



The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, MARCH 2019

Pastor's Reflections

I'd like to personally welcome our church into the season of Lent, to invite you ALL to participate in Lent! This beautiful time of preparation, active waiting, reflection, discipline, repentance, and HOPE begins *right away the first week of March*, with Ash Wednesday, and Lent study groups beginning. Often, we sense the somberness of Lent as it begins while facing & reflecting on realities of our faith and life. But Lent carries us over many weeks into Holy Week, eventually bringing us into the full joy & Hope of Easter! (more coming on that in the April Issue of Chimes!)

To help you better experience Lent 2019, we will offer three extra worship services, several all church events, three options for Lent Studies, and several special activities in worship. The season of Lent is a time to turn our hearts towards our relationship with God, and to grow in our following of Jesus Christ. I invite you to in all these ways to find a way you can grow in your faith this Lent. And, as your relationship with God grows, see how Jesus personally calls you towards what you can do to help change our community and our world in Jesus' Name.

Be about Lent this year and see what God will do in your life!

*In Christ,
Pastor Jeremiah*

Monthly 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

Lent Season Studies

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

Saturdays, March 9 - April 13th, 1-2pm, led by Dylan Hinrichs

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

March Worship Services

As we enter into 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) we will start a new sermon series on March 10 looking at the events of Jesus' final week of ministry in Jerusalem, and also at the things Jesus taught that week. These services will also connect with our Lenten study, though you don't need to attend one to attend the other!

Sunday March 10: The Humble Peaceful King (Entering Jerusalem)

Luke 19:29-40 (Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey)

Zachariah 9:9-10 (passage about the meaning of entering on a donkey)

Theme: Christ came in peace, but also very loudly, how is Christ coming into our lives, and what is Jesus maybe loudly asking us to do?

Week 2: Sunday March 17: Knocking Over our Tables (The Cleansing of the Temple)

Mark 12:15-19 (Jesus driving money changers from the temple)

Theme: We want to believe that in our "temple" our bodies and minds there is no corruption, but the reality is we all have sins we need to address with God's help, what is Jesus asking us to drive out of our lives?

Week 3: Sunday March 24: Extravagant Generosity (The Widow and the Woman in Bethany)

Luke 21:1-4 (the gift of the poor widow)

Matthew 26:6-14 (Jesus is anointed with costly oils)

Theme: How does God call us to be generous, what does it mean for you?

Week 4: Sunday March 31: Pride Before the Fall (The Widow, and Parable of Tenants)

Mark 13:31-34 (the gift of the poor widow)

Matthew 21:28-46 (parables about people pridefully thinking they know what God wants rather than listening to God)

Theme: Its easy to be proud of ourselves and think we know it all, but what if we don't? How is Jesus asking us to look at things in new ways?

Week 5: 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?

Week 6: (Palm and Passion Sunday) Sunday April 14: 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?

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!

March 6, Ash Wednesday, 7:00 PM: Join us for a service of music, scripture, prayer and communion as we remember our need for forgiveness, celebrate the grace God offers us, and open our hearts and minds to hear where Christ guides us this Lent.

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.

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!

Potato Bar, Game Night, and Bake Sale, Saturday March 16, 5-9:00ish. Join the whole church for a fun night of games of all sorts (and that's free) but we will also have a potato bar dinner, and a bake sale the same night to raise money for the trip. Come for yummy food, a sweet treat, an maybe some Scrabble or Mario Kart, all ages welcome, bring your friends.

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!

Rolls and Coffee Cake anyone?: We will also be selling coffee cakes and sweet rolls, buy something so you don't have to bake as much for Easter guests, or have something yummy to serve mom breakfast in bed on Mother's Day (or freeze it and save it for Father's Day) more details to come!

Thank you to all who helped prepare and send the cards for Greeting Card Ministry after church, February 10. The regularly scheduled date had to be canceled because of weather; so your participation made it possible to complete this mission!

March Events

Monday, March 4: Trustee meeting, 7pm in the library

Thursday, March 7: Greeting card ministry, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 12: Ad council meeting, 7pm

Wednesday, March 13: Women's breakfast, 8:30am at Benny's

Friday, March 15: Fellowship Hall is reserved from 9am-2pm
Ladies luncheon, 11:30am at Angelo's

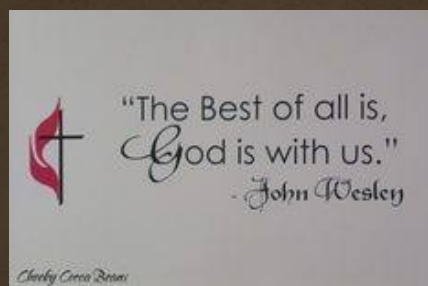
Saturday, March 16: Game night/potato bar, 5pm

Wednesday, March 20: Missions meeting, 7pm

Saturday, March 23: Men's Club ham dinner, 5-7pm

Wednesday, March 27: Prayer Shawl ministry, 1-2:30pm

Sunday, March 31: Fifth Sunday - Human Relations Day



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!



