

April Messenger 2024

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

154 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611

Phone 309-699-5417

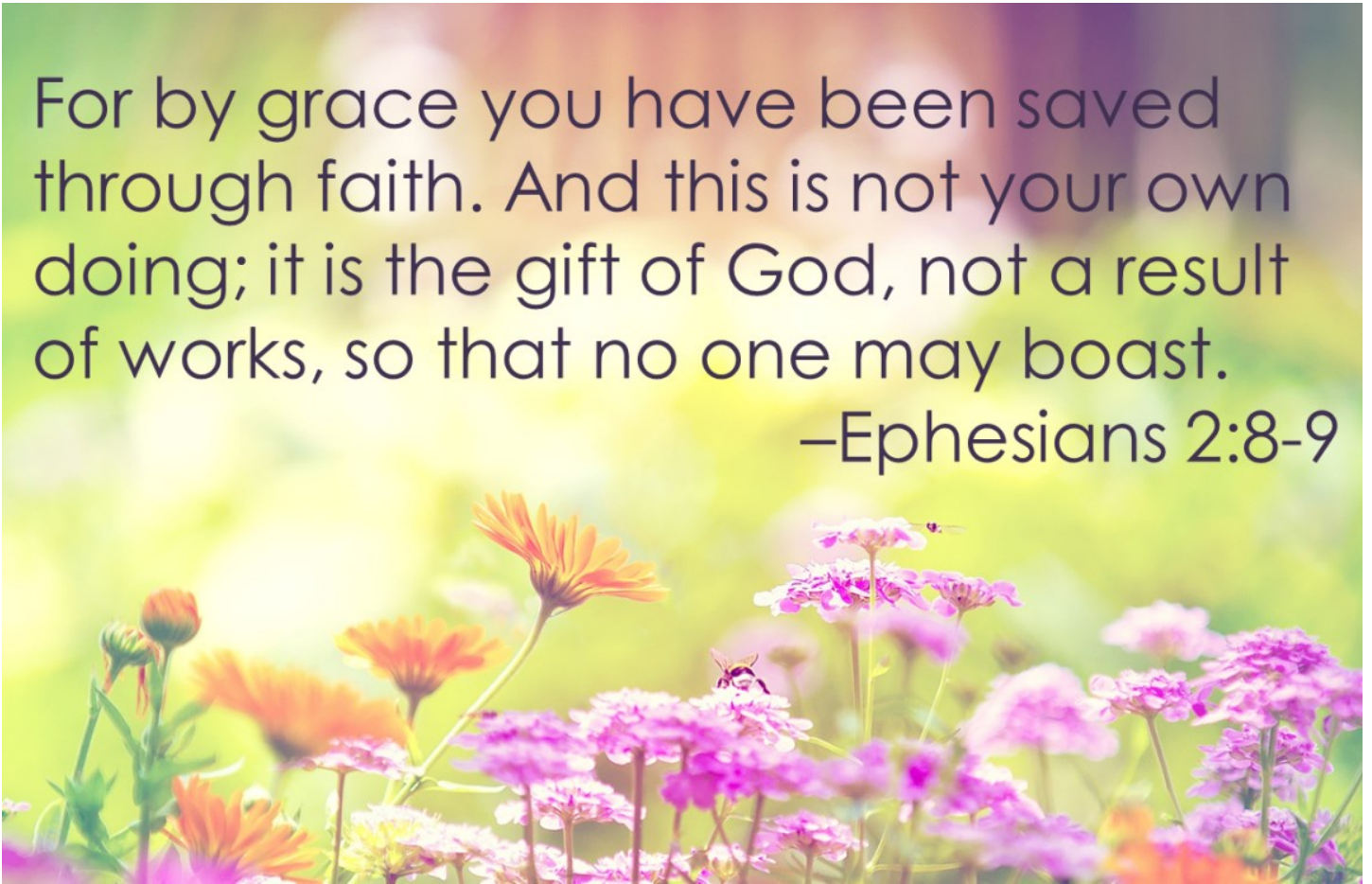
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E-mail: Office@epfumc.org

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

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

—Ephesians 2:8-9



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Pastor's Chat

Theme for 2024: "Looking Back, Moving Forward!" Isaiah 43: 18- 19.

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing!"

Happy April Fools' Day! Guess what? For those of us who celebrated Easter yesterday we are not fooled! Jesus did arise and the fools are those who do not believe He is Risen!

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be a fool! If I am a fool, then I am a fool for Jesus! We just celebrated the most difficult week that Jesus went through and begin to understand those who walked with him and how they felt. We celebrated with another miracle that Jesus rose again so that we might understand our life is worth much more when it is empowered in Him! We do not have to live the way the world does, nor do we have to justify to the world our faith in the One who saved us from death! We must boldly testify to our faith and believe that Jesus will do the rest!

