The Chimes

Monthly Newsletter of Wesley United Methodist Church October 2018

Recurring Church Events

Sundays: WYG, 6:00-8:00PM every 1st and 3rd Sunday Mondays: Disciples Bible study, 7-9PM Tuesdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5PM Wednesdays: Disciples Bible study, 9-11:30AM Buddy Bags packing, 11:30AM Bells practice, 5PM Choir, 6PM in the sanctuary Thursdays: The Call book study, 2PM Exercise class, activity room, 5PM The Call book study, 6:30-7:35 Saturdays: Men's Bible study, 8AM

Please see additional monthly events on page 2

Pastor's Reflections

Today someone in our congregation led me to consider two ideas that are very important to following Jesus, and very important to our life as a congregation, but which might seem to be opposites: community and stillness. The person talked to me and others about the important theme of community at church. Church should be a place where people can find a loving community. As Christians we are called to reach out to our communities and view all people as our neighbors. The same person also left a small gift on my desk. It was a cross that quoted Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God."

Community is important. In Mark 12:28-31 we read: 28 One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

29 Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, 30 and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. 31 The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

In these words, also related in Matthew and Luke's Gospels, we see Jesus quoting the Old Testament to remind us that loving God and our neighbors (which includes our enemies and those who live outsice our town) is absolutely crucial to following Jesus.

Continued from page 1

Jesus followers are people of community. Loving those within our church community and the wider world. We don't get to pick and choose who to love, rather we seek to build love with all people. In the congregation in particular, we seek to be a loving community and to form friendships with others guided by and modeled on Jesus's love. However, community might seem to be all about being with people and experiencing all the talking, laughing, and crying. Nothing seems still in community.

In Psalm 46:10 we are reminded that we also need stillness, so that we hear God. How can we be still if we are surrounded by a loud, loving community? What does stillness even mean? Stillness, might be silence and might not. Stillness is making sure we open our minds and clear the clutter to hear and feel the love of God in our lives. This can happen alone, such as when we go to a room by ourselves to pray. We can also find stillness in a worship service with thousands if amid that community, we also clear away that which would block us from God's love.

We can overdo community. If we try to do everything and leave ourselves tired and grumpy, we won't build loving community. If we are only still, we might forget that we need to love others and that following Jesus happens best with others alongside, not purely on our own. Also, we need to remember that we each find community and stillness in different ways. Just as none of us has the same DNA, none of us will be exactly alike in how we have relationship with God and others.

Can we be intentional about both of these things? How can we be intentional in loving others in our congregation, and beyond, forming loving community guided by Christ-like love? How can we also make sure we make some quality time with God lest we neglect the most important relationship in our lives? This October how can you both form community and find stillness, and find blessing in both?

> Yours In Christ, Pastor Jeremiah

October Events

October 5: Game night, fellowship hall 6:30-9pm

October 6: Listening session, 1-3:00pm

October 7: WYG, 6-8:00pm

October 10: Women's breakfast, 8:30 at Benny's

October 10: Finance committee, 6:30pm

October 11: Coffee with Pastor, 7:30-10am, Airplay Sport

October 12: PEO garage sale, activity room

October 13: PEO garage sale, activity room

October 19: Ladies Luncheon, 11:00am at Wesley, White Pines

October 21: WYG, 6-9pm

October 25: Church Conference, 6:00pm

October 27: Wesley fall work day, 8:00am - noon

October 28: Trunk or Treat, between services



October Worship Services

October 7: World Communion Sunday: Come gather at Christ's communion table with our siblings all over the globe.

Sermon Series: Paul in the Fall: What is Sacrifice?

Scripture: I Corinthians 11:23-26

Theme: Join us as we consider how communion always reminds us of God's love for us, and for all people!

October 14

Sermon Series: Paul in the Fall: God is Faithful.

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

Theme: God's love is with us in all times and that love is powerful!

