



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

The Messenger

El Paso UMC Newsletter

August 2025

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El Paso, IL 61738
309-527-2222

www.elpasouncil.org
www.facebook.com/EPUMC

Dear Church Family,

I cannot believe that it is August. The back-to-school supplies are in the stores. I was recently in Dollar General and they even had Halloween decorations offered for sale. Society is transitioning from summer to fall a little too quickly for my taste. Nevertheless, in little time, the schools will be back in full swing.

Education is important. As I write this, I am taking a break from completing my last assignment before I go to licensing school. I look forward to attending and completing that stage of my education, so that I can not only serve you better but attribute more time to serving you. I am particularly looking forward to restarting Christian educational efforts this Fall.

The Bible tells us at 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” The use of the word “everyone” tells me that all of us, young and old alike, need to pursue an education in what God seeks to teach us in the scriptures.

My experience has been that when we get together for any reason, we have a pretty great time. When we gather for Christian education, we have the chance to not only have an enjoyable time but also a time of growth for ourselves together with the opportunity to participate in the growth of others. So, as various opportunities present themselves, I hope each of you will take advantage of a Christian educational opportunity. If we do not have anything that entices you, perhaps God is urging you to start something new.

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.elpasouncil.org or connect directly
on YouTube

[www.https://www.youtube.com/
@ElPasoUnitedMethodistChurch-IL](https://www.youtube.com/@ElPasoUnitedMethodistChurch-IL)

Chuck Feeney

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://elpasouncil.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!



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

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan’s Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

Pastors around the world host outreach events in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. In many places, they also offer *The Greatest Gift*, a Gospel story booklet Samaritan’s Purse developed for shoebox recipients, and invite children to participate in *The Greatest Journey* discipleship program. *The Greatest Journey* is a 12-lesson discipleship course designed for Operation Christmas Child shoebox recipients. Children who participate in the program learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. As they do, entire families and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel, and churches are started.

For many years El Paso United Methodist members have generously donated items to pack in shoe boxes for Samaritan’s Purse, Operation Christmas Child. ***Donita Fever is passing out hearts with donation suggestions.*** 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. Talk to Donita if you have questions. Last year our shoeboxes went to the Republic of Congo in Africa.



help for moms, from moms

Mom’s Group is starting back up in September!

Mom’s Group is meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 pm. Dinner/Snacks will be served. Nursery is provided. Talk to Jenica Rarick if you are interested in joining Mom’s Group, helping with food or in the nursery!
Volunteers come at 5:20 pm.

**Upcoming Blood Drive
at El Paso UMC
Monday, September 15th
12:30 – 5:30 pm**

*Kindness is
in your blood*



Help save a life.

Schedule your
blood donation
appointment today.



As part of our Five Star Missions Challenge the El Paso United Methodist Church has donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief U.S. Disaster Response (UMCOR USDR) which seeks to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories.

With a “communities own their recoveries” philosophy, UMCOR supports local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters. In partnership with disaster response ministries and coordinators in U.S. annual conferences, UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster’s cycle, including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation.

UMCOR’s Early Response Team (ERT) training program supports conference preparedness and immediate response efforts. Key activities for conference ERT and other response teams are supplying survivors with food, water, shelter and help with mucking out and cleaning up. UMCOR offers emergency financial assistance in the aftermath of a disaster to support local relief work.

A Sample of UMCOR USDR’s 2025 Disaster Responses

Catastrophic flooding in Central Texas

On July 4, 2025, historic rain levels led to catastrophic flash flooding along the Guadalupe River in Central Texas. As of July 9, at least 110 people have died, including 27 campers and counselors from Camp Mystic, an all-girls summer camp in Hunt, Texas. *In response*, UMCOR has awarded a solidarity grant to the Rio Texas Annual Conference to support their relief efforts. This grant will provide immediate relief to those impacted through Early Response Team deployment, debris removal, distribution of relief supplies and more. Continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones and for all who have been impacted by this devastating disaster. The Rio Texas Annual Conference has created prayer and worship resources for United Methodist congregations to use to respond to this disaster.

Wildfires in California

In June 2025, UMCOR awarded a \$624k recovery grant to the California-Pacific Annual Conference, which will fund disaster case managers for survivors of the 2025 Palisades and Eaton fires. On January 7, strong Santa Ana winds in Los Angeles caused wildfires to spread rapidly in multiple communities. Thousands of homes and businesses have been destroyed, as well as multiple local United Methodist Churches. UMCOR has awarded two solidarity grants to the California-Pacific Annual Conference to undergird their immediate relief efforts. This includes evacuee support like food and essential supplies as well as support for volunteer efforts and other relief activities.

These are just a couple of the more recent UMCOR USDR’s responses. If you are interested in becoming a trained ERT, consider attending training at East Bay Camp!

UMCOR ERT Disaster Response Training

Basic ERT Sept. 6

Training for new Early Response Team members. Full-day, in-person training covering fundamental early response skills and protocols.

- Date: Saturday, Sept. 6
- Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Location: East Bay Camp

Contact: [Curt Franklin](#)

ERT Recertification Oct.28 and 30

Details: Join us for ERT recertification training delivered via Zoom. Recertification requires attendance at both dates. These interactive virtual sessions will refresh your ERT knowledge, update you on new procedures, and maintain your certification status.

Dates:

- Oct. 28, 6 to 8 p.m. (via Zoom)
- Oct, 30, 6 to 8 p.m. (via Zoom)

Contact: [Curt Franklin](#)

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 Kronen, **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 Kronen, 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 Monday August 18th at 6:30 pm.
 All are welcome to attend the Church Council meeting.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule

August 3 – Lori
 August 10 – Laura
 August 17 – Katelyn
 August 24 – Abby
 August 31 – Nancy A

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 1st Sunday of the month – 11:45 am. Put September 7th 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

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
- If you know of someone that would like to get this newsletter by mail, please send their information to epumcsecretary@gmail.com or give their address to Amy.

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9 am Worship 11:45 am FH Community Meal 1:30 Nursing Home El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p	4	5 National Night Out, South Pointe Park, 4-8:30 pm	6 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH Faith and Family Night, Peoria Chiefs Game, 6:35 pm	7	8	9 Mary Kaufman
10 Dave Kaufman Beth Doran 9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p	11	12 Lilly Dunn	13 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	14	15	16 Dave Dirksen
17 9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p	18 Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm	19	20 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	21	22	23
24 9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p	25	26	27 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	28	29	30
31 9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p	1 Labor Day Arryanna Brooks	2 Bonnie Armstrong	3	4 Corn Festival!	5 Corn Festival!	6 Corn Festival!

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

Community News

National Night Out at South Pointe Park Tuesday, August 5th, 4 pm to 8:30 pm

El Paso Farmer's Market July 6th – September 14th Every Sunday from 4 pm to 6 pm at 37 W. Front, @Front St. Social

Corn Festival – September 4th – 6th

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