



# The Steeple

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

JUNE 2026



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)**

*<sup>74</sup> 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.*

Grace and peace to all this month of June. The Lord is good. The Lord is kind. The God of our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is worthy to be praised. To the one who sits on the throne of glory, we give our thanks and praise, and to the Holy Spirit who continues to empower us with Love and understanding of whom our great GOD is. The one from whom all blessings flow, we magnify HIS name forever. I hope and pray that you are all well, encouraged by God in spite of the many challenges of this generation. Honestly, what will we do if we do not have Jesus? For sure, personally, my life would be lost forever. This is the good news that we hold on to, Jesus, through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will prevail and be victorious. This Faith in Jesus is not just about feelings and emotional euphoria. It's more than that. It is the fact that only God has fully ordained and commanded all of us. Let me share with you a reading from one of my quiet moments with God that made John 14:6 stronger than ever in my faith journey with the Lord. I am quoting from an **InTouch Ministries'** devotion:

*Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." What a powerful and awe-inspiring statement!*

*When Jesus calls Himself "the way," it's likely that many people imagine a one-way street. They take it to mean there are lots of roads, but He is the only one that leads to the Father. This is true, but another image better captures the truth of our situation.*

*Think of Jesus not as a road but as a bridge. The apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 3:23** that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Between us and God lies a great chasm we cannot cross on our own. No matter how hard we try in our own strength, we can't close the distance.*

*There's only one way to cross this wide chasm: a bridge. That's what Jesus is for us. He stands in the gap, providing safe passage across the void and into the arms of our heavenly Father.*

*Spend some time today meditating on this image. Without God's help, we are powerless to bridge the gap ourselves. Heaven would forever remain out of reach, beyond a great divide. When we understand this truth, we begin to appreciate the true power of the cross.*

We all yearn for the truth, for peace and justice, a life full of abundance and satisfaction. Right? But we will never find it in this world. Sad to say, because of humanity's sins, this world has been broken in an unbelievable manner. So where do we go then? We go to Jesus! And going to our Savior connects us with 2 Chronicles 7:14. Coming to Jesus requires humility and total submission with much prayer and petition. We need to bow down before our Lord and ask for His forgiveness. By giving ourselves to God completely, trusting in His power and authority, God will not deprive our land of healing and prosperity. To do this, the human heart needs to set aside pride and vanity.

There is still time. This world needs to totally acknowledge the sovereign God of heaven and earth. Take note of verse 14 of 2 Chronicles. If we turn from our wicked ways, ask for God's forgiveness... then witness God's power, "I will forgive their sins, and heal their land." Search your heart. Listen to the voice of our Savior. Let us all pray, praise, and be restored. Amen.

**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 **Virginia Fiedler (100)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Gene Raymond Babcock (89)**, member; husband of the late Shirley Babcock; father of Donna (John) Bailey, Deborah (Kevin) Green, Michael (Carol) Babcock, and Sandra (Jay) Harlan; grandfather of 16 grandchildren and great-grandfather to 19 great-grandchildren (see obit on page 5); **Cynthia “Cindy” Hobbs (61)**, mother/mother-in-law of Nicholas (Julie) Hobbs, grandmother of Leo and Emmett Hobbs; and **Bruce Egelhoff (71)**, nephew of the late Alice Burrows, cousin of Sue Carr. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God’s peace through it all.**

On **Memorial Sunday, May 24th**, we celebrated the lives of those from our church family who have joined the church triumphant since our last Memorial Sunday service. We miss you but rejoice that today you are in the presence of our Lord: **Dorothy “Dotty” Aitken, Gene “Ray” Babcock, Jr., Gene Raymond Babcock, Sr., Deanna “Dee” Cairns, Rodney “Rod” Croxford, Judith “Judy” Glassmeyer, Jeffrey “Jeff” Greer, Emma Harper, Leta Harshbarger, Richard Huebner, Arthur Joseph “Joe” Huff, Dorothy “Sally” Shoppell-Lay, Thomas “Tom” Voorhees.** We also dedicated our memorial projects, groups, activities, items, etc. advanced or completed during this time:

- Women Of Worship and Helping Hands** - Lori Tappy; **Updated Security System** - James “Jim” Stewart, Dorothy “Sally” Shoppell-Lay, Dorothy “Dotty” Aitken;
- TV/Audio Sanctuary Project** - Rodney “Rod” Croxford, Judith “Judy” Glassmeyer.

