



# The Chimes

## January 2023

Happy New Year, Wesley Family,

I wish God's abundant blessings upon you and your beloved ones and God's strengthening and empowering hands. I'm thrilled thinking of and expecting what God would do through our beloved Wesley family.

As we say goodbye to 2022 and welcome a new year, I want to shout out to you, "You've done a great job in 2022." Since the second Sunday of March 2020, we suspended our in-person worship and gatherings, and everything was uncertain. We didn't know what would happen to our personal and communal lives. Then, we resumed our in-person worship and gathering in 2021. We could taste the beauty of our collective lives with one another. We enjoyed our fellowship and ministry, even with some restrictions.

Yet, the year 2022 was different from the previous year. We yearned to have vitality back to our community at the level before the Pandemic. But almost two years of the Pandemic forced us to navigate new possibilities of ministries in a new normal and rebuild the teams/committees. Most teams/committees had to revisit and revised their job descriptions and re-launched their ministries. We never stopped our small groups/Bible studies during the Pandemic. We had parking lot services many times. Our brilliant confirmation class completed their journey to say to God by their will, "I believe in you, God." Many kids enjoyed Matthew's Meetings and VBS 2.0.

I've been so blessed to be with this beautiful faith community. To be honest with you, there were a few times that I personally was deeply concerned with many sleepless nights navigating and empowering teams/committees, asking for God's wisdom and guidance. But all I find, thinking back over the last two years, is God's mighty hands holding our community tight. And I am delightfully shouting to you, "Well, done! You've done an awesome job! I'm so proud of you all."

I've mentioned a couple of times four aspects of the church from the Early Church: what we as a community would empower in our community's life and ministry. We will continue our ministries with the well-balanced formats with those four aspects: Words, Fellowship, Education, and Service.

Let us continue our effort to be the faithful disciples of Jesus Christ through our love: love for God and love for one another. May God be with us all every single moment, and we follow God's guiding, strengthening, and empowering hands. Love you all.

*Pastor Paul*

# WORSHIP SCHEDULES

JANUARY 8:00 A.M.			
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgists
1/1	Lynn Majewski	Nancy Pitsch Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch
1/8	Lynn Majewski	Randy Clodfelter Jeff Cedro	Pam Clodfelter
1/15	Lynn Majewski	Jan Davey Jeff Cedro	Jeff Davey
1/22	Lynn Majewski	Steve Downes Jeff Cedro	Mary Downes
1/29	Aaron & Derek Fitzanko	James Fitzanko Jeff Cedro	Wendy Fitzanko

JANUARY 10:00 A.M.			
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgists
1/1	Andy Pitsch	Nancy Pitsch Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch
1/8	Andy Pitsch Aaron Flick	Devon, Jovie, Remy Flick & Jeff Cedro	Aaron Flick
1/15	Andy Pitsch	Warren Heuck Jeff Cedro	Carolyn Heuck
1/22	Matt Wendelken Myla Wendelken	Ellie & Sadie Wen- delken & Jeff Cedro	Stacey Wen- delken
1/29	Aaron Flick Remy Flick	Devon & Jovie Flick Jeff Cedro	Aaron Flick

JANUARY MATTHEW MEETING LEADERS		
Date	Leaders	Contact
1/1	Holiday No Class	
1/8	Nancy Pitsch communion w/ kids	nancy@pitschfamily.com
1/15	Nancy Pitsch & Rene Morris	nancy@pitschfamily.com renemorris8944@att.net
1/22	Jamie & Emily Schwingle	tschwingle1603@comcast. net
1/29	Jessica, Nora & Carlie Trued- son	jtruedson@sps5.org

JANUARY WORSHIP
January 1: Luke 2: 25-35
January 8: 1 Timothy 4:7, Isaiah 40:31,
January 15: Guest Speaker
January 22: Guest Speaker
January 29: Luke 2: 8-12

# Thank You

Wesley Members,

"We want you to know how much we appreciate your contribution to our Thanksgiving project."

"We are grateful for your support to our community."

Happy Holidays,  
Sterling Township Staff

"Thank you for your generous donation to the Bear Necessities Pantry. Your donation blesses our neighbors who need a helping hand. God Bless!"

Bear Necessities  
Personal Care Pantry  
Rock Falls UMC  
210 4th Avenue  
Rock Falls, IL 61071

"Thank you very much for the loose coin donation to the Fish Food Pantry. We are stocking our shelves for the winter months. Your donation will buy more than 2,000 lbs. of food at the Sauk Valley Food Bank. We also make purchases at Aldi. It takes a community to support a food pantry and you are part of that community."

Fish Food Pantry

"I would like to thank Wesley UM for letting me use your beautiful fellowship hall for my birthday party. I especially want to thank Lynn M., Rita S., and Renee D. for being such blessings to me in all the work they did on Friday and Saturday."

Love,  
JJ Campbell

# Send an Encouraging Note

Gloria Grant  
1904 8th Avenue  
Sterling, IL 61081

Marion Quick  
Allure #304  
612 St. Mary's Road  
Sterling, IL 61081

We send our condolences to the family of Violet Windham. Violet died on Christmas morning. Sympathy cards may be sent to Violet's daughter, Sue Hayes.

