The Steeple

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

NOVEMBER 2026





To the People of St. Paul United Methodist Church,

1 Peter 3:15 Peter writes, ***"15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;"***

The peace of the Lord be with you all. I am sure many of us cannot believe how fast this year has gone by. The good news is that we are moving forward. We are moving towards the will and plan of the Father. We are blessed indeed! May you receive and feel the love of Jesus Christ all the more during this November 2026. And may the good Lord use you to share the saving grace of our Lord. We are in challenging times. But our God is greater. There is work to be done and so I would like to share with you a devotion that I read about the Great Commission from Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:18-20… the writer writes:

"The Christian life is an active life - one given over to working, serving, sharing, and loving. It's tempting to think that being a believer mostly means showing up for church each week and putting something in the offering plate. Those are good habits. But Jesus' final charge to His disciples encompassed far more.

In today's passage, Jesus tells His followers to "go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (v. 19). Notice He doesn't say "convert" or "recruit" but "make" disciples. A disciple is someone who walks alongside, watches, learns, and slowly becomes like the teacher. That kind of formation doesn't happen automatically. It takes place over meals and loving conversations, through friendships and seasons, as faith becomes visible in how we live.

This takes pressure off. To have a kingdom impact, you don't have to quit your job to become a missionary, and you don't have to convince your neighbors with a gospel presentation. Simply notice the people God has put in your life and live in a way that shows honesty, love, and genuine interest in them. Then, when questions come, answer them with gentleness (1 Peter 3:15).

Most Christians were influenced by people they already knew and trusted, who showed love before ever sharing their faith in Jesus. That's the quiet, lifelong work Christ has given us."

For us to do the Great Commission, we need to get up, get motivated, and be intentional on how we share the hope of Christ. As 1 Peter 3:15 said: *sanctify the Christ who is in you and make Him a priority.* So, when people ask who Jesus is in our lives, we tell them the truth with gentleness and reverence. Let us remain excited in the work of the Lord. All to God's glory!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. My family and I felt your love. And for that we give our gratitude.

This November, give tribute to all the Saints who have gone on to be with the Lord. Blessings on our Veterans this November 11th. And may a very Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving be enjoyed by everyone!



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 **Debbie Short (70),** sister of Maggie Funke, who lived in Alabama; and **Joyce "Gayle" Sitze (90),** constituent of St. Paul UMC for many years, and friend to lots of folks **(see obit below)**. **May everyone who is touched by loss know God's peace.**

THANK YOU: Scott and I just want to thank everyone for all of your prayers and texts while we were healing. We are so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family. Love to you all. Thank you! ***-Scott & Jamie Gwaltney*** **(More on Page 8)**

THE ST. PAUL SINGERS!

EVERYONE IS WELCOMED! We have been invited to sing **Christmas Carols** at the **East Alton Museum** on **Saturday, Dec. 5** as part of the Annual East Alton Christmas event. We would love to have several folks join in singing for this...we will **meet at St. Paul UMC at 3p.m. on Dec. 5** and **warm-up until 3:30p.m.** We will then **carpool or use van** and head to the museum to our parking spots! **We will sing from 4-6p.m.** and then we might pick a place nearby to **enjoy a meal together** before going back to the church! For more information **OR** to sign-up, call the church office, **618-259-5210** or call Maggie Funke, **618-973-9013!**

We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Joyce "Gayle" Sitze, 90, passed away the morning of October 8, 2026 at Staunton Health & Rehab Center in Staunton, IL. She was born September 24, 1936 in Grassy, MO, to William Joseph & Zola Marie (Newell) Kirkpatrick. She married Charles Lindell Sitze June 4, 1955, also of Grassy and relocated to the Wood River, IL area.

She is survived by a daughter, Connie (Brian) Hassel of Bunker Hill and a son, Brad Sitze of East Alton. In the late 80s and early 90s, she became the proud grandmother of four grandchildren, Jesse and Jake Sitze and David (Kayla) and Ashlie Hassel, and one great grandson, Henry, who was born in 2024.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents and three brothers, Milford, Charles Lee, and twin brother Dale Kirkpatrick.

Throughout the 60s, Gayle managed the Fabric Store in Wood River, Eastgate Plaza, and other metro east locations. In the 70s, she founded and co-owned Belles & Brides Bridal Shop, also in East Alton. In the 80s she worked in the Main Office of Olin Corporation. In retirement, being a grandmother became the focus of her life, and she took great joy in it. Gayle also enjoyed cooking, reading books, planting flowers, playing cards, volunteering at the Senior Citizen Center in Bethalto, and babysitting grandchildren and Tuco (the dog). She was a constituent at St. Paul UMC for many years.

