



The Chimes

April 2018 / Monthly Newsletter of Wesley United Methodist Church

Church Events

- **April 5** - Greeting card ministry 9:30am
- **April 5** - Peace meeting 3:30pm
- **April 7** - Confirmation field trip, meet at Wesley at 4:45pm
- **April 8** - Confirmation class 5-6:30pm
- **April 14** - Parent's night out 5-7:30 pm
- **April 15** - Trustee meeting after 10am service
- **April 17** - Worship team meeting 6:30pm - Wesley
- **April 18** - SPRC meeting 6pm - Library
- **April 20** - Ladies luncheon 11:30am - Smoked on 3rd
- **April 21** - Spring work day 8am - noon
- **April 24** - Ad council meeting 6:30pm
- **April 25** - Prayer shawl ministry 1-2:30pm
- **Mondays** - Disciples bible study 9:30am and 6:30pm
- **Wednesdays** - Buddy bags packing 12:30pm
- **Wednesdays** - Choir 6:00pm
- **Thursdays** - Coffee with Pastor 7:30am Airplay Sports
- **Saturdays** - Men's bible study 8:00am (Church library)

Pastor's reflections

When I was in HS I often hung out with my buddy Andrew at his house on Friday or Saturday Nights. We usually played spades or euchre with whoever else was there that night. Andrew's dad was also my calculus teacher, which wasn't exactly awkward, it just was the way things were. Some nights if we didn't have enough for cards, Andrew's dad would sit in. One night as we played cards the topic of church and the churches we were part of came up. Andy's dad said he'd always heard "United Methodist was the biggest oxymoron in the world." We all laughed, I knew that United Methodists were not people of one mind; I'd seen that already as a preacher's kid and as a lay delegate to United Methodist Annual conference.

Sadly, it seems in the years since that game of spades 21 years ago United Methodists, in the US particularly, have become less united. Our denomination in many ways reflects the deep divisions we see around many questions in our society today. In the United Methodist Church (UMC), the issue of deepest division (though not the only point of division) has become over the inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) persons. Some in the denomination, and in our congregation, believe that following teachings of the Bible and Jesus means that all LGBTQ persons should be fully included in the life of the church. Others in the denomination, and in our own congregation, disagree believing that the Bible states that those engaged in same-sex relationships are sinning and going against God's will.

This group believes for instance that the denomination should not bless same sex marriages and should not ordain LGBTQ people unless they promise to be celibate. These are the issues being discussed in very broad outlines, there is much more complexity. This debate has been going on within the UMC officially since 1972.

The divisions within our denomination have reached a point that it has become hard to continue to function as a denomination. So, in 2016 at the request of the General Conference (the international decision-making body of the UMC, made up of lay and clergy) the Council of Bishops of the UMC formed a task force called “A Way Forward” to see if they could come up with a plan that would prevent the UMC from dividing into 2 or more denominations. As you may know, several Protestant denominations have divided over issues of LGBTQ inclusion in recent years. At some point in June of this year, the recommendations on a way that might allow the denomination to continue in one piece will be released. The recommendations will then be prayerfully discussed until some final decision is (likely) made in a special General Conference in St. Louis in February of 2019. I cannot tell you what the outcome of all this will be; at this time no one can say with certainty! However, the leadership of our congregation wants to be sure our church family knows what is going on and has some tools to discuss it in a loving manner if there comes a time when our congregation or we as individuals need to make decisions concerning all these matters. Several of our elected lay leaders in this congregation and I, wanted to try and offer some tools to help our congregation engage in potentially difficult discussions and or decisions. Also, with these questions in mind, and leading up to many of our young people joining our congregation as members through confirmation, I wanted to do some sermons that talked about what it means to be a member of a United Methodist Church and about our denomination generally. So, in the weeks ahead we will have a sermon series on what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church. There will be sermons from both myself and two of the lay people in our congregation, so we can all hear a variety of voices. We will also have two workshops discussing tools that can help us communicate in Christ like love amid potentially challenging issues. I will talk about the sermons first and then lay out a bit more about the workshops.

