



# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, JULY 2018

## Pastor's Reflections

### Going Fishing

To start, I need to tell you I don't fish much. It's not that I haven't had fun fishing, and I admit the fight with a fish on the line is exciting and exhilarating. We all have our hobbies and games and writing is mine - fishing not so much. Fishing is something I think many people can picture and imagine, and it's a metaphor used often by Jesus. It makes sense as Christ lived near the Sea of Galilee. In those days the lake produced fish and people made their living fishing. For the poor people of that part of Galilee, fish might be the only meat or protein many of them ate. Fishing was a matter of life and death. It was really hard, very dangerous and fishing was a job that wasn't going to make you rich. Yet, who did Jesus call to be his early disciples? Fishermen with scars on their hands from the nets and the knives they used to earn a living.

Jesus said to Andrew, Peter, James and John, "I am going to teach you to fish for people." Jesus meant that rather than going and catching fish, they were going to catch people for God. Their words would invite people to know God's love that Christ was revealing. Those fishermen would change the world by starting a movement that would invite billions of people to have their lives changed by God's love in Jesus Christ.

We are still called to fish for people. We are called to invite people to know Jesus for the first time or to know Jesus more deeply. When we invite people to worship or attend a church event, or when we talk about Jesus with someone who asks, and when we live out our faith by loving others in Jesus' name, we are fishing for people.

## Church Events

- **July 4** - office closed
- **July 5** - Greeting card ministry, 9:30am
- **July 11** - Women's breakfast, 8:30am at Benny's.
- **July 13** - Clinton baseball game - see Pastor for details. 5:30-10pm
- **July 20** - Ladies luncheon, 11:00am meet, Krumpets in Fulton
- **July 21** - Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall reserved for wedding.
- **July 29** - Fifth Sunday appeal, Native American Ministries
- **Tuesdays and Thursdays** through July, Co-Ed softball. See calendar for times.
- **Wednesdays** in July 9-10:30am, weeding the flower beds
- **Thursdays**, coffee with pastor when noted on calendar and bulletin. 7:30-10am, Airplay Sports.
- **Saturdays** - Men's bible study 8:00am, library
- No choir, Sunday school, or buddy bags in the summer months
- **See more events** on page 3 for Game Nights that are planned!



Some years ago, I went to a preaching workshop led by Adam Hamilton, the pastor of the largest United Methodist Church in the US. He talked about sermons at various times of year. He said summer was a good time for fishing expeditions. What he meant is summer is a season without major religious holidays. After Pentecost is a good time to preach sermons to encourage people to invite their friends. More people move to a new community in the summer than any other time of year and it is a good time to invite them to visit.

This July we are going to try some fishing sermons. Sermons that hopefully will be a way people can connect with us. In July we will be thinking about how nature helps us understand God's love. The beauty of the stars, the fun of animals in a zoo, the plants that feed us, is experiences that almost all people have. Through nature God constantly preaches to us, not using words, but using the amazing things around us. I hope these sermons will be something you would want to invite someone to hear. If you have wanted to invite someone to worship, invite them to these sermons that hopefully will meet them where they live. If you have a new neighbor, invite them to join you at church, and then invite them to lunch afterward.

Let's all try to fish this summer by inviting more people to get to know Jesus and be part of our church family. They will know the blessing of meeting Jesus and as part of our congregation, their presence, gifts, and talents, will bless us as well. The church is a family that always has another seat at the table of God's love and grace. Let's fish for a few folks for those empty seats.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Jeremiah*



If you would like to help maintain the beautiful grounds of Wesley UMC, please come to Weeding Wednesdays, 9-10:30 am. We will work on keeping up with the flowerbeds this summer.

## Special Music

Do you sing or play an instrument? The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the kitchen for this summer. If you have any questions, contact Dylan Hinrichs or Judy Bushman.



## News from Feed the Children

Thank you Wesley for the collection of jelly. Someone brought in cases of grape jelly. It was a fantastic donation to the summer program.

We have been making approximately 144 lunches each day. We have extra help this year and it has gone very smoothly. We have supplied bologna and cheese for sandwiches that are very popular with the kids. Also, lots of grapes that are a sought after item!

