



# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
APRIL 2019

## Pastor's Reflections

### Tearing the Curtain

*37Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Mark 15:37-38*

In this season of Lent, we've been looking at the stories and teachings of Jesus' final week before his death in Jerusalem. I forgot how much of the 4 gospels are accounts of this week. There is so much material it can be easy to miss some of the amazing things that happened that offer us so much hope. The passage above is one of those passages I think I've overlooked sometimes. Amid remembering Jesus' horrible death, in the joy of the resurrection we can fail to see the significance of just a few words in one verse, but they are significant, and full of hope.

In the temple in Jerusalem a curtain separated most of the temple from a specific room known as the Holy of Holies. This curtain was seen as protection to keep people from getting too close to the presence of God which it was believed would be fatal to them. Only rarely and only then with special preparations could one priest enter beyond this curtain. In a very real sense, and not necessarily for any sinful reason this curtain kept people from God. Yet we are told that the moment Jesus died that curtain tore in two from top to bottom. Symbolically God was demonstrating that God doesn't want to be distant from humanity but to be in relationship with all of us. That's good news!

## Church Events

**Sundays:** WYG, 6:00-8:00pm, every 1st and 3rd Sunday

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

**Wednesdays:** Disciples Bible study, 9-11:30am

Buddy Bags packing, 11:30am

Bells practice, 5pm

Choir, 6pm in the sanctuary

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

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

### Lenten Season Studies

**Thursdays, March 7 - April 11th, 6:30-7:35pm,**  
led by Nancy Pitsch (child care available)

**Tuesdays, March 12 - April 16th, 1-2pm,** led by  
Pastor Jeremiah



The thing is there are still curtains between us and God. Sometimes we put them there ourselves. In our feelings of guilt, or unworthiness, we may think God can't really love me, and so we never return the embrace that God offers each of us. Worse yet sometimes people put up curtains between God and others. When humans tell someone that the a person must pray the way they do, or live the way they do, or love only who they love in the same way they do, people, sometimes well-meaning sometimes not, put up curtains between others and God.

God doesn't want a curtain between God and humanity God is the loving parent of us all, and Jesus came to tear the curtain apart so that all people would know how much God loves them. So, I ask you this Month of April as we remember how the curtain was torn through Jesus' death and even more so his resurrection how can we tear some curtains open. Is there anything that is keeping you from God, that you are putting between you and God, can you tear it down, or can you find some people to help you tear it down. I promise you God loves you! Is there something you see that is keeping others from God, a curtain others have put up, a curtain you may have put up. How can you tear that down, who can help you do it? How can you help at least one other person see the love of God and just the tall curtain?

God help us to see the curtain is gone, and you love all of us, and help us to share that good news!!!

*In Christ,  
Pastor Jeremiah*

## Wesley Youth Group Calendar

We will have two regular WYGs this month of April, and please sign up for our Spring Retreat, check out the other article about that.

**April 7:** Join us for food, games (maybe outside weather permitting), and talking about putting first things first in following Jesus

**April 28:** More food, more games, more fun, and talking about summer activities and where Jesus is asking us to go from here, join us!

**The Wesley Work Day** will be Saturday, April 13th from 8am-noon. Sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. If it is raining, a rain date will be scheduled. Even if you cannot come for the entire time, we can really use the help even for an hour or so. Work will be done inside and outside. We will have food available.

## April Worship Services

**Sunday April 7:** First Things First (Teaching on Taxes and the Greatest Commandment)

Matthew 22:15-22 (attempt to trap Jesus with questions about taxes)

Mark 12:28-34 (the Greatest Commandment)

John 13:34-35 (show you are disciples by loving each other)

Theme: How do we balance love of God, neighbor, and ourselves, with living in our complex and imperfect society, what is Jesus asking us to do?

**Sunday April 14:** Palm and Passion Sunday: Love in all Circumstances (Compassion while betrayed and killed)

Mark 11:1-10 (reminder of the entrance to Jerusalem)

John 13:3-16 (washing the disciples feet and call to service to each other)

Luke 23:26-34 (Christ asking for mercy for people while being taken to Calvary and then crucified)

Theme: Jesus loves, even those most horrible to him, how can we love like Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord?

**Sunday April 21:** Easter: Finding Hope, Joy and Love

John 20:1-18

Theme: Jesus asked Mary Magdalene "Who are You Looking For?" Jesus Christ is who we are looking for, and when we find him our lives are changed and we can help change all that is! Let's celebrate the eternal life of the one we seek on this most joyous of our Holy Days!

