

October 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

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



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From the Pastor's Heart



Dear East Peoria First UMC Family:

I recently preached a sermon on being a balcony or basement person. Too many of us, in the church, live in the basement of criticism and judgment. So, many people want to know and experience the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, this comes from the balcony, not the basement. The balcony of encouragement, patience, understanding, and showing Christ's love and forgiveness. A church will not grow from the basement, only from the balcony. So, East Peoria First UMC, let us be a balcony church each and every day.

INVITE—ATTEND—REJOICE

This past month I gave an insert in the bulletin, which was a form to help you invite someone to church. You don't have to be an extrovert, theologian/preacher, to invite; only someone who wishes to tell another person where they can hear about the good news of Jesus Christ. Don't depend on the pastor to grow the church. It takes all of us.

See you Sunday!

Reverend Ted A. Hartley



October is Pastor Appreciation Month

On October 12th we will be celebrating
Pastor Ted A. Hartley.

There will be a basket at the back of the Sanctuary for you to put your cards, gifts and words of encouragement. Let's show Pastor Ted A. how much he means to us!

Teri's Tidbits...

Hello Church Family!

I m really sad to say I wrecked my car in my own driveway. We were getting new windows and the guy measuring brought his monster size dually truck and parked behind my husband's car, kind of at an angle. I needed to come back to work to finish something so I was in a hurry but I still peeked at how close he was to my car. I thought oh I can fit through there, no worries. I have the screen and the alarms that when they go off scare the tarnation out of me so I figured I was good. Well that's what I get for figuring. I backed out, truck didn't appear in my mirror, no alarms...EVEN WHEN I HIT IT! So, when I pulled forward, which I never should have done, the wheel well of his truck, which was so rusty, I kindly removed it with my bumper and what was left was a very sharp piece of metal where the wheel well should be and it ripped off my entire bumper. Did you know a lot of bells and whistles are in that back bumper? The next day my husband Bob, who I call my McGyver, took Gorilla Tape and literally made it look brand new. Our granddaughter, Aryana, 8, had seen everything. She comes out to go to school the next morning and screams "MOM, SOMEONE FIXED GRANDMA'S CAR DURING THE NIGHT!" Our daughter, Cait said, no honey I think Papa Bob fixed it so they could drive it to be fixed. She said "How does he do that?" She is shaking her head and then she says "I know! It's cause he is Bob the Builder! Who knew our grandpa was Bob the Builder?" She told everyone that story and we had the best laugh.

This, of course, got me thinking about God and how He takes our messes, our accidents, our intentional or unintentional, wrong doings and He Gorilla Tapes them. Then he knocks out the dings and He cleans us up shiny and new with a brand new paint job and sends us back out into the world refreshed and ready to go. The day we called His name, He made us "Flawless!" That's a song by MercyMe. One of my favorites! I saw a church sign the other day which really caught my attention: The Lord said "I will make you fishers of men." You catch 'em He will clean 'em! Now that's the best deal ever! I hope this made you smile, just a little, and remember, there is nothing so great that God cannot handle it!

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 **October 11**. Please let Chuck Pierman know if you will be attending.

Ladies' Luncheon

The Ladies' of the Church are meeting monthly. This month is at **AVANTIS** in East Peoria. If you would like to attend, it is **October 18** 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 her 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.

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.

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Philippians 4:4

Reporting a New Address

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

Adult Choir!

Choir has started! Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room. Please come join us!

October Sermons

Questions Jesus Asked:

Oct. 5 "Why Are You Afraid?"

Matthew 8:23-27

Oct. 12 "Why Are You Anxious?"

Luke 12:25-31

Oct. 19 "What Do You Live For?"

Mark 8 34-38

Oct. 26 "Whom Will You Love?"

Luke 6:27-36

Thank you from the Cassady Family!

Thank you for the many nice messages and prayers on the sudden passing of Pat's younger brother Allen. We were also surprised, appreciative and blessed that Pastor Ted made the trip to Springfield to be with us. That meant alot to every one including the presiding Pastor from the 1st United Methodist Church of Springfield.

Bible Study Schedule

October 7: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

October 14: 6 p.m. ONLY

October 21: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

October 28: 11 a.m. & 6 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.

Porch Visits

Sign ups are still available for visits from Pastor Ted A. with you at your home or at church or wherever you would be comfortable meeting me. These visits will last an hour, and no food needs to be prepared.

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.**

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

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

It's Snack Pac Time Again!!

The Snack Pac crew will begin meeting on Mondays at 9:00 am to pack Snack Pacs for many students in East Peoria District 86. The Snack Pacs go home with the eligible students on Fridays. Each Snack Pac contains simple breakfast foods, snacks, a drink and a lunch item for the students to enjoy over the weekend. Our first packing date is on Monday, October 6th!!

