



The Steeple

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

APRIL 2026



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,



Romans 8:37-39

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessings everyone. I pray that you had a meaningful Easter Celebration. This is the Good News from the Lord...That whoever comes to Jesus will never go hungry, and those who believe will never go thirsty again (John 6:35, the bread and life-giving water). The fulfilment of the resurrected Christ sealed our final destiny. Therefore, let us rejoice! We have been saved, so we must remain hopeful. However, our new life in Christ does not end with the moment we were born again. It moves us forward to become Christ-like. We are being reformed from glory to glory. It is a journey of faith; a life full of adventures and misadventures. A life bound for the kingdom, but along the way we will meet many obstacles and difficulties. This passage in **Romans 8:37-39** will bring us tremendous encouragement. Maybe we thought life would be smooth sailing when we had Jesus in our hearts. Well, it is a "YES," but it is also a "NO." Yes, meaning... when Jesus is in us, the Holy Spirit will now have the power to teach us the right heart, the right attitude, and the right Spirit in all the things we do and say. NO, meaning... it is not always an easy life. Definitely, life's challenges will come from time to time, and sometimes, these challenges can shake and disrupt our faith, especially our relationship with the Lord.

This passage in Romans 8 can shed light on life's difficulties. We need to have a deeper understanding of God's love that actually...created everything. Literally, all things! His love for us will keep us stronger and better individuals, because as God's word said: "No death, life, angels, demons, time (past, present, future), powers of any kind, not anything in this world that was created will keep us away from the Love of God in His Son Jesus, the Christ. And the good thing is... this love comes from the perspective of "the Almighty." So, even if our love fails, the LOVE of GOD will prevail forever. This love will sustain us, give us hope, peace, protection, perseverance, and carry us until Christ returns and takes us up into His eternal home.

I'll say it again, HIS love... not ours, will indeed keep us together. For nothing can ever separate us from the Love of God in Christ's Holy name. I pray that we live victoriously, pray constantly, and worship the Lord with gladness from our hearts. Have a blessed Resurrection month and to God be the glory. Amen.

Blessings to all and until the next issue--

In Christ Alone,
Edward Granados
**Pastor of East Alton 1st UMC
and St. Paul UMC**





GINNY'S 85TH BIRTHDAY



You are invited to an Ice Cream Sundae Bar to celebrate Ginny Croxford's 85th Birthday! Please no presents- just a craving for sweets.



DETAILS

Saturday | April 11th | 2pm-4pm

Hawthorne Inn, Liberty Village of
Jerseyville

1251 N State St, Jerseyville, IL 62052



SOPHIE LUDWIG'S THIRD BIRTHDAY PARTY!

