



El Paso United Methodist Church  
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Door

# The Messenger

El Paso UMC Newsletter

September 2025

243 East Second Street  
El Paso, IL 61738  
309-527-2222

[www.elpasoumcil.org](http://www.elpasoumcil.org)  
[www.facebook.com/EPUMC](https://www.facebook.com/EPUMC)

Dear Church Family,

In the last month, I completed the Licensing School for the United Methodist Church. It was a lot of information crammed into about four months. Most importantly, I learned a great deal and grew in my walk with Christ. I did not, however, receive this education solely for my benefit but rather to share it. Those sharing opportunities will not just take place at the pulpit. We are going to have weekly Bible study sessions. While these sessions will take a more in-depth look at Bible passages than can take place in a worship service, these sessions will also allow us as a church family to more richly connect with each other. These will also provide excellent occasions to invite someone to perhaps a “less scary” church event.

You have hopefully received a survey regarding your interests. If you have not, they are in the back of the sanctuary. Please reach out to Amy or me if you do not locate them. Please complete the survey, as it will provide guidance on outreach efforts and opportunities for service on church committees, among other things. We are on this journey together. We will all be more richly rewarded by each of us participating.

One of the great things I learned through lessons and experience at Licensing School is the reality of being a connectional church. The United Methodist Church is a worldwide organization with an impact across the globe. Through that connection, not only was I trained to be your pastor, but through that connection, our congregation is impacting the world.

I hope to highlight different connectional mission and outreach efforts each month. This month, I have written about Connie Wieck. El Paso UMC financially supports her service to God’s kingdom in Asia. Please check out that article. She is inspirational.

May God bless you and keep you.

In His Service,

Chuck

## Worship With Us!

Sunday Worship Service 9 am  
Fellowship 10 am  
Kids Church 9:15 Fellowship Hall  
Nursery is available during worship

## Online Worship

Livestreamed linked from our website  
[www.elpasoumcil.org](http://www.elpasoumcil.org) or connect directly  
on YouTube  
[www. https://www.youtube.com/  
@ElPasoUnitedMethodistChurch-IL](https://www.youtube.com/@ElPasoUnitedMethodistChurch-IL)

## Chuck Feeney

[chasfeeney3@gmail.com](mailto:chasfeeney3@gmail.com)  
Cell/Text 309-261-3329  
Office 309-527-2222

## Prayer Requests

Do you have prayer requests? Do you have pastoral care concerns? Contact Chuck Feeney directly or fill out the Contact Us / Prayer Request page on our website <https://elpasoumcil.org/contact-us/> and your request will be sent directly to Chuck’s email –  
you are not posting publicly.

## UMC Mission Statement

*Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

## Membership Matters

We believe Christians are called to a lifelong journey of growth. Participation in the ministries of the church, like worship, Bible study, missions and connecting with our neighbors are ways God works in our lives and hearts. We believe membership matters because we are better together. Contact Chuck Feeney for information on how to become a member of El Paso UMC!

## *Our Connection*

El Paso UMC seeks to meet the requirements of the Five Star Mission Challenge. One of the requirements is to provide salary support for a Global Missionary. El Paso UMC supports Connie Wieck. She serves at a Methodist Mission in Southeast Asia. She is a Global Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. She coordinates the English-language program of the Southeast Asia Methodist Mission.

Previously, Wieck served as a mission advocate, partnering with conferences and local churches to encounter the Holy Spirit through missional information and mission opportunities. Her guidance focused on healthy partnerships that lead to sustainable mission projects and missionary support.

Wieck earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Eastern Illinois University and a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Southern Illinois University. She has served with Global Ministries for 30 years, primarily as an English-language teacher.

Her placements included three years as a Mission Intern (Kyoto, Japan, YWCA, and the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, Washington, D.C.); three years at Wesley Girl's High School, (Taipei, Taiwan, POC); 24 years in East Asia at Amity Foundation as an English teacher; and in the United States as the Mission Advocate for the North Central Jurisdiction.

In her last teaching placement, she taught 430 first- through third-year students majoring in English education. Her courses included teaching methodology, oral English, writing, and culture.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Wieck temporarily returned to the United States. She maintained daily contact with former students and colleagues from her community. "Despite the distance between us, technology allows us to remain together" she said. "All of this is due to the strong commitment of faithful United Methodists, who give support to so many of us. Partnering together, we serve from everywhere to everywhere as God's people."

Our connection is making a difference.



## Take Time for Fellowship!

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as in the habit of some but encouraging one another.”*

*Hebrews 10:24-25*

In August we had a great time at the Peoria Chiefs Faith and Family Night with Fireworks after the game! Attending were: Tim and Diane, Miranda, Braylee and Jenny, Jenica, Charlie, Ellie, Gracie, Jackson, Trent, Beth, Amy and Mike.



