



Monthly Newsletter of Wesley United Methodist Church | *June 2020*

# *the* Chimes

## From Our Pastor...



Let me introduce Robert Harley. He was born in Provo, Utah. He got the Juris Doctor degree from the University of West Virginia, and he became a lawyer. I don't know how you see him, but to me, he looks like a typical Caucasian American with blue eyes and brown hair. And I didn't know he was a lawyer and professor, because when I saw him first, he was an actor on television dramas and shows.

Harley became so popular from the beginning of his career as an actor. Korean people loved him, not because he was an American, but because he spoke a perfect Korean dialect, not a standard Korean. He moved in a southeast part of Korea thirty-some years ago, and he learned a perfect dialect from local people. Whatever he spoke, it became a comedy. It was so fun to watch a Caucasian American spoke a perfect Korean dialect. It would probably look like if I speak to you with a strong Southern accent, such as Texas or Alabama.

Harley has lived in Korea for more than three decades. He married a Korean woman and had three children. A couple of years ago, I watched his interview. He said that one day an American tourist found him and spoke to him in English. He surely understood what the person was trying to say, but he said he couldn't answer him in English. He stuttered a lot, and his son, who learned English from a Korean school, translated for him.

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Harley was born in the U.S. and got a higher education with a doctoral degree. But after living in Korea and speak in Korean for three decades, he couldn't speak English, but just stuttered. Doesn't it sound familiar? Yes, I'm talking about Moses.

We are having a sermon series on Moses. He is one of the greatest leaders of Israel history. He was one of the two towering figures through the entire Old Testament. When God called him to go and speak to Pharaoh, he said that he was a shepherd and stuttered. After living in Midian for 40 years and speaking in another language, he surely stuttered a lot. But still, God had a plan and vision for him to do miraculous works. And God used him to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, and they wandered in the wilderness for forty years.

The Israelites encountered so many challenges in the wilderness. They had to adjust their lifestyle. They couldn't stay in a place and farm, so Manna, which God provided was the only resource for a living. Despite the new lifestyle, we find that God has trained and transformed them into totally new people of God. And Moses built their new social structure and trained their young generations to be the next leaders in the Promised Land.

In this Pandemic era, we encounter so many "new" things, and it becomes a "new" lifestyle. With Moses' story, why don't we learn about this historical figure and learn about ourselves and God's calling in our lives and our church? God used Moses, a shepherd, for God's work. And I believe God has a vision and plan for you and me and our church. Amen.

Peace In Christ,  
*Rev. Paul Lee*

**Below are the weekly and monthly events held at Wesley UMC. Please watch for future updates on when these events will resume along with any new events or activities!**

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

**Wednesdays:** Disciples Study, 9:00am  
Handbells/Choir, 5pm/6pm

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

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

**Second Thursday** of each month is the Women's breakfast, 8:30am at Benny's.

**Third Friday** of each month is the Ladies Luncheon, 11:30am, new location each month.

## June Worship Schedule

**June 7, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15:54, John 11:25-26  
<Fear of Illness and Aging>

**June 14, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 Chronicles 17:11-14, 28:20  
<Blessings on David>

**June 21, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 7:6-12, 1 John 3:1  
<God, Father, and Love>

**June 28, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 1:8-11, 15-17  
<God vs. Pharaoh>

A total of \$238.23 was collected for Loose Coins in May for Let's Feed Our Children. Fifth Sunday collection was \$310 which will go to Native American Ministries.

**Thank you** for all the prayers and cards. I hope that Stage one is where I still am when they finally get to surgery, then I won't need radiation or Chemo.

My diagnosis is just another side trip in My Journey that I am including my church family in.

I thought COVID19 would be not too hard for us since we were used to trying to keep well for Mike. This is very hard not being able to give hugs or hold hands of others.

Thank you and distance hugs to all,  
Barb Quick

## **TRUSTEES' PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD!**

Although the pandemic has slowed the trustees' projects for this year, they are pressing forward to be in service to our church and to the Lord. Three projects are in process at this time.

On May 19th, the Administrative Council approved the estimates for two of these projects. Kevin Wolf and Sons will be replacing the sidewalk next to the planter as well as concreting the five planting holes in the parking lot. The sidewalk has been badly deteriorating and has become a tripping hazard. The ash trees that were in the planting holes were diseased and needed to be removed.

