

# March Messenger 2024

## 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](http://www.epfumc.com)

E-mail: [Office@epfumc.org](mailto:Office@epfumc.org)

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



March 2024

In like a lion...

Out like a lamb!



*Sunday, March 10th*  
*@ 2:00 am*

### In This Issue

- 2.....Pastor's Chat
- 3.....Committee Meetings & Thank You's
- 4.....Easter Services
- 5.....Church Info
- 6.....Page for Kids of all Ages
- 7.....Prayers & Birthday List
- 8.....Church Calendar
- 9.....Pictures

*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!"*

Hello Spring!

It's on its way! The winter months for so many are hard, so spring is a welcome sign! One thing that I have learned over 27 + years of ministry is that everyone is an individual and that we all go through things in life in a different way. As we move forward in this church, I am inviting you to listen with an open heart, speak less and pray that God guides you in the direction He wants you to go, and that God sends you to the people who need to see Jesus!

We have been commissioned by the One who will be hailed on Palm Sunday as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, then the One who walks the lonely path to ask His Father to take the cup from Him, then to the one who will betray our Messiah with a kiss, to hanging on the Cross for our sins, and then to letting us know God has prevailed darkness and despair with the light of an empty tomb!

When I begin to write my article for April, we will be celebrating Resurrection Sunday! We will know that our season of darkness, despair and winter is over for now! We are in the season of hope and promise, light and love, grace and new mercies! Let us live with helping others to see God doing a new thing in their lives, surrendering the things that do not matter to our lives moving forward!

I see healing! I see the promise! I see grace! I see love! I see hope! I see Jesus!

"In The Name of Jesus" [https://youtu.be/ihrUIPfvTh8?si=wZt\\_Gs3f\\_5D9wcaK](https://youtu.be/ihrUIPfvTh8?si=wZt_Gs3f_5D9wcaK)

I pray for this song to become reality in your life! Live full! Live with hope! Live for Jesus! I love you! But more importantly, Jesus loves you to the outstretched arms of Jesus!

With you on the Way!

Pastor Krista

### Altar Flower Dedications

- Mar 3** - In memory of those who have gone on!  
Love, Evelyn Howard
- Mar 10** - In honor of Dean Smith's 97th Birthday!  
Love, Your Family
- Mar 17** - In loving memory of our parents.  
Love, Jack & Brenda Ellingsworth
- Mar 24** - Happy Holy Week! Jesus arrives in Jerusalem! From, Jennie Reeves
- Mar 31** - He has Risen! In memory of Tootie Schmitt. Love, the Church Family

### 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

**Trustee Meeting** - Thursday, March 14th  
@6:00 pm in B1

### United Women in Faith Spring Tea

Please join the United Women in Faith for a Spring Tea on Saturday, March 9th at 2:00pm. The Sweet Adelines will treat us with their vocals! Contact Rose Rock to RSVP by Mon, March 4th, at 309-258-2183 or idyrmr@hotmail.com.

### Small Adult Group Bible Study

Women of the Bible  
2nd & 4th Thursdays at 2:00 pm  
This class is for men and women.

### Friends for Mission Breakfast

The Friends for Mission Breakfast is the 2nd Sunday of each month. (Mar. 10th) Come have a delicious breakfast and support this important mission.

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month. (Mar. 9th) 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.

### Easter Tulip Sales

There will be a table set up Sunday, Mar 3rd for you to order your Easter tulips. \$15 each. Please see Patti Staley if you have any questions.

### Leap of Faith Book Fair

#### **Books are great Easter basket fillers!**

Leap of Faith will host a book fair from March 18th to March 22nd and after Church on March 24th. All books will be displayed in the school hallway and may be purchased with cash, check or credit card. The school earns 50% profit from every order. All profits will be used to purchase new books for Leap of Faith!

### Thank You

I want to thank you all for the gifts and cards that I received for my birthday! Each year you have amazed me with the love you give!

Love, Pastor Krista

I want to thank the members of EP 1st United Methodist for all the get well wishes and holiday cards, a small nativity and night light. Such an outpouring of love from everyone sure was a great surprise. Just want to give a shout out to thank All!

Barb Bleichner

Thanks to each of you for volunteering at our 2023 Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon! We appreciate all that you did to help create a meaningful experience for those we served. It would not have been possible without you. Thank you! God bless you all!

Bailee Lynn with The Salvation Army

To our First UMC Family: We would like to say a heartfelt thank you for the cards, calls, messages and prayers surrounding the loss of our beloved, Teresa. Your caring and support have meant so very much to us. We are especially grateful to Pastor Krista for the hospital visits and for planning the beautiful service. We are also especially blessed by the gathering and meal following the service. We thank God for the love and support of our Church Family.

With love, Bill and Lynn Heisel and Family

### Sympathy

Our condolences go to the family and friends of June Bishop. June passed away on January 27, 2024.

Our deepest sympathies go to Bill and Lynn Heisel, and all of their family, with the loss of their daughter, Teresa Smoot. Teresa passed away on February 8, 2024.



He is Risen!

Death could  
not hold Him!

Rejoice in the  
resurrection of  
JESUS CHRIST!

## Join us...

Maundy Thursday Service, March 28

6:30 pm at Zion Evangelical UMC  
3200 Cole Hollow Road  
Pekin, IL 61554

Good Friday Service, March 29

12:00 pm at First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

Easter Sunday, March 31

First United Methodist Church of East Peoria

7:00 am Sunrise Service

Friends for Mission breakfast

9:00 am Worship Service

### **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](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, 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.

