



The Steeple

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

MAY 2026



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Matthew 28:16-20...The Great Commission

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This year, I had the privilege of doing a mission trip to the Philippines with our IGRC Volunteers in Mission International team. A group of 8 traveled on April 7th to Sagbayan Bohol Philippines and returned on April 21st. The experience was such a blessing. We met new and vital congregations that projected the love of Jesus Christ. We broke bread with them, sang and worshipped with them. We did a sewing ministry with the local residents, medical and vision mission, mental health mission, and a music class headed by yours truly. And of course, the building of a new Sanctuary that will cater to a lot of new UMC worshippers with their families. Truly, it was a sight that we will forever cherish. The church is called Sagbayan UMC and their extended outreach Ministry church is Sta. Cruz UMC. To show their appreciation, their minister, Pastor Lyster Patigdas wrote a letter expressing their gratitude, and I would like to share this letter with you in this May Newsletter. Pastor Lyster writes:

April 25, 2026

Dear Members & Leaders of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The Sagbayan United Methodist Church extends our heartfelt gratitude to your congregation for your generous support of this year's Volunteers in Mission (VIMI) International Philippine Trip held in Sagbayan, Bohol, Philippines. Your partnership has been a tremendous blessing to our church and community. Through your prayers, financial assistance, encouragement, and commitment to God's mission, you have helped make this ministry possible. Your kindness has touched many lives and has strengthened our shared work in spreading the love of Christ through service here in Sagbayan. We are deeply thankful for your willingness to stand with us across the miles as brothers and sisters in Christ. Your support reminds us that the Church is united beyond borders, working together to bring hope, compassion, and transformation to communities in need. As the Scripture says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

May the Lord richly bless St. Paul UMC for your generosity and faithfulness. We pray that God will continue to prosper your ministries and reward your labors of love. Thank you once again for being our partners in mission.

With sincere gratitude and prayers,

Lyster S. Patigdas
Pastor Lyster S. Patigdas
Administrative Pastor
Sagbayan United Methodist Church

Maximino T. Maregmen
Rev. Maximino T. Maregmen
District Superintendent,
Eastern Visayas District

With that said, I believe the Lord was speaking, and as His people, we complied. Spreading the Love of Jesus across the globe is indeed an experience that only God can orchestrate. It is humbling and at the same time an eye-opener for all faithful people in Christ. The Gospel knows no boundaries. The Word changes people. And because of what happened and the witness that was written and established, the mission will remain. We proclaim and live the truth in Jesus' name.

Blessings to all and until the next issue-- In Christ Alone,
Edward Granadosin **Pastor of East Alton 1st UMC and St. Paul UMC**

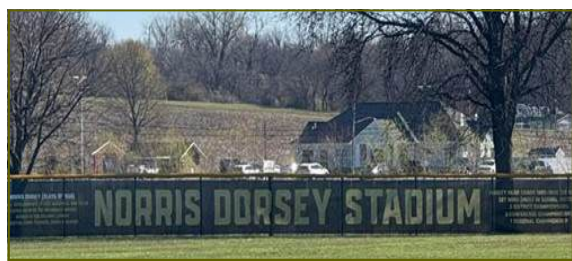


OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family & friends of **Judy (Fortschneider) Thompson (76)**, lifelong friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Emma Harper (91)**, member; mother of Kimberly (George) McGilvrey; grandmother of Tony (Brittany) Wood and Emma (Zach) Wood Melcher (**see obit on page 8**); **Thomas “Tom” Voorhees (98)**, member; husband of the late Ruth Voorhees; father of Linda Voorhees, Jan Poore, Stephen Voorhees, Michael (Ricci) Voorhees, Susan (Rob) Chapman, and the late Mitchell Voorhees; grandfather of 7; great grandfather of 8; and great-great grandfather of one (**see obit on page 9**); and **Margie Detmers (88)**, mother of Debra (Rev. Daryl) Fansler; grandmother of Meg Fansler. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God’s peace through it all.**

THANK YOU! Dear Friends in Christ! Thank you so much for all of the amazing gifts that I received for Administrative Professionals Day! Whether it was a plant or a cash gift or a scrubbie and washcloth or a gift card or greeting cards, you all really brightened my day! It made for a really great week and reminds me how very much everyone cares! God Bless you with a glorious month of May! *-Lois Mitchell*

Congratulations! The Legacy of Norris Dorsey Honored Through Field Naming: The field where the Oilers play was officially named in honor of Coach Norris Dorsey before the East Alton Wood River vs. Bunker Hill game on Friday, March 27, 2026.



