

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AUGUST 2024



From Our Pastor...

Church Events

Greetings, Wesley family and friends,

As we prepare for a new school year, let us unite in prayer for our students, teachers, and school staff. May God's wisdom, protection, and grace surround them throughout the year. We will have the blessing of the backpacks on August 11th around the gazebo. Please mark it on your calendar.

I want to reflect on radical hospitality and divine friendship inspired by Henri Nouwen's teachings. What does radical hospitality mean to you? When have you felt truly welcomed and valued? How do these experiences shape your understanding of God's love?

Henri Nouwen spoke of hospitality as more than just opening our homes; it is about opening our hearts by creating a safe space and welcoming others into our circle of life. This form of hospitality invites us to create spaces where people feel safe, valued, heard, and valued, transcending social and personal boundaries.

Practicing radical hospitality, we nurture divine friendship, mirroring God's unconditional love and acceptance. Jesus exemplified this through his incarnation and interactions with others, offering fellowship and friendship to all. As I often mentioned, Christ's incarnation is the act of God's ultimate hospitality to save
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Tuesdays and Thursdays @4:00pm

Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday @ 9:30 am

Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Fridays @ 2-4pm

Fiber Group (Knitting & Crocheting)

Saturdays @8:00am:

Men's Bible Study (Fireside Room)

August dates to remember:

Thurs., the 1st @9:30 am:

Greeting Card Ministry (Fellowship Hall)

Sun., the 11th @ 10:00 am:

**Blessing of the Backpacks & Hot Dog
Sunday!!!**

Thur., the 17th @ 11:30 am:

Ladies' luncheon at @ Angelo's (Sterling)
(Contact Beth Mathew 815-625-4381)

the world. Our worship is an act of God's hospitality to welcome and renew us. Communion is an act of Jesus' hospitality that invites us to partner with the Holy Spirit in God's mission. with the Holy Spirit in God's mission.

So, how can we, as a community, embody radical hospitality? We can use our words and actions to make everyone feel safe, heard, and valued. We can listen to and care for one another with our love. You can also invite your neighbors for coffee and make phone calls to someone feeling alone or isolated. One simple kind word and action may make their very special day.

And we may follow Jesus' example by loving others without conditions. We need to try to practice Jesus' example of love during this election season. This love breaks down barriers and fosters deeper connections. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Hate cannot drive out Hate, but only love can do. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, but only light." It echoes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). With God's hospitality that urges us to build friendship, let us break down barriers, and foster deeper connections.

With an upcoming sermon series on hospitality and friendship, let us nurture our hospitality and build friendship. May God guide us in embodying God's love, which can transform our world into one of genuine acceptance and authentic love.

Peace in Christ,

August Worship Schedule

- August 4** **Jeremiah 29:1, 11-14**
 Hope for the Hopeless
- August 11** **John 6:27-29, 33-35, 48-51**
 Food for the Soul
- August 18** **Genesis 18: 1-5, 19: 1-5**
 Hospitality and Hostility
- August 25** **Deuteronomy 10: 17-21,**
 Luke 19: 1-10
 Embracing Biblical Justice

Update on Youth Director!

After careful consideration and prayerful discernment, the Staff Parish team and Tristen Florry, youth director, agreed not to his youth ministry after the probationary period. We thank Tristen for his presence and contribution during this time with us. He will continue to join our worship as he's available.

As we move forward, please rest assured that our commitment to our youth's spiritual growth and genuine fellowship remains steadfast. We actively seek new ways to support and engage our young members and will keep you updated.

Missions / Worship Schedule

2024 Upcoming Pantry Collections

August: Toothpaste

September: Toilet paper



In August we are going to

Angelo's (Sterling)

The date is Thursday, August 15th

at 11:30

Please reserve in advance with
Beth Mathew, 815-625-4381

Loose Coins

July coins went to

Lyon Day Home

Total received = \$ 516.23

AUGUST Loose Coins will benefit
RefugeeOne :

Based in Chicago, *RefugeeOne* creates opportunity for refugees fleeing war, terror, and persecution to build new lives of safety, dignity, and self-reliance.

**Thank you so much for sharing your
compassion and generosity!**



The Greeting Card Ministry

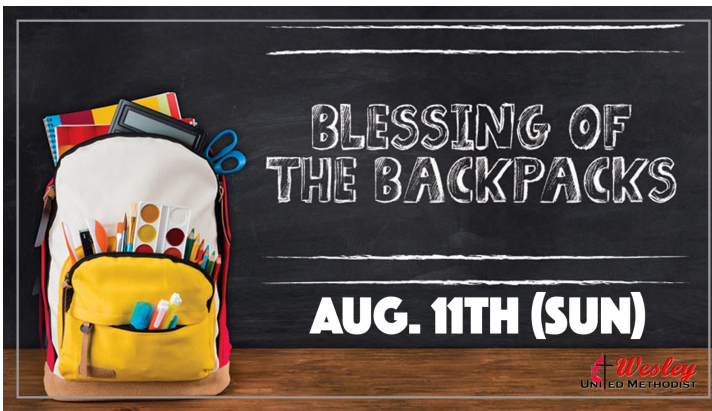
will meet **Thursday August 1st at 9:30am** in Fellowship Hall to prepare cards for **September**. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!!!