Another project that was approved was repair and restoration of the stained glass windows in the chapel. During last fall's work day, Joe Gatz had noticed that the window was bowing. Willet Hauser, a world renowned stained glass company, was contacted and evaluated the window. The bowing will be corrected, and a new safer protective outside window will be installed over the stained glass.

The third project for this year is to update the women's restroom in the nursery wing. Due to social distancing requirements, this project probably will occur in August or September. The restroom will be painted, a double sink vanity will be installed, and new flooring will be laid. Additionally, the boys' restroom and the nursery restroom will receive new flooring too.

A huge thank you to the trustees and to our church members for all of their assistance, patience, and wise advice!

## **Thank You!**

On May 21st, volunteers spread mulch on the church's planting beds. Thank you to all for those faithful helpers! A special thank you to Glenda Seradilla for donating the mulch and for her wise gardening advice, and to Randy Clodfelter for picking up the mulch!

## **A Special Thank You to Pastor Paul**

During this pandemic, we especially appreciate the loving care you have provided all of us. It means so much. Zoom for coffee hour and getting to see our church friends at a distance is fun. Consider trying that, if you haven't done so. A good chance to visit & catch up.

It is wonderful to see our sanctuary, and enjoy Judy's and Dylan's music. The liturgists have been so good. Pastor Paul, your sermons are uplifting. This has been a tremendous undertaking for you, and we are truly grateful!

Love,  
Your Flock

**If you have moved or your telephone number has changed since our new directory has been published, please call Tammy at 815-625-1968 or email her at: [office@sterlingwesley.org](mailto:office@sterlingwesley.org) so we can continue to stay in touch.**

# Feed Our Children Alert

Many things are changing and Let's Feed Our Children is also happening in a different way. Each family that comes for food will be given a bag of groceries. We will be working between The Salvation Army and Macedonia. Our dates are Tuesday, June 23, July 14th and August 4th. On Tuesday we will pack grocery bags with food items supplied by United Way/Food Bank. Families from Wesley have indicated in the past that they wish there were more ways for their children to participate in Mission Projects, this may be a way for them to help. A family with adult supervision could come on Tuesday and fill bags. Anyone participating must wear a mask and gloves, gloves will be provided by United Way. Children may come on Wednesday to pick up their bag of groceries. Churches will not be collecting peanut butter and jelly this summer.

If you would like your family to participate, please call me, (Beth Mathew) and we can decide on dates and who will be helping. My number is 815-625-4381.

When I called United Way she said they had opening for helpers at other sites as well. If you would like to help wherever needed please call the United Way of Whiteside County at 815-625-7973. Thank you.

## Attention Youth entering 5th grade through graduating seniors of 2020!

**JOY Camp On-line June 21-26** will be an online experience this year through the use of ZOOM!

Our main focus this year will be Jesus. Cost: \$20.00 (This includes one of the wonderful JOY Camp t-shirts!)



**Registration:** Register through Outdoor and Retreat Ministries at <http://www.niccamp.org/>

Once you have registered we will send you instructions on how to fully participate in JOY Camp on-line!

**We will begin on Sunday, June 21st, at 4 pm introducing you and your parents to JOY Camp online.**

We will share how to use ZOOM and what to expect attending JOY Camp on-line. Sunday orientation is the only time that parents need to participate.

**Monday through Friday we will begin our day, meeting in the morning from 9:30 am to 11 am.** This will be a time of singing fun camp songs; learning about Jesus and our faith and talking about what we are learning through age-appropriate breakout groups lead by our fantastic JOY Camp counselors. We are even planning to have craft time!

**We will meet again at 6:30 pm for a time of worship through music, scripture, prayer, and sharing.** There will be some special surprises along the way! We will even have the famous JOY Camp talent show!!!!

We look forward to seeing you at JOY Camp online.

Blessings, Wes, Jason and Tim

**Veteran JOY CAMPERS and NEW Campers – please contact Nancy Pitsch with questions –**  
[nancy@pitschfamily.com](mailto:nancy@pitschfamily.com)



## Shelter Your Soul

I've passed this off-road timber a *thousand and more times*; but today, God opened my eyes into beauty I'd missed every single one of those times. Breathless, I walked over & into a soothing, Divine invitation of perfect Peace. God grabbed & held my breath in his hands allowing AWE to slip past the heaviness of the week. Exhale came as praise to the One who created & extended this beautiful, unexpected moment.

During transition from "physical sheltering" into whatever reentry phase we land on, *I encourage you to be intentional about "sheltering your soul"!* If you've never set time aside for a daily devotion and/or time to read the Bible, the season of spring and of reentering make now an exceptional time to do so!