THANK YOU!

The **WOMEN OF WORSHIP** would like to thank **EVERYONE** who helped in any way to make our **2026 RUMMAGE SALE** a huge success! Whether you donated or shopped for items, helped organize items, helped during the sale itself, or were one of the guys who helped carry things out to cars...you were very much appreciated! God’s blessings on all of you!
\$2,663.00 was raised for missions!



HE TURNS COAL INTO DIAMONDS,
 SAND INTO PEARLS,
 WORMS INTO BUTTERFLIES,
 HE CAN TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND, TOO.



Worship Under the Trees



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

8:45 a.m.

**BEGINS JUNE 7th
(first Sunday)**

(In case of extreme weather the service is held in the sanctuary!)



**VBS
2026!**

Tuesday, May 26 – Friday, May 29
**(May 31 the VBS Kids are invited to worship at
EAFUMC and to stay for a party after!)**

Light dinner at 5:30p.m. Activities 6-8p.m.

at East Alton First UMC for children ages 3 to 5th grade!

**This year our two churches are working together! We need
helpers of all kinds so if you want to help, please, call the
church offices at 618-259-5210, 618-259-1306, or email to:**

Olivia liviellou330@gmail.com, or

Edie jeoscifres@yahoo.com

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

**SAVE
THE
DATES**



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

3rd: 5th Sunday of Easter! Communion Today.

Scriptures: *Proverbs 4:10-18; Psalm 119:9-32; 1 Peter 2:2-10;*
John 14:1-14



10th: 6th Sunday Of Easter! Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home.

Scriptures: *Ezekiel 34:1-7; Psalm 115; 1 Peter 3:13-22;*
John 14:15-21

17th: Ascension Sunday.

Scriptures: *Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 21:1-7; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11;*
John 17:1-11



24th: Pentecost; Memorial Sunday; Heritage Sunday; Aldersgate Day.

Scriptures: *Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;*
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Members who have passed are remembered and Memorial Projects are dedicated

31st: Trinity Sunday; Peace with Justice Sunday.

Scriptures: *Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13;*
Matthew 28:16-20



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:

- May 3: by **Rayford Raby** in celebration of **Martha Raby’s Birthday (5/6)!**
- May 10: by **Vicki Graham** in memory of **her Husband, Les Graham.**
- May 17: by **Joan Ford** in memory of **her Husband, Phill’s Birthday.**
- May 24: by **Dorothy Kasinger** in memory of **her Sister, Margie’s Birthday.**
- May 31: by **Susan Chapman** in memory of **her Brother, Mitch Voorhees.**



**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 most
Tuesdays, at 11a.m. !**

~Pastor Ed~



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-May Kennedy Scroggins
- 03-May Bowen Ayres
- 03-May Brian Eyster
- 03-May Sharon Fulks
- 03-May Shelley Heigert
- 04-May Zack Toner
- 05-May Sydney Pontow
- 05-May Keri Whaley
- 06-May Mike Tappy
- 07-May Alex Barnes
- 07-May Ian Napp
- 07-May Jeff White
- 08-May Brayden Decker
- 08-May Bruce Hatten
- 08-May Trudy Lehnen
- 08-May Joy Virgin
- 09-May Jackie Beth Burt
- 10-May Brandon Bentley
- 10-May Katie Ford
- 10-May Jake Toner
- 12-May Aaron Bottorff
- 12-May Liam Cincoski
- 12-May Heather Hendricks
- 12-May Connie Hickerson
- 12-May Laura Mae White

