

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARCH 2024

From Our Pastor...



During the Wesley Leadership Training, we shared our collective wisdom on our existential questions: “How can we love God, our church, and the local community?” Participants wrote many good ideas to manifest love in many dimensions. Reading each of those post-its was so meaningful and profound. Loving God, our church, and our local community are intertwined aspects of a rich and fulfilling spiritual life. Each theme carries unique expressions of love, yet they are interconnected, forming a tapestry of devotion and service that enriches our personal faith journey and collective experience as a community of faith. And I love to share what it means to love God, our church, and the local community.

LOVING GOD: At the heart of loving God lies a deep and intimate relationship characterized by reverence, obedience, and adoration. To love God is to recognize God’s unconditional love and grace, surrendering our lives to the divine will. It involves cultivating a vibrant life where we pour out our hearts to God, seeking God’s guidance, comfort, and presence in every aspect of our lives. Moreover, I was extremely delighted that participants profoundly recognized that loving God entails living out God’s commandments and following the example of Jesus Christ. It is reflected in acts of kindness, compassion, and justice toward others as we manifest the boundless love and mercy of God.

LOVING OUR CHURCH: Loving our church is related to being loved and loving. Jesus Christ initiated the body of Christ for us. It involves actively participating in the life and ministry of our beautiful community. It means nurturing relationships within the church family, offering support, encouragement, and fellowship to one another. To love our church is to engage in worship with sincerity and reverence, recognizing the sacredness of communal gatherings where we unite in praise and thanksgiving to God, and we become renewed, restored, and reconciled. It entails contributing our time, talents, and resources to the various ministries and initiatives of the church, serving one another with humility and dedication. Furthermore, loving our church involves upholding its unity and bearing witness to the transformative power of Christ’s love within our midst. It requires a commitment to reconciliation,

Church Events

Tue/Thur 3:30pm
Exercise Group (Fireside Rm)

Wednesday– 9:30 AM
Lenten Bible Study
(Fireside Rm)

Saturdays 8-9:30am
Men’s Bible Study
(Fireside Rm)

Thur. March 7, 9:30am
Greeting Card Ministry
(Fellowship Hall)

Also 1:00 PM
Membership Care Team Meeting

Sat. March 9, 5PM to 7PM
Wesley Ham Dinner

Thur. March 21, @ 11:30AM
Ladies Lucheon at A’s Kitchen

Thur. March 28, 7PM
Maundy Thursday

Fri. March 29, 7 PM
Good Friday

Sat. March 30, 1:00 PM
Easter Egg Hunt

Sun. March 31, 9:00 AM
Easter Breakfast

forgiveness, mutual discipline, and sanctification as we strive to build a community rooted in grace, truth, and love.

LOVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY: Loving our local community is an outward expression of our faith in action, reflecting God's heart for justice, mercy, and compassion toward all people. It means actively seeking the welfare and flourishing of our neighbors, especially the marginalized, vulnerable, and oppressed. To love our local community is to engage in acts of service and advocacy that address the tangible needs and systemic injustices present within our neighborhoods. It involves partnering with local organizations, government agencies, and fellow Christians to bring about transformation of the local community and the world. Moreover, loving our local community requires a posture of humility, openness, and solidarity as we seek to learn from and collaborate with diverse voices and perspectives. It entails building bridges of understanding and empathy, breaking down barriers of prejudice and discrimination, and fostering a culture of inclusion, belonging, and mutual respect.

Loving God, our church, and the local community are interconnected facets of a holistic and transformative faith journey in which God has called all of us. As we deepen our love for God, we are compelled to love and serve others, both within the context of our faith community and in the wider world. In doing so, we become agents of Jesus Christ's love, grace, and redemption, bearing witness to God's kingdom. That's the hope of Jesus' resurrection for our individual and communal faith

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 8am ~ Head Ushers every week Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
3/3 Lynn Majewski	Mary & Steve Downes	Nancy Pitsch
3/10 Lynn Majewski	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Elias Halverson Bill Parker
3/17 Addison Gabrielse Rita Smith	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Matthew Gabrielse Rory Smith
3/24 Matthew Gabrielse Rory Smith Palm Sunday	Matthew Gabrielse Addison Gabrielse	Addison Gabrielse Rita Smith
3/31 Jan Glover EASTER	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Lily Wetzell Nancy Pitsch

MARCH 10am ~ Head Ushers every week Steve Lopez/Bill Parker

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
3/3 Mary Sue Puckett Gia Campbell	Kyllian Jacobs Andy Pitsch	Carolyn Heuck	Stacey Wendelken Ellie Wendelken
3/10 Dave Carrion	Isaac and Julie Carrion	Bob Allen Eric Allen	Jaime Greenfield Rene Morris
3/17 Eric & Darci Brayden Imel		James Allen Frank Rausa	Jamie Schwingle Emily Schwingle
3/24 Jaz Mya Castaneda Palm Sunday	James Allen Eric Allen	Jaxson Williams Nancy Pitsch	Johanna Cravatta
3/31 Frank/James EASTER	Jaxson Williams Steve Lopez	Mary Downes	Nancy Pitsch Ellie Wendelken

