

# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022



## From Our Pastor...

By the Christian calendar, Advent is the beginning of the year and the last Sunday of the year is the Reign of Christ Sunday. It is like we start a new year waiting for Jesus and end the year proclaiming that Jesus Christ is our Risen Savior. I believe the liturgical calendar represents our life journey with many exciting and sad happenings. There are moments like Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost, as well as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Black Saturday in Holy Week. We also notice that we have more than twenty weeks between Pentecost Sunday and the end of the year. It represents so many days and nights we feel mundane. What's clear is that, getting through all the good, sad, and mundane days, we finally proclaim that Jesus is God's incarnation and that he is the Lord of us all on the last Sunday of the year.

As we just began a new year with Advent, I hope we pause and question what it means to have Advent. It seems that the Christmas story is very much thrilling, dynamic, and dramatic. Mary was informed by an angel sent by God about the miraculous birth of the Savior. Guess what Mary, as a little girl – soon to be a bride -should have felt before this unbelievable news. As an ordinary person, I don't think I could respond to the angel as she did, saying, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Not only Mary but also Joseph was

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## Church Events

**Tue./Thur. Exercise class** 4:00pm  
Fireside Room

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

**Wed. Bible Study** 9:30am & 7:00pm  
Fireside Room

**Thurs. Bible Study** 6:30pm

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**Dec. 1: Greeting Card Ministry** 9:30am  
Fellowship Hall

**Dec. 3: JJ Campbell's 90th birthday** open house 2:00-5:00pm

**Dec. 3: Salvation Army bell ringing** at Farm & Fleet 10am-8pm

**Dec. 8: Red Cross Blood Drive** at Wesley, 9am-6:30pm / Fellowship Hall

**Dec. 18: Children's Christmas Program**

**Dec. 19: Blue Christmas service** 7:00pm

**Dec. 24: Christmas Eve services**

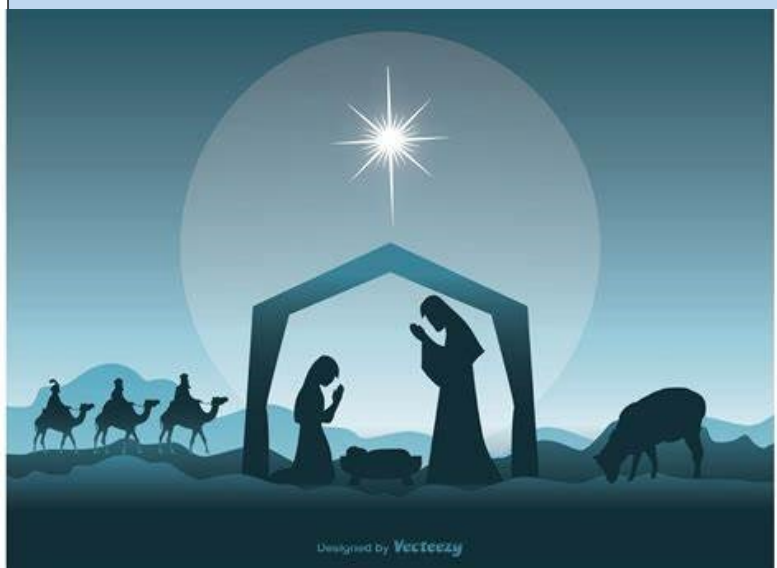
**Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!!**

**Jan. 1st Happy New Year!!**

abnormal. He accepted Mary as his bride, and they went on an 80-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The Son of God was born in a strange place, a filthy manger. And the baby has changed the whole world upside down. It is more dramatic than any of Disney's animations. Are we excited by this story?

We will revisit the story of Jesus' birth with Mary, Joseph, the wise men of the East, the shepherds, and a few more people. We know the story. But I believe it will speak to us with rich and profound messages as we try to listen to what God would speak to us in this season. With this familiar story, I'd like to ask you three questions; what does the story teach us about the character of God? What does the story tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate this season? And what does the character in the story tell us about God's will for us?

I hope this Advent gives us a vivid meaning of God's love for us. I pray that this 2,000-year-old story becomes new in our hearts, so that Mary's journey to respond to God's calling and plan will be ours. Let's take it into our hearts. Let's make it to be ours. Let's make Mary's response ours to God's love for us. And let's share this love with our neighbors, the world, and more this coming year. Amen.