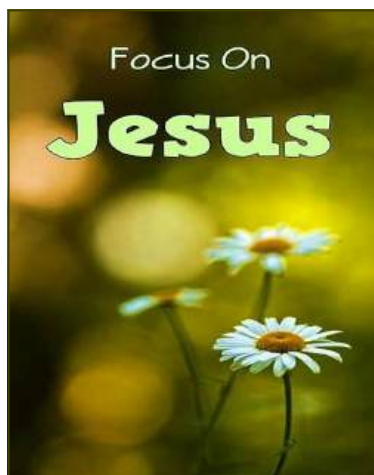


## WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

**8:45 a.m.**

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

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



### SEEKING GRADUATE INFORMATION

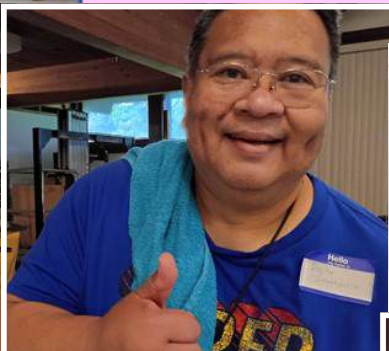
If you have a son, daughter, or grandkid who is a member or an active participant at St. Paul UMC graduating from 8th grade, high school, junior college, college, graduate school, trade school, etc. please, send their name and information to the Church Office so we are able to honor him or her on **Graduate Sunday,**

**June 28!**





# VBS 2026!



**We had an amazing week at VBS!** East Alton FUMC & St. Paul UMC offered **SHIPWRECKED** as the VBS program from May 26 to May 29. This program focused on how Jesus rescues us and how we can rescue others to live a life with Christ at the helm. We had **38 different children** during the week (with about 30 attending each night) and close to 20 volunteers each night for a meal and a program. The kids really enjoyed learning about Jesus' love. We learned songs and movements, did art projects, watched video stories, science experiments, played games, ate lots of food, heard many stories, and listed our God sightings.

*"This was such a blessing to me personally because I believe any bad day can be made better with interaction with children. These children soak up knowledge like it is water to a thirsty soul. Hearing children's laughter is balm for a weary body. I believe I laughed and enjoyed these children more than I have anything for a long while." ~Maggie Funke~*

Our VBS "after party" celebration was on Sunday after the VBS kids sang for the congregation. There were bounce houses, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, and of course in true Methodist fashion, more food! We really want to thank everyone (East Alton and St. Paul) who volunteered their time and/or money to make this year's VBS so successful! **Thank You all, Olivia Scifres**



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

**7th: Outdoor Worship in the Park begins today at 8:45!**

**2nd Sunday after Pentecost! Communion Today.**

Scriptures: *Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12;*  
*Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*



**14th: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost!**

Scriptures: *Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8;*  
*Matthew 9:35-10:8-23*



**21st: Father's Day! 4th Sunday after Pentecost!**

Scriptures: *Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17;*  
*Psalm 17:1-7 & 15; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39*

**28th: Graduate Sunday! 5th Sunday after Pentecost!**

Scriptures: *Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42*

**Weather permitting, we will worship in the Amphitheater every Sunday through the first Sunday in September!**

### **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~





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



**Gene Raymond Babcock, Sr.**, 89, of Bethalto, passed away at 3:23 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. He was born on October 25, 1936, in Bath, MI, the son of the late Lloyd Babcock & Mary (McPhee) Babcock, changed to Fero proceeding death of first husband, and beloved stepson of the late Cliff Fero.

On November 16, 1956, Gene married the former Shirley David in Providence, RI. They shared 51 beloved years together before her passing on November 5, 2007.

Gene is survived by four children: Donna (John) Bailey of Bethalto; Deborah (Kevin) Green of Channahon, IL; Michael (Carol) Babcock of Bethalto and Sandra (Jay) Harlan of Bethalto. He is also survived by sixteen grandchildren Ashley, Tyler,

Felecia, Amanda, Alysia, Angelina, Joshua, Jacob, Michael, Jonathan, Joseph, Amber, Brittney, Brooke, Kaydence, and Kristina and nineteen great-grandchildren. Additional survivors include his sister, Susie (Mitch) Steinburg of Kalispell, MT, and many extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, Gene was preceded in death by his son and daughter-in-law, Gene Raymond (Ray), Jr., & Orisa Babcock.

Gene proudly served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1959 as part of a patrol squadron. Following his military service, he worked as an electrician for General Motors for over 30 years and was previously employed by McDonnell Douglas and A.O. Smith. In retirement, Gene was a contactor and belonged to the real estate association, spending many fulfilling years building and remodeling homes through creative projects.

A man of strong faith, Gene & Shirley raised their family at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, where they were longtime members. Sundays were devoted to worship in the morning and large family gatherings in the afternoon. Together, they enjoyed a full and active life dancing, golfing, bowling, swimming, playing tennis and cards, traveling, and spending time with loved ones. Gene & Shirley also participated in several bowling leagues, including the St. Paul United Methodist couples league.

