



## Pastor's Reflections

A big THANK YOU to our church trustees for addressing needs at the parsonage! Posts holding up the roof overhang had rotted, as had a portion of eaves, and a volunteer maple tree needed removing. It took many different tools for the work; most of which I don't own and wouldn't know how to use! I need people who know about repairs and construction to guide me, or better yet, I just need to stay out of their way and let them work :)

This situation stimulated my thoughts about our church nominations that are coming up. Each fall, the Nominations team and I meet to consider people for leadership here at Wesley. Many ministries are here, and many roles to play. Our team needs to "open & look into our toolbox of people" to find who will work best for each job or role in the coming year. Our church truly needs many different "tools" to keep things in good working order. Eaves and soffit cannot be fixed with just a saw, a tree cannot be removed with a wrench, and a screwdriver is great, but no substitute for a mallet; the list could go on and on.

We humans are like tools in some ways. God has gifted us at this stage of our lives to serve in specific ways, equipping each to do certain things well. God invites us to use our gifts & serve just as we are, with what we are gifted to do! In this spirit I offer you all a list of some of the teams and committees we have at our church. If you believe God may be calling you to some new way to serve Jesus, or maybe to serve for the first time, please look over this list, and prayerfully consider what gifts God has given you. If you believe you have gifts or passion to serve on one or more of these teams, please contact me via Facebook, email: [castiger1@gmail.com](mailto:castiger1@gmail.com), call or text 815-592-3764.

- Board of Trustees: oversees our church property and equipment. They make sure our buildings (church and parsonage) and grounds are cared for well and equipment for the buildings is maintained & repaired as needed. It's a big job, but an important one! (Please note this is one of only two teams in the church that a person must be 18 years or older to serve on for legal reasons).
- Staff Parish Relations: works to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor, staff, and their families, and to promote unity in the church. This team handles matters pertaining to effectiveness of ministry, relationships with the congregation, and the pastor's health & self-care. This team requires good listeners, people who can speak their minds in love, people who are trustworthy to keep confidences, and people who seek God's vision for our congregation's future! (Legal reasons require all people on this team must be 18 and also must be church members. It is the only team with that requirement.)

- **Finance Committee:** oversees our financial resources. They plan how we can best nurture our finances to have the resources we need for ministry now and into the future. They also work with the pastor to foster a culture of stewardship and giving within the congregation.
- **Membership Care:** works to “love on” the people of our church and others. They make cards, they take meals to folks, they organize events, and they help us grow closer together. If you want to love and help others, this might be the team for you!
- **Nominations Committee:** meets each fall to prayerfully consider who the Holy Spirit is gifting to best lead our congregation. It’s important and confidential work, but it’s a blessing to help people find ways they can serve and grow using the gifts God has given them.
- **Worship Team:** plans worship services, both Sundays and other special services like Christmas Eve. We discuss all aspects of worship and sanctuary music, preaching, sermon series, ways to engage all ages fully in worship, communion, banners, and holiday & altar décor. It's fun, challenging blessed work. Please join us!
- **Mission Team:** Christ calls on us to care for all people. So much needs to be done in our world to feed the hungry, help the sick, invite people to know Christ, help people get education, provide clean water, work to end injustice and so much more. Does this sound like something you are passionate about?
- **Christian Education:** teaches our children about Jesus. They work through Sunday School and Vacation Bible School to provide age appropriate education to our kids, so that they know God loves them, that God wants them to love others, and what it means to follow Jesus Christ. If you love kids and love God, this might be the spot for you! (Adults over 18 supervising children require a background check; so please be aware of this.)
- **Youth:** though not an official team, if you feel led to help our teens know Jesus, grow in faith, and serve our world, talk to pastor Jeremiah. We need people to work directly with teens, but also drivers, people to provide meals, and other “logistical” support. Might God be equipping you to help with this team?
- **New Photo Directory:** every few years our congregation needs a new photo directory. This involves contacting the photographer, set picture taking dates, get word out to our church, schedule appointments, secure the registration table as people come, and update information. This is a job coming up soon. Can you help?
- **Music Ministry:** we always need more people to help us “Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!”
- **Fellowship Ministry:** would you like to help us plan some fun all age events for folks at church? If so, let us know!

**Small Groups and Studies:** if you’ve been part of a small group, Bible, or book study ministry, would you be willing to help others experience these life changing types of ministry. If so, contact Pastor Jeremiah we are always looking to start new short or long term ministries in these areas!

*Blessings,  
Pastor Jeremiah*

## Youth Group: Join Us!

Our new youth group is starting in September for all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Each week we will have food and a time to check-in to see how everyone is doing. Then games will be played, discussion time, and we will close with a time of prayer, communion, music and worship. Our first Youth Group will be Sunday September 9 at 6:00 PM, and our next one will be Sunday, September 16. Moving forward for the rest of the fall, youth will be the first and third Sunday evening of each month, and we also plan to have one or two outings as well. Join us, have fun, bring your friends, learn how you can bless our world in Jesus' Name and feel God's love more deeply in your life!



