

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2019

From Our Pastor...



Church Again!



During the visit to two missionaries in Geneva, Switzerland, I went to the International Monument to the Reformation, which is usually known as the Reformation Wall. It has many reformers,

events, and documents of the Protestant Reformation. The Wall is located at the University of Geneva, founded by John Calvin, one of the significant figures on the Wall. The city of Geneva offered a safe place for asylum seekers who pursued the reformation, and Calvin was one of them.

While standing before the Reformation Wall, I imagined what they might have thought in their struggles and good fights for the church renewal. What was it they might have felt before the threat? How did God lead them in the movement to lead the churches to an unknown direction from the path of what the Church had been walking in the past? I don't know how to express how I felt at the moment in language, but it was the moment I became calm, overwhelmed, enlightened, and honored.

Church Events

Tuesdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

Wednesdays: Buddy bags packing, 11:30

Disciples Study, 9:30am

Handbells, 5pm

Choir, 6pm

Thursdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

"Parables" Study lead by Nancy Pitsch 6:25pm-7:35pm

Saturdays: Men's Bible study, 8am

November 1: Trustee meeting, 7pm

November 9: Wesleyan Inclusive meeting, 10am-noon Fellowship Hall

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

November 15: Fellowship hall reserved 9:30am-2pm

Ladies luncheon, 11:30am-Stg Candlelight

November 17: Chili cook-off after 10am service

November 19: Wesleyan Inclusive meeting 6:30-8pm Library

Nov. 28 & 29: Office will be closed

I felt like the Holy Spirit was nudging me, “Paul, what have you learned about what they have done? What do you think they have been through? Can you imagine what they might have felt in their faith journey seeking my path, which I had prepared before them, but they had no idea what that was? What do you learn from their faith journey? What are the things you feel that you and your church need to work for me and my people?”

In November, we will have a sermon series on “Church Again” with “ReThink Church.” It is a church renewal campaign that the United Methodist Church has been working on for years. Three main statements of “ReThink Church” have been challenging many Christians and churches: 1) “The church is more than a place to go to Sunday service,” 2) “It is important to live our faith both inside and outside the church walls,” and 3) “Putting our beliefs into action can create systemic change and transform lives.”

This movement is all about God and human beings like you and me in the firm faith that God is unfolding God’s miraculous works in us, with us, and through us. And the first step we ought to do is to open our heart to be inspired by God’s love, to examine where we are and what we believe and what we have done, and to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. I believe that will lead us to seek God’s will among us and to give ourselves to God entirely. It will open our doors to our neighbors near and far who are hungry, sick, and forgotten. It will lead us to listen to and walk with the people who are struggling and whose voices are not heard. And it will finally lead us to God’s love, justice, compassion, and inclusion as we strive to live our lives with open hearts to God and the people around us.

And I want to invite all of us to think about who we are as God’s people and what God is nudging and speaking to us with this theme of the month. Shall we take a journey together with the hope that God is leading us on this journey?

Peace In Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

November Worship Services

November 3

All Saints Sunday

Colossians 3:12-17

“Let Us Be Ordinary Saints”

- Who are the Saints? What makes an ordinary person Saint?
- What’s the point of the mission that Jesus commands us to take?

Who brought you to the church and made you eager to be like Christ?

November 10

Veteran’s Sunday

Matthew 5:14-16

“Who Are We as Church?”

- What is the church? Why is it important to us?
- Do we have the same image of Jesus and his mission?

How can we be a missional church?

November 17

Matthew 9:9-13

“Gift of God, Follow Me”

- Have you questioned why not many young people come to church?
- What does it mean to come to church?

What does Jesus call us to be and do as the body of Christ?

November 24

Romans 12:9-10,13, 15-17

“What Defines Us the Church?”

- Why do many people like social media?
- What are we longing for?

What makes us be the church?



Thanksgiving Baskets Donations

Wesley is collecting for the Township's Thanksgiving Baskets. Each basket costs approximately \$30. We will be collecting until November 17th. Please place donations in the ceramic turkey located on the Mission's Table.

Our goal is to raise enough for 25 baskets.

Wesley will be Bell Ringing at Farm and Fleet on Saturday December 7th from 8 am to 8 pm. Watch for sign up sheets!

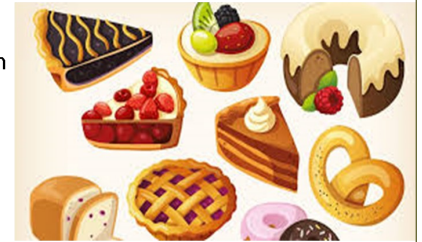
The 2nd Annual Missions Chili Cook Off and Dessert Auction Fundraiser will be held immediately following second service.



November 17th

Please sign up to provide Chili or a Dessert

Sign up sheets are on the Mission's Table along with an information sheet. Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd around 12:30.



Encourage friends and family to come join us for a fun time!

Thanksgiving envelopes this year will be going to FISH.

