



The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2023



From Our Pastor...

We had a fantastic outdoor service featuring the Blessings of the Backpacks and Hot Dog Sunday. I was thrilled that many Wesley families joined us for worship amidst the beauty of nature around the Gazebo, and shared fellowship while enjoying Hot Dogs prepared by the Men's Group. I was also grateful to see over thirty kids and students attend church with their backpacks, allowing us to offer blessings and prayers over their new school year. It truly marked a God-moment of the year, where the unity of our faith community across all ages was palpable, fueled by the Holy Spirit. A big thank you to all who organized and participated in the day's event.

I shared a bit about the decline of the church and the trend among young people in the United States regarding their perceptions of the church. After receiving feedback from a couple of individuals, I elaborated on what I had spoken the following Sunday. I delved into the reasons for the church's decline and what young people are seeking from the church, drawing on research from Gallup, Pew, and Barna. A notable trend we've observed is that very few individuals in their 20s and 30s actively engage with and participate in the church. As we are grateful for Matthew's meeting, the youth, and the confirmation class, we must continue to support and bless one another, with a particular focus on the younger generations.

Church Events

Ongoing:

Tuesdays and Thursdays @4:00pm
Exercise Group in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Bible Study resumes
Sept. 13th @ 7:00pm

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

Sundays 1:00—3:00 Youth Group

Remember these dates:

Thur. 9/7 @9:30am: Greeting Card Ministry (Fellowship Hall)

Fri. 9/8 @11:00am: Keith Kimball Celebration of Life at Wesley.

Sun. 9/10: Confirmation begins!

Sat. 9/16: Graveside service for Elizabeth "Betty" Bivin at Riverside @2pm

Sat. 9/23: Food Bank Volunteer Day

Ladies' Lunch

We plan to go to Candlelight in Sterling for our Sept. lunch. The date is **Sept. 21st at 11:30**. I will contact you closer to the time so I can make reservations. I will try to get the little room so we can talk and eat. We like to do both!

Beth Mathew 815-625-4381

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For the past decade, I've been studying the trends among young people in relation to the church, given that the Millennial and Gen Z generations (MZ generations) are the least engaged in religious gatherings. My premise is that the church can learn from why young people are disengaging and what they desire from the church. By doing so, we can become a more missional church, embodying the essence of the body of Jesus Christ.

I'd like to share with our Wesley family what young generations hope for from their church. Once you hear their expectations, you'll likely find yourself nodding in agreement. Firstly, many young people desire a church that holds not only meaning but also practical applicability, in essence, a relevant church. We, as a church, need to be willing to transcend traditional boundaries and actively engage with the ever-evolving world in a meaningful manner.

Secondly, the younger generation hopes for an authentic and transparent church that serves as a vital sanctuary for exploring faith without the fear of judgment, as they often perceive the church as judgmental. Thirdly, the MZ generations highly value diversity and actively seek a church that wholeheartedly embraces individual differences and promotes equality. Lastly, just like other generations, MZ generations long for integral and meaningful relationships and a genuine community founded on radical hospitality.

Relevance, authenticity, transparency, inclusivity, and hospitality – are those not what we all desire from the church? Among all the aspects of the beauty of Jesus Christ's church, radical hospitality stands out as the key. It offers a safe and inclusive space, breaking down barriers and doubts, and nurturing a profound and mutual community where everyone feels valued and embraced. Incorporating radical hospitality into our spiritual DNA is crucial, as it aligns with God's unconditional love exemplified through Jesus Christ's incarnation and resurrection. This love restores our relationship with God and all God's people, sparking the birth of the church, the body of Jesus Christ.

We are incredibly blessed to have a wonderful faith community, Wesley United Methodist Church. Let's continue to journey together, guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Let's cultivate hospitality among us and manifest God's hospitality through our love for neighbors within our church, local community, country, and the world. Does this seem like an enormous task? I hope you don't feel overwhelmed, as God walks beside us, leading and empowering us on this journey. Our main responsibility is to walk with God in love. We will do this together. Amen.

Peace In Christ, *Rev. Paul Lee*

Worship Schedule for September

Sept. 3 **Matthew 13:1-9**
Meaning of Life

Sept. 17 **Luke 10:25-37**
The Meaning of Love

Sept. 10 **Luke 15:1-7**
The Relentless Love

Sept. 24 **Luke 12:13-21**
What Goes in Your Box?



Missions/News/Events



2023 Upcoming Pantry Collections

September: Toilet paper

October: Bar soap

Welcome, Diane Lopez:
New Administrative
Assistant for Wesley UMC!
She and her fiancé
recently moved here from
Texas. Please welcome
her to Wesley and to
Sterling— Marla has
enjoyed working with her
and knows you'll be in
good hands!



AUGUST Loose Coins went to **RefugeeOne**

The total given: **\$103.65** Thank you!

UMCOR (Maui fires disaster) raised \$650

Loose coins collected for SEPTEMBER
will go to **UMCOR (Refugee / Migration)**

*Please sign up to host coffee time between services.
Its easy!!*

Everything is ready

Show up by 9:15 or so

Smile and visit

Clean off counters and tables and
rinse coffee pots when done

Put creamers back in frig

Takes 15 minutes (really!!!)

Please help support this much loved fellowship time.

Sign up sheets on counter by the donuts!!



