

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH/JUNE 2019

Pastor's Reflections

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; (Ecclesiastes 3:7b)

Several days ago I was honored to do the funeral for Mrs. Alice Wiersema. Her family chose Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 as one of the scripture passages for her service. I thought back to this small part of that longer passage this week. Yesterday (I'm writing this on May 22), I was at the Clergy Day apart, which is the clergy session of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. A part of this day is a presentation from a speaker, and they generally bring someone in to offer guidance on some aspect of pastoral ministry.

The speaker this year was from the Mennonite Peace Center, as you may be aware the Mennonites are known as a "Peace Church," meaning they do not believe in violence or war as legitimate means of problem solving. As such they provide their services to other Christian groups who are in conflict. This presenter was talking about how pastors can help lower tensions in times of conflict, or anxiety (for instance if a church had a fire or some other accident.)

I can't begin to cover all that he covered, but one of the things that struck me the most was his advice on how a leader (pastor or lay person) in a congregation can lower anxiety and stress in difficult times. Amongst those is never assigning blame, but rather focusing on how things can improve. As a leader here, I have sometimes, particularly in moments of stress, vocally given blame to others. I said what I thought without properly praying and thinking to make sure my words would help. Casting blame almost never helps anything, and I am deeply sorry for having done it, and for anyone I have hurt due to these actions. I want to do better and prayerfully need to do better in this area of my life, faith, and leadership.

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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

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



In uncertain times, and we live in such times, and in times when conflict in society is very prevalent it is easy to feel anxious. God offers us however the strength and wisdom to not be ruled by our fears, but rather guided by God's love. We will feel anxious sometimes, that's part of being a mortal, but we can with God's help not let our anxieties cause us to hurt others, cast blame, or cause ourselves unnecessary pain. Is there anyone you have cast blame upon that you need to apologize to? Is there any way you've let stress get the better of you and cause someone hurt? Is there any way stress or anxiety are hurting you, that you could address so as to thrive as God wants for us all? As we enter the summer and soon a new era in Wesley's history, lets all examine how we can be healthier, and more deeply bless each other and build each other up in Christ like love lowering anxiety and nurturing love. May it be so, Amen.

*Blessings,
Pastor Jeremiah*

June 23rd will be Pastor Jeremiah's last Sunday in the pulpit. **Please join us for a "Farewell Fellowship" in between services.** There will be finger foods, fruits, muffins, so stay after 8am worship or arrive early for 10am worship to be part of this! There will be a card basket for individual cards, notes, or tokens of appreciation that you may wish to gift Jeremiah from you or your family.

Upcoming Worship Services

- **Sunday June 2:** You Will Receive Power from God

Acts 1:6-11

Theme: Christ does not walk with us in human form anymore. Yet, the power of Christ through the Holy Spirit 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 Christ offers us?

- **Sunday June 9:** Pentecost: Let the All the Voices Speak

Acts 2:1-21, 37-42

Theme: Pentecost remembers the day the Holy Spirit came to the apostles and followers of Jesus, and the church was born. That day the news of Jesus began to spread to all the people of the earth. That day we learned God could speak through us all. What is God saying to us, using the Holy Spirit to have us speak to each other.

- **Sunday June 16:** Father's Day

Join us as Rev. Frank Berman shares the message with us, and we all enjoy the presentation from the VBS children as they celebrate the end of their week together.

- **Sunday June 23:** A Time for Goodbyes

Join us for Rev. Jeremiah Thompson's last Sunday with Wesley, there will refreshments and finger food in between services.

- **Sunday, June 30:** Our own Dylan Hinrichs will share the message as Wesley prepares to welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Paul H. Lee who begins ministry here on July 1, 2019.



Bolivia Mission Trip

The Gatz/Burke Bolivia Mission group is on the move again! We are planning a trip to LaPaz and Cochabamba late summer, with an option for extended time and cultural events. There is a retreat center in Cochabamba in need of maintenance and painting which will be the main project, but we will also be taking down needed medical and school supplies.

We will leave around July 29th and fly to La Paz. There will be a day to acclimatize to the altitude, and then we will travel to Cochabamba.