Missions

Loose Coins 2024

March: Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Lent/Easter (envelopes): Split - Sterling Buddy Bags AND Reynoldswood Christian Camp

April: Caretakers of God's Creation

May: Let's Feed Our Children

2024 Monthly Pantries Collections

March: toilet paper

April: bar soap

May: dish soap

Loose Coins total was \$ 113.93

Thank you!!

Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti



FASTING /fa-stuhng/

abstinence from food or drink or both for health, ritualistic, religious, or ethical purposes



PHYSICAL HEALTH



EMOTIONAL HEALTH



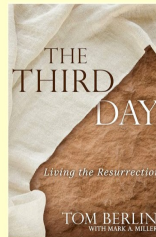
SPIRITUAL HEALTH



ENVIRONMENT HEALTH

TO BE RENEWED, RESTORED, AND REORIENTED TO **GOD** **Wesley**
UNITED METHODIST

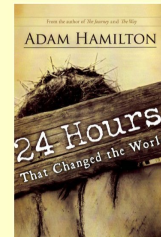
Bible Study



**Wednesday
Morning
Study**

9:30 am

**from
Feb. 21st**

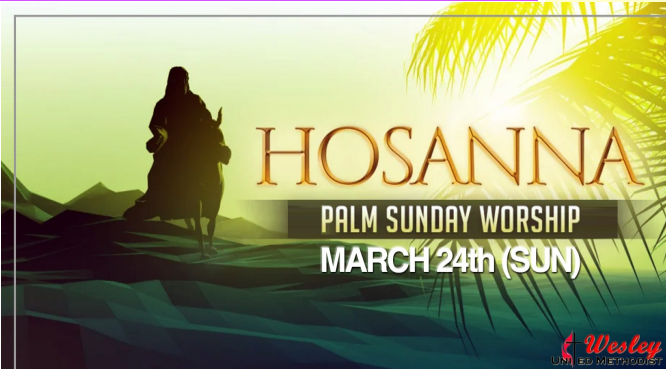


**Saturday
Men's Group
Study**

8:00 am

**from
Jan. 27th**

Wesley
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HOSANNA

**PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP
MARCH 24th (SUN)**

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST



Maundy Thursday

7pm, Mar. 28, 2024

**Seder Meal will be
shared during
the service.**

RSVP, please.

Wesley
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**GOOD
FRIDAY**

MARCH 29th, 7 pm

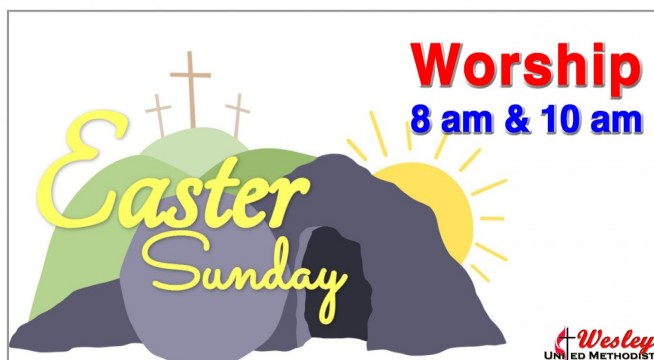
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MAR. 30th (SAT)

