

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | FEBRUARY 2020

From Our Pastor



On the last Sunday of January, I mentioned about the furious storm that John Wesley encountered in the ship on the way to America. He was scared and terrified that he thought the ship was about to be broken and that he was going to die soon. But he found twenty-six German Moravians in the ship. Unlike Wesley, they were gathered to sing and praise God. I didn't go further in my sermon on that Sunday.

But the scene reminds me of Jesus and his disciples in a boat when they encountered a storm (Mark 4:33-41). His disciples were terrified, not knowing what to do. Probably, some of them were running here and there trying to help sailors. Some others were crying and screaming. I love Rembrandt H. van Rijn's painting, "the Storm on the Sea of Galilee." It helps picture what it might have been. It is so scary. But when they found him, Jesus was sleeping calm. And Jesus rather asked his disciples, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

The storm. It is a part of our lives. We have experienced many kinds of storms. Sometimes it would take place in a relationship with your beloved ones, family, relatives, or friends. It could happen in your work or with co-workers. It could be health issues. And it could happen to the church as well.

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Church Events

Tuesdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

Wednesdays: Buddy bags packing, 11:30

Disciples Study, 9:30am

Handbells/Choir, 5pm/6pm

Thursdays: Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

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

Saturdays: Men's Bible study, 8am

Feb. 1: Men's Group to No Regret

Feb. 2: Brunch between services

Feb. 6: Greeting card ministry, 9:30am

Feb. 7: PADS shift, 7pm - 7am

Feb. 8: Laity Convocation (Sycamore UMC)

Feb. 13: Women's breakfast, 8:30am-Benny's

Feb. 16: GC 2020 Conversation (3-5pm Rock-
ford Christ UMC, 7-9pm Sycamore UMC)

Feb. 18: SPRC meeting, 7pm

Feb 20: Study group-Lent sermon series, 6:25pm

Feb. 21: Ladies luncheon, 11:30am-A's Kitchen

Feb. 22: Leadership Training, 9:30am

Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday service, 7pm

Many members of our church told me that they heard the news about our denomination, and some of them watched some interviews and presentations about the future of our denomination. Surely, in our denomination-wide, we are living in a transitional season, upheaval. We don't know what decision will be made at the coming General Conference in May and we don't know yet what the denomination and conference will look like. There are some rumors, as well. It is like a storm that disciples encountered in the boat. In this season, I want us to see Jesus, who calls us to calm and to see what Jesus would do. And actually, I think I see the light and hope that is coming. So, as I mentioned a few times, I want us to focus on our mission and our church as disciples of Jesus Christ and the body of Christ.

As we are having a sermon series on John Wesley, if I may summarize our Methodism in three words, those will be "Love," "Grace," and "Humility." These three words are manifested in all of his powerful sermons and ministries, and penetrate the core of the Methodist doctrines. We had three sermons on John Wesley, the Founder of the Methodist Movement: his childhood, education, and yearning for purity, as well as his failure, rejection, and pain. And we will continue the series in February. And the rest of the sermon series will be about the critical belief of what we may learn from John Wesley: Grace and our calling. Let's find the lessons we need in our lives and in our times. And I believe it is perfectly God's time for us to have Lent starting at the end of the month, which claims us to self-examine and repent. May God speak to us, give the wisdom to understand, and courage to respond to God's calling, and strength to live by God's will. Amen.

Peace In Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

February Worship Schedule

Feb. 2, 2020 (Methodist Heritage 4)

Ephesians 2:8-10

< Grace; the Gift of God >

Feb. 9, 2020 (Methodist Heritage 5)

James 2:14-18

< Sanctification in Love >

Feb. 16, 2020 (Methodist Heritage 6)

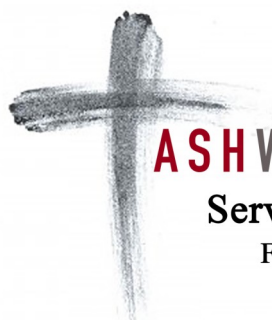
Epistle to Romans 13:11-14

< Marching Together in Christ >

Feb. 23, 2020

Luke 3:21-22

<Your Label: Beloved Child of God>



ASHWEDNESDAY

Service at 7 PM

Feb. 26, 2020

The Member Care Committee

met recently and thought the congregation should know all the areas we cover. Here is a list of all the sub-committees:

- Take Them a Meal
- College Care Packages
- Church Transportation
- Prayer Chain
- Greeting Card Ministry
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Parents' Night Out
- Friendship Bread
- Shut in Visits
- Funeral Lunches
- Children's Worship Bags
- Wesley Women's Activities

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities please contact Pastor Paul, Sue Abate (815-625-0539) or Sue Klock (815-441-2987). We can always use help and would love to see new faces.

Let's Paint!

The Men's Bible Study group will be painting the main entrance hallway on

Saturday, February 8th, from 10am to noon. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Andy Pitsch at 815-499-4940.

The Trustees will also be painting in the fellowship hall on the same day, please sign up on the sheets in the fellowship hall.



Fifth Sunday

There will be a 5th Sunday potluck on March 29th after the 10:00 AM service. No sign-up sheet, just bring whatever sounds good to you ! If you are unable to bring a dish please plan to stay and eat, **there is always plenty!** Hope to see you there!



Attention Wesley UMC Ladies!

Women's breakfast has been changed! Starting this month, we will meet on **Thursdays**. Same time, same place. We hope you can join us on February 13th!

