



The Steeple

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

SEPTEMBER 2026



To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

John 10:28 ²⁸ *...and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."*

Blessed be the name of the Lord. I am confident that as you read this newsletter, you will be filled with the Holy Spirit's love, joy, and peace. I know we had challenges last month, but God was, as always... faithful to the end. **John 10:28** is very timely. The promise of God is that nothing can ever snatch us from the Lord's hand. Not only are we given eternal life, but it also means death is out of the picture. These are comforting and encouraging words. Jesus said it himself in the **Gospel of Matthew**, when the disciples, in fear for their lives, saw Jesus walking on water in the middle of the storm, saying, **"It is I; do not be afraid."**

Let us not be afraid of what lies in the future. Let us not be weary as if lost and no one to turn to. Let us not lose hope because we have a God that can relate to our sufferings and difficulties. We have a God who went through pain and persecution. **Isaiah** prophesied in chapter and verses **53:5-8**

⁵ ***But HE (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions; HE was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon HIM; and with HIS stripes we are healed.***

⁶ ***All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on HIM the iniquity of us all.***

⁷ ***HE was oppressed, and HE was afflicted, yet he opened not HIS mouth: HE is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so HE openeth not his mouth.***

⁸ ***HE was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare HIS generation? For HE was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was HE stricken. (KJV)***

Friends, this prophecy was from the Old Testament and was fulfilled in the New Testament. It is something to think about. Jesus died for our sins. But let us not forget, His death led to His resurrection, assuring everlasting life to those who will believe and remain in the Lord. This month of September, let us be sincere, with urgency, and love from our hearts, that we face every day with hope and resilience. I mean, what else could we ask for? JESUS already gave his life for you and me. Right? It is now time to take up the cross and follow Jesus. Let us remain faithful to the end; let us stop all our worrying. Start trusting and praying with much thanksgiving. Remember the promise: those who believe will never get snatched out of God's hands. Have a wonderful month of September. Praise God, and to God be the glory. 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 **Teri Lynn Lathrom (64)**, sister of our former Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham; **Jason Egelhoff (49)**, great nephew of the late Alice Burrows and cousin of Sue Carr; **Rev. Harold "Dean" Blackburn (84)**, member of EAFUMC, former pastor of several local churches, father of Angela (David) Sarandis of EAFUMC; **Patricia Warren (75)**, friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell; **Ann Gowin (87)**, sister-in-law of Joyce Tappy; and **Ruth Champlin (94)**, sister of Dorothy Kasinger Ann Reichert, and the late Margie Hall (see obit on page 3). **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace.**
- **Congratulations!** **Sean & Sydney (Martin) Pontow** are the proud parents of a son, **Harrison Matthew!** The grandparents, Ian & Tamera Martin, are also very delighted! (See the photo -->)



- **Congratulations** to our 2026 Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship recipients, **Claire Shaw and Noah Smith.** (<--See the photo)

THANK YOU: Thank you Pastor Ed for your wonderful eulogy regarding our father, Gene Babcock. Your voice is phenomenal. Thank you to all the men and women who took the time out of their busy schedules to prepare, serve, and clean up after the Babcock clan. It was a very special and tender tribute to us and to our father's memory. Thank you all! **-Love, the Babcocks: Donna, Debbie, Mike, and Sandy**

THANK YOU: Hello! Just sending an extra thank you to you all for your partnership this year! This card (on bulletin board) is a print of art made for our partners by a Spero Youth! You have made an impact on the lives of those in your surrounding community!
-Spero Family Services

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: The Outreach Ministry Team thanks everyone for giving to help the students!! Donated items will be counted and divided between the schools! May God Bless you!



Thank You!!

Our church is blessed to have a committed group of people who put in some extra effort so we can have our lovely outdoor service through the summer.

A big THANK YOU to Randy McLain, Mark Mayer, Steve Campbell, John Hendricks, and Mike Tappy. We appreciate you! ~ Worship Ministry Team



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Ruth Marilyn (Strohbeck) Champlin, 94, passed away Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at La Bella of Alton. Born June 6, 1932 in Brighton, she was a daughter of Victor & Beulah (Gentry) Strohbeck. She married George Harvey Champlin Feb. 16, 1952 in Bethalto. George preceded her in death Jan. 28, 1999.

