

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2025

From Our Pastor...

Greetings, Sterling Wesley Families and Friends,

As we journey through this season of Lent—a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—I find myself deeply moved by the grace and communion we share with Christ. This grace is not only felt in our spiritual lives but also in our everyday moments, especially in our times of weakness. The Apostle Paul’s words, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9), have resonated with me in a new way, reminding me of how much God’s love and grace surround us, especially in the moments we feel most vulnerable.

Life often presents us with challenges that seem overwhelming. Yet, I have come to see that it is precisely in those moments of difficulty and discomfort where God’s grace shines brightest. I recall the challenging decision to undergo surgery, a process that began with a series of recommendations and led me to a place where I could experience God’s perfect timing and provision. Despite the hurdles, I see now that each step along the way was guided by God’s hand, opening doors and connecting me to people who helped in ways I could never have expected.

Through this experience, I was also reminded of the profound gift of community. During my time away for surgery and recovery, I stepped back from my roles as husband, pastor, and member of our larger church community. It was humbling to realize how much I rely on others, yet it also highlighted the overwhelming love and support that

Church Events

Tues/Thurs-@4:00 PM

Exercise Group
(Fellowship Hall)

Tues- Fiber Group@ 2-3:30 PM

Wed- @9:30 AM
Bible Study (Fireside Rm)

Sat- 8:00 AM
Men’s Bible Study
(Fireside Rm)

Save the Date

Wed. March 5- Ash Wednesday Service @ 7:00 PM



Thur. March 6- Greeting Card Ministry @9:30 AM
(Fellowship Hall)

Wed. March 12- Member Care Team Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Mon. March 17- St. Patrick’s Day

Thur. March 20- Ladies Luncheon at 11:30 AM @ A’s Kitchen (Rock Falls)

surrounded me. Your ceaseless prayers, thoughtful cards, and prayer shawl lifted me in ways I cannot fully express. I could feel your presence and love, even from a distance. Thank you. I had you in my prayers every day as well. In that time, I learned that community is about mutual care, rooted in God's love.

This Lent, I've gained a new understanding of silence and vulnerability. For weeks, I was unable to speak, and in that silence, I discovered the power of listening—listening to my own thoughts, my wife's voice, and the world around me. Silence became a tool for introspection, allowing me to hear God's voice more clearly. In those moments, I was reminded that God's grace does not require strength but invites us to be exactly who we are—sometimes weak, sometimes vulnerable—so that God's power can fill us.

As we move through this Lenten season, let us reflect on how God's grace transforms our weaknesses into vessels for His strength. Let us embrace the silence, discomfort, and vulnerability as spaces where God's power can be made perfect in us. May we, as a community, continue to extend that grace to others, sharing in communion with Christ and one another.

Thank you for your unwavering support and prayers. May this Lent draw us closer to God's perfect love—always present, always sufficient, and always transforming.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Worship Schedule

2nd- Luke 9:28-36
As He Was Praying

9th- Luke 4:1-13
Reset Your Clock

16th- Luke 7:36-50
Breaking Bread & Breaking Barriers

23rd- Luke 9:10-17
5,000 Dinner Guests

30th- Luke 10:38-42
Let Us Choose the Better Part

Donut Hosts,

We are looking for Donut Hosts between services.
Call Renee Duncan - 815-535-3058
or see me by the donuts on Sunday for details
(IT'S REALLY EASY!!!)



Altar Flowers (\$20)

The following dates are available for altar flowers :

March: 2, 9, 23, & 30th

April : 20 & 27

May: 18 & 25

The 2025 Flower Calendar is on the Bulletin Board:

You can also contact the office if you have a date in mind you would like to reserve. Payments can be mailed to /dropped off at the office. Thank you!

Office Number: 815-625-1968

Office Hours: M-F-8AM- Noon



Loose Coins 2025

March: Midwest Mission Distribution Center
Lent/Easter (envelopes): Split - Sterling Buddy Bags AND Reynoldswood Christian Camp
5th Sunday: Human Relations Day
April: Caretakers of God's Creation
May: Bishop's Appeal (General Conference)



2025 Monthly Pantries Collections

March: Toilet Paper
April: Bar Soap
May: Dish Soap

Loose Coins total was \$ 151.20

Thank you!!

Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic

Announcements

Greeting card Ministry,

Will be meeting 6th of March at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Come join the fun and help prepare Birthday & Anniversaries for April !!! All are welcome to attend!!!



Attention Lunch Ladies!!!

