

August 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



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From the Pastor's Heart

Dear Church Family,

As I start my 2nd year (4 years including previous), I am reminded what an impact this church has made and continues to make in our community. From the Food Pantry to Snack-Pac to opening our building to scouts and other community groups. I have seen churches die and close and hardly anyone in the community knows they have closed. I don't think that would be true of our church.

I am concerned that we need to be inviting more people, and when we have visitors, follow up with them better. We need everyone to do something, not a few doing everything. This fall, in October, we will be having a month of activities to grow by, and I need your help.

Let us not grow weary in doing good. God is not finished with this church, but God wants to see a church for all, inviting all and serving all.

Also, I still believe that more of our adults should be studying the Bible on a regular basis. This Fall, I will be leading the Andy Griffith Bible Study. Each week, we will watch an episode of Andy Griffith (minus the commercials!) and see how it relates to the scriptures.

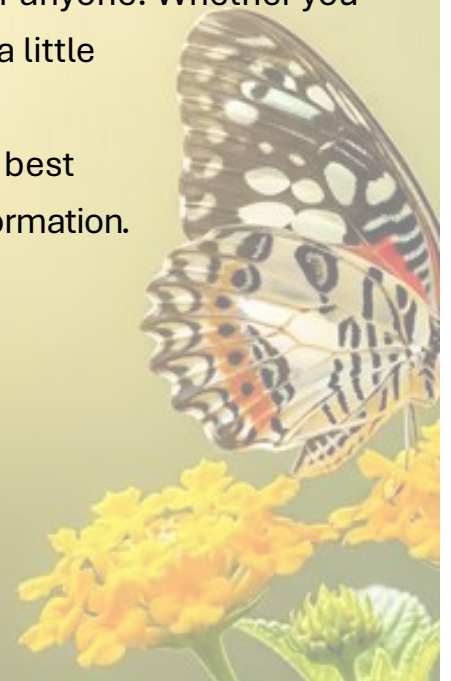
This four-week study is open to everyone and appropriate for anyone! Whether you have never picked up a Bible on your own, or you could use a little brushing up, or you read the Bible daily, this study is for you!

This month we will be distributing a survey to determine the best day and time for most people to attend. Stay tuned for more information.

Thanks for letting me be your pastor.

Your friend and pastor,

Rev. Ted A.



August Mission Candle



Our August Mission Candle is our very own SnackPac Program. SnackPac provides simple weekend snacks/meals for students when such items may be in short supply or unavailable at home. The program serves

students at Bolin, Lincoln, and Shute Schools who qualify to receive Free or Reduced meals through the Food Program. Eligible students are required to submit a signed consent form from a parent/guardian to receive the weekend SnackPacs.

In place of our normal “noisy” offering, we are asking for donations of non-perishable food items such as juice boxes, granola bars, fruit snacks, fruit breakfast bars, individual mac-n-cheese cups, instant oatmeal packets, and microwave popcorn. There will be baskets outside the sanctuary throughout the month of August for your contributions.

Each SnackPac includes at least 10-12 items weekly. Some SnackPac items are received through MidWest Distribution or purchased by the SnackPac program. Other items are generously donated by members of our congregation and the community. Parents/guardians of students with food sensitivities are cautioned and encouraged to thoroughly check each item for potential allergens.

SnackPacs are lovingly packed and prayed over by our dedicated SnackPac Elvens. These wonderful individuals meet on Mondays at 9:00AM during the school year. We have been blessed to have other community volunteers come in and pack weekly SnackPacs as well. We strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in our own community.

Please prayerfully consider
becoming a SnackPac helper!!

Blessings,
Jim, Jamie and Byron

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. **In June, you raised \$257.20 for Red Bird Mission.** Below are the organizations we will support in the months ahead.

Aug: SnackPac (Food Donations)

Sep: Pathway Ministries—Naramore Dinners
(fka Peoria Rescue Mission)

Oct: The Baby Fold

Nov: Heifer Project

Dec: Helping Hands

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 **August 8.**

Please contact Chuck Pierman
to confirm your attendance.

Ladies’ Luncheon

The next EPFUMC Ladies’ Luncheon will be held on **August 15 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.

Back to School Blessings

August marks the end of summer vacation as students and teachers head back to the classroom. To help get their year off to a great start, on Sunday, August 16th, during morning service, Pastor Ted A. will be blessing student backpacks and giving blessings to all who work in the education system in any capacity. Invite the students and teachers in your life to join us for worship and prayers for God’s provision and protection in the coming year.

COMING SOON - Worship Outside

Join us for Worship Outside on September 27, 2026. Bring your family, friends, and lawn chairs to enjoy a morning of worship. The time is still to be determined.

