

# March Messenger 2023

## First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

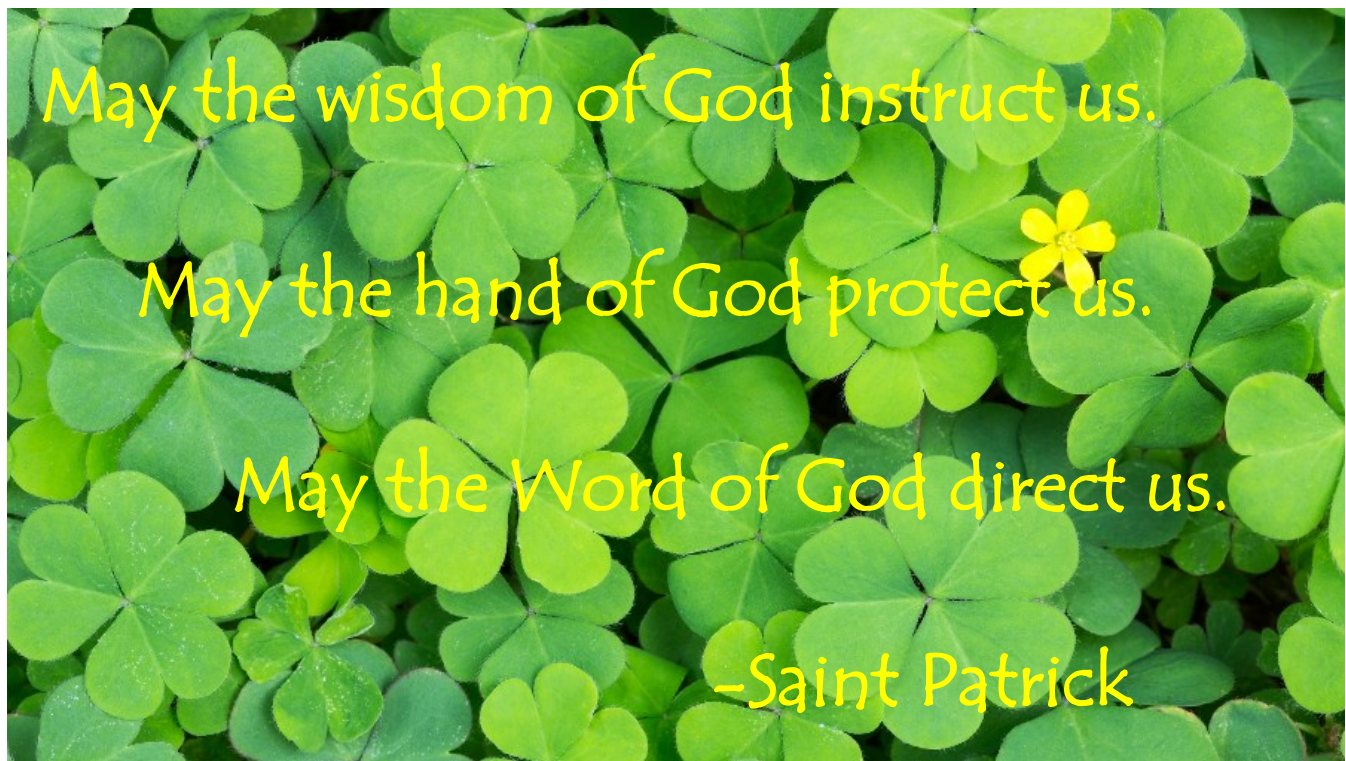
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♥ *Loving God* ♥ *Loving Others* ♥ *Living Our Faith*



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Pastor Krista would like to share the Wake up call/Seedbed article. It is written by a colleague of hers who she went to Asbury Seminary with. A reflection of the revival!

## The Greatest Impediment to My Own Awakening

### Prayer of Consecration

Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. **Jesus, I belong to you.**

I lift up my heart to you. I set my mind on you. I fix my eyes on you.