**Sunday April 28:** Seeing Jesus Where He Is

Luke 24:13-35

Theme: Two of Jesus' friends could not see him, because they didn't expect to find him where he was. Jesus still shows up to us in very unexpected places and often through unexpected people. Will we keep our hearts open to these amazing blessings?



## Lenten Worship Services

As we enter the season of Lent (6 plus weeks before Easter when we prepare our hearts and minds to consider all that God did through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection), there will be three special worship services to mark some of the days of Lent, we hope you can come to some or all of them, and please invite others!

**April 18, Maundy (Holy) Thursday, 7:00 PM:** Join us for a service of music and drama as we remember all that Christ taught us on the night of the Last Supper.

**April 19, Good Friday, 7:00 PM:** Using light, and darkness, sounds, and scripture we will remember Jesus' final hours, and how these events can still speak to us today.

## April Events

**Thursday, April 4th:** Greeting card ministry, 9:30am

**Tuesday, April 9th:** Worship Team meeting, 7pm

**Wednesday, April 9th:** Women's breakfast, 8:30am - Benny's

**Friday, April 12th:** Ladies luncheon, 11:30am - That Place on Palmyra, Dixon

**Saturday, April 13th:** Church clean up day, 8am - noon

**Sunday, April 14th:** Taco bar after 10am worship service

**Monday, April 22nd:** Office will be closed

**Wednesday, April 24th:** Prayer Shawl meeting, 1-2:30pm

## College Care Packages

We will be packing the college care packages on Thursday, April 11th at 1:00 PM in fellowship hall. Anyone wishing to help is more than welcome. If you would like to make a donation to help cover postage costs, please see Sue Abate, Gloria Grant or Tammy Jones.

Thank You,

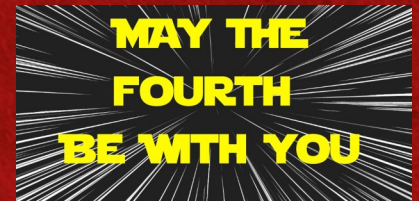
Sue

## Help us Go on a Mission to Mission!

Dear Wesley Family, a group of more than a dozen of us will be going on a mission trip to South Dakota, Tree of Life Ministries in Mission, South Dakota. to be specific. The cost for this trip is going to run about \$500 per person, so we are beginning some fundraisers to help pay for the trip. So please, mark your calendars for these opportunities to "be a sender" in support to those going!

**Palm Sunday Taco Bar, Sunday April 14 after 10:00am**  
service: Join us after church for some delicious tacos, and some good fellowship. You don't want to cook on Sunday, we'll do it for you!

**May the Forth Be With You (And Also with You):** Join us Saturday May 4, for a Star Wars themed dinner, with games, trivia, and maybe some music and film too. Best of all parents, we'll watch your kids! More details to come!



## YOUTH OVERNIGHT RETREAT!

**WHO?** - Anyone currently in 6th grade - High School Senior

**WHEN?** - Friday, April 26th (leaving church parking lot @6:30PM) -Saturday, April 27th

(Returning to church 2pm-ish)

**WHERE?** Camp Reynoldswood, Dixon, IL (We'll have a whole wing in the Manor house for ourselves!)

**WHY?** - Because it's FUN to be together, for adventures outside & inside, fellowship, laughter, serious talks, & WORSHIP!

**COST?** - ALL expenses for Sterling Wesley Youth are covered IN FULL by the January pot luck! Cost for invited friends \$45.

**Youth** - Please RSVP ASAP to Pastor Jeremiah, 815-592-3764, Jessica Truedson 815-590-1693, or Nancy Pitsch 815-499-3802.

**Interested Adult Chaperones** - Contact the same peeps!



## Meet Your Trustees

Several people have asked me who is serving on trustees and what do trustees do. I hope this article will answer both of those questions. Nine individuals serve on the trustees' team. The term for each member is three years. The current slate of trustees are: Dave Fredericks, Michele Drew, and Rory Smith through December, 2019; Cory Canas, Jan Glover, and Curtis Greenfield through December, 2020; Steve Downes, Bill Parker, and Rebecca Tieman through December, 2021. Dave and Jan serve as co-chairs for the team. Steve acts as the recording secretary.