As her health declined during the past two years, she moved into an assisted living facility in Staunton. She looked forward to visits from some very special people: Terry (Betty) Sitze, Phyllis Hill & Larry Bryan and good friends, Julie & Mark Calvanese. She enjoyed the baked goods and small gifts they would bring to brighten her days. The family would also like to acknowledge the very special people at Staunton Rehab & Health and Heartland Hospice. They were all fantastic—Thank you!

Please, remember to pray for Gayle's family and friends as they journey on without her.

Thank You!!

2026 FALL FESTIVAL

THANK YOU: The **Women of Worship** send a super big thank you to everyone who helped with the **FALL FESTIVAL** in **any** way! Working, donating, buying, cooking, cleaning up, etc. It is all important, necessary, and you were wonderful! Approximately **$4020.00** was raised so far (with more coming in as crafts continue to be sold and this month we will start selling pecans)! Thank you doesn't seem like enough but it is what we have to give...God Bless you all for what you do to make this event even possible!



WOW Fall Festival Evaluation Meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 3
At NOON



Christmas Party Potluck 2026

Monday, December 7th at NOON!

Potluck – bring your favorite dish of food! And socks & underwear for the Cap 'N Mitten Tree!

We will disburse our 2026 funds.

ALL St. Paul women are welcome!

Needlecraft Nights!

Last meeting Wed., Nov. 11, 6p.m. then pausing until 2027!



THEY ARE READY TO BUY!

Regular 1lb. bag = $12 Are here!

Chocolate-covered 1lb. bag = $14 soon!

St. Paul Sunday Service in NOVEMBER 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!



1st: All Saints Sunday. Communion. Daylight Saving Time Ends. Scriptures: *Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Acts 11:1-18; Matthew 23:1-12*







8th: Veterans' Sunday! Scriptures: *Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13*

15th: Scriptures: *Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123 or 76; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30*



22nd: Christ The King/Reign Of Christ Sunday. Thanksgiving Sunday.

Bounty Sunday. We will bless all of the many things that we have given so far in 2026! Scriptures: *Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46*





27th: HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!



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~

COATS 4 KIDS DRIVE:

The drive will go thru November 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! -OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM-

SEASONAL ITEMS!

THANKSGIVING and CHRISTMAS ITEMS!



There are still several beautiful decorations and possible gifts for purchase in the Fellowship Hall. Remember to go see if anything is what you are looking for. You may even come during the week to shop!



-Women Of Worship-

Thank you to everyone who was able to order their poinsettias by the "really early" September 27th date. If you missed it, we did order 2 extras in case you want to be included! Please, call the church office ASAP!





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Nov	Richard Demond
01-Nov	Kyle Norris
03-Nov	Monna Bishop
04-Nov	Maximus Justice
05-Nov	Raegan Martin
05-Nov	Amber McCammon
06-Nov	Karen Hatten
06-Nov	Brett Huff
06-Nov	Madelaine Ramirez
06-Nov	Morgann Ramirez
06-Nov	Lilly Shaffer
07-Nov	Corinne Crandall
07-Nov	Courtney Dorsey
08-Nov	Donna Badman
08-Nov	Christopher Ricketts
09-Nov	Caroline Crandall
11-Nov	Julie Brown
11-Nov	Bill Crain Jr.
12-Nov	Daniel Jensen Jr.
12-Nov	Charlie Sparling
13-Nov	Charles McKnelly
14-Nov	Jim Funke
14-Nov	Julie Natsch
15-Nov	Cathy Dorsey
15-Nov	Steve Natsch
17-Nov	Kristi Ward
18-Nov	Ashley Williams
18-Nov	Heather McCammon
19-Nov	Nathan Chester
20-Nov	Matthew Ludwig
21-Nov	Emma Martin
21-Nov	Jason Ortegren
22-Nov	Ryleigh Spurgeon
25-Nov	Jill Taylor-Sullivan
26-Nov	Emma Wood
27-Nov	Paul Mormino
27-Nov	Greg Mortland
28-Nov	Dan Davis
29-Nov	Jacob Crews
30-Nov	Sam Brown
30-Nov	Adyson Bunt
30-Nov	Dot Elliott
30-Nov	Rachel McPheters