So, who are we brothers and sisters if we are not followers of the One who is the reason we have Easter in the first place? We are fools of the world! I pray that Easter this year has had a deeper meaning for you and that you believe deeper that Jesus is for you and not against you!

Luke 24:13; reminds us not to be foolish to believe that Jesus is who he said he was! Our hearts should be burning, and our eyes should be opened by the Scriptures God has given to us as proof along with the changed lives of ours and those we know! Easter is about so much more if we stop and listen, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and open our hearts to where God is leading us too next!

May we come together as a church to lift the name of Jesus and to follow Jesus to the ends of the earth: Praying, baptizing, and telling others about Him who is called Jesus Christ!

With you on the Way!

Pastor Krista

Altar Flower Dedications

- Apr 7** - In memory of those who have gone on.
From, Phil Minear
- Apr 14** - In memory of Denny Roese & Richard Hanchett. Love, Lucy Roese
- Apr 21** - In memory of loved ones!
Love, Jean Aldag
- Apr 28** - In honor of our children and grandchildren!
Love, Randy & Andrea Mooberry

Kid's Connection

Our pre-K through 5th grade students meet most Wednesday evenings at 5:30. They are served dinner and get to learn about Jesus in a fun and safe environment.

Committee Meetings

- Staff Parish Relations** - Tuesday, April 2nd
@ 6:00 pm
- Worship Committee** - Tuesday, April 9th
@ 6:00 pm
- Finance Meeting** - Tuesday, April 16th
@ 6:00 pm
- Day Care Board** - Thursday, April 18th
@ 6:00 pm
- Outreach Meeting** - Tuesday, April 23rd
@ 6:00 pm
- Ad Council Meeting** - Tuesday, April 30th
@ 6:00 pm

United Women in Faith

- April 24** - Executive Committee @ 10:00 am
Ruth Fellowship @ 1:00 am
Hostess - Jodi Cassady
Program - Patti Staley
Prayer & Self Denial

The United Women in Faith have begun their activities for 2024! The Spring Tea was an enjoyable start to our year. Thanks to Rose Rock for making this activity a good time of fun and fellowship.

Our April 24th meeting of the Ruth Fellowship will be a time to pack special treats for SnackPacs as the end of the school year approaches. We will need lots of willing hands to get 190 treats ready to be added to the SnackPacs. Spiritual Growth Chairperson, Patti Staley, will be leading this activity and, as the old saying goes, many hands make light work. Plan to join us at 1:00 PM on the 24th in Room B1.

Small Adult Group Bible Study

Women of the Bible
2nd & 4th Thursdays at 2:00 pm
This month not meeting on the 11th.

Friends for Mission Breakfast

The Friends for Mission Breakfast is the 2nd Sunday of each month. (April 14th) Come have a delicious breakfast and support this important mission.

All Church Event!

Mark your calendars for our next All Church event in May. We will have a kick-off to the Summer Cookout on May 19th! More info to follow!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month. (April 13th) at 8:00 am at the 520 Café located at 520 Bloomington Road in East Peoria. Please let Chuck Pierman know if you will be attending and he will reserve a seat for you.

Congratulations!

Congratulations Kurt & Julie Jamison on the birth of their new grandson! Born on Feb. 3, 2024, 7 lbs14 oz, 21", Luke Clayton Jamison. Parents are Greg & Mary Beth Jamison and brothers, Jack & Sam.

Administrative Professionals Day

Wednesday, April 24th is Administrative Professionals Day. It is a day to let our office staff know they are appreciated.

Terri Bridges - Office Manager
Jennie Reeves - Asst. Office Manager
Susie Hoskins - Asst. Office Manager
Juanita Reader - Office Angel
Ginny Halverson - Office Angel

Sympathy

Our condolences go to Susie and Steve Hoskins and family with the loss of Susie's dad, Howard Chesling, on March 14, 2024.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the family and friends of Betty Kerr. Betty passed away on March 22, 2024.

April – June Series: Don't Settle

April	
7	Don't Settle for Salvation
14	Don't Settle for...Keeping It to Yourself
21	Don't Settle for Comparisonitis
28	Don't Settle for Comfort
May	
5	Don't Settle for Writing People Off
12	Us/Them
19	Don't Settle for Being Irrelevant
26	Don't Settle for Unhealthy Conflict
June	
2	Don't Settle for Secondhand Knowledge
9	Don't Settle for Marching to the Beat
16	Don't Settle for Living in Fear
23	Don't Settle for Being Dissatisfied
30	Don't Settle for Almost

Needed Yard Work Volunteers

Trustees are going to do a grounds cleanup around the church on **April 13** at 9:30am (same day as men's breakfast so we scheduled it after) with a rain date of April 27th at 8am. We expect it to take 2-3 hours. We will mostly need rakers and pruners to clean out dead plants from last year. Don't forget your work gloves!

