

June Messenger 2026

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

154 E. Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611

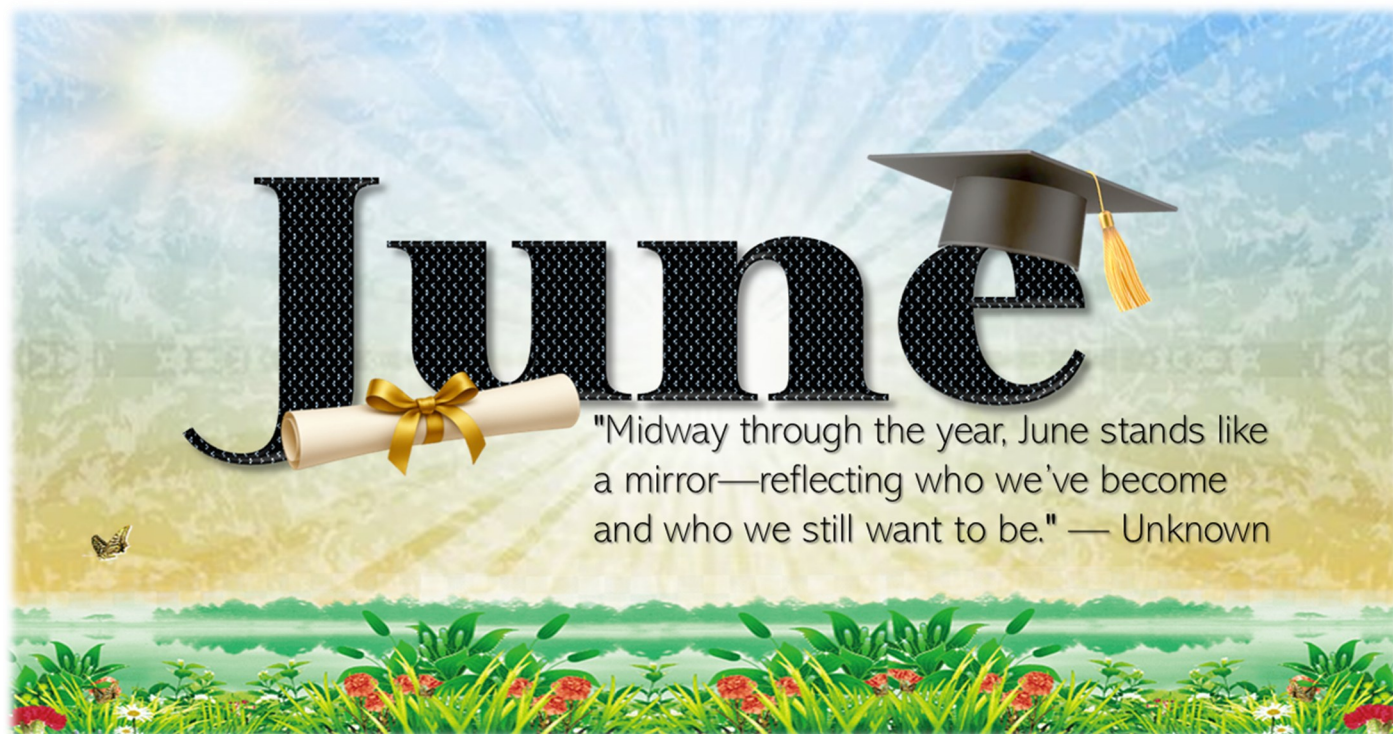
Phone: 309-699-5417

Visit Us Online at www.epfumc.com

E-mail: Office@epfumc.org

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

Invite-Attend-Fellowship-Serve



"Midway through the year, June stands like a mirror—reflecting who we've become and who we still want to be." — Unknown

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From the Pastor's Heart

It's Summertime!



Dear Church Family,

Memorial Day to Labor Day is often called summer. We think of ballgames, vacations, pool parties, golf, picnics, music in the park, and many other fun activities. But do we think of church?

Sometimes in the summer we are busier than we are in the other seasons. From my experience, people take a vacation from church—but does God take a vacation from you? Maybe I should rephrase that question: Aren't you glad God doesn't take a vacation from you?

I hope this summer to have some fun sermon series. Our time with God in worship and fellowship is just as important in the summer as Christmas or Easter.

