

The Chimes

From Our Pastor...



Freedom, License, Discipline, Old Normal, New Normal, Retro, Newtro

These are the keywords that I've been thinking of for months.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to question every day, asking for God's wisdom. What does God want? What would Jesus do? How can we reveal our love to God and the people around us and the world? Are we keeping "the rules" that have been handed down or "the rule of love," which God has unfolded in many ways through the rules we have in our community? It is the product of one of the most precious gifts from God,

which is called "rationale," "wisdom," "consciousness," and "Freedom of will." And we find the answers to these questions through our prayers to God, and it helps us walk humbly with God and other fellow children of God.

Let's think about the Israelites' journey in the wilderness. God has given the Ten Commandments a couple of months after the Exodus. We can't imagine how the Israelites society might look like, because none of us has been physically slaves. Now they became free and had no idea how to live as a freed people. So, what God is doing with the Ten Commandments is to teach them not only who they are and whose they are as God's people, but also how they create and shape their community to live with one another in freedom and responsibility. The Ten Commandments are so rational and logical. Yet, I don't doubt that it was too much burden to the Israelites who still had the old patterns of life as slaves.

What about John Wesley? He was born in a turbulent era of both religion and politics. It was a chaotic era after wars and religious conflicts. What he claimed was basically turning our lives with freedom and responsibility.

He taught the Bible with discipline. It was about humbly and sincerely approaching the questions of who we are and how we live our lives before God. And Wesley's anchor was Jesus, God's love, and God's commissions and plans for our lives. And his ministry and movement led a vital spiritual movement in America and beyond in a new era.

Whether we like it or not, whether we recognize it or not, we have already stepped into a new era in this Pandemic era. While there are so many precious people who humbly use their freedom with responsibility before God and other people, I think we witness so many happenings around us that the Israelites might have done in the wilderness just before God gave them the Ten Commandments: claiming freedom without responsibility, lack of discipline, self-centered behaviors, resistance to new orders, etc.

These are some questions that I have been pondering as preparing the future of our church and Leadership Training next year. Do I know what's going to happen in our new era after the Pandemic? I have no idea. So, I love to listen to your wisdom and opinions. One thing I know is that God will save humanity. We will see a new era. The answers to the first two questions will be the same: who are we? We are precious children of God. Whose are we? God is the source of life. God breathes life, wisdom, and everything we have into our lives. And We belong to God. Yet, the answers to the rest of the questions would be different. How can we live our precious lives in love and care with other precious people of God? What would our Wesley community of faith look like, and how can we continue God's ministry? It might be too many questions and thoughts. That's why we need to ponder and shape it together with our prayers to God. Let's humbly ask God in our journey.

Peace In Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee



Worship Schedule

September 6, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

<Discipleship> by Steve Downes

September 13, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 19:9b-13

<Elijah vs King Ahab>

September 20, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 22:1-3

<David's Prayer Life>

September 27, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:5-8

<Jesus Talks about Prayer>



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: Beginning September 9th at 9am or 6pm - Disciples Bible Study

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.



.... coming this fall!

Respecting the back-to-school pandemonium our families are experiencing **above & beyond** the usual, our CONFIRMATION plans will be offered once school has settled in! May ALL of our families feel encouraged to focus their energy & time upon adjusting to this exciting and “new” school year! Our prayers go before all ages of our youth & children who are students! We ask that our church lifts up by name those eligible for Confirmation this fall (7th grade) Ellie Wendelken, Emily Schwingle, Grace Wetzell, (8th grade) Bowen Mallhi, Derek Fitzanko, Logan Ayala, Maddux Osborn, Nora Truedson, (freshman) Joshua Greenfield, & Justin Null.

Nancy Pitsch, Christian Education



Greeting Card Ministry will prepare and send cards Thursday, September 3.

Prayer Shawl ladies are knitting and crocheting from their homes. If you need a prayer shawl, please call the office at 815-625-1968.

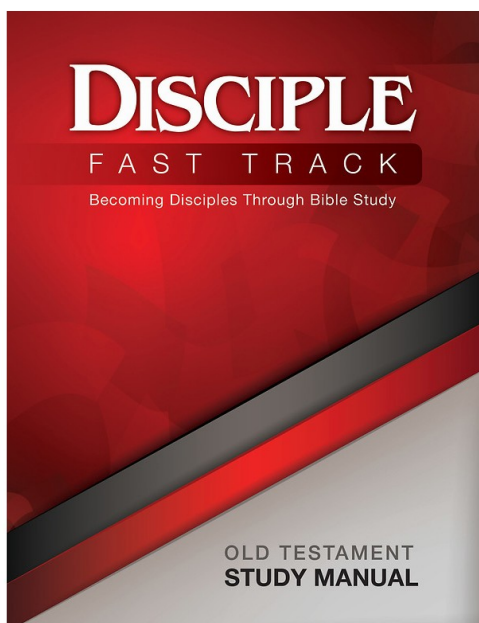


Wesley Family will have Drive-In Church
in **Church Parking lot**

on the World Communion Sunday (Oct. 4)

Mission Project

We will collect canned food for Fish Food Pantry.
(Soup, Peanut Butter, and Jelly)



Wednesday Bible Study

begins on September 9th
Morning (9am) or/and
Evening (6pm)

If you are interested,
please call or email to the office

Book \$12.79



Missions: Loose Coins

So far, the total loose coins collected in the month of August for Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors is **\$156.87**. We still need to add the Aug. 30th collection to that.



THANK YOU!

David and I wish to thank everyone for their prayers and for the thoughtful notes and cards. Dave is now home and we are in a 10-14 day quarantine. He is doing pretty good and waiting to see if he will need therapy at home or will gain strength on his own. We ask that you continue to cover us in your good prayers. Thank you and love and hugs to everyone at Wesley Church.

Sharon & David Siex

Birthdays

Sept. 5 Haleigh Freas

Sept. 9 Karen Abele

Sept. 11 Nancy Wait

Sept. 12 Judy Randall

Sept. 14 Leigh Michel

Sept. 16 JP Papoccia, Diantha Wentling

Sept. 21 Brooklynn Freas, Elisa Gatz, Marilyn Lewis

Sept. 22 Barb Quick

Sept. 23 Eric Canas

Sept. 24 Ashlei Behrens

Sept. 25 Judy Bushman, Nathanael Rodriquez, Jaz'Mya Castaneda

Sept. 26 Jan Andersen, Alan Beggerow

Sept. 27 Pat Jacobs

Sept. 30 Dylan Hinrichs, Jamet Palmer

September Liturgists

Liturgist

September 6 Mary Spitzer

September 13 Erin Graves

September 20 Nancy Pitsch

September 27 Jean Moe

Anniversaries

Sept. 10 Bill & Peg Burke

Sept. 14 Dave & Sharon Siex

Sept. 16 Louis & Barb Quick

Sept. 17 Al & Diane Rude

September Ushers

Jeff Cedro -Head usher
Andy & Nancy Pitsch,
Bill Parker (not 9/13)
Mark Taylor

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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.
- Toilet paper for Bear Necessities, Trinity, and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit :UMCOR in September.