

# The Chimes

November 2020

## From Our Pastor...



*“Gratitude is complicated. Feelings of dependence—and interdependence—can be both elusive and resisted, mostly because they are caught up with soul-crushing ideas of obligation and debt. But if gratitude is mutual reliance upon (instead of pay-back for) shared gifts, we awaken to a profound awareness of our interdependence. Dependence may enslave the soul, but interdependence frees us.”*

— Diana Butler Bass, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*

I want to express my gratitude to our Wesley family for your presence, heart-warming words and cards, prayers and supports, and gifts. And I appreciate your cards and gifts for Pastor’s Appreciation Month. I feel so blessed to be with you. I can’t thank God enough for our Wesley United Methodist church. Thank you.

Following October, I think November is also a season for gratitude.

## 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  
"White Privilege", 7pm

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

**Thursdays:** Exercise class, activity room, 5pm  
Bible study, 6-8pm with 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.

All the green leaves turn red and yellow. And I see the golden wave and farmers harvesting in soybeans and corn-fields. As we will have the Church Conference on November 3, I have reviewed and documents all the ministries we have done in the past year. I keep saying, "Wow, thanks be to God." We indeed have so many reasons to be grateful in our personal lives and our church.

Wait! October and November are months for gratitude. Then, we have Advent and Christmas in December. Our social activities will be limited in this Pandemic, but it is still a month for family and friends. And we start a new year in January. It's a new beginning with new resolutions and hope. Likewise, maybe every month of the year, we can find many reasons to be grateful. Maybe every day can be a day of gratitude.

There are so many ways and perspectives to define our faith journey. I think one of them is like a treasure hunt. In our daily lives, we are taking so many things for granted. You may want to take 10 or 15 minutes more sleep in the morning. But it's possible because God gives me another day to live. Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed by the number of works and meetings, but it happens because I have the opportunity and capability to work. Sometimes my body tells me that I need to exercise, and I don't want it, but I feel it because I'm alive and had a good meal.

Besides finding things to be grateful for in our personal lives, gratitude is also related to trust and interdependence. We cannot live our lives by ourselves. We receive day after day from God, the source of life. Meals on our table are the handiworks of so many people, including farmers, manufacturers, drivers, and retailers. Without others, we can't live our lives. I think, once we realize it, we are able to see the beauty of the people in our neighborhood and community. We understand the meaning of the Golden Rule in the Bible; "Do to others as you want them to do to you." And we see the hands of God in love and mercy through the people of God every day. Isn't it exciting and fun? We do treasure hunting every day. Would you like to join me in this fun?

Peace in Christ,  
*Rev. Paul Lee*

## Worship Schedule

**November 1, 2020.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-4, Psalm 19:1-4

<God, Are You There?>

**November 8, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:13-16

<Christ, Who Are You?>

**November 15, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-4

<What Is Wrong with the World?>

**November 22, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 12:27,

1 Peter 2:9-10a

<The Church>

**November 29, 2020**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:20b-21, Luke 2:8-12

<Jesus, Our Lord and Savior>

## Children's Worship Schedule

**November 1, 2020**

"The Sun Stands Still"

**November 8, 2020**

"Solomon Builds the Temple"

**Nov. 15, 2020**

"The Kingdom Divided"

**Nov. 22, 2020**

"Elijah vs. the Prophets of Baal"

**Nov. 29, 2020**

"Elisha and Naaman"



## Dear Wesley Church Family,

Thank you for all of your cards and prayers during my unexpected health emergency last month. I am happy to tell you I am recovering well and at home. God did indeed rescue me. I praise Him for his mercy and love. Our family is grateful for the love and prayers from our Wesley Church Family.

In Christ with you,  
Marianne Rosser

**Thank you** to my church family for all your beautiful birthday wishes. I had a great celebration, and hearing from so many of you was one of the best parts! Thanks for making me feel so special on my 90th! I am truly grateful.

Prayers and Blessings to All,  
Janet Palmer

**The food drive for the Fish Food Pantry was amazing.** I was totally blown away. We collected trays of peanut butter, trays of jelly and trays of soup. Pastor Paul filled his car; front seat, back seat and trunk when he brought them to the Fish Pantry. We are well-supplied as we approach the winter months.

It takes a community to support the food pantry and you are part of that community.

Fish is open 5 days a week to support our community,

Beth Mathew



**All Saints Sunday**  
(Nov. 1)

 Wesley  
UNITED METHODIST

**Veterans Sunday**  
(Nov. 8)

 Wesley  
UNITED METHODIST

## Busy, Busy, Busy!

In spite of the pandemic, the trustees are moving forward on the final project of the year. The girls' and boys' bathrooms have been cleared of all items by Rory Smith and Steve Downes. We are so blessed to have such talented construction specialists. Rory will spray paint the enclosures and build a vanity for the girls' room. Barb Quick helped choose the colors for painting. Bill Parker and Mary Downes painted all of the girls' room and an accent wall in the boys'. The old asbestos tile has been sealed, and new vinyl flooring has been installed by Boss Carpeting. New sparkly lighting for our girls will also be added by Dennis Electric. The trustees are excited to see these improvements and look forward to our congregation's return to view the changes. Thank you, Steve Downes, Rory Smith, Bill Parker, Barb Quick, and Mary Downes, for your dedication and service to the Lord and our church!



# Celebrating World Communion Sunday at Wesley UMC with an outdoor service!





# Wesley UMC Halloween Parade!





# Wesley UMC Halloween Parade!





## Missions: Loose Coins

The total loose coins collected in the month of October for PADS is **\$443.25**.

In November, we will be collecting for FISH Food Pantry.



## Birthdays

**Nov. 1** Alyssa Cedro, James Fitzanko

**Nov. 3** Walter Lindsley

**Nov. 6** Mary Anne Batten

**Nov. 8** Marc Melton

**Nov. 10** Gloria Rodriguez, Grace Wetzell

**Nov. 11** Bill Parker

**Nov. 13** Jan Glover, James Morris, Sena Warkins

**Nov. 14** Logan Ayala

**Nov. 15** Jamie Schwingle

**Nov. 16** Blake Parker

**Nov. 18** Edd Rosser

**Nov. 19** Holliana Drew

**Nov. 20** Jionni Castaneda

**Nov. 22** Jean Partridge

**Nov. 23** Bill Abate, Ava Lyon, Rosemary Davis

**Nov. 25** Mary Spitzer

**Nov. 28** Linh Melton

**Nov. 29** Ava Penaflor

**Nov. 30** Jared Johannsen

## November Liturgists

### Liturgist

**November 1** Rick Palmer

**November 8** Nancy Pitsch

**November 15**

**November 22** Jean Moe

**November 29**

## Anniversaries

**Nov. 4** Tim & Jamie Schwingle

**Nov. 11** Steve & Kay Bierman

**Nov. 20** Curt & Jaime Greenfield

**Nov. 22** Bill & Sue Abate, Don & Sena Warkins

**Nov. 30** John & Linda Larson



**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 Livestream  
worship on Facebook at 10 a.m.

#### **Find us on Facebook**

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

## **Upcoming Events**

**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, Trinity, and the FISH Food Pantry.**
  - **Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.**
- Loose coins to benefit :FISH Food Pantry in November.**

This year the township will be handing out vouchers for **Thanksgiving Baskets** so the Mission Team is asking for donations to help purchase the vouchers. Please drop off or mail check/ money and label it Thanksgiving Baskets.

**Please have all  
donations in by  
November 20<sup>th</sup>.**