

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023



From Our Pastor...



As we gather in the warmth of fellowship and celebration during this joyous Christmas season, I am reminded of a remarkable event that resonates with the true spirit of Christ. The

Christmas Truce of 1914, amidst the

harsh reality of World War I, stands as a profound testament to the transformative power of peace, compassion, and shared humanity. In the freezing trenches of the Western Front, soldiers from opposing sides, entrenched in the brutality of war, spontaneously initiated an unofficial truce on that sacred Christmas Eve. The ceasefires weren't orchestrated by commanders but emerged organically as soldiers, tired of the enmity, sought a connection to the timeless message of Christmas.

Picture the scene: soldiers, not as enemies, but as fellow human beings, coming together in the spirit of the season. Carols, sung with a shared longing for peace, echoed across the desolate landscape. Modest gifts, exchanged in the midst of conflict, symbolized a collective desire for goodwill. In an extraordinary display of unity, impromptu soccer matches unfolded in no-man's-land, erasing the lines that had divided them just days before.

Continued on page 2...

Church Events

Tue./Thur. -Exercise class 3:30-4:30
Fellowship Hall

Wed.- Bible Study at 9:30 am

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

Sun.- Confirmation class at 6:00 pm

Dec. 3— First Bible at 10 am service
Christmas Caroling after 10 am service

Dec. 7- Greeting Card Ministry at 9:30am
(Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 9 & 10 - Children's Christmas
Program Practice

Dec. 17– Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 24: Sunday Service at 10 am
Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm & 11 pm

Dec. 25 - *Merry Christmas!!*

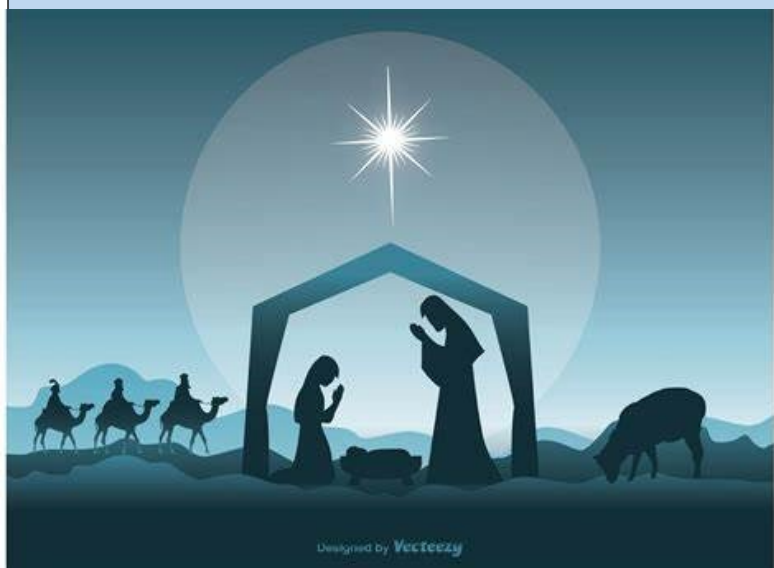
Jan. 1st- *Happy New Year!!*

Feb. 17th - Wesley Leadership Workshop
at 9:30 am (Fellowship Hall)

The Christmas Truce invites us to ponder the true meaning of Christ's message – a message of peace, love, and justice. It challenges us to look beyond the barriers that society and circumstances construct, fostering a spirit of understanding and compassion. Just as those soldiers found a brief respite from the horrors of war, we, too, can seek moments of unity, even in the midst of our challenges.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us be inspired by the Christmas Truce of 1914 to bring peace and justice into our own lives and communities. Christ's teachings call us to be peacemakers, to extend compassion to those around us, and to seek justice for the marginalized and oppressed. The truce serves as a reminder that, in embracing these principles, we contribute to a world where the timeless values of Christmas prevail over the discord of our times.