Zion Tabernacle Meetings

Ed & Terry Newlan and the Zion Evangelical family will be hosting their 175th Annual Zion Tabernacle Meetings August 2-6. Worship services will be held at 3271 Zion Oaks Road in Pekin and will begin at 7pm nightly. Let's show our support.

Outreach/Missions Contributions

Our outreach and missions ministries at EPFUMC are able to impact lives because of your continued generosity. All monetary contributions made to our ministries like the Food Pantry, Friends for Mission, and SnackPac are tax deductible. However, please keep in mind that in order for your outreach contributions to be listed on your church giving statement, checks must be made out to the church with the name of the ministry in the memo section or on your giving envelope. If you prefer to give directly to the individual ministry, please be sure to keep your canceled check or thank-you letter as proof of your contribution. Thank you for giving!

2nd Quarter Finance Report

Church General Fund

The General Fund is used to pay our monthly expense.

For the 2nd Quarter 2026:

Offerings \$38,853.62

Expenses \$41,920.22

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.

2026 Charge Conference & Nominations

It's hard to believe that Charge Conference time is just around the corner. Current committee leaders should be on the lookout for an email from the office outlining required reports and submission deadlines. This is also the time for electing and reassigning church committee members and officers. If you are currently serving on a church committee as a member or an officer, please contact the office or Pastor Ted to discuss your willingness to continue serving. We also invite you to contact the office if you are interested in serving.

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!

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

Lost and found items are stored in the church office. Items that are not claimed within three months will be given away through the Food Pantry, donated, or thrown away.

Current Item:
Eddie Bauer Down Coat
(Navy Blue, Medium)

September Messenger Deadline

The deadline for the September 2026 issue of the Messenger is noon on Monday, August 24. Send your submissions to **office@epfumc.org** or drop them off in the church office.

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

UPDATING YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION IS KEY!



**IF YOU HAVE
MOVED**



**IF YOU
CHANGED YOUR
PHONE NUMBER**



**IF YOU CREATED
A NEW E-MAIL
ADDRESS**

IS YOUR CONTACT INFO UP TO DATE??

Has your name, address, email,
or phone number changed?

Do you need to update your household
or emergency contacts?

Do we have your birthday and/or
anniversary on file?

As part of our EPFUMC church family, we want to stay connected with you. Keeping your information current ensures that you will always stay informed. More importantly, it helps us serve you better.

Also, we will be updating our church directory soon. You can help us get a head start by updating or confirming your information today! Use the contact form in your Sunday bulletin, or contact the church office by email at **office@epfumc.org** or by phone at **309.633.5417**. Thank you!

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.

Called to Serve: A Message from the Mission Field



I'm Connie, whose Chinese name (康妮) means "healthy girl." I hold a BA in English from Eastern Illinois University, and an MA in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Southern Illinois University. A majority of my teaching experience has been in the Asian region – Japan, Taiwan, and Mainland China where I worked as a college English language teacher for The Amity Foundation.

My work in Amity's education division was as a college English language teacher in the developing areas of the country. See below my classroom at Luzhou Vocational and Technical College, where I taught until 2020, when Covid stranded me in America.

As of August, 2023, I was accepted as the coordinator of the Sunbeam Vocational and Language Training Center in Vientiane, Laos. Join with me as I navigate my way through a new life, a new culture and new beginnings in what is known as The Land of a Million Elephants.

If you follow my Facebook page (Connie Wieck) or my website (connieinchina.org), you'll see all

the pictures and stories since my arrival in December, 2023. My Facebook page and website announce the country I am in but I never refer to myself as a missionary, only a teacher. This placement is one of the few we United Methodists have that is deemed a "sensitive area". We are known as a Mission Initiative, with a focus on church planting. Our denomination is not recognized by the government so we are very careful to protect Christians who worship at our United Methodist churches. Our churches are registered and accepted by the government as community centers, not religious buildings.



Usually, if the church members don't cause the government any trouble, everyone is left alone but any unauthorized church can be shut down at any moment depending on the political atmosphere. Thus missionaries of any denomination are very careful not to announce themselves as missionaries, and this includes the United Methodists.

What We Three UMC Missionaries Do in Laos

I am in charge of the business end, running the Suntisouk Language and Vocational Center in the capital city, Vientiane. The Center offers fee-paying English language courses in the afternoons and evenings. This is how we get fulltime missionaries into the country. Officially,



our UMC missionaries are hired on work visas to be teachers at the Center but some actually are not at the Center nor teach English. I do as I'm the director, assigned to teach and supervise our language institution. Due to our caring, responsible teaching techniques and our free outreach programs into the community, the Center has an excellent reputation among government officials as overseas educators who care for the country and its people.



