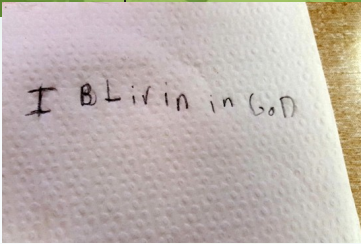


The **Chimes**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH 2021



From Our Pastor...



I BLivin in GoD

"I BLivin in GoD"

A few days ago, Facebook reminded me of a napkin's photo written by a little girl that I met at a church after-school program years ago.

. The after-school program offered a brief version of VBS every Thursday: singing and dancing, craft, and exercise. We also provided snacks for them. During snack time, the little 1st-grade girl wrote something down on a napkin and handed it to me with a big smile. It said, "I BLivin in GoD."

You may find typos in her writing, but surely you understand what she was trying to say: "I believe in God." I was overwhelmed with joy, and I couldn't breathe at that moment, shouting "YES! YES! YES!" in my mind. It was the moment I strongly felt God worked in many ways, and even children could feel the love and respond to the love, saying, "I love God and believe in God." I still remember the girl's big smile without two teeth.

We have a forty-day Lenten journey. It is a season we examine ourselves whether we are on the right path with God in our words, deeds, and actions and whether we've made wrong decisions and sin intentionally or unintentionally

Church Events

**Wednesday: Disciple
Bible Study**

9:30-11:00 a.m.(Zoom)

**Thursday: Bible study
with Nancy Pitsch**

**6:45-7:45pm (Fellowship
Hall)**

**Saturday: Men's Bible
study 8:00-9:30 a.m.
(Zoom)**

And by penitence and by asking for forgiveness and practicing forgiveness, we are restored and reconciled so that we grow in a deeper relationship with God and God's people

And the purpose of this season is very clear. The aim is not to stay in condemnation or judgment, but healing, restoration, and reconciliation, just like we find in John chapter 3. We all love John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that God gave the Only Begotten Son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This is the promise of God for all of us who believe in Jesus Christ. And it continues to talk about judgment. It says, "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be SAVED through him."

The Scripture tells us that what God has interested the most is saving all people with God's unconditional love. It is the promise that God has given us. It is the hope we have in Jesus Christ. It is the power that we have the courage to live our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, the Lenten season's message is that by self-examination, prayers, meditating the Word of God, and the Sacrament, we get reminded again that we are in Christ who is the hope of the world.

The best message I may give to all people in this season is that Jesus understands you and me. You may not be able to find anyone who can understand what you are feeling and what you are going through. But Jesus understands you. And I will preach about how and why he understands us in this Lenten season. And the thing is, Jesus binds us all in this beautiful church, Wesley United Methodist Church so that we walk together humbly with God and one another. As we remember God's love and find God's presence in our lives, we witness the living God among us, and we say, "We BLivin in GoD." Amen.

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

Worship Schedule

Mar. 7 (Third Sunday in Lent)

"The Courtyard"

March 14 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

"Sentenced: Making Decisions"

March 21 (Fifth Sunday in Lent)

"The King Tortured and Humiliated"

March 28 (Sixth Sunday in Lent)

"The Crucifixion"

Children's message

March 7:

"Jesus Walks on Water"
with Nancy Pitsch

March 14:

"Jesus Weeps"
with Rene Morris

March 21:

"Garden of Gethsemane"
with Renee Duncan

March 28:

"Peter Denies Knowing Jesus"
with Nancy Pitsch

April 4: Easter

"Jesus Dies and Rises Again"
with Carol Cravatta

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

February loose coins=

\$123.59 /Thank you!!

**For the Cienaguita
Ngobi Community
Health Project**



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

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

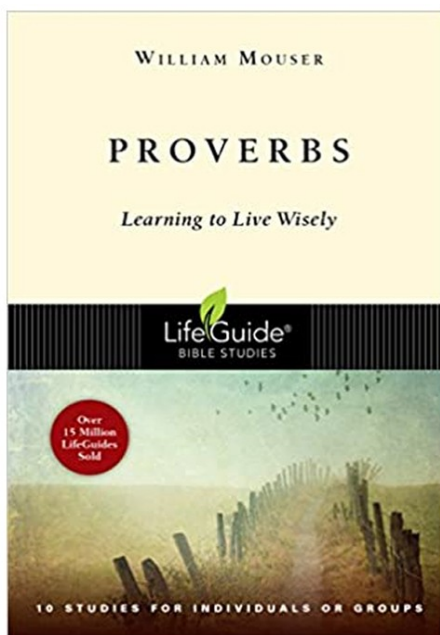
Christmas Eve and Christmas (envelopes): Loaves
and Fishes AND Disaster Relief Fund

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- . Fast from hurting words
- . Fast from sadness
- . Fast from anger
- . Fast from pessimism
- . Fast from worries
- . Fast from complaints
- . Fast from pressures
- . Fast from bitterness
- . Fast from selfishness
- . Fast from grudges
- . Fast from words

...and say kind words.
...and be filled with gratitude.
...and be filled with patience.
...and be filled with hope.
...and have trust in God.
...and contemplate simplicity.
...and be prayerful.
...and fill your hearts with joy.
...and be compassionate to others.
...and be reconciled.
...and be silent so you can listen.



