

JULY 2024

# The Chimes



## From Our Pastor...

Greetings. June has been a month of blessings and excitement, and I'm thrilled to share the highlights with you. First, I'm overjoyed to announce that the Bishop has reappointed me to continue my ministry for the sixth year. It's like finding out your favorite TV show has been renewed for another season. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

June kicked off with our wonderful Vacation Bible School (VBS). If you thought herding cats was challenging, you should organize a bunch of enthusiastic children. Yet, amidst the delightful chaos, we saw God's love shine brightly. The theme this year was "Camp Firelights: A Journey to Ignite," and children explored a forest of faith, fun, and fellowship. They learned about God's creation, the importance of kindness, and how we can be a light in the world. Their growth and learning make us all proud and inspire us to continue our journey of faith.

Next up was the NIC Annual Conference, themed "Yield" to God's vibrant work in our lives and ministry. The Conference was inspiring, and I must say, there's something uplifting and encouraging about affirming with other local churches that God always has the green light even when we feel we are moving slowly or

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## Church Events

Tuesdays and Thursdays @4:00pm

**Exercise Group** (Fellowship Hall)

Fridays @ 2-4 PM

**Fiber Group (knitting & crocheting)**

Saturdays @8:00am:

**Men's Bible Study** (Fellowship Hall)

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Monday, July 1st @7:00pm:

**Ad Council** (Fellowship Hall)

**Thursday July 4th– Happy**

**Independence Day !!!**

Thursday July 4th @ 9:30am:

**Greeting Card Ministry** (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, July 14th :

**Hymn Sunday and Ice Cream Social**

10:00 AM service

Thursday, July 18th @11:30am:

**Ladies Luncheon** @ Angelo's (Sterling)

contact person: Beth Mathew

815-625-4381

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backward. We were encouraged to let God guide our paths. The Conference provided a time for reflection and rejuvenation, fostering a sense of unity and support that uplifted us all, helping us to refocus our energy on serving God and one another.

Finally, our Youth JOY Camp was an absolute blast. The theme was “Others,” and our young people embraced it with open hearts. The camp’s theme song, “Give Me Your Eyes” by Brandon Heath, resonated deeply with everyone. The lyrics – “Give me your eyes for just one second, give me your eyes so I can see everything that I keep missing, give me your love for humanity” – became a powerful prayer for all.

Inspired by our youth and the lyrics of “Give Me Your Eyes,” I encourage our Wesley family to look around and see the needs of those in our community and beyond. Imagine if we all had the eyes of Christ, seeing not just the surface but the heart of each person. Maybe it’s your neighbor who needs a listening ear or a Wesley family member who can use a hand with groceries. Whatever the need, let’s step up with a joyful heart.

As we move forward, let’s ask God for God’s eyes, heart, and love for one another. Let’s make it our mission to serve with joy and compassion. Amen.

Peace in Christ,  
*Rev. Dr. Paul Lee*



## JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**July 7** 2 Timothy 3:16-16, John 1:1-5, 20:30-31  
Living and Walking Bible of Jesus Christ  
**July 14** Hymn Sunday

**July 21** Jeremiah 1:4-9, 20:7-9  
Fire in My Boens  
**July 28** Jeremiah 3:12-13, 7:5-7  
Return, O Israel

# Thank you!

## 2024 Upcoming Pantry Collections

**July: Laundry Detergent**

**August: Toothpaste**

### Ladies Luncheon

Thursday July 18th at 11:30 am at Angelo's in Sterling.  
What's not to like...easy parking, in-town, great menu, price is right and good company.

See you then, Beth

**JUNE Loose Coins** were collected for:

Fish Food Pantry

The total received = \$127.03

**July** coins will go to Jennings-Lyon Day Home

(A rural learning center for children in Sheridan, Indiana)

**Fill the Truck**= 245.00

**Bishop's Appeal**= 535.00

**\*June 5th Sunday** : Peace with Justice =

Thank you for continuing to support these important ministries. Reminder: "Loose Coins" can also be a designation on checks.



**The Greeting Card Ministry** will meet **Thursday, July 4th, at 9:30am** in Fellowship Hall to prepare **July** cards for mailing. Everyone is welcome to come help and join the fun!