- 13-May Troy Cameron
- 13-May Ethan Martin
- 13-May Aaron Rich
- 13-May Shelby Whaley
- 13-May Tana Yankovich
- 15-May Joshua Giddings
- 15-May Wyatt Parker
- 16-May Paul Bowman
- 16-May Adelyn Spurgeon
- 17-May Debbie Bacus
- 17-May John Uzzell
- 19-May Kylie Winchester
- 20-May Barbara Baggett
- 21-May Jocelyn Toner
- 22-May Tyler Babcock
- 22-May Ridgely Hubbard
- 24-May Ryan Spurgeon
- 26-May Kelly McPheters
- 26-May Brendan Palmer

- 27-May Betty Campbell
- 27-May Brandy Lusicic
- 27-May Lana Mortland
- 27-May Parker Kainz
- 28-May DJ Lusicic Jr.
- 29-May Gina Brown
- 29-May Laurie Griffin
- 30-May Steve Dawson
- 30-May Sarah Gebhardt
- 30-May Sam Griffin
- 31-May Jessica Braun



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01-May Mark & Sandy Scroggins
- 02-May Jim & Connie Hickerson
- 12-May Chris & Kellie Greer
- 15-May Bob & Betsy Blacklock
- 17-May Brian & Trista Liedtke
- 21-May Tom & Karen Martin

- 22-May Jimmy & Brianne Bourne
- 25-May Bruce & Karen Hatten
- 26-May Keith & Mandy Armon
- 27-May Brennen & Samantha Hermens
- 27-May Steve & Jean Kainz

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!



APRIL Stewardship

Budget Offering:	4/1/2026 thru 4/30/2026	\$13,063.00
Designated Giving:	4/1/2026 thru 4/30/2026	1,683.43
	Capital Improvements	180.00
	Loose Change	28.43
	Flowers	70.00
	Helping Hands	100.00
	Operation Blessing	100.00
	Parking Lot Work	180.00
	Upper Room Donations	20.00
	Easter Offering	765.00
	Community Hope Center	50.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	50.00
	Memorials	140.00
	Online Giving	351.50
Total:		\$15,097.93



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!

DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2026 STEEPLE, Wednesday, May 20th!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

May's Loose Change Project is the **Liberian Mission of the Methodist Church**. The church continues to rebuild. This will help support pastors in the churches there who only earn a small amount per month in salary. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Emma Margaret Tharp Harper, 91, passed away Friday, April 10, 2026 at BJC Evelyn's House in St. Louis. Born July 15, 1934 in Greene County, she was one of nine children of Ebert & Florence (Greene) Damm.

Emma worked as a restaurant manager. She enjoyed crochet, embroidery and quilting, as well as gardening, reading, and playing Bingo. She also watched a lot of Survivor, soap operas, and the Game Show

Network. Emma was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church since March 25, 2007; the Alton VFW Post #1308; and the Ladybugs.

Survivors include her children, Kimberly (George) McGilvrey, and two grandkids she helped raise who were the light of her life, Emma (Zach) Melcher and Tony (Brittany) Wood; son Tim (Robyn) Tharp, six other grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren; and daughters-in-law Cindy and Judy Tharp.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ronald Harper; her former husband John Tharp; and two sons, Dan and Mark Tharp.

Emma Harper will be greatly missed and we ask that you remember her family in your prayers as they learn to journey on without her.

MAY OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

May 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 26 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

May 6, 13, 20, 27 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday weekday off

May 1, 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

→ **ON May 25 OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.**

→ **ON May 14 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!**



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Thomas Edward Voorhees, 98, passed away Sunday, April 12, 2026. Born January 30, 1928 in Jersey County, he was a son of Donald Harry & Hattie (Armstrong) Voorhees. He married Ruth Boker July 7, 1950 in Brighton. She passed away Aug. 23, 2022.

A U.S. Army veteran, he served with the 820th Engineer Battalion, a SCARWAF unit during the Korean War. He was stationed at several bases, including Beale AF Base, in Marysville, CA, Fort Huachuca in Frye, AZ, Edwards AF Base in California, Kelley AF Base in San Antonio, and Camp Roberts in California. He worked in the wire mill at Laclede Steel for several years until his retirement in 1988.

Tom was a longtime member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights (since May 8, 1955) and taught Sunday school for many years. He enjoyed painting, playing golf, and woodworking. He played organ, liked board and card games, and going fishing. He also was a Chicago Cubs fan.

