



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

The Messenger

El Paso UMC Newsletter

July 2026

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Dear Church Family,

It seems somewhat shocking to me that July is upon us. For us in the United States, this is a special July. We celebrate the United States of America's semiquincentennial. That is quite a word. I recall the Bicentennial Train coming through town in 1976. We were in the business district of El Paso to watch it go by. Before the train arrived, I placed a penny on the north rail. After the train passed, I ran back to the track to retrieve my freshly smashed copper that used to be a penny. I don't have any idea what happen to that penny, but I remember the train and all of the people coming together here in El Paso and across the country to celebrate 200 years of our independence.

God loves all people. Nevertheless, I feel especially blessed to be a citizen of this great country. We are so blessed. We have the freedom to meet and worship God as we deem appropriate. Throughout history and even today that has not been the case. In other parts of the world, Christians secretly meet for fear of government punishment. In some portions of the world, if you tell another person about Jesus Christ, you risk execution.

European history is full of wars and the killing of people over differences in matters of faith. Often these battles were over which version of Christianity a person wished to follow. That seems incredible to many of us. The incredibility of it flows from our freedom.

Such extensive freedom creates risks. When we can so easily participate in worship and tell others of God's salvation found only in Jesus Christ, His Son, that we may miss how valuable the opportunity and how privileged we are. Those who risk their lives to meet with fellow believers and worship God understand how special such an opportunity is. Therefore, they would not consider missing worship or take their relationship with God for granted.

Our liberty calls for us to recognize the special blessings given to us, and to remain mindful of our duty to worshipfully respond to God's love for us by seeking to love God by loving our neighbors. The United States has been a powerful ray of liberty and hope to many around the world. This country's independence took place in large part because of the influence of Christians in the 13 colonies. They felt compelled by God to take a stand for liberty and the equality of mankind. What is our calling? God was at work in bringing about the independence of the United States. God is still at work.

I hope the remainder of your summer is truly awesome. I hope that you find time to consider your blessings and in response to those blessings, be a blessing.

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 or connect directly
on YouTube
[www. https://www.youtube.com/
@ElPasoUnitedMethodistChurch-IL](https://www.youtube.com/@ElPasoUnitedMethodistChurch-IL)

Chuck Feeney

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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!

United Methodist Connections: IGRC Disaster Response Ministry



In our Methodist connection, we participate not only in ministries far away but also close to home. In the past month, Illinois has been hard hit by storms. The mission of United Methodist Disaster Response in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference is to provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster that begins with response and ends with long term recovery.

The disaster response effort of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference is primarily focused on natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes, fires and earth quakes. Other disasters, often called “man- made” may result from terrorism and domestic disturbances or from accidents such as chemical spills. Resources of the conference could be used to assist individuals and families impacted by these disasters as well.

The Disaster Response Ministries of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference stands ready to assist any time disasters are so large that the resources of the local community or the district are not sufficient to meet the needs. This response can take many forms. Expert advice can be provided to help the local community as they meet immediate needs, or as they plan for recovery from a disaster, UMCOR kits such as Cleaning Kits and Hygiene Kits are distributed; and, volunteers can also be recruited by the conference. Early response teams (ERTs) are deployed to assist with clean-up and other tasks needed by the community in the period right after the disaster (once the area has been declared safe by first responders). In the long term, recovery teams help with home repairs or, in some cases, rebuilding homes that have been completely destroyed during the disaster. In addition, spiritual and emotional care teams can provide support to individuals and congregations as they cope with the loss caused by a disaster.

The United Methodist Disaster Response in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference rarely acts alone. They work with partners in order to provide the best possible relief to survivors of the disaster. We can partner with the United Methodist Disaster Response by giving, by preparing kits and supplies in advance of a disaster, and by praying. We have a connection. What if America’s greatest asset, its faith-motivated and God-centered people, rose up to embrace the belief that protecting people, places, and ministry is our responsibility? We have that opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to people incurring significant hardship as a result of a disaster.

Did you know we can donate Midwest Missions Personal Dignity Kits, Feminine Hygiene Kits, Student Kits, Layette Kits, Home Care Kits and Bedding Kits? Check out <https://www.midwestmission.org/kits>. If you have skills to make handmade items, there is a pattern available for a One-Handled Cloth Bag that goes with the Student Kit, a pattern for Cover Them With Love Quilts, patterns for the Feminine Hygiene Kit and a diaper pattern for the Layette Kit. The patterns are linked at <https://www.midwestmission.org/patterns>. Inspired??? We are getting involved with Midwest Missions by creating Sleeping Mats by purchasing a Loom! (See next page!) Talk to Chuck about other ways El Paso UMC can get involved!

El Paso UMC will be making Sleeping Mats



The UMC Church Board voted to purchase a loom from Midwest Missions. Using the loom, members of the church will be able to create Sleeping Mats. The mats can be sent to local shelters or we can bring completed mats to the Midwest Mission to be sent out internationally. The mats are created by weaving plastic grocery bags on the loom. To see how the mats are created you can view videos at:

www.midwestmissions.org/loom

Please bring your plastic grocery bags to the church to support this ministry!

Thank you!

Thank you to **Mike Haerr, Bob Hanna, Jim and JoEllen Skolek, Jenny Kaufman and Chuck Feeney** for cleaning out our church basement!



**Samaritan's Purse
Operation Christmas Child
School supplies are in the stores now!**

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

El Paso UMC Women Chrismons in July! All Women Welcome!



Join the El Paso UMC Women's Group to learn the meaning behind Chrismon Ornaments and how we can create new ones to add to our collection! Join us Sunday, July 26th at 5:00 pm. We will also plan other activities like making Sleeping Mats on the Loom, game nights and dinner outs!

Thank you!

Thank you to **Diann Smith**, the **SPRC** and the **congregation** for the surprise 40th Wedding Anniversary Party for Chuck and Amy Feeney! We were both completely surprised and had a great time. We cannot express how grateful we are to be a part of this congregation!

Chuck & Amy



Upcoming Events

Sign up if you plan to go!

Peoria Chiefs

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHTS

FRIDAY, JULY 24 @ 7:05PM

VS. WM WHITECAPS

**Postgame Fireworks*

\$12 TICKETS



Join us on Friday, July 24th in Peoria to enjoy some fellowship and baseball. There will be fireworks following the game. Last year we had a great time!

Thursday, August 20 at 7:00 PM

On Thursday, August 20, the fair welcomes acclaimed Christian artist Big Daddy Weave. Renowned for their heartfelt songs and personal stories of freedom in Christ, the band has earned a devoted following thanks to their authenticity and openness. Hits like "My Story," "The Lion and the Lamb," "Overwhelmed," "Redeemed," and recent favorites from the album "Alive" ("I Know" and "All Things New") have made Big Daddy Weave one of the most beloved names in Christian music. Tickets are \$34.

Discipleship Class/Bible Study, Wednesdays @ 6pm

Come to the Adult Bible Study / Discipleship Class at the El Paso UMC to dig deeper into the Bible and to fellowship. If you can't make it this week, you are always welcome. Each lesson is a stand-alone lesson.

Hope to see you there!

Get Involved...

- The UMC Women's Group will be meeting once a month. We will be creating Sleeping Mats, making Chrismons, playing games and/or going to dinner! We would love to see all women of the El Paso UMC get involved!
- 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.
- See Chuck if you would like to be more involved...

Nursery Schedule

July 5 – Nancy M
July 12 – Katelyn
July 19 – Abby
July 26 – Lori H

Thank you to everyone!
Please volunteer to help!