October 21

Sermon Series: Fear Not: How Many Times Do I Have to Say This?

Theme: Fear not or words to that effect appear dozens of times in the Bible. As we enter a "spooky season." let's consider why that is such a central message in scripture

October 28

Sermon Series: Fear Not: What is Central to All Wisdom?

Theme: We talk of the fear of God as a thing from the bible, but is God to be feared or is God our comforter, or maybe is the reality more complex and better than we can imagine? Let's consider who God is and how much God loves us!

Looking forward to November Worship

November 4: All Saints Sunday

Theme: Join us as we remember those who have died this year past, and as we ponder the hope we have through God's love shown through Jesus Christ.

November 11: Veterans Day

Theme: On this day 100 years ago the worst war in human history up to that time, WWI ended. Sadly, it wasn't the last war ever fought. What are we all called to do to build up peace in Jesus' Name so that some-day there will be no more war?

November 18: Give Thanks

Theme: Saying thank you is both hard and easy. Giving is both hard and easy. Both of these are central to living like Jesus, so let's look at gratitude and generosity as we prepare for Thanksgiving

November 25: Christ the King Sunday

Theme: Christ came to teach of the Kingdom of God, so what sort of Kingdom is Christ the King ruling over?

Share Your Story: Has God done something good in your life, has Jesus changed you in some way, have you felt the Holy Spirit's comfort in tough times? We'd like to hear your story! If you'd be willing to write it up, share it in any way we want to hear it. If you've a story of God's love, contact Pastor Jeremiah at

castiger1@gmail.com, via Facebook, or give him a call.

A **HUGE** thank you goes out to the Men's Club Habitat Day volunteers! With the effort put forward, we were able to paint an entire first floor twice! **Dave Abele, Ed Anderson, Jeff Cedro, Jeff Davey, Steve Downes, Kevin Gabrielse, Andy Pitsch, and Rory Smith.**



Help us give a warm **WELCOME** to Wesley's newest members!

Anne Blackwell, Craig Truedson, and Jessica Truedson



WYG!: Okay what is WYG? Why Wesley Youth Group! We meet on the first and 3rd Sunday of every month, for dinner, games, conversation, worship, friendship, fun, all of it guided by Jesus' love. Join us on October 7 and 21, and November 4 and 18. Bring your friends!!!

Game Night: October 5, 6:30-9:30, join us for games of all sorts in the fellowship hall. Bring a snack or drink to share and bring your favorite games. Cards, board games, video games, all of it welcome. Join us and bring a friend!

WYG, enjoying a recent trip to Raven's Grin in Milledgeville. Special Thanks to Dave & Roberta Fredericks for hosting Mr. Fox and the group for an amazing bonfire, hotdogs, S'mores, and games!



Coming up, Two Work Days at Camp Reynoldswood!

The men of Wesley UMC invite everyone interested on Saturday, October 13 and October 20 from 10am to 4pm at Camp Reynoldswood. The day will consist of several projects, but two of the big ones we will tackle will be clearing paths and cutting firewood.

This is a great cause right in our very own backyard that our youth have been benefiting from for years. JOIN the blessing of fellowship through serving others! Please contact Rory Smith or Andy Pitsch if you are able to help. For those wishing to carpool, please meet at Wesley at 9:30am or meet at Camp Reynoldswood at 10am.

From the Missions Committee

On December 2nd, the Missions Committee is sponsoring a Chili Cook-off and Pie Auction to raise money for various mission projects. It will be right after second service. Sign up to cook a pot of chili or donate a pie with either Roberta Fredericks or Elisa Gatz, or you can put your name on the sheets that will be under the TV in the fellowship hall. Winners will be determined by the amount of money they raise. So sign up or come and bring your cash or check to vote!

Coming soon to the Wesley Fellowship Hall.....The Turkey!