Sign-ups for Lent Studies have begun!

No books; we'll follow an outline of Holy Week's events paired with scripture, extending our understanding and reflection on Sermon Series during Lent. Participants will receive hard copy of plan at first class to follow & reflect upon prior to each week's session. JOIN a group! Call church office, 815-625-1968, sign up in fellowship hall, or let a facilitator know!

Thursdays, March 7th -April 11th, 6:30-7:35 pm – Fireside Room, Nancy Pitsch facilitating (child care available)

Saturdays, March 9th - April 13th, 1 - 2pm - Fireside Room, Dylan Hinrichs facilitating

Tuesdays, March 12th - April 16th, 1 - 2pm - Fireside Room, Pastor Jeremiah facilitating

Wesley United Methodist Church Men's Club Ham Dinner

5-7 p.m.

Saturday, March 23



Join us for the Men's Club annual Ham Dinner featuring ham and all the fixings. Carry-outs available.

Tickets: \$7 adults, \$3 children 12 and younger

Tickets are available from any Men's Club member, through the church office, or at the door.

Wesley United Methodist
Church
2200 16th Ave.
Sterling, IL
(815) 625-1968

EVERYONE is invited, we hope you will join us!



You who YEARN for *restoring, reviving, and resting more fully in God's presence.* To truly "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). You who feel either Spiritually weary or Spiritually ready for more (or anywhere on the spectrum between those two!) Please feel personally INVITED to "taste and see" God's goodness FOR YOU! To indulge in a deeper experience of God's love FOR YOU by joining other "Pilgrims" the Spring Emmaus Walk!

Men's walk *begins March 28th @ 6pm - ends Sunday, March 31st, 7pm.

Women's walk *begins Thursday, April 4th @ 6pm – ends Sunday, April 7th, 7pm.

(* additional travel time might have you leaving your home by 4 or 4:30 to arrive on time!)

Have interest? Have questions? FOR either, contact NANCY PITSCH 815-499-3802. I'd LOVE to tell you more!

The Upper Room, part of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, began the three-day ecumenical spiritual-renewal retreats in 1978. The self-supporting ministry grew out of the Catholic Cursillo movement, and took the name Walk to Emmaus in 1981. The goal of Walk to Emmaus is to equip church members for Christian action. Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ.

Birthdays

March 2 Cody Hansen, Sue Klock

March 4 Aaron Fitzanko

March 7 Bruce Kramer, Stephanie Spitzer

March 8 Jan Davey, Alice Vetter

March 15 Levi Freas, Abriana Poci

March 16 Jaclyn Davey, Megan Stutzke

March 18 Amber Greenfield

March 20 Mary Downes, Dakota Hayes

March 22 Roberta Fredericks

March 23 Colton Duncan

March 29 Jeanne Burch, Lark Perry

Anniversaries

March 10 Wes & Liz White

March 13 Eddie & Carol Morse

March 17 Andrew & Beth Jacobs

Bread Hosts

February host is Mary Spitzer. Thank you Sue Klock for hosting January!



Servers for March- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
March 3	Brian & Chris Babel	Marc Melton
March 10	Fitzanko family	Wendy Fitzanko
March 17	↓	Bruce Kramer
March 24	Brian & Chris Babel	Nancy Pitsch
March 31	↓	Dylan Hinrichs

Coffee Hosts

March 3	Rory & Rita Smith
March 10	Renee Duncan
March 17	Mary Anne Batten, Steve & Amy Lopez
March 24	Jeff & Jan Davey
March 31	Andy & Nancy Pitsch

Servers for March - 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
March 3	Darlene Davis, Rosie Davis	Beth Jacobs & boys, Jeff Cedro	Aaron Marken
March 10	↓	Castaneda family	Stacey Wendelken
March 17	Rick & Karen Palmer	Truedson family	Rick Palmer
March 24	Elaine Hilger, Darlene Davis	Castaneda family	Nancy Pitsch
March 31	Carol Shaw, Sally Unterzuber	Truedson family	Alice Vetter

Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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

Website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Email: office@sterlingwesley.org

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 Midwest Mission Distribution Center in March.