- April 8: Sermon Title: Why Should I Care: Elisa Gatz will be preaching, she is our former lay leader, and will be one of the people voting on the future of the UMC in St. Louis in February 2019. She is also one of our Annual Conference co-lay-leaders. Elisa will talk more about the “Way Forward,” and also how it is part of being a denomination that is connectional and international.
- April 15: Sermon Title: Prayers and Presence: I will be preaching and beginning a discussion on the vows one takes when they join a United Methodist congregation. These are vows that some of our young people will be taking on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. The first week we will look at what it means to “support the church by our prayers and our presence.”
- April 22: Sermon Title: Gifts and Service: we will continue looking at the vows of membership, with a focus on what it means to support our congregation through “gifts and service.”
- April 29: Sermon Title: Why I am a United Methodist. For this week Dylan Hinrichs will be sharing the sermon (as I will be away with my family.) He will be talking about what brought him to our congregation and why he chose to join our congregation as a member after growing up in a different denomination.
- May 6: Sermon Title: Witness: the last in our sermons on the membership vows, I will be talking about what it means to support our congregation, through our witness. This sermon will also address the role witnessing to our faith plays in living as a follower of Jesus Christ.

I believe these sermons will be powerful. I believe these sermons will also be thought provoking to us all (me included). We will think about what brings us together as a congregation, a church family, as we hear multiple voices talk about being part of this church family. I hope you and your loved ones can join us. Remember if you must be away for a Sunday due to schedule or illness, you can still listen to the sermons via our website, or our Facebook page.

Okay so that’s the sermons, “but what do you mean workshops pastor?” We will have two workshops, but one of them will be offered at two different times to hopefully allow more people to participate. At the workshops we will talk about tools helpful for us when we need to come together to discuss potentially challenging issues.

No matter what happens with the future of our denomination part of life is needing to work through conversations when people come from many different perspectives and may have very different ideas. In church, in our families, at work, in school groups, etc. people of diverse opinions and backgrounds come together and seek to make decisions for the good of all. Sadly however, such conversations sometimes lead to great hurt and pain. If we are not careful a discussion might bring no resolution nor do the people involved in it feel loved at the end. In the church we are called to model a means of conversation that is loving. So, that we can hopefully shine a light of love and hope out into our wider society which is so deeply divided at this time. We will have two workshops that everyone Jr. High aged on up is invited to participate in. We will practice some techniques and discuss some ideas that can help us have more fruitful and loving conversations even when not all those around the table are of the same mind. These workshops will both be on tools for conversation and understanding, **NOT** discussing or debating the “Way Forward” issues in our wider denomination. I want to emphasize that lest there be some misunderstanding.

Workshop 1: Tools for Talking, this will be offered on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30, and Sunday, April 22 at 11:30 (after second service). I will be leading this workshop and I have led variations on this workshop several times over the past 8 years in my former annual conference. This workshop will be based on some tools and techniques for conversation from the Kaleidoscope Institute founded by Rev. Eric Law. The things we will be discussing were developed to help people of different opinions and or cultural backgrounds come together for useful conversation. These skills and ideas can help bridge the gap when communication breaks down or there is misunderstanding. This won't be a lecture! This will be a chance to learn, practice, hopefully have fun as well, as we work on ways to talk about anything in a loving spirit. We will have childcare and light refreshments at both workshops.

Workshop 2: Rule of Christ, this will be offered on Sunday, May 6 at 1:00 PM at church, with a lunch before. This workshop will be led by my dear friend and respected colleague, Rev. Melissa Meyers of Genoa UMC. This workshop is based on the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18, where Christ gives us instruction on ways to work through potentially difficult conversations and or conflicts within the church and in all aspects of our lives. Melissa is a dynamic presenter, and again this will be workshop with plenty of hands on activities. Again, there will be child care as well. Plan to attend, you'll have fun, you'll learn something, you'll get to know you church family better, you'll gain skills that can help you in all aspects of your life.

Please make plans to attend both workshops if you can, or just one if you can't attend both. You don't need to go to workshop 1 to sign up for workshop 2! The goal is to give us all some skills we can use to better live out the love Christ calls us to. If you want to sign up for either workshop put it in your calendar and then send an email to me Pastor Jeremiah at castiger1@gmail.com, or call the church office. We do want to know how many plan to attend so we have the needed amount of refreshments, and if you need child care please indicate that as well. We will have signup sheets out soon!

If you'd like to talk to me about anything raised in this newsletter article, please feel free to contact me, I would be happy to sit down and talk, just email, call or text me at 815-592-3764.

The love of Christ has brought us together, and no matter what the future holds for our denomination, let us come together for worship and conversation as beloved siblings in Christ, and let's learn something too!