Ruth worked for Owens-Illinois in Alton for 30 years, Delivery Network for 15 years, and Foxes Grove Supportive Living for over 10 years.

Survivors include a daughter, Kathy Wenzel of Pascagoula, MS; a son, Robert Champlin of Hartford; five grandchildren Johnny S. Hash, Christopher L. Champlin, Taryn Perkins, Amber Steinmetz, and Tyler Wenzel; nine great grandchildren; two sisters, Dorothy Kasinger of East

Alton and Ann Reichert of Suwannee, GA; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Margie Hall; and a son, Thomas Champlin.

Here at St. Paul we have missed Ruth as she had to move into assisted living but her spirit of God's joy lives on and we pray for her family as they journey on without her.



See You at the Pole (SYATP) started in Burleson TX, in 1990 and is now a global movement of Christian students, burdened for their schools and classmates, who gather around the flag-pole early in the school year for a time of prayer and worship.

For some students, this may be their initial opportunity to take a stand for their faith with their peers in an environment like this. It is an opportunity for parents and youth leaders to encourage students to pray for their classmates and for their teachers.

Although this must be a student-led event, parents and other adults can stand in a circle around the students as a

show of protection, support, and to pray for them.

Students are facing greater challenges to their faith than ever before. Some will be attending schools where the leadership is very anti-Christian. Some will sit in classrooms with teachers who will challenge their faith or teach things totally contrary to biblical truth.

We need to stand with our students. Support them. Encourage them and help them navigate these challenging times.

For 2026 the date is Wed., September 23rd! Pray for our youth & their schools!



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

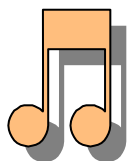


6th: Final Outdoor Worship in the Park! 15th Sunday after Pentecost! Communion Today. Scriptures: *Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 or Psalm 148; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20*

13th: 16th Sunday after Pentecost! Scriptures: *Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35*

20th: 17th Sunday after Pentecost! Scriptures: *Exodus 16:2-25; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, or Psalm 78; Acts 1:14-21, 33-35; Matthew 20:1-16*

27th: 18th Sunday after Pentecost! Scriptures: *Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Acts 3:1-19; Matthew 21:23-32*



Weather permitting, we will Worship in the Amphitheater on 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~



WALL OF FAME

On August 6th Mark Bacus was inducted into the Alton High School Wall of Fame at the school district's Partners in Education Luncheon. There were ten inductees altogether.

Mark wrote that, "It is extremely heartwarming to be enshrined on the Wall with two of the great influences and mentors of my youth - Kenneth Conrady and Cliff Davenport! It pleases me to know that the fine arts are being recognized because over the years, Alton High has generated



many gifted professional actors, directors, musicians, dancers, writers, and artists."

For 36 years Mark was the Assistant to the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at SIUE and in charge of Faculty Human Relations.

CONGRATULATIONS MARK!



COATS 4 KIDS DRIVE:

The drive will go from **Sept. 27 thru Nov. 1**. We ask that if you can, please, add a gift for the Riverbend Head Start & Family Services **"COATS 4 KIDS DRIVE"** in with your tithes and offerings, or give it separately. Mark on the front of your offering envelope or on the check memo the amount we should send to them for this! Thank you so much! Call the church with questions (618-259-5210).

-OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM-

HAPPY AUTUMN



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M
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22



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Sep Christi Baggett
 01-Sep Jay Bentley III
 01-Sep Arik Newingham
 02-Sep Jenni Ortegren
 03-Sep Al Poston
 04-Sep Cherie Buatte
 04-Sep George Hamilton Sr.
 04-Sep John Hendricks
 05-Sep Damian Newingham
 06-Sep Josh Gowan
 06-Sep Jason Henderson
 06-Sep Ryan Tite
 07-Sep Kamryn Bell
 07-Sep Jim Dawson
 08-Sep Justin Bottorff
 08-Sep Grace Campbell
 09-Sep Angie Hansard
 09-Sep Liam Oertle
 09-Sep Matthew Poston
 10-Sep Jake Birmingham
 10-Sep Zelda Plummer
 10-Sep Christy Scroggins
 11-Sep Don Bunt Sr.
 11-Sep Marc Ortegren
 12-Sep David Badman