Sue Hayes  
25736 Fulfs Road  
Sterling, IL 61081

# Reminders

- There is a sign-up sheet for hosts to adopt a Sunday in January or February. This is an opportunity for coffee, donuts, and fellowship. The coffee and donuts are provided, we just need hosts!
- The poster is up to sponsor a Sunday in 2023 to provide the altar flowers for worship. The cost is \$20. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one, or simply for the glory of God.
- Please pick up your 2023 offering envelopes if you haven't already.
- Poinsettias need to be picked up prior to January 2nd.
- All good things must come to an end. An "undecorating" party is scheduled immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service on January 8th. All the advent decorations will be taken down and placed in the activity room. The worship team will box and store them at a later date.
- Carpet replacement is scheduled for the week of January 9th - 13th. During this time, both the sanctuary and fellowship room will be disrupted as the pews will need to be removed and placed in the fellowship room. Please keep this in mind when planning meetings and events.
- The Fish Pantry is in need of empty egg cartons. If you have any, please bring them to Church.

## Church Events

**Sun. Jan. 1:** New Year's Day

**Thurs. Jan. 5:** Greeting Card Ministry 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall

**Thurs. Jan. 12:** Membership Care Team meeting at 1:00 pm

**Sun. Jan. 15:** Men's Group 9:00 am in Activity Room (no breakfast) - ham dinner planning

**Thurs. Jan. 19:** Ladies Lunch Group gathering at 11:30 at A's Kitchen in Rock Falls. Reservations by Jan. 16.

**Sat. Jan. 28:** Leadership Training 9:30 to noon

**Tues. & Thurs.:** Exercise Group 3:30 pm in Fireside Room

**Tues. Bell Choir Practice 5:15 pm**

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

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

**Sun. Combined Youth Group 1:00 - 2:30**

## Missions

Thank you to our Salvation Army bell ringers! These individuals rang bells: Carolyn Heuck, Marianne Rosser, Linda Kavran, Bill & Jillian Parker, Amy Lopez, Jamie Greenfield, Judy Bushman, Jean Moe, Mary Nelves & Scott, Amy Viering-Bontz, Marc & Cindy Melton, Rosie Davis, the Graves Family, Jan Glover, and Roberta Fredericks. Through your efforts, we were able to collect \$433.76 for the Salvation Army.

Loose coins in December were allocated for Loaves & Fishes and \$528.11 was received.

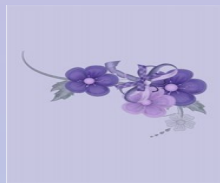
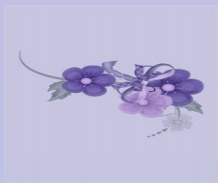
The money collected at the Christmas Eve services totalled \$200.00 and the Christmas envelopes added \$1,105.00. These funds will be split between Loaves & Fishes and UMCOR.



1/1 Joan Partridge  
 1/3 Norma Church  
 August Johnson  
 Steve Michel  
 1/4 Linda Dirks  
 1/5 Joshua Greenfield  
 1/8 Joe Gatz  
 Carol Shaw  
 1/11 Susie Cedro  
 Melissa Freas

1/12 Matthew Taylor  
 1/13 Molly Papoccia  
 1/14 Christie Freas  
 Michael Quick  
 1/16 Toby Hodges  
 1/18 Reid Blackburn  
 Ryan Blackburn  
 Bowen Mallhi  
 1/20 Randy Clodfelter  
 Janne Rausa

1/22 Mitchell Clodfelter  
 Alice (Cathy) Williams  
 1/24 Antonio Castaneda  
 1/26 Darrin Driscoll  
 1/27 Bella Styles  
 1/29 James Melton  
 1/30 Lynn Hammer  
 Lexi Hinrichs  
 1/31 Wendy Fitzanko



## Anniversaries



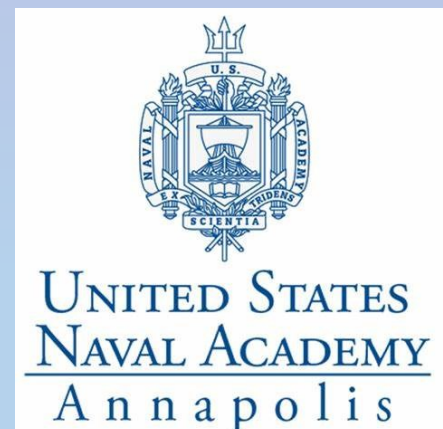
1/6 Jon & Christies Freas

1/28 Edd & Marianne Rosser

## Celebrations

Congratulations!

Big shout out to Jack Graves and James Morris for their appointments to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. Both of these seniors received their academy appointments from U.S. Representative of the 17th District, Cheri Bustos. This is both a significant accomplishment and an honor. Jack and James we are proud of you!



The following individuals were welcomed into membership during the worship service on December 18th: Linda Dirks, Aaron & Devon Flick, and Richard Lobdell. Sandra Minor also completed the membership training, but was unable to attend the service.







# Children's Christmas Program on December 18th





# Christmas Eve Service







Christmas Day - Pajama Sunday

## 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>

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.
- January's collection for local pantries is laundry detergent.
- Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries continue to be collected.
- Loose coins for January will benefit Rev. Dr. Jin Y Kim. Rev. Kim is the coordinator of the Korean Peninsula Dialogue and Peace Building of the World Council of Churches which is based in Geneva, Switzerland. Rev. Kim is a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference.