



# The Chimes

Wesley United Methodist Church/May 2020

## From Our Pastor...



“Coronavirus”

“Uncertain Things That Might Be Happening”

“Uncertain Future”

“Sickness and Growing Old”

“Politics in the States and the World”

“Loss of the Beloved Ones”

“Job and Financial Difficulties”

“Loneliness and Being Left Out”

About a month ago, when the spread of the COVID-19 became wild and the Governor announced the executive order of “Staying-at-Home,” Wesley Worship team gathered on Zoom and named what kinds of fear we encounter as human beings. And these are the kinds of fear that we named which I believe none of us can avoid in life.

**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, 9:30am  
Handbells/Choir, 5pm/6pm

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

**Thursdays:** 6:25pm Sermon Fellowship Study Group, led by Nancy Pitsch

**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.



Fear and anxiety are a big part of our lives and faith journey. So, it is not surprising that we find fear and anxiety over 400 times in the Bible. Some people may simply call it an old book, but we find so many people in the Bible who have been through the same life courses and struggles that we have been or we are now going through. That is one of the reasons that I love the Bible.

So, I say that the Bible is the best of the best books. And we find God speaking to the people who are struggling with fear and anxiety again and again. And God's courage and promise are still speaking to us, touching our hearts: "Fear not! I am with you. Be bold and courageous."

In this global health crisis with the COVID-19, we witness rapid changes in many ways; public trust, social relationship, social-economic environment, etc. And it is about to or already triggers and agitates political divisions in the States and the world. When things become wild, and we hear so many voices, I believe, that's the moment we listen to God, saying, "Be still that I am with you."

In our fight or flight mechanism, we may use fear to move forward, instead of shrinking back. And let us take more time to pray, read the Bible, and find ways to live our lives by God's love and grace even in this season of uncertainty. And what we need today is the Holy Spirit, enlightening our eyes and guiding our direction, as we expect the Pentecost is coming again.

Come, Holy Spirit. Invade in our hearts, bring light in our minds, and empower us to live our lives as your beloved children of God boldly. Amen.

Peace In Christ,  
*Rev. Paul Lee*

## May Worship Schedule

### May 3, 2020

Psalm 27:1, 14 & First Letter of John 4:18-19  
"Love Casts Out Fear" "

### May 10, 2020 Mother's Day

1<sup>st</sup> Epistle of John 5:1-6  
"God's Table"

### May 17, 2020

Genesis 2:15, 18; Psalm 139:5, 8-10  
"Fear of Loneliness and Being Left out"

### May 24, 2020

Psalm 46:1-7, 10  
"Be Still! God is with us"

### May 31, 2020 [Pentecost]

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

## The Greeting Card Group

will continue sending cards to people this month. Because of the sheltering in place, the group members will be working from home as they did in April. Last month the group prepared and mailed 104 cards. Many thanks to all who are helping in this important ministry.

## Parents...

If you have a son or daughter graduating from high school, trade school, or college/university, please call the office:

**815-625-1968**

with your student's name and name of school. If trade school/ college/university, let us know what s/he studied.





## Church Grounds Group:

If you are interested in helping to keep the church grounds looking good this summer, please contact Jan Glover, Roberta or Dave Fredericks. We will put you on an email list as to what we will be working on that week and when. So you can join us or work on your own. The end of April, beginning of May we are working on leaf raking/cleanup, trimming and weed pulling.

## e-Giving (Vanco)

Many Wesley family and friends have sent checks of offerings and tithes via mails. You may continue to send them to the office. (Wesley UMC, 2200 16th Ave. Sterling, IL)

A few people have requested e-Giving (online giving). Now we have an online giving account. Now you can make your offerings and tithes with your cell phone. An easy instruction will be found on Facebook or YouTube (Search "Sterling Wesley" and "e-giving," [https://youtu.be/TUBaVd\\_v1oE](https://youtu.be/TUBaVd_v1oE)).

Thank you, Ed Anderson (Chair, Finance Team) and Edd Rosser (Treasurer).

If you need further information, please contact the office.