Above all, Gene was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He led by example teaching the value of hard work, kindness, faith, and unity. He took great pride in supporting his children and grandchildren, attending countless extracurricular events, and creating lasting family memories.

We would like to extend a special thank you to all nurses and supportive staff at Meridian Village for the compassionate care and kindness you showed Gene. Your dedication, support, and attention meant so much to him and our family. We are truly grateful for the love and care you provided.

Burial services will take place at Alton Veteran's National Cemetery in Alton, IL. Please, remember Gene's family in your prayers as they journey on without him. We have missed Gene here at St. Paul UMC. God Bless you all.





# JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Jun Jansen Helmkamp  
 01-Jun Eric Scroggins  
 02-Jun Sarah Fuentes  
 03-Jun Sarah Dawson  
 04-Jun Jon Birmingham  
 04-Jun Katie Lair  
 04-Jun Karen Roberts  
 04-Jun Jonathan Scroggins  
 05-Jun Jennifer Sandbach  
 06-Jun Donna Bailey  
 06-Jun Ruth Champlin  
 06-Jun Scott Cruthis  
 06-Jun Don Franklin  
 07-Jun Joyce Brueggeman  
 07-Jun Pastor Debra Hoertel  
 07-Jun Benson Friese  
 08-Jun Vi Huebner  
 09-Jun Jimmy Bourne  
 09-Jun J.J. Burt Jr.  
 09-Jun Jacob Gwaltney  
 09-Jun Tori Standefer  
 10-Jun Aubrey Sandbach  
 10-Jun Olivia Virgin  
 10-Jun Claire McPheters  
 11-Jun Gary Hart

11-Jun Lindsey Jensen  
 12-Jun Debbie Bowman  
 12-Jun Cheryl Champa  
 12-Jun Deb Fansler  
 14-Jun Harper Herndon  
 14-Jun Dave Schiber  
 15-Jun Autumn Betts  
 15-Jun Ashley Sheppard  
 16-Jun Trista Liedtke  
 17-Jun Brianne Bourne  
 17-Jun Jenny Spurgeon  
 18-Jun Nicole Barnes  
 18-Jun Madelynn Cranmer  
 18-Jun Samantha Hermens  
 18-Jun August Suermann  
 18-Jun Xavier Vore  
 18-Jun Zoe Vore  
 19-Jun Dustin Caldwell  
 19-Jun Sydnie Yates

20-Jun Karen Martin  
 20-Jun Annie Redden  
 20-Jun Amie Tillery  
 20-Jun Abigail White  
 21-Jun Lawson Bell  
 22-Jun Ethan Virgin  
 23-Jun Wanda Graves  
 23-Jun John White  
 25-Jun Caden Clark  
 25-Jun Summer Standefer  
 25-Jun Steve Voorhees  
 27-Jun Jamie McLain  
 27-Jun Kaden Sandbach  
 28-Jun Katy Hoertel  
 30-Jun William Lair



# JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



07-Jun John & Laurie Myers  
 08-Jun Brian & Chris Eyster  
 09-Jun Terry & Sharon Inman  
 10-Jun Cory & Jackie Boeshans  
 11-Jun Randy & Joyce Brueggeman  
 11-Jun Rick & Jeannie Huddleston  
 14-Jun Steve & Julie Natsch

17-Jun Jay & Tracy Bentley  
 18-Jun Matthew & Tori Ludwig  
 20-Jun Neil & Jade Herndon  
 24-Jun Larry & Iola Ballard  
 25-Jun Matt & Cara Gwaltney  
 26-Jun Richard & Dell Demond  
 26-Jun Mike & Teresa Toner

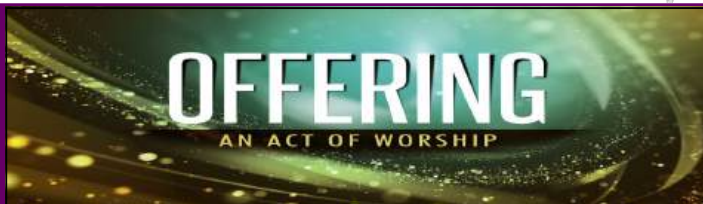
## WE NEED UPDATES FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY!

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



### MAY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	5/1/2026 thru 5/31/2026	\$15,496.00
Designated Giving:	5/1/2026 thru 5/31/2026	3,945.10
	Capital Improvements	205.00
	Loose Change	42.10
	Flowers	30.00
	Helping Hands	100.00
	Operation Blessing	100.00
	Parking Lot Work	1,380.00
	Upper Room Donations	3.00
	Easter Offering	50.00
	Miracle Sunday Offering	160.00
	Memorials	1,875.00
Online Giving	-General Fund	351.50
Online Giving	-Memorial	41.10
Transfer from	-Endowment Fund	10,000.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$29,833.70</b>



**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  
JULY 2026 STEEPLE,  
Friday, June 19th!**



### MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

June's Loose Change Project is the Happy Bear Project for our church. Members of the church make bears that are given to Alton Memorial Hospital. These are then offered to children in pediatrics and/or coming through the emergency room in a time of crisis. The bears provide security and comfort for the children.

