

November Messenger 2025

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

154 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611

Phone 309-699-5417

Visit Us Online at www.epfumc.com

E-mail: Office@epfumc.org

♥ *Loving God* ♥ *Loving Others* ♥ *Living Our Faith*



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From the Pastor's Heart



Dear East Peoria First UMC Family:

Attitude of Gratitude is a phrase that has caught on the last few years. This month at your homes, here at the church, and other places, people will focus on being grateful. At the Thanksgiving meal people will say a prayer of thankfulness even though they rarely have a prayer at a meal. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, people will be more generous even though they have had that ability other times of the year. I truly believe though that God wants us to be thankful all year long. That means we have an "Attitude of Gratitude."

What does an "Attitude of Gratitude do?"

1. Keeps us less anxious and depressed.
2. Helps us realize much God has blessed us (no pity parties).
3. Helps our disposition to be more loving and caring.

Have you ever thanked God that you can see, hear, walk, think? Just with those, you are the most blessed you could be. Take time to keep a Gratitude Journal each day like John Wesley. Not just the usual gifts of family, food, and friends, but the small things like a cool breeze on a hot day on your porch or a phone call or a text from a special friend, etc...

It is easy to see the negative in our lives and our church, but be balcony people who have an attitude of gratitude!

I am thankful for you!

Reverend Ted A. Hartley

Teri's Tidbits...

Hello Church Family!

I have been thinking about tapestries lately! I heard a sermon on the tapestry of our lives. It was epic! So, it got me thinking about tapestries. Way back in the day, even before me, there were tapestries made about huge events in people's lives. So, I asked myself, "What would the tapestry of my life look like?" Well, I would have a lighthouse in the middle. I am obsessed with them and they always make me think of Jesus because He is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Jesus. So He is the beacon leading us home. There would be so many pictures of children and pets, cars and houses, lots of joy and lots of sorrow. Our tapestries are the lives we have lived. Both the good, and the bad!

There are births and deaths, meals and going without food, plenty of finances and no finances, no pain and unimaginable pain, marriage and divorce, life and death. It seems there is always bad just waiting to throw us off balance after we celebrate the good.

I have seen so much hurt in my life, but there have also been many times of great joy! God said in Psalms 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God..." it is one of my favorite verses. It reminds me, He never sleeps and is sovereign. The other one is Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

See, God has it all worked out and He is weaving the tapestry of our lives. However, we often think we can do it better and try to take it back from Him. He does not need our help though we often think He does!

If we keep the lighthouse or Jesus as the center our tapestry, life is gonna be the best ever! The good and the bad have nothing on Jesus.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the second Saturday each month at 8:00 am at the 520 Café in East Peoria. This month is on **November 8**. Please let Chuck Pierman know if you will be attending.

Ladies' Luncheon

The Ladies of the Church are meeting monthly. This month is at **AVANTI'S** in East Peoria. If you would like to attend, it is **November 15** at 11:30 a.m. Please let Bev Avery know if you will be there and she will save you a seat. Please RSVP as soon as you can to avery1986@mtco.com or text 309-657-0907 or call my home number 309-444-5153 (leave message).

One Call Communication System

One Call is a software we use to communicate Church information to our parishioners. If you do not currently receive Church messages but would like to, please let the Office know. **You can receive by email, text message or phone call.**

November Sermons

- Nov. 2:** "The Lost Son" Rev. Tom Logsdon
Nov. 9: "What Are You Looking For?"
 John 1:35-38 Rev. Ted A.
Nov. 16: "Gridiron Gospel"
 Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 Rev. Ted A.
 "It's half time and your are down by 21. When the going gets tough, the tough ask questions."
 Rev. Ted A.
Nov. 23: **Thanksgiving Service**
"Attitude of Gratitude"
 Psalm 100, Luke 17:11-17
 Rev. Ted A.
Nov. 30: **1st Sunday of Advent**
Sermon Series: The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly
"Let's Keep Herod in Christmas"
 Matthew 2:1, 7-8, 16-18
 Rev. Ted A.

Porch Visits

Reverend Ted A. Hartley will start porch visits again in November. Nov. 6, 11, 17, 18, are available. Sign up will be passed out and be on the table in the foyer. Please sign up!

