

HAPPY New Year

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AND AGAIN I SAY, REJOICE.

PHIL 4:4



Happy New Year! I pray that God blesses, strengthens, inspires, and guides you this year. As we embark on a new year and transformative journey of faith in the new year, I would like to have your attention to the future of our community with our next sermon series, “Jesus’ Wisdom for Today’s Challenges and Future,” especially a few pressing issues identified by Millennials and Generation Z as the most critical of our time.

In a world often marked by discord and uncertainty, it is our collective responsibility to seek solutions that resonate across generations. The next sermon series aims to address four pivotal concerns, exploring how Jesus’ timeless words and actions can guide us toward meaningful change. As a loving and caring congregation, we can bridge generational gaps and actively contribute to becoming part of the solution.

Divided Country: Our journey begins with exploring today’s reality on generational gaps and Jesus’ teachings on unity and reconciliation. In the face of a divided country, we will reflect on His call to love one another, fostering understanding and compassion that transcends generational gaps over many sensitive issues.

Mental Health: The challenges of mental health affect individuals across all age groups, especially the young generation. In this segment, we will turn to Jesus as the ultimate healer and source of comfort. By understanding the young generation’s experience and Jesus’ compassion and empathy, we seek to create a space within our community that supports those facing mental health struggles and breaks down struggles surrounding these issues.

Church Events

Sun. Jan. 1: New Year’s Day

Thurs. Jan. 4: Greeting Card Ministry
10 am in Fellowship Hall

Thurs. Jan. 18th: Ladies Lunch Group at
11:30 at A’s Kitchen in Rock Falls

Sat. Jan. 27: Prairie South District Lay
Academy, Dixon First UMC

Mon. Jan 29: Trustees meeting at 5:30
PM

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

Sat.: Men’s Bible Study 8:00 am in
Fireside Room

Worship Schedule

Jan. 7: **New Year/
Epiphany of the Lord**
Mt. 5:43-45, James 1:19-20, 26

Jan. 14: **2nd Sunday after Epiphany**
Matthew 14:22-33

Jan. 21: **3rd Sunday after Epiphany**
Luke 10:25-29, Gal. 3:26-28

Jan. 28: **4th Sunday after Epiphany**
Genesis 1:25-28, 31

Diversity and Inclusion: Jesus' ministry was characterized by radical inclusivity, welcoming individuals from all walks of life. As we explore his teachings on love and acceptance, we will strive to create a church community that mirrors the diverse beauty of God's creation, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and included.

Climate Change: Recognizing our role as caretakers of God's creation, it becomes our responsibility to address the pressing issue of climate change. The younger generation is increasingly expressing concern and anxiety about the impact of climate change on their future, navigating an environment marked by unknowns and uncertainties. We will reflect on how to thoughtfully respond to these delicate concerns and explore strategies to secure a sustainable future for the generations that follow.

I invite each of you to actively participate in this serious, engaging in discussions, prayer, and reflection. Let us embrace the challenges of our time with faith, hope, and the transformative power of Jesus' teachings. Together, across generations, we can be a beacon of light, working harmoniously to bring about positive transformation. May God's grace guide us on this profound journey of discovery and renewal.

WORSHIP SCHEDULES

January 8am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
1/7 Lynn Majewski	Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Nancy Pitsch
1/14 Lynn Majewski	Rita Smith	Rory Smith
1/21 Lynn Majewski Randy Clodfelter	Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Pam Clodfelter
1/28 Aaron & Derek Fitzanko	James Fitzanko	Wendy Fitzanko

January 10am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
1/7 Andy & Nancy Pitsch	Jan Davey Steve Lopez	Jeff Davey	Nancy Pitsch
1/14 Aaron & Jovie Flick	Devon & Remy Flick Steve Lopez	Aaron Flick	Jaime Greenfield Rene Morris
1/21 Frank & Janne Rausa	Jan Davey Steve Lopez	Jeff Davey	Jamie Schwingle Emily Schwingle
1/28 Elias Halverson Bill Parker	Steve Lopez Bill Parker	Johanna Cravatta	Carrie Halverson Elias Halverson

Thank You

Wesley Members,

“We want you to know how much we appreciate your generous donation towards our Thanksgiving Assistance Program. We are lucky to have people like you in our community! You are truly Appreciated!”

“We want to wish you a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season!

Sterling Township Staff

“The Fish Food Pantry is thankful for the Thanksgiving offering. Your gift of \$ 513.00 will buy more than 2800 pounds of food at the Sauk Valley Food Bank.”

Our numbers are increasing with the decrease in link card benefits.

Thank you very much!

Gratefully,

Beth Mathews

Dear Wesley UMC,

Thank you very much for your support of Rock River Hospice and Home! Your delicious donations are key in creating smiles when enjoyed and funds to provide compassionate care for people throughout our Community! Thank you again!

Alvie Peters

RRHH Baked goods Chair

Thank you for your continued support of Bear Necessities Personal Care Pantry. Your thoughtfulness shows in everything you do.

