



THE CHIMES

APRIL 2023

"I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses and the voice I hear falling on my ear is the Son of God disclosing." This is the first verse of the beloved Christian hymn, "In the Garden." The lyrics illustrate Mary Magdalene's unexpected encounter with the Risen Savior Jesus as she arrived, desperate with grief at the loss of Jesus. Her mourning turned to shouts of joy as the news of the resurrection transformed the disciples who had been weeping and groaning in fear, hiding in an upper room. The resurrected Jesus changed their narrative of frustration, despair, and fear to one of hope, conviction, and faith.

Bryan Stevenson, an American lawyer and professor, gave a speech presenting "four pillars to change the world" that could bring contextual transformation to our society: awareness of the context, creating space for narratives of integrity and truth, courage to be uncomfortable, and relentless hope. I believe these pillars can speak to us as disciples to transform the world with Christ's love and hospitality. I would like to introduce these four pillars.

First, an awareness of the contextual reality is the starting point for cultivating hospitality. Fear of inviting others into closer relationships can lead to differences, prejudice, injustice, and even dehumanization. However, it is impossible to move towards wholeness, restoration, and reconciliation without first addressing these concerns and problems. We need to confront and differentiate concerns, anxieties, fears, and problems from our reality.

Secondly, individuals and communities can resist narratives of fear and division by creating space for narratives of integrity and truth. Just as Mary's good news brought hope to the disciples and Jesus affirmed it with his appearance, we too believe in God and God's love has manifested in our lives. Our faith cannot be changed by any challenges, and we can find hope in Jesus Christ through our faith.

The Holy Spirit gives us courage to move forward with hope. Hope and courage are the third pillar. They help us be brave and willing to be Jesus' disciples and witness the Good News. Stevenson argues that hope animates our yearning for creating a future that is different from the current reality. Hope also takes courage to stand up in the face of problems and concerns and move out of one's comfort zone to be faithful disciples in seeking healing, restoration, and reconciliation. Finally, we need to continue to have relentless hope that God

will lead us and bring us salvation. This hope is contagious, and we can share love without or with fewer boundaries.

Many of you have heard about the “Asbury Revival” where thousands of people, mostly young people, have continued to worship God since February 8th. Many pastors in many cities and towns desired to replicate this

revival in their churches and hosted “special worship/prayer” events, but many didn’t go as they expected. The question we need to ask ourselves is “who leads the movement?” The movement at Asbury is driven by the people, not by a few strong leaders.

. It's clear that God’s movement most of the time unfolds when people yearn for God’s salvation. I’m grateful that we have many faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We choose hope, not fear or indifference, with courage, and share the narrative of hope in Christ. I believe that God will lead our community, and that we will shout it out with our whole hearts: “Hallelujah! Christ is risen, and he is our savior.” We will become a community of faithful disciples in our words, actions, and relationships.

Earth Day Photo Contest and Display

Photo Wanted!

The Beauty of Nature, taken by YOU!!!

Collection: March through April 2 (Sun)

Display: From April 9 (Sun) through May 7 (Sun)

Please send your photos to the office or Pastor Paul (lovegn247@gmail.com)

Any Questions? Please find Pastor Paul.

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



Photo Contest
The beauty of Nature
taken by YOU

Collection: Until April 3rd (Mon)
Display: 4 Wks from Easter
Any questions? Ask Pastor Paul





Please help us celebrate Earth Day by making a donation in the box if you enjoyed all of the beautiful photos our parisoners have provided!

All donations will be added to our Loose Coin for April, Caretakers of God’s Creation.

April Worship Helpers

APRIL 8:00 A.M.			
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgists
4/2	Jan Glover	Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch
4/9 (Easter)	Jan Glover	Shannon Klausing Jeff Cedro	Nancy Pitsch
4/16	Jan Glover	Lynn Majewski Jeff Cedro	Mary Downes
4/23	Jan Glover	Rebecca Tieman, Shannon Klausing, Jeff Cedro	Steve Downes
4/30	Derek & Aaron Fitzanko	James Fitzanko Jeff Cedro	Wendy Fitzanko

APRIL 10:00 A.M.			
Date	Greeters	Ushers	Liturgists
4/2	Steve Lopez	Abri Poci Jeff Cedro	Amy Lopez
4/9 (Easter)	Castaneda Family	Castaneda Family Jeff Cedro	Amber & Jaz Mya Castaneda
4/16	Bill Parker	Greg & Amy Bontz Jeff Cedro	Rick Palmer
4/23	Bill Parker Isaac Halverson	Steve Lopez Jeff Cedro	Amy Lopez
4/30	Molly & Shay Papoccia	JP & Brady Papoccia Jeff Cedro	Nick Papoccia

APRIL MATTHEW MEETING LEADERS	
Date	Leaders
4/2	Nancy Pitsch & Rene Morris
4/9	Nancy Pitsch & Mel Hurley
4/16	Jaime Greenfield & Rene Morris
4/23	Carrie and Isaac Halverson
4/30	Devon Flick & Elias Halverson