If you are interested in volunteering and/or have questions about what items can be donated...please contact either Jim Vogel at 309-369-1709 or Jamie Webb at 309-620-1816. Remember that many hands make light the load!!

**Blessings,
Jim, Jamie and Byron**

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

OUTDOOR WORSHIP 2025





In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Fighting Cancer

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

Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Nancy Riddle,
Rev. Stan Haxton, Bonnie Lourash,
Margaret Sides, Jeff Briggs, Roger Williams,
Chuck (Becky Ellis' cousin),
Austin Aldag, Earl Webb,
Caitlin Reeves

Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Katy Gnehm, Anna Martin,
Joyce Mooberry

Military Service Members

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

Our Food Pantry as they minister to the
great need in our community.

Healing for our church, our
community, and our nation.

Roger Williams—Health Issues

SINGING GOD'S PRAISES

Happy 70th Wedding Anniversary on
October 1st to:

Alan & Rosey Astle

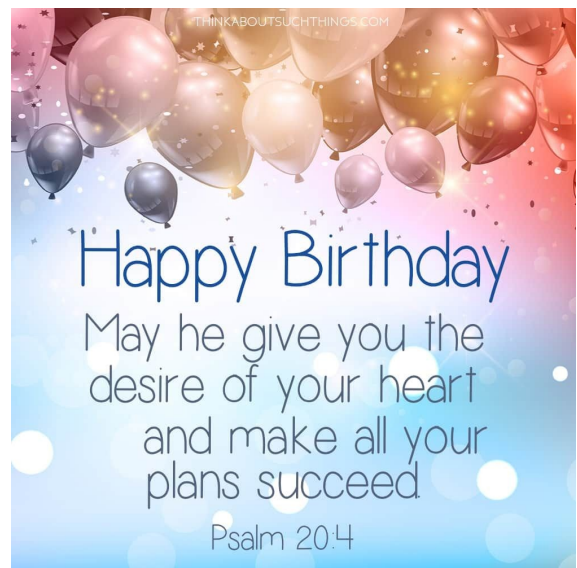
Condolences

To the Family of Roger Cothrell who passed
on September 8

To the Family of Don Arnold, Father to
Pastor Paul Arnold, Father-in-law to Pastor
Mary Arnold who passed on September 22.

October Birthdays

Oct 5	Mary Cole
Oct 6	Jodi Cassady
Oct 6	Joyce Mooberry
Oct 11	Nancy Riddle
Oct 14	Karen McIntosh
Oct 16	Jean Aldag-Daniels
Oct 17	Stacey Munoz
Oct 18	Diane Hall
Oct 20	Kathi Webb
Oct 21	Bill McLean
Oct 22	Gloria Dalberg
Oct 27	Bob Riddle
Oct 31	Vi Smith
Oct 31	Jim Vogel



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
28 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast	29 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meeting	30 Bible Study 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	1 12:00pm REFRESH	2 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	3	4
5 9:00am Worship 11:00am - 5:00pm Skylynn's Birth- day	6 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	7 Bible Study 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	8 12:00pm REFRESH	9 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	10	11 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00pm - 6:00pm Breakfast Setup
12 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Breakfast	13 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice 6:15pm 4-H Meeting	14 Bible Study 6 p.m. 9:00am - 12:00pm Early Head Start 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	15 12:00pm REFRESH	16 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	17 LOF Family Fall Fun Day	18 11:30pm Ladies' Luncheon @ Avantis
19 9:00am Worship 11:00am - 5:00pm Landon's Birthday	20 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	21 Bible Study 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	22 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm - 8:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice	23 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	24	25 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
26 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast Puppets for Jesus	27 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm - 6:00pm Bell Choir Practice 5:45pm - 8:00pm Cub/Boy Scout Meeting 6:00pm - 8:00pm REBORN Practice	28 Bible Study 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Choir Practice	29 12:00pm REFRESH	30 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	31 9:00am LOF Trick or Treating	1

OUR AMAZING LEAP OF FAITH DIRECTOR AND STAFF
BE SURE TO TELL THEM HOW APPRECIATED THEY ARE.



Miss Courtney
Teaches Pre-K



Miss Andrea
Teaches 2-3 y.o.



Miss Briana
Teaches Pre-K



Miss Britney
Teaches 2-3 y.o. and
helps with 3-4s and
Pre-K. She is also the
Director's Assistant
and helps with
Children's Church!



Miss Melissa
Teaches 3-4 y.o.



Miss Amber
Teaches 3-4 y.o.



Miss Cindy
Is the Director!



Miss Kelly
Teaches 2-3 y.o.

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Wednesday REFRESH

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154 E. Washington St.
East Peoria, IL 61611-2529