Blessings,

RF United Methodist Church

Wesley Church Family,

It has meant so much to me to know that you have all been thinking of me during my cancer battle and praying for me. All of the cards have been so encouraging and thoughtful. My mom, Gloria Rodriguez has told me when I am included in the Sunday Service prayers which I very much appreciate. I have 1 more chemo infusion before moving on to the next phase in this unexpected journey. Please continue to pray for me, please, that I continue to have hope and strength through what more is to come. You are all so wonderful and I hope everyone has a beautiful Holiday Season.

Happy New Year

Misty Baron

Dear Wesley Family,

A Huge Thank you to God's Wonderful People who made Nov 18th a Special Day at Wesley. The Luncheon was very good and all of our out of town friends were treated as our church family. Thank you also for all the cards and Donations to St. Jude's .

In Christian Love,

The Family of Pastor Al Campbell





We invite you to participate in the faith journey of our confirmands by praying for them by name in 2024! Left to right: Jon Imel, Kyllian Jacobs, Lily Wetzell, Elias Halverson, Matthew Gabrielse, Addison Gabrielse, Megan Stutzke, Carlie Truedson, Jaz Mya Castaneda, Molly Papoccia, Myla Wendelken, and Harper Johnson. Also, please pray for their Mentors who each confirmand chose to come alongside them in this journey. (Listed in order of their confirmands) Amy Lopez, Andy Pitsch, Renee Duncan, Bill Parker, Rory Smith, Rita Smith, Johanna Cravatta, Gloria Grant, Jaime Greenfield, Stacey Wendelken, Shay Papoccia, Mary Nelmes.

Pastor Paul leads class discussion and video every first three Sundays of each month after we enjoy 6pm dinner prepared and provided by our church members! The 4th Saturday of each month is a service project or field trip for the class and mentors! Some of our Saturday service projects have included serving at a local food pantry, Autumn Caroling to church members, and a fun field trip taken to Wetzell's farm for campfire, food, hayrack ride, outdoor fun and holding animals!

Dear Lord Jesus,

Help me to love the group of people that you have designated as your church, your body. Help me to see them as my family. Grant me the grace to accept all the members of that family, not simply tolerate them but treat them tenderly, with all the love and affection that I would want to be treated with.

Help me to realize that just as there are no perfect families, there are no perfect churches. They are all – as I am – a work in progress. As you are patient with the work that is progressing in me, grant that I would be patient with the work that is progressing in them. Especially, I pray for my relationship with ...

From Eugene Peterson, The Message Devotional Bible



1/1	Joan Partridge	1/13	Molly Papoccia	1/24	Antonio Castaneda
1/3	Norma Church	1/14	Christie Freas	1/26	Darrin Driscoll
	August Johnson		Michael Quick	1/27	Bella Styles
	Steve Michel	1/16	Toby Hodges	1/29	James Melton
1/4	Linda Dirks	1/18	Reid Blackburn	1/30	Lynn Hammer
1/5	Joshua Greenfield		Ryan Blackburn		Lexi Hinrichs
1/8	Joe Gatz		Bowen Mallhi	1/31	Wendy Fitzanko
	Carol Shaw	1/20	Randy Clodfelter		
1/11	Susie Cedro	1/20	Janne Rausa		
	Melissa Freas	1/22	Mitchell Clodfelter		
1/12	Matthew Taylor		Alice (Cathy) Williams		



Anniversaries



1/6	Jon & Christies Freas	1/28	Edd & Marianne Rosser
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Missions

Missions would like to thank Bill & Jillian Parker, Linda Kavran, the Snavelly, VanAusdal, Graves, Flick, Young Families, Jean Moe, Carolyn Heuck, Sharon Taylor, Mary Nemes, Scott Heern, Jan Glover, Carol & Arianne Cravatta, Roberta & Dave Fredericks your efforts raised \$584.59 for The Salvation Army.

From Missions-Recently Broadway Methodist has decided to go ahead and keep Loaves and Fishes open for breakfast 4 days a week. So half of our Christmas Eve offerings and envelopes will go to them as originally planned, Loose Coins for December will still go to PADS.

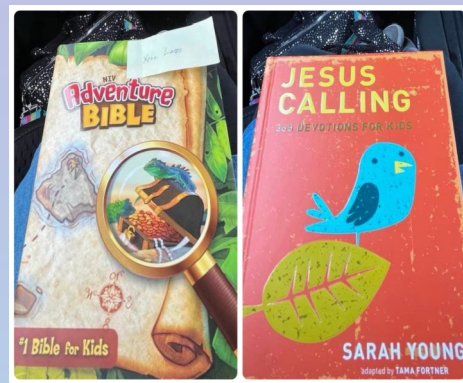
Loose coins in December were allocated for PADS and \$100.19 was received.

The money collected for Christmas envelopes added \$500.00 .
These funds will be split between Loaves & Fishes and UMCOR.



Christmas Caroling

First Bible





Children's Christmas Program on December 17th





Ugly Sweater Sunday



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Sterling 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>

Sterling Wesley UMC 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:

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. Jane Eesley, a missionary with General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. She serves as advocacy coordinator of the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem. Jane earned Master and Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and a Master of Divinity degree at Garrett-Evangelical Theology Seminary, also in Evanston. She most recently served as senior pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, Rockford, Illinois.