Two other missionaries have different tasks. Our country director, Rev. David Kim, works with churches established under our denomination, leads pastoral training sessions, approves and directs new congregations, and manages all finances. His wife, Sora Kim, holds the title of Coordinator for Community Development. Her recent accomplishments have been: adjusting, compiling, and perfecting Sunday School materials for the Lao church primary school children, overseeing training for first-time Sunday School leaders, establishing nutritional health programs with churches as outreach stations, and spearheading school supply programs through Advance donations.

The Global Mission Fellow Program

The Lao Mission Initiative has also been involved in the Global Mission Fellow (GMF) program. The GMF program is a 2-year placement for young Christians, ages 20 - 30, who wish to serve the world's people in some special way. Our most recent GMF has been Shaloom, from Pakistan, who returned to his home country in



June. I was his supervisor and mentor, which has been a true blessing. If anyone is interested in learning more about the GMF program, go to our umcmmission.org website, search for GMF program and read more.

In Closing

I have so many more stories to share and many, many joys in serving here. Know how very grateful and honored I am to all those whose congregations have led me on this incredible pathway of service to the Lord. Your generous support and partnership over these many years has truly made a difference in bringing others an understanding of God's love and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

God's Love and Peace,

Connie Wieck

UMC General Board of Global Ministries
Missionary to Southeast Asia

Contact Information

Email: cwieck@umcmmission.org

WhatsApp: 1-217-921-4909

Website: connieinchina.org

Facebook: Connie Wieck

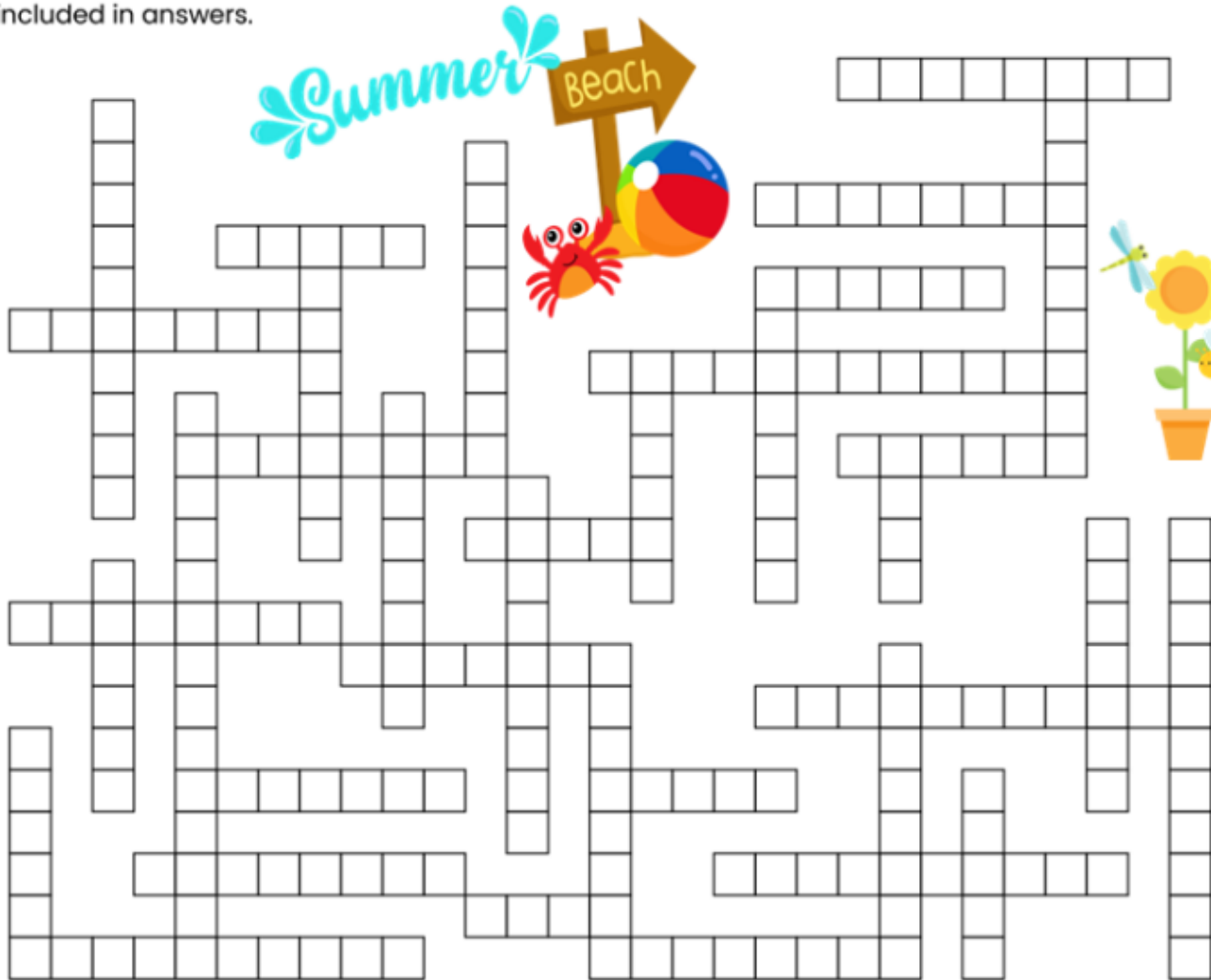


Fun Page for Every Age



August Word Fill In

Write the words in the correct place on the grid based on the number of letters. Spaces included in answers.



