

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2019

From Our Pastor...



During the Summer, our Trustees have done amazing work on the parsonage, church parking lot, and playground. I thank all of them for their tireless and creative work. And, I encourage all of us to give warm and appreciative words to our faithful Trustees and those who volunteered their time and talents.

On a Saturday morning, Janet Glover and Dave Fredericks were working on our new playground. As I approached them, Dave said to Janet, "You see? He is ALWAYS happy. He is smiling." I'm so glad that I looked happy. Then, I asked myself, "Do I feel happy all the time? I doubt that." I am an ordinary person. So many times, during the week, I have moments of ups and downs. Yes, many times, I feel pretty happy, delightful, and energetic. But, I also have moments of feeling frustrated, discouraged, and depressed.

I have thought about what made me smile. When I see people in the church, I find myself smiling. When I see the people who are doing God's work, I find myself delightful. Even though I still have many tasks, and I have a sermon to be prepared, the moment I see them, I can't help but smile. Then, what came to my mind was, "Even an ordinary person like me is delighted to see the people who are doing ministry together for God and God's people. Then, how does God feel when God sees the people do ministry, and love and care the other fellow siblings and neighbors? I believe God would be happy and delightful to see you more than I give you my smile, and more than I can imagine.

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Weekly Events

Tuesdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

Wednesdays: Handbells , 5pm
Choir, 6pm

Thursdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

Saturdays: Men's Bible study, 8am

Starting September 18th, 32 week Disciple Study "Under The Tree of Life", watch for more details to come on the time!

Thursday Fellowship Study Group returns beginning September 19th, from 6:25pm-7:35pm. A study on "Parables" by Gary Inrig, will go through December 12th. Nursery care is provided (Group is full with sixteen returning members) If anyone would consider leading another Fellowship Study Group, please contact Nancy Pitsch, 815-499-3802, or church office. There are many who would like to be part of a study & I'll help you get started in any way needed!

Imagining God's smile on you and me, I begin humming "His Eyes on the Sparrow."

Why should I feel discouraged?

Why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart feel lonely? ...

I know he (Jesus) watches me."

I hope you to feel God's presence with you every day with God saying, "You are not alone. I am with you. I am walking with you all the times, even in the valley of the shadow of death. I am delightful and pleased to see you. I love you."

FYI, you are invited to the parsonage open house between 4:30 ~ 6:30pm on Sept. 15. (2104 11th Ave. Sterling, IL)

You are invited to
The Parsonage
Open House
Sept. 15, 4:30~6:30pm

Church Directory:

"I come to church regularly. But I'm not a member of this church yet. Could I be on the church directory?"

YES!!! We love to have all of your pictures in it. In the morning, I have a moment of prayers looking at your photos in the directory. Please join us in making a new church directory.

Peace In Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

September 29th is Fifth Sunday! A Special collection will be taken for Native American Ministries Sunday, please use an envelope from the pew and designate it to Fifth Sunday.

Native American Ministries nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

September Worship Services

"Series Sermons on the Lord's Prayer"
continues in September.

Sept. 1

John 6:30-35 **"Bread of Life"**

- What does Jesus mean when he asks us to pray for "Daily Bread"?
- What does it mean that we have the bread on our table? The bread we need in a daily base for our body, soul, and mind.

Sept. 8

Depression & Suicide Prevention Presentation & Testimony

Rev. Ken Zuithoff, Cheryl Robinson, and Jeff Hippen

Sept. 15

Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 15:18-20

"Forgiveness; Running God"

- What experience or who comes in your mind, when you hear of "forgiveness"?
- Why do we have to talk and try to practice "forgiveness"?
- What is God's image when it comes to forgiveness?

Sept. 22 **"Temptation?"**

- What does it mean when we say "Lead us not into temptation"?
- Does God lead us into temptation?
- What would it be that tempts us in our lives?

Sept. 29

1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Matthew 6:33

"Kingdom, Power, and Glory"

- Do we have power?
- How can we use our power for the glory of God?
- How do we give glory to God?