Men's Group Bible Study

The book of Proverbs is the Bible's how-to manual. The proverbs teach us how to be successful and prosperous in our work, our dealing with family and friends, and our relationship with God. The direction and guidance they give us is practical, concrete, reasonable, and fruitful. By reading Proverbs, we discover the vital importance of learning to live wisely.

When the wisest man in the Bible, King Solomon writes Proverbs, the greatest book on wisdom, and when the study is being led by a wise guy, Bruce Kramer, what could be better than that?

Come! Join the Men's Bible study as we begin a new booklet and journey on how to learn to live wisely. We meet every Saturday at 8 am on Zoom and soon to be in-person for great fellowship.

Please call Andy Pitsch at 815-499-4940 for more detail



UM Scholarships: Apply Now

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's (GBHEM) office of Loans and Scholarships provides millions of dollars in scholarships to students every year. Finances should never be a barrier for anyone to answer their calling in life. The application period ends March 24 for fall term awards only. Each applicant may apply once per year for a scholarship from GBHEM. Renewals must re-apply each year. For eligibility requirements and to apply, visit

gbhem.org/loans-scholarships

Earth Day photo contest and display!!!

Photos Wanted!

The Beauty of the Nature, taken by YOU

Collection: March through April. 11 (Sun) Display: From April 19 through May 16 (Sunday before the Pentecost)

Any questions? Please find Pastor Paul Please send your photos to lovegn247@gmail.com

For one of the Stewardship that God has entrusted to us, we have a responsibility to nurture God's creation, to promote the need of our collective works as God's co-workers, and to prevent the harm and damage on the earth.



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**

Wesley In-Person Worship Instruction

1) Let's Gather Safe



2) Mask Is Required



3) Please Listen to the Usher



4) 6ft Plus Indoor and Outdoor with Masks



5) Alternatives to the Handshake and Hug



Wesley
UNITED METHODIST



Greetings from your new secretary/admin. assistant, Marla! I am on board the Wesley UMC train but I am still unpacking, so thank you for your patience and the welcome support that I experience each and every day! Let me know how I can help. My normal hours will be Tue. - Fri. from 8-12.

I have lived and worked in the area 40+ years. I am married to Dennis, a retired farmer, and we have a son and daughter-in-law, and a daughter also living/working in the area.

I look forward to working with all of you and as I gain confidence with on-the-job tasks, we will have more time to visit, I promise!



"Children's Easter Egg Hunt for Sterling Wesley kids and families will be **SATURDAY, APRIL 3rd**, at 2pm! Hopefully outside, so dress according to weather! (If it's raining we will move it indoors, please bring masks for indoors!)

Christian Ed Team is asking for donations of individually wrapped candies & chocolates we can stuff into hundreds of eggs! **PLEASE** have to the church office no later than **Sunday, March 21st**. We appreciate your help to make this a **WONDERFUL & WELCOMING** event for our children!

Monetary donations are also welcome if you'd like us to purchase candy on your behalf!

THANK YOU! Questions? - Call **Jamie Schwingle 815-499-1030** or **Jaime Greenfield 815-499-4370**. They'll be in charge of candy supply and along with some of our confirmation youth, be stuffing eggs later that week!"

Birthdays

March 2 Cody Hansen and Sue Klock

March 4 Aaron Fitzanko

March 7 Bruce Kramer and Stephanie Spitzer

March 8 Jan Davey and Alice Vetter

March 9 Jillian Parker

March 11 Shay Papoccia

March 15 Levi Freas and Abriana Poci

March 16 Jaclyn Davey and Megan Stutzke

March 18 Amber Greenfield

March 20 Mary Downes and Dakota Hayes

March 22 Roberta Fredericks

March 23 Colton Duncan

March 29 Jeanne Burch and Lark Perry

March Liturgists

Liturgist

March 7th Dave Fredericks

March 14th Carolyn Heuck

March 21st Sharon Siex

March 28th Stacey Wendelken

Anniversaries

March 17 Andrew and Beth Jacobs



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: Midwest Distribution Center for March.