So please, if you are in town, still come to church on Sunday. And if I can be so bold, continue your giving to support the ministry of this church that does not take a vacation.

Let us all have a special summer of fun and worship.

Your friend and partner,

Rev. Ted A.



June Mission Offering



Our 'noisy' offering for June will benefit Red Bird Mission. Red Bird Mission is a Christian human service organization that responds to the needs of the

Appalachia Kentucky community with resources, aid, and love. They have provided education and health care since 1921, and they will, with God's grace and your support, continue to do so for another century.

The need remains critical in this isolated, rural, distressed area. Chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged mountainous terrain provide obstacles to a fuller life for the residents of this area. Red Bird Mission and Clinic strives to meet these needs through five program areas: education, health, housing improvement, outreach, and Economic Opportunity. You can learn more by visiting their website at www.redbirdky.org.

Your Change Is Changing Lives!

Our "Noisy Offering" is a fun, hands-on way for everyone—especially children—to participate in giving. Each month, these gifts are shared with a different charity, helping us extend God's love beyond our walls and into our community. Below are your contributions to date and the organizations we will support in the months ahead.

- Jan:** Salvation Army - \$173.38
Feb: EPFUMC Food Pantry - "Souper" Bowl
 Soup Collection
Mar: Midwest Mission - \$135.25
Apr: East Bay Camp - \$246.07
May: South Side Mission - TBD
Jun: Red Bird Mission
Jul: Rock House Ministries
Aug: SnackPac
Sep: Pathway Ministries—Naramore Dinners
 (fka Peoria Rescue Mission)
Oct: The Baby Fold
Nov: Heifer Project
Dec: Helping Hands

Red Bird Mission Trip

The Friends for Mission team is leaving on their mission trip to Red Bird Mission Camp in Beverly, KY on June 6. The team consists of Jim Vogel, Melissa Earle and Jamie Webb. On this trip, we will be replacing flooring in a home, as well as power washing and painting a deck/ramp. We appreciate all of your love, prayers and monetary support!! When you support our Breakfast Sundays, you are helping fund our travel, room/board and projects!!

Thank You Church!!

Miracle Sunday

Hallelujah! What a generous church! You went above and beyond our goal of \$1,000! Together, we raised **\$1,142!** Thank you, EPFUMC, for your support of ministerial education. Your gifts are watering the seeds of hope for those pursuing the calling of ministry around the world. Every dollar you donate spreads the good news of the gospel a little further!

Midwest Mission Says Thanks!



Pictured above are students who received Midwest Mission Student Kits. They live in a remote and hard-to-reach area. The kits had to be delivered by ferry. Midwest Mission delivered 190 Student Kits to the area.

We received the following message from our friends at Midwest Mission:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift! May God bless you as together we work to show His love as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ.

In His Service,

Midwest Mission Family

So you see, EPFUMC, your change really is changing lives!! Thank you!!

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's breakfast will be held on **June 13**. Please contact Chuck Pierman to confirm your attendance.

Ladies' Luncheon

The next EPFUMC Ladies' Luncheon will be held on **June 20 at 11:30** at Avanti's in East Peoria.

We gather together on the 3rd Saturday of each month from April through November. Contact Bev Avery for questions and/or to reserve your seat.

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. Contact the church office for questions about how to access these various platforms.

REFRESH Service

Join us every Wednesday at noon for our half hour Refresh service. Open to all, come and bring a friend to worship with us through fellowship, devotion, prayer, and communion. What a great midweek pick-me-up to get you through from Sunday to Sunday!

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 to request an Electronic Giving form.

HELP NEEDED!!!

Jesus said suffer not the little children. We need YOUR help to keep our Children's Church adequately staffed. For safety purposes, we must have two volunteers with the children each Sunday.

All the materials are ready for you. All you have to do is show up! Please consider signing up for a Sunday on the sheet in the foyer. Our children (and their parents) will thank you!!

If You Are Ever 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.

Church Communication System

OneCallNow is the notification system we use to communicate church information to our congregation. If you do not currently receive church messages, such as closures, reminders, etc., but would like to, please contact the office. You can be notified by email, text and/or phone call.