13-Sep Tamara Atchley
 13-Sep Susan Cameron
 13-Sep Chelsea Georgeoff
 14-Sep Dan Bunt
 14-Sep Kiley Herndon
 15-Sep Nora Gwaltney
 16-Sep Jerry Cameron
 16-Sep Dick Redden
 16-Sep Jeff Skjerseth
 17-Sep Nic Weigler
 18-Sep Christian Greer
 18-Sep Linda Scroggins
 19-Sep Bettie Lewis
 19-Sep Paul Skjerseth
 19-Sep Ashley Springer
 20-Sep Blake Boeshans
 20-Sep David Buatte
 21-Sep Ella Clark
 21-Sep Dani Wilson
 22-Sep Neil Herndon
 22-Sep Carol Warner

23-Sep Baylee Allshouse
 23-Sep Nathan Shewmake
 24-Sep Tanner Betts
 24-Sep Tim Bunt
 24-Sep Kellie Greer
 25-Sep Hayley Schlemer
 25-Sep Phil Tite
 26-Sep Bob Blacklock
 26-Sep Sarah Laufersweiler
 26-Sep Ashley Poore
 26-Sep Lily Roberts
 26-Sep Debbie Tite
 26-Sep Jan Williams
 27-Sep David Betts
 27-Sep Becky Chester
 27-Sep Donna Ewing
 27-Sep Sharon Inman
 29-Sep Jordan Brown
 29-Sep Kara Martin
 29-Sep Steven Tite

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

02-Sep Jason & Gretchen Henderson
 04-Sep Daryl & Deb Fansler
 06-Sep Jason & Lindsey Mayer
 15-Sep Donovan & Caitlyn Hale
 16-Sep Christopher & Megan Ricketts
 17-Sep Chris & Susan Cameron
 18-Sep Jerry & Cathy Cameron
 19-Sep Cory & Caroline Crandall

20-Sep Bryan & Katie Clark
 20-Sep Ross & Debbie Eggebrecht
 24-Sep Nicholas & Julie Hobbs
 26-Sep Ryan & Savannah Cincoski
 26-Sep Don & Diane Ford Sr.
 27-Sep Ryan & Megan Parker
 29-Sep Gary & Shirley Clark

happy birthday



WE NEED UPDATES FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY!

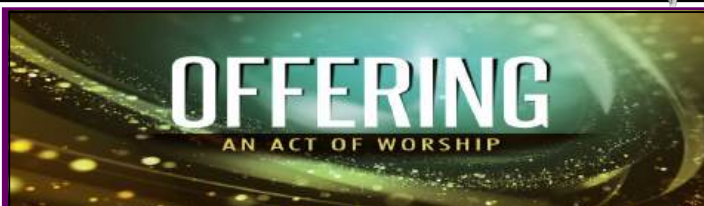
Please contact the church office if you (OR A FAMILY MEMBER) have had a **change of address, phone number, or email address since the last printing!** Please, **check the Workbook in the Entryway once it shows up now that we are coming back inside!** Thank you for your help!

**AUGUST Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	7/1/2026 thru 7/31/2026	\$13,419.00
Designated Giving:	7/1/2026 thru 7/31/2026	1,270.88
	Capital Improvements	180.00
	Loose Change	58.88
	Flowers	20.00
	Helping Hands	50.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	500.00
	Parking Lot Work	130.00
	Upper Room Donations	2.00
	Trustees Emerg Res Fund	80.00
	Memorials	200.00
	UMCOR	50.00
	Online Giving -General Fund	351.50
Total:		\$15,041.38

**DEADLINE FOR
OCTOBER 2026
STEEPLE,
Mon., Sept. 21st!**

I DON'T ALWAYS
Sing...
OH WAIT. **Yes I do**



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!

**MONTHLY LOOSE
CHANGE PROJECT**

September's Loose Change Project is Trinity UMC in East St. Louis/Washington Park. The ministry of the church has expanded to provide worship services, VBS, and a food pantry to the Hispanic Community. The need is greater than the resources of the local church which is why we help. There are a dedicated membership and a strong youth program at both sites. May God bless and multiply your gifts!



