

# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2018

## Pastor's reflections

I've spent most of my life in communities where every day I saw several grain elevators and silos. Since much of my life has been in Illinois I know that when I see silos, usually one or more is full of corn and the other is full of soybeans. It's important the two crops are kept apart to keep them pure, to keep them in the right conditions, to have them ready for transport and sale. Silos are great for grain, but not so great for people. Let me explain what I mean.

Pastors are required to do continuing education, so that we learn how to be better pastors. The world has changed dramatically in the almost 11 years since I became a pastor, I am constantly needing to learn new things to best serve Jesus Christ. Currently, my continuing education is about intergenerational ministry. What does that mean? It means times when people of multiple generations are not just in the same church building but interacting with each other, worshipping together, working side by side, learning from each other, above all growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ as a community of many ages. This doesn't just mean elementary kids, and adults. This means churches where youth and elementary students are interacting, where older adults and youth are talking, where adults in their 30s are in bible studies with adults in their 80s. Above all, intergenerational churches are churches where people from one month to 101 years are in worship together.

The research of recent years on churches points to the fact that intergenerational churches help young people develop a strong and life long relationship with God through following Jesus Christ.

Continued on page 2

## Church Events

- **May 1** - Trustee meeting 6pm, library
- **May 3** - Greeting card ministry 9:30am
- **May 3** - Peace meeting 3:30pm
- **May 5** - VBS volunteer meeting 9am
- **May 6** - Rule of Christ workshop after 10am worship service
- **May 9** - Women's breakfast 8:30, Benny's
- **May 13** - Happy Mother's Day!
- **May 13** - Lyon Scholarship presentation at 10am service
- **May 18** - Ladies luncheon 11:30am, Sterling Candlelight
- **May 20** - Confirmation Sunday, 10am service
- **May 21** - PEO Founders Day, noon
- **May 22** - Worship meeting 6:30pm, fireside room
- **May 28** - Office closed - Memorial Day
- **Mondays** - Disciples bible study 9:30am and 6:30pm
- **Wednesdays** - Buddy bags packing 12:30pm - **May 16, last day!**
- **Wednesdays** - Choir 6:00pm
- **Thursdays** - Coffee with Pastor 7:30am Airplay Sports
- **Saturdays** - Men's bible study 8:00am, library

The churches where youth continue worshiping when they become 20 something and 30 something are the churches where they are not full of silos. Okay, so what does that mean? It means that churches that sort everyone out by age, where elementary children are only with elementary children, where the youth are only with youth, where the young adults are only with young adults, and where the older adults are only with older adults, these churches don't help young people develop a life-long relationship with the church, or Christ. Here are a few quotes for you all to ponder.

“40-50% of youth group graduates are leaving the church” (Fuller Youth Institute)

“More than 1/3 of Millennials (18-35) have no religious affiliation” (Pew Research)

“High faith maturity correlates to more inter-generational worship” (Fuller Youth Institute)

(For Youth) “A 5:1 ratio of adult relationships contributes to developmental growth” (Search Institute)

The churches that best help children and youth develop a lifelong faith actually have people of all ages, fully as part of the congregation including, having them at the table to set our mission and vision as guided by the Holy Spirit. Also, having many generations around isn't just so we can help the kids and youth follow Jesus, being intergenerational also builds up the faith of adults of all ages. In other words, we have lots to learn from people where they are 50 years older or younger than we are.

As part of my continuing education “homework” this month, I am looking for ways that our congregation is doing inter-generational ministry. How are we making sure people of different generations and ages are developing relationships in Christ? I see some things in our congregation that make me smile; places where we are being inter-generational. I love to see people of different ages praising God together in our music ministry. I know that soon when the softball league starts, people of all ages will gather on the bleachers. I have been so happy to see the adults who have sat in with our confirmation class. I love it when I see adults of various ages in study groups together. Some good things are happening, Thanks Be To God!