After our project time, we will return to LaPaz, and then those wishing to come back then will fly out. Bolivian Independence Day is August 6th, and there are celebrations with parades, dancing, food, and other activities. Some will stay to take part in the festivities, and day trips may be possible before returning home about August 10th.

Anyone wishing to join the trip can be part! It is very high altitude (13,500 feet) and there is 40% less oxygen, so we move slowly. If you have any questions, see Elisa Gatz or Wendy Burke and we can answer them for you.

This summer, we will be hosting a Pique Macho (traditional Cochabamba meal) dinner for a fundraiser. Please come and support us as we prepare for this trip!

June Dates to Remember

Saturday, 1st: No Men's Bible study

Work day at Camp Reynoldswood, 9am - ?

Sunday-Wed. 2nd-5th: Pastor will be gone

Tuesday, 4th: Worship team meeting, 6:30pm at WUMC

Thursday, 6th: Greeting card ministry, 9:30am

Saturday, 8th: Fellowship Hall reserved, noon-4pm

Monday-Fri. 10th-14th: Vacation Bible School, 9am-noon

Wed. 12th: Women's breakfast, 8:30am at Benny's

Saturday, 15th: Parsonage painting day, 8am -noon

Sunday-Fri. 16th-21st: Pastor will be gone to camp

Wednesday, 19th: Prayer shawl ministry, 1-2:30pm

Friday, 21st: Ladies luncheon at Triple P's, 11:30am

Sunday, 23rd: Farewell fellowship between services

Thursday, 27th: Greeting card ministry for July, 9:30am

We are having an appreciation day for Judy Bushman, June 2nd with a reception in her honor following the 10 o'clock service. A card basket will be available.

Please join us in recognizing Judy for her past TEN years of dedication to Wesley UMC!



Please join the Inclusive Wesleyans for an inaugural meeting on Wednesday, July 10th from 7- 8 p.m in the Fireside Room. We are a Reconciling Community that welcomes persons without regard to age, race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, family configuration, religious background, economic status, or developmental or physical ability. We believe in inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons and creating a community of God where ALL are welcome as parishioners and leaders. Members of the Inclusive Wesleyans will present information about what it means to be a member of a Reconciling Community and why it is important during this time of uncertainty in the United Methodist Church. This group is geared for those who believe in full inclusion to meet with others who believe in a welcoming and affirming faith community. Every effort will be made to insure this meeting is a safe place because we celebrate that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth.

Please join us in our WELCOME to Pastor Paul H. Lee on Sunday, July 7th.

In good ol' United Methodist fashion, we will enjoy fellowship & food together, with a potluck following the 10am worship service!

More details to follow in the July Chimes.



Bishop Sally Dyck and the Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet have prayerfully discerned Rev. Paul H. Lee to serve as the pastor at Wesley UMC of Sterling for the following missional reasons:

1. Deep, sound theology with solid biblical grounding
2. Excellence in pastoral care with ability to relate with all ages, cultures, and perspectives
3. Engaging and relevant preaching and teaching
4. Strategic, visionary, and collegial leadership
5. Strong work ethics with gifts in administration

Rev. Paul H. Lee



Various experiences of the past have shaped Rev. Paul H. Lee's faith journey: from progressive academic and conservative mission organization. While he is theologically progressive, his practice of faith and pastoral leadership is moderate with a deep understanding of the conservative.

Rev. Lee was born and raised in a faithful Christian family. He completed his first Master of Divinity in South Korea and served three churches as a youth pastor and an associate pastor since 1999. He was united in marriage with his wife, Rev. Rosa Y. Lee on Fool Day of 2006. They went to mission fields in South Africa and Zimbabwe in 2006. One year later, They came back to South Korea, and he worked at an institute for two years as a teacher and the Dean. And they moved into Big

Island, HI for another missionary experience in 2009. While staying in Hawaii, they went to India for a missionary project to teach the Bible (the Epistles of Apostle Paul, one semester) at OHAG Theological Seminary. Rev. Lees taught a group of Dalit pastors the knowledge of the Bible and got inspired by their love for God and passion for the church, the body of Christ.

