

The Chimes



Church Events

- **Nov. 4** - Walk Thru The Bible 9am-3pm
- **Nov. 4** - No Men's Bible Study
- **Nov. 7** - Trustee Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 8** - Women's Breakfast-Benny's 8:30am
- **Nov. 9** - Greeting Card Ministry 9:30 a.m.
- **Nov. 11** - Parent's Night Out 5:30-8:30pm
- **Nov. 14** - Worship Team/Pitsch home 6:30pm
- **Nov. 15** - Church Conference 6:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 17**- Ladies Luncheon-Krumpets in Fulton 11:00 a.m.
- **Nov. 28** - Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00 p.m.
- **Monday's** - Disciples bible study 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday's** - Choir 6 p.m.
- **Thursday's** - Coffee with pastor 7:30 a.m. (Airplay Sports)
- **Saturday's** - Men's bible study 8 a.m.

Pastor's Reflections

What is Christmas really about? I grew up on Peanuts, the comic strip (and the food too, but I want to talk about the comic strip). It wasn't Christmas in the Thompson household if we didn't see *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. That cartoon was made 52 years ago (1965), yet the main theme of it seems, if anything, more relevant today than it was then. The Christmas special focuses on what Christmas is all about: not the decorations, not jingle bells, not sweets, not gifts, and not commercialization as Charlie says over and over in the show. Rather what Christmas is really about is the Son of God being born into this world in very humble and difficult circumstances. What Christmas is about is God coming to share love and forgiveness with us, God calling us to live lives of love, justice, and peace, and God doing all this by living in our world. Jesus is the Emmanuel, Hebrew for "God with us."

Each year as we approach the holiday season, I feel both excitement and frustration. I look forward to decorations, time with family, and the religious aspects of the holiday. I dread the constant ads that will ask me to buy stuff, or say I should "buy a gift for the most important person: me." Each year I look for all the ways I can focus on Jesus and less on buying things.

The weeks before Christmas have for nearly 2000 years been celebrated by followers of Jesus Christ as Advent, as a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate that God through Jesus came into our world. This year I invite you to celebrate this season of Advent through our all church (I do mean all church, all ages) Advent study called *Faithful*.

Through the month of November, we will be continuing our sermon series on the prophets of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament.) Each week we will see how these messages from more than 2000 years ago still have so much to say to us today in 2017.

Our four week Advent study is based on the book "Faithful" by Rev. Adam Hamilton. Everyone teens and older are invited to be part of this Advent study. Using video, scripture, the book, and discussion, we'll go deeper into the story of the first Christmas through the eyes of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. This is powerful 4 week study allowing us to ponder new aspects of what Christmas is truly about! We will have 5 groups doing the study, and we invite you to sign up for the one that suits you best!

1. Sunday Morning 9:00 (during Sunday School hour in our activity room by the church office) led by Bruce Kramer, November 26, December 3, 10, and 17
2. Sunday Evening 6:30 (at church) led by Nancy Pitsch/Pastor Jeremiah, November 26, December 3, 10, and 17
3. Wednesday Evening 7:10 (after choir) in Fireside Room, led by Pastor Jeremiah, November 29, December 6, 13, and 20
4. Thursday Afternoon 2:00 (at church) led by Dr. Sue Inks, November 30, December, 7, 14, and 21
5. Thursday Evening 6:30 (at church) led by Nancy Pitsch

You can sign up by contacting the church office, there will also be a sign-up sheet on Sunday mornings, and a bulletin insert you can fill out and drop in the plate on Sundays. Please note, if you need child care for one of the times others than Sunday morning please specify when you sign up. Finally, we will offer one book per person so we will need a count to make sure we have enough for everyone to participate.