There are a plethora of Daily Devotion Books and links to choose from! You can shop online and read excerpts of most to know if they pique your interest! Three of my tried and true devotionals are Jesus Calling by Sarah Young, Streams in the Desert by L.B. Cowman, and Grace for Today by Christian Art Gifts. These are simple, with scripture and prayer after each day's paragraph. Andy has used & enjoyed Daily Hope with Rick Warren, sent via email each morning. Find through the following email link: [connect@newsletter.purposedriven.com](mailto:connect@newsletter.purposedriven.com). There are hundreds to choose from! If you'd like more direction, feel free to contact me & I'd be happy to assist your search!

Another simple way to connect, prayerfully reflect, and enjoy God's presence is through nature. A simple walk around your neighborhood or area park will do it! For the more adventurous, drive into the country or an open park area. Bring your Bible, a journal or notepad, a lawn chair or blanket. Bring your mask, too! Find a spot away & alone. Read, listen, to birds, wind, God's voice... close your eyes, sense the sounds and smells around you. Or, for the Mega-adventurous, set your alarm for 5 AM, go out before first light, wait upon and watch the sunrise. You'll be amazed at how incredible it is to sit in the presence of first light with the One who creates it.

**Jeremiah 29:13** (NRSV) "When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart."

**Mark 6:31** (TPT) Jesus said to his disciples, "Come, let's take a break and find a secluded place where you can rest a while."

**May you be truly blessed however you so choose to find "shelter for your soul" in the summer ahead.**

In the Name & Spirit of Christ,  
Nancy Pitsch  
Christian Education Chair



Dear God,

It seems like lots of uncertainty around us.

So many people who need prayers.

Today, I pray...

For those whose health is compromised by the Coronavirus or other health issues.

For those who suffer from the economic impact of the virus, in travel, manufacturing, hospitality, energy or so many other industries.

For health care workers and first responders, and other public servants who put themselves in harm's way for us.

For our leaders of the world, our countries, states, and cities, as they seek to help manage this challenge

God, it can be overwhelming. But you tell us over and over again not to be afraid.

Show me how to trust in you.

As I examine my heart this Lenten season, help me to turn away from my concern with self, and turn my heart, hands, and prayers toward the concerns of others.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray.

Amen

## Congratulations 2020 Graduates!



### High School:

Ethan Cravatta - Rock Falls High School

Mark Gatz - Sterling High School

### College:

**Austin Cedro** - University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Leisure, Youth, and Human Services.

**Johanna Cravatta** - University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Pathology.

**Lauren Turffs** - Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism.

**Rachel Turffs** - Northern Illinois University with a Masters degree in Accounting.

## Happy Father's Day



**The greeting card group** will continue sheltering in place, washing our hands, not touching our faces, and sending greeting cards from our homes. Perhaps we will be able to gather again in July.

## Birthdays

**June 1** Evan Melton, Rachel Kramer

**June 2** Matthew Gabrielse

**June 4** Sharon Wasson

**June 5** Austin Allen, Judy Dennis

**June 6** Dave Abele, Brad Graves

**June 7** Doug Brandau

**June 8** Michele Drew

**June 10** Rene Morris

**June 11** Pastor Rosa Lee

**June 12** Dave Fredericks

**June 13** Phyllis Stutzman

**June 14** Carolyn Heuck, Jeremy Taylor-Vrhel

**June 18** Sharon Taylor

**June 21** Amy Viering-Bontz

**June 22** Myla Wendelken

**June 23** Andy Pitsch, Mark Taylor

**June 26** Mike Drew

**June 28** Cheryl Allen, Cory Canas

**June 29** Chris Bushman, Darlene Davis, Eric Fredericks  
Ethan Hafner

**June 30** Jackson Lyon, Marianne Rosser

## June Liturgists

### Liturgist

**June 7** Rory Smith

**June 14** Steve Downes

**June 21** Steve Downes

**June 28** Rory Smith

## Anniversaries

**June 4** Matt & Stacey Wendelken

**June 7** Craig & Jessica Truedson

**June 11** Don & Tracy DuRall

**June 14** Rory & Rita Smith

**June 17** Warren & Carolyn Heuck

**June 21** Dave & Linda Kavran

**June 38** Bruce & Debbie Kramer

**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 9a.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 Reynoldswood Christian Camp in June.