NOVEMBER ANIVERSARIES

01-Nov	Mark & Debbie Bacus
01-Nov	Douglas & Susan Phelps
02-Nov	Brian & Caroline Fuentes
03-Nov	Mickey & Cathy Dorsey
05-Nov	Daniel Jr. & Lindsey Jensen
07-Nov	Mike & Bobbie Jean Schlemer
11-Nov	Josh & Jordan Brown
18-Nov	Ian & Tamera Martin
23-Nov	Allan & Kyle Napp
26-Nov	Jim & Anita Dawson
29-Nov	Mike & Ricci Voorhees



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!** Thank you for your help!

OCTOBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	10/1/2026 thru 10/31/2026	**$8,964.00**
Designated Giving:	10/1/2026 thru 10/31/2026	**2,286.01**
	Capital Improvements	180.00
	Loose Change	47.81
	Flowers	68.00
	Helping Hands	150.00
	Coats 4 Kids	125.00
	Parking Lot Work	205.00
	Upper Room Donations	4.00
	Pastor Appreciation	25.00
	Memorials	245.00
	Christmas Offering	100.00
	World Communion Offering	20.00
Reimbursements:	From Hickerson Scholarship	1000.00
	From ADP (new software)	116.20
Online Giving:	**-General Fund**	**562.50**
Total:		**$11,812.51**

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2026 STEEPLE, Friday, NOV. 20th!





***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

The November Loose Change Project is the **Mid-West Mission Distribution Center** in Pawnee, IL. This is a United Methodist warehouse/depot out of which materials and supplies are distributed throughout the United States and the world at times of natural and man-made disasters. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

MORE: OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!



- **Congratulations** to Engineer **Will Korinek** on graduating from the Christian Hospital EMS Academy Paramedic Program. He will now complete his field internship and prepare for the National Registry Exam. **(See photo!)**



- With every player in its lineup finishing among the top 12 individuals, the Marquette girls golf team placed first Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026, in a nine-hole match against Roxana, Red Bud, and Civic Memorial at Belk Park Golf Course. **Maggie Pruetzel** led Marquette with a personal-best nine-hole score of 2-under-par 34, earning medalist honors. **Congratulations! (See photo!)**



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 ages 5-10 years old.

WE HOPE YOU ARE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE!!

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-***



* 2026 STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS! *

On November 8th we will start to collect toward the 2026 Staff Christmas Gifts thru Sunday, December 13th.

Give your gifts to Becky Tuchalski, Joyce Brueggeman, Deb Mayer, or Jayme Scroggins!

