

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2018

Pastor's reflections

Normally each month I write two articles for our newsletter. One of those articles is about our upcoming worship services, and the other is usually some reflections on something coming up during the next month. Well that won't be the case this month. The final week of March is Holy Week, and the first day of April is Easter. These holidays, Holy Days, remind us of many of the crucial events in the story of our salvation through Jesus Christ. During Holy Week we remember the love of God, the faithfulness of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, the Emmanuel (God with us in Hebrew). On Easter we remember the great Good News that God's love is stronger even than human sin, stronger even than physical death. I believe strongly that someone telling a person the story of their life will help others know them much more deeply. Likewise, in remembering the events of that final week of Jesus' pre-resurrection ministry, and in remembering how Christ rose from the dead, we know much more deeply God's love for us and just how radically God has changed and is changing creation out of God's amazing love for all people.

So, in the Sundays of March, and then during Holy Week, please join us in worship, please invite those you love to join us in worship. Let us spend time together worshiping God and letting the power of what Jesus did and what God did through Jesus change us, transform us, and fill us with the life changing knowledge of God's love!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeremiah*

Church Events

- **March 1** - Greeting card ministry 9:30 a.m.
- **March 11** - Red Bird Mission pancake fundraiser 9AM
- **March 14** - Women's breakfast 8:30AM Benny's
- **March 16** -Ladies luncheon 11:30 Smoked on 3rd
- **March 21** - Trustee meeting 6PM
- **March 21** - Mission meeting 7PM
- **March 24** - Men's Club ham dinner 5-7PM
- **Lenten Bible study: Sundays** at 3PM, **Wednesdays** at 7PM, **Thursdays** at 2PM & 6:30 PM
- **Mondays** - Disciples bible study 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesdays** - Buddy bags packing 12:30 p.m.
- **Wednesdays** - Choir 6:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays** - Coffee with Pastor 7:30 a.m. Airplay Sports
- **Saturdays** - Men's bible study 8:00 a.m. (Church library)

Worship service in March

- Sunday March 4: Being a Disciple: "Lest You be Judged:" We continue our sermon series on what it means to live as a disciple, a follower of Jesus, and we continue also our focus on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and Sermon on the Plain. Specifically, we look at Jesus' warning for us to not constantly correcting others, while we refuse to correct ourselves guided by God's grace. How can we love each other better? Let us consider it together.
- Sunday March 11: Being a Disciple: Money Matters: Jesus talked about money and how we should view it, use it, and spend it, and Jesus spoke of these matters often. By most understandings how we should use money is the second most common theme in Jesus' teachings in the gospels. Many of these teachings can also be very challenging, yet since money is a reality in all our lives these teachings apply to all of us in some way. Let's look at what two of Jesus' sermons say about money and ask for the Holy's Spirit's guidance on how we can live out these teachings to our lives today.
- Sunday March 18: Being a Disciple: Being a Disciple: Build on the Bedrock: in our final sermon on being faithful follower for Lent we focus on just a few verses, but vital ones. Jesus says if we build our lives upon him and upon the Good News and the teachings of Christ, our lives will have strength to weather any storm. This is good news, because it rains now and again! Let's dig deep and see how we can build our lives on "Christ the solid rock!"
- Sunday March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday: This Sunday we recall the events of Jesus' final week before crucifixion. Palm Sunday is joyous as we remember hundreds perhaps thousands of people welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem, yet sadly not even 6 days later Jesus would be hanging dead on a cross. Join as we remember the joy of Palm Sunday, the sadness of Christ's Passion, and look forward to the hope of life through resurrection.
- Thursday March 29, 7:00 PM: Join us for our "Living Last Supper" worship service on Maundy (Holy Thursday). Through drama, music, and communion we will remember the Last Supper, and ponder its meaning. (child care available)
- Friday March 30, 7:00 PM: Join us for a time of worship as we use light and darkness, song and scripture, prayer and silence all of it to remember all that Jesus gave up for love of us as he died on the cross. (child care available)
- Sunday April 1: EASTER: the victory has been won, Christ lives, the power of God's love is forever demonstrated. Join us for the celebration, for breakfast, for an Easter Egg hunt for the kids. It's a festival to thank God for the best news, let us joyfully gather together!

