



# The *Chimes*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – MAY 2017

## Wrestling with difference between action and intent

Her mother let her go to school with roaches in her book bag when she was 7. Their home was entirely dysfunctional, people floating in and out, water and power often were turned off. There were no regular meals, and food was left lying around.

Years later, with the support of caring adoptive parents, and counseling to help her deal with the challenges, she left the roach-infested house behind and created a successful, happy life for herself.

When asked, "Why did you do so well?" her answer is surprising. She said, "I always knew my mother loved me." She elaborated: "She was dysfunctional, she was selfish, she made excuses for everything. It was always somebody else's fault. But I always knew she loved me."

Therein lies the paradox.

As humans we have a template for what being 'good' looks like. We quickly connect the dots between

intent and actions. We look at an outward action (or inaction) and draw a direct line to internal motivation.

If our boss cared about us, he would do this. If our neighbors wanted to be friends, they would stop that. But it doesn't work that way. Action does not always reveal true intent. Intent is the feeling someone has about you. Actions, and inactions, are the result of their own dysfunctions and circumstances.

The dichotomy between intent and action can be startling. Your boss might care about you, but be a terrible communicator. Your neighbors might want to be friends, yet they come from a culture with completely different behaviors.

As humans, we like things in easy-to-understand packages. People who care act this way; people who don't care act that way. But human condition is more complex than that.

When Jesus commanded his

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## Church Events

- May 2 - Membership Care Team meeting - 9:30 a.m.
- May 4 - Greeting card ministry - 9:30 a.m.
- May 10 - Women's breakfast (Benny's) - 8:30 a.m.
- May 16 - Trustees meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- May 17 - Administrative Council - 7 p.m.
- May 19 - Ladies' luncheon (Candlelight) - 11:30 a.m.
- May 23 - 150th Committee meeting - 10 a.m.
- May 23 - Prayer shawl ministry - 1 p.m.
- May 23 - Worship Team meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- Mondays (through May 22) - 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.

# Upcoming sermon series

**Forgiveness:** This is one of the most important and central pieces of our faith, yet we often struggle to put it into practice. This brief series demonstrates the necessity and effect of forgiveness in our lives.

- April 30: “Receiving Forgiveness” based on John 21:4-17

- May 7: “Offering Forgiveness” based on Colossians 3:12-17

**Why, God?:** God is not a divine Santa, vending machine, or disinterested deity. Rather we are challenged to have a relationship with God, and it is not always easy. This brief series takes a look at

the stories of people who deeply wrestled with deep questions and did not necessarily get the responses they were seeking.

- May 14: “When God is Inattentive” based on Luke 7:18-28
- May 21: “When God is Uncooperative” based

on 2 Corinthians 12:5-10

- May 28: “When God is Late” based on John 11, selected verses

## Sesquicentennial Corner

In preparation for the celebration of our sesquicentennial Oct. 8, the 150th Committee is asking members to participate in video interviews to share memories, well wishes, and hopes for the church.

The videos will be played in the months leading up to the celebration this fall.

Not sure what to say? Here are some questions to help:

- How long have you been a member or have you attended Wesley? What led you here?
- What do you love most about the church?
- How have you served in the church? How do you wish to serve the church in years to come?
- What do you see or hope for the future of Wesley?
- What is a favorite memory of attending Fourth Street or Wesley church?
- What one word would you use to describe your feelings for the church?

Starting Sunday, May 7, we will offer 15-minute time slots Sunday mornings from 8-11:30 a.m. for interviews in the church library. If you cannot make it to church and wish to participate, call Renee Duncan at 815-535-3058 to make special arrangements.

## Did You Know?

Did you know that two times in our church's history there was an attempt to combine the Fourth Street church at the Broadway church? The first time was in 1948, and the second was in the early 1970s. In each case, the reason behind the proposed merger was declining membership and building issues.



## Thank You

Dear Wesley family,

I just want to say thank you to everyone for all the cards, texts, emails, and especially all the prayers sent up for me during this time before and after my surgery. It has been a very trying time, with lots of pain, but is so much better now. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you soon. It will be so wonderful to see my church family again. May God bless you all.

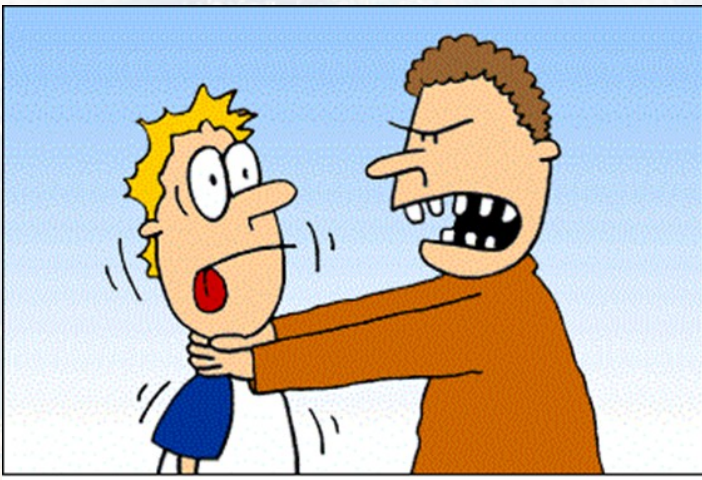
Coralee Jacobs

Thank you to Sue Abate, Jan Andersen, Darlene Davis, Judy Dennis, Gloria Grant, Sue Klock, and Mary Spitzer for their helping packing and shipping college care packages last month. It is a pleasure to let our young Wesley family members living away know that we continue to hold them in our hearts and prayers.

