

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas Blessings

DECEMBER 2021



From Our Pastor...



The Season of Advent

“Advent is not just about Christmas! Rather, it is about the beginning of the Christian year. The focus is on the future of all things as seen through the eyes of those who follow Jesus. At the same time, the season of Advent takes history seriously and encourages us to remember and reflect upon God’s mighty acts and how they affect us today.” – Rueben P. Job, Retired Bishop of UMC.

To understand the meaning of Advent, we need to think about *Time*, especially time in the future. “Time in future” can be translated into two words in Latin; the one is *Futurum* and *Adventus*. *Futurum* is a particular time that hasn’t come yet in the present, and the other is *Adventus* which is the time getting reached and closed. Some people have an interest in fortune-telling, such as tarot, crystallo-mancy, and astromancy. Those are about *Futurum*; what will happen tomorrow, next week, or next year.

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Church Events

Tue./Thur. Exercise class 3:30pm
Fireside Room

Sat. Men’s Bible Study 8:00am
Fireside Room

Wed. Advent Bible Study
Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 9:30 am or 6:00 pm
Fireside Room

Dec. 2: Greeting Card Ministry 9:30am
Fellowship Hall

Dec. 9: Red Cross Blood Drive at Wesley,
9am-6:30pm / Fellowship Hall

Dec. 11: Bell Ringing at Farm & Fleet
10:00am—8:00pm (sign-up at Missions
table or contact the office or Roberta)

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight
service @7:00pm and 11:00pm

Dec. 25 *Merry Christmas!!*

Jan. 1st *Happy New Year!!*

On the other hand, *Adventus* is a moment that gets closed and is expected. With the concept of *Adventus*, we say, “our future is bright,” because it is about hope and vision. *Adventus* is not a specific time of future, but a coming future with hope. So, an English vocabulary *Adventure* has its root in *Adventus*, because it is an adventure to take the risk to be involved in hope and vision in the future

Futurum becomes the future in English. It is a time of uncertainty, fear, and ignorance, because it is not predictable. Meanwhile, *Adventus* is a time of hope, vision, and expectation. Because God is God who has already come to us through the creation and the incarnation of Jesus Christ, who is present with us, and who will come again, God reveals Godself through the concept of *Adventus*. With this concept, we may reach real peace and eternity in God.

The season of Advent is the time of hope that Jesus would come again and that God will ultimately restore us in our broken world. When we believe in God’s reign in our lives and become disciples of Jesus Christ in our love for God and our good deeds for our neighbors, that is the moment we take and live *Adventus* in our life on earth.

Do we dream of Jesus coming in this season of Advent? Are we excited to have him coming into our lives? Yes, Advent is all about HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE in coming to Jesus. It is not an ending story, but a story given to you and starts with you. So here is one thing I’d like to encourage you to do. Your faith journey with Christ is a GREAT COMPELLING STORY. Christianity is not fundamentally a religion of written books or tradition, but a movement of people who deliver Good News. Then, LET’S MAKE IT HAPPEN AMONG US. Let’s share our own compelling stories in our faith journey with someone you love in the hope for *Adventus*.

Peace in Christ,
Rev. Paul Lee

December Worship Schedule

Dec. 5th: Second Sunday of Advent

The Wise Men’s Gifts

Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12

Dec. 12th: Third Sunday of Advent

Simeon

Gospel of Luke 2:22-32

Dec. 19th: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Anna

Gospel of Luke 2:36-38

Dec. 26th: Christmas Sunday

Shepherds in the Fields

Gospel of Luke 2:8-20

December Children's Messages

Dec. 5/ Second Sunday of Advent

The Prophets Foretell of the Coming King

Dec. 12/ Third Sunday of Advent

An Angel Visits Mary and Joseph

Dec. 19/ Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Light of the World: Jesus is Born

Dec. 26/ Christmas Sunday

Mary and Joseph Flee to Egypt

Flowers for the altar in honor/memory of your loved ones may be reserved by signing up on the 2022 poster in Fellowship Hall, or contacting the office: office@sterlingwesley.org

815-625-1968

Cost is \$20 and the arrangement/delivery is all handled for you!

Missions Corner

Thank you for your contributions to **Loose Coins** in the month of **November**.

We were able to raise over \$530 for the FISH Food Pantry (and one more Sun. to go).

Thanksgiving envelopes also went to FISH, and we raised close to \$900 with your generous donations!

The **December loose coin** offering and half of the **Christmas Eve offering** will be going to the Loaves & Fishes breakfast program. They started serving take-out meals only in July and are serving about 200 meals a week. They are having to buy meat when the food bank doesn't have any, which gets costly. Please remember Loaves & Fishes in your December giving.

Thank you's

To my family and friends at
Sterling Wesley!