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeremiah*

Men's Club ham dinner

Another successful ham dinner kicked off the Spring season on March 24, making it our 33 annual Ham Dinner at Sterling Wesley. As the photos show, a good time was had by all! Thanks to all who helped make this year's evening a hit and extra thanks to all who made desserts; as Rory says probably the best part of the meal! Special thanks also to Zephan Drew for sharing his wonderful gift of music and entertaining us all evening.



Wesley Church Honored

On Saturday, March 10th, Gene Klock, lay representative to Annual Conference, Sue Klock, and Jan Glover, lay leader, traveled to Springfield to Westminster Presbyterian Church to attend a luncheon sponsored by the Illinois State Historical Society. This event was a celebration of faith and community for more than 25 Illinois houses of worship that have been in continuous fellowship for 150 years or more.

Each registered house of worship received a certificate from the Illinois State Historical Society recognizing its sesquicentennial anniversary, as well as a free copy of Illinois Heritage magazine, which included a brief history of our congregation. A copy of these documents are available for view in the Wesley Fellowship Hall. Recognized Sesquicentennial Houses of Worship will have their histories recorded at the Society as well as at the Illinois State Library, to be available for future researchers.

The program included a short church organ recital performed by Dr. Paula Karyl Romanoux, a liturgical music historian, who played selections written 150 or more years ago. She included a wonderful rendition of Amazing Grace as well as a new organ selection that was dedicated to her since she was the first to play it.

A special thanks is extended to Bill Abate for submitting Wesley United Methodist Church's application for this wonderful honor.

Thank you so much for all you do



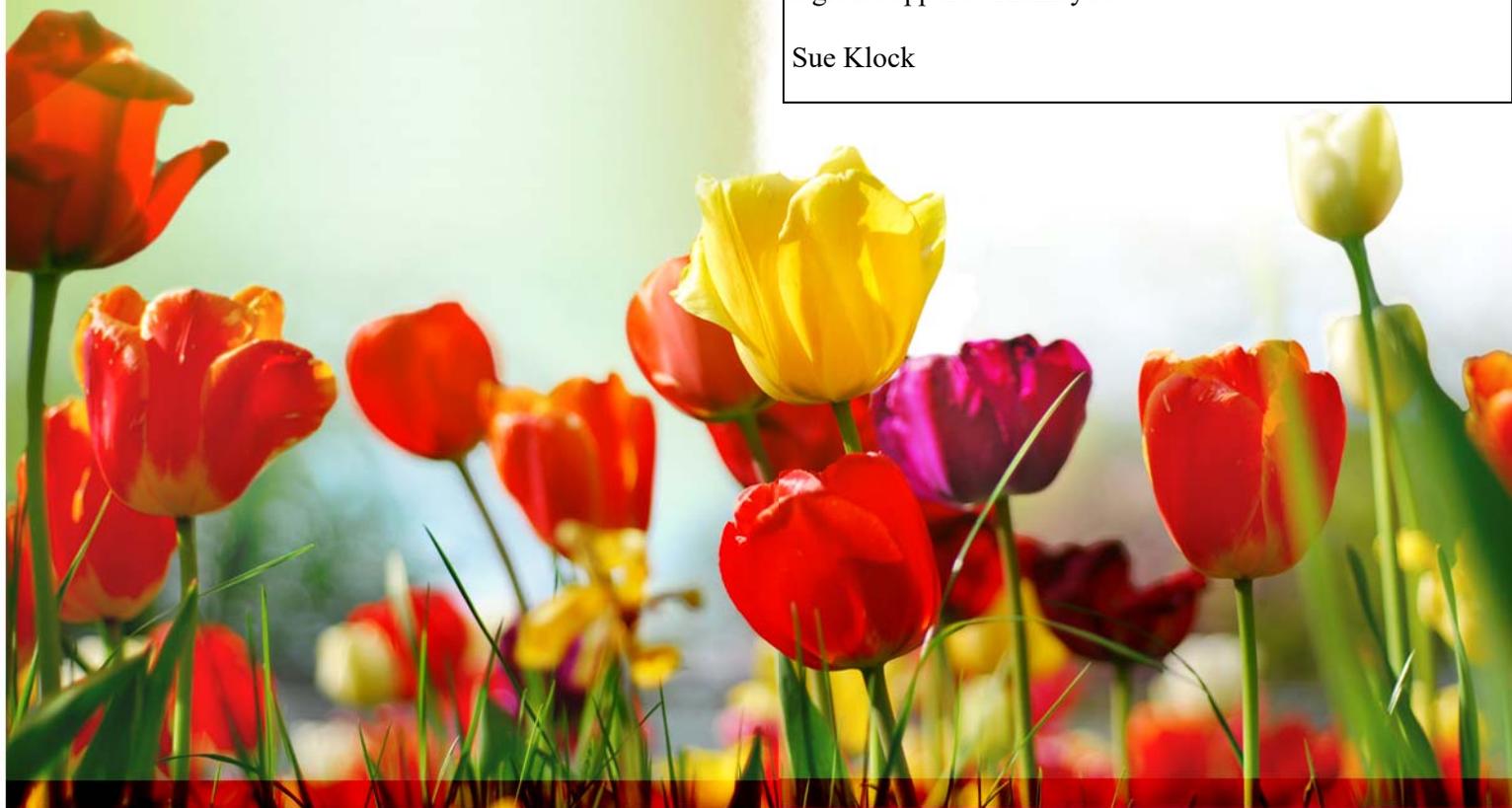
Photo taken at Illinois State Historical Society luncheon in Springfield, March 10th, 2018