GIVEPLUS<sup>+</sup>



Download "Giveplus+" app  
on your cellphone

Wesley  
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## From the Missions Team:

Loose coins for May is "Let's Feed Our Children" please don't forget to include this cause in your giving. The last Sunday in May is a fifth Sunday and we would be collecting for Native American Ministries. A Mission's Meeting is scheduled for May 20th at 7pm. Information as to whether it will be held online or in person will be forthcoming.

March Loose Coins for Midwest Distribution Center was \$467.76

April Loose Coins for Caretakers of God's Creation was \$266.48

Lenten offering was \$560 which will be split between Buddy Bags and Copacabana Bolivia New Church Fund.

**Masks:** Barb Quick and Elisa Gatz have made hundreds of masks for Wesley family and friends as well as our local community. Most of them were donated to the Whiteside County Health Department. And about two dozens were given to our Wesley family and friends. **Thank you, Barb and Elisa.**



Wesley United Methodist Church,  
Thank you for your donation  
of handmade cloth masks to  
the Health Department. We  
are grateful for your generosity  
and support!

Many Thanks!  
Whiteside County  
Health Department  
Staff



**Attention! To ALL knights, ladies, Kings & Queens, Princes & Princesses** involved in (or planning on attending) VBS 2020 "Knights of the North Castle", scheduled for June 22nd-26th. Since the ENTIRE KINGDOM has been detained on an incessant, unpredictable, and arduous expedition, **we will not gather for this planned week**

Regrettably, but with the **GREATEST LOVE for our children** and their physical health & well-being during "this time". The GOOD NEWS is we already have a jump on making VBS 2021 exceptionally outstanding! Thank you, for your understanding in this decision. As we continue to honor sheltering, may we more diligently turn to the One who IS indeed our Great Shelter! *May we be persistent in seeking God through our praise and prayer every day!* "THIS is the day that the Lord has made, ...." (speak the response, CLAIM IT; BELIEVE IT!) Make a list of three joys/blessings each & every day! (Even on days when blessing seem hard to come by, **name three** you can see, hear, sense, or experience!) Romans 12:12 encourages us to "Be Joyful because you have hope! Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times." (International Children's Bible) I pray for each person reading this, to be truly blessed by God's Truth, with deep assurance of hope today!

You are ALL commended for your courage, valor, fortitude, ingenuity, and CHEERFULNESS on this adventure! May the sweet JOY of knowing Christ in our hearts, truly BE what's contagious among us!

Nancy Pitsch, Chairperson Education Team



**The Trustee Team** (Janet Glover, the Chair) is working hard on the parking lot, stained glass windows, and tree removal, and grinding stumps. Dave Fredericks tackled the area behind the church, and Roberta Fredericks worked on raking and trimming the area the drive. Thank you for your precious ministry.



**Thank you to Andy & Nancy Pitsch and Bruce & Debbie Kramer...**who launched and completed a beautiful project in the sanctuary. They printed photos of our Wesley family and friends and placed them in the pews. Your photo will remain until we resume our in-person worship, and you may then take your photo with you on that day.





## Over 125 Holy Week Packages...

were delivered to Wesley Family and Friends

I'm grateful for a dozen of our Wesley family who delivered the Holy Week Packages.



