

The *CHIMES*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UMC

APRIL 2025



From Our Pastor

Greetings,

As we move through the sacred journey of Lent into the glorious celebration of Easter, I am filled with gratitude for the ways God's presence is made known among us. This past season has been a time of reflection and anticipation, culminating in the joyous proclamation that Christ is risen!

Throughout this month, we have followed Jesus to the homes and tables of those he encountered—Simon the Pharisees and the unnamed woman, Mary and Martha's home in Bethany, the upper room where he broke bread with his disciples, and the road to Emmaus where his presence was revealed in the breaking of bread. Each of these meals speaks not only of nourishment but of divine presence, of relationships restored, and of the abundant grace that Jesus offers. The table is where Jesus met people in their need, and it is at the table that we, too, find him still.

As we reflect on Jesus' meals with people, we recognize how he transformed ordinary gatherings into moments of sacred encounter. Whether comforting Martha and Mary, sharing a final meal with his disciples, or revealing himself to weary travelers on

Church Events

Tue/Thurs: Exercise Group
4:00-5:00 PM (Fellowship Hall)

Tues: Fiber Group
2:00-3:30PM

Wed: Bible Study
9:30 AM (Fireside Room)

Sat : Men's Bible Study
8:00 am (Fireside Rm)

Save the Date

Thur. April 3 @ 9:30 AM
Greeting Card Ministry
(Fellowship Hall)

Sun. April 13– Palm Sunday

**Thur. April 17– Maundy
Thursday Service @ 7 PM**

Thur. April 17@11:30
Ladies Luncheon @ A's Kitchen

**Fri. April 18– Good Friday
Service @7 PM**

Sat. April 19– Easter Egg Hunt
@ 1:00 PM

Sun. April 20– Easter Sunday

Easter evening, Jesus shows us that every meal can be an opportunity for grace. In the same way, our times of worship, fellowship, and service become holy ground, where Christ is made known among us.

This Easter season, I invite us all to embrace the table as a place of welcome. Just as Jesus broke bread with those who doubted, denied, and even betrayed him, may our church be a place where all are invited to come, to question, to seek, and ultimately to encounter the risen Christ. Our worship, filled with song and sacrament, will continue to be a space where we recognize Jesus in our midst, reminding us that resurrection is not just an event—it is an ongoing reality in our daily lives.

On a personal note, I cannot fully express my gratitude for your prayers and support during my medical leave. The cards, messages, and kind words have been a source of great encouragement and strength. And the surprise of cards and decorations at the sanctuary entrance was beyond my imagination. Your love and care have been a tangible reminder of God's grace, and I am deeply thankful to be back among you as we continue our journey together.

I return with a heart renewed and a spirit lifted, eager to walk alongside you in this season of new beginnings. As we celebrate Christ's victory over death, may we also embrace the new life that God offers each of us—a life filled with love, purpose, and deep connection with one another.

Thank you for being a church that embodies the love of Christ so beautifully. As we continue forward, may we break bread together in faith, serve one another in love, and proclaim with joy that Christ is risen indeed!

With deep gratitude and Easter joy,

Pastor Paul

Worship Schedule

6th– 5th Sunday in Lent

Luke 10:38-42

Let Us Choose the Better

13th– Palm Sunday

Luke 22:14-20

A Meal to Remember

20th– Easter Sunday

Luke 24:13-15, 28-31, & 33-35

Made Known in the Breaking of the Bread

27th– Second Sunday of Easter

Special Music Sunday By Dan Homes

Altar Flowers (\$20)

April : 20th & 27th

May: 18th & 25th

June: 1st, 8th, & 22nd

Sign up for flowers is on the Bulletin Board

You can sign up to Honor a Loved One, Celebrate a Birthday or Anniversary, or In Memory of a Loved One.

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. You can also put in the offering plate with a memo/note– Flowers.

Office Number: 815-625-1968

Email: Office@sterlingwesley.org

Office Hours: M-F 8AM-Noon



MISSIONS

April Loose Coins will go to the Caretakers of God's Creation.

Lent & Easter offerings (envelopes) will be split between

Buddy Bags and Reynoldswood Christian Camp

March loose coins = \$ 527.73 For Midwest Mission Distribution Center!