However, how can we grow and do even better? How can we, through our actions, reach out to people other than our generation; maybe reach out and make friends of different ages? The church is one of the last public institutions in our society that does connect people of many generations. How can we live into and learn from each other? How can we let everyone in our area know that our doors are open and we can love you well in Jesus' Name no matter your age (or anything else?) I ask us all to pray about this, to ponder things, to reach out to people of different ages, to listen first to their stories, to all help each other grow in our relationship with God. If you have ideas on ways that beyond just one-on-one we can do this, please talk to me. What is the Holy Spirit putting on your heart? Let us truly be an intergenerational church and leave silos to what they are best at, storing food! May it be so in Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Pastor Jeremiah*

## Worship Service in May

Upcoming Sermons: Our sermons in May will see us end one sermon series and begin another here they are:

- **May 6:** The Promises We Make: Witness, Acts 1:1-9, our final sermon in our current sermon series, we will think about what it means to be a witness for Jesus Christ in our world today.
- **May 13, Mother's Day:** Women of Valor, Proverbs 31:10-31. We will think about how God calls all women, whether biological mothers or not, to grow in faith, love God, and courageously change our world and share God's love with others.
- **May 20, Pentecost:** Fire and Power for All: Acts 2: on this joyful day we will confirm into membership many of our young people at the 10:00 AM service, and at both services we will celebrate that the fire and power of the Holy Spirit came to start the Christian Church on Pentecost long ago, and God still offers us that fire and power everyday to grow in our relationship with God and to love others in Jesus' Name.
- **May 27:** Many Cultures, One Spirit: “Good News for All People,” Acts 2, we will start a new sermon series as we consider how Christ came for people of all cultures how through us all Christ offers to show each of us all how blessed the Reign of God can be.

**June 3:** Many Cultures, One Spirit: “God of Every Age,” Act 2 (it's a long rich chapter so much teach us) we are a 5 sometimes 6 generation church, how can we learn from each other and let the diversity of ages and generations teach us how to all more fully live the Christian life.

**An intergenerational church IS a HEALTHY church!** Parent's Night Out displayed evidence of just how wonderfully blessed that is! "Love your Neighbor" was the theme for 20 children (ages 6 mos- 12 years) who participated for this event in April. The intention was for adults/youth to help children understand what that might mean in their lives, friendships, encounters, neighborhoods, etc. How it blesses both the "giver" and the "receiver" to love others as Jesus did! It became quickly evident that the ADULTS/ Youth helpers became the recipients for what "loving our neighbor" did for OUR HEARTS as we served, played with, engaged in fellowship & activities with these energetic, appreciative, little ones! What an amazing TEAM we had! What a cooperative effort! From our meal makers, to our youth & adults (16 of us!) facilitating boisterous games in the activity room & hallways, (lots of laughter!) to SLIME making in the kitchen (more laughter!), board & card games & coloring at tables, (quiet fun!) We ended the evening with a guitarist and singer in the chapel – a beautiful way to calm our bodies and souls! Lastly, a story in the fireside room, with the children acting it out afterwards.... Just as the parent's arrived to gather them all up for home! "Love your neighbor" opportunities come to us in so many ways; adults learned the blessing of that verse equally to the children that evening.

## Spring Work Day

On Saturday, April 21, a group of 31 members of Wesley's congregation gathered at the church to complete spring cleaning both inside and outside. From 8:00 to 12:00, the sanctuary, fellowship hall, chapel, and lobbies were scrubbed, vacuumed, and polished. Outside flower beds and the storage area were freed of debris, trees were trimmed, mulch was spread, and garden decorations displayed.

Amy Malm, her niece, Elizabeth Hoke, and Sue Abate began the process of cleaning and organizing the library. Matt Wendelken, Darla Ewing, and Rory Smith painted the nursery.

A huge thank you to all those who helped in this effort. A special thanks to the trustees who organized and supervised this event: Dave Frederichs, Randy Clodfelter, Tracy DuRall, Rita Smith, and Michelle Drew.

## Parent's Night Out

April 14, Wesley was filled with the joyful noises of children as their parents had several hours for a date night. "Love thy neighbor as thyself" Mark 12:31, was the Bible verse of the evening. The pancake and sausage supper was enjoyed by all, and the kids were good little eaters.

An obstacle course, table games, enjoying guitar and bongo drums, making colorful slime to take home, reading and dramatizing Caps for Sale with props were some of the activities the children enjoyed. The volunteers said how polite the children were, saying "please" and "thank you." More date nights will be planned. A special thank you to all of the young adults and adults who volunteered to make this date night possible!