## December Worship Schedule

**Dec. 4 Second Sunday of Advent**

**Dec. 11 Third Sunday of Advent**

**Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Dec. 19 Blue Christmas  
Service at 7 pm**

**Dec. 24 Christmas Eve  
Services at 7 pm & 11 pm**

**Dec. 25 Christmas Sunday  
10:00 am service only**

### Christian Education Team

Members: Aaron & Devon Flick, Carol Cravatta, Jamie Greenfield, Jamie Schwingle, Mel Hurley, Rene Morris, Rebecca Tieman, Rich Halverson, Shannon Klausing, Stacey, Stutzke, Stacey Wendelkin, and Nancy Pitsch, chairperson

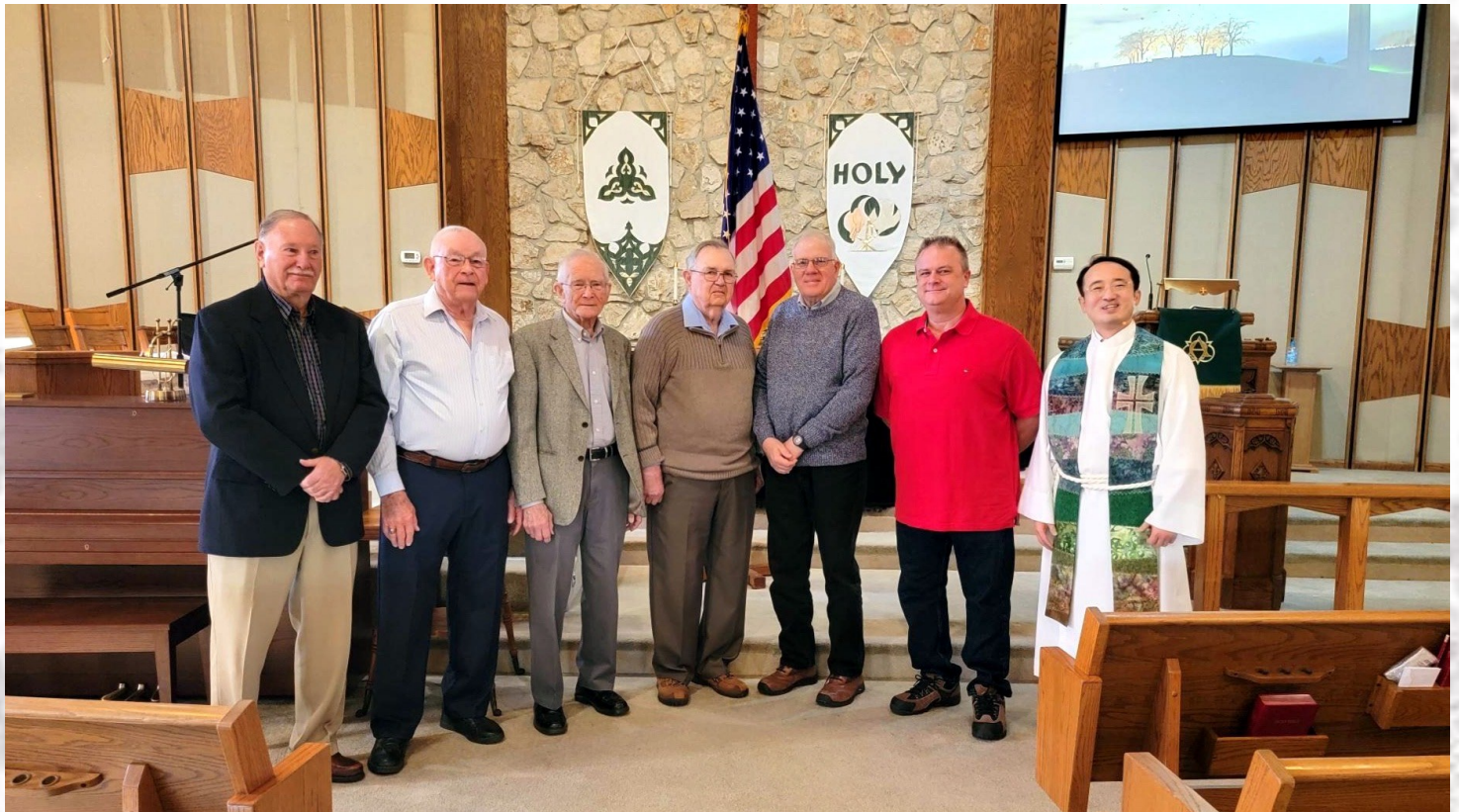
The first meeting for 2023 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th at 6:15 pm.

I'm looking forward to all the ways God will inspire and equip the hearts and gifts of this team in the New Year! I'm thankfully humble to be serving alongside so many incredible & faithful servants on behalf of our children, families, and all ages of people!. Many hands make light work, trusting God to bless times we meet, things we plan, and every offering we give out of his love, in us! Nancy

"Give generously and generous gifts will be given back to you, shaken down to make room for more. Abundant gifts will pour out upon you with such an overflowing measure that it will run over the top! The measurement of your generosity becomes the measurement of your return." Luke 6:38 TPT



# Thank you, Veterans!





## Missions Corner

**Thank you** for your contributions to **Loose Coins** in the month of **November**. We were able to raise \$334.76 for **FISH**.

**Thanksgiving envelopes** also contributed \$200 to the **FISH** ministry with your generous donations!

The **Thanksgiving Baskets** ministry provided additional funds of \$859.25 for the Township to purchase meals for the community!



### Salvation Army Bell Ringing!

**When: Saturday December 3**

**Where: At 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. 8, 2022 (Thurs)  
9:00 am to 6:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall**



## Celebrations & Concerns

Members,

David and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers. David's head cancer surgery went well. In place of head bandages, he now sports a nifty new hat to cover the wound when he's out and about. We truly felt your prayers and thank you for your comforting messages.

Sharon & David Siex

The Wesley Family extends their deepest sympathy to the Cal Jacobs family. Cal was called Home on November 14th. He will be sincerely missed and we surround Pat and her family with love and support as they navigate this difficult time.

# Youth Activities



## Christmas Program Schedule

Dec. 11 Practice during Matthew Meeting (arrive by 8:45)

Dec. 18 Practice during Matthew Meeting (arrive by 8:45)

**Program on Dec. 18th at 10:00 am service.**

Contact Jaime Greenfield (815-499-4370) with questions or to volunteer to help.

## Youth Group

Through the remainder of 2022, the Youth Group will be meeting together. Both Middle School and High School students will meet on Sundays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Recognizing that this is a busy time of year and the importance of family, this is a temporary schedule. The schedule for 2023 will be discussed and given prayerful consideration.

Mel says "we have such an incredible group of young people in our congregation. Thank you for your continued support of our youth! It is a privilege to be in ministry with you all."



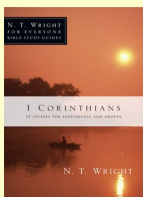


Safe Sanctuaries Training

## Bible Study



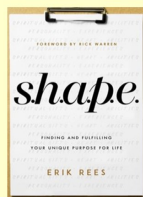
Wed. Morning



Wed. Evening



Thurs. Evening



Sat. Morning

**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST



**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST

**Blue Christmas**  
a service of healing and hope

Dec. 19th (Mon) 7pm

**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST

**Christmas Eve**  
— a savior is born —

**7 PM Service 11 PM**

**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST

**Pajamas Christmas Sunday**  
Dec. 25 (Sun)

We will have **ONE** Worship at 10 am on Christmas

**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST

Please find a Gratitude Board in the fellowship Hall.  
Write a person's name on a post-it that you are grateful and what you are grateful for.  
Let us cultivate gratitude & recognize the beauty of our community.

**gratitude**  
[gra-tuh-tood] noun.  
appreciation for your loved ones, experiences and moments in life; feeling of joy for life's little blessings

**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST



# Birthdays

Dec. 1 JJ Campbell  
 Dec. 2 Derek Fitzanko, Coralee Jacobs  
 Dec. 4 Emily Schwingle  
 Dec. 12 Kay Clark  
 Dec. 13 Sue Morris, Julie VanAusdal  
 Dec. 15 Luther Stutzman  
 Dec. 16 Nick Ceruzzi, Shane Williams  
 Dec. 18 Zephan Drew  
 Dec. 19 Jonathan Abele, Chad Duncan

Dec. 22 Elliot Noble, Sally Unterzuber  
 Dec. 23 Cindy Melton, Elaine Hilger  
 Dec. 24 Lenna Drew  
 Dec. 27 Sarah Rodriguez, Sierra Sotelo  
 Dec. 30 Mallory Osborn  
 Dec. 31 Maddux Osborn



# Anniversaries

Dec. 11 Rich & Sue Morris  
 Dec. 12 Roger & Nancy Wait  
 Dec. 16 Darrin & Amy Driscoll



Dec. 23 Toby & Heather Johnson  
 Dec. 28 Lowell & Coralee Jacobs  
 Dec. 31 Rick & Karen Palmer

# Worship helpers for December

DECEMBER 8:00 A.M.				
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgists	Advent
12/4	Jan Glover	Jeff Cedro	Melissa Hurley	Mike & Michele Drew Logan Ayala
12/11	Jan Glover	Rita Smith Jeff Cedro	Rory Smith	Nancy Pitsch Joey Cordell
12/18	Jan Glover	Nancy Pitsch Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch	Roger & Nancy Wait
12/24 7pm				Frank & Janne Rausa
12/25				

DECEMBER 10:00 A.M.				
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgists	Advent
12/4	Toby & Heather Johnson	August Johnson Jeff Cedro	Harper Johnson	Warren & Carolyn Heuck
12/11	Mark & Sharon Taylor	Andy Pitsch Jeff Cedro	Rick Palmer	Aaron & Devon Flick, Jovie, Remy
12/18	Mark & Sharon Taylor	Andy Pitsch Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch	Melissa Hurley & Youth
12/24 11pm				Melissa Hurley & Youth
12/25		Steve Lopez	Amy Lopez	



## **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*

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.**
- **December's collection for local pantries is shampoo.**
- **Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries.**
- **Loose coins to benefit Loaves and Fishes for the month of December.**