

\*Our e-version has additional pages, pics and information. Available on the website and through email.

# The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JUNE 2025



## From Our Pastor...

What a month June will be! From joyful worship & celebration to summer fun with our kids and youth, this season is truly full of life, laughter, and God's love in action.

We begin with the Northern Illinois Annual Conference, where Frank Rausa, Andy Pitsch, and I will join clergy and lay delegates from nearly 300 churches across our conference. It's a powerful time of worship, prayer, and planning for how we can live out our calling as the church in today's world. We will prayerfully discuss, discern, and decide on many petitions. I will be sharing another letter following that will dive into one of the major petitions and discussions from this year's Annual Conference. It's an important topic that affects not only our church but the entire United Methodist connection. I will also share the message related to this matter on June 1.

That same spirit is alive right here at our church. Soon, our church will be filled with music, crafts, games, and joyful noise as we welcome kids to Vacation Bible School. Some will be familiar faces, others brand new – but every child will know they are loved and included. VBS takes a team of caring people, and if you feel called to help, we'd love for you to join us. Whether it's handing out snacks, leading songs, or sharing a beautiful smile, you'll be part of something truly special. A huge thank you to our wonderful Education Team – You are the heart behind the magic!

Later this month, our youth will head to Joy Camp at Reynoldswood Christian Camp in Dixon, IL. Camp is a place where young people unplug from the devices, make new friends, and grow deeper in their faith. It's a space where everyone belongs – no one left out, no one left behind. Please keep our youth and their leaders in your prayers as

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## Church Events

**Tues/Thurs: 4:00-5:00 pm**  
**Exercise Group** (Fellowship Hall)

**Saturdays: 8:00 am**  
**Men's Bible study** (Fireside Room)

**Thursday, June 5 @9:30am**  
**Greeting Card Ministry**  
(Fellowship Hall)

**June 16-20 VBS Wesley UMC**  
**9-11:30 am each day PreK-5th**

**June 20 VBS Celebration Lunch**  
**and Program at 12 PM**

**Sun. June 15– Father's Day,**  
**Sunday, June 22-Graduation**  
**Sunday, Lyon Scholarship**  
**Award**

**Thurs. June 19– Juneteenth**  
**Thur. June 19, 11:30am**  
**Ladies Luncheon, A's Kitchen**

**June 22-28 Joy Camp**  
**Reynoldswood Camp**

**Sun, June 29**  
**Ice Cream Social**



they laugh, learn, and experience God in fresh, exciting ways.

**Continued from pg.1**

Then, on June 22, we'll celebrate both Graduation Sunday and Lyon Scholarship Sunday. We will honor our graduates as they step into new chapters of life and award scholarships to support their dreams. These milestones fill us with pride and hope, showing our commitment to nurturing the hearts, minds, and futures of the next generation.

Yes, June is busy. But it's the best kind of busy. The kind that brings us together, shows the world what God's love looks like in action, and reminds us that God is always at work – gathering us, growing us, and sending us out to make a difference.

Thank you for being part of this beautiful church family. Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ – welcoming, encouraging, and building something amazing.

With joy and gratitude,

Pastor Paul

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**JUNE 8am**

**Rebecca Tieman and Shannon Klausing Head Ushers**

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
6/1 Derek & Aaron Fitzanko	James Fitzanko Rebecca/Shannon	Wendy Fitzanko
6/8 Jan Davey	Rebecca /Shannon	Jeff Davey
6/15 Larry Schuchard	Rebecca / Shannon	Jan Glover
6/22 Pam Clodfelter	Rebecca/Shannon	Randy Clodfelter
6/29 Rita Smith	Rory Smith Rebecca/Shannon	Nancy Pitsch

**JUNE 10AM**

**Steve Lopez & Bill Parker Head Ushers**

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
6/1 Janne Rausa	Frank Rausa	Mary Spitzer	Rebecca/Shannon
6/8 Matt & Ellie Wendelken	Myla & Sadie Wendelken	Stacey Wendelken	Jamie Schwingle
6/15 James Allen Jaxon Williams	Remy/Jovie Flick acolyte James/Jaxson pass plates	Eric Allen	Aaron & Devon Flick
6/22 James & Kala Allen	Eric Allen/Jaxson Williams	Justin Allen	
6/29 Janne Rausa	Frank Rausa / Andy Pitsch	Nancy Pitsch	Stacy Wendelken/girls

### June Worship Schedule

- June 1** 1 Cor. 12:12-17; John 17:21; Gal. 5:22-23 One Body, Many Blessings
- June 8** Storytelling by Rene Morris
- June 15** Revelation 14:12, 21:4, 22:1-2,5 The End of the Book
- June 22** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-7 Faithfulness Despite Opposition
- June 29** 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 4:1-6 Living a Life Pleasing to God

## One of the Major Discussion at the NIC Annual Conference

At this year's Annual Conference, one of the most important topics we're discussing is called **regionalization**. It may sound complicated, but it's actually about making sure our United Methodist Church can better reflect the diversity of people and cultures across the world—while staying united in our mission.