Red Bird Mission Trip

We are planning to go on our mission trip in June. We will leave at 7am Saturday June 8th and return on June 14th. It's unknown at this time what our project will be. Anyone interested in joining us, please let Jamie Webb or myself know by May 27th. The fee this year is \$500.00 per person. Thanks, Jim Vogel

Graduate Information 2024

Attention parents and grandparents of graduates! We are looking for information for anyone graduating from 8th grade, high school, or college. Please stop outside the church office and provide us with some information (look for the clipboard) so we can recognize this wonderful accomplishment. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Powers at julie.powers@gmail.com. Deadline is April 30.

Giving Tree Info!

Some of you might have noticed the new tree in our church foyer. This is the GIVING TREE! While we are using it right now for some of the items that were requested from our Adopt-A-Family, it is a tree that will permanently stay in the foyer, and anyone, yes, ANYONE, can put a need that they might have and place it on the tree. We will have special "ornaments" under the tree where you can write your needs anonymously. A church member will help secure this need for you. As a church member, we ask that if you can help out someone, please bring the item back and place it under the tree with the ornament attached. This is how we keep it anonymous! If you have any questions on this or how to do this, please reach out to Ashleigh Lane.

History of April Fools' Day

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with "hunting the gowk," in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.

In 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees. In 1985, *Sports Illustrated* writer George Plimpton tricked many readers when he ran a made-up article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a fastball over 168 miles per hour.

In 1996, Taco Bell, the fast-food restaurant chain, duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and intended to rename it the Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, after Burger King advertised a "Left-Handed Whopper," scores of clueless customers requested the fake sandwich. Google notoriously hosts an annual April Fools' Day prank that has included everything from "telepathic search" to the ability to play Pac Man on Google Maps.

For the average trickster, there is always the classic April Fools' Day prank of covering the toilet with plastic wrap or swapping the contents of sugar and salt containers.

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. We even create DVD copies of the service if you can't access it online.

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.**

Hearing Assistance Units

If you have trouble hearing the sermon or any other event in the Sanctuary, we have Hearing Assistance units to help you. Please see the sound system attendant if you would like to use one.

Giving Made Easy

Did you know you can setup your giving to be an automatic withdrawal, either monthly or semi-monthly? Withdrawals occur on the 3rd and/or the 17th each month. Sign-up is easy! Stop by the church office and ask for an Electronic Giving form.

The Wired Word

A great study/growth opportunity is the Wired Word. This is a self-study that is emailed to you every week (usually on Thursdays) addressing current issues from a Biblical perspective. Email the Church office at Office@epfumc.org and you will be added to the list.

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.

Reporting a New Address

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



NEW ADDRESS

Roger & Donna Cothrell
Lutheran Hillside Apt. 226
6901 N. Galena Rd.
Peoria IL 61614

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

The lost and found is in the office. Stop in and pick up your belongings. We keep lost & found items for 3 months and if not claimed, we give away through the Food Pantry.

Women's black sunglasses
Animal print women's sunglasses
Silver butterfly ring
Rose gold butterfly ring

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday from
9:30 am - 4:00 pm and
Friday from 9:30 am - noon.

Your Church Staff

Rev. Krista Price, Directing Pastor
(217) 549-4544

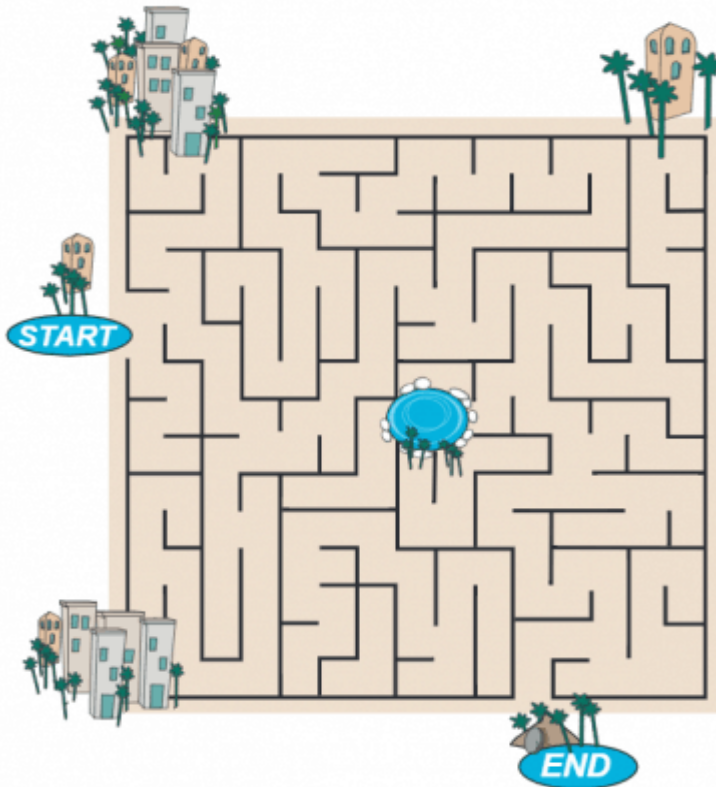
Terri Bridges, Office Manager
e-mail: office@epfumc.org

Ryan Klaus, Pianist/Organist

Bob Dietrich, A/V Coordinator

Find Your Way to Jesus' Tomb

Go with Mary Magdalene through Jerusalem to find Jesus' tomb. Do not cross any lines.