Lost & Found Items

The lost and found is in the office. We keep lost & found items for 3 months and if not claimed, we dispose of or give away through the Food Pantry.

Reporting a New Address

Have you moved?

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

July Messenger Deadline

The deadline for the July 2026 issue of the Messenger is noon on Monday, June 22. Send your submissions to office@epfumc.org or drop them off in the church office.



A SPIRIT FILLED CHURCH

Acts 2:2–42

By Rev. Ted A. Hartley

On Sunday, May 24, I preached a very important sermon about a church that wants to grow, be alive, and be active in reaching people for Jesus Christ. This is a church filled with the Holy Spirit. Here were some of my main points.

What is Required to be Spirit-filled:

- ⇒ **Be a learning church.** One of the great perils of the church is looking backward instead of forward. We must continually learn new things.
- ⇒ **Be a fellowship church.** A great quality of togetherness! The church is Spirit-filled when we are family.
- ⇒ **Be a praying church.** The church can only meet our challenges when we spend time with God.
- ⇒ **Be a reverent church.** We must remember what we have is God's.
- ⇒ **Be a church where things happen.** If we expect great things from God and attempt great things for God, great things will happen.
- ⇒ **Be a sharing church.** We must have intense feelings of responsibility for each other.
- ⇒ **Be a worshipping church.** Never forget to visit God's house.
- ⇒ **Be a happy church.** Gladness is found at church.
- ⇒ **Be a witnessing church.** (MOST IMPORTANT) A church that invites people and shares the Good News of Jesus Christ.

May we always strive to be a Spirit-filled church at EPFUMC.

JUNE SERMONS

JUNE 7

UMC 101– 3 Simple Rules:
“Do No Harm” (*James 4:11-12*)
Speaker: Rev. Ted A.

JUNE 14

UMC 101– 3 Simple Rules:
“Do Good” (*3 John 11, Acts 10:38*)
Speaker: Rev. Ted A.

JUNE 21 (FATHER'S DAY)

“What Are You Leaving Behind?”
Speaker: Rev. Ted A.

JUNE 28

UMC 101– 3 Simple Rules:
“Stay in Love with God”
(*Psalms 105:4, Colossians 1:6-7*)
Speaker: Rev. Ted A.

I AM BACK.

I am pleased to share that our Bishops have reappointed me to serve alongside you at EPFUMC for another year. When I was first appointed here as an associate pastor in 1992, I remember feeling surprised and uncertain about where God was leading me. Years later, returning as your Directing Pastor brought a similar sense of surprise, as I had planned to be fully retired. Yet, my love for this church—and the important role EPFUMC has played in the beginning of my ministry—made it easy to say yes when called to return.

When the District Superintendent asked if I planned to stay, I spent two weeks in prayer and reflection and felt God's clear calling to remain here. In the coming year, I promise to give you my very best in service and leadership. In return, I ask for your prayers, support, and partnership as we strive to become the church God has called us to be.

Pastor Ted A.

Your Church Staff

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

Tia Fielder, Office Manager
e-mail: office@epfumc.org

Ryan Klaus, Pianist/Organist

Bob Dietrich, A/V Coordinator

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Rev. Ted A. Hartley's Office Hours

Rev. Ted. A. is generally in the office
Monday through Thursday.

NOTE: His office hours fluctuate from week to week due to meetings and pastoral care duties. He is off on Fridays. Please call ahead to make an appointment or to make sure the Pastor is in.

MUSIC Sunday

MAY 31, 2026



Music and hymns hold a central place in our United Methodist faith and tradition, serving as a vital means of praise, worship, teaching, and spiritual formation. Rooted in the legacy of John and Charles Wesley, hymns express core theological beliefs, reinforce scripture, and invite personal and communal response to God's grace. Singing together as a congregation

fosters unity and allows us to share faith in a way that engages both the heart and the mind. The hymns we sang as children and throughout our Christian journey are intricately woven into our most treasured memories.

On May 31st, we celebrated some of those songs during our special Music Sunday worship service. Throughout the month, we asked the congregation to submit their all-time favorite hymns. We then highlighted the top ten tunes through a powerfully moving hymn sing and shared the origin story of each song. We also had special selections from Puppets for Jesus and the EPFUMC choir. Below is the list of songs submitted by the congregation, with the top ten in bold print.

