

The Chimes

December 2019

From Our Pastor...



Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

As we enter into the Advent season, we celebrate Jesus' coming into the world. It was something beyond our imagination. It was the biggest scandal in human history. It was God's incarnation. Speaking and sometimes whispering through Prophets and people of God for years and years, God came down to be embodied in the flesh, showing God's extravagant love for God's creation, "for God so loved the world." (John 3:16) It was all about hope, peace, joy, and love given to us.

Then, what does it mean to us that Jesus comes in a world we are living in?

What does the world look like today? What image comes first when you think of the world? Fear, uncertainty, doubt, anxiety, and many negative and cynical feelings and emotions fill the world, whether people recognize or not. We've witnessed the brutality of human natures driven by selfishness, narcissism, rage, and revenge for the past year: gun violence, human trafficking, challenge of public trust, battles in many countries, and thousands of refugees. It seems like a dark night, so dark that no one could see even one step forward. Then, can we still sing a song of hope, peace, joy, and love in this world?

Continued on page 2...





Continued from page 1...

Yes, we still have hope.

Yes, we still pursue peace.

Yes, we still make joy overflow from us.

Yes, we still love one another, because we have Jesus in whom God reveals God's love and care for us.

One of the reasons I like John Wesley is that he asked himself and his friends two questions every day: "How is it with your soul?" and "What can I/we do from where I'm/we're standing?" The first question is checking our spiritual relationship with God, and the second one is about finding the way we live our lives as God's people, in order to bring hope, peace, joy, and love in a world we live in. It starts from where we stand. We need to listen to people's crying, be sensitive to the pain of the world, and to pray for it every day, because we are God's people and because it is who we are called to be. Yes, we are the Advent people who bring hope, peace, joy, and love of God from where we live. God has chosen us to be the Advent people to be the hands and voices of God in this world with fear and uncertainty. Let's keep working on it from our church and local community, and let it flow into our County, State, and the world.



"You are the light of the word. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ...
Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
(Mt. 5:14-16)

Peace In Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

December Worship Schedule

Dec. 1

First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:10-11, 15
"Hope of Prophets"

Dec. 8

Second Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:67, 76, 79, 3:7-8, 10-11
"The Way of Peace"

Dec. 15

Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 12:1-6
"Song of Joy"

Dec. 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent
1 John 4:7-12
"Love Upon Us at Christmas"

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve services at 7pm
and 11pm

Dec. 29

Sunday after Christmas
Luke 2:25-32
"What Do We See?"



Thank you!

Dear SWUMC Family,
I can't thank you enough for the gifts of the Pastor's Appreciation Month. My appreciation note was posted on Facebook, but I recognize that it doesn't reach many of our precious members.

Steak, selfie stick, and ice cream, and more. I think our church knows what I love.

Thank you so much for your love, support, prayer, and your presence in my life.



Many blessings,
Pastor Paul



This year our children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 15th, at the 10 a.m. service.

Kids of all ages are welcome!

Practice will be on Saturday, December 14th at 9 a.m.

BRUNCH will be served BETWEEN SERVICES! The Truedson, Halverson, Drew, and Wendelken Families are hosting the first of several Sunday brunches planned for our fellowship & food enjoyment! A free will offering will go towards the sending our Wesley UMC youth to JOY Camp this June. So, COME FOR BRUNCH! between

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

December 1: Caroling after 10am service

December 5: Red Cross Blood Drive at Wesley, 8am-7:30pm

December 6: PADS shift, 7pm-7am

December 7: Bell Ringing at Farm & Fleet

December 9: Ad council meeting, 7pm

December 11: Women's breakfast, 8:30am at Benny's

December 25: Office will be closed

There will not be Men's Bible study on December 28th.

There will not be a ladies luncheon this month

Trunk or Treat 2019



College Care Packages

We will be assembling and packing the college care packages at 1:00 PM on Monday, December 2nd in the fellowship hall. If you have a college student and have not given Tammy his/her address please do so as we don't want to forget anyone!

If you wish to make a donation to help cover the postage fees, they would be most welcome. It costs us over \$100 to mail the packages.