Church Events

- September 1:** Choir begins at Sunday service
- September 2:** Office will be closed
- September 5:** Greeting card ministry, 9:30am
- September 7:** Men's Club, Habitat for Humanity in Dixon
- September 9:** Membership Care meeting, 2pm
- September 10:** Trustee meeting, 6pm
- September 11-14:** Directory photos are being taken
- September 11:** Missions team meeting, 7pm
Women's breakfast at Benny's, 8:30am
- September 15:** Fellowship hall/kitchen reserved, 1-4pm
Parsonage Open House, 4:30-6:30pm
- September 18:** Kitchen reserved, 9-10:30am
32 week Disciple study begins, time undermined
- September 19:** Fellowship hall /kitchen reserved, 8am-1:30pm
- September 20:** Ladies luncheon, Angelo's Sterling, 11:30am
- September 22:** Sunday school families picnic, 11am-1pm
- September 23:** Staff Parish meeting at parsonage, 6pm
- Sept. 24-27:** Leadership training in Kansas - Pastor
- September 25:** Prayer shawl meeting, 1-2:30pm
- September 29:** Sunday school begins!
Fifth Sunday: Peace With Justice collection

Wesley Church's Care Team is in need of more volunteers.

This Mission is to assist the office in maintaining contact/directory information and to plan, encourage, and host fellowship opportunities. Just a few of the past events planned by this committee: taking a meal to shut-ins, care packages to our college and service personnel, transportation to church for shut-ins, prayer chain prayer requests, crocheting prayer shawls, greeting card ministry, potluck dinners, game day/game night, parent's night out and more. You need not be on all events, as you pick the event(s) you are most comfortable using your gifts. We meet monthly, mornings, afternoons or evenings depending on the calendar or committee need. Please consider coming to our next meeting, Monday Sept 9th at 2:00 and see what we are all about. **For more information, please contact Co-Chairs Sue Abate 815-626-0539 and Sue Klock 815-441-2987 or Sharon Siex, Secretary 815-590-1614.**

Parents, if you have a son or daughter entering the military, trade school, or college this fall, your church family would like to remember her/him with cards monthly and two care packages. Since addresses frequently change, please send your student's address to Tammy at office@sterlingwesley.org. as soon as you have the address. Thank you!

We want to thank our Wesley family for all the cards, calls, prayers and support we received. Thank you Pastor Paul for the "Hugs".

Jeff, Andrea, and Susie Cedro

On behalf of the Missions Committee we would just like to thank those who have done mission work this year, the groups who went to South Dakota and Bolivia, those who volunteer for PADS, Habitat for Humanity, our local food pantries and those who help serve meals to those less fortunate, given products or money to any of our mission outreaches and anybody or anything I may have missed mentioning. Wesley has a strong commitment to mission work and we hope that continues throughout this year and the future. We will be having several mission projects coming up so be on the lookout for them.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

In an effort to use our resources more wisely, please check the maintenance closet in the activity room for paint before you begin a painting project. Last year, more than 50 cans of paint were placed in the trash; many of these cans had less than an inch of paint used, but they were so old, they were no longer usable. Such action is bad for our landfills and also our budget. If you have a painting project to do at the church, please check the supply of paint we currently have and try to use up leftovers. If you purchase paint for a project, please label the can with the location where the paint was used and the date. If you have questions, please see Jan Glover. Hopefully, these actions will result in a more efficient use of our paint supply. Thank you for your efforts to be good stewards!

FINALLY!!!

At long last, the playground is finished! This project has taken two years to complete due to a number of unforeseen circumstances. Huge “thank yous” are in order to our volunteers! Tracy DuRall researched and sought bids on the equipment, fence, and mulch. Rory Smith dealt with the difficulties of the first incorrect installation of the equipment for almost a year.

Dave Fredericks wrestled the sod cutter and won! He moved the sod and helped plant it along the church foundation. Curt Greenfield brought a loader and helped to move the sod and level the ground. Bill Parker installed sod and assisted in laying landscaping fabric. Amy Lopez stained wood, arranged the landscaping fabric, and spread mulch. Mary Downes laid fabric and spread mulch. Randy Clodfelter loaned his trailer to Steve Downes, so he could bring in his tractor to move the mulch from the parking lot to the playground. Steve spent three hours moving mulch! Rory, Steve, and Andy Pitsch secured boards to the fence to hold the mulch in place.

Benches for the nursery workers were donated by Tracy Durall and Lynn Majewski.

