

The Chimes



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2024

From Our Pastor...



*“If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me..
(Mark 8: 34)*

Mark 8:31-38 reminds us of the radical call to discipleship – inviting us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Jesus. Lent provides us with an opportune moment to contemplate the depth of this call and discern how we can actively respond in our daily lives.

In the hustle and bustle of modern society, the notion of “giving up” during Lent has often been reduced to relinquishing a particular indulgence. However, the scriptures challenge us to shift our focus from mere abstinence to a more profound engagement with our faith. Instead of fixating on what we lack or sacrifice, let us explore what we can embrace and undertake in the name of Christ.

As we navigate a world that often measures success by external standards, this Lenten season calls us to celebrate the small but meaningful actions we can take to answer God’s call. It encourages us to recognize the unique ways we can contribute to the Kingdom of God right where we are with the resources and abilities we possess.

Lent invites us to reflect on the essence of discipleship in a culture

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Church Events

Tue./Thur. *Exercise Class*
3:30 pm (Fireside Room)

Wednesday *Lenten Bible Study*
9:30 am (Fireside Room)
(Starting on Feb. 21)

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

SAVE THE DATE:

Feb. 1 (Thur.) @10:00 am
Greeting Card Ministry Fellowship Hall

Feb. 3 (Sat.) @ 8:00am – 1:15 pm
No Regrets Men’s Conference Sanctuary

Feb. 6 (Tues.) @ 6:30 pm
SPRC Meeting

Feb. 17 (Sat.) @9:30 am
Wesley Leadership Training
Fellowship Hall

Feb. 21 (Wed.) @ 11:30 am
Ladies Luncheon at A’s Kitchen

Lent invites us to reflect on the essence of discipleship in a culture that constantly demands more. Let us contemplate the significance of denying ourselves – shedding the distractions that distance us from God’s purpose. Taking up our cross signifies embracing the challenges and responsibilities that come with our faith, recognizing that our journey may be difficult but is ultimately transformative.

This Lent, let our focus be on the daily positive and affirming actions we can undertake. It is not about dwelling on limitations but celebrating the abundance of opportunities to express God’s love and grace. By responding to God’s call in our unique place and time, we embody Jesus's teachings and continue building the Kingdom here on earth.

May this Lenten season be a time of introspection, growth, and joy as we journey together in faith, following the footsteps of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Paul Lee

Worship Schedules

February 8am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
2/4 Lynn Majewski	Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Nancy Pitsch
2/11 Lynn Majewski Pam Clodfelter	Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Randy Clodfelter
2/18 Lynn Majewski Jovie & Remy Flick	Devon /Jovie/ Remy Flick Acolytes Rebecca Tieman	Aaron Flick
2/25 Lynn Majewski	Rita Smith Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Rory Smith

February 10am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
2/4 Sharon Taylor Matt Wendelken	Myla & Sadie Wendelken Steve Lopez	Stacey Wendelken	Nancy Pitsch
2/11 Curt Greenfield	Steve Lopez	Beth Wicks	Jaime Greenfield Rene Morris
2/18 Frank & Janne Rausa	Jon Imel Steve Lopez	Amy Lopez	Aaron & Devon Flick
2/25 Frank & Janne Rausa	Molly or JP Papoccia Steve Lopez	Shay Papoccia	Jamie Schwingle Emily Schwingle

NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE

FEARLESS

ISAIAH 41:10

Wesley UMC Sanctuary
8:00 am to 1:15 pm
Feb. 3, 2024 (Sat)
Snacks will be provided

Wesley UMC is a site host of the event

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NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE

FEARLESS

ISAIAH 41:10

Seminar

- 1. Chip Ingram - Real Life Real Discipleship**
- 2. Ricky Jenkins - Becoming Stronger**
- 3. Brian Tome - 5 Marks of a Man**

Wesley UMC is a site host of the event

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MEMBERSHIP CLASSES
Growing Together

Three Session
Feb. 4, 11, and 18
Celebration
Feb. 25

Wesley
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Ash
Wednesday
SERVICE
7 pm, Feb. 14 (Wed)

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

begins on Feb. 14 (Wed)

LENT

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Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Study
9:30 am
from Feb. 21st

THE THIRD DAY
Living the Resurrection
TOM BERLIN
WITH MARK A. MILLER

Saturday Men's Group Study
8:00 am
from Jan. 27th

24 Hours
That Changed the World
ADAM HAMILTON

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

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

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Nurturing Leaders. Changing Lives.

HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SCHOLARSHIPS TO FUEL YOUR DREAMS

All United Methodist Students at college, university, and graduate schools are eligible for **many scholarship opportunities.**

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Hearts and candy to our loyal helpers each and every time we send out the Chimes. Elaine H. and Mary



Valentine's Day Greetings from the Greeting Card Ministry.

We'll be meeting Thursday,

February 1, at 10:00 AM

in fellowship hall to prepare

Valentines. Please consider joining us. It's fun, no experience needed. Everything is provided. Hope to see you then!



Surprise!!! Easter is very early this year: Sunday, March 31st! Each year beautiful Easter lilies and tulips adorn our sanctuary and remind us of God's everlasting love for us through the gift of His precious Son. Order forms will be available beginning Sunday, February 4th. Orders will be taken through Monday, February 26th. Please consider ordering in memory or in honor of those you hold dear.