Thanks to everyone who has contributed money or time to this wonderful cause! We have enjoyed our time of fellowship and a sense of accomplishment.

## Fifth Sunday Appeal

July 29th will be Native American Ministries Sunday (fifth Sunday appeal) which nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians. Please give by marking your check or envelope for 5th Sunday Appeal.



## Independence Day Prayer

Gracious God. On this date in particular, we give thanks for this country. We thank you for the ideals of freedom and equality and inclusion that this country seeks to have. We pray for our leaders and ask that you guide them in making wise decisions that benefit the whole, not just a few. And we ask that you help us discern the division between country and faith so that all may have the same freedoms we so enjoy.



# July Worship Services

Summer is the season when things are growing. The early vegetables and fruits ripen, baby animals grow into adults, the natural world is flourishing and providing us all the food we need for life. There are so many beautiful sights, wonderful smells, and delicious foods. During the Month of July, we as a church are going to celebrate creation with a sermon series named after the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful.” Join us as we see how the bible in the Old and New Testaments uses creation and nature to help us understand the love of God in Jesus Christ.

**July 1:** Many Cultures, One Christ: An American Quilt (our last in our many cultures one Christ series)

Acts 10:9-16

Sermon: At this time of year when we celebrate the US, can we be like Peter and see all the amazing blessings around us in all the people we meet.

**July 8:** All Things Bright and Beautiful: The Animals

The scriptures constantly use the animals of the wild and those domesticated animals who live with us to teach us about God’s love. Let’s see how our fellow creatures can teach us about our Creator!

**July 15:** All Things Bright and Beautiful: The Skies

Humans have always looked to the sky in awe and for inspiration. How do the heavens, the sun, the moon, the storms share with us the life changing power of God?

**July 22:** All things Bright and Beautiful: The Crops

The crops provide our food. They are among God’s greatest gifts to us. The bible was written in a time and place where many more people than today had to help grow crops. Let’s see how these images of vines and grains help us understand Jesus’ love for us!

**July 29:** All things Bright and Beautiful: The Waters

In the roar of the ocean, in the song of a brook, in the beauty of a river we can experience God’s love. Let’s see how the waters sing to us the story of Christ, particularly in our area where the Rock River is a daily part of our lives.

**July Not Just For Youth Game Nights:** Calling all Gamers! Do you like games, board games, card games video games? If you do let’s play! There will be two game nights in July. So come and hang out with other gamers. This is the chance to get to know each other, have fun, and enjoy some snacks. Come join us! Youth and up are welcome!

**Friday July 6th, 6:30-11:30** – Church Fellowship Hall: Join us for board and card games. Come for a little while or game geek out the whole time. There will be Axis and Allies, board games, card games, and snacks.

**Friday July 20th: 6:30-11:30** - Church Fellowship Hall: Join us for a video game night, board games and other games too. Everyone invited, snacks will be there, let’s have some fun!

## Do you have a story to tell?

During the Month of August our sermons will be on the theme of “Huddle Up.” We will be talking about how through groups of people Christ helps our faith grow and mature and how these groups equip us to go out and share God’s love with all we meet. Being part of bible studies, discipleship groups and other groups have been a huge part of my walk with Christ. I doubt I would have ever become a pastor without the ways that God changes my life through being part of these small groups and studies. Do any of you have a story to tell as well?

Would you be willing to share with your church family a time in your life when a bible study, a small group, a Sunday School Class, or a circle of Christian friends helped you grow in faith? Would you be willing to share it with your church family? I am looking for testimonies of how these relationships can help us grow as followers of Jesus. It would be amazing if you would be willing to speak in worship and share your story. Or would you be willing to write it up and let me read it in worship? We aren’t looking for a sermon, just something 3-5 minutes (a few paragraphs) that share how through a community of people God blessed your life. If you have a story you’d be willing to share please contact me, 815-592-3764, or email [castiger1@gmail.com](mailto:castiger1@gmail.com). I hope we all have some stories that can really bless each other!



