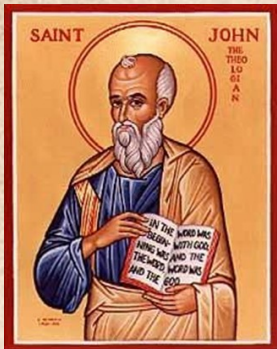


# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | MARCH 2020

## From Our Pastor...

### John's Gospel During the Lenten Season



A movie, the Son of God starts with a man sitting alongside a lake, and he narrates, "In the beginning with the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2) Yes, this person is John, who many believe wrote the Gospel of John.

All the other disciples were put to death while proclaiming the Good News. John was the only one left alive until in his 80s. He has seen Jesus Christ with his eyes and touched him with his hands. He has witnessed all the other disciples and Christ's followers proclaiming the Good News. He has watched those people pass away, and he was one of the few who remained alive among those people. Then, he decides to write the Gospel to hand down to Jesus' followers in his time and us.

John's focus was not to deliver what had happened in detail, because there were already many writings and letters, and because it passed over a half-century from Jesus' resurrection. His primary focus was to proclaim who Jesus is, why he is Christ, the Messiah, and what it means to us.

We all know Jesus Christ, and we believe in him. Yet, I think he is also the One who appears in so many characters, as there are many colors of the Holy Spirit and forms of the beliefs we have.



## Church Events

**Tuesdays:** Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

**Wednesdays:** Disciples Study, 9:30am

Buddy bags packing, 11:30

Handbells/Choir, 5pm/6pm

**Thursdays:** Exercise class, activity room, 5pm

Lent Sermon study lead by Nancy Pitsch 6:25pm-7:35pm

**Fridays:** 5:30 Potluck with Lent Book study at 6:15 lead by Heather Smith

**Saturdays:** Men's Bible study, 8am

**March 2:** Ad Council meeting, 7pm

**March 3:** Christian Education meeting, 1pm

**March 5:** Greeting Card Ministry, 9:30am

**March 8:** Men's breakfast, 9am

**March 10:** Trustee meeting, 6pm - library

**March 12:** Women's breakfast, 8:30am at Benny's

**March 20:** Ladies Luncheon, 11:30-Angelo's

**March 25:** Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1-2:30pm

**March 29:** Fifth Sunday



## *Earth Day Photo Contest and Display!!!*

# **We Want Your Photos!**

**Two Types of Photos:**

**The Beauty of the Nature, only taken by YOU**

**Damage of the Nature (as long as it doesn't have a copyright issue)**

**Collection: March through the Easter (April. 12)**

**Display: From April 19 through May 24 (Sunday before the Pentecost)**

**Any questions? Please find Beth Jacobs or Elisa Gatz**

**Please send your photos to [pharmbutterfly@gmail.com](mailto:pharmbutterfly@gmail.com) (Beth Jacobs)**

*For one of the Stewardship that God has entrusted to us, we have a responsibility to nurture God's creation, to promote the need of our collective works as God's co-workers, and to prevent the harm and damage on the earth.*



Continued from page 1...

We witness that a republican reads Jesus as a republican, and a democrat reads him as a democrat. A progressive reads Jesus as a progressive, and a conservative reads him as a conservative. It is very interesting that it causes many people questioning, curious, or sometimes skeptical.

Luther the Reformer once said, "Only a mad man doesn't doubt," and John Wesley said, "as to all opinions which do not strike at the root of Christianity, we think and let think." During the Lenten season, I invite all of us to have a chance to question and resonate with me. Let's read and think about who Jesus Christ is to us and what he wants us to be. I pray that it will be a meaningful sermon series that helps you to find your own answer to Jesus' asking, "who do you say that I am?"

As we begin the Lent, we move on to the meaning of being a Christian, reading, and meditating on the Gospel of John during this Lenten season. I want to encourage you to read and meditate on John's Gospel together. My hope and prayer are that each one of us finds the meaning to follow Jesus, knowing who he is, what he has done for us, and what he calls us to do and be. Amen.

Peace In Christ,  
*Rev. Paul Lee*

## **March Worship Schedule**

**Mar. 1, 2020 , Lent 1**

John 1:1-5, 14

< *The Word Comes Among Us* >

**Mar. 8, 2020, Lent 2**

John 5:1-9

<Do We Want to Get Well?>

**Mar. 15, 2020, Lent 3**

John 10:7-11, 14:15

<The Good Shepherd>

**Mar. 22, 2020, Lent 4**

John 13:4-5, 34-35, 14:1-3

< *Last Wish and Promise* >

**Mar. 29, 2020, Lent 5**

John 15:12-17

< *Last Wish and Promise* >



**Fifth Sunday** March is a 5th Sunday month and we will be taking a collection for Human Relations Day - Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services. Also working with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

**Thank you Wesley!** Congratulations for your great generosity for Loaves & Fishes! The loose coin collection from December was \$1467.98! A very greatly appreciated gift. It will help to provide many hot breakfasts to those in need. This program cannot succeed without help from the community.