Wesley United Methodist Church Men's Ham Dinner

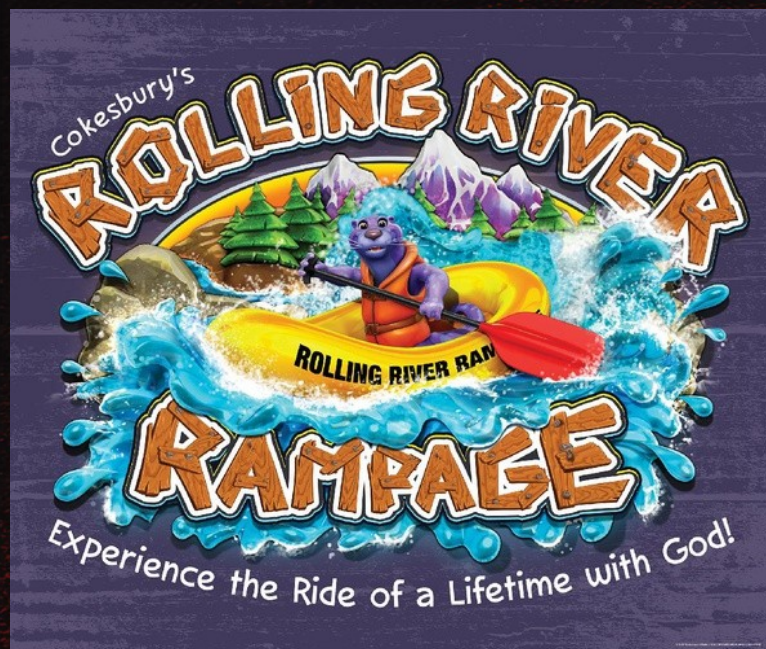
Saturday, March 24 5-7PM

Tickets: \$7 adults, \$3 children 12 and younger

Tickets are available from any Men's Club member, through the church office, or at the door. Carry-outs available.

Join us for the Men's Club annual Ham Dinner featuring ham and all the fixings!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS for VBS 2018!

Monday, June 11th - Friday June 15th

9AM - Noon

Pre-K through 6th graders

Pre-registration will be coming in April!

Directors: Tracy DuRall 217-242-1499 & Jean Moe 815-973-1114 would LOVE to add more eager volunteers to their already excited group; youth 7th grade through adults- let us know your area of interest, and you can JOIN THE FUN!



Fundraiser for the Youth Mission trip to Red Bird

@ Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Avenue, Sterling, IL

March 11th, 2018

Pancake Breakfast

9 am, between services

Free will offering.



Buddy Bags gets "Birthday Blessings"

"You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself" Mark 12:31

Two little girls, Juniper (2) & Poppy (4), are sisters, who have December & January birthdays. Since they felt they received SO MANY gifts from Christmas, they didn't "need or want" gifts for themselves. The girls came up with an idea that EXCITED & DELIGHTED them! With help from their mom, Jamie Linville, they planned to celebrate their party with friends, asking guests to bring food items for Buddy Bags Program in lieu of gifts for themselves. Juniper is pictured to the right helping her mother placing their "birthday gifts" on the shelves at Buddy Bags, housed off of our activity room. (Poppy was at school). What a BEAUTIFUL WAY to be God's love unto another.

If you would like to help pack Buddy Bags here at Wesley UMC, we meet at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Donations can be dropped at the church.



Birthdays

March 2	Cody Hansen, Sue Klock	March 16	Jaclyn Davey, Megan Stutzke
March 4	Aaron Fitzanko	March 18	Amber Greenfield
March 7	Lucas Knowles, Bruce Kramer, Stephanie Spitzer	March 20	Mary Downes, Dakota Hayes, Gene Klock
March 8	Jan Davey, Alice Vetter	March 22	Roberta Fredericks, Christopher Perry
March 11	Donald Lee	March 23	Colton Duncan
March 15	Levi Freas, Abriana Poci	March 29	Jeanne Burch, Lark Perry

Anniversaries

March 10	Wes and Liz White
March 13	Eddie & Carol Morse
March 17	Andrew and Beth Jacobs

Coffee Hosts

March 4 -	Wes and Liz White family
March 11 -	Rich & Sue Morris and Janet Palmer
March 18 -	Rory and Rita Smith
March 25 -	Beth Jacobs and Wendelken family

Servers for March- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers	Acolytes	Liturgist
March 4	Toby Hodges & Nancy Pitsch		Dylan Hinrichs
March 11	Graves family	Graves family	Nancy Pitsch
March 18	Toby & Debbie Hodges		Jan Glover
March 25	↓		Dylan Hinrichs

Servers for March- 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
March 4	Karen & Rick Palmer	Wendelken Family	Rick Palmer
March 11	Rosie Davis Nancy Pitsch	↓	Nancy Pitsch
March 18	Carol Shaw & Rosie Davis	Truesden Family	Liz White
March 25	Bill & Sue Abate	↓	Roberta Fredericks

The
Season
of
Lent



Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968 Pastor: 815-592-3764

Website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Email: office@sterlingwesley.org

castiger1@gmail.com

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.
- **Toilet Paper** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit Midwest Mission Distribution Center in March.



The church office is now taking orders for Easter lilies, daffodils, and tulips. The cost is \$7.00 per plant.

You may call the church office at 815-625-1968, send an email to office@sterlingwesley.org, or write down your information on the Sunday insert and submit it with the offering. Please place your order by the end of the day, Sunday, March 11th. Thank you!