

# The Chimes

November 2023

**From Our Pastor**



**Church Events**

In October, we had a sermon series that emphasized life, death, and the afterlife. It resonates with our relationship with God and the promise Jesus has given us in our greatest challenge. I believe it is natural to move on to the meaning and purpose of life. I hope we step into this grateful heart, filled with immense joy and thanksgiving for the incredible journey we have embarked upon together as a community of faith.

Each of us is given the most precious gift from God: life. Our Christian faith begins with recognizing God's abundant love and grace for us. And we strive to find its precious meaning and purpose. We want to be successful in this journey. We want to live our precious lives by God's design. Then, what does it mean to us? How can we find God's will for us? The world we live in measures success by material wealth and societal acclaim. It is crucial to pause and reflect on what true success means in the eyes of our Creator. Our faith teaches us that genuine success is found in our love for God and service for one another.

In pursuing our goals, it is easy to overlook the most valuable players who have lived before us, close to God, by their examples of genuine love. November provides us with a good opportunity to recognize and honor those who stand by us, whose love and support are the bedrock of our journey, and who offer living examples through All Saints Sunday and Thanksgiving this month. (cont.)

***Join us Sundays in-person:  
8:00am and 10:00am***

***Ongoing:***

**Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 4:00 PM  
Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)**

**Wednesday @ 9:30 am Bible Study**

**Starting Nov. 29th**

**Saturdays @ 8:00am:  
Men's Bible Study (Fireside Room)**

**Sunday Youth Group: after 10 am  
service**

***Save the date:***

**Thur. 11/2 @ 9:30am  
Greeting Card Ministry group**

**Sun. 11/5 All Saints' Sunday**

**Sun. 11/12 Veterans Sunday**

**Thur. 11/16 Ladies Lunch at 11:30**

**Thur. 11/24 Thanksgiving**

**Sat. 11/25 Salvation Army Bell  
Ringing**

**Sun. 11/26 New Membership  
Celebration**

Let me ask you: Who is your MVP in your faith journey? To whom have you been an MVP?

Thanksgiving is not merely a holiday but a state of being, a disposition of the heart. It is a daily practice of acknowledging God's boundless love and grace and an opportunity to offer thanks for the precious gift of community. Let us walk this road together, hand in hand, mindful of the countless blessings that surround us.

Let us remember that our gratitude is not confined to words but is manifested through our actions. Let us reach out to those in need, share our blessings, and spread the light of love and compassion throughout our community. Together, we are a tapestry woven with threads of faith, love, and gratitude. Let us continue to support and uplift one another, knowing that we are held in the embrace of the God whose love knows no bounds. Amen.

## NOVEMBER 8AM

Door greeter(s)	Ushers	Liturgist
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan Glover	Rebecca/Shannon Jan Davey	Jeff Davey
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan Glover	Rebecca/Shannon	Nancy Pitsch
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan Glover	Rebecca/Shannon	Nancy Pitsch
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan Glover	Rebecca/Shannon/ Jan Davey	Jeff Davey

## NOVEMBER 10AM

Door greeter(s)	Ushers	Liturgist	Matthew Mtg Leaders
5 <sup>th</sup> Andy Pitsch	Steve Lopez Rita Smith	Rory Smith	Nancy Pitsch (Communion!)
12 <sup>th</sup> Frank & Janne Rausa	Steve Lopez Andy Pitsch	Nancy Pitsch	Jamie & Em Schwingle Rene Morris
19 <sup>th</sup> Bill Parker Elias Halverson	Steve Lopez Rita Smith	Rory Smith	Aaron & Devon Flick
26 <sup>th</sup> Andy Pitsch	Steve Lopez	Nancy Pitsch	Julie Carrion

### Worship Schedule

5th– All Saints Sunday  
SCRIPTURE– 1 John 3:9,13,14,16  
God's Seeds in Us

12th– Veterans Sunday  
SCRIPTURE-Ecclesiastes 2:4-11, Matthew 16:26  
Success

19th  
SCRIPTURE– 1 Timothy 6:17-19  
Who's Your MVP?

26th  
SCRIPTURE– Psalm 42:1-2  
Thessalonians 5:15-18  
Road to Thanksgiving

# Celebrations



Thank you

A Big Shout out and Heartfelt Thank you to all the confirmants, Pastor Paul and sponsors for your Beautiful Happy Smiles and Voices when you came to sing Sat. Oct 21st you made my day "Extra Special". May God's Love shine through your Smiles and voices as you continue your journey through life.

"Walking God's Path"- Again Thank you.

God Bless with "hugs" to all of you  
Elaine Hilger

Attention Ladies,

The Wesley Lunch Group

We will meet at A's Kitchen on Thursday, Nov. 16th at 11:30. I'll send an e-mail closer to the time to take reservations.

Beth 815-625-4381

Thank you so much to the singers who came to our home. It was so special and meant so much to us.

God Bless you all

Ken & Mary Newlon

Snowbirds,  
As many of you start to head to your winter addresses, please make certain those addresses are updated through the office so we can stay in touch.



