

March 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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Pastor's Chat

March 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 Spring! We can take a breath as winter is slowly fading away! We often dread winter and some of the other months, but I believe God can speak to us in all seasons of life. Winter is by far the hardest. It is high time for those that deal with depression issues. Cold, short nights, cloudy, bare trees, darkness and so many other triggers for those that deal with mental health balance. It is, however, that in the darkness we need to turn on lights to help see those dark, cold times. We should be reminded that Jesus is our light in the darkness of life. We have so much darkness in our world today being fed to us by things that keep us up at night.

We were watching recently a show about big foot, ape man, whatever you believe exists, then we were watching a show about UFO's. These things begin to take over our mental health. What if they do exist? What if they take over? It seems hokey and irrational. So, why do we believe in things like this but struggle believing in a God who wants to give us life and light? God wants to give us peace in this world so we can get through life with spring on the horizon. Stop believing everything that is on TV, news etc. that wants to keep us in the dark and keep us worried about things that don't really matter.

Take time to get out, smell the flowers, see the buds in the trees, hear the birds singing, and turn off the TV, social media that wants to keep us in the dark. Since taking a break from social media I have felt such freedom in my spirit! Just like Joshua 1, God will be with us wherever we go! We can count on that, and it will shed some light on the things that will eventually fade away!

*With you on the Way!
Pastor Krista*



Ash Wednesday

On March 5th, between 7:00am and noon, you are welcome to stop by the Church to receive ashes and communion. At noon there will be a Refresh service. Pastor Krista's afternoon will be by appointment only, if you have anything you would like to share with her, or any concerns please schedule a time.

Sunday Breakfast Lineup!

- Mar 2**- Hospitality Room
- Mar 9** - Friends for Mission Breakfast
- Mar 16** - Hospitality Room
- Mar 23** - Friends for Mission Breakfast
- Mar 30** - Hospitality Room

REFRESH Service

Every Wednesday at noon our Church has a 30 minute service for you to Refresh yourself for the week. This Worship service has devotion, prayer and communion. This is a great opportunity to get you through to Sunday.

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 Mar 8th. Please let Chuck Pierman know if you will be attending and he will reserve a seat for you.

Thank you

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the lovely birthday/ Christmas card shower for my 90th birthday. Denise had planned a surprise birthday party for me that was a lot of fun. There was a good turnout and I had a wonderful time. It was a fun way to join the "90s club" as my friends out here call it. I especially enjoyed reading all of the cards and wishes for my birthday. Thank you for thinking of me and taking the time to send me all of the cards.

Lorene Davis

Sympathy

Our sincere condolences go to Marie Meyer with the loss of her husband, Don Meyer. Please pray for Don and Marie's family and friends during this difficult time.

Easter Tulips

The Church has pre-ordered pots of Easter tulips. If you would like to write a memorial or in honor of please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office.

A \$16 free will offering is appreciated but not expected.

Your NAME: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____

BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE...

March is a great month for birthdays! We have several big birthdays to celebrate. Make sure to check out the whole list on page 7.



Books, Books, Books

Pastor Krista is downsizing her book collection and would like to share with you. If you would like to stop by the Office and check out the library you might find one, two or even three you would like to read.

March 2025 Calendar

March 4 is Mardi Gras (aka "Fat Tuesday" or Shrove Tuesday), which is the final feasting day before the Christian tradition of Lent begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday.

March 5 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the start of Lent.

March 9 is the start of Daylight Saving Time, which begins at 2:00 A.M. that day. If your area observes it, don't forget to "spring forward" and set the clocks one hour ahead, or you may find yourself an hour late to everything!

March 15 is the Ides of March! Legend surrounds this ill-fated day. Beware the Ides of March!

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. According to folklore, folks wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because the saint used its three leaves to explain the Trinity.

March 20 brings about the March equinox—also called the **vernal** or **spring equinox** in the Northern Hemisphere—marking the beginning of spring. In the Southern Hemisphere, this date marks the autumnal equinox and the beginning of fall. On this day, the Sun stands directly over Earth's equator.

March 29-31 are known as the Borrowing Days. According to lore, the last 3 days of March have a reputation for being stormy.

Rules for Today

- ⇒ Do nothing that you would not like to be doing when Jesus comes.
- ⇒ Go to no place where you would not like to be found when Jesus comes.
- ⇒ Say nothing that you would not like to be saying when Jesus comes.

