

# The Chimes

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARCH 2022



### From Our Pastor...

#### What Is God Doing?

Let me confess to you. I've been under a kind of disease. Actually, it's been a while with me, almost twenty years. I try to overcome it. Sometimes I'm better, but it's not easy. Then, I heard that most pastors and some Christians also have the same symptoms. There is no particular medical terminology for that, so I call that "a sermon writing syndrome."

So, here is what it is. When I read the Bible, the syndrome leads me to see it with a particular purpose in an intentional approach. Even with a single verse of the Bible, I find myself automatically seeking some messages to me. I want it to speak to me what I need to do or not to do in my own life, asking, "God, what do you want me to do?" I think that's good in many ways. We have to ask God every day and try to be the person for whom God created us to be, and we really want to know how we may respond to a specific happening in a Christian manner. And that's a kind of reasonable approach to finding a point of my sermon. But, sometimes, I feel that I'm sometimes missing.

Then, I currently read a book written by a great theologian of our time, N.T. Wright. He introduces Missional Hermeneutic with three questions: What is God doing? What is God's mission (or goal) in the text or context? How does God want God's people to participate in God's mission? When I talk about "a sermon writing syndrome," it is so much about questions number 2 and 3, missing number 1. But N. T. Wright says that numbers 2 and 3 are driven by number 1, but we Christians, particularly pastors for their sermon writing, often miss the first one. He asks us to focus on God instead of ourselves, and it brings me a huge "Aha" moment.

### Church Events

**Saturdays 8-9:30am**  
**Men's Bible Study (Fireside Rm)**

**Tue/Thur 3:30pm**  
**Exercise Group (Fireside Rm)**

**Wed. March 2, 7:00pm**  
**Ash Wednesday Service**

**Thur. March 3, 9:30am**  
**Greeting Card Ministry**  
**(Fellowship Hall)**

**Wednesday Lenten Study**  
**begins March 9th with morning/  
evening sessions (Fellowship Hall)**

**Thur. March 10th 6-8pm**  
**Family Painting Night sponsored by**  
**Sauk Valley Chamber (Activity Rm)**

**Sun. March 13th**  
**Easter Flower orders are due!**  
**Order forms are available or just call**  
**the church office Tue-Fri mornings**  
**815-625-1968**

**Tue. March 29th**  
**Worship Team Meeting 7:00pm**  
**(Fellowship Hall)**

It is like, when we read the Bible, the question is not all about what God wants me to do, but what God is doing and what is God's goal in that particular text or chapter? It is a simple question, "What is God doing?" But it brings a considerable change. The main character is not a particular figure in the Bible but God.

For instance, I thought the main figure of the Exodus was Moses and Joshua and that God was like the film director telling them what to do or like a GPS saying, "Moses, turn left in 2 miles." But with missional hermeneutic, God is not the film director outside the scene telling them what to do, but God is the one who leads God's people in that particular scene in the background. Interesting, right?

That is so right. We sing a hymn In the Garden, "He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own." That means God is doing something with us in our lives. But what we ask God, when we pray and read the Bible, is so much focused on us only and less about God. And when I read the Bible and start asking, "God, what are you doing there?" the story unfolds a new angle of the scene with some other insights in which God is actually working as a main figure of the scene.

In this season of Lent, we reflect our hearts, examine our patterns of life, and commit ourselves to Christ. It is like we are tuning ourselves to God. In this season, why don't we ask the first question of missional hermeneutic, "What is God doing?" What is God doing in the Scripture I'm reading? What is God doing in my life? What is God doing in my family, neighborhood, and church? May God reveals Godself to us, and we see, feel and sense God in our faith journey. Amen.