In Hawaii, Rev. Lee became a Methodist (Kona United Methodist Church), and God unfolded a new chapter of his life with a lifelong calling. And he went to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary for his second Master of Divinity and did an internship at the Chicago Temple. It was the season to learn more about beliefs, values, and history of the United Methodist Church. The six years of his ministry at Waterman UMC has been meaningful, effective, and fruitful. The church has been growing in both worship and mission with him, and he's been growing as well with the church.

JOIN the blessing of fellowship through serving others!

The men of Wesley UMC invite everyone interested in helping on Saturday, June 1st at Camp Reynoldswood for a work day. The day will consist of several projects and will begin at 9am and go into the afternoon. Whatever time you have available to help will be greatly appreciated!

Our youth have been benefiting from this awesome cause for several years, what a blessing to have this right in our very own backyard! Please contact Andy Pitsch at 815-499-4940 if you are able to help.

In Appreciation...

Painters Extraordinaire

On Saturday, May 18th, Wesley Church received a much needed painting make-over. Dave and Roberta Fredericks worked on the west drive-through off of the parking lot. They applied a fresh coat of white paint on its rusting metal posts as well as the wooden supporting timbers. Meanwhile, in the Fireside Room, Doug Brandau, Steve Downes, and Elaine Hilger painted the south wall a medium shade of gray and the east and west walls in a light gray. The new colors blend very well with the new furniture. Thank you to all of our painters, to Elaine for helping to tape the Fireside Room, to Bob Allen, Ryan, and Reid for dismantling and reinstalling the memorial tree, and to the Thursday evening Bible study group for moving the furniture!

If you missed the first round of painting by our church group, don't be disappointed. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 15th from 8:00 to 12:00 at the parsonage. We will be painting two of the bedrooms, removing wallpaper in the bathroom, and other tasks to prepare for Pastor Paul and Rosa's arrival. See Jan Glover if you are able to assist.

Wesley Church Family – Thank you so much for all the cards you sent us each month. They are greatly appreciated and they do help.

Wesley Congregation – Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayer, cards, telephone calls, visits, and food. A special thank you to Pastor Jeremiah, for his visits to the hospital and home for the two of us. Prayers really do work!

Wesley Youth Group – Thank you for “Egging” us for Easter! It was a GREAT surprise and we enjoyed everything!

Jean & Joan Partridge

From The Mission Team

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the wash cloth and hand towel collection for Annual Conference, totals will be in next month's Chimes. **The last day for collection will be Sunday, June 2nd.**

Loose coins for June is Tree of Life. This ministry with Lakota Native Americans addresses needs on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota by “nurturing the body, strengthening culture, and enhancing the spirit.” This ministry provides groceries and meals to the hungry; repairs to substandard homes; and supports local teachers as they reclaim native culture and language. treeofliferelief.org (Don't know if you want to put the description in or not, up to you.)

June has a 5th Sunday and the collection will be for Native American Ministries which nurtures missions with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

Loose Coins for May totaled \$733.74 for UMCOR.

As VBS is quickly approaching, we now have sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for donations of snacks throughout that week. Both kids and adults alike appreciate this and YOU! Please sign up if you're able and contact Nancy Pitsch with any questions. 815-499-3802.



Dear Wesley members and friends,

I wanted to take the time to invite all kids turning 4 before Sept. 1 through children entering sixth grade in the fall to Vacation Bible School at Wesley United Methodist Church this summer. Our theme this year is To Mars and Beyond. At VBS, your children will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they discover their strength in God. They will become voyagers and explore how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

After a high-energy opening at To Mars and Beyond, the voyagers will make their way to the Bible Story Headquarters. Interactive Bible lessons will reveal Power Launchers to equip your voyagers for an active life with God. Your voyagers will discover a vector verse (Bible memory verse) that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making their own art projects at Craft Headquarters, singing new songs at Music Headquarters, playing games at Recreation Headquarters, and enjoying tasty treats at Snack Headquarters. Along the way, they will hear about our mission project and be encouraged to help out. This year our mission project is the Sterling Buddy Bags; a community based partnership that provides weekend food bags for school kids in Sterling. We will collect donations daily and keep track of what we have accumulated throughout the week. Then on Celebration Sunday, June 16th, we will ask the congregation to match what our VBS voyagers have donated. On Celebration Sunday, ALL of our VBS voyagers are invited to perform their songs at the 10:00 am service. We will have lunch afterwards.