The Bible in 50 Words

God made	Adam bit
Noah arked	Abraham split
Jacob fooled	Joseph ruled
Bush talked	Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued	People walked
Sea divided	Tablets guided
Promise landed	Saul freaked
David peeked	Prophets warned
God walked	Love talked
Anger crucified	Hope died
Love rose	Spirit flamed
Word spread	God reigns

- 6th Grade Sunday School Class,
St. John the Divine, Houston,
The Angelican Digest

12 Reasons

Why a local clergyperson stopped attending athletic events:

- Every time I went they asked me for money.
- The people with whom I had to sit didn't seem friendly.
- The seats were too hard and not comfortable.
- The coach never came to call on me.
- The referee made a decision with which I could not agree.
- I was sitting with some hypocrites - they came only to see what others were wearing.
- Some games went into overtime and I was late getting home.
- The band played some numbers that I hadn't heard before.
- The games are scheduled when I want to do other things.
- My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up.
- Since I read a book on sports, I feel I know more than the coaches anyhow.
- I don't want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves what sport they like best!

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

Page for kids
of all ages

Early Spring Flowers

Annuals:

- Pansies
- Dianthus
- Petunias
- Snapdragons

Bulbs

- Iris
- Daffodil
- Hyacinth
- Crocus
- Tulip
- Lily of the Valley

Shrubs

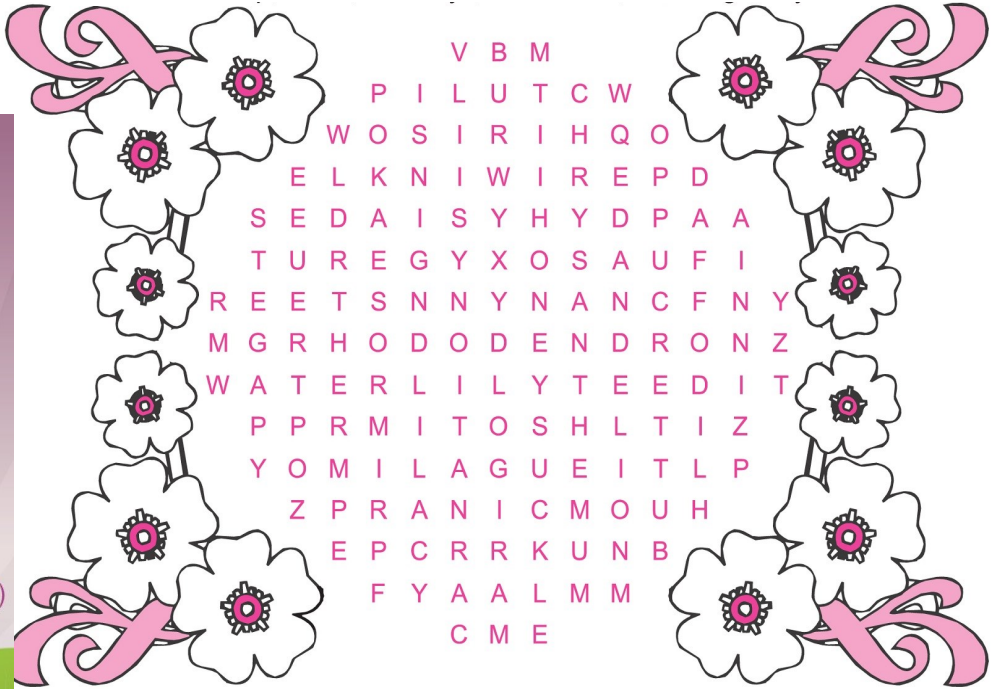
- Azalea
- Forsythia

Trees

- Magnolia
- Apricot
- Dogwood

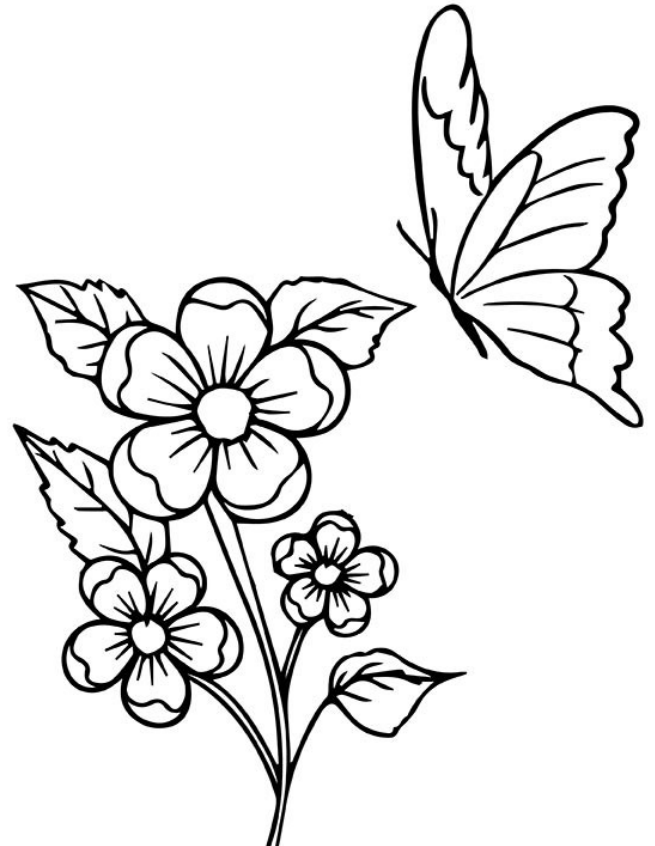
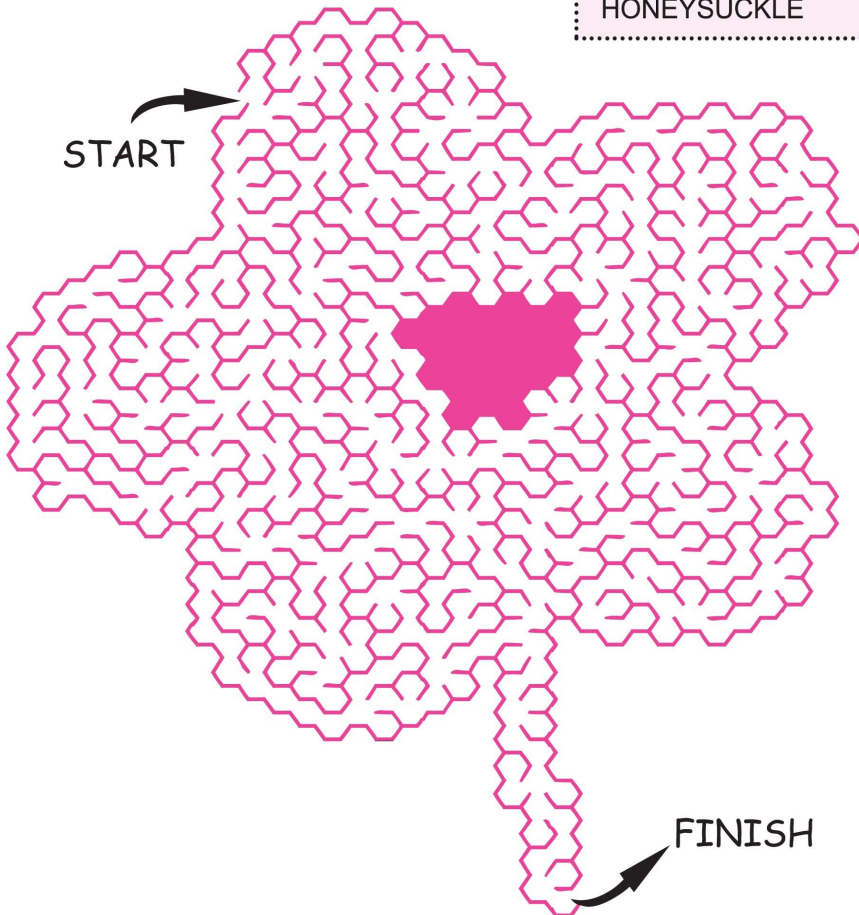
Perennials:

- Creeping Phlox
- Primrose
- Hellebore
- Lupines
- Bleeding Heart
- Gaillardia
- Gazania (tender)



V B M
 P I L U T C W
 W O S I R I H Q O
 E L K N I W I R E P D
 S E D A I S Y H Y D P A A
 T U R E G Y X O S A U F I
 R E E T S N N Y N A N C F N Y
 M G R H O D O D E N D R O N Z
 W A T E R L I L Y T E E D I T
 P P R M I T O S H L T I Z
 Y O M I L A G U E I T L P
 Z P R A N I C M O U H
 E P C R R K U N B
 F Y A A L M M
 C M E