Peace in Christ,

*Rev. Paul Lee*

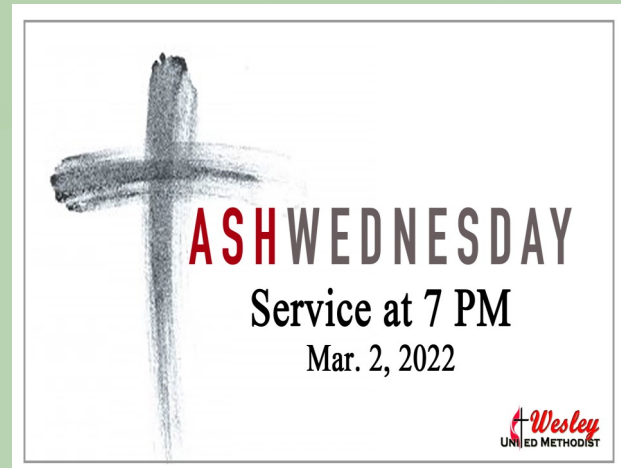
## Worship Schedule

**March 6th** Matthew 26:14-16 "Conflict with Jesus"

**March 13th** John 19:25-27 "New Community"

**March 20th** Luke 3:32-43 "Two Choices at the Cross!"

**March 27th** John 4:7-11, 16b-21 "Love, Fear, and Hate"



**8:00AM**

### March Worship Helpers

**10:00AM**

Door Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist	Door Greeters	Ushers/Acolytes	Liturgist
<b>6th</b> Aaron & Derek Fitzanko	Lynn Majewski	Wendy Fitzanko	<b>6th</b> Matt & Ellie Wendelken	Myla & Sadie Wendeklen	Stacey Wedelken
<b>13th</b> Jan Glover	Lynn Majewski	Erin Graves	<b>13th</b> Frank & Janne Rausa	Tim & Emily Schwingle	Jean Moe
<b>20th</b> Jan Glover	Lynn Majewski	Nancy Pitsch	<b>20th</b> Amy & Greg Bontz	Beth & Ronyn Jacobs	Nancy Pitsch
<b>27th</b> Jan Glover	Rita Smith	Rory Smith	<b>27th</b> Toby, Heather, Harper & August Johnson	Kris & Elliot Noble	Toby Johnson

# Missions

## Loose Coins 2022

**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:** Saturday Kids' Club of Centennial

## 2022 Monthly Pantries Collections

**March:** toilet paper

**April:** bar soap

**May:** dish soap

**February loose coins=**

**\$ 376.74 Thank you!!**

**For the Grace Children's Pediatric Hospital and Clinic in Haiti (still to add Sun. 2/27)**



*Thank You!*

Dave and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and support during our difficult time. We appreciated it and Dave's dad always enjoyed the cards sent by Wesley's card ministry.

**The Fredericks**



## SVACC PAINTING PARTY

# Hop Into Spring



PRESENTED BY: NANCY'S ART STUDIO

**\$40 PER PERSON**

INCLUDES ALL SUPPLIES AND STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS.

BEGINNERS WELCOME! ALL PARTICIPANTS LEAVE WITH A FINISHED PAINTING

**Thursday, March 10**

**6-8PM**

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

**2200 16th Ave Sterling**



Sauk Valley Area  
chamber of commerce

REGISTER AT [SAUKVALLEYAREACHAMBER.COM](http://SAUKVALLEYAREACHAMBER.COM) BY MARCH 3  
OR CALL 815-625-2400

## Easter Flowers

Spring and Easter are coming! Easter flower orders must be submitted by the end of the day, **Sunday, March 13**. County Market has informed me that there is a price increase.

**Tulips and lilies will be available for \$11.00.**

**Order forms are in the fellowship hall, or you may call the church office (815-625-1968) to place your order.**

Flowers can be given in honor or memory of loved ones.

Watering the flowers the week before Easter, setting them in place for Easter Sunday service, and removing them after the service takes a little time and effort. I would so appreciate some assistance, so if you feel a calling to serve in this way, please contact me, Jan Glover at 815-440-0401.

**Many hands make light labor!**



**HELP US to HELP YOU!**



**Christian Education's role is :**

To provide all ages of people in our church with resources & opportunities to educate minds and move hearts towards Christ. To know God's LOVE, help explain United Methodist faith, & deepen understanding of "Who IS GOD" – "Who is Jesus the Christ?" – "Who IS the HOLY SPIRIT" - and how do I have a relationship with God, with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit?

**Due to the number of people asking "how can I read the Bible" or "I've wanted to read the Bible, but don't know where to begin" or "I keep trying to read the Bible but don't understand any of it! HELP!" Christian Education would appreciate feedback from our entire SWUMC family! Kindly take a few moments to circle True or False on the following questions:**

**TIPS:**

DO NOT sign your name!

DO NOT feel bad about your answers! Our goal is to come alongside all who struggle to begin or stay with the goal of reading the Bible!

DO take a few minutes to answer the questions!

DO return your form to church office, to designated basket on Sunday morning next to offering plate, to an usher, or to Nancy Pitsch, Chairperson of Christian Ed Team!

DO answer honestly!

Ready? Set? – GO!!!! J

I have a Bible at home. True or False. (circle one)

I read my Bible - every day, once or twice a week, once a month, once in a while, hardly ever, never. (circle one)

I have read the entire Bible True or False If True, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

I've tried to read the entire Bible but gave up True or False If True, how many times have you tried? \_\_\_\_\_

The translation I read /like most is \_\_\_\_\_

Other translations I like to read or have \_\_\_\_\_

I'm curious about reading the Chronological Bible True or False

I have attended one or more Bible Studies in my life True or False

I would LIKE to be in a Bible study True or False

I would LIKE to KNOW HOW to read through the Bible in a year! True or False

Additional comments, questions, or struggles you have regarding the thought of reading your Bible? Or that you have about reading your Bible? -Use the back!!!!

THANK YOU in advance for your participation!!

**"Let Christ's word with all its wisdom and richness live in you." Colossians 3:16**

Christian Education Team

# Earth Day photo contest and display!!!

## Photos Wanted!

### The Beauty of Nature, taken by YOU

Collection: March through April. 10th (Sun) Display: From April 18 through May 29 (Sunday before the Pentecost)

Any questions? Please find Pastor Paul. Please send your photos to [lovegn247@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

### As of Mar. 1

Wesley Health team agreed following the Illinois State's guideline and many medical experts' reports that wearing a mask will be optional at your discretion.