April Birthdays

1 - Beth Mathew

2 - Ken Newlon

3 - Janet Stevens-Lindsley

Olivia Schwingle

4 - Gloria Grant

5 - Jeffrey Spitzer

8 - Frank Rausa

Mark Gatz

9 - Isaac Carrion

13 - Pastor Paul Lee

14 - Amy Lopez

14 - Randy Smith

Don Warkins

16 - Peg Burke

17 - Karen Palmer

18 - Allison Ramirez

19 - Austin Cedro

23 - Julie Carrion

Nick Papoccia

25 - Craig Truedson

28 - Sarah Gabrielse

30 - Amber Castaneda

April Anniversaries

1 - Pastor Paul & Pastor Rosa Lee

2 - Ron & Judy Bushman

17 - Walter & Janet Lindsley

18 - Marc & Cindy Melton

19 - Toby & Debbie Hodges

20 - John & Fabiene Plummer

24 - Jeff & Jan Davey

30 - Dennis & Alice Vetter

Joe & Elisa Gatz

Wesley Church Friends,

Trinity United Methodist Pantry wants to thank you. Each month you have provided us with many items, paper products, toothbrushes, soap, etc. These are all needed by families that come to the Pantry. We can't thank you enough for being so thoughtful and generous with you giving. Blessings to you.

Trinity United Methodist Church

Wesley Church Members,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation to the Loaves and Fishes breakfast program! We are most grateful for your continued support.

We are still serving take-out meals only four days a week and are averaging about 150 meals a day. We served 2020 meals in February.

Our costs are rising as are the number of meals we serve. Your donation will help us a lot. We will use the money wisely.

Thank you again,

Sue Abate

Corresponding Secretary

We have so appreciated being allowed to hold our meeting each month at Wesley. The use of the Fellowship Hall during the winter to exercise is also a blessing.

The Roundtuits

Janay Dalton, Sunshine

K. Anderson, President

Thanks to all that remembered me with cards & calls after the death of my daughter-in-law.

Mary Anne Batten

Church Calendar

Holy Week 4/2 - 4/9

Apr 2: Palm Sunday

Apr 6: Maundy Thursday

Apr 7: Good Friday

Apr 9: Easter

Apr 3: College care packages at 1:00 pm

Apr 6: Greeting Card team meets 9:30 am

Apr 17: Trustees' meeting at 5:30 pm

Apr 20: Ladies Lunch at 11:30am, Wagon Wheel in Sterling

Tues/Thurs	Exercise Group	3:30 pm
Wed	Bible Studies	9:30am & 7:00pm
Wed	Bell Choir Practice	5:15 pm
Thurs	Bible Study	6:30 pm
Sat	Men' Bible Study	8:00 am
Sun	Youth Group	1:00-3:00 pm

Missions' Corner

In March, \$606.94 was collected for Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Additionally, members donated \$ 500.00 for UMCOR to be used for earthquake relief in Syria and Turkey.

April's loose coin offerings are designated for Caretakers of God's Creation.

The pantries supply product for April is bar soap.

Membership Care

The Membership Care Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 3rd at 1:00 pm to assemble college care packages. Contact Sue Abate at (815)625-0539 if you are interested in participating. Donations to include in the care packages are also welcome. This is a great opportunity to show our college students that we are thinking of them and support them.

Greeting Card Ministry

The Greeting Card Team continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month. They will be gathering on April 6th at 9:30am to continue this precious ministry. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Youth Group

We will be having two youth groups through the remainder of the school year. Middle School students will meet 1-2pm weekly on Sunday afternoons and High School students will meet directly after, 2-3pm. I will keep parents updated for combined events!

Thanks,
Mel



Men's Group Ham Dinner
Held on Saturday, March 11th



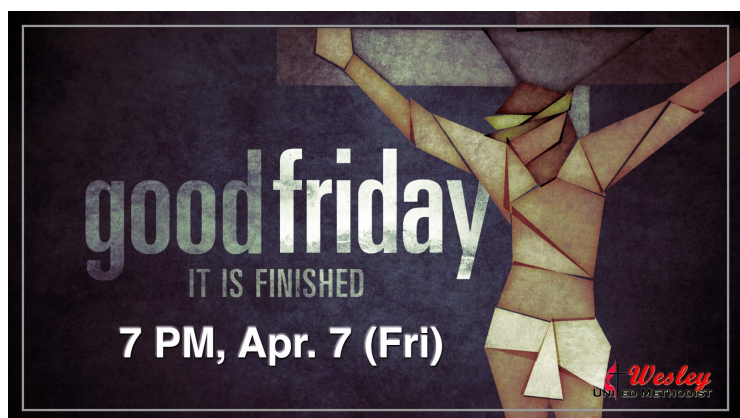
Lyon Scholarship

Eligible for those who

- 1) were baptised or confirmed
- 2) graduate high school this year
- 3) pursue further educational opportunity (college/university or training)

Application to the office/Pastor Paul
by May 10 (Wed)

 **Wesley**
UNITED METHODIST



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.

<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.
- April's collection for local pantries is bar soap..
- Travel-sized toiletries for the Trinity and FISH pantries continue to be collected.
- Loose coins for April will benefit Caretakers of God's Creation. This mission focuses on reconnecting God's people with creation. They hold national conferences and attend the United Nations conferences on climate change. Additionally, they provide resources to conferences and local congregations. For more information visit www.umccreationcare.org.
- April's 5th Sunday appeal is designated for "Peace with Justice".