### **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

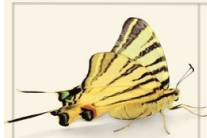
**Terri Bridges**, Office Manager  
e-mail: [office@epfumc.org](mailto:office@epfumc.org)

**Ryan Klaus**, Pianist/Organist

**Bob Dietrich**, A/V Coordinator

**BUTTERFLY SPECIES**

THEHAMNY.COM



Shallowtail



Dead Leaf Butterfly



Skipper Butterfly



Mourning Cloak



Monarch Butterfly



Pieridae



Goliath Birdwing



Blue Morpho



Peacock Pansy



Zebra Butterfly



Painted Lady



Silver Washed



colias croceus



Black Shallowtail



Cloudless Sulphur

**SPRING**

WORD SCRAMBLE

OLBMO \_\_\_\_\_

YMA \_\_\_\_\_

RGEDNA \_\_\_\_\_

TEUFYRLTB \_\_\_\_\_

EFOLRW \_\_\_\_\_

ARNI \_\_\_\_\_

LMUEBRAL \_\_\_\_\_

SISNHNEU \_\_\_\_\_

RMHCA \_\_\_\_\_

IBDR \_\_\_\_\_

LIARP \_\_\_\_\_

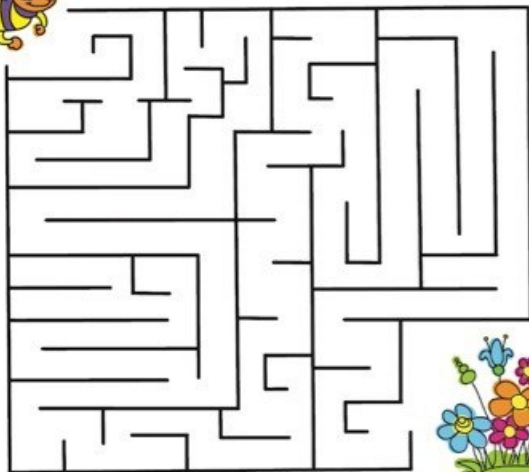
UPLDDE \_\_\_\_\_

SRASG \_\_\_\_\_

OSMLSOB \_\_\_\_\_

NTSE \_\_\_\_\_

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**Spring maze****Page for kids  
of all ages**



## In Our Prayers

### In the Hospital in the Past Month

Joyce Mooberry, Alan Astle,  
Ralph Linder, Roger Cothrell

### 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),  
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 90
Mar 6	Ginny Halverson
Mar 6	Jamie Webb
Mar 8	Austin Aldag
Mar 9	Jan Chisholm
Mar 9	Dean Smith 97
Mar 11	Jerry Berkley
Mar 11	Dylan McBrayer
Mar 12	Mary Meischner
Mar 12	Susie Meischner
Mar 12	Morgan Naramore
Mar 14	Lacey Goodin
Mar 16	Anna Martin 99
Mar 17	Betty Fugitt 91
Mar 17	Jennie Reeves
Mar 18	Melissa Earle
Mar 19	Diana Newlan
Mar 19	Cassidy Renken
Mar 19	April Wolford
Mar 20	Roger Williams
Mar 21	John Haeffele
Mar 25	Claire White
Mar 28	Pat Calder
Mar 29	Juanita Reader
Mar 31	Julie Powers

For YOU on YOUR birthday,  
We wish YOU a lifetime  
of happiness,  
a smaller amount of worries,  
and a boat load  
of big dreams coming true...  
**HAPPY 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
<b>25</b> 9:00am Worship with Puppets for Jesus Easter Tulip Sale 6:00pm Youth Group All Church Event Leap of Faith Art Show	<b>26</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Ad Council Meeting	<b>28</b> 12:00pm REFRESH 10:00am - 2:00pm United Women in Faith 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus	<b>29</b> 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00am Worship Easter Tulip Sale 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>4</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12:00pm REFRESH 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus	<b>7</b> 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00am Men's Prayer Break- fast 9:00am - 12:00pm GS Adult Meeting 2:00pm United Women in Faith Spring Tea 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
<b>10</b> 9:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group Friends for Mission Breakfast	<b>11</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:15pm 4-H Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12:00pm REFRESH 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus	<b>14</b> 10:00am Early Head Start 2:00pm Women of the Bible Study Group 6:00pm Trustee Meeting 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	<b>15</b> 10:00am - 1:00am Early Head Start	<b>16</b> 8:00am - 5:00pm GS Troop Meeting
<b>17</b> 9:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00pm REFRESH 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus	<b>21</b> 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am Worship with Puppets for Jesus 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>25</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice	<b>28</b> 8:00am - 5:00pm LOF Easter Egg Hunt 2:00pm Women of the Bible Study Group 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 7:00am Sunrise Service Friends for Mission Breakfast 9:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>1</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bells Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12:00pm REFRESH 5:30pm Kid's Connection 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus	<b>4</b> 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	<b>5</b> 7:30am - 12:00pm LOF Picture Day	<b>6</b>



## Our Church in Pictures:



### Church Pictures!

If you take pictures here at Church, for any reason, please email them to the Church office at [Office@epfumc.org](mailto:Office@epfumc.org). Let's share pictures of our fun activities, breakfasts or even a selfie with your pew mate or Pastor Krista!

**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