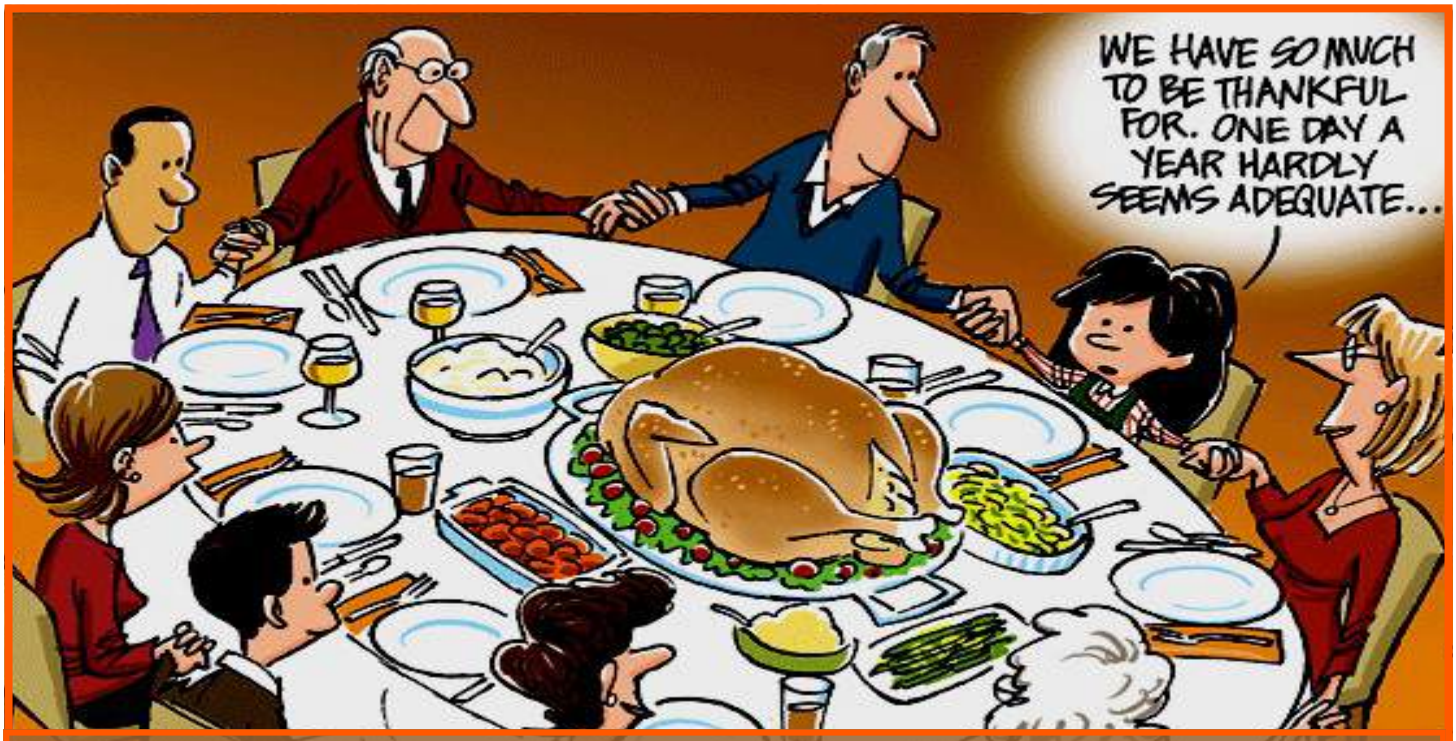
You may also mail or bring your gift to the office during the week!

If using a check, mark on memo as: Staff Christmas Gift









Happy Thanksgiving Everyone! Nov. 26



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:

Nov 1: by **Rita & John White** in honor of **our Pastor and our Church Family!**
Nov 8: by **Mike & Ricci Voorhees** in honor of **all of The Veterans.**
Nov 15: by **The Brueggemans** in honor of **all of Their Family!**
Nov 22: by **The Dawsons** in celebration of **their 61st Wedding Anniversary!**
Nov 29: by **Connie Hickerson** in honor of **Jill Taylor-Sullivan.**



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If bad weather requires the cancellation of our worship service and Sunday School, we will:

- **ACTIVATE "OTTO" OUR PHONE TREE CALLING SYSTEM!**
- **contact TV Channel 5 to list it**
- **post a notice on our website www.stpaulwired.org (if possible) and on our Facebook page (St. Paul United Methodist-East Alton IL)**
- **contact those on the e-mail prayer chain (if possible)**

NOVEMBER OFFICE HOURS (may be subject to change):

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

November 2-3,9-10,16-17,23-24, 30 = 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
November 4,11,18,25 (at 1p.m.)= Office Closed for regular Wednesday week day off
November 5-6,12-13,19-20,26-27= 10:00a.m. to 2 or 3:00p.m.
ON November 12 GONE FROM 11:15a.m. to 1:00p.m. FOR LUNCH MEETING AWAY.
➔ ON November 25 at 1p.m. Office Closed through November 26 for Thanksgiving.
➔ ON November 27 Office is Closed - Vacation Day!



There is a **"Thanksgiving Offering"** envelope in with your regular envelopes. As you plan what to give for a "Thanksgiving Offering," you may choose to designate it for a missionary, a mission project, or any local church fund. You may also leave it "undesignated."

This year the **undesignated monies** will go:
100% to the St. Paul UMC General Fund.
We thank you in advance for giving!



Everyone is welcomed to come help the Worship Ministry Team decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 28th from 9 a.m. - Noon!

Cap 'N Mitten Tree 2026



NOV. 8th - DEC. 6th!



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1



Outreach for Christmas

The **Student Councils of Roxana Jr. & Sr. High Schools** are preparing to host their **30th Annual Community Christmas for Kids.**
What Is Needed: monetary donations (average cost per child is **$35**). Make checks out to the **"RCUSD Student Councils"** and place it in an envelope marked: **RHS Kids Christmas** and give it to the church office or put it in the offering plate.
We need the donations by Nov. 27th.

Your generosity is always appreciated!