Anyone is welcome to help pack the boxes. For more information please contact Sue Abate at 815-625-0539 or Gloria Grant at 815-625-9994.

PERFECT PRESENT

The Wesley Memorial Garden offers the perfect opportunity to honor your loved one in a beautiful setting and a place where you and your family can visit easily every day. Keith Kimball donated the garden to honor his late wife, Annie. It has proven to be a perfect spot to meditate and connect in spirit.

Granite Works in Dixon has done the plaques that are currently in place. You may use another service if you so desire. Plaques can be purchased in two sizes: 7 3/4" by 7 3/4" for \$70 or 15 1/2" by 15 1/2" for \$250. Four foot benches are also available for \$2500. Specifications for the number of characters on each can be found on an informational sheet on the table just outside the sanctuary.

Three to five months are necessary to complete the plaques, and six to seven months for the benches. Now would be the perfect time to order, so they are in place by next spring. Please contact Tammy in the church office for more details on how to order.

Wesley UMC Veteran's Day service



Inclusive Wesleyans News

On Saturday, November 9th, we had a great meeting with friends from neighboring churches who believe in the full inclusivity of sexual orientation in the UMC. We had a roundtable discussion of where we are personally as attendees and where we thought our churches were on inclusivity. A discussion was had about the next steps in our own local churches. It is exciting to have these discussions and begin to set goals to our dreams as a fully inclusive church. We scheduled another meeting in February, where we hope that some more churches will be able to join us. A special thanks go to those who provided our goodies to eat and to those who organized our time together.



Dear Members of the Wesley family,



We are writing on behalf of the church finance team. For the first time in recent years our income will fall short of our expenses, so we need our members to consider increasing their support of our church.

We need everyone's support to continue the programs we have at Wesley. With your support Wesley can continue to offer a great Sunday school program, an inspired music program, meaningful worship opportunities, enjoyable fellowship opportunities, mission and community programs plus opportunities for everyone to deepen their walk with Jesus Christ.

In II Corinthians Paul exhorts us to be "a cheerful giver...God's grace abounds toward you, always having all sufficiency in all things and abundance for every good work." In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus is explaining our duty to use well all the good things God has given us.

One of the ways to live thankfully is to return a portion of the material gifts God has entrusted to our care. This letter is inviting you to give from your gratitude for the blessings in your life.

We are Christ's disciples in our community. Through our gifts of time, talent and money we can carry forth his works to our friends and neighbors. For it is in giving that we receive.

May God bless you in all things you do.

Thank you for your faithfulness,

Ed Andersen - Finance Chair

Ed Andersen

Paul Lee - Pastor

Rev. Paul H. Lee

Denver and Sharon Wasson would like all of you to have their new phone number!
You may reach them at 520-685-9477.

If you have not picked up your new member directory yet, they will be in the fellowship hall. You may also stop in the office to pick yours up Mon-Fri before noon.



Christmas Caroling Has Been A Long Time Tradition here at Wesley!
Pictured to the right are carolers from approximately 2009. Won't you join us this year!

All ages are welcome on Sunday, December 1, after the second service.
Everyone will meet in the fireside room with all your gear. There will be a "Dutch treat" lunch afterwards at Angelos's II on East Lincolnway. See your copy of the November Chimes for all of the details!
For questions, you can contact Mary Nelmes or Gloria Grant. They would also appreciate a head count for lunch.



The Missions Committee would like to again point out what a great congregation we have here at Wesley! You raised \$583.66 for PADS from loose coins in October, \$60 for World Communion Sunday and \$1215 for the Chili Cook Off/ Dessert Auction Mission Fundraiser. We would like to thank all of those who participated by cooking, baking, donating, eating and cleaning up, we could not do this without you!

Winners were Beth Mathew and Andy Pitsch for Chili also Marianne Rosser and Donnelly Dutcher for Desserts. I personally would like to thank the committee members for all their hard work this year, I am truly blessed to be co-chair of such a great group

Roberta.



A BIG Thank You

to all who donated to the Thanksgiving baskets this year. We not only met our goal of 25 baskets, but we exceeded it by raising enough for 37!