I offer my body as a holy and living sacrifice to you. **Jesus, We belong to you.**

Praying in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

### Word

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) Luke 9:28-33 (NIV)

### Consider This

Speaking of Transfiguration Mountain: Who knew where this journey would lead us! Who could have imagined what would be now unfolding - not only in this country but now in the world as a result of this outpouring of the overwhelming, never ending holy love of God in this tiny town of Wilmore, Kentucky.

Transfiguration. Luke tells us "the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning." It feels as though Luke is trying to tell us something like, "The face of Jesus began to shine with the luminosity of a thousand suns." It was like a pulling back of some kind of veil, granting a rarified vision to those few most trusted disciples. The actual word for "transfiguration" doesn't appear in Luke's Gospel but is taken from Matthew and Mark. The Greek term is *metamorphic*. It conveys two senses. First is the notion of "to change after being with." Second, it conveys the sense of the outer appearance reflecting the inner reality.

I have always thought of this event we call "The Transfiguration" as a kind of, "Now for something completely different" kind of moment in the story of Jesus. When asking the question I used to ask when I read the Bible - "How does this apply to my life? - I came up empty. Like, what difference does it really make that Peter, James, and John witnessed this scene? Good for them, right? But not much there for us... until this time up the mountain. I'm learning to ask a different question when I read the Bible. A better question, I think might be (at least a less self-oriented question): Why might this be in the Bible? And what is being revealed here?

As a result, this time up the mountain I am seeing something I have never seen before. It is in the most unusual term: *metamorphoo*. More specifically, it is the other two places in the Bible where this word appears.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but [metamorphoo] **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** (Romans 12:2a; emphasis mine)

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are (metamorphoo) **being transformed** into his image with every-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2Corinthians 3:18)

Here is the most obvious, self-evident, and yet so often hidden epiphany for me (and maybe even you) today:

To be with Jesus is to be transformed.

To be with Him is to become like Him.

This is what has been so stunningly simple about these last seven days in Wilmore, Kentucky. I have quite humbly and very simply been with Jesus in a way that has changed me. I am bringing nothing. He is bringing everything.

While this has been an extraordinary gathering, there is nothing here that was not available to me the day before I arrived. I didn't even need to come here to receive it. I just needed to wake up. It brings me to the other surprising discovery in plain view in the text on this ascent:

Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory.

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continued...

As I have said a thousand times now, the greatest barrier to my own awakening is I'm pretty sure I'm already awake.

There is always so much more of the glory of Jesus we don't know that we do know. And there always will be - until the end... which will turn out to be the beginning. And if you don't understand that - I can't explain it, because I barely grasp it either.

**Prayer:** Thank you Jesus. Thank you. Amen.

**Questions:** Do you long for more of Jesus; to know Him more? Have you told Him? Will You?

**The Hymn:** "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus."

For the Awakening,

J.D. Walt

Sower-in-Chief, Seedbed

wakeupcall@seedbed.com

### Committee Meetings

**Trustee Committee** - Thursday, March 9th  
@ 6:00 pm in B1

**Finance Committee** - March 14th  
@ 2:00 pm on Zoom

**Outreach Committee** - Thursday, March 16th  
@ 5:30 pm in B1

### UMWomen

Mar 14 - 5:30 pm General Meeting / Fun Night

Mar 18 - 2-5:00 pm Betty's 90th Birthday Party

### Worship - Important Dates & Info

Mark your calendars for these important upcoming dates:

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Palm Sunday

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm  
This will be a combined service with Zion Evangelical UMC but held here at our Church.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** Good Friday Service at 6:30 pm.  
This will be a combined service with Zion Evangelical UMC held at Zion.

**April 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am Service**  
and

**6:30 am Easter Sunday Sunrise**

This service will be led by the Youth. Following the service enjoy breakfast from the Friends for Mission (freewill offering appreciated).

### Order Your Easter Tulips

We will be taking orders for Easter Tulips on Sunday, March 12th and March 19th before and after Worship Service. If you wish to order by mail, we need your order no later than Friday, March 16th. The price of the tulips is \$17. Please make payment out to E.P. First United Methodist Church, but do not give with the regular offering. Please give the payment to those taking orders. The plants may be picked up after the 9:00a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

# \_\_\_\_\_ of plants ordered at \$17.00 each

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of...