May God bless your gifts!

We are living in a time where Satan doesn't even hide anymore, and the world still can't see him.

1 PETER 5:8



**Bring your family for Fathers' Day - June 21st**  
We will recognize: Oldest Father present, Youngest Father present, Father with the most children present, Father with the most grandchildren present, Father with the youngest grandchild present, and Father with the oldest child present!

**Preparing for the addition of new visual technology in the Sanctuary.**





### Team Honduras News!

Team Honduras is **going back this year** and is asking for donations of **single toothbrushes** and **travel-sized toothpaste (no particular brand)! There is a box on one of the hallway tables where you can place your donations this month.** As always, thank you for your generosity!  
**Blessings! Pastor Debra & Joe of Team Honduras 2026**



**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 or outside after the Children's Moment...as this may look different once we are outside for worship! See you on Sundays!**

**This is currently for children ages 5-10 years old.**

**WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!**



Faith is not about everything turning out okay.

Faith is about being okay no matter how things turn out.



**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!!**



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

## 2026 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

**June 7:** by **Matthew & Tori Ludwig** in celebration of **their 10th Wedding Anniversary (6/18)!**  
**June 14:** by **Herndon Family** in memory of **Sam Herndon.**  
**June 21:** by **Larry & Iola Ballard** in celebration of **their 65th Wedding Anniversary (6/24)!**  
**June 28:** by **The Dawsons** in memory of **their friend, Les Graham.**



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

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

June 1-2,8-9,15-16,22-23,29-30 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

June 3,10,17,24 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday weekday off

June 4-5,11-12,18-19,25-26 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.

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



## 2026 STEWARDSHIP

→ **REMEMBER YOUR GIVING!**

...to keep the ministry of St. Paul UMC growing;  
 a ministry which is needed now more than ever! Thank you!!



## 2026 Annual Conference June 4-6, 2026

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



**PLEASE  
HELP US  
HELP YOU!**

*Hospice...  
Hospital...  
Nursing/Care Center...*

Whenever you or a member of your family enters the hospital, rehab/care/nursing center, or hospice, you need to call the Pastor or the Church Office to let us know (and make sure we know the person's official name). None of the area institutions will notify the church when you enter their facility due to privacy laws (very few exceptions). We want to reach out to you at a time when you and your family may need it the most. Your call may be the only way for us to know of the situation.

Thank you for your help!

**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-*

*Blessed  
to be a  
Blessing*



JUNE · 2026 · STEEPLE



# FAMILY NIGHT

## IN OUR PARK

**AT ST. PAUL UMC**

10 N. Center St., East Alton

**Sunday June 7th, 5-7p.m.**

**FREE FUN!!!**

**Hot dogs and s'mores** from the campfire.  
**Beverages** are available. **Yard games** in the park.  
Bring your favorite lawn chair. Hope to see you there!

## BASEMENT SALE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



30 N. 6TH ST.  
WOOD RIVER, IL  
JUNE 13, 2026  
7 AM - 3 PM

Something for everyone!! Donations from multiple families  
Have to come to see the variety of items.

**LEFT HANDED BOW**, File Cabinet, small weighted blanket  
Xmas & Fall items, Easter, Sweater rack for drying  
Toys, Books, Crafts, knick knacks Shoes, Purses,  
stuffed animals like new, deep fryer,  
Games & Puzzles, DVD's, Household Items, Jewelry,  
Bath and Body items, shower chair, stroller, porta crib  
2X thru 4x Mens clothing  
2x & 3x women's clothing  
Lots of small women's clothing  
& variety of kids,

**RAIN OR SHINE**

Proceeds go to the UM Central Secretaries Circle (CSC)  
Belinda 618-556-0456



# Needlecraft Nights!

**@ St. Paul United Methodist Church  
10 N. Center Street, East Alton**

**Are you interested in learning how to knit, crochet,  
embroider, sew, quilt, etc.?**

Maybe you know how to do some of these, but can't find  
the "time" at home to refine your skills.

Maybe you have been "crafting" for a long time and  
would love to find a few friends to visit with while you  
work with your hands.

We are planning on opening the church on the  
**2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings**  
**every month starting in May**  
**from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

to provide an opportunity for you to learn new skills or to  
hone the skills you already have started to develop.

If you have one, bring your project, or let us help you find  
a craft you will enjoy and we will supply the starting items  
needed! **Questions?? Call 618-259-5210!**