Thank You

Hello Lunch Ladies,

Our February lunch will be Thursday, Feb. 21st at 11:30 at A's Kitchen in Rock Falls. We had another fun time with good food and good company for our January lunch.

See you in February. I'll send an e-mail asking for reservations closer to our lunchtime.

Beth 815-625-4381

Your thoughtfulness shows in all you do!!! Special thanks to Deb for stopping by with the donations!!!!



**Thank you
from**

Bear Necessities

Personal Care Pantry

**Thank You to Wesley United Methodist church for sending me the Christmas care package. I would also like to Thank You for awarding me with the Lyon Family Scholarship. I am attending UIUC and majoring in History and Political Science while also participating in the NROTC program in order to commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Upon my college graduation. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.
Sincerely, James D. Morris**



Sun Dog Challenges



Confirmation Class

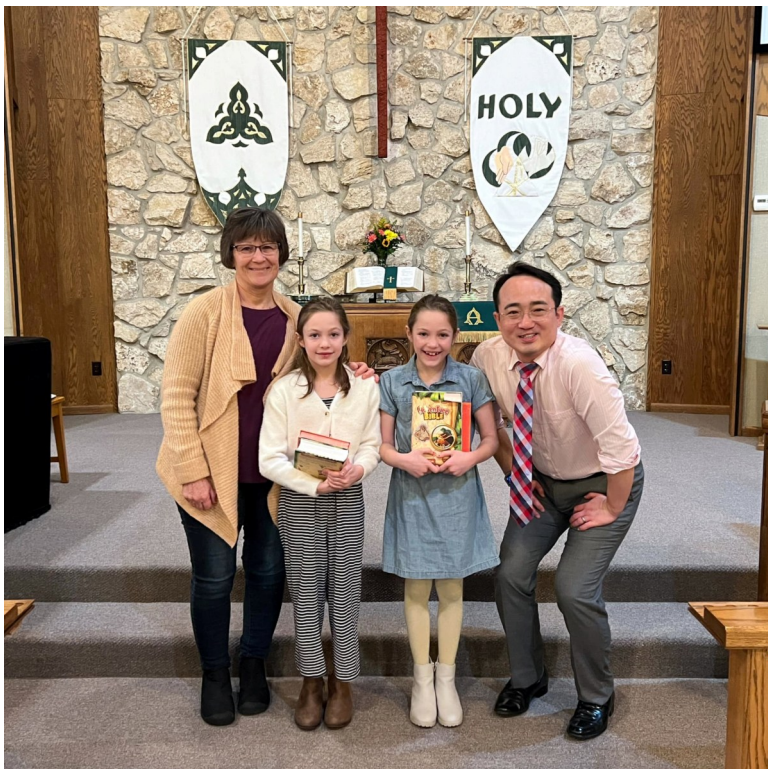


Last month we submitted faces and name of this year's Confirmation Youth! As Chimes was printed we were gaining FIVE NEW YOUTH! Pictures of the kids and all the Mentors will come in a future issue of Chimes, but until then, please add the following youth to you prayers!

WE WELCOME

Aleeya Dykstra and Mentor Jessica Truedson
Eric Allen and Mentor Bob Allen
Gia Campbell and Mentor Mary Sue Puckett
James Allen and Mentor Frank Rausa
Jaxton Williams and Mentor Steve Lopez

First Bible



5th Sunday Potluck



Men's Group Saturday Morning Bible Study



Missions:

The total loose coins collected in January for Rev. Jane Eesley was **\$119.85**.

Pantry Collections

February: toothpaste

March: Toilet paper



The 2024 Altar Flower Sign-Up

is in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to reserve a date for a loved one, you may email or call the office to do so. The cost is \$20. You may mail in your payment with it marked as "altar flowers", or drop it off in the office Mon-Fri. between 8-12.

office@sterlingwesley.org

815-625-1968

***available dates coming up are:**

Feb. 11&25 March 3,17,24, & 31

Birthdays

Feb. 1 Debbie Hodges

Feb. 2 Carol Cravatta, Al Rude, Fabien Plummer

Feb. 3 Diane Rude

Feb. 7 Stacey Stutzke

Feb. 8 Brandon Fredericks

Feb. 12 Warren Heuck

Feb. 16 Rachael Turffs

Feb. 17 Tracy Durall

Feb. 19 Mary Nelmes

Feb. 20 Jack Graves

Feb. 21 Jessica Truedson

Feb.22 Caleb VanAusdal

Charlie VanAusdal

Feb. 24 Lynn Majewski

Feb. 25 Mary Michel

Feb. 26 James Allen

Feb. 28 Holly Taylor-Vrhel

Coleen Hanabarger

Anniversaries

Feb. 13 Nick & Shay Papoccia

Feb. 14 Dave & Roberta Fredericks



Worship Schedule

Feb. 4th: 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Steve Downes

Feb.18th: First Sunday in Lent

Mark 1:1-5, 9-13

Feb. 11th: Transfiguration Sunday

Genesis 1:25-28, 31

Feb.14th: Ash Wednesday Service

Sanctuary 7 pm

Feb.25th: Second Sunday in Lent

Mark 4:35-41

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

You are invited to join us for 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:

- **Toothpaste** for local pantries.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit: *Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic (Haiti)* for February.