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.” Ecclesiastes 4:9

Truly this verse applies to our church family. A perfect example is the union of 20 diligent workers that cleaned, polished, vacuumed, and dusted our church on Saturday, October 12th, our fall work day. Teams were assigned to various areas: sanctuary, kitchen, fellowship hall, lobbies, and classrooms. In addition, a team worked outside (despite the cold winds) to store furniture and hoses, install boundary markers for the snow plow, and prepare the grounds for the upcoming winter season. As teams completed the work for their area, members continued to assist other teams that had not yet finished their tasks. What a wonderful example of generosity and tender care for each other as well as for our building! Thank you to the trustees who provided delicious treats to keep all our workers energized physically, mentally, and spiritually!

Abundant blessings to all!

Congratulations! Stephanie and Alex Jakobs are the proud parents of Reece Edward Jakobs. Reece was born October 22 at 2:20 PM. He weighed 6 pounds and is 20 inches long. Reece is the grandson of Mary and Russ Spitzer and the nephew of Jeff.



Would you like to join the bell group?

We practice Wednesday's from 5-6 and play once a month. You can play bells if you can count to four! If you would like to participate, please call Mary Nelmes (815-535-5038) for more details.

"Joy to the World, the Lord is come" (Mason/Watts) sends us good news of the Christmas season approaching. Help send musical Christmas greetings to some of our members/friends who are unable to attend church by Christmas caroling. The more, the merrier!

Who: Everyone of all ages. Babies to senior citizens. (Children are the most popular singers, we have found.) No musical experience necessary. A joyful heart will do it all.

When: Sunday, December 1, after second service. Meet with coats, etc. in fireside room. Song lyrics will be provided. Will carpool. Driving directions will be given for each group.

Lunch: After caroling we'll meet for lunch at Angelo's II on E. Lincolnway, Sterling for food and fellowship. Dutch treat.

Sign up: Please sign up so we'll know how many people for each group. One family member can sign up the family, and put the number in the family group. Friends, who want to be in same group, sign on same line, with number. Also we'll take a count of those who will be eating at Angelo's II; so we can have a reservation there.

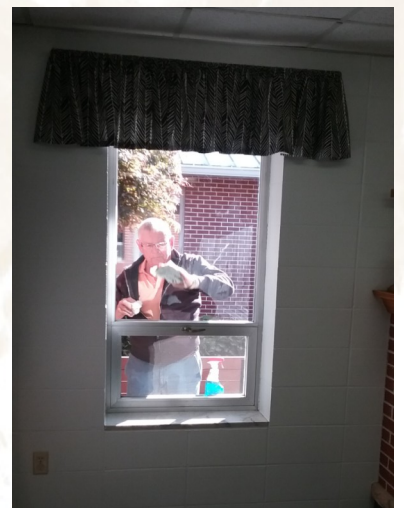
Singing lifts our spirits and helps make our day too. Make this one of your first celebrations of Christ's birth.

For questions, contact Gloria Grant or Mary Nelmes.

Choir members celebrating Dylan & Judy's Birthday's



Some of our members on work day.



Birthdays

November 1	Fred Bantrup, Alyssa Cedro, James Fitzanko	November 16	Blake Parker
November 3	Walter Lindsley	November 18	Edd Rosser
November 6	Mary Anne Batten	November 19	Holliana Drew
November 8	Marc Melton	November 20	Jionni Castaneda
November 10	Gloria Rodriguez, Grace Wetzell	November 22	Jean Partridge
November 11	Bill Parker	November 23	Bill Abate, Ava Lyon, Rosemary Davis
November 13	Jan Glover, James Morris, Sena Warkins	November 25	Mary Spitzer
November 14	Logan Ayala	November 28	Linh Melton
November 15	Jamie Schwingle	November 29	Ava Penaflor

Anniversaries

Nov. 6	Tim & Jamie Schwingle
Nov. 11	Steve & Kay Bierman
Nov. 20	Curt & Jaime Greenfield
Nov. 22	Bill & Sue Abate, Don & Sena Warkins
Nov. 30	John & Linda Larson

Bread Hosts

Thanks to Sharon Siex for hosting September.

Hostess for November is Joan Partridge and friends.



Servers for November- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
Nov. 3	Zack Glazier & Randy Smith	Rory Smith
Nov. 10	Brian & Chris Babel	Randy or Pam Clodfelter
Nov. 17	↓	Nancy Pitsch
Nov. 24		Dylan Hinrichs

Coffee Hosts

Nov. 3	Norma Church & Beth Jacobs
Nov. 10	Dave Fredericks, Darlene Davis, Andy Pitsch
Nov. 17	Bruce & Debbie Kramer
Nov. 24	Rory & Rita Smith

Servers for November 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
Nov. 3	Joan, Jean, Gyneth Partridge Sue Hondley	Bill, Max Parker, Isaac Halverson Aaron Marken	Mary Spitzer
Nov. 10	Darlene Davis, Carol Shaw	Roger, Cal, Lowell Jacobs David Siex, Cory Canas	Mary Spitzer
Nov. 17	Joan, Jean, Gyneth Partridge Sue Hondley	Bill, Max Parker, Mary Downes Beth, Kyllian, Ronyn Jacobs	Nancy Pitsch
Nov. 24	Mary Anne Batten Norma Church	Truedson Family	Steve Downes

Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.
Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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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.
- **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 FISH food pantry in November.