POINSETTIAS

Patti Staley and Ashleigh Lane will be available to take your orders for Christmas poinsettias on November 2nd and 9th in the foyer. Money is due when you order. Cost is \$15.00. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Coming Events

- Nov. 2nd:** All Saints Sunday
Nov. 9th: Salute to Veterans during the Service.
Nov. 16th: Ad Council Meets after Church, Youth Group meets at 4 p.m.
Nov 23rd: Hanging of the Greens after Church Service.
Nov. 30th: Special Advent Ceremonial Worship Service, Youth Group Meets at 4 p.m.

Sunday Worship Services

Are you unable to attend our Sunday Worship Service in person but would love to be able to watch it every week? Did you attend and would like to see it again?

Our weekly Worship Service is broadcast live to our Facebook page and remains there even after the Worship Service ends. The service is also available on YouTube and our website. If you have any questions about how to access these various platforms, please contact the Church office.

Church Info via Facebook

We are promoting the church and various activities on our Facebook Page and in our Facebook Group. The name of our page and group is the same: East Peoria First United Methodist Church. Our Facebook page is for any Facebook user to see. Please 'Like' and 'Follow' our page and ask your FB friends to 'Like' and 'Follow' it also. Our Facebook Group is supposed to be for those that regularly come to church, help regularly, or have been a part of the church in the past. If you are not a member of our group yet, please ask to join via Facebook. Liking and following our page and being a member of our group will assure that you will be notified of our various posts. **Also, please share our Facebook Page posts and events with your friends and help promote the great happenings of our church. Members of our FB group cannot share the group posts since it is a private group.**

Adult Choir!

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room. If you can make a joyful noise, please join us!

Reporting a New Address

Have you moved? Please call the office at 309-699-5417 and let us know your new address.

If you are in the Hospital

We call the hospitals every morning, but even if you specify that we be informed of your hospitalization, we are not always told. **Please call us** or have a relative or friend notify the Church. We want to know when you are ill so we can be praying for you.

HELP NEEDED!!!

There must be at least 2 volunteers at every Children's Church on Sunday. All the materials are ready for you, you just have to show up. Please, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. This is a huge need as Brittney and Cindy cannot be here every week. Please sign up!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17

Each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., we will have a special study that ties in with the sermon series, The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly. Each study will tie into the sermon of the previous Sunday and go more in depth. You can bring questions that come to your mind during the sermon. If you were unable to attend Sunday, still come and see what you missed. If you would like a book, contact the office.

MEMORY BIBLE VERSE

Each month, Pastor Ted A. will place a Bible verse in the Messenger. Here is the first one.

We must hide God's Word in our hearts.
Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God..."

CHURCH FINANCES

Following is a summary of our church expenses for the 3rd quarter for the General Fund.

The General Fund is used to pay our monthly expenses i.e. salaries, office expenses, cleaning service, insurance maintenance, utilities, etc...:

3rd Quarter 2025:
Offerings: \$26,539.08
Expenses: \$64,675.80

We are working to reduce our monthly expenses for insurance cost, office equipment maintenance, and maintenance for the church.

Chuck Pierman
Finance Committee

REFRESH Service

Every Wednesday at noon our Church has a 30 minute service for you to Refresh yourself for the week. This Worship service has devotion, prayer and communion. This is a great opportunity to get you through to Sunday.

A BIG THANK YOU!

I am so very grateful for the cards I got for Pastor Appreciation! The kind words, gifts, and money meant a lot!
Congregation Appreciation is coming!

