

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH/JULY 2020

From Our Pastor...



The word that my wife and I speak the most these days is “straight.” We speak to each other, “straight.” It means, “go straight to a restroom,” when we come home. And we wash our hands and face first, and we change our clothes. When we go to a grocery store or when we meet somebody, we take a shower. It is one of the few ways that we keep our home safe from the virus, and we feel secure and comfortable at home. We hear so much news about the virus every day, and it is still wild out there, but as long as we keep this “straight” rule, I think it would be safe in any corner and any room at home. Sometimes, it feels very inconvenient, but it has to be a mandate routine with a few more extra efforts in our “new” normal, until we have vaccination and medicine.

Then, I think of the Israelites in Moses’ time. How did they survive, when they were slaves in Egypt, forced to build pyramids, temples, and Pharaoh’s palaces? How did they survive, when they were walking and sleeping in the wilderness? Of course, we find many of them complain about lack of water and steaks in the Bible, so that Moses had difficult moments leading them in the middle of nowhere. I don’t think the Israelites had enough water and steaks though, as they complained, because they were slaves in Egypt. Yet, it is understandable that they didn’t know how to bring a meal on their table in the middle of the wilderness.

Church Events

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: 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.

Continued on page 2...

Let's think about that. Forty years of the wilderness era was such a hard and backbreaking season for the Israelites, but God used the time to change them upside and down. God trained them to be God's people and helped them to find a "new" normal in many ways before the Promised Land.

It's so wild out there. I feel so frustrated and discouraged whenever I hear the news. Yet, compared to Moses and his people, we find so many things to be grateful. We don't worry about the lack of water and meals. We can find fresh vegetables and meats at so many grocery stores. We don't have to walk under the scorching sun with life-threatening sandstorms to somewhere we don't know. Rather, we can drive, or we can sit and watch fun movies and dramas with cool air conditioner. All we need to do with our "new" normal is just wearing a clean mask and keeping 6 ft physical distance. That's it. (Btw, I heard that someone with claustrophobia or high blood pressure might feel anxiety and fear. I feel so sorry for them. I hope they may use a thin and light mask, which still helps them.)

Some people say that we are living at the beginning of a new era, which is called A.C. (After COVID-19). As we step into the new normal, I believe we need to learn from Moses and the Israelites. We need to listen to God speaking to us through their wilderness era. We need to find ways to continue to be faithful to God and to be a loving community to one another as disciples of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and Savior. We need courage. We need wisdom. We need trust in God. And we need to ask God's guidance. As a community of faith, let's read the book of Exodus together, as we explore our future before us. I believe that God has visions and plans for us. God is speaking to us and walking with us in our faith journey. Amen.

Peace In Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

July Worship Schedule

July 5, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 2:1-6

<Draw Out; Compassion>

July 19, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-2, 4, 7-10

<Burning Bush in Life>

July 12, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 2:11-12, 14b-15, 21-22

<Missio Dei: Working God>

July 26, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:9-10, 5:1-2

<Let My People Go>



Wesley Worship Update!!!

on August 2

(First Sunday of August)

We will resume our in-person worship with a limited number of people.

Wesley Returning Team prayerfully discussed and decided to continue Livestream worship with essential worship leaders until the end of July, because we want to approach it carefully for the safety of the Wesley family and friends.

We will resume in-person worship with masks on the first Sunday of August., unless it gets wild with COVID-19.

Instruction will be given to make a reservation, before we resume in-person worship. (First Come, First Serve)

Let us hold tight one another in our prayers and support.



*Update from
Wesley
Returning
Team*

The Wesley UMC Prayer Shawl

ladies will be knitting and crocheting from home again in July. We will keep you informed of changes as we progress with COVID guidelines and planning of Wesley UMC.

A **HUGE** Thank You to Glenda Seradilla for her generous donation of Preen and Round Up to Wesley so that we are able to keep our garden beds

L^{👁️}O^{👁️}KING beautiful!



Greeting Card Ministry continues

with the group working on cards and sending cards from their own homes. We look forward to the time when we can gather in the fellowship hall and prepare cards to send and enjoy our time together.

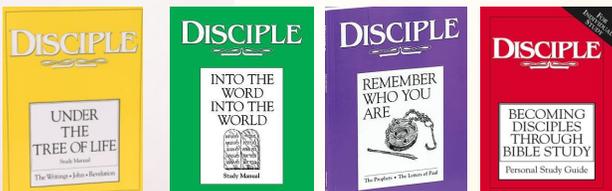
Just a reminder that we are still collecting for loose coins, please give toward our selected ministry if you are able!

Also, our Feed the Children dates for the rest of this summer are July 14th and August 4th. Please contact Beth Mathew at 815-625-4381 if you are interested in helping .

We, as a congregation gave \$800 to Let's Feed the Children in May through Loose Coins and donations. Thanks everyone!

A total of \$232 was collected during that month of June that will go to Reynoldswood Christian Camp. Thank you Wesley for your support!