We are so blessed to have so many talented and giving men and women in our church family! Their “can do” attitude always pulls us through! Thank you for all you have done to make a splendid play area for our kids!

Dave Fredericks and Jan Glover, Trustee Co-chairs

See more photos on page 6!



Wesley UMC - 2019 Mission Trip to Mission, South Dakota



Early on Sunday, July 21, a group of twelve, headed out to Tree of Life Relief Ministry in Mission, SD. After some “bumps in the road”, we arrived late at night and prepared for our work in the week to come. We split into two groups to tackle our different projects.

One group worked on Ed’s Church remodeling two bathrooms, painting stairs and the outside windows and finishing an outdoor mural. We put in a lot of drywall, painted, repaired plumbing and put in new sub floor. Ed’s church is used primarily for rehabilitation services and having facilities available is essential to their mission. We enjoyed getting to know Pastor Ed, Pat the next door neighbor and care taker and Pat’s dogs Ben and Bear.

The other group worked with a family to convert what was basically a shed in a field into a tiny house for a family of three that would withstand a South Dakota winter. They wired the house for electricity including a breaker box, put in insulation, installed a back door and more windows, constructed stairs and put up paneling for the walls. The kids especially bonded with the son, Kaktus, who was like one of the group. Kaktus and his mom Lisa were working beside everyone by the end of the trip and when we left were fully prepared to finish the work that was left. The family is involved in rodeo and showed the kids bull riding, roping and let everyone ride their horses. Horses are a big part of Lakota culture so it was really special.

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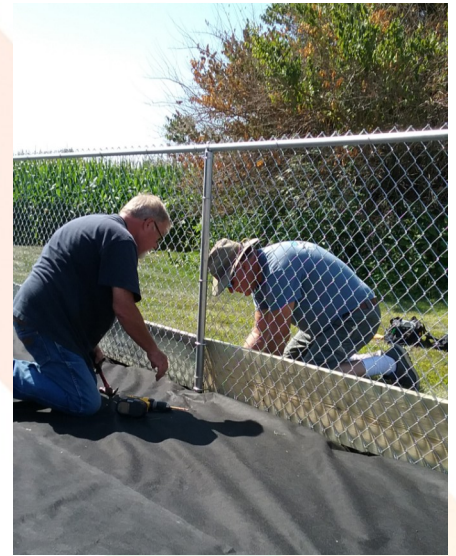
Some members of the group also visited the soup kitchen and thrift store to lend a hand.

We had a chance to attend several cultural events including pow wow dancing, meeting with the lineal chief Hollow Horn Bear who discussed the Lakota beliefs and a demonstration of ancient games. Most of us agreed, however, that the best cultural experiences were with the people we worked with in the community on a daily basis. On our “off day”, we went to Wall Drug, Mt. Rushmore and explored Custer State Park including jumping into Sylvan Lake. We did include a stop at Menards into our “off day” so we could gather the supplies needed to finish our projects.

This trip was an amazing experience where we all learned a lot about ourselves, each other, another culture and grew in our faith. There were many moments throughout our journey where you could see God at work. We were all very grateful for the opportunity to serve the Tree of Life for the week. Thank you all for all of your donations, support and prayers throughout our journey.



Making progress in the playground area!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM DEDICATES

September to our FAMILIES - CHILDREN - YOUTH

September 1st Labor Day Sunday – Kids of all ages! Draw a picture of a job you LOVE to do!
Pick up supplies (paper & crayons) on your way into worship!
After worship, put your finished drawing in the box by worship bags.
Be sure to put your name on it! (and what the job is that you like to do!)

September 8th 10AM Worship brings an opportunity to seek out the hurting in our community through awareness, education, and compassion. Pastor Paul, along with guest speakers Cheryl Robinson & Jeff Hippen, local educators & parents, and Rev. Ken Zuithoff, CGH Chaplin, will provide both an informative and spiritual presentation about this topic.