Annual Christmas Dinner

We are so excited to be able to let you know that we will have our **Annual Christmas Dinner 2026** here at St. Paul UMC and **the dinner will be a potluck!!** The church will provide the meat (ham and fried chicken), plates (etc.), and drinks and **you will bring all the other wonderful food!** We continue to have it earlier in the day as requested!

Saturday, December 12th at 1:00 p.m.

will be the **Annual 2026 Christmas Dinner** in the St. Paul UMC Fellowship Hall.
➔ *The deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 6th.*

Please, sign up below to let us know how many are coming and what you will be bringing! We want to make sure that there is plenty of a variety of food for everyone!

Please, complete the form below and put the **whole page** in the offering plate, bring it by or mail it to the St. Paul church office, contact the St. Paul church office with the info at **618-259-5210**, or send an email with the information in it to info@stpaulwired.org.
Be sure to join us for the special family time: fun, food, fellowship!

Christmas Dinner Reservation Form



Name _____Phone#_____

Number attending: Adults _____Children _____

I will bring (check all that apply):

___Vegetable Dish_____
___Salad (lettuce, potato, etc.)_____
___Pasta Dish_____
___Casserole_____
___Side Dish_____
___Dessert_____
___Other_____
___I can help with any clean-up when the event is over!

October 21, 2026

Name It: a reflection from the Leadership Gathering

Dear Friends in the Illinois Great Rivers and Iowa Conferences:

I arrived yesterday, October 20, at **the Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering** in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This is a time to gather with our United Methodist siblings from all over the world for holy conferencing and discernment about the future of The United Methodist Church.



I am here with Rev. Squire Prince, Rev. Dr. Cary Beckwith and Christina Krost from IGRC, and Rev. Katie Dawson, Kade Rogers and Rev. Dr. Heecheon Jeon from Iowa. Also here from Iowa is Rev. Brian Milford, President of the UM Publishing House.

PHOTO: *Illinois Great Rivers representatives from left to right: Rev. Dr. Cary Beckwith, Christina Krost, Bishop David Bard, Rev. Squire Prince and Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai.*

Our opening worship centered us in one of my favorite passages of scripture, Isaiah 43:19, which I will reflect on in future posts. You know it well. God is speaking to the Prophet Isaiah and to the people of Ancient Israel:

"Behold, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?"

Our opening plenary speaker reminded us that sometimes we are so focused on the past or the challenges of the present that we don't see what is emerging. This time in Calgary is an opportunity to see what God is doing right now in the church and in the world and to find ways to join God is shaping our future.

The organizers have divided us into small groups for holy conferencing, much like our founder, John Wesley, created classes and bands. My group is comprised largely of clergy and laity under the age of 35. Members are from around the world. Indeed, most of the members of my small group are from countries other than the United States.

This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to hear voices from our worldwide church. However, in our plenary, we acknowledged those who are not with us, especially those who have been unable to travel because of Visa restrictions or in **countries experiencing an Ebola outbreak**. Please keep these siblings in your prayers.

Over the next several days, our conferencing together will have three movements:
NAME IT—RESPOND TO IT—IMAGINE IT

Today we will focus on naming and diagnosing our realities. **Our materials describe it this way:**
"A 'Named Reality' is a significant condition, change, challenge, opportunity or tension shaping the life and mission of The United Methodist Church that requires our attention. A 'Named Reality' describes what is true now. It may arise from cultural, technological, theological, demographic, economic, institutional or ecclesial change."

I invite you to conference with us.

1. What are the named realities in your context?
2. What are the realities of your "now" that require the attention of the church and might shape a response?

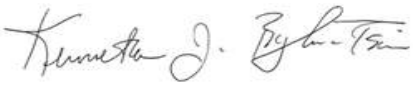
Now I would ask you to stretch beyond your context, recognizing that we are a worldwide church in ministry across the globe.

1. What might be the 'named reality' for a United Methodist outside of the United States? Ukraine, Germany, France, Uganda, Zimbabwe, the Philippines? Or anywhere else you might imagine?
2. What might be the named reality of a person anywhere in the world (Iowa, Illinois, the U.S., Europe, Africa, Asia, etc.) or someone who is unchurched or of a different faith tradition?

I would love to hear your responses. Please email them to **bishop@iaumc.org**.

And look for future updates as I continue to reflect on this experience.

Blessings and Peace, Friends,



Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, Episcopal Leader
Illinois Great Rivers and Iowa United Methodist Conferences