**July 8am** Rebecca Tieman and Shannon Klausing Head Ushers

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
7/7 Steve Downes	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Mary Downes
7/14 Frank & Janne Rausa	Frank & Janne Rausa	Jean Moe
7/21 Rita Smith	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Rory Smith
2/28 Steve Downes	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Mary Downes

**July 10am** Head Ushers Steve Lopez & Bill Parker

Mark & Sharon Taylor Rich & Sandi Lobdell. Jaz/Megan// Gia/Mary Sue Truedson, Papoccia, Lon Van Glider

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
7/7 Frank & Janne	Steve / Bill	Aaron Flick	Devon Flick
7/14 Frank & Janne	Steve/ Bill	Mary Spitzer	Stacey Wendelken Ellie & Myla
7/21 Jason Allen Jaxson Williams	Eric Allen	Justin Allen	Nancy Pitsch
7/28 Nancy Pitsch	Lacey, Jade, & Wyatt Young	Andy Pitsch	Jamie Schwingle



# LYON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD & GRADUATION



## HYMN SUNDAY & ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON JULY 14TH

What's  
your favorite  
hymns?



**Wesley**  
UNITED METHODIST





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

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



## Birthdays



July 1 Jonathon Imel  
July 3 Haley Ceruzzi, Jeff Davey, Jaime Foss,  
Sharon Siex, Nathan Williams  
July 5 Sue Hondley, Stacey Wendelken  
July 6 Vinny Poci  
July 9 Sydney Graves  
July 10 Lindsey Reynolds  
July 11 Sandi Cox  
July 12 Andrea Mallhi  
July 13 Matthew Hansen  
July 14 Nathan Blackburn  
July 15 Roger Jacobs, Jack Osborn,  
Kaylen Blumhoff

July 16 Sharon Prichard, Justin Allen  
July 17 Aaron Flick  
July 19 Pam Clodfelter, Steve Downes  
July 22 Aaron Marken  
July 23 Tim Schwingle  
July 24 Sadie Wendelken  
July 25 Meghan Clodfelter  
July 26 Beth Jacobs, Darla Stigall  
July 27 Allison Valenzuela  
July 28 Linda Kavran  
July 29 Eric Allen  
July 31 Dayton Hayes, Harper Johnson

## Anniversaries

July 7 Denver & Sharon Wasson  
July 12 James & Wendy Fitzanko  
July 14 Ed & Jan Andersen  
July 21 Steve and Amy Lopez  
July 22 Fred & Renee Duncan  
July 29 Jeremy & Holly Taylor-Vrhel  
July 30 Frank & Janne Rausa



**Mark your calendars**

**for July 14<sup>th</sup> ! it is time for a**

**Hymn Sunday & Ice Cream Social**

**There will be an ice cream bar**

**So bring your dish to pass and enjoy good food,  
good friends and good ice cream!!!**

**Come Join the Fiber Group-  
Knitting & Crocheting**

**Meeting Every Friday**

**Between 2-4 PM**

Contact Sharon Taylor

815-625-6518 if interested





Dear Wesley Families,

I am deeply grateful for the card and your heartfelt congratulations on my doctorate graduation. Your kind words and support during this significant milestone mean so much to me. Thank you for being part of my journey and celebrating this achievement with me.

Warmest regards,  
Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lee



# NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE 185TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE







# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024







# JOY CAMP 2024







## CLEM MINISTRY

Clem is a therapy friend well-trained to be a friend to many students at schools. He loves to be a friend to Wesley family.

If you like to have him around during/after Sunday service, please sign up for

**"CLEM'S MINISTRY."**



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

**AUG. 11TH (SUN)**



**AUG. 11, 2024**  
**AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE**

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**TO HOT DOG SUNDAY**  
**PREPARED BY**  
**MEN'S GROUP**



## Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Sterling, IL 61081

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

Phone: (815) 625-1968

Website: [www.sterlingwesley.org](http://www.sterlingwesley.org)

Email: [office@sterlingwesley.org](mailto: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 post  
sermons on Facebook and the website

### 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:

- **Laundry soap** is being collected for local pantries (July).
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- **JULY Loose coins** to benefit: Jennings-Lyon Day Home (Sheridan, Indiana)
- **Summer Buddy Bags!**

Collecting items at Wesley:

#### Meats, Soups, and Pasta

Vegetable Beef Soup  
Chicken Soup  
Mac and Cheese  
Mini Beef Ravioli  
Beefaroni  
Mini Spaghetti  
Chicken Salad with Crackers  
Tuna Salad with Crackers  
Ham Salad with Crackers  
Beanie Weenies  
Hormel Completes (or similar)

#### Fruits, Juices and Vegetables

Raisins (single serving boxes)  
100% Juice Boxes  
Vegetable Cups  
Applesauce  
Fruit Cups

#### Breakfast Items

Cereal Boxes  
Granola Bars  
Breakfast Bars  
Pop Tarts

#### Snack Foods

Cheese sticks  
Cheese Crackers  
Peanut Butter Crackers  
Breadsticks and Cheese  
Animal Crackers  
Gold Fish Crackers  
Non-refrigerated Pudding  
Non-refrigerated Jello Cups  
Pretzels  
Potato Chips