In honor of....

### Altar Flower Dedications

**Mar 5** - In honor of my Church Family.  
From, Phil Minear

**Mar 12** - In honor of Dean Smith's 96th  
Birthday. Love, Your Family

**Mar 19** - In honor of Diana Newlan's 37th  
Birthday. Love, Mom & Dad

**Mar 26** - To those who have gone on.  
Love, Evelyn Howard

**Theresa Tracy Trot Fundraiser**

Saturday, March 11th  
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Chipotle in Peoria  
4512 N. Sterling Ave.

**Boy Scouts Fundraiser**

Scouts will be selling Potato Soup and Chili to go. Pickup date is Saturday March 25th from 9am to 1pm. Contact Dan Son on Sunday or email him at sonshine1992@gmail.com or call (309) 224-9150 for tickets to purchase. Price not set yet but will know shortly. Will start pre-selling on March 5th.

**Choir Fundraiser**

The Choir fundraiser is to raise money for the HVAC system. From now through March 31st, for every \$1000 collected Pastor will sing a solo. As of mid-February we have raised \$8094. We would like to reach a goal of \$12000, so Pastor Krista will sing one Sunday a month.

The celebratory party is scheduled for April 16th and everyone who gave to this fundraiser is invited.

Thank you so much! The Choir

**Kid's Club**

Kid's Club is happening! Every Wednesday, starting at 5:30 p.m. we invite all pre-K - 5th graders to join us for an evening of food, fun and Jesus. Invite all the young people you know!

**Thank You**

Dear Church family,  
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, texts and food during this surgery and healing process. I am overwhelmed with the love and support you have given me. I am so blessed by our Great God and the many blessings he has given me. I am getting stronger each day and hope to be back with you all soon. Love to you all!

Cindy Eubank

Thank you so much for all the blessings of prayers and cards we received with the loss of my sister, Debi Wong.

Jean Hobbs & Bill Marks

**Friends for Mission Breakfast**

The Friends for Mission Breakfast is on the 2nd Sunday of the month, March 12th. Come have a delicious breakfast and support this important mission outreach.

**Puppets for Jesus**

Puppets for Jesus has been sharing the gospel with Retirement Homes, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Alzheimer Facilities, Churches of all Denominations, Schools, Festivals, Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations, Banquets, and so many more. We enjoy seeing all the little ones to the mature ones that are young at heart.

Keep watching the messenger for more fun facts about Puppets for Jesus.

**Gift Cards****Help us raise money!**

In the 15 months since we have started selling gift cards, we have raised approximately \$1500. The Christmas seasons were our most profitable times but we need to boost our sales throughout the other months of the year. **Gift cards are not just for gifts.** You can use them for your everyday spending; groceries, gas, clothing, eating out, and so much more. You can even use them for hotels, airlines, cruises, movie theaters, etc. There are over 1,000 retailers to choose from with various dollar values as low as \$10 and as high as \$500 but varies by retailer. We keep several common gift cards on hand for you to purchase on Sunday mornings or in the church office during office hours. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact:

Jennie Reeves at 309-256-7893.

**Lenten Bible Study**

"He Chose The Nails" by Max Lucado

Thursdays for 5 weeks

March 2nd - 30th

2 class times: 10:30 am or 6:30 pm

Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Specify if you will attend the morning or evening class.

Let us know if we should order you a book? The study guide is strongly suggested also.

### Operation Shoebox

Our Operation Christmas Child will look a little different this year. Instead of collecting throughout the year, all collections will be at the end of the year. We have the shoeboxes that will be given with a list of items. You can go shopping and pack your own present! The boxes will feel more personal to the recipient as you can pack them for a girl or boy. You could even add a little note to express God's love for them!

### 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 some church-wide events 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. If you have not yet "liked" our Facebook page, please do so and "follow" us also. This will assure that you will be notified of our various posts and events. **Also, please "share" our posts and events with your friends and help promote the great happenings of our church.** If you are not yet a member of our Facebook group, please "join" our group.