Survivors include his children, Linda Voorhees of FL, Jan Poore of Rosewood Heights, Stephen Voorhees of Wood River, Michael (Ricci) Voorhees of Rosewood Heights, and Susan (Rob) Chapman of Godfrey; 7 grandchildren, Ashley (Paul) Hatcher, Tom (Traci) Poore, Mychal Anne Voorhees, Jaymie Voorhees and husband Michael Munroe, Laura Voorhees, Emily McCall, and Jenna Clausen-Voorhees; 8 great grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Mitchell Voorhees and siblings and their spouses, Donald, Jr. (Eileen) Voorhees, Shirley (Wally) Goss, Eugene (Lorraine) Voorhees, Clifford (Helen) Voorhees, Herschel (Maxine) Voorhees, Leon Voorhees and Nadine Voorhees.



Tom Voorhees has been here so long and we will really miss him. Please, remember his family in your prayers as they learn to journey on without him.





2026 Annual Conference June 4-6, 2026

Pastor Ed and Dennis Tuchalski will be going to Peoria for the conference this year. Please, pray for all that will be accomplished at this event.

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-



MMDC collection in Peoria! Bring items to the church by Mon., June 1st!

Attendees to the 2026 Annual Conference are urged to have congregations collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. Supplies can be collected and brought to Annual Conference. Items most needed are:

Liquid laundry detergent, bottle sized 100-150 oz.

Liquid Dish soap, bottle sized 42-64 oz.

**Liquid Household Cleaner, bottle sized 56-80 oz. (no spray)
5 Gallon Round Buckets with Resealable Lids**

ALSO: Washcloths & handtowels, bar soap 3-4 oz., lotion 8-10 oz., boxes of one gallon resealable bags, scrub brush... also new or gently used non-kit items: canes, crutches, foldable walkers, and reusable day / night pads. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Please, place them on or under the table across from the food drive table! Thank you for any help you can offer!



E A S T E R F L O W E R S 2 0 2 6

DONNA BADMAN in memory of her Parents: Irene & Charles McKean

LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of their Family

SUE CARR in memory of her Mother: Alice Burrows

CHALLANDES FAMILY in memory of their Grandparents

CHALLANDES FAMILY in honor of their Son: Lincoln Challandes

CHALLANDES FAMILY in honor of their Parents: John & Leona Hendricks and Phillip & Kim Challandes

JIM & ANITA DAWSON in honor of their Family

TRACY FRANKS in memory of Mike Franks

JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in memory of her Parents

JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in memory of his Parents

JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of their Parents: Ed & Emma Stillwell and Sam & Mary Herndon

JIM & JANE HERNDON in honor of their Children, Grandchildren, and 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 Evan & Lori Hutson

DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her Sister: Margie Hall

DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of her Family

SARAH LAUFERSWEILER in honor of Anna Mae Stewart and in loving memory of Jim Stewart

MATTHEW & TORI LUDWIG in memory their Parents: Larry Ludwig & Rebecca Hendricks and James Brown & Georgia Brown

RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of their Kids

RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of their Grandkids

RACHEL McPHETERS in memory of Jamie Kurucar

RACHEL McPHETERS in honor of Anna Mae Stewart and in loving memory of Jim Stewart

BEULAH MOORE in memory of her Husband: Ben Moore

BEULAH MOORE in memory of her Grandson: Andy Moore

DARREN & DONNA PETRO in memory of Rod Croxford

DARREN & DONNA PETRO in honor of Virginia Croxford

DONNA PETRO in memory of Judy Thompson

DEBBIE STEWART in honor of Anna Mae Stewart and in loving memory of Jim Stewart, her Parents

DEBBIE STEWART in honor of her Children

DEBBIE STEWART in honor of her Grandchildren

MIKE TAPPY in memory of Lori Tappy

BEV (TSCHANNEN) WEBBER & JOE TSCHANNEN in memory of Morris "Mo" & Helen Tschannen and Bob Tschannen

JOHN & RITA WHITE in honor of her Mom: Beulah Moore and in memory of her Dad: Ben Moore and in memory of his Parents: Jerry & Shirley White

JOHN & RITA WHITE in memory of their Nephew: Andy Moore