Thanksgiving Baskets



CAN YOU HELP BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR?

Good Neighbor Emergency Center, which our congregation has supported during the past 20 years with volunteers and financial contributions, is running very low on funds. Good Neighbor provides emergency financial assistance to needy families facing utilities shut-off.

December 29th is Fifth Sunday and we will be taking a special collection for the Good Neighbor Emergency Fund. Please use an envelope from the pew and be sure to mark it accordingly. Thank you!



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.
Give blood.



Sterling Rock Falls Community Blood Drive

Wesley United Methodist Church
Community Room
2200 16th Avenue

Thursday, December 5, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Call 1-800-733-2767 to sign up, or you can log on to redcrossblood.org

Birthdays

December 2 Derek Fitzanko, Coralee Jacobs
December 4 Emily Schwingle
December 12 Kay Clark
December 13 Sue Morris, Julie VanAusdal
December 15 Bill Adams, Luke Stutzman
December 16 Nick Ceruzzi, Shane Williams
December 18 Zephan Drew
December 19 Jonathan Abele, Chad Duncan

December 20 Mahala Larson
December 22 Elliot Noble, Sally Unterzuber
December 23 Cindy Melton, Elaine Hilger
December 24 Lenna Drew
December 27 Sarah Rodriguez, Sierra Sotelo
December 30 Mallory Osborn
December 31 Maddux Osborn

Anniversaries

Dec. 11 Rich & Sue Morris
Dec. 12 Roger & Nancy Wait
Dec. 16 Darrin & Amy Driscoll
Dec. 28 Lowell & Coralee Jacobs
Dec. 29 Bob & Marty Egert
Dec. 31 Scott & Emily Morgan,
 Rick & Karen Palmer

Coffee Hosts

Dec. 1 Bob & Cheryl Allen
Dec. 8 Andy & Nancy Pitsch
Dec. 15 David & Sharon Siex
Dec. 22 Tim Schwingle
Dec. 29 Rich & Sue Morris

Bread Hosts

Thanks to Joan Partridge & friends for hosting November. Hostess for December is Beth Mathew.



Servers for December- 8 a.m.

| | Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes | Liturgist |
|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Dec. 1 | Zack Glazier & Steve Lopez | Amy Lopez |
| Dec. 8 | Fitzanko Family | Zack Glazier |
| Dec. 15 | ↓ | Nancy Pitsch |
| Dec. 22 | | Nancy Pitsch |
| Dec. 29 | | Renee Duncan |

Advent Wreath

Dec. 1: 8am - Zack Glazier/Darla Ewing
 10am - Greg Bontz/Amy Viering Bontz
Dec. 8: 8am - Steve & Mary Downes
 10am - Rick & Karen Palmer
Dec. 15: 8am - Brian & Chris Babel/Jan Glover
 10am - Johnson Family
Dec. 22: 8am - Renee Duncan/Rebecca Tieman
 10am - Elaine Hilger/Mary Anne Batten
Christmas Eve
 7pm - Greenfield Family
 11pm - Clodfelter family

Servers for December 10 a.m.

| | Greeters | Ushers/Acolytes | Liturgist |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| Dec. 1 | Rosie Davis, Debbie Kramer | Wendelken Family | Bruce Kramer |
| Dec. 8 | Bruce & Debbie Kramer | Greenfield Family | Rick Palmer |
| Dec. 15 | ↓ | Bill, Max Parker, Halverson's | Aaron Marken |
| Dec. 22 | | Andy & Nancy Pitsch Rory & Rita Smith | Elisa Gatz |
| Dec. 29 | ↓ | Greg & Amy Bontz Cory Canas & Katie Herath | Carolyn Heuck |

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.
- Shampoo for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit Loaves and Fishes

Thank You Bell Ringers!

Make a Difference with
Every *Ring* Volunteer *bell ringers* are the difference between an empty kettle and one that raises the funds that sustain the help The *Salvation Army* gives all year long. They rely on money raised in red kettles to serve more millions of people in need each year.

Thank you to all of our Wesley members that are signed up to ring on Saturday, December 7th at Farm & Fleet. You are making a difference by helping the people right here in our own community!