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| BUTTERCUP | IRIS | PRIMROSE |
| CARNATION | LILAC | RHODODENDRON |
| CHRYSANTHEMUM | LILY | ROSE |
| DAFFODIL | LOTUS | TULIP |
| DAISY | MARIGOLD | VIOLET |
| DANDELION | PEONY | WATER LILY |
| GERANIUM | PERIWINKLE | ZINNIA |
| HONEYSUCKLE | POPPY | |





In Our Prayers

In the Hospital in the Past Month

Margaret Sides, Ralph Linder

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, 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

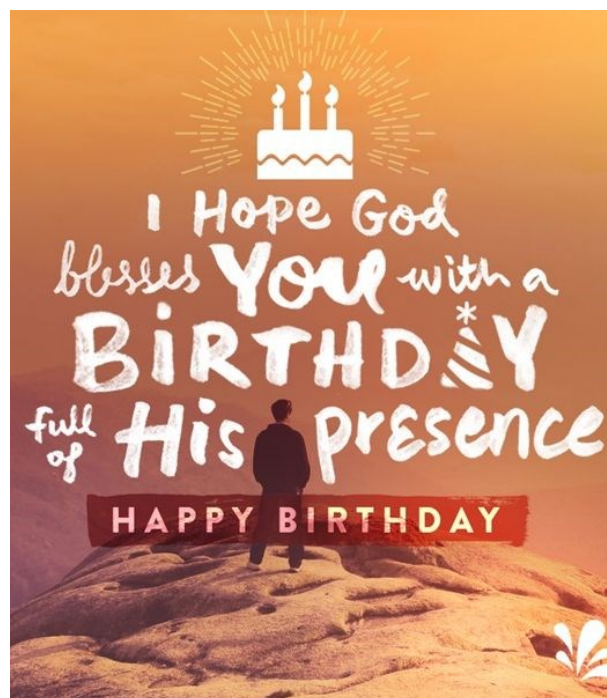
Please pray for Our Dear Church Family who are struggling, the lonely, all who are unemployed, shut-in, those who are struggling with flu/colds, those who are grieving, all governmental leaders, those who are serving in our military, the youth and all caregivers.

Military Service Members

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

March Birthdays

Mar 1	Pat Cassady
Mar 2	Queenie Allan
Mar 4	Evelyn Howard 91
Mar 6	Ginny Halverson
Mar 6	Jamie Webb
Mar 8	Austin Aldag
Mar 9	Jan Chisholm
Mar 9	Dean Smith 98
Mar 11	Jerry Berkley
Mar 11	Dylan McBrayer
Mar 12	Morgan Naramore
Mar 16	Anna Martin 100
Mar 17	Betty Fugitt 92
Mar 17	Jennie Reeves
Mar 18	Melissa Earle
Mar 19	Diana Newlan
Mar 20	Roger Williams
Mar 21	John Haeffele
Mar 25	Claire White
Mar 28	Pat Calder
Mar 29	Juanita Reader



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!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast 12:00pm Eagle Scout Cord of Honor	24 LOF Pre-K Art Show Set up 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	25 LOF Pre-K Art Show Set up	26 12:00pm REFRESH LOF Pre-K Art Show Set up 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice	27 LOF Pre-K Art Show Set up 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	28 LOF Pre-K Art Show	1
2 9:00am Worship Pre-K Art Show	3 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	4	5 7:00am - 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Open House 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice	6 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	7	8 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
9 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Breakfast 3:00pm - 5:00pm GS Troop Meeting	10 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting 6:15pm 4-H Meeting	11 9:00am - 12:00pm Early Head Start	12 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice	13 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	14	15
16 9:00am Worship	17 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	18	19 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice	20 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	21	22 4:00pm Breakfast Setup
23 9:00am Worship Friends for Mission Light Breakfast	24 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	25	26 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice	27 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	28	29
30 9:00am Worship	31 9:00am SnackPac Packing 1:00pm - 3:00pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Bell's Practice 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting	1	2 12:00pm REFRESH 6:00pm REBORN Practice 6:30pm Puppets for Jesus Practice	3 7:00pm EP/Morton Singles	4 7:00am - 2:00pm LOF Spring/Grad Picture Day	5 8:00am - 5:00pm GS Adult Training 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast

OUR CHURCH IN PICTURES...



**LEAP OF FAITH PRE-K
ART SHOW**

**THE KIDS HAVE BEEN WORKING
HARD! YOU CAN SEE THEIR ARTWORK
SET UP IN THE COAT ROOM ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND.**



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