May this Christmas be a time of reflection and renewal, a season where we strive to embody the transformative power of Christ's message in our daily lives. Together, as a community, let us be beacons of peace, advocates for justice, and channels of love that will lead us to the spirit of joy. Happy Advent! Merry Christmas!



December Worship Schedule

Dec. 3	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 10	Second Sunday of Advent
Dec. 17	Third Sunday of Advent
Dec. 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	Morning Service at 10 am
	Christmas Eve Service at 7 am & 11 am
Dec. 31	First Sunday after Christmas

Birthdays

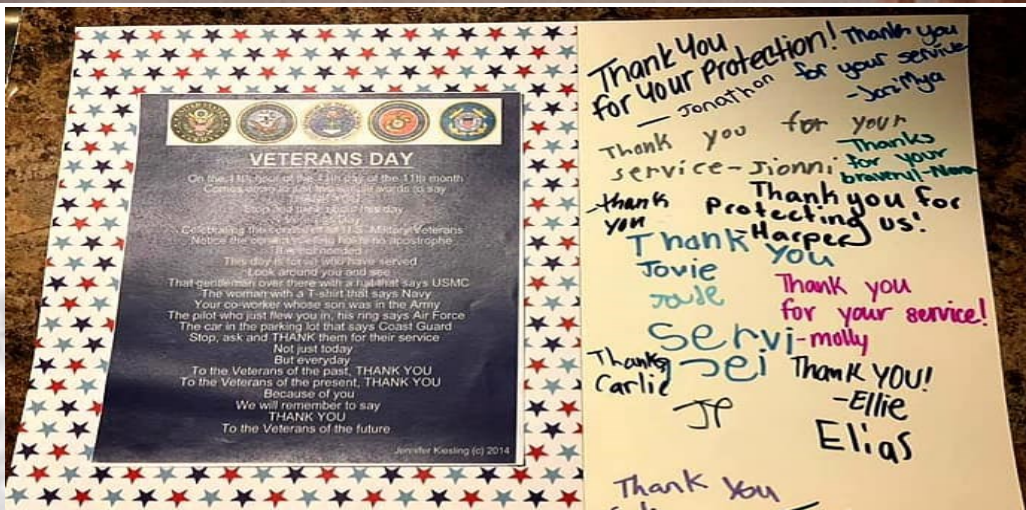


Dec. 1	JJ Campbell
Dec. 2	Derek Fitzanko, Coralee Jacobs
Dec. 4	Emily Schwingle
Dec. 12	Kay Clark
Dec. 13	Sue Morris, Julie VanAusdal
Dec. 15	Luther Stutzman
Dec. 16	Nick Ceruzzi
Dec. 18	Zephany Drew
Dec. 19	Chad Duncan
Dec. 22	Elliot Noble, Sally Unterzuber
Dec. 23	Cindy Melton, Elaine Hilger
Dec. 24	Lenna Drew
Dec. 27	Sarah Rodriguez, Sierra Sotelo
Dec. 30	Mallory Osborn, Lacey Young, Sandra Minor
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, Dave & Julie Carrion, Greg & Chris Gallentine
Dec. 31	Rick & Karen Palmer

Thank you, Veterans!



Missions Corner

Thank you for your contributions to **Loose Coins** in the month of **November**. We were able to raise \$283.41 for **FISH**.

Thanksgiving envelopes also contributed \$210.00 to the **FISH** ministry with your generous donations!

The **Thanksgiving Baskets** ministry provided additional funds of \$1,145.00 for the

Missions is sad to announce that Loaves and Fishes will be ending on January 1st. The FISH Food Pantry will not be affected and will remain open. Since we had designated Loaves and Fishes for our December Loose Coins and for half our Christmas Eve offerings and envelopes we have chosen to replace Loose Coins with PADS and Christmas Eve Offerings will be split with UMCOR Disaster Relief and FISH Food Pantry.