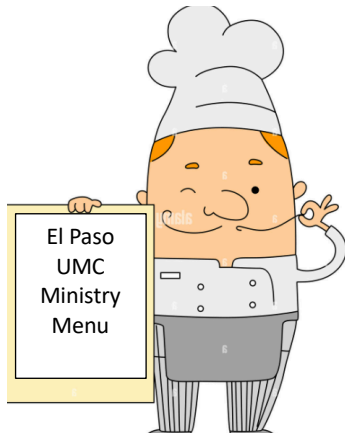
*“Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”*  
*Mark 10:14, ESV*

**Thank you to all the people that have donated to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child so far!**

For many years El Paso United Methodist members have generously donated items to pack in shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child. This is a great time to look for school supplies while they are on sale. You can also purchase “Wow” gifts for the children like deflated soccer balls and pumps, dolls, stuffed animal, etc. You can also give money to be used for gifts for the kids or for shipping the boxes. Donita Fever and Lori Henderson are leading this outreach. Contact Donita or Lori if you have questions. Last year our shoeboxes went to the Republic of Congo in Africa.



*Please complete the  
El Paso UMC  
Ministry Menu  
Family Survey*



At EP UMC we seek to have people serving where they want to serve, to involve as many people as possible in the life of our church, and to make an impact for Christ in our community. We currently have many outreach ministries like Community Meal, Mom's Group, Blood Drive, and Operation Christmas Child. What if we reached out to veterans with a Veterans' Day service, hosted members of the agricultural community for a service praising God and giving thanks for a safe and bountiful harvest, tutored children in need of additional educational support, or started a Saturday evening worship service. These pages cannot limit all of the ways together we can have an impact for Christ. You likely also have great ideas for a new ministry. Service can mean leadership, being a member of a team, or simply preparing a dish to advance the effort. We also need committed members and constituents to serve on committees. We are better together. Please consider your role in making a difference for Christ. The interest survey will help. ***If you have not filled out the Interest Survey, please do!*** If you have questions or ideas about how you can be involved, talk to Pastor Chuck.



**Hey MaMas!!!**

We are kicking off another season of Mom's Group on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Whether you are a brand-new mama, chasing toddlers, or navigating the pre-teen years – this is a space for YOU! Grow in your heart and mind, connect with other moms, soak in some encouragement, and build lasting friendships. Dinner for all attendees. Childcare is provided (yes, you get to eat dinner while it's fresh).

**El Paso United Methodist Church, El Paso, IL**  
**Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday starting September 9<sup>th</sup>!**  
**5:30 – 7 pm**

Come as you are! We welcome you with open hearts and open doors. We are glad to see you – you belong here.

**Willing to Volunteer?**

Sign up to Volunteer to help with meals or childcare.

Please consider donating a prepared meal for one of the Mom's Group evenings!

We also need volunteers for the childcare and the nursery! Please arrive at 5:20 to help with childcare.

**Questions? See Jenica Rarick**



## Roll Up Your Sleeves and Help Save Lives!

On Monday, September 15th, we will roll up our sleeves and SAVE LIVES! El Paso United Methodist Church is proud to partner with the American Red Cross to hold our 47th Blood Drive. The Red Cross has more than 135 years of experience providing humanitarian aid, including over 75 years of supplying blood to those in need. Each pint of blood collected can help save up to three lives—impacting families and communities not only here but across the country.

This drive is an extension of our church's mission. As part of The United Methodist Church, we are called to "open hearts, open minds, and open doors" through active engagement with our world. Here at El Paso UMC, our mission is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," serving through Christ's words in Matthew 28:19-20. Hosting this blood drive is one way we live out that mission, offering hope and healing to those in critical need.

Our goal this year is to collect 50 units of blood on September 15th. Imagine the lives we can touch if each of us considers giving! A typical donation takes less than one hour, but its impact can last a lifetime. Someone in the U.S. needs blood every two seconds, and only volunteer donors can meet this need. According to the Red Cross, all blood types are urgently needed, especially O negative, A negative, and B negative.

We warmly invite you to join us by scheduling your donation appointment here:



👉 [redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=ELPASOUMC](https://redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=ELPASOUMC)

But donating isn't the only way to serve! We also need volunteers to staff the drive and provide canteen donations to refresh our donors. If you'd like to bless others by helping in these ways, please sign up using our Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet (available in the church office and online at [insert volunteer sign-up link]).

📢 Special thanks to all who commit early: In addition to any e-gift card the Red Cross provides, everyone who schedules and attends a donation appointment on September 15th will be entered into a raffle basket drawing! Double entries will be given for appointments made by Wednesday, September 10th, and bonus entries are awarded for referrals.

If you are unable to donate blood yourself, you can still make an incredible impact by spreading the word through your social media channels and personal networks. Every donation and every volunteer hour has a story attached—the donor's story of giving, the volunteer's story of serving, our church's story of hosting, and the recipient's story of receiving. Together, these stories weave a testimony of faith in action.

We hope you'll join us in writing the next chapter of that story. On September 15th, let's gather as a congregation and community to save lives, share Christ's love, and shine His light in the world.