### ASPIRE

#### **Ladies night out!**

1 night, 3 hours

Its an evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music.

Friday, April 21st @ 7:00pm.

Sign up in the Foyer, or call the office.

Once we know how many ladies are going we will let you know the cost. If we have a group of 10 or more the admission fee drops to \$20 each!

### Small Adult Group Bible Studies

Women of the Bible

2nd & 4th Thursdays at 2:00 pm

Led by Jennie Reeves

This class is for men and women.

**You can join the class anytime!**

### 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](mailto: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 are not always told. **Please call us** or have a relative or friend notify the Church. We want to know when you are ill. We want to be praying for you as you are hospitalized.

### 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.*

*Flower dangle earrings*

*Gold horseshoe necklace*

*Gray sweatshirt with snaps*

*Silver rim prescription glasses*

*Brown rim reading glasses*

*Diamond stud earring*

### 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](mailto:office@epfumc.org)

**Vicki Cox**, Choir Director

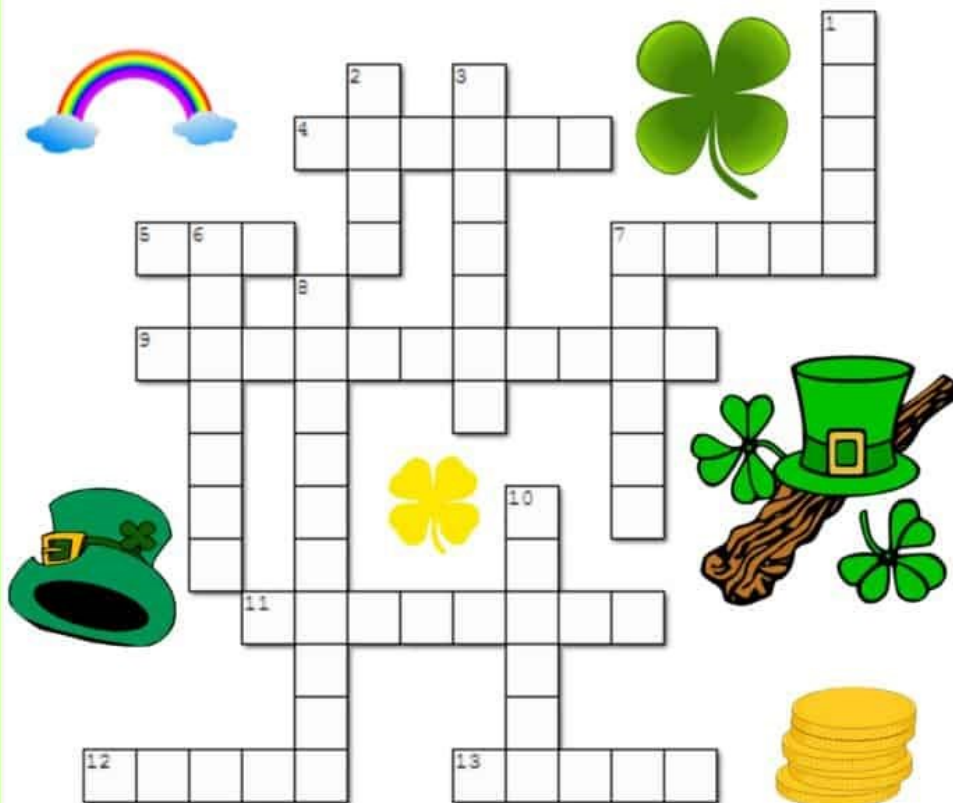
**Ryan Klaus**, Pianist/Organist



**Find the  
4 leaf clover**



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

4. capital of Ireland
5. a type of Irish dance
7. if you do not wear green on March 17 this will happen
9. the day St. Patrick's Day falls on
11. the national emblem of Ireland
12. yellow and blue make \_\_\_\_\_
13. from Ireland

### Down

1. the 3rd month of the year
2. good fortune
3. nonsense or misleading talk
6. called the Emerald Isle
7. a starchy vegetable
8. a sprite
10. 4 leaf \_\_\_\_\_