*In Loving Memory of
Gene L. Klock*

Dear Wesley family,

Words cannot express the gratitude my children and I feel for the outpouring of love and caring from this congregation after Gene's passing. The prayer shawls, cards and prayers, kind words, and offers of help were deeply appreciated. Gene's death was a great shock but all of you were, and are a great support. Thank you.

Sue Klock



Summer Camp Opportunity for Grades 5-12

J.O.Y. Camp, June 17-23

J.O.Y. Camp combines music, multimedia presentations, special worship, scripture and fun camp activities to create an exciting and safe place for campers. This weeklong camp will take place at Reynoldswood Camp in Dixon, IL.

Nancy Pitsch is (very enthusiastically!) returning as a counselor, along with very excited returning campers, Olivia Schwingle, Ashlei Behrens, Holli, Lenna, & Logan Drew, confirmand Isaac Halverson,. They encourage ANYONE grades 5-12 to share in this powerful week of deepening your faith. There's already three new campers from Wesley going! Register at niccamp.org or connect with Nancy Pitsch. There is an early bird discount; pay a deposit when registering and let office, Pastor, or Nancy Pitsch know so we can fill your family in on scholarships gifted through our Endowment fund for our campers. **Come Join the fun!**



Save the date!

Date Night for parents of infants through sixth grade will be held Saturday, April 14, in the fellowship hall from 5:00 PM until 7:30 PM. Supper will be provided and the children will enjoy a variety of activities that evening. Please be sure to sign up in fellowship hall by Sunday, April 8.

Reminder

As you do your spring cleaning please remember we are still collecting for Trinity Veteran's Program so any small appliances, kitchenware or linen etc. can be used.

The church received thank you notices from UMCOR Disaster Response, Tree of Life Ministries and the missionary we support, Grace Musuka. They will be displayed on the Missions Board.

The last Sunday in April will be a fifth Sunday appeal and we will be having an offering for:

Human Relations Day which goes toward strengthening United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

We are asking anyone who wants to recycle their plastic bags to put them in the bag for them at the missions table, they will be given to the Buddy Bags and FISH programs.

Also any unused food items people have in their pantry that are not expired, Fish would be glad to have it. Just leave it on the Mission Table and it will go to Fish Food Pantry. Thank you!