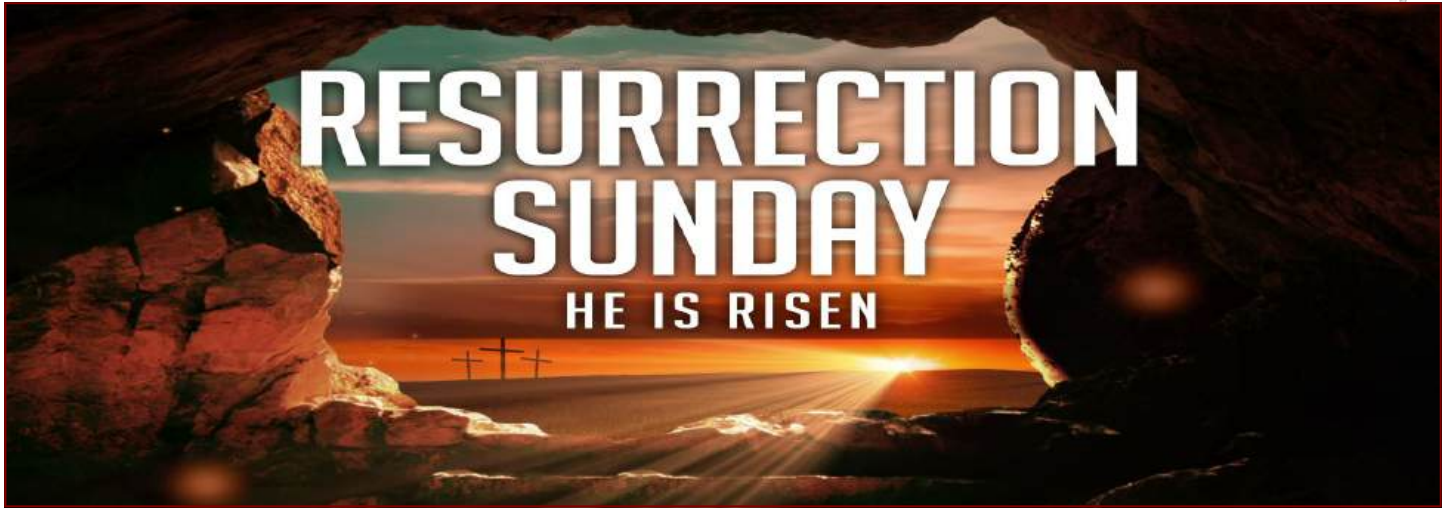


OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **Congratulations!** "Henry James Hutson joined our family on 02/26/26 at 6:22a.m., 6lbs 13oz, and 20 inches of pure perfection. We've spent the past weeks in newborn bliss. There are few words to describe the overwhelming amount of love we have for our little family!" **Evan & Lori (Hickerson) Hutson**
- **Our deepest sympathy** goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Deanna "Dee" Cairns (86)**, member of St. Paul UMC, wife of the late Hank Cairns, mother of Mike Cairns, and stepmother of Debbie Conroy and Jeff Cairns (see obit in center); **J. Jeffrey Greer (75)**, husband of the late Sue Greer and the late Linda Greer, brother of Connie Hickerson, father of Stephanie Palmer and Chris Greer (see obit in center); **Mary Miles (67)**, cousin of Ruth Bell and Lois Mitchell; and **Dale Jones (76)**, daughter of the late Gerald & Aleta Meyers. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace through it all.**

THANK YOU! Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ! Thank you for your generous gift! May God Bless you as together we work to show His love as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ! In His Service -**Midwest Mission Family**

THANK YOU! Thank you for supporting our Hop 'n Stop event. We appreciate your help and prayers! -**Care Team EAFUMC**



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN



Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

April 2nd @ 6:30 p.m.
At East Alton First United Methodist Church

We will be at East Alton FUMC for the combined service. This is the night Jesus washed the feet of His disciples and they shared the Last Supper together... With bread and cup we remember the darkness of deceit which is a prelude to the dawn of God's great truth: Jesus Lives! Join us and bring your family and friends!

NEVER ENTER APRIL WITHOUT SAYING THESE 4 PRAYERS

Save these prayers and pass it to someone you love. Don't forget "Amen"

1. Dear God, make me better. Change my attitude, my approach, my mind, and my reactions.
2. Dear God, If I'm wrong. Correct me. If I'm lost, guide me. If I start to give up, keep me going.
3. Dear God, please bring me close to what's meant for me.
4. Heavenly Father, please make my days useful, my nights restful, my home peaceful and my efforts fruitful.





St. Paul Sunday Service in **APRIL** 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 **LIVE STREAMED** 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!

April 2nd: COMBINED MAUNDY / HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE, 6:30p.m.

Scriptures: *Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

The Combined Service will be held at East Alton First United Methodist Church and we pray that you will be able to join us there as we prepare for Easter!



5th: Easter! Resurrection Sunday! Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10*



12th: Second Sunday Of Easter!

Scriptures: *Exodus 15:1-11; Psalm 111; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31*

19th: Third Sunday Of Easter! Native American Ministries Sunday!

Scriptures: *Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 34:1-10; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35*

26th: Fourth Sunday Of Easter!

Scriptures: *Ezekiel 34:7-15; Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10*



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:

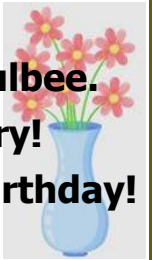
The Outreach Ministry Team will keep a “Food Drive” going. If you can, whenever you shop, get a few extra non-perishables to bring to church for us to give to the food pantries! (**Suggestions:** Mayonnaise, Can Opener, Oil, Powdered Milk, Milk/Oat Milk/Almond Milk/Coconut Milk – kind that is non-refrigerated 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!!



