

# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH/APRIL 2020

## From Our Pastor...

### Nothing Is For Granted



I want to talk about a little bit weird story. A couple of years ago, I had an issue with my crowns and bridge on my front teeth. It's been with me for

12 years. It was perfectly working like natural teeth of mine. I loved biting an apple as a whole. I loved steak. I enjoyed many kinds of nuts. But those have not been mine for a few months, while I had a temporary bridge. The inconvenience was not just about eating and biting something. I had to be very cautious when I spoke, sang, and preached, worrying about the bridge falling apart. With a temporary bridge, I try not to speak bold and aloud, because my tongue had to touch front teeth to pronounce most words, and the air which comes out of our mouth was so strong. It's very inconvenient.

This convenience helped me understand something for which I should be grateful. Yes, I'm saying that I'm grateful that I have my teeth. Actually, I haven't been thankful for my teeth before. I thought it is just there in my mouth. And I haven't appreciated them. I just took it for granted that teeth were strong enough to chew and bite that I wanted.

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## 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

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

## Tentatively Planned

**April 13:** Office will be closed

Please watch for updates on events that may be taking place. The office will send out emails to keep you posted. If you are not on the Church group email and would like to be, please contact Tammy at the office by phone or email. 815-625-1968

[office@sterlingwesley.org](mailto:office@sterlingwesley.org)



I'm thankful that I was reminded that there is nothing around me that I may take it for granted, especially in this Lenten season, in which we need to think about who we are and where we are in our faith journey and to reorient ourselves back to God. Then, I started counting the stuff that I'm using on a daily basis. There are countless kinds of stuff, such as a computer, books, car, cellphone, coffee machine, cup, clothes, desk, table, chair, etc. A piece of paper was never enough to list them all. Then, I started listing people's names that I need to be thankful to. Hundreds of names come out of my mouth; my wife, family, many friends, and many Wesley family and friends. Without those belongings, I couldn't live my life as I have done, and without those people, I couldn't be who I am and who I will be. But I think I haven't expressed a proper appreciation, but taken them for granted. I think it speaks a lot these days in the Pandemic era. I don't know how much I miss being with you, worshipping God with you, and hugging each one of you. I thought it was so natural and took it for granted, but it was indeed so precious.

Then, those lists of my belongings and people's name turn from my gratitude to my confession to people around me, and God. So, I want to say to all of you and the people around me that I'm sorry for taking so many things for granted and that I'm really thankful for your presence in my life. And my confession and gratitude go to God in praying and meditating on the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice in this Lenten season. The weakness of our Protestant belief on God's grace is that we know very well that God's grace, mercy, compassion, and love is given to all of us freely and that we take it for granted. We paid nothing for this priceless grace, but we need to remember that the priceless cost was paid through the life of Jesus, our Lord, and savior for us. Let's pause for a minute and count what we take for granted. And let's give thanks to people around us, particularly the people who are fighting the virus to save so many precious people and the people who continue to run our community with essential businesses. And let us give thank ultimately to our God even in this higher anxiety era.

Peace In Christ,  
*Rev. Paul Lee*

## April Worship Schedule

**April 5, 2020, Lent 6**

John 18:1,3-8a,11

*<Mighty Jesus to the Cross>*

**April 12, 2020, Easter**

John 20:19-22

*<As the Father Sent Me>*

**April 19**

Isaiah 41:10 & Psalm 56:3-4

*<For I Am with You>*

**April 26**

Psalm 27:1, 14 & First Letter of John 4:18-19

*<Courage and Hope>*

## From Pastor Paul...

\* Due to the spread of COVID-19, we will continue our Live stream or online worship through the end of April.

\* Please stay safe with a clear physical distance and make phone calls to one another and pray for one another.

**Wesley Church Family,** David and I wish to thank everyone for their care, cards, phone calls, and meals while we recovered from our illnesses. David said he ate like a king and enjoyed your visits immensely! Special thanks to Rory Smith and Steve Downes who transported my lift chair recliner to and from Freeport. Wesley Church members.... You are terrific! Your kind words and actions help make our recovery easier.

