

# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
JUNE 2017

## Even in the face of farewell, God has us in his hands

When the disciples set out to follow Jesus, they had no idea where they would be led and no clue how their lives would be affected by the people they encountered, the miracles they witnessed, the joy they shared or the pain that inevitably came at the cross. But they also never could have predicted the incredible and life-transforming joy that would come with a Resurrection faith.

Faithfully following Jesus today is not much different. Responding to God's call on my life, I offered my life to serve – wherever that would lead. Never would I have guessed that I would have the privilege of serving at Wesley UMC, and I thank God for the incredible opportunity to have been appointed to this remarkable congregation. I also feel overly blessed that you placed your trust in me and that you let me serve as your pastor.

As I reflect on the three incredible years during which I have

served, I am grateful for the times of walking with you through tremendous joy, and I am humbled by the grace that we have felt in times of brokenness and grief. I am cognizant of and apologize for the times when I have failed – moments where important things were neglected, where impatient or callous words were spoken, and where I acted in ways that were contrary to the spirit of love that I truly feel for each person in our church.

But I also celebrate the moments where we got it right – moments of laughter and spontaneity, of teachable moments, of tender care and counsel. I have learned *a lot* about ministry through these years of serving here, and I will forever be a better person and pastor because of you.

Goodbyes are a necessary part of life. That doesn't make them fun or easy, just necessary. The really good news is that we still are and

## Church Events

- **June 4-6** - Northern Illinois Annual Conference
- **June 8** - Greeting card ministry - 9:30 a.m.
- **June 12-16** - Vacation Bible School
- **June 12** - Trustees meeting - 6:30 p.m.
- **June 14** - Women's breakfast (Benny's) - 8:30 a.m.
- **June 15** - Membership Care Team meeting - 1 p.m.
- **June 23** - Ladies' luncheon - 11 a.m.
- **June 25** - Pastor Wes and Karen's farewell potluck luncheon
- **June 27** - Prayer shawl ministry - 1:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** - Handbell Choir rehearsal - 5 p.m.
- **Saturdays** - Men's Bible study - 8 a.m.



# Vacation Bible School - June 12-16



It's coming!  
**Vacation Bible School is 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.**

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!



## Playground coming to south lawn of church grounds

This summer, Wesley UMC will add a playground to its grounds.

The Christian Education team and the Trustees worked together to discuss our need and options for this project. The Administrative Council weighed in and ultimately approved this dream. And the church is graciously paying for the playground!

The playground will be installed

straight out from the south hallway doors (east of the gazebo), set back against the tree line. It will be completely fenced in, providing a safe area for our children. The ground will be covered and cushioned with colored rubber mulch, which will not blow away, fade, or splinter.

The playground will be delivered and installed by professionals. The fence will be installed by a local company. Land-

scape borders will be installed by volunteers from our church (at a time to be determined).

Finishing touches will include a bench and/or picnic table.

This is a truly welcoming and inviting way to invest in the smallest, youngest, and liveliest amongst us!

## 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 serve ham and scalloped potatoes, and dessert. Members are asked to bring salads and sides to pass.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall, so we know how much food to prepare.

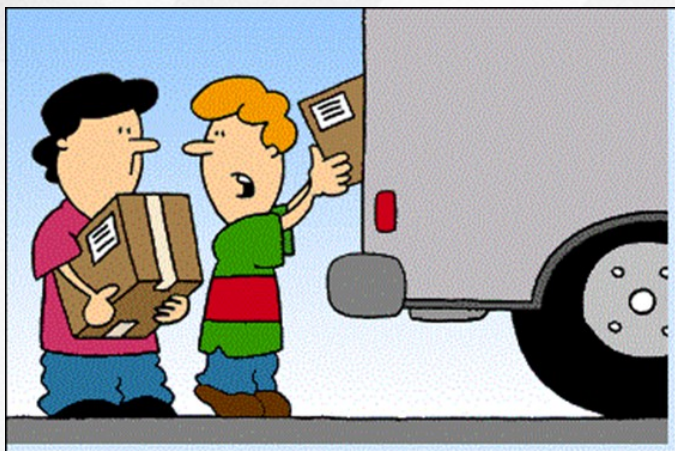
Please plan to join us in showing Wes and Karen how much we have appreciated their time with us the last three years.



## A fond farewell

always will be in good hands – Hands of the One who fashions us and breathes into us a breath of life, and hands of a new pastor who will lead us very well. And "Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Blessings, love and peace be yours,  
*Pastor Wesley*



MY PASTOR MUST HAVE MOVED RECENTLY TOO ... I'M SURE THAT I HEARD HIM SAY "GOD BLESS UHAUL" WHEN WE LEFT CHURCH

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites all to sign up for one of the upcoming **listening sessions** with Pastor Jeremiah. He is interested to hear your perspective on the church, your faith, and what excites you about Wesley UMC. Call the church office or sign up in the fellowship hall. (If needed, child care will be provided for all sessions; please specify that need when you sign up.

