

January Messenger 2025

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*



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January 2025

Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Happy New Year! Another New Year. Maybe we need to start with questions?

How can we make this year better than when we left last year? We have things left undone, maybe even relationships that are broken, and are still trying to get healthier (like each year's promise).

*We have God's promise that God will be with us wherever we go. I believe the answers to our questions should be simple. **FOCUS!***

Fix our eyes on Jesus (prayer)

Obedience

Care for each other

Understand by listening to each other's heart

Simplify our lives

When we FOCUS, our lives take a different turn, and the things of this world will become less noisy for our lives. We will be less stressed and chaotic about having to do everything and focus more on what is important to our health (mental/emotional/physical/spiritual). No matter where we are in our lives, age doesn't matter, it's what our FOCUS is on that does and will affect our eternal future! So, what do you say? Let's FOCUS 2025 together!!

With you on the Way! Pastor Krista

Happy New Year

The Office will be closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2025. We pray that everyone is abundantly blessed in the New Year.



Sunday Breakfast Lineup!

Jan 5 - Hospitality Room

Jan 12 - Friends for Mission Breakfast

Jan 19 - Hospitality Room

Jan 26 - Friends for Mission Breakfast

UnHanging of the Greens

Please join us Sunday, Jan. 5th for the unHanging of the greens right after Worship Service. We will be undecorating the Church and need all hands available. Hope to see you all there!

Thank you

Thank you so much for all of the thoughtful Christmas gifts I received this year! You truly make me feel special! God Bless, Terri Bridges

Thank you for all of the cards, gifts and Christmas wishes I received this year! I am very grateful for this wonderful Church Family.

Have a Happy New Year, Jennie Reeves

Outreach Giving

Thanks to your 2024 giving our Outreach Missions was able to donate to several deserving charities this year.

Midwest Mission Dist. Center - Springfield

Red Bird Mission

UMCOR Disaster Relief

East Peoria Food Pantry

Midwest Food Bank - Peoria

South Side Missions

Pathway Ministries

(formerly Peoria Rescue Mission)

Helping Hands

Salvation Army, Tree of Lights

Committee Meetings

Jan 14 - Worship Committee @ 6:00pm

Auto Contributions

Did you know that your monthly contributions can be set up to be automatic? We can help you set it up so on the 3rd and/or 17th of each month your contribution is automatically sent from your bank account to the Church's. This will save you time and thought! Stop by the Office for a form to fill out.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am at the 520 Café located at 520 Bloomington Road in East Peoria. This month is on Jan 11th. Please let Chuck Pierman know if you will be attending and he will reserve a seat for you.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know there is a meaning to every stained glass window in the Sanctuary?

On the east wall:

1. Easter lily - Symbol of immortality (the bulb decays in ground, but a new flower of life comes forth)
2. Manger and star - Symbol of the entrance of Christ into the world. Star is five pointed or Epiphany Star pointing up the "manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles" (Matthew 2:12)

For a complete list of the windows and their meanings stop by the Office, we have a booklet to share with you.

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. If you have any questions about how to access these various platforms, please contact the Church office.

Church Info via Facebook

We are promoting the church and various activities on our Facebook Page and in our Facebook Group. The name of our page and group is the same: East Peoria First United Methodist Church. Our Facebook page is for any Facebook user to see. Please 'Like' and 'Follow' our page and ask your FB friends to 'Like' and 'Follow' it also. Our Facebook Group is supposed to be for those that regularly come to church, help regularly, or have been a part of the church in the past. If you are not a member of our group yet, please ask to join via Facebook. Liking and following our page and being a member of our group will assure that you will be notified of our various posts. **Also, please share our Facebook Page posts and events with your friends and help promote the great happenings of our church. Members of our FB group cannot share the group posts since it is a private group.**

Reporting a New Address

Have you moved? Please call the office at 309-699-5417 and let us know your new address.

Hearing Assistance Units

If you have trouble hearing the sermon or any other event in the Sanctuary, we have Hearing Assistance units to help you. Please see the sound system attendant if you would like to use one.

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 and ask for an Electronic Giving form.

The Wired Word

A great study/growth opportunity is the Wired Word. This is a self-study that is emailed to you every week (usually on Thursdays) addressing current issues from a Biblical perspective. Email the Church office at Office@epfumc.org and you will be added to the list.

If you are 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.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

The lost and found is in the office. Stop in and pick up your belongings. We keep lost & found items for 3 months and if not claimed, we give away through the Food Pantry.

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday from
9:30 am - 4:00 pm and
Friday from 9:30 am - noon.

Your Church Staff

Rev. Krista Price, Directing Pastor
(217) 549-4544

Terri Bridges, Office Manager
e-mail: office@epfumc.org

Ryan Klaus, Pianist/Organist

Bob Dietrich, A/V Coordinator



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 9:00am Worship</p>	<p>30 9:00am SnackPac Packing 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>31 Office Closed at noon</p>	<p>1 Office Closed</p>	<p>2 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 9:00am Worship 10:15am Unhanging of the Greens</p>	<p>6 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice</p>	<p>9 10:00am - 2:00pm E. P. Women 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00pm Breakfast Setup</p>
<p>12 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Breakfast</p>	<p>13 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:15pm 4-H Meeting</p>	<p>14 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice</p>	<p>16 9:00am - 12:00pm Early Head Start 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:00am - 2:00pm GS Adult Meeting</p>
<p>19 9:00am Worship</p>	<p>20 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice</p>	<p>23 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>24 Girl Scouts Overnight Lock-in</p>	<p>25 Girl Scouts Overnight Lock-in 4:00pm Breakfast Setup</p>
<p>26 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast</p>	<p>27 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice</p>	<p>30 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>