Thank you!  
Sue Abate  
Corresponding Secretary  
Loaves & Fishes

**Just a reminder** that we have PADS March 6th and if we don't cover all shifts, PADS will incur extra costs to cover those shifts. Please see the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. Thank you.

**Bread Host Ministry...** Amy Viering-Bontz will now be the leader of this wonderful ministry! You can contact Amy at 815-716-0877. A **HUGE** Thank You to Sharon Siex for all of her hard work that she put into this ministry, we appreciate you, Sharon!

**Thank You!** I'd like to thank all my church family for the cards and visits while I was in the care center. You have all been so wonderful to me! Sue Hondley

### Greeting Card Ministry Needs Your Help!

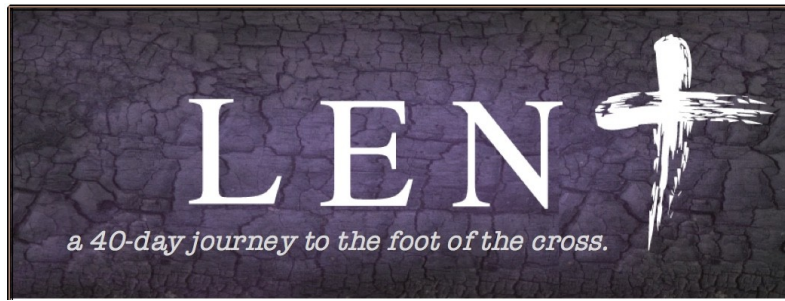
The old saying goes, "Many hands make light work." The Greeting Card Ministry could use a few more hands to help prepare the cards for mailing, Thursday, March 5 at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. No experience necessary. There are a variety of things to do, and you can choose what you would like to do. We laugh and visit as we work. It's fun! Hope to see you there next week!

## Thank you

to all those who hosted the February Brunch for JOY Camp! Fitzanko, Freas, Graves, and Schwingle Families!







Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**



Beginning in March, Sunday School for children (ages 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade) is moving permanently to 10am Worship hour! Our "trial run" in January was unanimously & VERY ENTHUSIASTICALLY received. "Why can't we just always do this?" were the words from our children, parents, and adult/youth leaders. Thank you for your patience during the month of February for us to schedule staff & volunteers and custom design curriculum. We're ready! So bring your children into 10am worship, they will be dismissed after Children's Message into "Matthew Meetings" for worship at their own level. By songs, praise, worship, Scripture, lessons, prayers, crafts, and activities all emphasizing & supporting each Sunday's sanctuary worship.

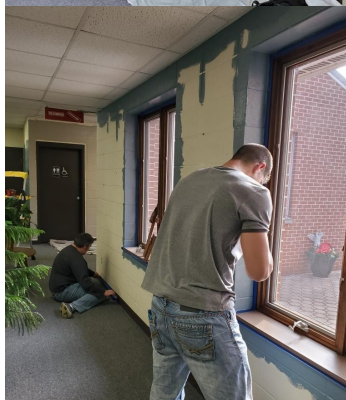
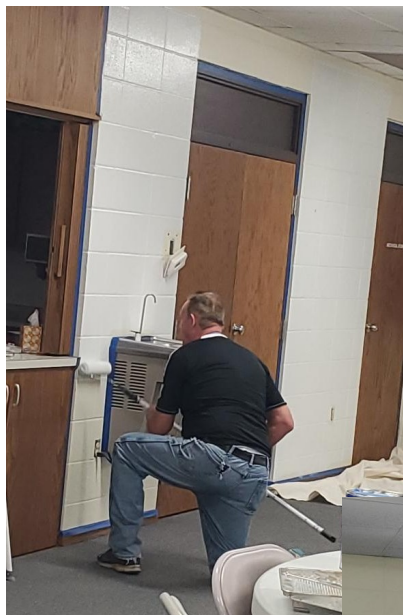
We are SUPER EXCITED to watch this group GROW in faith & understanding of God's LOVE!

Nancy Pitsch, Chairperson of Christian Education



# Painters Extraordinaire

The Trustees extend a huge thank you to all who assisted in the painting of the office hallway and the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generous donation of time and hard work on Saturday, February 8th! You are God's beloved child!





## 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!



## Sterling Rock Falls Community Blood Drive

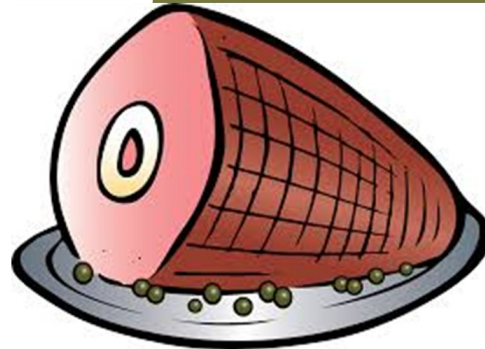
Sterling Bethel Reformed Church  
Community Room  
230 E. 23rd Street, Sterling IL

**Thursday, April 9, 2020**  
**9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

## Wesley United Methodist Church Men's Club Ham Dinner

5-7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 4th**



Join us for the Men's Club annual Ham Dinner featuring ham and all the fixings. **Carry-outs available.**

**Tickets: \$7 adults, \$3 children 12 and younger**

Tickets are available from any Men's Club member, through the church office, or at the door.