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**Page for kids  
of all ages**



## In Our Prayers

### In the Hospital in the Past Month

Vicki Cox, Nancy Briggs,  
Fred Darrah, Jean Paulos,  
Alan Astle, Cindy Eubank

### Fighting Cancer

Halle Bloom, Julie Jenkins,  
Pam Riley, Mark Gill,  
Sherry Throckmorton, Mary Mallory,  
Lynne Barker, Brian Engles,  
Rob Calder II, Katie Bishop,  
Sandy Crawford, Larry Purfield,  
Joette Blakesley, Gary Fargher,  
Norman Clark (asbestosis), Merry Eccles,  
Nancy Brooks, Len Brockman,  
Vicki Cox, Judy Preston

### Needing Prayer

Please pray for victory over COVID-19,  
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.

### Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Steve Darrah, Nancy Riddle,  
Betty Rabold, Margaret Johnston,  
Rev. Stan Haxton, Bonnie Lourash,  
Margaret Sides, Gail Morger, Beth Ball,  
Jim Spicher, Fred Darrah, Steve Smith,  
Byran Gullett, Ralph Linder,  
Butch Hackett, Marie Richie,  
Steve Wetterauer, Kathy Staley

### Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Mary Daniel, Jeanine Franks,  
Katy Gnehm, Marge Wakeman,  
Julie Story

### Military Service Members

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

## March Birthdays

Mar 1	Pat Cassady
Mar 2	Marian Allan
Mar 4	Evelyn Howard
Mar 6	Ginny Halverson
Mar 6	Jamie Webb
Mar 8	Austin Aldag
Mar 9	Dean Smith 96
Mar 11	Jerry Berkley
Mar 12	Morgan Naramore
Mar 16	Anna Martin 98
Mar 17	Betty Fugitt 90
Mar 17	Jennie Reeves
Mar 17	Patrick Walker
Mar 18	Melissa Earle
Mar 19	Diana Newlan
Mar 19	Cassidy Renken
Mar 20	Sherry Throckmorton
Mar 20	Roger Williams
Mar 21	John Haeffle
Mar 25	Claire White
Mar 28	Pat Calder
Mar 29	Carol Darrah
Mar 29	Juanita Reader
Mar 31	Julie Powers

### Happy Birthday

May life take you on a  
journey you never imagined,  
bringing you to a destination  
that stirs your soul,  
gives you peace of mind  
and surrounds you with love!

### 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!

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

www.epfumc.com



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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# HVAC Fundraiser Trivia Night