Our Sunday School children will also be participating in the children's version of the study. I am excited to have people of all ages in our church looking at these same stories together. It will be fun to see all six generations represented in our church to be praying about and learning about the same parts of the Bible; I wonder what we will all have to teach each other? I invite you to prepare your heart for Christmas, and join one of these advent studies. let's prepare our hearts for Christmas!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeremiah*

Worship Services for November

- November 5, All Saint's Sunday, on this Sunday we will celebrate the lives of those of our brothers and sisters who have died this past year, and we will look at the Prophet Haggai and how he calls us to put God first, as did our faithful departed in their lives.
- November 12: The message this week will be offered by Rev. Herb Thompson, Pastor Jeremiah's dad, as Pastor Jeremiah will be away for his sister-in-law's wedding. Rev. Thompson will be preaching on the topic of call to ministry. All our United Methodist Churches in Northern Illinois are going to that week be talking about how God calls us all into ministry; not all as pastors, but all as people gifted by God to serve our world in Jesus's Name in some way.
- November 19: This week we will look at the story of Ezekiel and the "Dry Bones," a passage in Ezekiel 37 where God reminded the prophet then, and all of us now, that God offers new life and blessing even when it seems like all around us is dry and dead. Join us as we read one of the most inspiring visions of the Bible and are reminded that in Christ all humanity is being called to a more blessed life and to a better future.

November 26: This final Sunday of our Prophet series we will look at Isaiah chapter 11, to a beautiful poem about how the coming of the Christ will usher in an era of peace between people and even the animals of the earth. This Sunday as we enter into the season of Advent and Christmas, we will remember that because Christ has come, we know that God is remaking the world, and we get to be part of that as we live into a vision of peace, love, and compassion for all in Jesus's Name!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2018?

The envelopes are intended to be an aid for Christian stewardship. You need NOT be a member to receive your own box! Nor are you required to use them. Individuals are *invited & encouraged* to use them for convenience to the giver as well as the recording system in the church office. Envelopes provide an efficient way to specify how your offering is to be used & provides every individual a statement of giving at year's end for tax purposes. The envelopes, dated specifically for each Sunday, also serve as a REMINDER to be intentional regarding gifts of thanksgiving to the Lord. As we hear God's Word and grow in appreciative love for all he has done & continues to do for us, we will find every reason to show our thanks and offer our gifts for the work of God's Kingdom. "So let each one give as God purposes in each heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) God loves a cheerful giver regardless of the method by which that gift comes! Entirely your choice, but will be helpful for our office to update list of those receiving their own box. If you ALREADY RECEIVE a box & would like to continue, no action needed! If you HAVE NOT ever received a box & would like to please call Tammy at the church office- 815-625-1968, or via email office@sterlingwesley.org and let her know. If you no longer need to have a box also let Tammy know. OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2018 will be ready for pick up in fellowship during the month of November.



Birthdays

November 1 - Fred Bantrup, Alyssa Cedro
November 3 - Walter Lindsley
November 8 - Marc Melton
November 10 - Lyle Reed, Gloria Rodriquez, Grace Wetzell
November 11 - James Fitzanko, Bill Parker
November 13 - Jan Glover, James Morris, Sena Warkins
November 14 - Logan Ayala
November 15 - Jamie Schwingle
November 18 - Edd Rosser
November 20- Jionni Castaneda
November 22- Jean Partridge
November 23 - Bill Abate, Ava Lyon
November 25- Mary Spitzer
November 28- Linh Melton
November 29- Ava Penaflor
November 30- Jared Johannsen

Anniversaries

November 4 - Tim & Jamie Schwingle
November 11 - Steve & Kay Bierman
November 20 - Curt & Jaime Greenfield
November 22 - Bill & Sue Abate,
 Don & Sena Warkins
November 30- John & Linda Larson



Servers for November- 8 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist
November 5	Steve & Mary Downes	Nancy Pitsch, Tracy DuRall	Bill Inks
November 12		↓	Nancy Pitsch
November 19		Corey Duncan, Steve Downes	Amy Poci
November 26		Jack Graves, Erin Graves	Jan Glover

