

The **CHIMES**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UMC

APRIL 2026



From Our Pastor

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord.

Over the past weeks, we have journeyed together through Lent, listening closely to *The Message of Jesus* through worship, Bible study, and our daily devotional. We have not simply learned his words; we have allowed them to shape us. Lent has been a quiet invitation to realign our lives not by adding more, but by listening more deeply.

Now we enter April. We celebrate Easter, but Easter is not just a day we observe. It is a life we are invited to live. To be *people of Easter* means that the resurrection becomes embodied in us. It shapes how we see, how we respond and how we live together.

And this year, we step into Easter in a world that feels unsettled. We are surrounded by wars that continue to wound nations and families. We live within a society that feels increasingly divided, where differences often harden into distance, and conversations become more difficult. It is easy, in such a time, to be pulled into fear, frustration, or even quiet withdrawal.

Yet, before anything else, we are called back to the way of Jesus. Before our opinions, before our reactions, before our assumptions—there is His way. The way of love that does not disappear when it is inconvenient. The way of justice that seeks dignity, not victory. The way of presence that refuses to give up on people.

Church Events

Mon. (1st & 3rd) @ 2-3:30 pm, Fiber Group (Fireside Room)

Tues./Thurs. @ 4 pm, Exercise Group (Activity Room)

Wed. @ 9:30 am, Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Sat. @ 8 am, Men's Bible Study (Fireside Room) All men are welcome!!

Save the Date

Thur., April 2nd @ 9:30 am, Greeting Card Ministry (Fellowship Hall) and **@ 7pm**, Maundy Thursday Service

Fri., April 3rd @ 7 pm, Good Friday Service

Sat., April 4th – @ 12:30 pm, lunch and Easter Egg hunt to follow.

Sun., April 5th, Easter Sunday, brunch between services

Mon, April 6th and Mon., April 20th @ 2:30 pm, Fiber Group (Fireside Room)

Thurs, April 16th @ 11:30 am., Ladies Luncheon at A's kitchen

Tues, April 21st @ 6pm, Christian Ed (Fellowship Hall)

Sat., April 25th, Rummage Sale

In a divided world, the church is not called to mirror that division. We are called to become a different kind of community—one where people are not reduced to positions, but recognized as God’s beloved. This is not easy work. It requires patience when we would rather move on. It requires humility when we are certain we are right. It requires courage to remain present when distance feels safer.

But this is where resurrection life takes shape. And perhaps Earth Day, which we observe this month, offers us a broader reminder. The circle of God’s love is always wider than we first imagine. It includes not only those close to us, but all of creation entrusted to our care. Stewardship, then, is not simply a task—it is a way of living that reflects our belonging to God and to one another.

Discipleship is not a list of obligations. It is a life being formed and transformed. Over time, love becomes more natural. Justice becomes more visible. Care becomes more instinctive. And slowly, our lives themselves begin to resemble worship. So, as we move through this Easter season, I invite you to reflect gently:

Where is God inviting me to live differently? Where is God inviting me to love more deeply, to listen more carefully, to see others as beloved? We do not begin from effort alone. We begin from grace. Christ has already come near. The resurrection has already spoken. We are simply learning to live into what is already true. May this Easter season form us into people who carry Christ’s love with quiet strength, and who help restore dignity wherever it has been diminished.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paul

Worship Schedule

5th– Easter Sunday

John 14:1-6; John 20:19-21

When Resurrection Entered the Room

12th– Rev. Mike Jones/Second Sunday of Easter

Luke 23:39-43; Acts 7:52-60;

Hebrews 12:1-3

Connections with the Saints in Present-Day Heaven

19th– Third Sunday of Easter

Matthew 5:1-2, 7:24-27

The Life That Kingdom Builds

26th– Fourth Sunday of Easter

Luke 10:25-37

When Mercy Moves First

Altar Flowers (\$20)

April : 19th

May: 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st

June: 7th and 21st

July: 19th

Sign up for flowers 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. You can also put it 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

May Loose Coins will be for Bishop's Appeal

March loose coins = \$ 573.96 for Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Lent/Easter = \$170

