



The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
APRIL 2017

Beware the glassy calm waters of the lake, of life

In Northern Wisconsin, Karen and I used to stay at the cabin that my parents built on Crystal Lake. Although it doesn't happen often, there are these perfect moments when the lake is a glassy calm. The water lies so still that it's almost hard to tell the reality from the reflection.

I feel compelled to take pictures. Sometimes, the mirror image is so perfect even I don't know which way is up.

A mirror surface might delight photographers, but it's not good for the lake. Like humans—indeed, like

every living thing—lakes have to breathe. Oxygen has to filter deep into the water; without it, the lake dies.

Where winter temperatures drop low enough, the change in season helps a lake to breathe. When water cools, it grows denser. Colder water also carries more dissolved oxygen. So when surface layers get cold enough, they sink through the slightly less dense waters beneath, carrying oxygen from the surface into the depths. Cold-weather lakes breathe once a year.

Storms also help lakes to breathe.

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PADS challenge goal exceeded!

Thanks to your generosity, Wesley United Methodist Church was able to exceed our goal of matching the \$1,042 that the students of Challand Middle School raised to benefit the PADS Homeless Shelter.

We received \$1,446.97 through loose coins and marked donations to the shelter.

Thank you for showing our local students that we support them and their efforts to make a difference in our community!

Church Events

- April 5 - Administrative Council meeting - 7:15 p.m.
- April 6 - Greeting card ministry - 9:30 a.m.
- April 6 - Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- April 9 - Intro. to U.M. class - 3:30 p.m.
- April 12 - Women's breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- April 13 - Maundy Thursday worship - 7 p.m.
- April 14 - Good Friday worship - 7 p.m.
- April 16 - Easter breakfast and egg hunt - 9 a.m.
- April 22 - Parents' night out - 5:30 p.m.
- April 25 - 150th Committee meeting - 10 a.m.
- April 26 - Mission Team meeting - 7 p.m.
- April 29 - Church workday
- Mondays - Disciple Bible study - 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Wednesdays - Handbell Choir rehearsal - 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays - Choir rehearsal - 6 p.m.
- Saturdays - Men's Bible study - 8 a.m.

Worship through Holy Week

"Seven Last Words"

As we close the season of Lent, we continue to take a closer look at the seven last words of Jesus from the cross. Each of the last things that he said was tremendously important and meant the world to the people who witnessed the Crucifixion.

- **April 9:** "Into Your Hands" based on Luke 23:44-49
- **Maundy Thursday, April 13:** "This Holy Meal" based on Luke 22:14-20
- **Good Friday, April 14:** "It Is Finished"

based on John 19:30-34, 38-42

- **Easter Sunday, April 16:** "The Rest of the Story" based on Mark 16:1-20

Holy Week services:

- **Maundy Thursday, April 13** - 7 p.m.
- **Good Friday, April 14** - 7 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday, April 16** - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
 - 9 a.m. breakfast, children's Easter egg hunt, and fellowship

Calling All Ladies
It's time to get out your Easter bonnets!
Sunday, April 16

Parents Night Out
The church again is hosting a night for parents to get out, offering child care at the church from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22. Invitations have been mailed to families with children. Please sign up by April 9. Hope to see you there!

Mission Corner

Wesley has always been a mission-minded church. The purpose of this space is to keep the congregation informed of our various mission efforts.

We currently are receiving:

- Donations of bedding, small appliances, and other **household items** to support Trinity IMC and the VA Clinic/Valor Program, as they work to find homes for local veterans. A list of needed items is on the table in the fellowship

hall.

- **Bar soap** for the Trinity Pantry, Rock Falls UMC Personal Care Pantry, and the FISH Food Pantry.

- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.

Items may be placed in the baskets and boxes on the missions table outside the sanctuary.

Also, **loose coins** this month will support **UMCOR**.

Thank you for your generosity!



Fifth Sunday Appeal

The United Methodist Church designates a number of Sundays throughout the year as opportunities for recognizing and supporting particular missions and ministries. Most include an offering, used to fund the work of these programs.

Wesley UMC will begin a Fifth Sunday Appeal for Special Sunday giving. This year, there are three months with five Sundays, so we will receive donations for two ministries each of those Sundays.

The first Fifth Sunday Appeal is April 30, and will benefit Human Relations Day and UMCOR. (Our loose coins throughout April also benefit UMCOR.)

Human Relations Day strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

UMCOR Sunday, previously known as One Great Hour Of Sharing, enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace.

You may give to this appeal by placing your offering in a pew envelope and marking it for the Fifth Sunday Appeal or mailing a check to the church and noting it is for the Fifth Sunday Appeal.

Thank you for your generosity toward these missions!

Sesquicentennial Fact

Did you know that there have been 42 pastors who have served Wesley United Methodist Church and its predecessors through its 150-year history? Starting with J.H. Alling, who served from 1867-1869, to Wesley Dickson, who became our pastor in 2014. The longest-serving pastor was Jean Saltzman, who served from 1970-1979. Three pastors served less than one year.



Jesus brings peace amidst the storms

As winds stir up the surface, they expose more water molecules to the atmosphere. The bigger the waves, the deeper the stirring goes. Conversely, of course, the stiller the surface, the less oxygen that a lake absorbs. The little that does get absorbed stays near the surface. It doesn't get swirled down deeper, where fish live.

