessing of your generous Staff Christmas gift and all the other cards & gifts received has been wonderful! Thank you! Happy New Year! Blessings on you all! **-Lois Mitchell**

THANK YOU! Thank you to all who helped at the Christmas Dinner Potluck (setting-up, cleaning-up, etc.). And thank you to all who helped by bringing a favorite dish to share! God Bless you in the New Year! **-Nurture Ministry Team**

THANK YOU! Dear St. Paul Church Family, We send word of gratitude to all of you for your thoughtfulness at Christmas time. Thank you so much for the monetary gift and your words of encouragement. It is our privilege to minister through music with you all! May God continue to Bless us all... **-Rayford & Martha Raby**

THANK YOU! to the members of St. Paul UMC for helping spread the gift of warmth this season! Your generous gift of **\$315** to this year’s virtual coat drive has helped us purchase and distribute over 550 coats so far. Without you, this would not be possible. We thank you! **-Riverbend Head Start & Family Services**

THANK YOU! Thank you to the family who portrayed the Holy Family during this year’s **March To The Manger**. We thank **Layne, Alex, and baby Micah Chester**. (SEE PHOTOS →→) Thank you also to our Advent Candle lighters: **Joyce Tappy, John & Rita White, Mark & Deb Mayer, and Tracy Franks!**





We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Judith K. Glassmeyer (86), of Godfrey, IL, passed away on December 13, 2025. She was born on March 7, 1939, in Alton, IL, to the late Carl & Christine (Hamrock) Price. Judith was a graduate of Alton High School Class of 1956. She married Leo Glassmeyer, Jr. in April 1961, and together they built a life centered on family and care for others. Leo preceded her in death, as did her daughter, Merrie Kay Hawley.

First and foremost, Judith was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Her grandchildren were truly the light of her life. Judith dedicated many years of professional service as Chief Deputy with the Wood River Township Assessor's Office, later retiring from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) in 1994. Judith was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights since March 13, 1966.

She is survived by her son, Tim Garvey, and wife, Susy, of Columbia, IL; her daughter, Tina Janssen, and husband, John, of Wood River, IL; and her stepdaughter, Denise Huff, of Loganville, GA. She is also survived by her grandsons, Kyle Garvey and Chase Garvey, and her step-grandchildren, Zachary Huff, Jordan Huff, and Logan Santanello. Judith's life touched many. She will also be remembered by her dear friends, including Vicki Garvey, the late Susie Voss, Kerri Laughlin and her family, and Jean Kainz and family, all of whom held a special place in her heart.

We have missed Judy's bright smile and inspiring spirit for some time here at St. Paul. Please, be sure to remember her family and many friends in your prayers as they journey on without her.



The **Women of Worship** had a delightful Christmas Party / Potluck / Meeting on Tuesday, December 9th at 11:30a.m. Fun was had by all as everyone visited around the table while enjoying good food. Following the meal the group spent the rest of the time deciding how to disburse the funds they had raised in 2025.

See the list on page 8 and more photos on page 11!





St. Paul Sunday Service in **JANUARY** 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: Epiphany Sunday. Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;*
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

6th: EPIPHANY.



11th: Baptism of the Lord. Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17*

18th: Human Relations Day (for Martin Luther King, Jr.).

Scriptures: *Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42*

25th: Ecumenical Sunday.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;*
Matthew 4:12-23



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:

Jan 4: by **John & Rita White** in celebration of **Beulah Moore's Jan. 9th Birthday!**

Jan 11: by **Mark & Deb Mayer** in memory of **Richard & Virginia Kiel** and **Carl & Louise Mayer.**

Jan 18: by **Jim & Connie Hickerson** in memory of **Meghan.**

Jan 25: by **Susan Chapman** in honor of **Tom Voorhees' Birthday.**



➡ **There are three Poinsettias needing a home sitting by the church office!**



**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 begins again on
Tuesday, January 13th at
11a.m. in the Parlor! Join us!**