5th Sunday = \$20

Total Pantry Collection for March = 106 rolls of toilet paper

April Pantry Collection = Bar Soap

April Worship

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

Door Greeter (s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
4/5 Lynn Majewski Renee Duncan	Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Nancy Pitsch Easter Sunday
4/12 Aaron & Derek Fitzanko	James Fitzanko Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Wendy Fitzanko
4/19 Lynn Majewski Renee Duncan	Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Nancy Pitsch
4/26 Chris Gallentine	Rebecca Tieman/Shannon Klausing	Greg Gallentine

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

Door Greeter (s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
4/5 Carolyn Allen Janne Rausa	Rich Halverson & Frank Rausa Steve Lopez/Bill Parker	Nancy Pitsch	Aaron & Devon Flick Easter Sunday
4/12 Carolyn Allen Janne Rausa	Andy Pitsch & Frank Rausa Steve Lopez/Bill Parker	Harper Johnson	Jamie Schwingle
4/19 Carolyn Allen Kala Allen	Justin & Eric Allen Steve Lopez /Bill Parker	Jaxon Williams	Jessica Truedson
4/26 Andy & Nancy Pitsch	Jaxson Williams, James Allen Billy Tyler & JoAnna Rabadan	Eric Allen	Nancy Pitsch

ANNOUNCEMENTS/THANK YOU'S

Greeting Card Ministry

Our next meeting is
Thursday, April 2nd at 9:30am
in Fellowship Hall!
We'll prepare cards for May.
Everyone is welcome!!

Hello Lunch Ladies,

Ladies we will be meeting on April
16th at 11:30 AM @
A's Kitchen. 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

Many thanks to our friends at Wesley United Methodist church. Your kindness means the world to many in need.

Blessings,
RFUM Bear Necessities

Wesley UMC Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th
Hot dogs provided by Men's Group at 12:30 before the
hunt with the hunt to follow around 1 pm.
Questions or want to help?
Contact Devon Flick 815-590-0720



On May 7th, Wesley will host the **Relay for Life Dinner**. Forms will be out in Fellowship hall if you are interested in attending. Bring friends and help support survivors and loved ones on this terrible disease. Any questions, you can ask Lynn Majewski.

On behalf of Sterling Buddy Bags, we would like to extend our appreciation for the partnership in this program. We are eternally grateful for the use of your church to store food and pack bags for students that need extra help on the weekends.

We also would like to thank you for your generous monetary donation. With the rising cost of food and benefits not always available, your donation helps to purchase the food needed to sustain this program.

We have been packing between 180-197 bags each week through the school year. Again, thank you so much.

God's Blessings

First Presbyterian Church

Mary Jo Edge, Jane Pease, Wanda Martins





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 20	Gia Campbell
April 4	Gloria Grant	April 23	Nick Papoccia
April 5	Jeffrey Spitzer	April 25	Craig Truedson
April 8	Mark Gatz, Frank Rausa & Rich Halverson	April 28	Sarah Gabrielse
April 13	Pastor Paul	April 30	Amber Castaneda
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 2	Ron and Judy Bushman	
April 17	Walter and Janet Lindsley	
April 20	John and Fabiene Plummer	
April 24	Jeff and Jan Davey	
April 30	Joe and Elisa Gatz Dennis and Alice Vetter	



Saturday, April 25, 2026

We will be accepting items starting *March 1* and continuing through *the month of March on Sundays.*

Any question?

Contact Jan Davey or Renee Duncan



Holy Week



On Maundy Thursday, we will gather for a special Seder Meal, remembering God's liberation of Israel and the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples.

The Tenebrae service is a solemn and reflective observance of Good Friday, designed to deepen our understanding of the passion of Christ.



Come join us for lunch at 12:30 with the Easter Egg Hunt to follow! Always a fun time for everyone!

Christ the Lord is Risen today!! Come and join us at 8am or 10am service and remember to live as Easter People!



As Methodists we love to eat!! Come join us for Easter breakfast between the services and join in the fun and fellowship!

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 21st, camp arrival/check in
Saturday, June 27th, 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

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 2026

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**