# VBS 2018

**What a GREAT success and Time VBS was!**  
Much appreciation goes out to all who helped make this experience for Wesley UMC and the children possible!



## Thank you notes

Thank You for all the birthday wishes and cards that were sent to me. It made my day very special!

Phyllis Stutzman

To my wonderful church family,

This note is long overdue, and I apologize for that. But, it is no less sincere.

I want to thank everyone that brought me dinners, soups, and cookies. Thank you for all the cards, calls, and visits, it made the time go a lot faster with all that attention. A very special thanks for getting me to the clinic and back. You did a good job of spoiling me.

Darlene Davis

A HUGE and sincere Thank You to all of you that sent cards, made a call, or gave hugs and prayers during the loss of my Uncle in Indiana. **Special** thanks to Jan Glover, for stepping in and covering the office during my absence on my day of travel - the last day of preparation before VBS!

Each and every one of you are GREATLY appreciated!

Tammy





## Birthdays

<b>July 3</b>	Haley Ceruzzi, Jeff Davey, Jaime Hodges, Sharon Siex, Nathan Williams	<b>July 15</b>	Roger Jacobs, Jack Osborn
<b>July 5</b>	Sue Hondley, Virginia Schoenhaar, Stacey Wendelken	<b>July 16</b>	Sharon Prichard
<b>July 6</b>	Vinnie Poci	<b>July 19</b>	Pam Clodfelter, Steve Downes
<b>July 9</b>	Sydney Graves	<b>July 23</b>	Tim Schwingle
<b>July 10</b>	Rose Jacobs	<b>July 24</b>	Sadie Wendelken
<b>July 11</b>	Sandi Cox, JoAnn Lyon	<b>July 25</b>	Meghan Clodfelter
<b>July 13</b>	Matthew Hansen, Andrea Mallhi	<b>July 26</b>	Beth Jacobs, Darla Stigall
<b>July 14</b>	Nathan Blackburn	<b>July 27</b>	Allison Valenzuela
		<b>July 28</b>	Linda Kavran
		<b>July 31</b>	Dayton Hayes

## Anniversaries

<b>July 7</b>	Denver & Sharon Wasson
<b>July 12</b>	James & Wendy Fitzanko
<b>July 14</b>	Ed & Jan Andersen
<b>July 22</b>	Fred & Renee Duncan
<b>July 23</b>	Dr. Darroll & Jeanette Erickson
<b>July 29</b>	Jeremy & Holly Taylor-Vrhel



Visit the bulletin board in the fellowship hall area and see **WHOOO** you recognize!

## Servers for July - 8 a.m.

	<b>Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>July 1</b>	Jan Glover, Lynn Majewski	Darla Ewing
<b>July 8</b>	Marc & Cindy Melton	Amy Poci
<b>July 15</b>	↓	Jan Glover
<b>July 22</b>	Nancy Pitsch, Lynn Majewski	Dylan Hinrichs
<b>July 29</b>	Marc & Cindy Melton	↓

## Coffee Hosts

<b>July 1</b>	Beth Jacobs, Amy Poci
<b>July 8</b>	Katie Herath & Cory Canas
<b>July 15</b>	Joe & Elisa Gatz
<b>July 22</b>	Bill & Sue Abate
<b>July 29</b>	Sharon Prichard, Sue Klock, Mary Nelms

## Servers for July - 10 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>July 1</b>	Denny & Alice Vetter Cameron Taylor	Truedson Family	Alice Vetter or Cameron Taylor
<b>July 8</b>	↓	Wendelken Family	↓
<b>July 15</b>	Dave & Roberta Fredericks	Antonio/Amber Jason, Jaz Mya, Jioni	Liz White
<b>July 22</b>	Rosie Davis, Jean Moe	James, Linh Evan & Jackson Melton	Jean Moe
<b>July 29</b>	Warren & Carolyn Heuck	Antonio/Amber Jason, Jaz Mya, Jioni	Carolyn Heuck



## Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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### 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.

## 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.
- **Laundry detergent** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit the Martin Keagy Fund in July.