Love,

Sharon & David Siex



## 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: Now through April 19 (Sunday)

Display: Facebook and the Chimes

From Earth Day (April 19) through Pentecost Sunday

Any questions? Please email Pastor Paul Lee  
and also send your photos to him at: [lovegn247@gmail.com](mailto:lovegn247@gmail.com)

*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.*



**Do you like to do yard work?** Do you enjoy seeing Wesley's grounds looking great? Then this memo is for you! Late April or early May, we are starting an email chain that will go out once a week with things that need to be done for Wesley's grounds. We will have a list of things that need to be done and what days and times we are planning on being at the church to work on the list. You can either join us then or come in to work on your own. If you would be interested in being on this list please send your name to [roberta.fredericks@gmail.com](mailto:roberta.fredericks@gmail.com) or you can contact the office, Jan Glover or Roberta, Dave Fredericks to be added. If you do not have email and wish to participate a list will be posted each Sunday on the bulletin board as to what we will be doing and when. Thanks!

**Have you ever wondered** where the **BEAUTIFULY** crafted greeting cards come from that you receive from the Greeting Card Ministry? Our very own Debbie Kramer, and her friends so graciously donate their incredible talent and valuable time in creating these cards for us to enjoy.

**THANK YOU** to Debbie and friends for your generosity, we appreciate all that you do!

The Greeting Card Group





**Easter Brunch** will not be taking place this year due to the unfortunate circumstances stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please keep everyone in Prayer during this difficult time and hope that we can all join together again soon.

## From The Missions Team

For the month of February, we collected a total of \$405.36 for Cienagueta Ngobe Community Health Project.

For the month of March, we collected \$341.92 for Midwest Mission Distribution Center.



*Thank you to the children that lift our spirits!*



## We LOVE Technology!

Pastor Paul would like to share one of ways that he is keeping the members of Wesley UMC connected by ZOOM meetings! **Thank you** to everyone who has been able to use this awesome tool to keep on track with Bible studies and Men's group!





## Birthdays

<b>April 1</b>	Beth Mathew	<b>April 16</b>	Peg Burke
<b>April 3</b>	Janet Lindsley, Olivia Schwingle	<b>April 17</b>	Karen Palmer
<b>April 4</b>	Gloria Grant	<b>April 18</b>	Allison Ramirez
<b>April 5</b>	Jeff Spitzer	<b>April 19</b>	Austin Cedro
<b>April 8</b>	Mark Gatz, Frank Rausa	<b>April 23</b>	Nick Papoccia, Juanita Nerstheimer
<b>April 9</b>	Isaac Carrion	<b>April 25</b>	Nicholas Abele, Craig Truedson
<b>April 12</b>	Sue Inks, Violet Windham	<b>April 28</b>	Sarah Gabrielse
<b>April 13</b>	Pastor Paul	<b>April 30</b>	Amber Castaneda, Jason Zinke
<b>April 14</b>	Randy Smith, Don Warkins		

## Anniversaries

<b>April 1</b>	Pastor Paul & Rosa Lee	<b>April 19</b>	Toby & Debbie Hodges
<b>April 2</b>	Ron & Judy Bushman	<b>April 24</b>	Jeff & Jan Davey
<b>April 5</b>	Arnie & Jeanne Burch	<b>April 29</b>	Al & Jessica Wade,
<b>April 17</b>	Walter & Janet Lindsley	<b>April 30</b>	Joe & Elisa Gatz, Denny & Alice Vetter
<b>April 18</b>	Marc & Cindy Melton		

## Coffee Hosts

<b>April 5</b>	Steve & Amy Lopez
<b>April 12</b>	Lynn Majewski Family
<b>April 19</b>	Steve & Amy Lopez
<b>April 26</b>	Steve & Amy Lopez

## Servers for April 8 a.m.

	<b>Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>April 5</b>	Fitzanko Family	Zack Glazier
<b>April 12</b>		Nancy Pitsch
<b>April 19</b>	Bill & Sue Abate	Wendy Fitzanko
<b>April 26</b>	↓	Nancy Pitsch

## Bread Hosts

Thank You to Joan & Gyneth Partridge for hosting March.

Hosts for April are Bill & Max Parker.



## Servers for April 10 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>April 5</b>	Rick & Karen Palmer	Bill, Max Parker Kris, Elliot Noble	Rick Palmer
<b>April 12</b>	Darla Stigal, Darlene Davis	Bill, Max Parker Craig & Jessica Truedson	Nancy Pitsch
<b>April 19</b>	Bill & Sue Abate	Greenfield Family	Bruce Kramer
<b>April 26</b>	↓	Kris, Elliot Noble, Amy, Greg Bontz	Aaron Marken



## **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 at 10:15 a.m. 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.
- Bar Soap for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit Caretakers of God's Creation in April.