WOW Crafts have been meeting on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
We also meet on **THURSDAYS** at 9:00 a.m. each week.
We want to have the crafts completed in time!
Please, join us!!

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!**

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-



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 while 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!!



Looking for a meaningful way to serve? Join us for the Serving September Blessing Bag Pack on September 24-25 at the Midwest Mission locations.

Midwest Mission Serving September is a month dedicated to service. You can reinvigorate your community by getting them excited about serving and making a difference around the world and around the corner. Join people around the Midwest for a month of serving!

In just a two-hour volunteer shift, you'll help pack 12,000 Blessing Bags, enough to provide 72,000 nutritious meals for people facing hunger because of disasters, conflict, and humanitarian crises around the world. No experience is needed and individuals, families, churches, businesses, and community groups are all welcome.

St. Paul UMC is looking for 10 people who can go to volunteer on September 24th from 1-3p.m. to help pack Blessing Bags at Midwest Mission in Chatham. We hope to carpool or maybe take the church bus and we will leave early enough to stop for lunch on the way. If this is for you, please, sign-up (sheet will be out soon) or call Dennis Tuchalski with any questions you might have (618-791-2872).



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!!





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! 3 SUNDAYS IN
NOVEMBER REMAIN!
KEEP FILLING IN THE DATES! THANK**

**POINSETTIA ORDERS
WILL BE TAKEN IN
SEPTEMBER! WATCH FOR
THE INFORMATION AND
THE ORDER
SHEETS!!**



2026 ALTAR FLOWER INFORMATION:

Sep 6: by **John & Leona Hendricks** in celebration of **John's (9/4) Birthday!**
6: by **Virginia Croxford** in memory of **Rod's (9/4) Birthday!**
Sep 13: by **Dorothy Kasinger** in celebration of **Don Bunt's Birthday (9/11)!**
Sep 20: by **Donna Badman** in memory of **the Birthdays of her Parents, Charles & Irene McKean.**
Sep 27: by **Beulah Moore** in memory of **her Husband, Ben Moore.**



SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):
(ALSO, IT IS POSTED ON THE CHURCH OFFICE DOOR)

September 1,7-8,14-15,21-22,28-29 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
September 2,9,16,23,30 = Office Closed for regular Wednesday weekday off
September 3-4,10-11,17-18,24-25 = 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.
→ **ON September 7 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY!**
→ **ON September 10 OUT FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m.**
FOR A LUNCH MEETING AWAY.



2026 FALL FESTIVAL

**Coming Saturday October 17th,
Lunch AND Dinner will be served!
Watch for the sign-up sheets once back inside!**

**The ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL will soon be here!
It will be on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17th this year from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
We will have our famous Chicken & Noodles, the Vegetable Soup, etc. The craft ladies
have been busy creating a variety of crafts and gifts – remember to shop your “home
church” first! Pick up gifts for the “special people” you want to remember during the
holidays including treats for your kids and grandkids. Don’t forget to stop at the baked
goods, candy, jams/jellies, plants, AND farmer’s market tables.**

Lunch to be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Dinner to be served from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

If you can’t “dine-in” we’ll be glad to fix a “Take-Home-A-Meal.”

**In order to make the FALL FESTIVAL a success we will need lots of help!
Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Sign-up will be
starting very soon! If you miss signing up at church & want to donate or work,
please, call Karen Martin at 618-792-7303 or the church office, 618-259-5210,
with your information. Proceeds from this project and all others held during
the year will be disbursed to our mission groups at the end of the year.**

See you at the WOW Fall Festival 2026!

➔ INFORMATION - PLEASE READ! ➔

**Non-refrigerated items like: cookies, cakes, pies, and breads can be
made at home. Candy, jams, and jellies can be made at home as well.
Nothing that needs to be refrigerated can be made at home; only here.
Please, keep in mind how much of everything we are going to be needing
for this year’s “day-long Fall Festival” (like last year) after holding shorter
ones since the pandemic began. Thank you for your patience as we
continue to learn safe ways to nurture our community. And thank you in
advance for every bit of your help this year!**