The trustees are responsible for the care and maintenance of both the church and the parsonage. Each Sunday they tidy up the sanctuary by picking up bulletins and trash, straightening the hymnals and Bibles, replacing prayer request forms and offering envelopes, collecting attendance sheets, and sharpening pencils. They fill the alter candles, replace light bulbs and spotlights, and unlock and lock the building before and after services. The work days in the spring and fall are organized by the trustees.

We have been blessed with many members of our congregation who assist the trustees with many of these tasks. Bob Allen and Reid and Ryan Blackburn climb the ladders to replace the lights in the sanctuary and the rose window. Barb Quick has a talent for adjusting the thermostats for the multitude of events held at our church. Andy Pitsch and Mike Drew along with our volunteer technicians keep our audio and visual systems functioning well.

Trustees oversee the care of the heating/cooling systems, electrical services, and plumbing issues. Frequently, we seek bids for work that needs to be accomplished in these areas. For example, this past year, we studied the causes for ice damming. The number one cause for this condition is a lack of insulation. Upon investigation, it was found that our building was sorely lacking in proper insulation. We were able to secure a company that offered a best solution that was economically feasible. The end result was a savings of \$1200 in gas costs as compared to the same two month time period one year ago! The payback on this investment will probably be three years or less.

Trustees hire companies for lawn care, snow removal, repairs and purchasing of new equipment such as appliances and floor coverings. The health and safety of our congregation is of utmost importance, so exit signs, emergency lighting, the defibrillator, fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors, are inspected and kept in working order.

Acting as a trustee for one year has made me so aware of all the effort that goes into making our church function at its best. I have gained so much knowledge through this experience. I am very impressed with the wonderful way our trustees have embraced the qualities needed for excellent leadership and teamwork. I extend a huge "thank you" to former trustees Douglas Brandau, Randy Clodfelter, Tracy DuRall, and Rita Smith who helped me learn how to be a trustee this past year.

I hope more of you will consider joining this great team when the next nominations' time arrives in the fall.

Jan Glover

## A Note From The Mission Team

The Mission Committee has designated all Lenten Envelopes will go toward the two mission trips scheduled for this summer, Tree of Life and Bolivia. It is so great that our church is so missions minded and the committee would like to thank everyone again for all the donations of money and things for all of our ongoing projects and we're sure you will come through again for these trips.

## Congratulations to our Graduates this Spring!

8th grade: Jack Graves, Eric Canas, Mallory Osborn, James Morris, Cory Duncan, Lena Drew

High School: Holliana Drew, and Matthew Greenfield

College: Megan Clodfelter, Michael Quick





## Birthdays

<b>April 1</b>	Beth Mathew	<b>April 16</b>	Peg Burke
<b>April 3</b>	Janet Lindsley, Olivia Schwingle	<b>April 17</b>	Karen Palmer
<b>April 4</b>	Gloria Grant	<b>April 18</b>	Allison Ramirez
<b>April 5</b>	Jeffrey Spitzer	<b>April 19</b>	Austin Cedro
<b>April 8</b>	Mark Gatz, Frank Rausa	<b>April 23</b>	Julie Carrion, Nick Papoccia,
<b>April 9</b>	Isaac Carrion	<b>April 25</b>	Nicholas Abele, Craig Truedson
<b>April 12</b>	Sue Inks, Violet Windham	<b>April 27</b>	Megan Thompson
<b>April 14</b>	Randy Smith, Don Warkins		

## Anniversaries

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

## Bread Hosts

April host is Rosemary Davis. Thank you Mary Spitzer for hosting February!



## Servers for April- 8 a.m.

	<b>Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>April 7</b>	Marc & Cindy Melton	Bruce Kramer
<b>April 14</b>	↓	Rory Smith
<b>April 21</b>		Nancy Pitsch
<b>April 28</b>	↓	Dylan Hinrichs

## Coffee Hosts

<b>April 7</b>	Beth Jacobs, Cory Canas & Katie Herath
<b>April 14</b>	Wendelken family
<b>April 21</b>	Majewski family
<b>April 28</b>	Joan Partridge & Girls

## Servers for April - 10 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>April 7</b>	Joan Partridge & girls	Greenfield family	Dave Fredericks
<b>April 14</b>	↓	↓	Carolyn Heuck
<b>April 21</b>	Bill & Sue Abate	Denny, Alice & Chelsey Vetter Cameron Taylor	Nancy Pitsch
<b>April 28</b>	Elaine Hilger, Janet Palmer	Kris & Elliot Noble Steve & Amy Lopez	Bob Allen



## 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.