Planning has begun for the Thanksgiving food baskets which are distributed by the Food Bank. this year they are planning on 1100 baskets. Wesley Church helps provide the pumpkin pies at a cost of \$2.00 per pie. Please place your donations for this worthy cause in the turkey jar displayed on the Mission's table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you Beth Matthew for coordinating this service!





You may have seen the painted rocks in and around the church, but would like to know a little more about what it is all about? It's a simple and fun idea that we can spread through our youth, family, friends, neighbors, and the rest of our community and beyond. We are promoting an opportunity for creativity, fellowship, Christian values, and just plain fun! We do this by painting messages and pictures on rocks then hiding them for others to enjoy and hopefully feel uplifted by the experience and the sharing of a simple object. A rock! Here's how it works: *Paint a message, picture, design or whatever your heart desires onto a rock. *On the back of the rock paint "Post picture to Youth rockz", so your rock is identified with our group. You can also add FB, so others can find our group on Facebook if they would like to join in the fun. *Post pictures of your painted rocks on our page. *Give clues to the places that you "rocked" (where you hid or placed your rocks). *Post pictures to our group if you happen to find a a youth rockz rock. Keep it or relocate it for someone else to find. Simple right??? Right!! Besides our youth groups and just about anyone who wants to spread positivity and joy to others. So pick up a paint brush and a rock and join in the fun!! - Holli Drew & Logan Ayala

Distig

| Birthdays | | | | |
|------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--|
| October 2 | Rick Palmer | October 18 | Tim Cox | |
| October 6 | Lynette Ceruzzi | October 19 | r 19 Jim White | |
| October 9 | Kay Bierman | October 22 | Arnie Burch, Janay Dalton | |
| October 10 | Roger Wait | October 24 | Lavona Wiff | |
| October 12 | Alice Wiersema | October 27 | Dave Siex | |
| October 13 | Seiler Noble, Cameron Taylor | October 28 | Ellie Wendelken | |
| October 14 | Steve Majewski, Kaylee Smith | October 29 | Denver Wasson | |
| October 16 | Jeff Cedro | October 30 | Cory Duncan | |
| | | | | |

Anniversaries

| October 4 | Russ & Mary Spitzer | |
|------------|--------------------------|--|
| October 8 | Kevin & Sarah Gabrielese | |
| October 9 | Andy & Nancy Pitsch | |
| October 11 | Devin & Melissa Freas | |

| October 14 | Michael & Kristin Hart | | |
|------------|------------------------|--|--|
| October 15 | Dan & Nicole Peterson | | |
| October 28 | Bob & Cheryl Allen | | |

Servers for October - 8 a.m.

| | Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes | | |
|------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| October 7 | Zach Glazier & Jenn Robers | | |
| October 14 | Amy & Steve Lopez | | |
| October 21 | ţ | | |
| October 28 | Jeff & Jan Davey | | |

| Liturgist | |
|-----------|--|
| Amy Lopez | |

Jeff Davey

Darla Ewing

Dylan Hinrichs

Coffee Hosts

October 7 Carol Shaw & Sally Unterzuber

October 14 Nick & Shay Papoccia Family

October 21 Joe & Elisa Gatz

October 28 Carol Shaw & Sally Unterzuber

| Servers for October - 10 a.m. | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------|--|--|
| | Greeters | Ushers/Acolytes | Liturgist | | |
| October 7 | David & Sharon Siex | Warren Heuck, Cal, | Carolyn Heuck | | |
| | | Lowell & Roger Jacobs | | | |
| October 14 | Norma Church, Rosie Davis | Cal, Roger, Lowell Jacobs & Mark Taylor | Mary Spitzer | | |
| October 21 | Bill & Sue Abate | Louie Quick, Steve Downes Dave Fredericks, Mark Taylor | Ļ | | |
| October 28 | Rick & Karen Palmer | Greenfield Family | Rick Palmer | | |

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: <u>www.sterlingwesley.org</u> Email: <u>office@sterlingwesley.org</u> <u>castiger1@gmail.com</u>

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.