**Thank You  
Ashleigh  
&  
Bob  
Great Job!**



**Best table decor**



**Jurassic Park**



**Trivia Wranglers**



**The Minimalists**

**Best Costumes**



**Experience Paradise thru Jesus**



**Happy Birthday  
Pastor Krista**



**Byron's Angels**

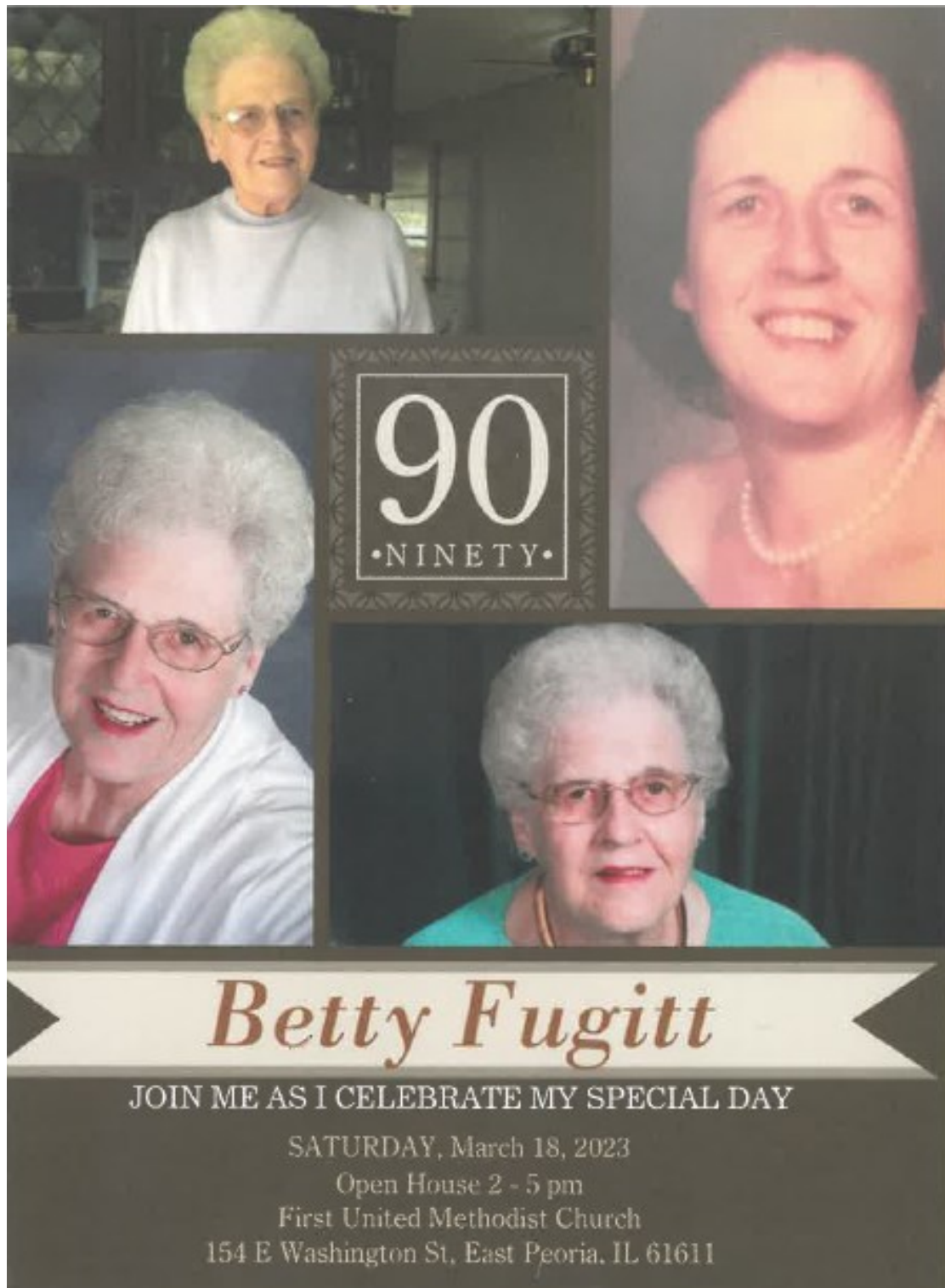


**Pretty Pre-K Princesses**



**Pantry Perpetrators**





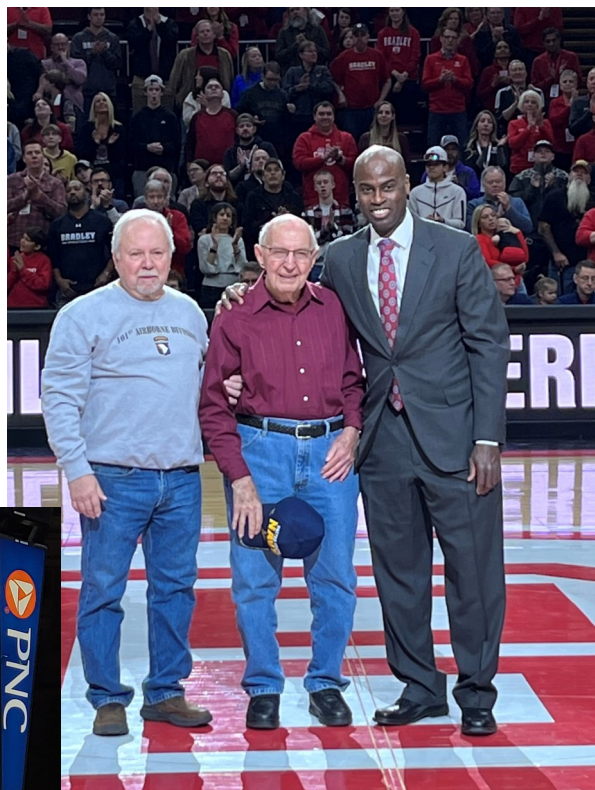
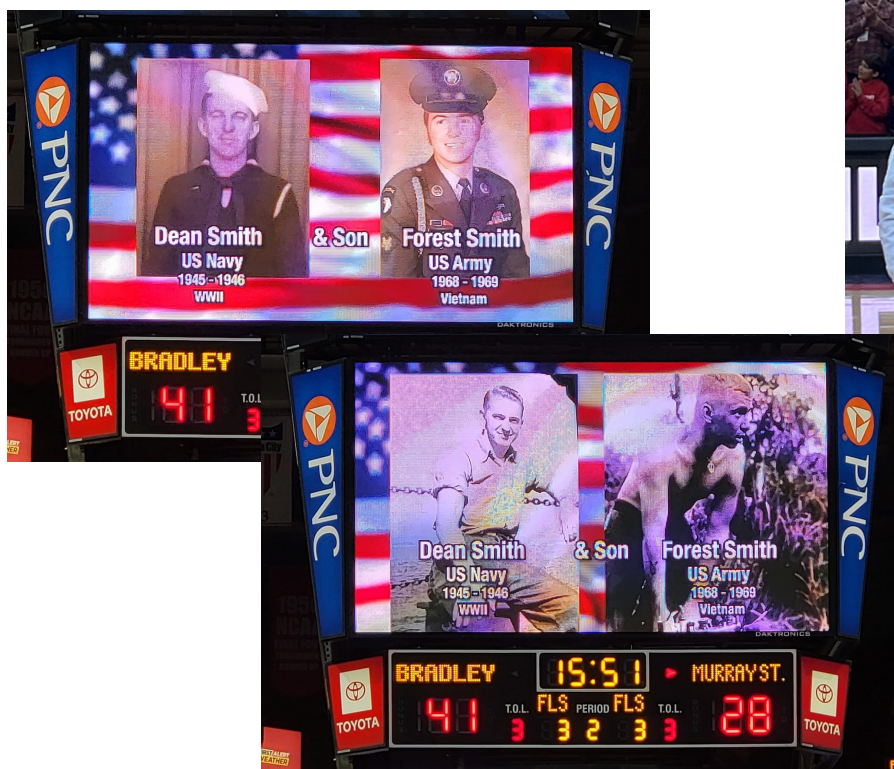
Betty is requesting no gifts please.

Your attendance will be her gift.