Your Church Staff

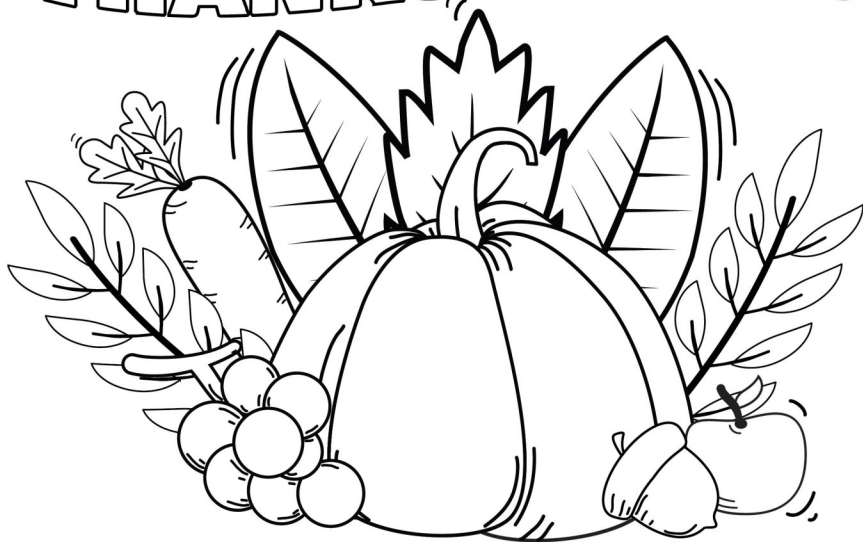
Rev. Ted A. Hartley, Directing Pastor
Cell: 217-330-0708

Teri Sebesta, Office Manager
e-mail: office@epfumc.org
Cell: 574-275-9282

Ryan Klaus, Pianist/Organist

Bob Dietrich, A/V Coordinator, Praise Band
Britney Willhite/Terry Newlan: Children's Church

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving Day

WORD SEARCH

D	Z	F	H	B	D	P	X	Y	L	V	Y	X	N	F
T	E	Z	K	Y	A	E	O	T	G	E	X	B	I	D
J	H	S	W	P	Q	Y	Y	Y	K	Y	A	B	K	A
W	E	A	S	D	N	M	G	R	J	I	M	F	P	W
D	I	N	N	E	R	X	U	W	D	G	X	S	M	V
M	R	F	I	K	L	T	V	X	F	N	T	D	U	P
W	H	S	A	F	S	B	S	O	U	U	X	F	P	O
Q	C	J	W	M	T	G	T	O	F	Y	Y	D	U	T
M	I	R	G	L	I	P	I	F	L	A	K	T	M	A
M	R	N	V	T	A	L	I	V	A	U	W	D	Q	T
E	A	W	E	U	T	N	Y	E	I	X	W	C	N	O
Y	Z	G	A	A	G	C	B	L	H	N	V	J	A	E
P	L	G	A	P	C	J	P	F	N	O	G	Z	S	S
I	L	P	L	T	H	M	Z	Z	K	B	T	L	W	F
E	V	L	G	G	J	G	W	I	P	O	D	I	Q	T

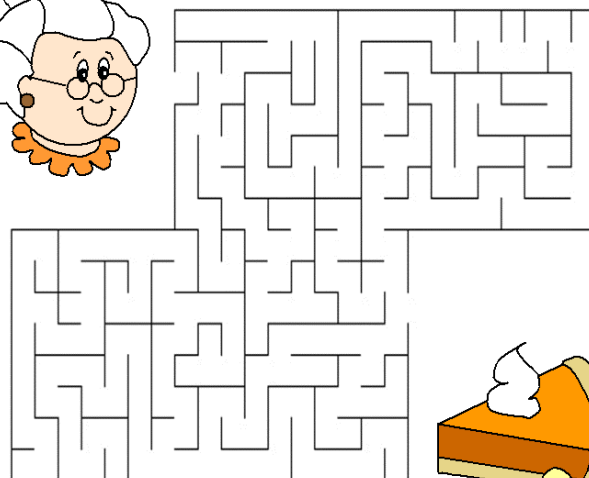
TURKEY
PILGRIM
THANKSGIVING
DINNER

FAMILY
BLESSED
POTATOES
PUMPKIN

PIE
STUFFING

Thanksgiving Maze

Help Grandma find Thanksgiving supper.





In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Fighting Cancer

Halle Bloom, Julie Jenkins,
Pam Riley, Mark Gill,
Mary Mallory, Lynne Barker,
Brian Engles, Rob Calder II,
Katie Bishop, Sandy Crawford,
Joette Blakesley, Gary Fargher,
Merry Eccles, Nancy Brooks,
Norman Clark (asbestosis),
Len Brockman, Kellen Norman,
Jaclyn Brown, Sandra Begemen,
Byron Webb

Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Steve Darrah, Nancy Riddle,
Margaret Johnston, Beth Ball,
Rev. Stan Haxton, Bonnie Lourash,
Margaret Sides, Steve Smith,
Ralph Linder, Steve Wetterauer,
Jeff Briggs, Roger Williams,
Les Leach,
Chuck (Becky Ellis' cousin),
Austin Aldag, Earl Webb,
Nancy Riddle, Caitlin Reeves

Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Katy Gnehm, Anna Martin,
Joyce Mooberry

Needing Prayer

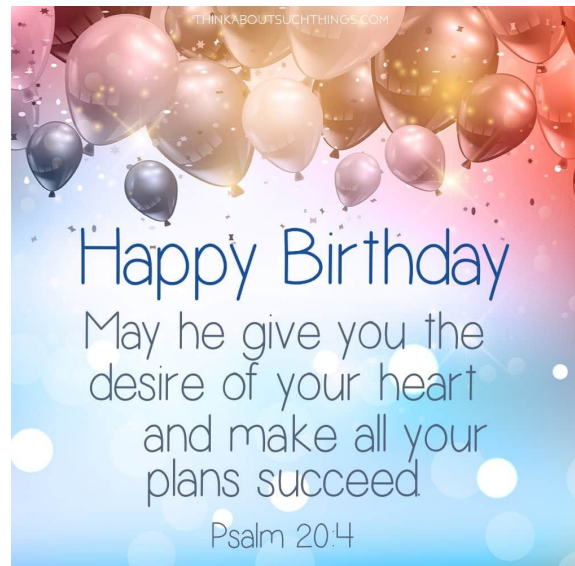
Please pray for Our Dear Church Family
who are struggling, the lonely, all who are
unemployed, shut-in, those who are
struggling with flu/colds, those who are
grieving, all governmental leaders,
those who are serving in our military,
the youth and all caregivers.

Military Service Members

Joe Rizzo (Air National Guard),
Ryan Webb (Army),
Jared Koch (Air Force),
Nate Hill (Air National Guard)

November Birthdays

Nov 8	Gary Hinkle
Nov 9	Caitlin Reeves
Nov 10	Barbara Son
Nov 11	Maribel Blair
Nov 13	Katy Gnehm
Nov 20	Donna Cothrell
Nov 20	William Heisel
Nov 22	Ron Edwards
Nov 25	Sandy Crawford
Nov 26	Sally Whitfield



Is this your birth month?

If you have a birthday this month, and your name is missing from our list, we do not have your birthdate in our database. Please provide the office with your birthdate; month, day and year. We want to celebrate you!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast Puppets for Jesus Trunk or Treat	27 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meet- ing 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	28 7:00pm - 8:00pm No Choir Practice	29 12:00pm REFRESH	30 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	31 9:00am LOF Trick or Treating	1
2 9:00am Worship	3 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meet- ing 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	4 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	5 12:00pm REFRESH	6 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	7	8 8:00am - 9:00am Men's Prayer Break- fast 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
9 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Breakfast	10 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meet- ing 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice 6:15pm 4-H Meeting	11 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	12 12:00pm REFRESH	13 11:30am East Peoria Women's Club 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	14	15 11:30am Ladies' Luncheon @ Avanti's
16 9:00am Worship Ad Council after Service 4:00pm - 5:30pm Youth Group	17 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meet- ing 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	18 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	19 12:00pm REFRESH 4:00pm - 7:00pm Early Head Start 6:00pm - 8:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice	20 6:00pm - 9:00pm Leap of Faith Board Meeting 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	21	22 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
23 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast Hanging of the Greens after worship service	24 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meet- ing 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	25 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	26 12:00pm REFRESH Advent Bible Study 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	27 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	28	29
30 9:00am Worship 4:00pm - 5:30pm Youth Group	1 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meet- ing 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	2 4:00pm - 9:00pm GS Adult Cookie Training 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	3 12:00pm REFRESH Advent Bible Study 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	4 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	5	6 FOLEPI Shop & Stroll

GREATER PEORIA HONOR FLIGHT

LESLIE LEACH!



Thank you church family for your support on the Greater Peoria Honor Flight #36 on October 7, 2025. I received 94 letters and cards during the mail call on our flight home. Julie and I had a great day in Washington, DC along with 70 other veterans. It is a day I will never forget!

Trunk or Treat 2025



Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Wednesday REFRESH

First United Methodist Church
154 E. Washington St.
East Peoria, IL 61611-2529