August 8am Rebecca Tieman and Shannon Klausing Head Ushers

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
8/4 Tony McCoy	Lily Wetzell	Katie McCoy
8/11 NO 8 AM SERVICE	NO 8 AM SERVICE	NO 8 AM SERVICE
8/18 Matthew Gabrielse	Addison Gabrielse	Nancy Pitsch
8/25 Rita Smith	Rebecca Tieman / Shannon Klausing	Rory Smith

August 10am Head Ushers Steve Lopez & Bill Parker

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
8/4 Kris & Amy Young	Steve Lopez Bill Parker	Mary Spitzer	No Class
8/11 BACK TO SCHOOL	BACKPACK BLESSING	Aaron Marken	Jamie Schwingle
8/18 Kris & Amy Young	Steve Lopez/Bill Parker	Andy Pitsch	Carrie & Elias Halverson
8/25 Rich & Sandra Lobdell	Steve Lopez/Bill Parker	Tristen Flory	Nancy Pitsch



**Dress for water activities/fun!
There will be a water slide and games
after the 10 AM service!**



The 5th Annual Missions Chili Cook Off and Dessert Auction

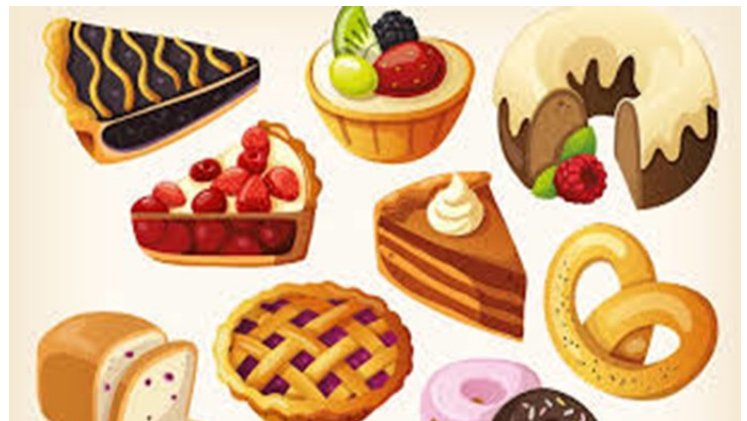
Fundraiser will be held immediately
following second service.

October 20th

Please sign up to provide Chili or a Dessert.

Sign up sheets are on the Mission's Table along with an information sheet. Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd around 12:30.

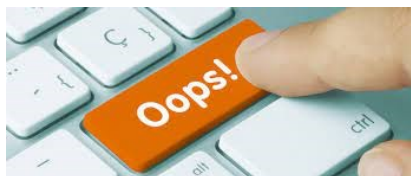
Encourage friends and family to come join us for a fun time!





HABITAT FOR HUMANITY





If you have updates or corrections,
please let the office know---
thank you!

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

Anniversaries

Aug. 9	Tim & Sandi Cox,
Aug. 10	Dave & Karen Abele, Mike & Lynette (Tootie) Ceruzzi, Greg & Amy Bontz, Aaron & Devon Flick
Aug. 14	Justin & Kala Allen
Aug. 25	Randy & Pam Clodfelter
Aug. 27	Mark & Sharon Taylor

Birthdays

Aug. 2	Jean Moe	Aug. 20	Darla Ewing, Matt Wendelken
Aug. 3	Nancy Pitsch, Malorie Grennan	Aug. 21	Curt Greenfield, Rory Smith
Aug. 6	Fred Duncan, Rita Smith, Dave Carrion	Aug. 22	Bill Burke
Aug. 7	Johanna Grady	Aug. 25	Russ Spitzer, Tori Stutzke
Aug. 13	Arianna Cravatta, Jakob Vetter	Aug. 27	Lily Wetzell
Aug. 14	Matt Greenfield	Aug. 28	Carrie Halverson, Brayden Blumhoff
Aug. 16	Kris Quick	Aug. 29	Glenda Seradilla
Aug. 18	Shay Papoccia, Jan Stutzke	Aug. 31	Louis Quick
Aug. 19	Lowell Jacobs, Katie Canas		



Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued
support of our friends in need.
Your thoughtfulness brings smiles
to many!!!!

RFUMC
Bear Necessities

Dear Wesley UMC,

Thank you for helping Midwest Mis-
sion reach more people with God's
love. Your gift will be a blessing to
those in need!

In His Service,
Midwest Mission Family

Altar Flowers (\$20)

The following dates are available for altar flowers:

Sept. 15, 22 & 29

Oct. 6, 20 & 27

Nov. 24

Dec. 1, 15 & 22



(Contact the office to reserve a date or just sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. Please include who they are for and who they are from.)

Creative Ministry Ideas Shared



A group of people gathered to celebrate many of our Wesley family ministries that focus on the World, fellowship, education, and community service. We were all delighted to count so many meaningful ministries for Wesley family and local community and shared brilliant ideas for potential ministries. We are truly blessed by one another in our beautiful community and thrilled to walk with God for our present and future ministry.

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

We will continue to share the message
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** is being collected for local pantries (August).
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- **AUGUST Loose coins to benefit RefugeeOne:** Your gifts create life-changing opportunities for refugees by providing housing support, English lessons, job coaching, mental health care, youth services and more. Chicago has placed and is working with almost 2000 Ukraine refugees. They also serve people of Iraq, the Congo, Afghanistan, the Sudan, Somalia, and much more.