EASTER BASKETS! Thank you so very much to everyone who gave to help us do this!! We made **25 baskets!**

2026 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

- Apr 5: by **Challandes Family** in honor of **Our Families!**
- Apr 12: by **Tracy Franks** in memory of **her parents, Lute & Doloros Taulbee.**
- Apr 19: by **Jim & Betty Burns** in celebration of **our Wedding Anniversary!**
- 19: by **Scott & Jamie Gwaltney** in celebration of **Kay Gwaltney’s Birthday!**
- Apr 26: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **Leona’s Birthday!**



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

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 on Tuesdays,
at 11a.m. ! Not held on
April 7, 14, or 21! ~Pastor Ed~



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Apr Amy Hartman
- 02-Apr Jarod Foiles
- 03-Apr Karen Challandes
- 03-Apr Mike Voorhees
- 04-Apr Donald Ford Jr.
- 04-Apr Payton Hartman
- 04-Apr Tom Martin
- 05-Apr Jason Mayer
- 05-Apr Kelly Moore
- 05-Apr Rohland Pruetzel
- 06-Apr Barb Sitze
- 06-Apr Jessica Winchester
- 07-Apr Vicki Acton
- 07-Apr Ashley Bunt
- 07-Apr Jaxson McBride
- 08-Apr Patrick Bottorff
- 09-Apr Abbygail Skjerseth
- 10-Apr Bryan Clark
- 10-Apr Virginia Croxford
- 10-Apr Lizzie Dawson
- 11-Apr Jennifer Roberts
- 11-Apr Alyssa Tite
- 14-Apr Terry Inman
- 14-Apr Mindy McLain
- 14-Apr Rilyn Chester

- 14-Apr Nora Toner
- 15-Apr Alexander Lair
- 16-Apr Nathan Bishop
- 16-Apr Lauren Davis
- 16-Apr Peter Laufersweiler
- 17-Apr Lauryn Decker
- 17-Apr Brittney Harlan
- 17-Apr Brooke Harlan
- 17-Apr Vivian Franklin
- 17-Apr Scott Tillery
- 17-Apr Cathy Toner
- 18-Apr Michael Bunt
- 18-Apr Luke Dawson
- 18-Apr Brandon Plummer
- 19-Apr Ilona Townsend
- 19-Apr Madison Scroggins
- 19-Apr Patsy Scroggins
- 20-Apr Kay Gwaltney
- 20-Apr Rosalind Hovan

- 21-Apr Edith Mayer
- 21-Apr Ryan Parker
- 24-Apr Leona Hendricks
- 24-Apr Mike Plummer
- 25-Apr Logan Laufersweiler
- 25-Apr Madison Williams
- 26-Apr Logan Eyster
- 26-Apr Andrew Garrison
- 27-Apr Jaden Henderson
- 27-Apr Bob Kissack Jr.
- 27-Apr Keith Sheppard
- 28-Apr John Bailey
- 28-Apr Tabatha Barclay
- 28-Apr Taylor Scroggins
- 29-Apr Jacob Giddings
- 29-Apr Stacey Kathriner
- 29-Apr Darin Redden Sr.
- 29-Apr Rita White
- 30-Apr Chase Cameron

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



- 05-Apr Rohland & Susie Pruetzel
- 08-Apr Bill & Ronda Crain Jr.
- 10-Apr Adam & Stephanie Schroedter
- 11-Apr Phil & Vicki Acton
- 11-Apr Joe & Linda Tillery
- 14-Apr Joshua & Brooke Toner

- 20-Apr Jim & Betty Burns
- 20-Apr Jake & Jessica Toner
- 21-Apr Eric & Heather Decker
- 21-Apr Peter & Sarah Laufersweiler
- 24-Apr Justin & Jennifer Sandbach

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!



MARCH Stewardship

Budget Offering:	3/1/2026 thru 3/31/2026	\$10,669.00
Designated Giving:	3/1/2026 thru 3/31/2026	1,067.75
	Capital Improvements	285.00
	Loose Change	57.75
	Flowers	60.00
	Helping Hands	75.00
	UMCOR	10.00
	Parking Lot Work	280.00
	Upper Room Donations	10.00
	WOW-Easter Baskets	40.00
	Community Hope Center	100.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	50.00
	Pastor's VIMI Trip	100.00
	Online Giving	351.50
Total:		\$12,088.25



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!

Thank you so much!

Easter Offering

The Finance Committee & Church Council voted to give **75%** of the undesignated Easter Offering to

UMCOR and **25%** to our **Helping Hands.**

You may also designate your **Easter Offering** to a specific group, account, or mission. **Offering received throughout April.**



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

April's Loose Change Project is the **Community Hope Center** in Cottage Hills. Not only do they run a food pantry which our church uses as a referral source, but they offer free clothing and many other programs to help people in need.

May God bless and multiply your gifts!