Page for kids
of all ages



Christian ClipArts.net

GOD'S PROMISES For Kids

- 1** God will love you forever!
 "Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever."
Psalms 136:1
- 2** God will never leave you!
 "...I will never leave you. I will never desert you."
Hebrews 13:5
- 3** God will comfort you!
 "The LORD will comfort his people. He will show his tender love to those who are suffering."
Isalah 49:13
- 4** God will help you!
 "Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD. He is the Maker of heaven and earth."
Psalms 121:1-2
- 5** God is always faithful!
 "What the LORD says is right and true. He is faithful in everything he does."
Psalms 33:4
- 6** God will Keep you safe!
 "The LORD is good. When people are in trouble, they can go to him for safety."
Nahum 1:7
- 7** God keeps his promises!
 "...the LORD your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come."
Deuteronomy 7:9

GRACE

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

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| ABOUND | GIFT | LIFE |
| BESTOWED | GIVEN | LORD |
| CHRIST | GOD | MANIFOLD |
| ETERNAL LIFE | GOSPEL | MERCY |
| FAITH | GRACE | PEACE |
| FATHER | JESUS | SALVATION |
| FREE | JUSTIFIED | |



In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Gail Morger
Gary Hecathorn

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,
Judy Preston

Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Steve Darrah, Nancy Riddle,
Margaret Johnston, Beth Ball,
Rev. Stan Haxton, Bonnie Lourash,
Margaret Sides, Gail Morger,
Jim Spicher, Steve Smith,
Ralph Linder, Steve Wetterauer,
Jim Hayden, Jeff Briggs,
Roger Williams, Les Leach,
Joyce Mooberry, Neva Sharp,
Chuck (Becky Ellis' cousin),
Austin Aldag, Earl Webb,
Nancy Riddle

Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Katy Gnehm, Marge Wakeman,
Anna Martin

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)

April Birthdays

Apr 7	Marie Meyer 92
Apr 17	Joan LaConte
Apr 21	Beth Vogel
Apr 22	Bill Marks
Apr 22	Paul Mooney
Apr 23	Andrea Mooberry
Apr 28	Forest Smith
Apr 29	Lilian Vogel

Happy Birthday!

On this special day
of yours,
We pray that
the good Lord gives you
All the joy and happiness
that your heart can contain.
Have a wonderful birthday!

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
<p>31 7:00am Sunrise Service Friends for Mission Breakfast 9:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>1 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 6:00pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee Meeting</p>	<p>3 12:00pm REFRESH 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus</p>	<p>4 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>5 7:30am - 12:00pm LOF Picture Day</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 9:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group 4:00pm - 6:00pm All Church Bowling @ Plaza Lanes</p>	<p>8 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:15pm 4-H Meeting</p>	<p>9 5:00pm Early Head Start 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>10 12:00pm REFRESH 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus</p>	<p>11 5:00pm Early Head Start 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:30am Church Yard Clean-up 4:00pm Breakfast Setup</p>
<p>14 9:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group Friends for Mission Breakfast</p>	<p>15 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice</p>	<p>16 6:00pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p>17 12:00pm REFRESH 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus</p>	<p>18 6:00pm Day Care Board Meeting 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>22 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>24 12:00pm REFRESH Administrative Professionals Day 10:00am - 3:00pm United Women in Faith 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus</p>	<p>25 2:00pm Women of the Bible Study Group 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Rain date for Church Yard Clean-up</p>
<p>28 9:00am Worship with Puppets for Jesus 6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>29 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>30 6:00pm Ad Council Meeting</p>	<p>1 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus</p>	<p>2 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

ALL CHURCH BOWLING



APRIL 7 - 4 TO 6 P.M.

PLAZA LANES

ADDRESS: 1500 WASHINGTON RD, WASHINGTON

Please let Ashleigh Lane know if you are coming so she can reserve enough lanes. (815) 404-9844 or staley.ashleigh@gmail.com

Pre-K Art Show!
If you didn't see the amazing pieces of art, you missed out!



Our Church in Pictures:



She understood the assignment!

Thank you Jamie Webb for sending this beautiful picture of Terry Newlan (in case you thought she was a real leprechaun)

United Women in Faith Spring Tea





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