Easter Egg Hunt



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Worship

8 am & 10 am

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST



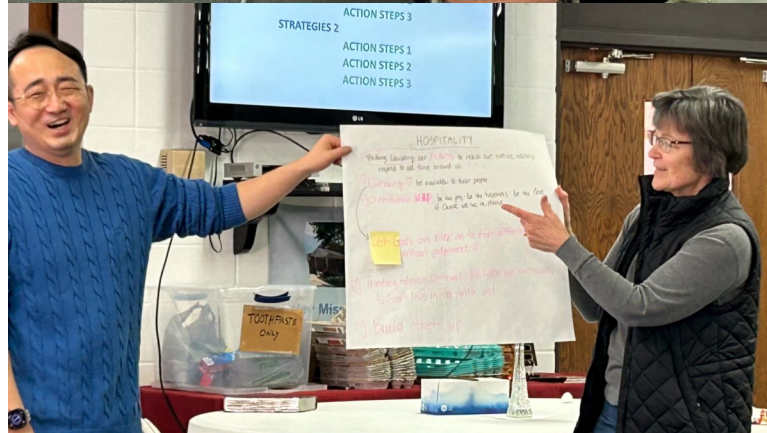
**Easter
Breakfast**
between services



ASH WEDNESDAY



WESLEY LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP





PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR CONFIRMATION CLASS



WESLEY NEW MEMBERS



Hello, my name is **Justin Allen**,

I am 39 years old. My birthday is July 16th. I am married to my wife Kala and we have two sons, James (17) and Eric (14). I enjoy nice warm sunny days, where my friends and I are able to go to a park and play frisbee golf. I enjoy pizza, hamburgers and chocolate. Some of my hobbies that I enjoy are weightlifting and wrestling. I have been a professional wrestler for the past 13 years and I also enjoy coaching amateur wrestling as I have been a coach for the middle school wrestling program. I am excited to be with Wesley United Methodist Church as a member and look forward to building relationships with my fellow members and youth. God Bless you all and please, ask me any questions that you would like to get to know me better.



**Dave Campbell
&
Tiffany Moore**

WESLEY NEW MEMBERS



Eric & Darci Imel

Favorite Ice Cream: Yes Please (Eric) & Chocolate, coffee, and ice cream never disappoint me - especially when mixed together. (Darci)
Favorite Color: Red, I guess. (Eric) & Black, always black (Darci)

We have been best friends for 25 years, and married for almost 15 of those years. It's crazy how compatible and incompatible they can be. Eric's a Continuous Improvement Specialist with an engineering background. I'm a barista with a candy manufacturing and teaching background. We have 3 teenagers: Kaylen (18), Brayden (17), and Jonathon (13). One of our favorite quotes is: "If thy brother wrongs thee, remember not so much his wrongdoing, but more than ever that he is thy



Lacey Young

Favorite Ice Cream: All ice cream is my favorite ice cream
Favorite Color: Pink

I am originally from Kewanee, IL. I met my husband, Dan, at University of Illinois. I have been an RN for 12 years. I now work in the cardiac Cath lab at CGH. I have two beautiful children, Jade (6) and Wyatt(3). We have decided to make Sterling our permanent place to live after living in many different areas of Illinois. I am excited to get more involved in my church and community.

Sterling Wesley UMC HAM DINNER

**March 9th (Sat)
5 - 7 p.m.**



Carry-out available

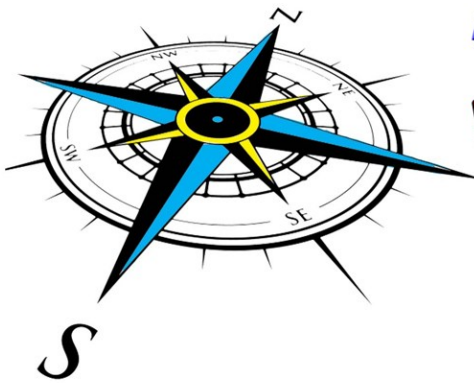
**Good will donation
accepted at the door.**

2200 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081



Disserts donation & volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Andy Pitsch if you have any questions.



LET US

WELCOME

**MARCH 24TH (SUN)
11 A.M.**

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

**YOUTH
DIRECTOR!**



All Youth (5th grade to Senior) and Parents are invited!

Birthdays

March 1 Rich Lobdell
March 2 Cody Hansen and Sue Klock
March 4 Aaron Fitzanko & Tony McCoy
March 7 Stephanie Jakobs
March 8 Jan Davey and Alice Vetter
March 9 Jillian Parker
March 11 Shay Papoccia and Brent Boelkens
March 13 Remy Flick
March 15 Levi Freas and Abriana Poci and
Greg Gallentine
March 16 Jaclyn Davey and Megan Stutzke

March 18 Amber Greenfield
March 19 Marla Boynton
March 20 Mary Downes and Dakota Hayes
March 22 Roberta Fredericks and
Lynette Nieman
March 23 Colton Duncan,
Toby Johnson



Anniversaries

March 14 Eric and Darci Imel



WE LOVE OUR GREETING CARD WORKERS!

Thank you ladies for our Funeral Lunch. I know how much time and love goes into preparing it. Janet's family feels blessed you were such an important part of her life.

The Janet Palmer Family



Thursday March 7th at 9:30 AM Please Consider Joining

Wesley Ladies Lunch is

Thursday, March 21st at 11:30 at A's Kitchen in Rock Falls. Hope to see you there. If you want to add your e-mail address to my mailing list call me at 815-625-4381 or see me at the second service.

Please remember to keep the church office updated with changes or corrections!

Thank you!

office@sterlingwesley.org

815-625-1968



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:

- Donations of bedding, small appliances, and other household items to support Trinity UMC and the VA Clinic/Valor Program, as they work to find homes for local veterans. A list of needed items is on the table in the fellowship hall.
- Toilet paper for local Pantries.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins for ***March*** to benefit: **Midwest Distribution Center.**