Please join us at **WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** from Monday, June 10 through Friday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. To register or to find out more about VBS To Mars and Beyond, please visit the church website at <http://www.sterlingwesley.org> and click on the VBS registration link at the top or bottom right of the page. Parents/guardians must be present on the first day of VBS attendance to verify registration. VBS is free, and we encourage you to bring your friends.

We look forward to seeing your voyagers June 10th!

Sincerely,

Lexi Hinrichs
VBS Coordinator



P.S. Every day during VBS week, we encourage the children to wear the color of the day:
Monday-blue, Tuesday-red/pink, Wednesday-yellow, Thursday-green, and Friday- purple.

See next page for VBS registration form!



Wesley United Methodist Church 2019 VBS Registration Form (6/10-6/14)

Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

Phone numbers (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (Work) _____

Emergency contacts _____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

Child's Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Grade Entering _____

Home Church _____

Friends of your child at this church _____

Special needs/Allergies/Medical or Other information _____

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up your child from VBS _____

Does this child have siblings that are also attending VBS? If yes, please provide name(s) _____

_____ (Please fill out a registration form for EACH child.)

Photo Release: Wesley United Methodist Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

****Please return this form to office@sterlingwesley.org, the Fellowship Hall VBS folder, or mail to Wesley United Methodist Church VBS, 2200 16th Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081, Attn: Tammy**

Birthdays

June 1 Evan Melton, Rachel Kramer
June 2 Matthew Gabrielse
June 4 Sharon Wasson
June 5 Austin Allen, Judy Dennis
June 6 Dave Abele, Brad Graves
June 7 Doug Brandau
June 8 Michele Drew
June 10 Rene Morris
June 12 Dave Fredericks
June 13 Phyllis Stutzman

June 14 Carolyn Heuck, Jeremy Taylor-Vrhel
June 19 Sharon Taylor
June 21 Amy Vierung
June 22 Myla Wendelken
June 23 Andy Pitsch, Mark Taylor
June 26 Mike Drew
June 28 Cheryl Allen, Cory Canas
June 29 Chris Bushman, Darlene Davis, Eric Fredericks, Linda Perry
June 30 Jackson Lyon, Marianne Rosser

Anniversaries

June 4 Matt & Stacey Wendelken **June 17** Warren & Carolyn Heuck
June 6 Ed & Susie Cedro **June 21** Dave & Linda Kavran
June 7 Craig & Jessica Truedson **June 28** Bruce & Debbie Kramer
June 11 Don & Tracy DuRall
June 14 Rory & Rita Smith

Bread Hosts

June host is Darla Stigall. Thank you Darlene Davis for hosting May!



Servers for June- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
June 2nd	Tracy DuRall, Jan Glover	Dylan Hinrichs
June 9th	↓	Sue Klock
June 16th		Jeff Davey
June 23rd		Rory Smith
June 30th		Jan Glover

Coffee Hosts

June 2nd Papoccia Family
June 9th Jeff & Jan Davey
June 16th Wendelken Family
June 23rd Toby & Debbie Hodges
June 30th Elaine Hilger, Mary Anne Batten, Norma Church

Servers for June - 10 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
June 2nd	Warren & Carolyn Heuck, Lowell & Coralee Jacobs	Dylan Hinrichs
June 9th	Tim, Jamie, Olivia, Emily Schwingle	Jean Moe
June 16th	Greenfield Family	Greenfield Family
June 23rd	Warren & Carolyn Heuck, Lowell & Coralee Jacobs	Aaron Marken
June 30th	Matt, Stacey, Ellie, Myla, Sadie Wendelken	Jan Glover

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.
- Shampoo** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins** to benefit Tree of Life Ministry, South Dakota in June.