



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

# The Messenger

El Paso UMC Newsletter

July 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,

We find ourselves in the midst of summer. July, in particular, is a time when many families take a vacation and enjoy each other's company and the beauty of God's creation. When I was younger my family would travel to the Lake of the Ozarks. We mostly swam, water skied, and grilled out. It was pretty simple and a truly great time. After Amy and I got married and had children, we continued the tradition for many years. It was a basic formula. Spend time together for the purpose of enjoying the time and the company. I hope everyone can find some time to enjoy the people in your lives and the stunning beauty of God's creation.

If you are like me and it is difficult to find time, we can still enjoy moments of renewal. One of my favorite things to do at this time of year is to go outside, even for a few moments, and recall the darkness and cold of winter, and then focus on the radiant heat penetrating me. Sometimes I will close my eyes and just feel the warm breeze crossing my face. The experience is a reminder of God's love for us. We may have seasons that are dreary, dark, and challenging but as we faithfully persevere, we experience the deeply penetrating warmth of a loving God. Seasons and experiences may change, but the unchanging God is with us throughout.

I hope to see you at worship. That is where we, as a church family, have the opportunity to meet, enjoy each other's company, share our burdens, and together worship our loving God. This is where we, as God's children, can come in from the darkness and cold of the world and experience the radiant heat of God's love.

May God bless you and keep you in the warmth of his everlasting love.

In Christ's 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

Let Chuck Feeney know if you would  
like to be added to his weekly email!

## 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/](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!



# PEORIA CHIEFS

CLASS A AFFILIATE OF THE  
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS



## FAITH AND FAMILY

### \$12 TICKETS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 @ 6:35 PM  
VS. WISCONSIN TIMBER RATTLERS  
\*POSTGAME FIREWORKS

## Hey El Paso UMC! Let's go to the ballpark!

Peoria Chief's Game August 6<sup>th</sup>

EP UMC kids (high school or younger) will be paid for by the  
El Paso United Methodist Church!

(2 and under are free, but they do not get a seat).

Planning to attend? Please let Amy know by Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> so we can order tickets



### Check out the El Paso UMC App. TRIAL PERIOD!

Let us know if you like the App!

*Welcome to El Paso UMC* will take you to the mobile version of our website. *Sermons* gives a quick link to our sermons on YouTube. *Verse of the Day* give a new verse everyday with thoughts on the verse and a prayer! There is an online *Bible* and you can *Give* directly to El Paso UMC through the app (or on our website). *Upcoming Events*, *Prayer Wall*, *About Us* are other sections to check out. Make sure to check out the *More* tab on the bottom to see Our Leadership Team, Photos and more!

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



School supplies are in the stores now!  
Suggested school supplies for Operation Christmas Child:

Fun pencils and/or pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers, crayons, markers, pencil cases, notebooks, coloring books or pads, school scissors, glue sticks, dry watercolors.

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



**Help save a life.**

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



The Five Star Challenge was developed to encourage local churches in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference to grow in mission giving and mission outreach every year. Five Star churches receive special conference recognition of their giving beyond the local church within the United Methodist connection.

#### What are the Five Star Requirements?

- Pay 100% of your Conference Apportionments
- Donate to salary support for a GBGM Missionary
- Donate to at least (3) Special Sunday Offerings
- Donate to one or more General or UMCOR Advance(s)
- Donate to one or more IGRC Advance Special(s)

El Paso UMC pays 100% of our Conference Apportionments. In June, the El Paso UMC Board voted during the Ad Council meeting to give to a missionary that is the Coordinator of the English-language Program - Southeast Asia Methodist Mission, three Special Sunday Offerings - UMCOR Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday and United Methodist Student Day Sunday, UMCOR United States Disaster Response & Recovery and East Bay Camp to fulfill the challenge of the Five Star Missions Challenge!



East Bay Camp & Retreat is located in Central Illinois on beautiful Lake Bloomington just 12 miles north of Bloomington-Normal at Hudson, IL, just a few minutes from Interstate 39.