Our March Lunch out will be March 20th at 11:30 AM @ A's Kitchen (Rock Falls)

All are welcome. Good food and good conversation among friends!



Sauk Valley Food Bank Volunteers

You are invited to serve our neighbors

On Saturday, March 29th @ 9:00 AM

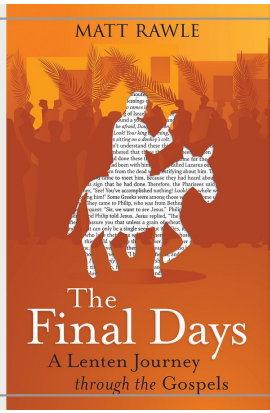
There will be a sign up sheet in

Fellowship Hall.

Any Questions? Please Contact Andy Pitsch



Ash
Wednesday
SERVICE
7 pm, Mar. 5 (Wed)


LENTEN STUDY

MATT RAWLE

**WEDNESDAY MORNING
LENTEN STUDY**

9:30 AM

The Books are available in the office. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Downes.




LENT *begins on March 5 (Wed)*

is a 40-day season of repentance, prayer, and fasting, leading to Easter. It emphasizes reconciliation with God, restoration, and spiritual preparation for Christ's resurrection.



Worship Schedule

March 8am *Head Ushers Rebecca Tieman /Shannon Klausing*

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
3/2 Doug Brandau	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Nancy Pitsch
3/9 Doug Brandau	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Darla Ewing
3/16 Renee & Lynn	Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing	Nancy Pitsch
3/23 Renee & Lynn	Chris Gallentine Rebecca & Shannon	Greg Gallentine
3/30 Tony McCoy	Lily Wetzell/Nancy Pitsch Acolytes Rebecca & Shannon Ushers	Katie McCoy



March 10am *Head Ushers Steve Lopez/Bill Parker*

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
3/2 Frank & Janne Rausa	Curt & Jaime Greenfield Steve Lopez - Bill Parker	Jean Moe	Nancy Pitsch Communion w/kids
3/9 Frank & Janne Rausa	Andy Pitsch Steve Lopez - Bill Parker	Beth Wicks	Nancy Pitsch Spring Break begins
3/16 Bob & Cheryl Allen	Amber Celletti – Mary Sue Puckett Steve Lopez - Bill Parker	Nancy Pitsch Isabella Celletti	Carrie Halverson
3/23 Molly & Shay Papoccia	Acolyte- Brady & JP Papoccia Usher – Nick & Shay Papoccia Steve Lopez, Bill Parker	Nancy Pitsch Gia Campbell	Jessica, Nora, & Carlie Truedson
3/30 Matt & Ellie Wendelken	Acolyte Sadie & Myla Wendelken	Nancy Pitsch & assistant	Stacey, Ellie, & Myla Wendelken

Easter Flowers

We are taking orders for Easter Flowers. This year we have a new flower available also. Easter Lilies are \$13.00. Daffodils, Tulips, & Hyacinths are \$8.00 per plant. You may call or e-mail the office or use the order form. The order form will be in the Bulletin weekly and I will also have forms in the office. Deadline to order in **30th of March**.



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

Thank you

Dear Wesley Congregation,

Thank you so much for your recent very generous donation to the Loaves & Fishes breakfast program! It is greatly appreciated!

The program started in 2011 and served one meal the first day. This year we have served over 25,000 meals (2024). So the need continues. We could not survive without community support, and you are a loyal supporter. With the cost of food & supplies continuing to rise, every donation is very important to us. We will use the money wisely. Thank you!!

Sue Abate– Loaves & Fishes Secretary

“The Lord Bless you and Keep You”

Thank you to our friends at Wesley UMC. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Helping our neighbors in need puts a smile on everyone's face. Blessings, RFUMC Bear Necessities

Dear Wesley UMC,

Thank you for your \$400.00 donation to FISH Pantry. We are so excited to have received your most generous gift. As we all know the price of groceries keeps going up. Your kindness & thoughtfulness will go far in helping those in need.

FISH Pantry



Children's Message with Pastor Mike Jones

Wesley UMC Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th @ 1PM

Hot dogs provided by Men's Group following the hunt

Please drop any candy or cash donations off @ the Wesley UMC Office by 4/13

All are welcome to stuff eggs after 10 AM service April 13th!

Questions or want to help?
Contact Devon Flick 815-590-0720



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:

- Toilet paper for local Pantries.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins for **March** to benefit: **Midwest Distribution Center**.
- 5th Sunday in **March** to benefit: **Human Relations Day**