Congratulations to all of those who have recently completed FOUR Disciples Book studies over the past four years! **You Are Awesome!**



Dear Greeting Card Group and Supporters,

I just wanted to keep you informed.

Many thanks to all of you working from home to keep this going and to Debbie for her beautiful cards! She has made special patriotic cards for July, and we have flag stamps for them. Debbie also prepared special Covid-19 cards.

Since Darlene and I are both going to be gone at the end of the month, this week is our time we can get cards pulled and put together for you to do at home.

This Wednesday, Darlene & I will be going to church before 10 AM to get things pulled together. If you can help prepare and mail cards this month, please reply to this email so we'll know who can help.

Between end of June and beginning of July would be a good time to mail them as we work as we can to complete this important mission.

For those of you living in Sterling, we can deliver cards to you as we have been doing. If you live elsewhere, please pick up the cards and list Monday through Thursday between 8:00 & 11:00 AM in the church office. The office will be closed Friday.

Since I'll be gone several weeks, please don't leave anything in my mailbox. Just hold the bag for the next month.

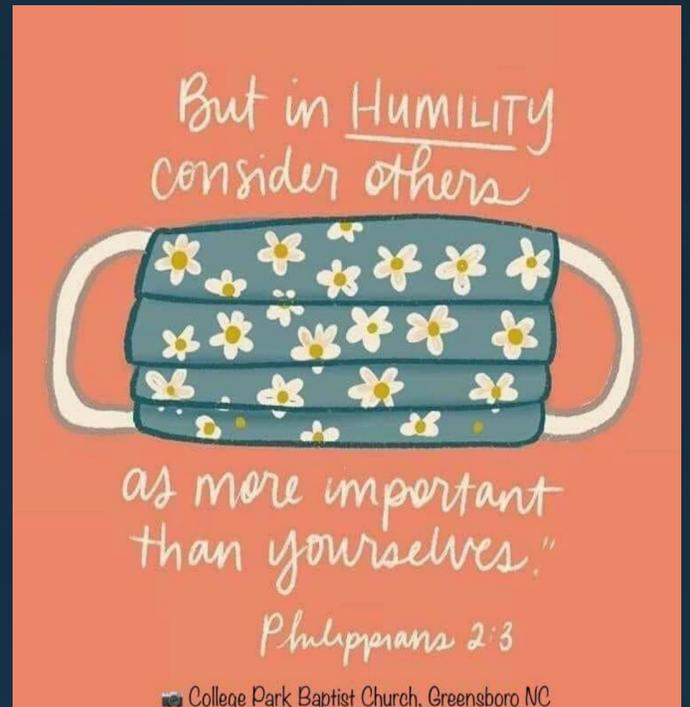
We certainly appreciate your dedication to this ministry. Perhaps we will be able to meet together in August. Time will tell.

Fondly,
Gloria

Sometimes I just want it to stop. Talk of COVID, protest, looting, brutality. I lose my way. Become convinced that this "new normal" is real life.

But, then I meet an 87 year old who talks of living through Polio, diphtheria, Vietnam, protests, and yet is still enchanted with life. He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him. "No", he said slowly looking me straight in the eyes, "I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines, I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines. "Husband loves wife today." "Family drops everything to come to Grandmas bedside." He patted my hand "Old man, makes new friend."

is words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit. My headline now reads "woman overwhelmed by the spirit of kindness and the reminder that our capacity to love is never ending."



Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| July 3 Haley Ceruzzi, Jeff Davey, Jaime Hodges, Sharon Siex | July 16 Sharon Prichard |
| July 5 Sue Hondley, Stacey Wendelken | July 19 Pam Clodfelter, Steve Downes |
| July 6 Vinny Poci | July 23 Tim Schwingle |
| July 9 Sydney Graves | July 24 Sadie Wendelken |
| July 10 Rose Jacobs, Lindsey Reynolds | July 25 Meghan Clodfelter |
| July 11 Sandi Cox | July 26 Beth Jacobs, Darla Stigall |
| July 13 Andrea Mallhi | July 27 Allison Valenzuela |
| July 14 Nathan Blackburn | July 28 Linda Kavran |
| July 15 Roger Jacobs, Jack Osborn | July 29 Dayton Hayes |

July Liturgists

Liturgist

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| July 5 | Rene Morris |
| July 12 | Aaron Marken |
| July 19 | Bruce Kramer |
| July 26 | Jean Moe |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| July 6 | Denver & Sharon Wasson |
| July 12 | James & Wendy Fitzanko |
| July 14 | Ed & Jan Andersen |
| July 22 | Fred & Renee Duncan |
| July 28 | Frank & Janne Rausa |
| July 29 | Jeremy & Holly Taylor-Vrhel |

Wesley United Methodist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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Open Heart, Open Minds, Open Doors

You are invited to join us for Livestream
worship on Facebook at 10 a.m.

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SterlingWesleyUMC>

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.
- Laundry detergent for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit Rockford Urban Ministries in July.