# September Worship Services

Please worship with us and invite your friends and loved ones to join us. Please remember also that if you can't be here, but would like to at least hear the sermon each week, it's available on Facebook via video and on our website for audio. This month of September we will have a special worship over Labor Day weekend on the topic of sabbath, and then we will start our new sermons series "Paul in the Fall." This new sermon series will compliment the short term bible studies that Nancy Pitsch and Sue Inks are leading on Thursdays in September. Sign up for those today! You will love it!

## **Sunday September 2:** Work and Rest Guided by God

Scripture Passage: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

- Our Theme: We will be exploring what it means to take a sabbath, not just a day of the week to worship God and be with fellow Christ Followers. Are we resting a day each week as well as God advises and teaches?

## **Sunday September 9:** Paul in the Fall: A Turnaround

Scripture Passage: Acts 9:1-21

- Our Theme: Paul was a human just like us whose life Jesus radically changed,. God still wants to change lives radically; will we let God change our lives?

## **Sunday September 16:** Paul in the Fall: A Mission for All

Scripture: Acts 13:1-3

- Our Theme: we are not all called by God to ministries exactly like Paul and the other Apostles who traveled with him, but we are called, and the call is not a burden but a gift from God!

## **Sunday September 23:** Paul in the Fall: Troubles Don't Mean You're Wrong

Scripture: II Corinthians 11:23-33

- Our Theme: Trying to live out Christ's teachings on the Reign of God where all things are made new in God's love won't always be popular. We will face difficulties and opposition. We need to make sure we are on God's path, but we also need to stay strong in the face of problems.

## **Sunday September 30:** Paul in the Fall: Love Anyway!

Scripture: I Corinthians 13

- Our Theme: Love is the most fundamental aspect of being a Christian. What does love look like using Paul's words as our guide?



# Church Events

- **September 5** - Women's breakfast at Benny's, 8:30am
- **September 6** - Greeting card ministry, 9:30 am
- **September 13** - Coffee with Pastor, 7:30-10:30 at Airplay Sports
- **September 21** - Ladies luncheon, 11:00am That Place on Palmyra
- **September 22** - Men's club, Habitat For Humanity in Dixon
- **September 26** - Prayer shawl, 1-2:30pm
- **September 30** - Fifth Sunday, Peace with Justice

**Wednesdays** through September, weeding flower beds, 9-10:30AM

**Wednesdays:** Bell practice, 5PM

**Wednesdays:** Choir, 6PM in the sanctuary

**Tuesdays:** Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

**Thursdays:** Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

**Saturdays:** Men's Bible study, 8AM

**Youth Group:** Every 1st and 3rd Sunday, starting Sept 9th 6:00-8:00PM

**Disciples Bible Study** - 32 weeks beginning Wednesday, Sept. 5:

Wednesday morning: 9-11:30AM or Monday evening: 6-8:30PM, you choose!

**Thursdays:** Beginning Sept. 6, The Call book study, 6:30-7:35, lead by Nancy Pitsch and 2PM beginning Sept. 27, lead by Sue Inks

**COMING THIS month!**

**“SOMETHING NEW” for Sunday School!**

**September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Children's Sunday School begins!**

**9:30 – 10:15**

Classes: Pre-K -Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

**Bring your children at 9:30;** parents have time for coffee/fellowship while their child is in Sunday School prior to worship. (Come earlier or by 9:25 if kids want a quick donut before going back to class)

Parents begin 10am worship without your child(ren) for the first 15 minutes.

Teachers will dismiss from Sunday School & bring your children to Sanctuary for Children's Message, following which, all children will then go sit with their families!

This shortens the length of time children will be sitting in worship; allows parents to hear announcements & settle into worship without the rush of picking up kids from their classes!

This change will enable teachers to enjoy fellowship with adults in between services prior to 9:30 Sunday School start time!

Classes are able to begin with everyone there & to dismiss together.

# Red Bird Mission Trip 2018

"Lord, You have been our dwelling place for all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God." Psalm 90:1-2

The miles upon miles we traveled by vans brought us physically to a place we felt blessed to serve. Nestled in the valley created by the surrounding Appalachian Mountains we were held & surrounded by God's Presence; by heavy morning mists, by down pours of rain, by clouds, rainbows, and one day of blistering HOT sun. Our bodies experienced hard labor paired with patient waits: for rain to stop, for keys to show up, for turns to climb the scaffold, drill screws into siding, lift cement blocks, make mortar, level blocks, scoop rocks, carry rock... and numerous smaller yet necessary tasks.

Your prayers & support are what carried our hearts across those miles and days: equipping us, inspiring us, enabling us to "GO" & literally be the hands of Christ for others in need. Thank you, for sending us, for supporting us in our fund raising, and for prayerfully loving us so very well! You can witness Joy on our faces from our Redbird experience, but we hope our hearts, responses, and attitudes show evidence of Christ's transforming power within us, gained & grown by our time serving together!

The structure we helped to build should remain for years & years, long after we're gone! May God's Presence upon us in that week remain as solid in us and in our ambition to serve others, as well.