1. Amazing Grace #378	Great is Thy Faithfulness	Beneath the Cross of Jesus	Let Us Break Bread Together
2. How Great Thou Art #77	He Lives	Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love	Living for Jesus
3. In the Garden #314	Jesus Loves Me	Children of the Heavenly Father	Nothing But the Blood
4. Old Rugged Cross #504	Joy to the World	Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing	O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice
5. Here I Am Lord #593	Just A Closer Walk with Thee	Come Thou Long Expected Jesus	Prayer of Saint Francis
6. Go Tell It on the Mountain #251	Just As I Am	Crown Him With Many Crowns	Rejoice, the Lord is King
7. Let There Be Peace on Earth #431	Mary, Did You Know	El Shaddai	Rock of Ages
8. Victory in Jesus #370	O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	Every Time I Feel the Spirit	Stand By Me
9. He Touched Me #367	O How I Love Jesus	Fairest Lord Jesus	Take the Name of Jesus With You
10. Lord of the Dance #261	O Jesus, I Have Promised	Fill My Cup, Lord	Take Time to Be Holy
Because He Lives	Pass It On	God Be With You	Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
Holy, Holy, Holy	Precious Lord, Take My Hand	Grace Greater Than Our Sin	Thank You, Lord
I'll Fly Away	Silent Night, Holy Night	Hark! the Herald Angels Sing	The Lord's Prayer
It is Well With My Soul	This is My Father's World	Help Us Accept Each Other	There is Power in the Blood
Kum Ba Yah	What A Friend We Have in Jesus	He's Alive	There's Something About That Name
Onward Christian Soldiers	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	How Firm a Foundation	They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
America the Beautiful	You'll Never Walk Alone	I Saw the Light	This is the Day
Are Ye Able	And Are We Yet Alive	I Want Jesus to Walk With Me	This Little Light of Mine
As the Deer	Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know	In the Bleak Midwinter	To God Be the Glory
Blessed Assurance	Awesome God	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	Up From the Grave He Arose
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	Battle Hymn of the Republic	It's Me, It's Me, O Lord (Standing in the Need of Prayer)	Washed in the Blood
Christ the Lord Has Risen Today	Be Still My Soul	Jesus Loves the Little Children	Watch the Lamb
Days of Elijah	Be Thou My Vision	Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	We Are the Church
Faith of Our Fathers	Be Thou Near to Me	Jesus Paid It All	We Gather Together

Julie Powers Honored as Teacher of the Year


Julie Powers has been named Teacher of the Year at Limestone Community High School after 25 years of service. She was recognized at the school's Retiree Recognition on May 22. She also spoke at the LCHS graduation on May 9, encouraging students to keep working hard as they begin their next steps, whether in college, the military, trade school, or the workforce. She was nominated by and voted for by faculty and staff.



Throughout her teaching career, Julie has made a lasting difference in the lives of many students. Please join us in congratulating her on this honor and her years of dedicated service.



Julie Powers



HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY

To all
The Dads
The Stepdads
The Not-Yet Dads
The Should-Be Dads
The Father Figures

And to all those
missing their Dads and
the Dads missing their children.

A special tribute
to the fathers and father figures
still imparting wisdom after 90 years:

Rob Snoke 94
Dean Smith 99

*"I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me.
When he does wrong, I'll discipline him
in the usual ways, the pitfalls and
obstacles of this mortal life.
But I'll never remove
my gracious love from him."*

2 Samuel 7:14-15

The IGRC Annual Conference will be held June 4–6, 2026 at the Peoria Civic Center. This year's theme is "Rivers of Grace: Loving Boldly." The 3-day gathering will include worship, celebrations of new and retiring clergy, memorial of members and churches who have completed their missions, clergy ordination, conference updates, and voting on key decisions and ministry initiatives that shape the future of our United Methodist churches.

The decisions made at the conference each year directly impact our church's ministries, leadership, and mission. This year, Pastor Ted A. and Terry Newlan will be representing EPFUMC. Our Office Manager, Tia Fielder, will also be attending as an at-large lay delegate and new Certified Lay Minister.

Church members are encouraged to stay engaged by attending either in person or online. Information about the conference is available on the conference website at IGRC.org/ac2026. You can watch the any of the conference events online at igrc.org/ac2026live.