~Pastor Ed~



Regular 1lb. bag = \$12
Chocolate-covered 1lb. bag = \$13



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Jan Calvin Gowan
01-Jan Noah Frieze
03-Jan Ronald Bishop
03-Jan Kathy Hamlin
03-Jan Mike Link
05-Jan Heather Decker
05-Jan Piper Martin
05-Jan Samantha Shewmake
06-Jan Joyce Tappy
06-Jan Emmett Hobbs
07-Jan Glenn Bowman
07-Jan Chris Fincher
07-Jan Christina Johnson
07-Jan Shay Poore
07-Jan Laura Jo White
08-Jan Becky Balzraine
08-Jan Avery Huddleston
08-Jan Jim Scroggins
09-Jan Mary Lou Dorsey
09-Jan Beulah Moore
09-Jan Marsha Weston-Fiss
10-Jan Emily Voorhees
11-Jan Riley Eyster
11-Jan Paula Hubbard
11-Jan Stacy Lyons

11-Jan Norma Shaffer
12-Jan Lindsey Mayer
12-Jan Nathan Rain
13-Jan Aiden Napp
13-Jan Mylie Ramirez
14-Jan Scott Gwaltney
18-Jan Amy Hale
18-Jan McLain Oertle
19-Jan Eileen Cheatham
19-Jan Julie Hobbs
19-Jan D.J. Redden Jr.
20-Jan Leo Hobbs
21-Jan Pastor Ed
21-Jan Scott Aitken
21-Jan Annabelle Chester
21-Jan Russell Wheat Jr.
22-Jan Clayton Bunt
22-Jan William Garrison
23-Jan Tamera Martin

25-Jan Lindsey Cameron
25-Jan Jan Poore
26-Jan Sandy Moore
28-Jan Duane Moore
29-Jan Gail Hansard
29-Jan Mychal Voorhees
30-Jan Logan Sims
30-Jan Tom Voorhees
31-Jan Jessica Barnes
31-Jan Geno Hartman
31-Jan Marlo Schiber
31-Jan William Sullivan
31-Jan Miranda Walters



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01-Jan Dennis & Becky Tuchalski
05-Jan Kelly & Rachel McPheters
20-Jan John & Rita White
24-Jan Joe & Debra Hoertel
27-Jan Dan & Tammy Davis



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!

**DECEMBER Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	12/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025	\$31,678.00
Designated Giving:	12/1/2025 thru 12/31/2025	7,964.51
	Capital Improvements	145.00
	Loose Change	39.51
	Flowers	85.00
	Staff Christmas Gifts	625.00
	Helping Hands	560.00
	Memorials	2,150.00
	Parking Lot Work	2,170.00
	Thanksgiving Offering	50.00
	Upper Room Donations	10.00
	Postage	15.00
	UMCOR	500.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	10.00
	Salvation Army	50.00
	Help W/ Pastor VIMI Trip	40.00
	UM Student Day Offering	10.00
	Christmas Offering	1,505.00
	CM Dividend	550.00
	Online Giving (Includes \$51.38=Memorial)	402.88
Total:		\$40,595.39



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!



**DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY 2026
STEEPLE,
Monday, January
19th!**

**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT**

January's Loose Change Project is the SPERO Family Services in Mt. Vernon, IL. Funds will go for youth programs on campus, independent living programs, transitional living, or community based programs. The Chaplain's ministry may also be a recipient of the funds.

May God bless and multiply your gifts!



WOW MEETS IN 2026 TO PLAN DATES FOR THE YEAR!

Tuesday, January 20th at Noon

Potluck – bring your favorite dish of food! And we will celebrate Pastor Ed's 61st Birthday! ALL St. Paul women are welcome!

2025 WOMEN OF WORSHIP

2025 was more like a normal year and the Women of Worship were again very busy. They got to do most of all the projects and events in the way they usually do, and they raised enough to donate **\$10,200.00** to missions and groups. It was divided up this way:-- see box →→

We are hopeful that 2026 will be a unique year as well, and that we will be active. There will be a February Chicken & Noodle Dinner, there will be a Rummage Sale this spring, and a Fall Festival; we just don't know all that will happen yet. The possibilities are always exciting as we see what God brings our way! Thank you for your willingness to help and support us as we serve!