Respectfully & Thankfully on behalf of our Redbird Team,

Nancy Pitsch





**Thank you Dave and Roberta Fredericks** for your unfailing dedication to maintaining the church's gardens! Dave, your encouragement and excellent leadership skills have taught me so much about doing the trustee service well. Roberta, your excellent idea for Weeding Wednesdays really provided needed help and arranging the hanging flower pots brightened up our church's appearance. Thank you so much for your time and hard work! May God richly bless you even as you have blessed our church!

Peace, love, and joy, Jan Glover

**A special thank you to everyone below who provided special music during the summer.** The music enriches our worship service, and we appreciate your talents and your efforts!

Anne Blackwell	Bryn Gatz
Katie Herath	Amy Malm
Rene Morris	Jessica Rahn
Julie Wilson	Ladies Ensemble
My Anchor Holds	VBS Program

## Calling All Gardeners

It is road trip time for gardeners. Hornbaker Gardens in Princeton is hosting their 6th Annual Artisan Market on Saturday, September 15th from 10 AM to 4 PM. This fine art market will host more than 30 artists, August Hill wine tasting, delicious home-baked items, live music, craft beer from Tangled Roots Brewery, local food from Kramer's Kitchen and Park Tavern, Sisler's ice cream, fresh-picked produce, and the wonderful flowers, shrubs, and hostas of the gardens. Check out their website ([www.hornbakergardens.com](http://www.hornbakergardens.com)) and the poster on the church bulletin board for more information.

We will meet in the parking lot of Wesley Church at 9:00 on the 15th to carpool. Jan Glover will take her truck and provide delivery of plants to your home. Please let Jan know if you are planning to attend and if you can drive.

**Just a friendly reminder** the Habitat Day for our Men's Club is Saturday September 22. As usual, the commitment is work Saturday morning, and then lunch.

The site is in Dixon again at 320 Custer Avenue. If you will be able to join us, please let me know.

Thanks!

Jeff Davey

**We would like to give a big Thank You** to Elaine Hilger, Holly Drew, Logan Ayala and especially Jan Glover for showing up and helping out with Weeding Wednesdays this summer. The church grounds never looked better! Weeding Wednesdays will continue till the end of September.

Roberta and Dave Fredericks

Thank you to Diantha Wentling (Bread Hostess this past month) and September Hostesses are Joan Partridge, Sue Hondley and Gyneth Partridge



## Birthdays

<b>September 5</b>	Haleigh Freas
<b>September 8</b>	Conner Carlson
<b>September 9</b>	Karen Abele
<b>September 10</b>	Wes White
<b>September 11</b>	Nancy Wait
<b>September 12</b>	Judy Randall
<b>September 14</b>	Leigh Michel, Pastor Jeremiah Thompson, Christie Freas
<b>September 16</b>	JP Papoccia, Diantha Wentling
<b>September 21</b>	Brooklynn Freas, Elisa Gatz, Marilyn Lewis

<b>September 22</b>	Barb Quick
<b>September 23</b>	Eric Canas
<b>September 24</b>	Ashlei Behrens
<b>September 25</b>	Judy Bushman, Jaz'Mya Castaneda, Nathanael Rodriguez
<b>September 26</b>	Jan Andersen, Alan Beggerow
<b>September 27</b>	Pat Jacobs
<b>September 30</b>	Dylan Hinrichs, Athena Knowels, Janet Palmer

## Anniversaries

<b>September 10</b>	Bill & Peg Burke
<b>September 14</b>	Dave & Sharon Siex
<b>September 16</b>	Louis & Barb Quick
<b>September 17</b>	Al & Diane Rude
<b>September 28</b>	Steve & Lynn Majewski

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Sept. 30** – September is another 5th Sunday month! This time the appeal will be for,

**Peace with Justice ...**

which enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs.

## Servers for September - 8 a.m.

Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes		Liturgist
<b>September 2</b>	Brian & Chris Babel	Nancy Pitsch
<b>September 9</b>	↓	Dylan Hinrichs
<b>September 16</b>	Tracy DuRall & Nancy Pitsch	Amy Lopez
<b>September 23</b>	Brian & Chris Babel	Amy Lopez
<b>September 30</b>	↓	Darla Ewing

## Coffee Hosts

<b>September 2</b>	Mary Anne Batten, Lynn Majewski, Abiella Thompson
<b>September 9</b>	Amy Lopez & Craig Truedson family
<b>September 16</b>	Bill & Peg Burke
<b>September 23</b>	Renee & Corey Duncan
<b>September 30</b>	Andy & Nancy Pitsch

## Servers for September - 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
September 2	Rosie Davis & Norma Church	Eric, Cory Canas Max, Bill Parker	Bruce Kramer
September 9	Rosie Davis & Diantha Wentling	Andy & Nancy Pitsch Max, Bill Parker	Dave Fredericks
September 16	Drew Family	Eric , Cory Canas Max, Bill Parker	Aaron Marken
September 23	Bill & Peg Burke	Andy & Nancy Pitsch Max, Bill Parker	Bob Allen
September 30	Ed & Jan Anderson	Eric, Cory Canas Max, Bill Parker	Jan Anderson

## 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.
- **Toilet Paper** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit Buddy Bags in September.