**El Paso Community Blood Drive**

**United Methodist Church Recreation Room**

243 E 2nd St  
El Paso, IL 61738

**Monday, September 15, 2025**  
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Scan the QR Code to make an appointment



The church council plans and implements a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It envisions, plans, implements and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church. (Book of Discipline ¶252)

### The Church Council

Minister	Chuck Feeney
Church Council Chair	Mike Haerr
Board of Trustees Chair	Jim Skolek
Finance Committee Chair	Jenny Kaufman
Nominations & Leadership Vice Chair	Nancy Mool
Pastor Parish Chair	Diane Smith
Lay Leader	David Denney
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Mike Haerr
Church Treasurer	Amy Feeney
Financial Secretary	Jenny Kaufman

### Committees

**Board of Trustees:** Don Mool, Amy Haerr, Jake Krones, **Jim Skolek**, Tim Smith, Bob Hanna, Darrell Duley

**Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations:** **Diane Smith**, Jim Skolek, Donita Fever, Bonnie Armstrong, Nancy Mool

**Finance:** Mike Haerr, Chuck Feeney, Amy Feeney, Lori Henderson, **Jenny Kaufman**, Jenna Krones, DJ Stone, JoEllen Skolek

**Nominations & Leadership:** **Chuck Feeney**, Mike Haerr, Nancy Mool, Diane Smith, Dora Scheer, Laura Kolupa

***“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”***  
**Matt 28:19-20**

### Church Council Meeting

The next meeting will be  
 Thursday, September 18, at 6:30 pm.  
 All are welcome to attend the  
 Church Council meeting.

### Nursery Volunteer Schedule

September 7 – Kim Dirksen  
 September 14 – JoEllen Skolek  
 September 21 – Amy Haerr  
 September 28 – Kristi Stone

Our nursery is available during worship for children 4 and under. ***If you are willing to help in the nursery, contact Amy Feeney.***

### Get Involved...

- Mom’s Group needs volunteers for the nursery and snacks/meals this Fall. Talk to Jenica Rarick.
- Help us feed the community at our Community Meal.  
***We would love to see more UMC members attend!***
- Please volunteer to help in our nursery.
- We need help managing our EP UMC Facebook site.
- We need more Liturgists, Ushers and Greeters.
- Are you getting emails from El Paso UMC? If not, see Chuck or Amy Feeney to add your email.  
*Talk to Chuck Feeney about how you can serve in the El Paso UMC.*

### We are El Paso UMC Strong!

- Community Meal is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – 11:45 am. Put Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> on your calendar!
- Kid’s Church is for kids ages 5 to 12 during the worship time on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall.
- Join us Wednesday mornings at 6:30 am for congregational prayer in the Fellowship Hall.
- The first Sunday of every month Chuck Feeney leads a service for our nursing home residents.



### UMC Church App!

Scan the QR Code  
 Select Change Icon even though they are the same. The icon on your phone will say Church App

### Website Redesign

Check out our new format for our website. You can easily get to pages to see past sermons or start giving online. Check out our upcoming events, ministries, past newsletters, church history, and leaders by exploring the site!

[www.ElPasoUMCIL.org](http://www.ElPasoUMCIL.org)

### Are you willing to contribute to the Newsletter?

- You could write an article or contribute information about some interesting event coming up!
- You could send pictures to include in the Newsletter!
- If you have ideas for the newsletter, please contact Amy Feeney at [epumcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:epumcsecretary@gmail.com)
- If you know of someone that would like to get this newsletter by mail, please send their information to [epumcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:epumcsecretary@gmail.com) or give their address to Amy.

## September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Aryanna Brooks</b> Labor Day	2 <b>Bonnie Armstrong</b>	3 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	4 Corn Festival	5 Corn Festival	6 Corn Festival
7 9 am Worship 11:45 am FH Community Meal 1:30 Nursing Home El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p	8	9	10 <b>Beth Doran</b> 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	11	12	13
14 9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p	15	16	17 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	18 <b>Ellie</b> Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm	19	20 <b>Greyson</b>
21 <b>Jake Krones</b> 9 am Worship	22 <b>Pastor Chuck Feeney</b>	23	24 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	25	26	27
28 9 am Worship	29 <b>JoEllen Skolek</b> <b>Darrell Duley</b>	30	1 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	2	3	4

birthdays anniversaries events (FH Fellowship Hall) community events, special days & holidays

### Community News

El Paso Farmer's Market through September 14<sup>th</sup> Every Sunday from 4 pm to 6 pm at 37 W. Front, @Front St. Social Corn Festival – September 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Need a little extra help caring for Mom or Dad?

Arcadia Care El Paso offers short-term rehab, respite care, and long-term nursing — right here in your own backyard. We're a small-town facility with big hearts and hometown values.

- Skilled rehab therapy 7 days a week
- Respite stays available
- Medicaid & Medicare accepted

☎ Call (309)527-6240 to learn more.



The Heros of Caregiver Support Group  
led by Suzanna Ortman.

Suzanna has many activities and educational events to support caregivers. If you are interested, contact her at [elpasoilcaregivers@gmail.com](mailto:elpasoilcaregivers@gmail.com)