Annual Conference 2026



Rivers
of Grace

Love Boldly

June 4-6, 2026



In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Terry Newlan
Jennie Reeves

Fighting Cancer

Nancy Brooks, Rob Calder II,
Sandy Crawford, Byron Webb

Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Austin Aldag, Jodi Cassady,
Rev. Stan Haxton, Les Leach, Bonnie Lourash,
Caitlin Reeves, Nancy Riddle, Margaret Sides,
Roger Williams, Earl Webb

Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Jean Aldag, Lynda Gustafson, Anna Martin,
Marie Meyer, Sondra Urban

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 illness and injury, those who
are grieving, our conference leaders,
all governmental leaders, those who are serving
in our military, the youth and all caregivers.

Military Service Members

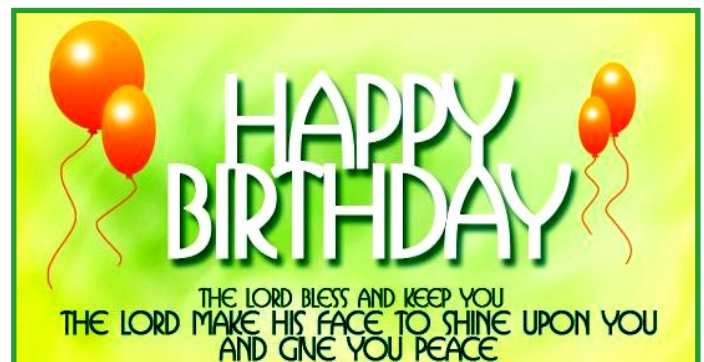
Ryan Webb (Army), Jared Koch (Air Force),
Nate Hill (Air National Guard)

Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of
Betty Fugitt who passed away on Monday, May 11.
Please keep the family in your prayers.

June Birthdays

June 9	Jeff Brooks
June 12	Rob Snoke
June 15	Ron Meischner
June 17	Mark Hill
June 18	Lynda Gustafson
June 19	Steve Hoskins
June 19	Kurt Jamison
June 20	Lucas Vogel
June 21	Dee Tucker
June 23	Makena Schmitt
June 24	Terri Bridges
June 25	Danette Sipka
June 28	Lynn Heisel



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
31 9:00am Worship Trinity Sunday	1 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	2	3 12:00pm REFRESH	4 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	5	6
7 9:00am Worship Communion Sunday	8 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 6:15pm 4-H Meeting	9	10 12:00pm REFRESH	11 11:30am East Peoria Woman's Club 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	12 Southern Hills Youth On Fire Mission Group	13 12:00am - 11:00am Southern Hills Youth On Fire Mission Group 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 12:00pm - 3:00pm Private Event 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
14 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Breakfast Flag Day 10:15am Church Conference (Ehrett Hall)	15 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	16	17 12:00pm REFRESH	18 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	19 Juneteenth	20 11:30am Ladies Luncheon @ EP Avanti's
21 9:00am Worship Father's Day First Day of Summer	22 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	23	24 12:00pm REFRESH	25 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	26	27 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
28 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast	29 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	30 5:30pm - 7:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting	1 12:00pm REFRESH	2 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	3	4 Independence Day

“June is a love song written by nature.”
- Patience Strong

HONORING OUR GRADUATES

SPECIAL SECTION



Sofia Munoz

Parent: Phil & Stacey Munoz

School: Dunlap Valley Middle School

Activities: Basketball, Softball, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Student Advisory Board

Next Steps: Going to Dunlap High School



Mia Whitfield

Grandparents: Jay & Sally Whitfield

School: Metamora Township High School
(Summa Cum Laude)

Next Steps: Going to San Diego State University to study Law

Lydia Milby

Grandparent: Scott Bundy

School: Morton High School

Next Steps: Going to Western Illinois University

Alivia R. Taylor

Grandparent: Jean Hobbs

School: Indiana State University

Degree: B.S. in Finance (Summa Cum Laude)

Next Steps: Will be starting a new job

Special congratulations to all of our Leap of Faith Pre-School Graduates who will be starting kindergarten this fall!



Sevie Warrenburg

(Ms. Bri's Son)



Congratulations Graduates!

"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.

Jeremiah 29:11

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