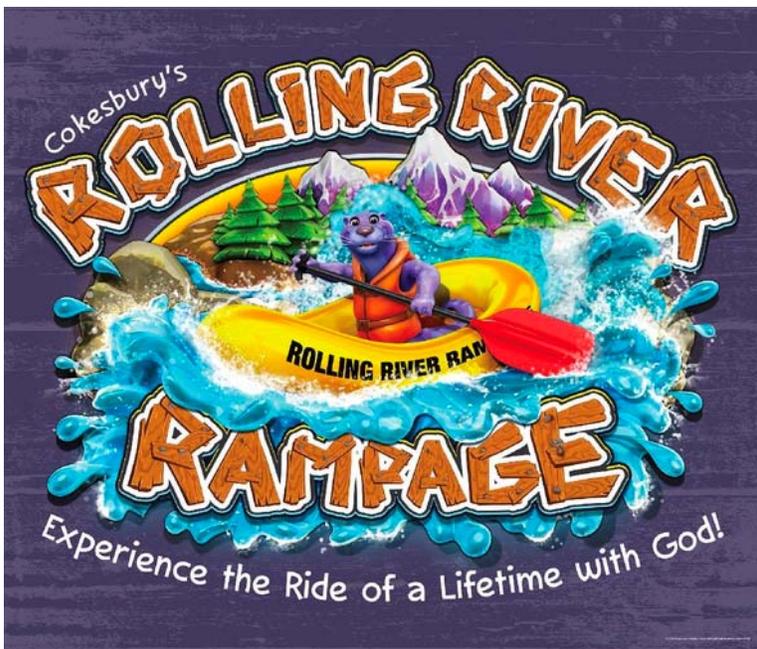


2018 Co-Ed Softball

season is almost here! See Jeff Cedro or the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall if you would like to join in on the fun and play for Wesley's Coloma Township Park District Team!



Stop by the fellowship hall to see the new bulletin board! Feel free to take a "random act of kindness" from an envelope and make a difference through a small gesture in someone's day!! There are several ideas suitable for both youth and adults.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for VBS 2018!

Monday, June 11th - Friday June 15th

9AM - Noon

Pre-K through 6th graders

Pre-registration will be coming soon!

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!

Greeting card ministry will meet Thursday, April 5 at 9:30 AM in fellowship hall. New people are always welcome!

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.
- **Bar soap** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit UMCOR in April.

You're Invited

Broadway UMC will be hosting their annual Salad Bar dinner on April 11th from 11AM - 1PM. Cost is \$8/person.

Wednesday, April 25, Prayer Shawl ministry gatherings will resume at 1:00. If you knit, crochet, quilt, use a loom, please join us. The group will decide on a date for future gatherings. Many beautiful prayer shawls have been given, and we want to be able to continue providing them as needed.



Birthdays

April 1	Beth Mathew	April 18	Alison Ramirez
April 3	Janet Lindsley, Olivia Schwingle	April 19	Austin Cedro
April 4	Gloria Grant	April 23	Julie Carrion, Nick Papoccia, Juanita Nerstheimer
April 5	Jeffery Spitzer	April 25	Nicholas Abele
April 8	Mark Gatz, Frank Rausa	April 27	Meghan Thompson
April 9	Zachary Ramirez, Joshua Rodgriguez	April 28	Sarah Gabrielse
April 12	Sue Inks, Violet Windham	April 30	Amber Farnham, Jason Zinke
April 14	Randy Smith, Don Warkins		
April 16	Peg Burke		
April 17	Alice Chandler, Karen Palmer		

Anniversaries

April 2	Ron & Judy Bushman	April 19	Toby & Debbie Hodges
April 5	Arnie & Jeanne Burch	April 24	Jeff & Jan Davey
April 16	Matthew & Kari Hansen	April 29	Alan & Jessica Wade
April 17	Walter & Janet Lindsley	April 30	Joe & Elisa Gatz, Dennis & Alice Vetter
April 18	Marc & Cindy Melton		

Servers for April 8 a.m.

April 8	Greeters/Ushers Rod & Beth Snyder	Acolytes	Liturgist Bruce Kramer
April 15	↓		Jan Glover
April 22	Amy Poci, Tracy DuRall	Cameron Taylor	Nancy Pitsch
April 29	↓	↓	Dylan Hinrichs

Coffee Hosts

April 8 - Susie Cedro,
Andrea Mallhi
April 15- Schwingle family
April 22 - Cory Canas,
Katie Herath
April 29 - Renee & Corey
Duncan

Servers for April- 10 a.m.

April 8	Greeters Bill & Sue Abate	Ushers Cory Canas, Mark Taylor Bill & Max Parker	Acolytes Logan Ayala, Holli Drew	Liturgist Rick Palmer
April 15	Rosie Davis, Warren Heuck	↓	Lenna Drew, Logan Ayala	Carolyn Heuck
April 22	Rick & Karen Palmer		Holli Drew, Logan Ayala	Nancy Pitsch
April 29	Rory & Rita Smith		Lenna Drew, Logan Ayala	Rory Smith

Wesley United Methodist Church

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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.