Karen Martin, President

VIMI-Philippians Trip-Pastor Ed....\$500.00
St. Paul UMC.....\$3,000.00
Church Parking Lot Work.....\$2,000.00
UMCOR.....\$500.00
Helping Hands.....\$500.00
SPERO Family Services.....\$600.00
Salvation Army-Alton.....\$300.00
Oasis Women's Center.....\$300.00
Community Hope Center.....\$300.00
Operation Blessing.....\$300.00
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.....\$600.00
Friends of Troop #8777.....\$100.00
Cub Scout Pack #8030.....\$100.00
Dignity Period.....\$100.00
Roxana School Nurses.....\$500.00
East Alton School Nurses.....\$500.00
\$10,200.00

Joyce Tappy, Treasurer

The **Annual Women of Worship Rummage Sale** will be coming your way in March 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!** We will let you know all the dates very soon!





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!

JANUARY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

January 4-5, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

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

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

➔ **ON January 1 Office Closed for New Year Holiday!**

ON January 8 OUT FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH MEETING AWAY.

Hello January—

a fresh breath of grace,
a quiet beginning held in God's hands.

I step into this month not striving,
but trusting.

Not anxious, but anchored.

May my days be led by faith,
my choices shaped by love,
and my heart attentive
to God's gentle direction.

New month.
Same faithful God.
And that is enough. ✨

~ MINDFULCHRISTIANITY



OUR HOPE IS
NOT IN THE
NEW YEAR...
BUT IN THE
ONE WHO
MAKES ALL
THINGS NEW.

JOHN MAC #SPEAKLIFE

**"Integrity is doing
the right thing even
when no one is
watching."**

— C.S. Lewis



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-*

2025 Cap 'N Mitten Tree Results: 27 Hats, 59 Pairs of Gloves/Mittens, Pairs of Socks (40 Girls, 32 Boys), & Pieces of Underwear (90 Girls, 47 Boys)!!
THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO GAVE THESE ITEMS!

Poinsettias 2025



DONNA BADMAN in memory of her Parents, Charles & Irene McKean
LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in memory of their Family Members who have passed away
LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of their Children, Grandchildren, & Great-Grandchildren
SUE CARR in memory of her Mom, Alice Burrows
JIM & ANITA DAWSON in memory of their Parents & Other Family Members
JIM & ANITA DAWSON in honor of Steve, Sarah, Dani, Luke, Lizzie, Nick & Mary
TRACY FRANKS in honor of her Children & Grandchildren
JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in memory of her Parents
JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in memory of his Parents
VICKI GRAHAM in memory of her Husband, Les Graham (6-26-24)
JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of their Loved Ones who have gone before us
JIM & JANE HERNDON in honor of their Children, Grandchildren, & Great-Granddaughter
JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in memory of Meghan Hickerson
JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in memory of Dr. Norman & Mrs. Carole Taylor
JIM & CONNIE HICKERSON in honor of Lori & Evan Hutson
DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her Sister, Margie Hall
DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her Parents, Victor & Beulah Strohbeck
DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of her Children & Grandchildren
MATTHEW & TORI LUDWIG in memory of their Parents, Larry Ludwig & Becky Hendricks and James Brown & Georgia Brown
TOM & KAREN MARTIN in memory of their Parents
TOM & KAREN MARTIN in honor of their Grandsons: Maddox, Hunter, Wyatt, & Colton
RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of their Kids & Grandkids
BEULAH MOORE in memory of her Husband, Ben Moore
BEULAH MOORE in memory of her Grandson, Andy Moore
JAYME SCROGGINS in memory of her Parents, Jim & Eva Lee Nunn
MIKE TAPPY in memory of his Wife, Lori Tappy
JILL TAYLOR-SULLIVAN in memory of her Father, Dr. Norman Taylor
JILL TAYLOR-SULLIVAN in memory of her Mother, Mrs. Carole Taylor
RITA & JOHN WHITE in memory of their Parents, Benjamin Moore and Jerry & Shirley White
RITA & JOHN WHITE in honor of her Mom, Beulah Moore



**More Photos
from the WOW
Christmas
Party /
Potluck /
Meeting!**



JANUARY TO-DO'S

- Begin your day with prayer and gratitude.
- Listen for God's voice in Scripture daily.
- Let go of worries, trusting in God's plan.
- Show kindness even when it's not easy.
- Be present with those God placed in your day.
- Speak words that inspire and build up.
- Take each step in faith, even when uncertain.
- Give thanks and reflect on God's goodness each night.

MINDFULCHRISTIANITY



**As the year comes to
an end, remember
this truth:**

Deuteronomy 31:8

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

*Step into the new year with faith,
knowing that God is already there,
preparing the way.*