Page for kids of all ages



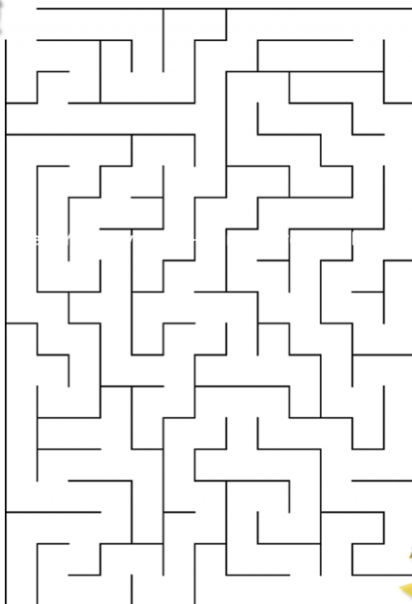
New Year's Eve WORD SEARCH

OCDADCDZIPQHKHPQKURBK
KHGDFJTUNAHJHORNSSUQPG
PETAFJFOXNIABRBANFEZ
AEWWYJDIJKZJVMLBVNOZ
URCF CGT SWSOOTMHMRERP
GSYUHFEEERCALENDARFWA
PKQUQIFMMEBVAWCAETJK
RIOODRQAFISUQPYQTBZS
MSHHVEFKPIDOBLYSRJSK
YSZEFWGEYADNLBRLOGCZ
LTBYFOERNTRFIULQSJHI
QJZOQRBHYIOTCGTEPECEX
TQSJRKL OYMI SYBHISOEF
PMQXOSPYPSEPIXXJTOMRK
EZLSBMPPCLOCKTPBCNNO
JDBGHAMBECOUNTDOWNZX
GULTVGLMLYZKSUTBDKST
DVVOIYKLBCELEBRATEFR
GDYIUSHOFELUSMPYOSNT
AFXPMLLIWGMUCOINOWYD

Noisemaker	Resolution	Celebrate	Fireworks
Countdown	Calendar	Midnight	Bubbles
Cheers	Party	Cheer	Clock
Horns	Ball	Kiss	Time

Let's Celebrate!

Gather with friends to celebrate the New Year!





In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Fighting Cancer

Halle Bloom, Julie Jenkins,
Pam Riley, Mark Gill,
Mary Mallory, Lynne Barker,
Brian Engles, Rob Calder II,
Katie Bishop, Sandy Crawford,
Joette Blakesley, Gary Fargher,
Merry Eccles, Nancy Brooks,
Norman Clark (asbestosis),
Len Brockman, Kellen Norman,
Jaclyn Brown, Sandra Begemen

Prolonged Illness / Challenges

Steve Darrah, Nancy Riddle,
Margaret Johnston, Beth Ball,
Rev. Stan Haxton, Bonnie Lourash,
Margaret Sides, Jim Spicher,
Steve Smith, Ralph Linder,
Steve Wetterauer, Jeff Briggs,
Roger Williams, Les Leach,
Joyce Mooberry,
Chuck (Becky Ellis' cousin),
Austin Aldag, Earl Webb,
Nancy Riddle, Caitlin Reeves

Long Term Care / Assisted Living

Katy Gnehm, Anna Martin

Needing Prayer

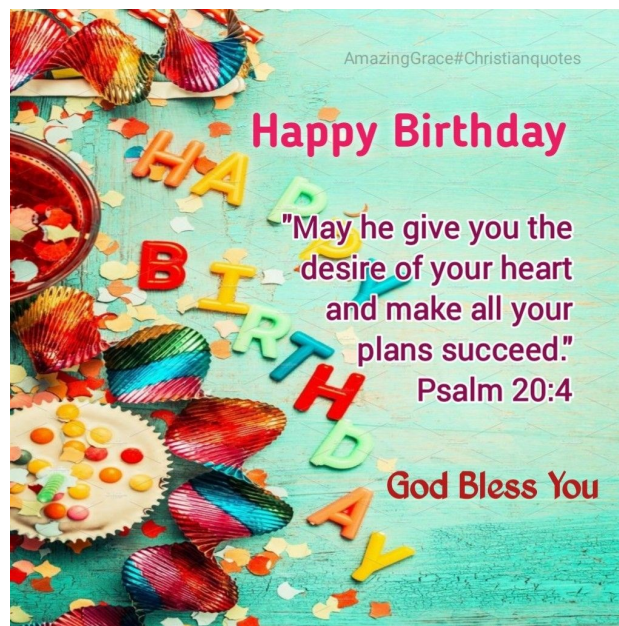
Please pray for Our Dear Church Family who are struggling, the lonely, all who are unemployed, shut-in, those who are struggling with flu/colds, those who are grieving, all governmental leaders, those who are serving in our military, the youth and all caregivers.

Military Service Members

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

January Birthdays

Jan 2	Janet Berkley
Jan 2	Marijean Bishel 91
Jan 3	Sue Lamb
Jan 4	Peggy Mooney
Jan 6	Chuck Pierman
Jan 6	Malcolm Staley
Jan 7	Gary Hecathorn
Jan 10	Chad Cunningham
Jan 10	Linda Gerber-Woodard
Jan 14	Janet Koch
Jan 14	Ashleigh Lane
Jan 19	Connor Son
Jan 22	Ed Newlan
Jan 23	Travis Reeves
Jan 25	Rose Rock
Jan 28	Alan Astle
Jan 28	Bev Avery
Jan 28	Richard Chisholm
Jan 28	Julie Haeffele
Jan 30	Jim White



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!

Our Church in Pictures...

**Nothing but smiles and scrunchy, singing faces on Christmas Caroling day!
What a blessing it was to spread so much joy!**





Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service

12:00 p.m. Wednesday REFRESH

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