Wesley United Methodist Church  
2200 16th Ave.  
Sterling, IL  
(815) 625-1968

EVERYONE is invited, we hope you will join us!



## ASIST Learn the skills. Help save a life.

**Suicide is preventable. Anyone can make a difference.**

- Two-day workshop in suicide intervention skills
- Learn and practice a life-saving intervention model
- Widely used by professionals and the general public

### ASIST's Impact In 2016



### ASIST works

Studies show that ASIST participants gain:

- ☒ Knowledge about suicide
- ☒ Skills to reach out
- ☒ Confidence to help save a life

### ASIST changes lives

Odds of improvement after receiving an ASIST intervention (2013 study):

- ▲ 35% more hopeful
- ▼ 31% less depressed
- ▼ 46% less overwhelmed
- ▼ 74% less suicidal

### ASIST is cost-effective

**50:1** return on investment in decreasing long-term costs of suicide (2015 study)

### ASIST Workshop Information:

Dates: Saturday, March 14th from 9am to 5pm  
Sunday, March 15th from 12pm to 8pm

Location: & Payment to:  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
2200 16th Avenue  
Sterling, IL 61081

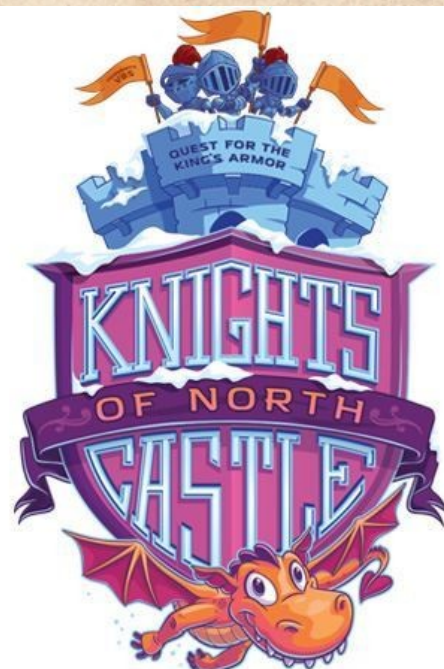
Trainers: Jeff Hippen and Cheryl Robinson

Reservation fee of \$20 includes meals and all materials.

100% of reservation fees will be donated to PADS

For more information contact: Holly Vrhel @  
holly\_vrhel@yahoo.com

Learn more about ASIST and see the evidence at [www.livingworks.net/ASIST](http://www.livingworks.net/ASIST)



## Save The Date!

**VBS will be June 22nd - 26th this year.**

More details to come! We hope to see all of our children and their friends return!



# Birthdays

**March 2** Cody Hansen, Sue Klock  
**March 4** Aaron Fitzanko  
**March 7** Bruce Kramer, Stephanie Spitzer  
**March 8** Jan Davey, Alice Vetter  
**March 9** Jillian Parker  
**March 12** Shay Hafner  
**March 15** Levi Freas, Abriana Poci  
**March 16** Jaclyn Davey, Megan Stutzke

**March 18** Amber Greenfield  
**March 20** Mary Downes, Dakota Hayes  
**March 22** Roberta Fredericks  
**March 23** Colton Duncan, Toby Johnson  
**March 29** Jeanne Burch, Lark Perry



## Anniversaries

**March 17** Andrew & Beth Jacobs



## Coffee Hosts

**March 1** Elisa & Joe Gatz  
**March 8** Cory Canas & Katie Herath  
**March 15** Cory Canas & Katie Herath  
**March 22** Marc & Cindy Melton  
**March 29** Steve & Amy Lopez

## Servers for March 8 a.m.

	<b>Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>March 1</b>	Steve & Mary Downes	Zack Glazier
<b>March 8</b>	Graves Family	Rory Smith
<b>March 15</b>	Lynn Majewski/Renee Duncan	Dylan Hinrichs
<b>March 22</b>	↓	Nancy Pitsch
<b>March 29</b>		Steve Downes

## Bread Hosts

Thank You to Dylan Hinrichs for hosting February.

Hosts for March are Joan Partridge and Gyneth Partridge.



## Servers for March 10 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>March 1</b>	Rosie Davis, Gyneth Partridge, Joan Partridge	Wendelken Family	Jan Glover
<b>March 8</b>	Marc & Cindy Melton	Castaneda Family	Olivia Schwingle
<b>March 15</b>	↓	Max, Bill Parker Isaac, Eli Halverson	Stacey Wendelken
<b>March 22</b>	Rosie Davis/Norma Church	Andy & Nancy Pitsch Bob & Cheryl Allen	Aaron Marken
<b>March 29</b>	Rosie Davis, Gyneth Partridge, Joan Partridge	Max, Bill Parker Isaac, Eli Halverson	Bob Allen



## **Wesley United Methodist Church**

2200 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

### **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968

Website: [www.sterlingwesley.org](http://www.sterlingwesley.org)

Email: [office@sterlingwesley.org](mailto: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 Midwest Mission Distribution Center in March.