4 letters

fair
pool

August

5 letters

fruit
coach
rides
beach



6 letters

garden

eighth

summer
sports
s'mores

7 letters

hottest
cookout
canning

8 letters

vacation

aquapark
teachers
dog days
students
perseids
practice
swimming
football
corn dog
carnival
backpack
campfire

9 letters

preserves

10 letters

sunflowers
hurricanes
vegetables
lazy river

11 letters

water slide
funnel cake

12 letters

ferris wheel

14 letters

back to school





In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Sandy Crawford,
Chuck Pierman

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, Jim Frey, Lynda Gustafson,
Anna Martin, Marie Meyer

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

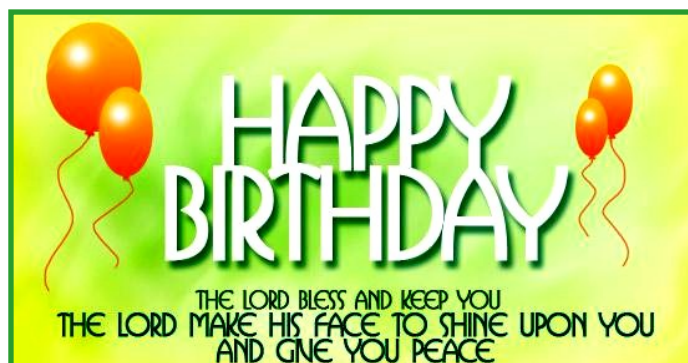
Ryan Webb (Army), Jared Koch (Air Force),
Nate Hill (Air National Guard)

Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies go out
to the family of Sondra Urban, who
passed away on Saturday, July 25.
Please keep the family in your prayers.

August Birthdays

August 5	Shelly Dietrich
August 6	Nick Powers
August 8	David Allan
August 9	Tad Hoskins
August 9	Logan Mooberry
August 12	Jim Webb
August 14	Barbara Church
August 17	James Newlan
August 18	Patsy Moore
August 19	Patti Staley
August 20	Lucy Roesse
August 21	Carol Ogle
August 24	Trevor Hoskins
August 29	Kathy Naramore
August 30	Charlotte Hoskins



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
26 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast	27 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	28	29 12:00pm REFRESH	30 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	31	1
2 9:00am Worship NO COMMUNION	3 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	4	5 12:00pm REFRESH	6 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	7	8 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
9 9:00am Worship Communion Sunday NO FRIENDS FOR MISSION 6:00pm - 8:00pm Private Event	10 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 6:15pm 4-H Meeting	11	12 12:00pm REFRESH	13 NO EP WOMAN'S CLUB 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	14	15 8:30am - 10:30pm Barb Church Family Charter Bus Trip 11:30am Ladies Luncheon @ EP Avanti's
16 9:00am Worship	17 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	18	19 12:00pm REFRESH	20 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	21	22 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
23 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Breakfast	24 Messenger Newsletter Deadline 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	25	26 12:00pm REFRESH	27 9:00am - 12:00pm Early Head Start 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	28	29
30 9:00am Worship	31 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry	1	2 12:00pm REFRESH	3 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	4	5

"A vacation is what you take when you can no longer take what you've been taking."

- Earl Wilson



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME EPFUMC NEW MEMBER PHIL NEWTON

We are so delighted to welcome Phil Newton as a new member of our EPFUMC church family! Phil, who lives in Peoria, has been married to his wife, Jill, for 35 years, and together they have been blessed with five children.

Phil spent 18 years working in the nonprofit sector and, since 2014, has owned his own business helping charities, churches, and schools with fundraising and leadership development. Many of us have already had the opportunity to meet Phil through his attendance at our Wednesday noon Refresh Service.

Since he started attending, he has jumped in with both feet. He is always willing to bless us with his musical gifts by playing his guitar. He has agreed to lead the Refresh Service in Pastor Ted's absence on August 5, and when we discovered one of our dehumidifiers was leaking in Ehrett Hall, he did not hesitate to come down to help clean up the mess.

On July 15, Phil took his membership vows during the noon Refresh Service. Please join us in extending a warm welcome and keeping Phil and his family in your prayers as they continue their journey with us in faith and fellowship. Consider coming out on August 5 to meet Phil and show your support as he provides the noon message. We are truly grateful to have him as part of our church community!



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

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Wednesday REFRESH