I have to admit that I'm not keen on having storms in my life. They upset my preconceptions. They force me to adapt. In calm waters, I feel as if I'm in control; when storms strike, I know I'm not. All I can do is try to keep my head above water.

But I know that glassy calm is not good for me, either. Utterly placid water becomes stagnant. I don't want to be stagnant. Like a lake, I welcome the input from the streams and rivers of thought that flow into me.

Theologians seem to suggest that people who have never experienced a crisis—of life or of faith—can never progress past a shallow and superficial spirituality. Somehow all of us need to get shaken up now and then. Like a lake, it renews life.

So when my life feels shaken up, I cling once more to Jesus, who still invites us to step out of the boat onto the waters, even as the wind screams past our ears and the waves seem to roll out of control (Matthew 14:25-33). I cling to Jesus, who invites us to experience peace in the midst of the storm, Easter morning hope in Good Friday circumstances.

Food for thought,
Pastor Wesley



Crystal Lake in Mercer, Wisconsin

Men's Club Ham Dinner



Above: Members of the Men's Club prepare potatoes for the annual ham dinner.



Left: Josh and Matt Greenfield serve drinks during dinner.



Below: Members of the Men's Club wash dishes during dinner.



Above: Members and friends of Wesley United Methodist Church enjoy a dinner of ham, potatoes, beans, and more during the annual Men's Club Ham Dinner, held Saturday, March 11.

Servers for April - 8 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist
April 2	Renee Duncan	Aaron and Derek Fitzanko	Seth Faber
April 9	↓	↓	Renee Duncan
April 16	Katie Wetzell and daughters		Nancy Pitsch
April 23	↓		Amy Poci
April 30			Amy Poci

Coffee Hosts

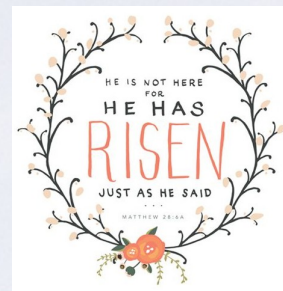
- April 2** Denver and Sharon Wasson
- April 9** Erin Graves, Mary Spitzer
- April 16** Lynn Majewski and family
- April 23** Carol Shaw, Sally Unterzuber
- April 30** Dave Fredericks, Warren Heuck

Servers for April - 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist
April 2	Don and Stacey Stutzke	Andy and Nancy Pitsch, Jean Moe Katie Spangler, Michael Henrekin	Ryan Blackburn Sharon Siex
April 9	Tim Schwingle family	↓	Brooklynn Freas
April 16	Curt Greenfield family, Susie Cedro, Alyssa Cedro		Reid Blackburn
April 23	Christie Freas, Brooklynn Freas, Haleigh Freas		
April 30	Sue Hondley, Jean and Joan Partridge, Gyneth Partridge		

Acolytes

- April** Ashlei Behrens, Haleigh Freas
- May** Haley Ceruzzi, Tori Stutzke



Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| April 1 - Beth Mathew | April 16 - Peg Burke |
| April 3 - Janet Lindsley,
Olivia Schwingle | April 17 - Alice Chandler,
Karen Palmer |
| April 4 - Gloria Grant | April 18 - Kayla Heimerman |
| April 8 - Mark Gatz, Frank Rausa | April 19 - Austin Cedro |
| April 12 - Sue Inks, Violet Windham | April 23 - Julie Carrion,
Juanita Nerstheimer, Nick Papoccia |
| April 14 - Randy Smith, Don Warkins | April 25 - Nick Abele |
| | April 28 - Sarah Gabrielse |

Anniversaries

- April 2** - Ron and Judy Bushman
- April 5** - Arnie and Jeanne Burch
- April 17** - Walter and Janet Lindsley
- April 18** - Marc and Cindy Melton
- April 19** - Toby and Debbie Hodges
- April 24** - Jeff and Jan Davey
- April 29** - Allen and Jessica Wade
- April 30** - Joe and Elisa Gatz, Denny and Alice Vetter

Welcome back snowbirds!

Please let the office know when you are returning to the area after being away this winter, so any mail from the church is sent to the correct address.

Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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Website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Email: office@sterlingwesley.org

wesley@sterlingwesley.org

Open Heart, Open Minds, Open Doors

You are invited to join us for worship Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m. with Sunday School and fellowship at 9 a.m.

An announcement from Pastor Wes

On Sunday, March 26, Pastor Wesley announced that he has been appointed to serve another congregation beginning July 1. And honoring his vow to itinerant ministry, he has accepted the appointment to serve as the senior pastor at the United Methodist Church of New Lenox.

From his statement that day:

"I did not ask for, seek, or expect a change of appointment this year. I have never made a request to move and have always been intentional about fully investing in every place where I have been deployed for ministry. That said, I have

made the commitment to serve where the bishop and cabinet feel that my gifts and graces may best be employed in the larger connection of our Annual Conference.

Therefore, I have accepted the offer of this appointment with a considerable amount of time in prayer and deep conversations with my wife. In the same way that my commitment to itinerant ministry brought us to Wesley UMC almost 3 years ago, we are now accepting the challenge of this new appointment, with the added benefit that Karen and I will once again share a home together.

For now, we have 3 months to do some great ministry together. This is a time to be engaged, not disengaged. Jump in and serve - take advantage of the opportunity that we have to worship together, eat together, and work together.

...

In the meantime, please know that our district superintendent will be working closely with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee to seek out a quality person to serve as your next pastor."