From The Missions Team

Loose coins in January went to Betty Tshala-Zambia, a total of **\$402.74** was collected.

Thank you to everyone who donated the items for Loaves and Fishes. We received 8 packages of pancake mix; 8 packages of large plates; 5 packages of small plates; 6 packages of napkins; and 6 packages of small cups. Loaves and Fishes is almost 9 years old, and cannot survive without community support. These items are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Sue Abate

Lowell and I would like to say a big **THANK YOU** for all the cards and messages we have received since we have been in AZ. We have truly been blessed by a great church family.

We are both well and enjoying our time here in this weather, although it has been unusually cold this winter it beats IL weather. We have been fortunate to play a lot of golf though and my game is getting better.

We hope you are all doing well and are looking forward to Spring.

God Bless each of you,
Lowell & Coralee Jacobs

Dear Wesley Family

Thank you for the get well cards during my treatments. I am feeling and look much better.

Michael Quick

CONGRATULATIONS

to Jaime Greenfield for earning her Master's degree!



During January worship "Matthew Meetings" for children, we've introduced John Wesley, the founder of our Wesley United Methodist Church, his Holy Club, and the 22 Questions it's members would ask/answer everyday!

"In 1729, while John Wesley was a student at Oxford, he started a club with his brother Charles. It was a private club and It was soon mockingly dubbed "The Holy Club" by some of his fellow collegians. The club members rigorously self-examined themselves **everyday** by asking the following 22 questions"

Look over the list; (some questions are left out; a bit too complicated for children. The questions below have been reworded so as to aid understanding for children) cut them apart, toss in a jar or baggie, and read one a day with your child(ren)! At dinner time, as part of bedtime routine, during a daily commute, or whenever there's "down time" for listening to your child's heart! I know you all have crazy schedules! But take a baggie full of these questions along with you; it may replace screen time while you're waiting in a restaurant, doctor's office, carline, or 10 minute pocket of time in the day!

Be sure to answer them yourselves as well; give your child (ren) the gift of hearing how you struggle/cope with making good choices and staying close to God's will for your life! Many of the questions may be new considerations for parents as well as children. John Wesley's questions of self-examination still speak directly into our lives and hearts as they did over 200 years ago to believers.

ENJOY – GROW with your child (ren) in the awareness of Christ "in whom we live, and move and have our being" Acts 17:28.

In the Name & Spirit of Christ,

Nancy Pitsch

PS Have we told you lately that WE LOVE YOUR CHILDREN????? WE DO!!

1. Do I act like I am better than other people?
2. Am I always HONEST? Or do I exaggerate?
3. If someone trusts me with something, do I tell other people, or am I trustworthy and keep it to myself?
4. Can I be trusted? If I say I will (or won't) do something, do I keep my word?
5. Did the Bible "live in me" today?
6. Did I read my Bible today?
7. Do I take time to pray every day?
8. When was the last time I talked to someone about God?
9. Do I pray about the money I spend?
10. Do I go to bed when parents tell me? Do I wake up when I'm supposed to?
11. Do I disobey God in anything?
12. Do I do some things I know are wrong to do?
13. Do I ever feel defeated in my life? (like I am not good enough, or loved enough, or smart enough?)
14. Am I ever jealous? Grouchy?
15. How do I spend my spare time?
16. Is there anyone I make fun of? Anyone I don't like so I act mean towards?
17. Do I ever grumble or complain?
18. Is Jesus 'real' to me? Do I understand that Jesus "lives in me"?

Birthdays

February 1	Debbie Hodges	February 20	Jack Graves
February 2	Carol Cravatta, Al Rude, Fabien Plummer	February 21	Jessica Truedson
February 3	Diane Rude	February 24	Lynn Majewski
February 7	Stacey Stutzke	February 25	Mary Michel
February 8	Brandon Fredericks	February 28	Holly Taylor-Vrhel
February 12	Kari Hansen, Warren Heuck		
February 16	Rachael Turffs		
February 17	Tracy DuRall, Liz White		
February 18	Corrine Smith, Erma Robinson		
February 19	Mary Nelmes		



Anniversaries

February 13	Nick & Shay Papoccia
February 14	Dave & Roberta Fredericks
February 15	Luke & Phyllis Stutzman
February 23	Doug & Ann Wiersema



Coffee Hosts

February 2	Steve & Mary Downes
February 9	Tim Schwingle
February 16	Beth Jacobs, Norma Church, Darlene Davis
February 23	Beth Jacobs, Kay Clark, Darlene Davies

Servers for February- 8 a.m.

	Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
Feb. 2	Nancy Pitsch/Rebecca Tieman	Zack Glazier
Feb. 9	Randy & Pam Clodfelter	Rory Smith
Feb. 16	↓	Nancy Pitsch
Feb. 23	Toby & Debbie Hodges	Aaron Marken

Bread Hosts

Thank You to Antonio & Amber for hosting January.

Host for February is Dylan Hinrichs.



Servers for February 10 a.m.

	Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
Feb. 2	Rosie Davis/Mary Anne Batten	Greenfield Family	Nancy Pitsch
Feb. 9	Don & Sena Warkins	Andy & Nancy Pitsch Bruce & Debbie Kramer	Toby Johnson
Feb. 16	Rosie Davis/Mary Anne Batten	↓	Toby Johnson
Feb. 23	Marc & Cindy Melton	Castaneda Family	Aaron Marken

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.
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit Cienaguita Ngobe Community Health Project in February.