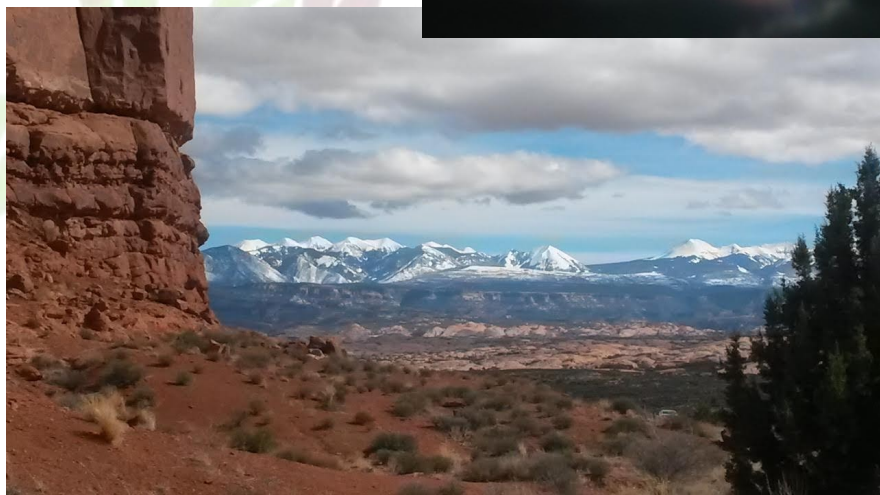
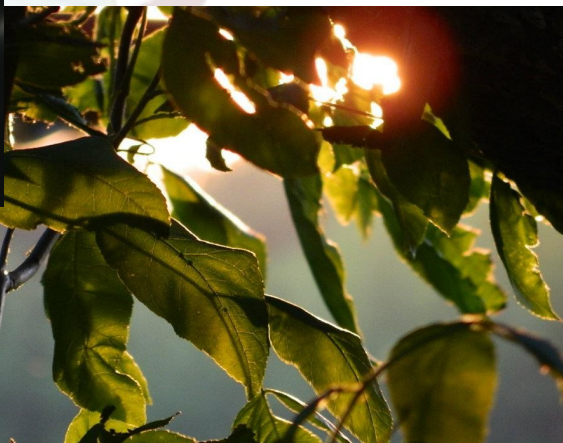
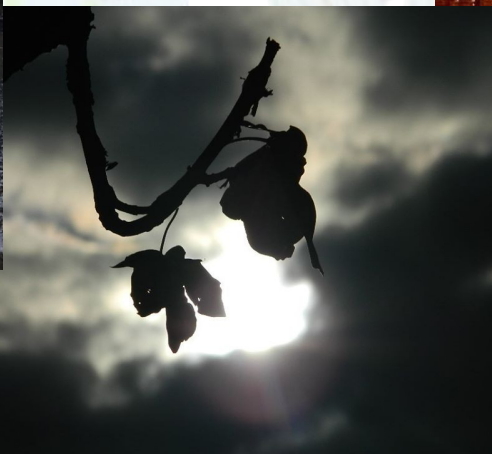
**Worship Team** has diligently led us to our Holy Week and Easter. Even though we had Livestream worships, the worship team has helped us continue the Easter season meaningful, leading us as one body to worship God. Please take a look at photos of Holy Week and Easter sanctuary decorations.





A few Wesley family and friends joined the Earth Day project with their photos. You may find the video clip on our church Facebook or YouTube (Search "Sterlingwesley" and "earth day," <https://youtu.be/-IvdgFOW2m4>).  
Let us remember our Stewardship with precious God's creation.

# Earth Day





**Card Ministry Team** has continued the precious ministry of love and care. In April, the team has sent over 100 cards to our Wesley family and friends. It has helped us nurtured and connected in one spirit. The team continues the card ministry in May with a safe guideline, writing cards at home. Thank you, Card Ministry Team, for your precious ministry.

[The photo was taken in their last year meeting on Dec. 5, 2019]



# Happy Mother's Day



**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST

Violet Windham would like to extend a **BIG Thank You** to all who helped make her 90th Birthday so special! She really enjoyed seeing all of the cards, reading the little notes, and getting to view some photos on the phone!

## Birthdays

**May 2** Addison Gabrielse

**May 3** Bob Allen

**May 5** Sue Abate

**May 8** Kris Noble

**May 13** Renee Duncan, Sue Hayes

**May 14** Manorama Hermon

**May 15** Chandler Allen

**May 16** Erin Graves

**May 17** Bryn Gatz

**May 18** Mike Ceruzzi, Max Parker

**May 19** Carley Hansen, Daniel Ramirez

**May 23** Jackson Melton

**May 24** Dennis Vetter

**May 28** June Teachout

**May 29** Jaime Greenfield

**May 30** Ed Andersen, Ethan Cravatta

**May 31** Tammy Jones

## May Liturgists

**Liturgist**

**May 3** Toby Johnson

**May 10** Elisa Gatz

**May 17** Bruce Kramer

**May 24** Mary Spitzer

**May 31** Toby Johnson

## Anniversaries

**May 1** Joe & Carol Cravatta

**May 10** Steve & Mary Downes

**May 26** Brad & Erin Graves

**May 28** Mike & Michele Drew

## 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.
- Dish Soap for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit Let's Feed Our Children in May.