**MASKS NOW OPTIONAL**

### LET'S SPREAD SOME CHEER!

Some of our members have limited fellowship. Please encourage them with a note or card. Here are their addresses:

**Marion Quick**  
**Regency Care #401**  
**612 St Mary's Road**  
**Sterling, IL 61081**

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

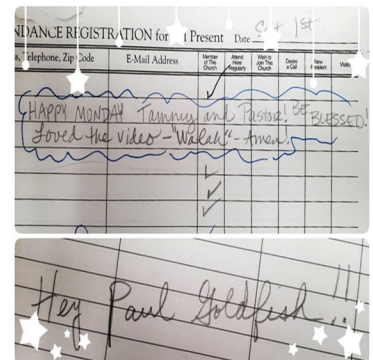


Coffee Hours with Donuts will resume on Mar. 5 (Sun)  
Thanks to Membership Care for preparing coffee & donuts

Please don't forget to use the attendance note.

You can use your creativity or write your note for Pastor on this attendance note.

Pastor Paul will read it and get back to you at your request.



# WELCOME



## Pastor Al & J J Campbell

My life began when I met and married JJ in 1973. I became a husband, a step-father to three awesome sons and was inspired to go to seminary, leaving the business world, going on to be an ordained UM clergy. For over 41 years I have been blessed abundantly. Now we are happy to have found Wesley UMC as our home.

Originally from LaCrosse WI it has been a wonderful life. Raising three sons, graduating from Chicago School of Interior Design at the Art Institute, leading to a 45 year career, and being a pastor's wife. Our family resides in MO, AR, and WI. We have made IL our home and our church family. We are truly blessed at the welcome we have received at Wesley UMC. Oh yes, JJ comes from "Just Jan".



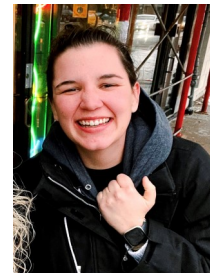
## Susan Reese

I am originally from Carlinville, IL and have always been a Methodist. I was invited by my friends Carolyn Heuck, Jean Moe, and Mary Spitzer to attend Wesley United and did so on a Sunday the bells were playing. I attended again the next Sunday and it just felt right. Pastor Paul and everyone has been so welcoming and I have renewed my faith. Praise be to God.



## Malorie Grennan

I was born in Cedar Rapids, but have lived in Sterling most of my life. I was raised Catholic but it didn't seem to grow my faith and in fact my relationship with God suffered. I came to Wesley a couple of times and felt compelled to continue each time. It changed my faith experience. Nancy Pitsch is a wonderful mentor. I'm looking for continued self-growth on my faith journey.



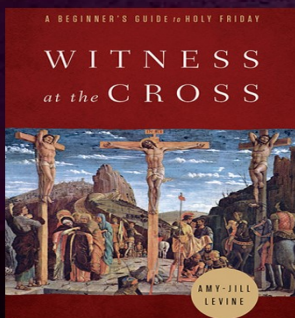
## NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR

## Melissa (Mel) Hurley

My name is Melissa Hurley, but most people call me Mel. I am thrilled to be beginning this new chapter of ministry with you. I grew up in Sterling, and after graduating from North Central College in 2015 with a Sociology degree I promptly (almost immediately) moved to California to pursue a career in Social Services and Ministry. There I served two congregations for several years as a local church pastor while also working in a variety of Social Service related jobs. After spending some time in Oklahoma I am stoked to be back and starting the next chapter here at Wesley UMC! In all of my experiences, the ones that have

brought me the most joy have been working with youth (Camp, VBS, Youth Groups, Church Musicals, etc.) and I cannot wait to get to know you all more as we grow in community together!

## Lenten, 6 weeks Wednesday Bible Study



Starting on March. 9  
Fellowship Hall

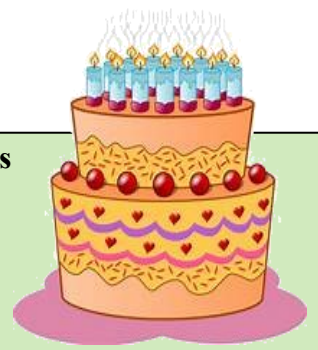




## Birthdays

March 2 Cody Hansen and Sue Klock  
March 4 Aaron Fitzanko  
March 7 Bruce Kramer and Stephanie Jakobs  
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 19 Marla Boynton  
March 20 Mary Downes and Dakota Hayes

March 22 Roberta Fredericks  
March 23 Colton Duncan  
March 29 Jeanne Burch



## Anniversaries

March 17 Andrew and Beth Jacobs

# WE LOVE OUR GREETING CARD WORKERS!

**Please remember to keep the church office updated with changes / corrections! Thank you!**  
**office@sterlingwesley.org 815-625-1968**

**Next Meeting: Thur/March 3rd**

**9:30am-- Join us!**



## 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 Hearts, 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 local Pantries.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins for ***March*** to benefit: **Midwest Distribution Center.**