The idea behind **regionalization** is simple: the world is big and different, and not every church can or should operate in exactly the same way. For many years, most church decisions have been made with the United States in mind. This has sometimes made it hard for people in other parts of the world—like Africa, Europe, or the Philippines—to feel equally represented. With this new plan, every region would have more say in decisions that affect their ministry. That means each area, including the U.S., could adapt some of our rules (like parts of the Book of Resolution) to fit their own culture and context.

For example, some petitions that come before the General Conference—like ones about American politics, investment strategies, or social issues—only apply to churches in the U.S. But almost half of the delegates who vote come from outside the U.S. These faithful delegates often have to vote on matters that may not relate to their communities at all. And the same goes the other way—churches in Africa or Asia sometimes face very different challenges, and their needs can get lost in the process.

Another reason regionalization is important is because not every region has the same access to education or resources. For instance, in some places, people preparing to become pastors do not have access to the same level of formal theological education as we do here. It's not fair to expect exactly the same standards when the circumstances are so different. Regionalization gives each area the flexibility to set policies that are faithful to God's calling *and* realistic in their context. There are practical benefits, too. Financially, regionalization could reduce the cost and complexity of our worldwide decision-making processes by allowing more decisions to be made locally.

Let me be clear: this is *not* about breaking the church apart. The goal is to stay united in heart and mission, while giving each part of the church room to grow in its own way. In fact, it might even help us save resources by reducing unnecessary conflicts and focusing more on local ministry.

Of course, some people are concerned that this plan could make our church feel less connected or cause confusion about what we believe. Others worry it could be hard to manage or may lead to uneven expectations. These are real concerns, and they remind us to move forward carefully and prayerfully.

Still, I believe this plan offers us a hopeful path—one where our church becomes more just, more flexible, and more faithful in every corner of the world. Let's continue to be in prayer for wisdom, unity, and courage as we live into this new season of ministry together.

Peace in Christ,

**Pastor Paul**



## Welcome Jamie and Tony!



We're thrilled to introduce two new staff who are already making a wonderful difference in the life of our church!

**Jamie Schwingle** is our new Administrative Assistant. Jamie is one of our own Wesley family members. She brings organization, creativity, and a warm spirit to the church office. Whether answering phones, creating bulletins, or keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes, Jamie is here to support the ministry and mission of our church with grace and professionalism.



**Tony Tablante** joins us as our new custodian. With a great eye for detail and a servant's heart, Tony is helping keep our building clean, safe, and welcoming. His cheerful presence is a blessing, and we're so glad to have him on board.

Please be sure to say hello and help welcome Jamie and Tony!

## Relay for Life







## REYNOLDSWOOD CAMP CLEANING & CHURCH WORKDAY





186th Northern Illinois Annual Conference

# Fill the Truck

## Mission Challenge Collection Drive

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center 1551 Thoreau Dr. N. Schaumburg, IL

Please bring your donations  
to the office by June 8 (Sun)

### Home Care Kits

Liquid Household Cleaner, 54-80oz

Liquid Dish Soap, 42-64oz

Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150oz

Scrub Brushes

5 Gallon Round Buckets with Lid

### Adult Bicycles



### Personal Dignity Kits

Hand towels (no kitchen towels),

Washcloths, Toothbrushes (no multipack),

Bars of Soap 3~4oz,

Deodorant 2~3oz, Lotion bottles 8-10oz

Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags



BISHOP'S APPEAL 2025

Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing

## Innovative Outreach

This year, the **Bishops Appeal** will support **Innovative Outreach**.  
It will provide grants to churches that have devised i  
nnovative ways of doing outreach.

If you like to support Innovative Outreach through Bishop's Appeal,  
please write a check payable to

**Sterling Wesley UMC**

with a memo "**Bishop's Appeal**."

# Music Sunday



## 2025 Graduates

### College Graduates

**Amber Greenfield**

(Black Hills States Univ.)

**Haley Ceruzi**

(University of Northern Iowa)

**Haleigh Feas**

(University of Iowa)

**Olivia Schwingle**

(Augustana College)

**Victoria Stutzke**

(University of South Dakota)

### High School Graduates

**Bowen Mallhi SHS**

**Derek Fitzanko DHS**

**Jaxson Williams SHS**

**Justin Allen SHS**

**Logan Ayala SHS**

**Noah Williams SHS**

**Nora Truedson SHS**

**Zach Cordell SHS**

### 8th Grade Graduates

**Aleeya Dykstra**

**Elias Halverson**

**Molly Papoccia**

**Myla Wendelken**

# Announcements

**May** Loose Coins went to

## **Bishop's Appeal**

The total received = **\$126.21**

In May, we collected 14 dish soaps, 2 egg cartons, and a small bag of travel toiletries.