Thank you all for the love, prayers
and good thoughts extended to
me in my brief stay at CGH.
I'm well on the way to good
health! It means so much to
know I have so many that care
about me and my well being!

Wishing you all special blessings as
we enter the Christmas season!

Rene Morris

A "HEARTFELT THANK you" to my Wesley
Church family for your thoughts, prayers,
cards, phone calls, food, gift certificates, flowers
and "get well quick wishes" during my recovery
from a broken right wrist. Also to the
Confirmation Class, their sponsors and Pastor
Paul for your beautiful voices when you came
to "Autumn Caroling" in Oct., and for inviting me to
sing along with you. It made my day! And to
the "Card Ministry Ladies" you are a blessing to
our church. Thank you so much for all the
lovely cards I have received from you since
becoming a member of this church. You are
so appreciated!

Again Thank you to all of you
"God Is Good" ☺
Hugs
Elaine Hilger

Thank You so much for your
prayers, cards and telephone
calls for Jean and me during
my eye problem. I went to
Freeport Hospital and was diagnosed
with macular degeneration in my
right eye. I will be getting
a shot in that eye for several
months and I know with all the
prayers I will get better.
A special Thank you to Pastor
Paula prayers and Sharon Shek
for putting my name on the
Prayer List and keeping in
contact with me. Hopefully
I will be able to come to
Church.

God Bless you all
Joan & Jean Partridge

The Greeting Card Ministry
will meet Thur., Dec. 2nd
at 9:30am.
Join us if you can!



SAVE THE DATES...
(DECEMBER / JANUARY)

Salvation Army Bell Ringing



When: Dec. 11 (Sat), 2021
(10 am to 8 pm)
Where: Farm and Fleet

[Sign-up sheet is on the
Missions Table under TV](#)

You may also contact
Roberta Fredericks or office
to sign up



BLOOD DRIVE



Dec. 9, 2021 (Thurs)
9:00 am to 6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall



2022

LEADERSHIP
TRAINING

SAVE
THE
DATE
Jan. 15 (Sat)
@9:30am



Confirmation
SUNDAY



Dec. 19 / 10 am service



Prairie South District

THE
LAY
ACADEMY

Jan. 22nd (Sat), 2022
09:00 am ~ noon
DeKalb First UMC

Grow Your Mind
Grow Your Faith

Hanging of the Greens



Hanging of the Greens



Birthdays

December 2 Derek Fitzanko, Coralee Jacobs
 December 4 Emily Schwingle
 December 12 Kay Clark
 December 13 Sue Morris,
 December 15 Luke Stutzman
 December 16 Nick Ceruzzi,
 December 18 Zephany Drew
 December 19 Chad Duncan
 December 22 Elliot Noble, Sally Unterzuber



December 23 Cindy Melton, Elaine Hilger
 December 24 Lenna Drew
 December 27 Sarah Rodriguez, Sierra Sotelo
 December 30 Mallory Osborn
 December 31 Maddux Osborn

Anniversaries

Dec. 11 Rich & Sue Morris
 Dec. 12 Roger & Nancy Wait
 Dec. 16 Darrin & Amy Driscoll
 Dec. 28 Lowell & Coralee Jacobs
 Dec. 31 Rick & Karen Palmer



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021
7:00 PM & 11:00 PM (Sanctuary)
 Find us on Facebook @SterlingWesleyUMC

Worship helpers for December / Advent candles

DECEMBER -8AM

Greeter	Ushers	Liturgist	Advent Wreath Lighters/Readers
12/5 Rory & Rita Smith	Renee Duncan Wetzell/McCombs Family	Rory Smith	Wetzell/McCombs Family
12/12 Jan Glover	Debbie Kramer Jeff Cedro	Bruce Kramer	Fitzanko Family
12/19 Jan Glover Confirmation Sunday @ 10am	Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch	Jan Glover, Jeff Cedro, Nancy Pitsch, Judy Bushman
12/26 Jan Glover	Jeff Cedro	Steve Downes	

DECEMBER -10AM

Greeter	Ushers	Liturgist	Advent Wreath Lighters/Readers
12/5 Dave & Roberta Fredericks	Toby Johnson Family	Ellie & Stacey Wendeklen	Wendeklen Family
12/12 Truedson Family	Truedson Family	Rick Palmer	Truedson Family
12/19 Confirmation Sunday Steve & Amy Lopez	Stacey & Megan Stutzke Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch	Schwingle Family
12/26 Frank & Janne Rausa	Steve & Amy Lopez	Toby Johnson	

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 Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Join us for in-person Sunday services

8:00 am and 10:00 am

We will continue to 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.**
- **Shampoo for local pantries.**
- **Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries.**
- **Loose coins to benefit Loaves and Fishes for the month of December.**