**DEADLINE FOR
MAY 2026 STEEPLE,
Monday, APRIL 20th!**



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

Remember: Items for sale will be accepted through **Sunday, April 12th**

(not on Wednesday please).

We appreciate all of the great regularly donated items that are brought. There is time to collect

your **clean, working, sellable items** to bring to the church.

PLEASE, NO lotions, perfumes, etc. that have been opened.

NO computer monitors, printers, VCRs, TVs that are not flat screen, or other electronics. **They do not sell and we have no way to dispose of them.** Make sure any clothes or bedding items are **clean, stain free, and in good**

condition...Do not bring if they are not! Please, **NO** sharp knives or child car seats. **Books, puzzles, magazines, kitchen & household items, etc.** are good selling items. **NO large** pieces of furniture. **Small** kitchen appliances are ok as long as they work.



The sale is on April 23 (6-8p.m. \$3)

April 24 & 25 (8:30a.m.-Noon)!

**LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT SALE -
REMEMBER ALL OF THE PROFITS GO TO UNITED
METHODIST AND LOCAL GROUPS NEEDING FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE... THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



Thank you to Donna Hamilton, Tracy Franks, Leona Hendricks, Sandy Gantz, Joyce Tappy, Joyce Brueggeman, and Maggie Funke for coming to put the baskets together! Also, a big thank you to Beulah Moore for helping Joyce Tappy fill the Easter eggs with candy and to lola Ballard for making the tags for the baskets. Thank you Joyce Tappy for getting everything ready! What fun!!



**WOW MAKES
EASTER
BASKETS!**



APRIL OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

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

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday weekday off

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

→ ON April 3 OFFICE CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY.

→ ON April 9 OUT FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH MEETING AWAY.

Nightly Prayer Time On Youtube.com

**Join in by going to youtube.com and searching for
"East Alton First United Methodist Church."**

(You can also find it through our Facebook Page.)

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!

Pastor gone April 6-21...no nightly prayers!




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-

It would be a blessing to have you join us to honor

***IGRC's Central District Superintendent
 The Rev. Bradley Watkins, II & his wife Debbie***

as they depart for his new appointment as
 Directing Pastor at Coal City UMC on July 1, 2026



Farewell Party Open House
 2:00 – 5:00 pm • Sun, May 24
 First UMC
 2941 S Koke Mill Rd,
 Springfield

The Watkinses would enjoy receiving cards and notes sharing your memories of their time with you.

No RSVP is required • Park and enter at the main entrance
 Light snacks and cake will be served

The new railing was lifted into place on Saturday, March 7 by Trustees, our IT crew, and family. Approximately 27 feet in length, it will provide safety for those working in the choir loft. Many thanks to the Trustees led by our in-house wood craftsman, John Hendricks!
-Jim Herndon, Board of Trustees





EARTH DAY

April 22



Certified Lay Ministry Gathering at four locations April 11

**Celebrating Jesus and You
Saturday, April 11**

Four strategic locations have been selected for a Zoom streaming broadcast from Springfield: IGRC Conference Center (Springfield), Mt. Vernon First UMC, Belleville Union UMC, and the North District Area Office. Our guest speaker will be Roger Grimmert who will speak on "Being comes before doing: Close Proximity with Jesus". The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude at 12:05 p.m. We cannot wait to see you! [Contact Susie Wurth \(sbwurth@gmail.com\)](mailto:sbwurth@gmail.com) to obtain more information.

2026 Mission **u**

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Join us!

JULY 19-22

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://igrc-reg.brtapp.com/Missionu2026>



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Deanna (Dee) L. Cairns, 86, passed away peacefully on February 21, 2026, at La Bella of Alton, IL. Dee was born on January 16, 1940, in Springfield, MO to George L. & Edna L. (Schaum) Dey. She spent most of her childhood in Wichita, KS before moving back to her family's hometown of Bunker Hill, IL after her father accepted a position with McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis. While in Wichita, she was co-host of a Saturday morning children's show in the early days of TV. Tragically, her father was killed in an automobile accident shortly upon returning to Illinois. Dee and her mother found strength in each other and their family, including Paul & Eileen Scroggins and their three boys, Mike, Mark, and Mitch, whom Dee always considered her "little" brothers.

Dee went on to graduate from SIU-Alton where she was the Spring Festival Queen in 1961. Upon graduation, she began teaching in the Roxana school system where she remained for her entire career and made life-long friends amongst the teachers, staff, and students. Her son, Mike, was told more times than he can recall by her former students that Dee was their favorite teacher.