**June's** Loose Coins will go to

## **Let's Feed Out Children**

### **June 5th Sunday Appeals**

#### **Peace with Justice Sunday**

These gifts support Peace with justice work in NIC, the United States and around the world. Half of this offering is administered by conference Peace with Justice coordinator and Half by the General Board of Church and Society.

Thank you, everyone, for supporting these important ministries.

### **2025 Upcoming Pantry Collections**

**June:** Shampoo

**July:** Laundry Detergent

**August:** Tooth Paste

Thank you

A very big Thank You to our friends at Wesley United Methodist Church. It may not be every-day that you are told what wonderful people you are—but it Should be!!

Our neighbors in need are very thankful.

Blessings, Bear Necessities RFUMC

### **Ladies' Lunch**

We decided to go to Galena Steak House on Thursday, June 19th.

We will meet at

**A's Kitchen at 11:30am**

The voice of experience...  
bring a jacket, you never know  
restaurant may be.

Beth Mathew



## **Fill the Truck Mission Challenge**

Collection at Drive Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center (1551 Thoreau Dr. N. Schaumburg, IL)

Please bring your donations to the church office by June 8th

Checks should be made out to  
**Wesley United Methodist - Fill the Truck**

## **The Greeting Card Group**

Meets on **Thursday, June 5th**  
at **9:30am** in Fellowship Hall

All who would like to help with this much appreciated ministry are encouraged to attend!  
We look forward to seeing everyone!

## **Annual Bishop's Appeal for**

### **Innovative Outreach**



Your donation will help churches with innovative outreach

Checks should be made out to  
**Wesley United Methodist - Bishop's Appeal**

Let's Feed  
to Children



# Birthdays

**June 2** Matthew Gabrielse  
**June 3** Emily Morgan  
**June 4** Sharon Wasson, Beth Wicks  
**June 5** Austin Allen, Judy Dennis  
**June 6** Dave Abele, Brad Graves  
**June 7** Doug Brandau  
**June 8** Michele Drew  
**June 9** Rebecca Tieman  
**June 10** Rene Morris  
**June 11** Pastor Rosa Lee  
**June 12** Dave Fredericks  
**June 14** Carolyn Heuck, Jeremy Taylor-Vrhel

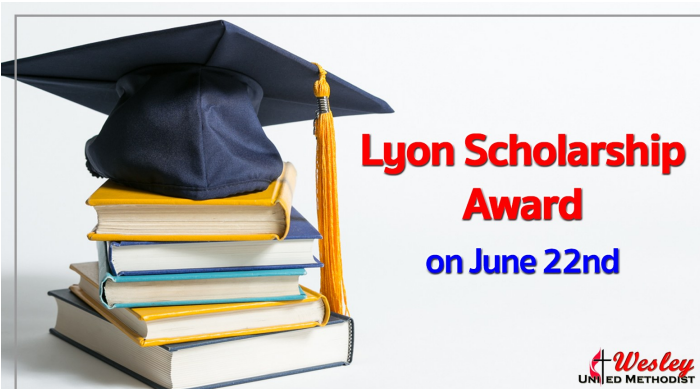


**June 18** Xena Fullmer  
**June 19** Sharon Taylor  
**June 21** Amy Viering-Bontz  
**June 22** Myla Wendelken  
**June 23** Andy Pitsch, Mark Taylor  
**June 26** Mike Drew  
**June 28** Cheryl Allen, Cory Canas  
**June 29** Chris Bushman, Darlene Davis, Eric Fredericks, Linda Perry  
**June 30** Jackson Lyon, Marianne Rosser



# Anniversaries

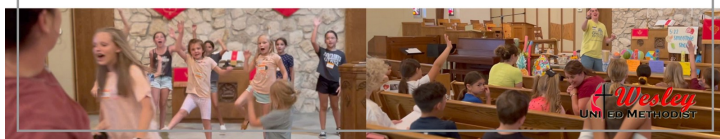
**June 4** Matt & Stacey Wendelken  
**June 7** Craig & Jessica Truedson  
**June 11** Don & Tracy DuRall  
**June 14** Rory & Rita Smith  
**June 17** Warren & Carolyn Heuck  
**June 20** Dave & Linda Kavran



**June 16 (Mon) ~ 20 (Thurs)**  
**9:00 AM ~ 11:30 AM**  
**June 20 Celebratino Cookout!**



**JOY CAMP 2025**  
**June 22 (Sun) ~ 28th (Sat)**  
**Reynoldswood camp**



## 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 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:

- Laundry Detergent and travel-sized toiletries for local pantries.
- Loose coins for JUNE to benefit: Fish Food Pantry

**Sterling Buddy Bags** We will be collecting food items all summer long!