Janay Dalton

Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers following the loss of our mom and grandma. We appreciate the overwhelming and heartfelt support coming from the entire congregation. We have such a wonderful family here at Wesley, and we love you all.

The Clodfelter family



HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF?

Cont'd from Page 1.

## 'Love your neighbor' not an easy path

followers to "Love your neighbor as yourself," "Pray for your enemies," and "Bless those who persecute you," he was not setting for them an easy path. He was, however, setting before us a way that truly leads to life.

Food for Thought,  
Pastor Wesley

# Parents Night Out

The church was filled with the laughter, singing, and enthusiasm of 15 children Saturday, April 22, for our second Parents Night Out.

The children enjoyed a storyteller, bubbles, paper airplanes, games, crafts, songs, and cookies. Youth and adults from the church helped make this a memorable evening for the children.

Two more such events are planned for this year.



# Vacation Bible School - June 12-16



The countdown is on for **Vacation Bible School, June 12-16.**

The program is free and open to all children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. The theme is **Hero Central! Discover Your Strength in God.**

Here's a preview of what you can expect at the Hero Central!-themed VBS:

- **Bible stories:** Students will be told stories from the New and Old

Testaments that emphasize the power of God's strength.

- **Crafts:** Students will be able to explore their creativity in the projects they make.
- **Praise songs:** Students will learn exciting praise songs along with movements to help facilitate word memorization as well as make the songs more meaningful to them.
- **Recreation and games:** Students will burn some energy by playing games related to our daily themes.

- **Snacks:** Students will be served tasty treats as well as hear a short message from God's word.

Registration is open at <http://sterlingmethodistvbs.org>. (Parents are asked to come with their child on the first day of VBS to check in.)

*Please plan to attend! And consider bringing a friend!*

We also are looking for volunteers in all aspects of the program; a sign-up sheet is available in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions, see Wendy Fitzanko.

## Let's Feed Our Children

The school year is winding down, summer is coming. It's time to plan for the annual **Let's Feed Our Children** program.

We will be **collecting creamy peanut butter and grape jelly** throughout May. Please leave your donations on the missions table outside the sanctuary.

We also will be **volunteering the first three weeks of June.** Please sign up on the table in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions, please see Beth Mathew or Jessica Wade. Thank you!



## You Are Invited

Wesley will host a potluck luncheon Sunday, June 25, after worship to honor Pastor Wesley and Karen as they complete their service to the church.

The church will provide the entrée and dessert. Members are asked to bring salads and sides to pass.

Please plan to join us in showing Wes and Karen how much we have appreciated their time with us the last three years.

## 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 UMC 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.
- **Dish 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.
- **Creamy peanut butter and grape jelly** for the Let's Feed Our Children summer lunch program.
- **2-ounce sticks of deodorant and 4-ounce bottles shampoo** for the Annual Conference Challenge. (Our goal is 500 deodorants and 250 shampoos.)
- **Donations to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund** for the annual Bishop's Appeal. (This special offering will be collected Sunday, May 28.)

### Shopping List

- Creamy peanut butter
- Grape jelly
- Deodorant - 2 oz.
- Shampoo - 4 oz.
- Dish soap



## Servers for May - 8 a.m.

**May 7**  
**Greeters**  
Renee Duncan,  
Lynn Majewski

**Ushers**  
Darla Ewing,  
Nancy Pitsch

**Liturgist**  
Seth Faber  
  
Wendy Fitzanko  
↓  
Jan Glover

## Coffee Hosts

**May 7** Sue Hondley, Gyneth Partridge, Jean and Joan Partridge

**May 14** Darla Ewing, Janne Severson

**May 21** Joe and Elisa Gatz family

**May 28** Norma Church, Renee Duncan, Amy Poci

## Servers for May - 10 a.m.

**May 7**  
**Greeters**  
Don and Sena Warkins

**Ushers**  
Jeff and Jan Davey,  
Rory and Rita Smith

**Liturgist**  
Stacey Wendelken  
  
Rene Morris  
Bryn Gatz  
Jan Glover

## Acolytes

**May** Haley Ceruzzi, Tori Stutzke

**June** Logan Ayala, James Morris

## Birthdays

**May 2** - Addison Gabrielse

**May 3** - Bob Allen

**May 5** - Sue Abate

**May 8** - Kris Noble

**May 13** - Renee Duncan,  
Sue Hayes

**May 14** - Manorama Hermon

**May 15** - Chandler Allen

**May 16** - Erin Graves

**May 17** - Bryn Gatz

**May 18** - Mike Ceruzzi

**May 23** - Jackson Melton

**May 24** - Dennis Vetter

**May 28** - June Teachout

**May 29** - Jaime Greenfield

**May 30** - Ed Andersen,  
Ethan Cravatta

## Anniversaries

**May 1** - Joe and Carol Cravatta

**May 10** - Steve and Mary Downes

**May 25** - Wesley and Karen Dickson

**May 26** - Brad and Erin Graves

**May 28** - Mike and Michele Drew

I praise you.

Psalm 139:14