CELEBRATIONS



Wesley's Greeting Card Ministry will meet **Thursday, December 7 at 9:30** in Fellowship Hall to prepare and send cards. Please join us!

Hello Lunch Ladies,

Our next lunch will be Dec. 21st at 11:30 at A's Kitchen.

We had our private room, good food and good prices. We are looking forward to our return.

I will e-mail closer to the time for reservations. I know it is close to Christmas but we want to get together.

Beth Mathew

All Saints Sunday


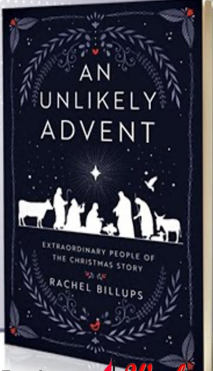
CONFIRMATION CLASS





Church Conference 2023

Advent Study
Wednesday Morning
 Starting on **Nov. 29**

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Paul.

Wesley
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Children's Christmas Program
Dec. 17th (Sun), 10 am
 Practice on Dec. 10th (Sun)



Wesley
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Christmas Eve
 — a savior is born —

7 PM Service 11 PM



Wesley
 UNITED METHODIST

Wesley
Leadership Workshop
Feb. 17th (Sat)
9:30 am



Wesley
 UNITED METHODIST

Worship helpers for December

December 8am

Door greeter(s)	Ushers	Liturgist
3 rd Jan Glover	Rebecca & Shannon	Mary Downes
10 th Jan Glover	Matthew & Addison Gabrielse Rebecca & Shannon	Mary -Terrie Snavelly Back Pew
17 th Jan Glover	Rebecca & Shannon	Mary Downes
24 th -----	NO 8am service today!	-----
31 st Jan Glover	Rebecca & Shannon	Nancy Pitsch



December 10AM

Door greeter(s)	Acolytes/Ushers	Liturgist	Matthew Meeting Leaders
3 rd Amy Lopez	Rodger & Caleb VanAusdal Steve Lopez	Carlie Truedson – Gloria Grant	Stacey Wendelken, Ellie & Myla (Communion!)
10 th Mark & Sharon Taylor	Rodger & Charles VanAusdal Steve Lopez	Harper Johnson & Mary Nemes	Jamie Schwingle/ Emily/ Rene Morris
17 th Andy Pitsch Kyllian Jacobs	Ronyn & Beth Jacobs Steve Lopez	Johanna Cravatta	CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – Rebecca Tiemann
24 th Andy Pitsch	Stacey & Tori Stutzke Steve Lopez	Nancy Pitsch	Christmas Eve No class
31 st Amy Lopez	Steve Lopez	Nancy Pitsch	New Year's Eve No class

Advent Scripture Readers/ Candle Lighters 2023

		8am Reader/ Candle Lighters	10AM Reader/ Candle Lighters
1 st Sunday - Hope	Dec 3 rd	Lily Wetzell – Renee Duncan	Jaz Mya Castaneda - Jaime Greenfield
2 nd Sunday – Love	Dec 10 th	Rory Smith-Matthew Gabrielse Rita Smith – Addison Gabrielse	Amy Lopez – Jonathan Imel
3 rd Sunday -JOY	Dec 17 th	Larry Schuchard Jan Glover	Shay Papoccia – Myla Wendelken Stacey Wendelken – Molly Papoccia
4 th Sunday – Peace	Dec 24 th	No 8am worship	Johanna Cravatta – Megan Stutzke
Christmas EVE Christ Candle	Dec 24 th	7pm Service Elias Halverson Bill Parker	11PM Rich & Sandi Lobdell

Altar Flowers (\$20)

The following date are available:

December: 10

UPDATES/CORRECTIONS

please let the office know— thank you!

(Diane: 815-625-1968 or
office@sterlingwesley.org)

Please contact the office to reserve or just sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to take the flowers with you after services on the Sunday you provide them. Just return the vase to the church at your convenience.

Thank you!

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:

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