



The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |
WESLEY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH |
MAY 2019

Pastor's Reflections

On Monday morning April 8, I was at the doctor's office. As I was leaving I got a text from the District Superintendent, Rev. Young-Mee Park, she said she wanted to have dinner that evening, but couldn't tell me why, she wanted to meet at 4:30, and she told me the incoming DS would be there as well. I was very surprised, and more than a bit uncertain. My surprise shifted to shock, when over dinner she told me why she'd wanted to meet. She wanted to reappointment me to the Malta United Methodist Church.

At this point I want to give you a bit of background. Megan and I joyfully took appointments in our Northern Illinois Annual Conference in 2017. We sought to move here because this conference lies between where our parents and sisters and their families live. We especially wanted our children to be able to spend more time with their grandparents. When the Northern Illinois Conference said they would appoint us, and bishop of our former conference said we could go, we were ecstatic. In our time here, we've particularly gotten to spend much more time with Megan's family both her parents, and our children's only first cousin. That has been a deep blessing.

However, the appointments they had for us were about an hour's drive apart. At first, we thought this would be okay. But, in order for Megan to live out her calling as a pastor, and to be the pastor her churches needed, she had to be away from Sterling two nights a week, and be at her parish at least 3 days a week, plus Sundays, and often more days as well, that's what ministry is like. With Megan needing to be away, but the kids here in Sterling going to school, many things that needed to be done fell to me.

Weekly Church Events

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

Tuesdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

Wednesdays: Weeding Wed. 8:30am -noon,
(starting May 15th)

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

Bible Studies:

Thursdays, through May 30th, 6:30-7:35pm,
led by Nancy Pitsch (child care available)

Mondays, through June 3rd, 6:30-7:30pm, led
by Pastor Jeremiah

Tuesdays, through June 4th, 1-2pm, led by
Pastor Jeremiah

This juggling of the parenting duties, spending little time together as a family caused stress for us, strained our marriage, and was very difficult for Abiella and Owen. So, we asked that should we be reappointed (in the United Methodist Church reappointment is always a possibility) we would be reappointed closer to each other so that our family could be under the same roof 7 nights a week.

To my shock, Rev. Park asked me to take a new appointment that would be only 5 miles from one of Megan's churches, and only a 20 minute drive from the other. It would mean a salary cut, but it would totally change the dynamics of our family life and schedule. I said I had to talk to Megan. I went home the evening of April 8, and we had a prayerful conversation. For the good of our family we believed this appointment would be a blessing. We also believed that not having to have the travel times and the other complications that we would both be able to serve our appointments better, as we would in many ways have more time and flexibility to do so. So, knowing we would leave dear friends behind, and beloved people at Wesley, we believed that God was offering us a great gift that could help our family be healthier and thrive. In the end, I and my partner in life and ministry believed this appointment would help us be better parents, and better spouses to each other, and save our relationships with God family had to take priority over all other considerations.

I know this move came as a shock to many of you, as it came to me. I know that transition is never totally smooth, and Wesley has had many transitions. I am in prayer for those making the next appointment here, and for all of you. I seek to leave things in the best possible place for whoever follows me. I am deeply grateful to God and to Wesley for the love shown to our family, for the opportunity to be in ministry here, for the deep profound moments of worship together, for times in small groups, for the funny stories, for the little blessings like a great recipe for cucumber salad. I have been blessed to live her in the Sauk Valley, and I will miss some amazing colleagues in ministry, inspiring community leaders, the beauty of the river, and the pelicans. So many wonderful blessings here!

So in this time of transition until my time here is done on June 30, and my successor starts on July 1, let us be in prayer for the Holy Spirit to guide the process, so that a good match can be found and Wesley can move into the future to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.

*In Christ,
Pastor Jeremiah*

May Dates to Remember

Wednesday, May 1: Mission meeting, 7pm

Thursday, May 2: Greeting card ministry, 9:30am
Trustee meeting, 7pm

Saturday, May 4: Game night, 5-9:30pm

Monday, May 6: Worship team meeting, 7pm at WUMC
Ad council meeting, 7pm

Wednesday, May 8: Women's breakfast, 8:30am Benny's

Thursday, May 9: Coffee with Pastor 8:45 at AirPlay

Sunday, May 12: Lyon Scholarship presentation at 10:00am service

Friday, May 17, Ladies luncheon at Froggy's, 11:30am

Monday, May 27: Wesley office will be closed

Wednesday, May 29: Prayer Shawl, 1-2:30pm

**** Sunday, May 19th will be the last day of Sunday school until fall.** Anyone wishing to help next Fall, please contact Renee Duncan of Lynn Majewski**

WYG (Wesley Youth Group)

As the School Year winds down WYG continues.