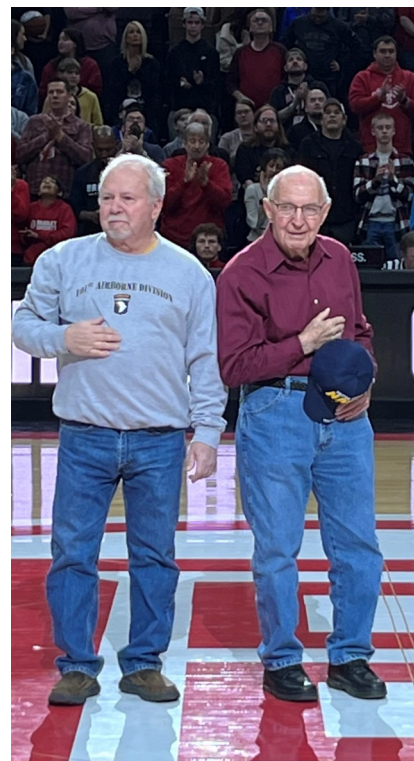
RSVP: text or call 309-472-2809



Dean Smith and Forest Smith were honored for their Military Service at a recent Bradley game!



Layne & Daniel Cunningham were on the floor too!



**Worship Schedule & Bible Study**

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Wednesday REFRESH

*Or Current*

Non-Profit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Peoria, IL  
Permit #694

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