Coffee Hosts

Nov. 5 Frank & Janne Rausa,
 Beth Jacobs
Nov. 12 Warren Heuck &
 Dave Fredericks
Nov. 19 Joe & Elisa Gatz
Nov. 26 Sunday School
 Class 4th, 5th, 6th graders
 (Jamie Schwingle)

Servers for November- 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgist
November 5	Bill & Sue Abate	Cory Canas, Jeff Cedro Matt Wendelken, Gene Klock	Kent Peterson
November 12		↓	↓
November 19	Carol Shaw, Sally Unterzuber		Jean Moe
November 26		↓	Carolyn Heuck

Acolytes

Nov. 12 Ashlei Behrens,
 Mallory Osborn
Nov. 19 James Morris
Nov. 26 8am-Sydney Graves

In Appreciation...

I want to thank everyone for their help and encouragement in making our 150th celebration booklet. Special thanks to Bill & Sue Abate, Renee Duncan, Pastor Jeremiah, those who submitted pictures, my son Jeff, my daughter Andrea, and extra special thanks to Tammy, our church secretary. Thanks to SBM for actually printing our Sesquicentennial booklet and also for their generous gift to our church.

Thanks again,
Susie Cedro

Wesley Church is an awesome church! Thank you for the many cards, visits, love and concern. A special thank you from David for all the meals brought in and food gift cards. This makes meal time easier for him as he is presently "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer." Special thanks to Joan, Sue and Gyneth for filling in for me with the Friendship Bread duties. Hopefully I'll soon be full speed ahead!

David & Sharon Siex

Work Day Success!

On Saturday, October 14th, 30 industrious Wesley members met at the church to do fall cleaning and gardening. Teams worked within the church cleaning the sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, chapel, and lobbies. The outside team braved the rainy day, trimming trees and bushes, and cleaning up the berm at the northeast corner of the parking lot.

The trustee team of Doug Brandau, Tracy DuRall, Rita Smith, and Randy Clodfelter organized the event and supervised the teams. Sue Abate and Karen Palmer lead the kitchen team in reorganizing the cabinets and cleaning all surfaces.

Tracy provided two delicious egg casseroles for breakfast. Juice, coffee cakes, fruit, coffee, and tea rounded out the menu.

A gigantic "THANKS" to everyone who gave of their time and energy to make our Lord's house a place of honor and pride.



Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Offering will go to the Fish Food Pantry. The Fish Food Pantry serves more than 6,000 people every year. We count on the Sauk Valley Food Bank for most of our food. Food items may be less than the grocery store but prices are increasing at the food bank. The number of items we can get for 18 cents a pound is diminishing. We are trying to do more with less but that has its limits. We appreciate this offering as it helps fund food purchases for several months.

Our 150th Celebration...



A Warm Wesley Welcome to our newest family members!



Left: Kay Clark

Middle: Cory Canas, Katie Herath, Eric Canas

Right: Antonio Castaneda, Amber Farnham,
Jionni & Jaz'Mya Castaneda, Jason Zinke



*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Berman are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday,
November 11, 2017 from 1-4 pm.*

First United Methodist Church of Dixon (Corner of 2nd & Peoria)

Please, no gifts, just your presence, or your prayers - if you can't make it.

Home address: 302 E. Boyed St., Dixon, IL 61021

Home : 815-285-3331 Cell: 815-685-0922

bermans2@comcast.net or job2u@comcast.net

Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968

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.
- **Dish soap** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit FISH food pantry for the month of November.



For many years Wesley has participated in the Thanksgiving Basket food drive. This year we are purchasing boxed mashed potatoes from the Sauk Valley Food bank. \$1.00 will buy 2 boxes of mashed potato mix. That is enough for 1 family basket. There is a turkey cookie jar in the Fellowship Hall where contributions can be made. More than 1,000 baskets are distributed just before Thanksgiving. The community says thank you for your gifts.

Vacation Bible School for 2018

We are in need of a director for VBS next year. If you are able to help, please contact Wendy Fitzanko or Renee Duncan for more information.

Thank you