Sunday May 5: Join us at church for food, faith, fun, and outdoor games, weather permitting

Sunday May 19: Join us for a mini nerf war (outdoors weather permitting) and also food, talking about faith, prayer, and worship. Bring your friends!

Weeding Wednesday will start on May 15th. Please come on out an help keep the church grounds looking good. If you can spare anytime between 8:30 and 12 we'd be happy to have the help. If Wednesdays do not work for you but you want to help, feel free to come anytime and do weeding and trim dead blooms or bushes overtaking the sidewalk. Contact Dave or Roberta Fredericks for more information



Upcoming Worship Services

Our sermons for the next several weeks will look at the stories of Jesus after he rose from the dead and before he ascended into heaven meeting with, speaking to, and teaching his disciples. Just as they learned long ago from the risen Savior, let us see what we can learn together as well so that we might all grow in faith in Christ Jesus.

Sunday May 5: Being a Witness (Dylan Hinrichs Preaching, Pastor away with family)

Luke 24:36-48

Theme: The disciples saw, they found great hope in Jesus risen in body. They shared the story, what does it mean to share the story of Christ.

Sunday May 12: Mother's Day and Festival of the Christian Home: Doubt?

John 20:24-31

Theme: Thomas doubted, we all doubt sometimes. Yet, Christ offers love and hope, and Thomas the doubter was commissioned to share the good news of Jesus Christ, lets talk about doubt, and faith.

We will also honor our Lyons Scholarship winners on this Sunday.

Sunday May 19: Forgiveness and Reconciliation

John 21:1-19

Theme: Peter messed up, hugely. Peter, in a time of fear did not rise to the occasion and lied several times. Yet Jesus forgave and offered healing of the relationship, Jesus offers us healing when we've messed up too, let's ponder that wonderful truth!

Sunday May 26: Into All the World

Matthew 28:16-20

Theme: The gift of Jesus is not for holding on to, but for sharing, sharing even with the people we don't know, we are uncertain about, who we seem to have no bond with, but they are our siblings in Christ, and so to them we go!

Sunday June 2: You Will Receive Power from God

Acts 1:6-11

Theme: Christ does not walk with us in human form any more. Yet, the power of Christ is with us, and offered to us all. It's intimidating to be offered this power, but in using it, we find our true purpose from God. Will we accept and use the power?



Easter Service at Wesley UMC, 2019

Thank you . . .

to each and every one of you that worked so hard to help make Easter breakfast possible! You are greatly appreciated!

Lynn Majewski

J.O.Y. Campers! IT'S TIME to register! Camp will be held on Sunday, June 16 – Saturday, June 22. Persons entering grades 5-13 in the fall of 2019 are eligible. J.O.Y. Camp (Jesus, Others, You!) is designed to encourage youth in their faith journey through lots of active & prayerful worship, song, nature, relationships, adventure, and all kinds of crazy-good & meaningful FUN! **The cost per individual is \$419. Register by MAY 1st to receive an 'early-bird' discount of \$20 per person.** There is a 'work day' credit campers can earn, an additional \$20 discount, by participating in the pre-scheduled work day on Saturday, May 4, scheduled from 7am to 3pm. **There is also a 'sibling' discount of an additional \$20 for families with multiple camp attendees.**

The camp requires all registrants to pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit fee at the time they register. Information and registration forms are in church office and in fellowship hall on THE BOARD (by coffee area. If you have any questions, please contact the camp at info@reynoldswood.org.

Sterling Wesley Church has scholarship funds available for any Sterling Wesley UMC youth! Please contact Nancy Pitsch for further information - 815-499-3802.

OR go to <https://www.umenic.org/media/files/age%20related%20ministries/Camp%20Guide.pdf>



Anyone willing to participate in the take them a meal program please contact:

Renee Duncan 815-535-3058

Currently we take a meal every Wed. to Lark and Janet Perry, You don't even need to know how to cook!! It's a treat for them to have take out too!! A Pizza, KFC, Sub Sandwiches.. They love to see their church family.



SAVE THE DATES, VBS is coming soon!

This year the dates will be June 10th - 14th.

If you are able to volunteer in any way, and help gear up for this **AMAZING** event for our children, please contact Lexi Hinrichs at: (815) 441-6135 or at: lexi_hinrichs@hotmail.com

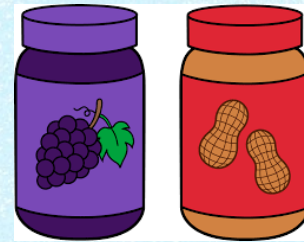
Registration information will be coming soon!

Let's Feed Our Children

As Summer approaches, we will be planning for the Let's Feed Our Children program. Wesley has been participating in this program since its beginning, **18 years ago!**

During the month of May, we will be collecting grape jelly. Peanut butter will be purchased from the food bank for 18 cents a pound. **Contributions to loose coins in May** will purchase fruit, bologna, and cheese as an addition to the lunches we make.

We will volunteer for the first 3 weeks in June at Macedonia Baptist Church. Signup sheets will be on the Mission table in the Fellowship Hall beginning in May. If you have questions please contact myself, Beth Mathew. Thank you to Sue Inks who has volunteered to help with this program!



A gigantic “Thank you”

to one and all who assisted with the April 13th work day at church. The outside crew mulched the flower beds and berms, raked, cleaned the waste can area, set out the fountains in the Memorial Garden and the patio furniture, placed the flower urns, and so much more. The inside crew vacuumed, dusted, washed windows, scrubbed tables and chairs, washed the baseboards and marks from the walls, treated the wood, and a myriad of other tasks. We finished in record time . . . 11:25! Thanks to our generous trustees for providing a delicious breakfast! So very proud of our church family's loving service to one another and to our Lord! Plan to join us for the fall clean-up for a wonderful time of fellowship and fun!



Sign up will be coming soon! Wesley UMC needs **YOU** on the 2019 co-ed softball team! Watch for sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall. See Jeff Cedro for more details or contact him at 815-535-1664.

A HUGE THANK YOU

to everyone at Wesley UMC for the thoughtful gift that I received for Administrative Assistants Day. I appreciate and enjoy all of you!

Tammy Jones



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: Alyssa Cedro, Megan Clodfelter, Michael Quick



Birthdays

May 2 Addison Gabrielse

May 3 Bob Allen

May 5 Sue Abate

May 8 Kris Noble

May 13 Renee Duncan, Sue Hayes

May 14 Manorama Hermon

May 15 Chandler Allen

May 16 Caleb Carlson, Erin Graves

May 17 Bryn Gatz

May 18 Mike Ceruzzi

May 19 Carly Hansen,

May 23 Jackson Melton

May 24 Dennis Vetter

May 28 June Teachout

May 29 Jaime Greenfield

May 30 Ed Andersen, Ethan Cravatta

May 31 Tammy Jones

Anniversaries

May 1 Joe & Carol Cravatta

May 28 Mike & Michele Drew

May 4 Gary & Debbie Jones

May 10 Steve & Mary Downes

May 26 Brad & Erin Graves

Bread Hosts

May host is Darlene Davis. Thank you Rosemary Davis for hosting April!



Servers for May- 8 a.m.

Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes

May 5 Steve & Amy Lopez

May 12 Steve Lopez, Jan Glover

May 19 Steve & Amy Lopez

May 26 ↓

Liturgist

Aaron Marken

Amy Lopez

Darla Ewing

Dylan Hinrichs

Coffee Hosts

May 5 Sally Unterzuber, Carol Shaw, Beth Jacobs

May 12th Darlene Davis, Diantha Wentling, Dave Fredericks

May 19 Rory & Rita Smith

May 26 Andy & Nancy Pitsch

Servers for May - 10 a.m.

Greeters

May 5 Darlene Davis, Diantha Wentling

May 12 Elaine Hilger, Darla Stigall

May 19 Edd & Marianne Rosser

May 26 Elaine Hilger, Darla Stigall

Ushers/Acolytes

Kris & Elliot Noble,
Chelsey Vetter, Cameron Taylor

Antonio & Jaz Mya Castaneda
Kris & Elliot Noble

Bill & Max Parker
Mark Taylor, Jeff Cedro

Jim & Jackie Turffs,
Mark Taylor, Jeff Cedro

Liturgist

Carolyn Heuck

Dave Fredericks

Roberta Fredericks

Bruce Kramer

Wesley United Methodist Church

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Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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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.
- **Dish 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.