The 4th Annual Missions **Chili Cook Off** and Dessert Auction Fundraiser will be held immediately following second service, **October 1st** Please sign up to provide Chili or a Dessert, if you can't attend but want to make a donation you can place a check to WUMC or money in the chili dish on Mission's Table and take a chili packet as our thanks.



Sign up sheets are on the Mission's Table along with an information sheet for participants. Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd around



12:30. Encourage friends and family to come join us for a fun time!





If you have a daughter or son in the **military, trade school, college, or university**, your Wesley UMC Family would like to remember them with monthly cards from October through April. If we might not have it or if their contact info. has changed please email names and complete address to: office@sterlingwesley.org. Thank you!



The Greeting Card Ministry will meet **Thursday, September 7th at 9:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall to prepare cards. If you have time, stop in, help, and enjoy the conversation.

No experience necessary.
We hope to see you there!

Let's send a note of cheer to bless:

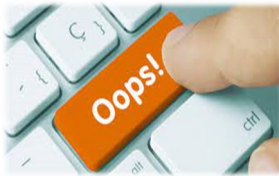
Janet Palmer
7859 Cuniff Rd, Rock Falls, 61071

Jean and Joan Partridge
1503 4th Ave. Sterling, 61081



Updates/corrections:
please let the office know—
- thank you!

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



Anniversaries

**Thank you,
Dave and Roberta
Fredericks, the
Landscape Team,
for all the work you
do in all kinds of
weather!**



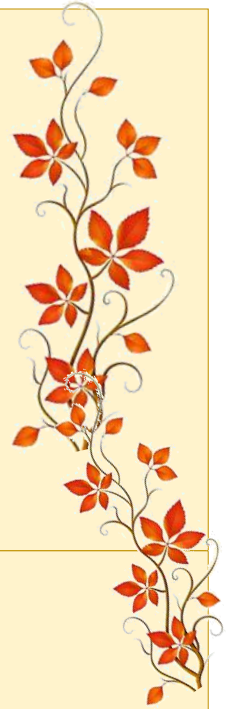
Sept. 10 Bill & Peg Burke

Sept. 14 Dave & Sharon Siex

Sept. 16 Louis & Barb Quick

Sept. 17 Al & Diane Rude

Sept. 28 Steve and Lynn Majewski



Sept 2 Steve Lopez

Sept. 4 Deana Hermes

Sept. 5 Haleigh Freas, Brady Papoccia

Sept 7 Jovie Flick

Sept. 9 Karen Abele

Sept. 11 Nancy Wait

Sept. 12 Judy Randall

Sept. 14 Shannon Klausing

Sept. 16 JP Papoccia, Diantha Wentling

Sept. 21 Brooklynn Freas, Elisa Gatz

Birthdays



Sept. 22 Barb Quick

Sept. 23 Eric Canas

Sept. 24 Ashlei Behrens

Sept. 25 Judy Bushman, Jaz'Mya Castaneda, Nathaneal Rodriguez

Sept. 26 Jan Andersen, Alan Beggerow

Sept. 27 Pat Jacobs

Sept. 29 Susan Reese

Sept. 30 Janet Palmer, Dylan Hinrichs

Please hold the Keith Kimball family
in your hearts as they celebrate his
life, Friday, Sept. 8th.



Keith H. Kimball

(July 8, 1925 - June 27, 2023)

A celebration of his life
will be held at Wesley United Methodist Church
on Friday, September 8, at 11:00 am.
(Visitation between 10:30 am and 11:00 am
on Friday, Sept. 8 at Wesley UMC)

Matthew Meetings, and many events are held in
the Gazebo—

Thank you, Keith Kimball,
for this multi-use gift to Wesley !

Altar Flowers (\$20)

The following dates are available:

September: 17, 24

October: 22, 29

November: full

December: 10, 17

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!

**Pastor Al Campbell
shared the message
August 6th. Thank you so
much! What a blessing
Pastor Al and JJ are to
Wesley!**



September 8am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
9/3 Jan Glover	Rita Smith Rebecca/Shannon	Rory Smith
9/10 Jan Glover	Rita Smith Rebecca/Shannon	Rory Smith
9/17 Jan Glover	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Katie Wetzell
9/24 Jan Glover	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Mel Hurley

September 10am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Mtgs Leaders
9/3 Castaneda Family	Castaneda Family Steve Lopez	Elisa Gatz	Devon & Aaron Flick
9/10 Castaneda Family	Castaneda Family Steve Lopez	Jaz Mya Castaneda	Jamie & Emily Schwingle Rene Morris
9/17 Frank & Janne Rausa	Steve Lopez	Johanna Cravatta	Jessica Truedson Nora & Carlie
9/24 Matt Wendeklen Ellie Wendelken	Sadie & Myla Wendelken Steve Lopez	Stacey Wendelken	Jaime Greenfield

Wesley Nomination

I volunteer or nominate _____ to serve
a committee/team (please mark below) to grow in discipleship,
and nurture and enhance the ministry of our Wesley family.

Name: _____

Contact No.: () -

E-mail: _____ @

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 Sunday services

8:00 am and 10:00 am

The service is also available 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:

- **Toilet paper is being collected for local pantries (Sept.).**
- **Travel-sized toiletries are needed for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.**
- **SEPTEMBER Loose coins to benefit: UMCOR (Refugee/Migration)**
- **Save the date: Chili Cook-Off fundraiser October 1st after 10am service (funds raised and donations to benefit the Sauk Valley Food Bank)**