As of the 23rd– The 30th has not yet been counted

Lent = \$ 368.20

5th Sunday =\$70.00

Total Pantry Collection for March = 74 Rolls of Toilet Paper & 4 1/2 Egg Cartons

April Pantry Collection = Bar Soap

April Worship

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

Door Greeter (s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
4/6 Jan Glover	Steve Downes- usher Acolyte/usher Rebecca & Shannon	Mary Downes
4/13 Jan Glover	Steve Downes Acolyte/usher Rebecca & Shannon	Mary Downes
4/20 Jan Glover Matthew Gabrielse	Acolyte -Addison Gabrielse Ushers Rebecca & Shannon	Nancy Pitsch EASTER SUNDAY
4/27 Jan Glover Aaron & Derek Fitzanko	James Fitzanko Ushers Rebecca & Shannon	Wendy Fitzanko

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

Door Greeter (s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
4/6 Andy Pitsch	Acolytes – Jovie & Remy Flick Steve Lopez/Bill Parker	Beth Wicks	Aaron & Devon Flick
4/13 Justin & Kala Allen	Jaxson Williams/Eric Allen Steve Lopez/Bill Parker	James Allen	Nancy Pitsch
4/20 Craig & Jessica Truedson EASTER SUNDAY	Acolytes Carlie & Nora Truedson Ushers Steve Lopez, Bill Parker Pass plate- Craig & Jess Truedson	Nancy Pitsch	
4/27 Janne & Frank Rausa	Eric & James Allen Steve Lopez/Bill Parker	Jaxson Williams	Nancy Pitsch

ANNOUNCEMENTS / THANK YOU'S

Greeting Card Ministry

Our next meeting is

Thursday, April 3rd at 9:30am

in Fellowship Hall!

We'll prepare and send cards.

It's Fun!!

Hello Lunch Ladies,

Ladies we will be meeting on 17th of April at 11:30 AM @ A's Kitchen (Rock Falls). All are welcome to Join!!!



Dear Wesley Members,

Thank you so very much for all your contributions to the FISH Pantry. Please take pleasure in knowing you have helped homeless & families in need. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

May the Lord Bless you and keep you.

FISH Pantry

Dear Friends,

You give the nicest things. Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

There will be lots of smiles on our give away day because of you!!!

Blessings,

RFUM Bear Necessities

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



Thank you so much for all of your love and support during this difficult time of loss.

There are no words to describe our gratitude for your heartfelt sympathies.

The family of :

JUDY RAJNOWSKI

JANUARY 25, 1960 - FEBRUARY 20TH, 2025



Birthdays

April 1	Elizabeth Mathew	April 18	Allison Ramirez
April 2	Isabella Celletti	April 19	Austin Cedro
April 3	Janet Lindsley and Olivia Schwingle	April 23	Nick Papoccia
April 4	Gloria Grant	April 25	Craig Truedson
April 5	Jeffrey Spitzer	April 28	Sarah Gabrielse
April 8	Mark Gatz, Frank Rausa, & Rich Halverson	April 30	Amber Castaneda & Amber Farnham
April 13	Pastor Paul		
April 14	Amy Lopez & Randy Smith		
April 15	Isaac Halverson & Noah Halverson		
April 16	Peg Burke		
April 17	Karen Palmer		



Anniversaries



April 1	Pastors Paul and Rosa Lee	April 20	John and Fabiene Plummer
April 2	Ron and Judy Bushman	April 24	Jeff and Jan Davey
April 17	Walter and Janet Lindsley	April 30	Joe and Elisa Gatz
April 19	Toby and Debbie Hodges		Dennis and Alice Vetter



Men's Bible Study

Will be doing a new Video Series

The Chosen

starting Saturday, 5th of April
at 8:00 AM

EGG

April 19 (Sat)

HUNT



Welcome Back Pastor Paul



April Special Services





JOY CAMP

United Methodist Christian Camp

J. O. Y. = Jesus, Others, You
Register @ joycamp.org

Youth entering 5th grade in Fall of 2025 school year through
graduating Seniors - YOU ARE INVITED!

A week to deepen faith by lessons in scripture, worship, God's creation, outdoor adventures, archery, canoeing, swimming, gaga ball, team building, crafts, service projects, hikes, great food, campfires, non-stop fellowship, running, hanging out ALL OVER the beautiful endless acres of Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL

Sunday June 22nd, camp arrival/check in
Saturday, June 28th, parents pick up at 10am
Registration will be opening "soon"!

Church youth -SWUMC Endowment offers gifts toward camp tuition!
(family pays \$50 deposit for each camper, church Endowment covers the rest)
Contact Nancy Pitsch or Pastor Paul for more details or with any questions!
815-499-3802 (Nancy) or 815-764-1004 (Paul)

Go Green Project!!!



**Let's share
good ideas
of saving
the EARTH**



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

Sermons are available on Facebook / website

<https://www.facebook.com/SterlingWesleyUMC>

website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Mission Corner / April 2025

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:

- **Bar Soap** for local pantries.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- ***Loose coins*** for APRIL to benefit: Caretakers of God's Creation.
- **Lent/Easter: Split between Sterling Buddy Bags & Reynoldswood Christian Camp**