- **Thursday, July 6**, 9:30 a.m. at Frank Rausa and Janne Severson's home, 902 E. 19th St., Sterling
- **Thursday, July 13**, 6:30 p.m. at Bill and Sue Abate's home, 1727 Hillcrest Drive, Sterling
- **Sunday, July 16**, 2 p.m. at Matt and Stacey Wendelken's home, 2101 10th Ave., Sterling (child care provided)
- **Wednesday, July 23**, 10 a.m. at Wesley UMC (Jan Glover host)
- **Thursday, Aug. 3**, 6:30 p.m. at Warren and Carolyn Heuck's, 3506 Ninth Ave., Sterling



## Meet Pastor Jeremiah

Rev. Jeremiah Thompson, 38, a Kankakee native, is a lifelong Methodist. His father is a retired Methodist pastor, and his wife, Megan, also is a Methodist minister. (and will be a pastor to a small church in the area, too).

Jeremiah and Megan have two children, Abiella, 6, and Owen, 2.

Pastor Thompson has a bachelor's in history and religious studies from the University of Illinois. He has a master's in social science, with a history emphasis, from the University of Chicago, as well as a Master of Divinity from Boston University.

Pastor Thompson has been a pastor for 10 years. He served as an associate pastor at Mahomet UMC for six years and pastor at Farmer City/Weedman UMC for four years.

Bishop Sally Dyck and the Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet have discerned that Rev. Thompson serve as our new pastor for the following missional reasons:

- Strengths in **preaching and teaching**
- **Ability to relate multi-generationally** by working with all ages of children, youth, adults, elders, and ability to minister to people of many backgrounds
- Deep, Christ-centered and **mission-focused** spirituality.
- **Empowering** and encouraging **leadership**.

His hobbies are gaming, reading, writing, sports, hiking, running, and video games.

Rev. Thompson will serve as pastor of Wesley UMC effective July 1, 2017.





## Servers for June - 8 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>June 4</b>	Marc & Cindy Melton	The Quick family	Olivia Schwingle
<b>June 11</b>	↓	↓	Rebecca Tieman
<b>June 18</b>			Meghan Clodfelter
<b>June 25</b>			Marc Melton

## Coffee Hosts

**June 4** Norma Church, Tracy DuRall, Amy Poci  
**June 11** Norma Church, Gloria Grant, Amy Poci  
**June 18** Jan Glover, Janet Palmer  
**June 25** Kris and Elliot Noble

## Servers for June - 10 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>June 4</b>	Warren & Carolyn Heuck	Bruce & Debbie Kramer, Denny & Alice Vetter	Carolyn Heuck
<b>June 11</b>	Bill & Peg Burke	↓	Nancy Pitsch
<b>June 18</b>	Andy & Nancy Pitsch		Nancy Pitsch
<b>June 25</b>	Mark & Sharon Taylor		Nick Papoccia

## Acolytes

**June 4** James Morris  
**June 11** Logan Ayala, Lenna Drew  
**June 18** James Morris  
**June 25** Logan Ayala, Lenna Drew

## Birthdays

<b>June 1</b> - Evan Melton	<b>June 7</b> - Doug Brandau	<b>June 14</b> - Carolyn Heuck, Jeremy Taylor	<b>June 23</b> - Andy Pitsch, Mark Taylor
<b>June 2</b> - Matthew Gabrielse	<b>June 8</b> - Michele Drew	<b>June 18</b> - Barbara Frazier	<b>June 26</b> - Mike Drew
<b>June 4</b> - Sharon Wasson	<b>June 9</b> - Debby Smith	<b>June 19</b> - Sharon Taylor	<b>June 28</b> - Cheryl Allen
<b>June 5</b> - Austin Allen, Judy Dennis	<b>June 10</b> - Rene Morris	<b>June 21</b> - Amy Viering	<b>June 29</b> - Christine Bushman, Darlene Davis, Linda Perry
<b>June 6</b> - Dave Abele, Brad Graves	<b>June 12</b> - Dave Fredericks	<b>June 22</b> - Myla Wendelken	<b>June 30</b> - Marianne Rosser
	<b>June 13</b> - Phyllis Stutzman		

## Anniversaries

<b>June 4</b> - Matt and Stacey Wendelken	<b>June 14</b> - Rory and Rita Smith
<b>June 6</b> - Ed and Susie Cedro	<b>June 17</b> - Warren and Carolyn Heuck
<b>June 10</b> - Christopher and Kayla Heimerman	<b>June 24</b> - Randy and Debby Smith
<b>June 11</b> - Don and Tracy DuRall	<b>June 28</b> - Bruce and Debbie Kramer



## Wesley United Methodist Church

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

Sterling, IL 61081

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968

Website: [www.sterlingwesley.org](http://www.sterlingwesley.org)

Email: [office@sterlingwesley.org](mailto:office@sterlingwesley.org)  
[wesley@sterlingwesley.org](mailto:wesley@sterlingwesley.org)

### 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.
- **Shampoo** 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. (*Wesley serves meals the first three weeks of June; donations can be accepted at church through June 18.*)
- **2-ounce sticks of deodorant and 4-ounce bottles shampoo** for the Annual Conference Challenge. (*Our goal is 500 deodorants and 250 shampoos. Annual Conference is June 4-6; donations should be to church by Sunday, June 4.*)