East Bay offers space for re-creation of body and soul in a natural setting away from the routines and busy-ness of life. Attractive and functional facilities are great for groups gathering for renewal, team-building, fellowship, conferencing, and business.

With over 160 acres of woods, trails, and lake front, East Bay allows for delightful encounters with wildlife such as deer, wild turkeys, herons, turtles, and countless other creatures which make their home in its woods and lake. A variety of hardwoods and evergreens greet you as you walk through the property.

East Bay was founded in 1930 as a place set aside for children and adults alike to experience the wonder of God's creation, the mission of which continues today.

East Bay Camp is a vital ministry of the United Methodist Church, supported through the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. Because we are part of this connection, our church helps provide life-changing camp experiences for children, youth, and families across our region—offering a place where faith is nurtured, leaders are formed, and lives are transformed. Being United Methodist means we are part of something bigger than ourselves—a global connection that empowers ministry in ways no single church could do alone.

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 announced in church. It will be posted in the Events on the website and app.

All are welcome to attend the Church Council meeting.

### Nursery Volunteer Schedule

July 6 – Kristi

July 13 – Nancy M

July 20 – Katelyn

July 27 – Abby H

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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month – 11:45 am. Put August 3<sup>rd</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.

### Website

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

**Follow us on Facebook**

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

### 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 write a Get-to-Know-You about you!
- 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.
- *Do you see typo's, corrections, additions or updates that are needed? Let Amy know!*

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## National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 8:30

The El Paso UMC is a Silver Sponsor of the National Night Out!  
The City of El Paso Police Department is sponsoring a FREE event on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 5, 2025 from 4 pm to 8:30 pm at South Pointe Park.



There will be multiple activities for kids and adults of all ages, including but not limited to, a Sky Diving performance by Skydive-Chicago, displays and demonstrations from local Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, U.S. Army & Air National Guard, U.S. Marines & Navy Reserves, U.S. Coast Guard, Life Flight helicopter, Bi-Plane Air Show, 300' Zip-Line, a Barnyard Petting Zoo, our wildly popular 3rd Annual Hot Dog Eating Contest, and much more! In addition, there will be free food, drinks, and a free raffle with great prizes donated by local businesses and residents.

This event, which encompasses the entire El Paso-Gridley School District and beyond, has grown to be one of the largest National Night Out events, if not Thee largest NNO event in the Peoria and Bloomington areas. Last year's attendance brought over 2,000 people, and even more are expected to attend this year!



The *Current*, the award-winning print publication of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference is moving to an **all-digital format**, beginning in September 2025. If you are receiving the Current or are interested, they have a survey to include your email for the FREE digital version. Go to the survey link below to get the Current digitally! The print version may be available for \$30/yr depending on the survey results.

<https://igrc-reg.brtapp.com/Currentsubscription>

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Katelyn Mendoza 6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	3	4	5
6 Barb Campbell 9 am Worship 11:45 am FH Community Meal 1:30 Nursing Home El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p 37 W. Front	7	8	9  6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	10	11	12
13  9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p 37 W. Front	14	15	16  6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	17  6:30 pm Church Board Meeting	18  Tim Smith	19
20 Grace Feeney Linda Feeney 9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p 37 W. Front	21	22	23  6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	24	25  Gridley Farmer's Market, 5p-8p Downtown	26
27  9 am Worship El Paso Farmer's Market 4p-6p 37 W. Front	28	29	30  6:30 am Prayer Meeting FH	31  Dave & Kim Dirksen	1	2

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

## Community News

El Paso Farmer's Market July 6<sup>th</sup> – September 14<sup>th</sup> Every Sunday from 4 pm to 6 pm – and Gridley's Farmer's Market Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> - meet up with some UMC friends to check out the Markets!

### 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
- ✓ Just 20 minutes from Bloomington

We care for our neighbors — because you matter.

☎ 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 in joining her group as a caregiver or maybe you are just interested in learning about services in the area, you can be added to her mailing list by contacting her at

[elpasoilcaregivers@gmail.com](mailto:elpasoilcaregivers@gmail.com)

Her flyers are on the bulletin board with upcoming events and meetings.