Thank

You



The Wesley Greeting Card ministry will meet Thursday, November 2, at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall to prepare November cards. Come join us and help spread some joy.

Shout out to Marla Boynton for all the dedication and service she provided as Administrative Assistant. Best of luck on your retirement and "snowbirding" in Alabama.



# All Saints Sunday

Remembering those who have passed

November 5, Sunday



# Veterans Sunday (Nov. 12)



# Happy Thanksgiving



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing!

**When:** November 25, Saturday  
**Where:** Farm and Fleet

Sign up sheet is on the Missions Table under TV  
**You may also contact Roberta Fredericks or  
office to sign up**



## Thanksgiving Baskets Donation

Township's Thanksgiving Baskets

Each basket costs about \$35

Please place donations in the turkey located  
on the Mission's Table

**Our goal is 25 baskets**

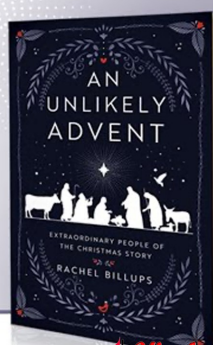


# Welcome New Members!

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY Nov. 26



## Advent Study Wednesday Morning Starting on Nov. 29



If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Paul.





**Dear Wesley United Methodist family,**

We are writing on behalf of the church finance team. In recent years, our income has fallen short of our expenses, so we need our members to consider increasing their support of our church.

The goal of our church is to help more people enter a loving relationship with Christ and learn to love all other people as Christ taught us. We need everyone's support to continue the programs we have at Wesley. With your support, Wesley can continue to offer a great Sunday school program, meaningful worship opportunities, enjoyable fellowship opportunities, mission and community programs, plus opportunities for everyone to deepen their walk with Jesus Christ.

One of the ways to live, thankfully, is to return a portion of the material gifts God has entrusted to our care. This letter is inviting you to give your gratitude for the blessings in your life.

Tax tip: If you are over 70 ½ years old, you can save on taxes by making your church contribution from an IRA.

We ask for your prayerful consideration to see what you can give.

Pastor Paul Lee

Rita Smith, Finance Chair



Dear Wesley Family,

I am writing to express my profound gratitude for the overwhelming display of love, care, and support you have extended to me. Your kind cards and thoughtful gifts have touched my heart in a profound way. Serving a congregation as compassionate and dedicated as yours is a true privilege. Your unwavering support not only strengthens my faith but also fuels my determination to navigate this spiritual journey. The authentic love and care that radiate from each member of this community are a powerful testament to our collective strength.

With heartfelt thanks,  
Rev. Paul H. Lee





Driveway project



Church Work Day



Bell choir



Church Conference



Church Conference



Church Work Day



Church Work Day



Church Work Day





Confirmation class & Church Work Day



# Missions:

The total **loose coins** collected in **October** for **YWCA Domestic Violence** is **\$ 252.00**

The **Chili Cookoff** raised **\$1276.00** for the Sauk Valley Food Bank.

World Communion Sunday will add **\$ 145** to various international scholarships.

5th Sunday giving has not yet been determined.

In **November**, we will be collecting for  
**FISH Food Pantry.**



## Birthdays

**Nov. 1** Alyssa Cedro, James Fitzanko  
**Nov. 2** Pastor Al Campbell  
**Nov. 3** Walter Lindsley  
**Nov. 6** Mary Anne Batten  
**Nov. 7** Devon Flick  
**Nov. 8** Marc Melton  
**Nov. 10** Gloria Rodriguez, Grace Wetzell  
**Nov. 11** Bill Parker  
**Nov. 13** Jan Glover, James Morris, Sena Warkins  
**Nov. 14** Logan Ayala

**Nov. 15** Jamie Schwingle  
**Nov. 16** Blake Parker  
**Nov. 18** Edd Rosser  
**Nov. 19** Holliana Drew  
**Nov. 20** Jionni Castaneda  
**Nov. 22** Jean Partridge  
**Nov. 23** Bill Abate, Rosemary Davis, Ava Lyon  
**Nov. 25** Mary Spitzer  
**Nov. 28** Linh Melton

## Anniversaries

**Nov. 4** Tim & Jamie Schwingle  
**Nov. 11** Steve & Kay Bierman  
**Nov. 16** Rich & Carrie Halverson  
**Nov. 17** Antonio & Amber Castaneda  
**Nov. 20** Curt & Jaime Greenfield  
**Nov. 22** Bill & Sue Abate, Don & Sena Warkins  
**Nov. 30** John & Linda Larson

**Altar Flowers (\$20)** The following date is available for altar flowers:

**December 10th**

Please contact the office to reserve. Payments can be mailed to/dropped off at the office. Thank you!

**The 2024 poster is on the bulletin board---**

But you can also let Diane know (church office) if you have a date in mind: 815-625-1968



**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>

## **Upcoming Events**

**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:**

- **Dish Soap and Travel-sized toiletries for local pantries.**

**Loose coins to benefit FISH Food Pantry in November.**

**The office is staffed Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to noon.**

