

The chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2021

From Our Pastor...



I want to express my gratitude for your loving prayers last month. As many of you know, I took a few weeks off for oral surgery. I rented an Airbnb house and took a total quarantine for two weeks before the surgery. I didn't have to do anything obligated. I read a few books that I wanted to read for a while. I also watched some dramas and movies and did some exercise for two whole weeks. It was a very different time with a strange rhythm.

During the time, one thing that I had in my mind every day was gratitude. I thanked our church and leadership for allowing me to use a long vacation that I could find time to have this surgery. And I found myself dependent on people. My lovely wife Rosa packed so many things, especially some of my favorite meals and canned foods. Delivery people like UPS and FedEx, I could have three meals on my table every day. Without their help, I could have starved so bad. What about doctors and medical teams who did all the works with patience?

Again, it was a learning moment that no one can live alone and that there is nothing that we can take for granted. It teaches us that we should support and stand for and with one another to live our lives.

Church Events



**Please keep checking back
with us for any future
dates and activities that
will be scheduled for the
year 2021.**

From time to time, I think that I tend to focus on what I'm capable of. I tend to think, design, and plan things in a way I hope it to be done. But it is clear that I have very little that I can do alone, but only with people in my life. And ultimately, it is God who breathes life in me one more day every day and who brings people, especially my beloved ones, around me. It is God's love and grace that is so much beyond what I deserve. I believe that is what God wants us to know from the beginning to the end of the Bible. And we find countless God's blessings upon us.

Somehow, I feel like my internal brain clock still stays in the Lenten season 2020 when the Pandemic began. Then, we are about to have Lent 2021 in a couple of weeks. And I like to prepare the Lent with gratitude. By counting blessings in our lives, we may use Lent to keep our eyes on God and the people around us and find a way to be a blessing. A pastor preached, "Lent is not about being sad, not some sort of spiritual penance." And she continued, "Lent is about change – the change that God can make in ourselves, our faith communities, and the larger world." I believe she's right about that.

Lent is a critical part of our Christian faith that we ask ourselves many existential questions of who we are and whose we are, and that we examine and re-orient ourselves toward God's will and love for us. And it starts with acknowledging our true-self, shortness, mistakes, and wrong-doings, and we open our hearts, minds, and souls to God.

In this Lenten season, let us open ourselves to transformation, to become God's people and do what God calls us to do. Let's take this Lent into our hearts and tune ourselves to God and the people around us with love. Amen.

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

Worship Schedule

Feb. 7

CALL to WORSHIP (1 Sam 2, Mark 13)

SCRIPTURE: First Thessalonians 5:16-18,
Matthew 26:27-28

<Could We Be Grateful?>

Feb. 14

CALL to WORSHIP (Ps. 132)

SCRIPTURE: First Thessalonians 5:16-18,
Philippians 4:6-7

<Let Us Cultivate Gratitude!>

Feb. 21, First Sunday in Lent

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 25)

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26:14-16

<Conflict in Our Lives>

Feb. 28, Second Sunday in Lent

OPENING PRAYER (Gen. 17, Mark 8)

SCRIPTURE: John 19:25-27

<The Community Jesus Creates!>

Loose Coins 2021

January: Betty Tshala - Zambia

February: Cienaguita Ngobe Community Health Project

March: Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Lent/Easter (envelopes): Split - Sterling Buddy
Bags AND Copacabana Bolivia New Church Fund

April: Caretakers of God's Creation

May: Let's Feed Our Children

June: Reynoldswood Christian Camp

July: Rockford Urban Ministries

August: Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors

September: UMCOR

October: PADS Homeless Shelter

November: FISH

Thanksgiving (envelopes): FISH

December: Loaves and Fishes

Christmas Eve and Christmas (envelopes): Loaves
and Fishes AND Disaster Relief Fund

2021 Monthly Pantries Collections

January: laundry detergent

February: toothpaste

March: toilet paper

April: bar soap

May: dish soap

June: shampoo

July: laundry detergent

August: toothpaste

September: toilet paper

October: bar soap

November: dish soap

December: shampoo

5th Sunday Appeals 2021

January: Human Relations Day

May: Native American Ministries Sunday

August: Good Neighbor Emergency Center Sunday

October: World Communion (1st Sunday)

October: Peace with Justice - 5th Sunday

Congratulations

to Jessica Truedson for being honored
as the third through fifth grade

Sterling Teacher of the Year for 2020.

All the best to you and your students.



MISSIONS

Missions is so proud that Wesley is such a great supporter of mission work. Last year we raised between \$9,000 and \$10,000 dollars through our giving and donations and that is unbelievable considering we didn't have in person church for most of the year!

Well done Wesley!

Hearts and flowers to our Greeting Card group who have worked from home during the pandemic to keep this ministry vibrant.

Susie Cedro	Debbie Kramer
Kay Clark	Jean Moe
Darlene Davis	Rene' Morris
Judy Dennis	Sharon Prichard
Mary Downes	Marianne Rosser
Gloria Grant	Mary Spitzer
Carolyn Heuck	



MOD.MIETSENHART-VZARZ

LET'S SPREAD SOME CHEER!

Some of our members have been quarantined in their nursing home rooms since the pandemic began. If you feel like sending a note or card, here are their addresses:

Carole Finnicum
Regency Care #312
612 St Mary's Road
Sterling, IL 61081

Marion Quick
Regency Care
612 St Mary's Road
Sterling, IL 61081

June Teachout
Regency Care #412
612 St Mary's Road
Sterling, IL 61081



Missions: The total loose coins collected in the month of January for Betty Tshala - Zambia is **\$135.00** (not including January 31st.)



The 2021 Altar Flower Calendar is up in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to reserve a date for a loved one, you may email or call the office to do so. The cost still remains the same at \$20. You may mail in your payment with it marked as "altar flowers", or drop it to the office any time.

office@sterlingwesley.org

815-625-1968

Birthdays

Feb. 1 Debbie Hodges

Feb. 2 Carol Cravatta, Al Rude, Fabien Plummer

Feb. 3 Diane Rude

Feb. 7 Stacey Stutzke

Feb. 8 Brandon Fredericks

Feb. 12 Warren Heuck

Feb. 16 Rachael Turffs

Feb. 17 Tracy Durall

Feb. 18 Erma Robinson

Feb. 19 Mary Nemes

Feb. 20 Jack Graves

Feb. 21 Jessica Truedson

Feb. 24 Lynn Majewski

Feb. 25 Mary Michel

Feb. 28 Holly Taylor-Vrhel

February Liturgists

Liturgist

February 7 Carolyn Heuck

February 14 Toby Johnson

February 21 Toby Johnson

February 28 Dave Fredericks

Anniversaries

Feb. 13 Nick & Shay Papoccia

Feb. 14 Dave & Roberta Federicks

Feb. 15 Luke & Phyllis Stutzman

Feb. 23 Doug & Ann Wiersema



Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16th Ave.
Sterling, IL 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968

Website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Email: 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>

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.
- Toothpaste for Bear Necessities, Trinity, and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit: Cienaguita Ngobe Community Health Project in February.