A Christian perspective on suicide begins with an affirmation of faith that nothing, including suicide, separates us from the love of God (**Romans 8:38-39**).
2004 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church

“Overall, our call as Christians in the midst of a suicide crisis comes from Jesus. When Jesus saw hurting people, he drew close to them, cared for them, sent his disciples to care for them. Our call, then, is clear. We must seek out the broken even when it is messy and difficult. The church without the broken is a broken church. We are the agents of ministry led by the Holy Spirit to share the love of Jesus with the hurting and point them to a Savior who loves them dearly. Our churches should always be places of safety and community for those wrestling with any issue, especially those involving mental health.” *The Exchange with Ed Stetzer (adapted slightly)*

Respecting the sensitivity of this topic, Christian Ed Team invites all children age 3 years & older to join adult leaders Carol Cravatta, Kris Quick, & youth Ethan Cravatta in the activity room following the Children's Message. They'll have their own time of worship with a "Matthew (4:19) Meeting - Come, Follow me". Complete with a Bible story, scripture & lesson, craft, & additional activities! Please pick up your children promptly following worship in the Activity Room! :)

September 15th Open House at Parsonage for the whole church! 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Food & refreshments provided by Pastor Paul & his wife Rosa in thankfulness for the love & welcome extended to them upon their arrival to Sterling.

EVERYONE is WELCOME!

KIDS - Help decorate their sidewalk with chalk! Selfies with Pastor Paul by the chalk drawings!

September 22nd Third graders receive Bibles during worship service
Ava White, Molly Papoccia, & Myla Wendelken

Sunday School Families PICNIC – Pastor Paul Grilling hot dogs for all Sunday School children and their families after 10am worship! (HIS IDEA!)

Followed by an official Ribbon Cutting for the finished playground area!
KIDS will decorate a sign a HUGE THANK YOU card to all those who helped to make this project complete, with a group picture on the playground!

September 29th Sunday School BEGINS!!! STAY TUNED for details....

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Pitsch/Education Team
Are you desiring to plug in on any of these events? Comments/thoughts/questions?
Feel free to text or call! 815-499-3802

Birthdays

September 5 Haleigh Freas
September 8 Connor Carlson
September 9 Karen Abele
September 10 Wes White
September 11 Nancy Wait
September 12 Judy Randall
September 14 Leigh Michel
September 16 JP Papoccia, Diantha Wentling
September 21 Brooklynn Freas, Elisa Gatz,

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

Anniversaries

Sept. 10 Bill & Peg Burke
Sept. 14 Dave & Sharon Siex
Sept. 16 Louis & Barb Quick
Sept. 17 Al & Diane Rude
Sept. 28 Steve & Lynn Majewski

Bread Hosts

Thanks to Jamie Schwingle for hosting month of August.

Hostess for September is Barb Quick



Servers for September- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
Sept. 1	Steve & Amy Lopez	Steve Downes
Sept. 8	Graves Family	Sharon Siex
Sept. 15	Zach Glazier, Randy Smith	Steve Downes
Sept. 22	Zach Glazier, Renee Duncan	Aaron Marken
Sept. 29	↓	Nancy Pitsch

Coffee Hosts

Sept. 1 Andy & Nancy Pitsch
Sept. 8 Steve & Amy Lopez
Sept. 15
Sept. 22
Sept. 29 ↓

Servers for September 10 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
Sept. 1	Warren & Carolyn Heuck, Bob & Cheryl Allen	Elisa Gatz
Sept. 8	Antonio & Amber Castaneda, Jason, Jaz'Mya, Jionni	Sharon Siex
Sept. 15	Curt & Jamie Greenfield, Josh & Amber	Carolyn Heuck
Sept. 22	Bill & Max Parker, Rick & Karen Palmer	Aaron Marken
Sept. 29	Denny, Alice, Chelsey Vetter, Cameron Taylor	Rick Palmer

Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.
Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968

Website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Email: office@sterlingwesley.org

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.

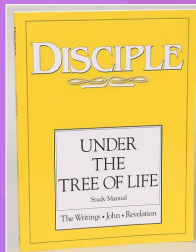
Mission Corner

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.

GET SIGNED UP!



See the sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall for the upcoming 32 week Disciple Study. Study starts Sept. 18!

Photo time slots are filling up! We want **YOU** to be in our new directory! See our web page at sterlingwesley.org (photo scheduling) or contact Tammy in the office to get signed up. There is **NO COST** to have your photo taken, and you will receive a **FREE** photo directory **PLUS** an 8x10!