## 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](http://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!**



## Congratulations to our 2018 Graduates!

### Middle School:

Ashlei Behrens  
Corey Duncan  
Cameron Taylor

### College:

Chandler Allen  
Johanna Opal Cravatta  
Cody Hanson

### High School:

Nick Ceruzzi  
Mitchell Clodfelter  
Zephan Drew  
Brooklyn Freas  
Bryn Gatz  
Sierra Sotelo



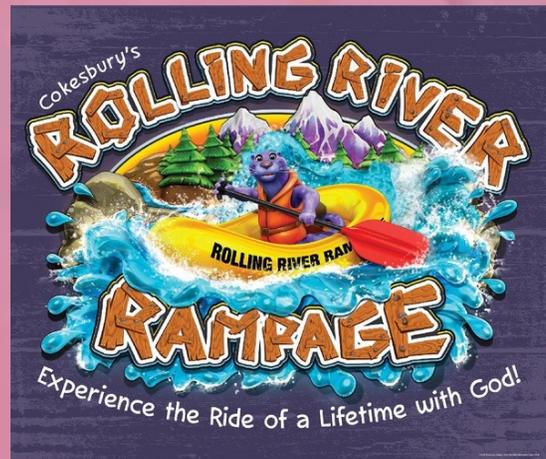
## Let's Feed Our Children - A New Challenge

Wesley has been participating in the summer Let's Feed our Children program for 17 years. This year brings some beautiful ministry opportunities for Wesley. St. Paul Lutheran has been making lunches for all the mobile sites; where number of lunches have grown. In order to "even the load" Wesley and our site at Macedonia has been assigned lunches for Steelton/Douglas. This means feeding an additional 140 children each day! Combined with about 90 that we make for the Macedonia neighborhood, that means we will be making about 230 lunches each day. We can do this! Just 1 more volunteer and a starting time of 10:00a.m. We will meet at Macedonia Baptist Church at 1313 Woodburn Ave. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, for 3 weeks beginning on June 12th and ending on June 28th. Volunteer sign up sheets will be available on Mother's Day.

We will buy peanut butter for 18 cents a pound at the food bank. We will collect grape jelly beginning in May. Leave your jars on the Mission Table..

Thank you for your volunteer spirit as we make this change and feed more children this summer. Our plan is to embrace this change to be the love of Christ in our community!

Beth Mathew



## 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 and 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!

# Birthdays

May 2	Addison Gabrielse	May 18	Mike Ceruzzi
May 3	Bob Allen	May 19	Carly Hansen, Wesley Larson, Daniel Ramirez
May 5	Sue Abate	May 23	Jackson Melton
May 8	Kris Noble	May 24	Dennis Vetter
May 13	Renee Duncan, Sue Hayes	May 28	June Teachout
May 14	Manorama Hermon	May 29	Jaime Greenfield
May 15	Chandler Allen	May 30	Ed Anderson, Ethan Cravatta
May 16	Caleb Carlson, Erin Graves	May 31	Tammy Jones
May 17	Bryn Gatz		

# Anniversaries

May 1	Joe & Carol Cravatta
May 4	Gary & Debbie Jones
May 10	Steve & Mary Downes
May 26	Brad & Erin Graves
May 28	Mike & Michele Drew



## Servers for May 8 a.m.

	<b>Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
May 6	Fitzanko family	Amy Poci
May 13	↓	Wendy Fitzanko
May 20		Jan Glover
May 27		Dylan Hinrichs

## Coffee Hosts

**May 6** - Beth Jacobs & Rosie Davis  
**May 13**- Jeff & Jan Davey  
**May 20** - \*Confirmation Sunday  
 Norma Church, Carol Cravatta  
 (after 10am service)  
 Karen Palmer, Sue Abate  
**May 27** - Matt & Stacey Wendelken

## Servers for May- 10 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
May 6	Sue Hondley, June Teachout , Joan/Gyneth Partridge	Schwingle family	Mary Spitzer
May 13	Bill & Sue Abate	↓	Mary Spitzer
May 20	*Confirmation Sunday Sue Hondley, June Teachout Joan/Gyneth Partridge	Cory Canas, Beth & Ronyn Jacobs	Nancy Pitsch
May 27	Rosie Davis, Norma Church, Janet Palmer	Cory Canas, Cameron Taylor Alice & Denny Vetter	Dave Fredericks

## Wesley United Methodist Church

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

Sterling, IL 61081

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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

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

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

[castiger1@gmail.com](mailto: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.
- **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 Let's Feed Our Children in May.