Upon retirement, Dee went on to work as a host for several restaurants/cafes in Alton to gain experience in hopes of opening her own with her husband Hank. However, caring attentively for her mother in her final years and losing Hank shortly after precluded her from realizing this dream.

Dee lived her best life following retirement shopping, her hobby (we'd be remiss if we didn't mention this), enjoying time with Hank and family at Lake of the Ozarks, delighting in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and especially, doting on her cherished dogs through the years (Muffin, Maddie, and Macy). Her "boys," Mike's three sons, loved going to Grandma Dee's, where the house was turned over to them as their personal playground (which never happened in their father's childhood!). A devoted and loving grandmother, Dee lived for these visits and counted down each time until the next.

Dee touched many people with her friendship and kindness. Whether through golf, retired teacher groups, the neighborhood, friends from Lockhaven Country Club, etc.... she cherished her relationships. Dee was a member at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, IL since October 13, 1963.

She married Henry (Hank) C. Cairns at St. Paul United Methodist Church on July 6, 1974. He preceded her in death on September 8, 2005. They enjoyed 31 years of marriage and adventure until Hank's passing. They traveled to places they had never imagined seeing and often reminisced about their journeys together. Dee was also predeceased by her mother Edna, who she adored beyond measure. Bonded by their need to support one another after the tragic loss of George, Edna and Dee shared a special connection. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her stepson Steven, her sisters-in-laws Mary and Dorothy, her maternal aunts Lola and Erma; her paternal aunt and uncle Lee and Dean, her cousin Eileen, whom she considered a sister, and many others from her family.

She is survived by her son Mike, his wife Siobhan, stepdaughter Debbie Conroy, her husband Jeff, and stepson Jeff and his significant other Mona. She also leaves behind her grandchildren Justin Comereski (Briana), Caitlin Beck (Cody), Jamie Comereski, Peter, Kellan and Rian Cairns, step-grandchildren, Jeffrey Conroy, Allyssa Sunderland (Ben) and great-grandchildren Shane Beck, Jackson Doolin, Mackenzie Comereski, Malorie Beck and Harrison Comereski. She'd also want us to mention her "other" son, as she always called him, Chris Skinner, one of Mike's long-time friends.

We have missed Dee and her bright smile for several years and we hope that you will keep her family in your prayers in the days ahead.



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



J. Jeffrey Greer, 75, went to meet Jesus at 2:19 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at his residence. He was born on September 17, 1950, in East St. Louis, IL, the son of the late Billy H. Greer & Shirley Roberts Pauley.

He married the former Carolyn Sue Miser on May 15, 1970, in Wood River, and she preceded him in death on September 17, 2004. He later married the former Linda Madison on January 21, 2006, and she preceded him in death on June 21, 2008.

Survivors include a daughter, Stephanie Palmer; a son and daughter-in-law, Chris & Kellie Greer; three grandchildren, Brendan Palmer & his wife Tamara, Sydnie Palmer, and Christian Greer; two great-grandchildren, John and Aurora; a sister and brother-in-law, Connie & Jim Hickerson; a brother and sister-in-law, Darin & Traci

McCall; along with many nieces, nephews, and other extended family and dear friends.

Jeff worked as a pipefitter for forty years at the refinery, and was known for his strong work ethic and dedication to providing for his family. He was a member at St. Paul United Methodist Church since 2/16/1986 and later started attending with his daughter at Emmanuel Free Methodist Church in Alton, where his faith continued to be an important part of his life.

Jeff had a servant's heart and generously volunteered his time at the Community Hope Center, where he enjoyed helping others and giving back to the community. He loved spending time outdoors, especially crappie fishing at the Lake of the Ozarks, one of his favorite places. He also had a passion for taking long rides on his Harley, enjoying the open road and the freedom it brought.

More than anything, Jeff treasured time with his family. Known lovingly by many as "Pop," he especially loved being with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, creating memories with them and sharing stories, laughter, and encouragement. Above all else, Jeff loved Jesus and lived his life with a deep and abiding faith that guided how he loved and served others.

In addition to his parents and wives, Jeff was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter, Adaline Eve; a sister, Rebecca Tanner; a brother, Chris Greer; and a niece, Meghan Hickerson.

Jeff will be remembered for his unwavering faith, his love for his family, and the kindness and generosity he shared with everyone he met. Please, keep his family in your prayers.

