

The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MARCH 2026



From Our Pastor...

Greetings,

As we move through the weeks of Lent, I have been inviting us to listen again to the actual words of Jesus. Not the assumptions we carry about him. Not the cultural versions that shift with the times. Simply his voice.

We began with the announcement at the center of his preaching: “The Kingdom of God has come near.” That sentence is a claim about reality. It means God’s reign is not postponed to some distant future and is not confined to private spirituality. God’s will presses into ordinary life into how we speak, how we lead, how we respond to fear, and how we carry responsibility in our community.

From there, we stood on the mountain and listened to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus didn’t offer a list of minor adjustments for decent people. He described a way of being human shaped from the inside out. Anger, contempt, anxiety, retaliation—he reaches beneath visible behavior to the deeper formation of the heart. Lent gives us space to ask what has been shaping us lately. Are our instincts being formed by the steady voice of Christ, or by louder voices around us?

Then, we allowed his stories to search us. The Good Samaritan shifts the question from who qualifies as a neighbor to

Church Events

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

Tues./Thurs. @ 4:00 pm, Exercise Group (Activity Room)

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

Sat. @ 8:00 am, Men’s Bible Study (Fireside Room) All men are welcome!! Come Join us!!

Save the Date

Thur., March 5th @ 9:30 am, Greeting Card Ministry (Fellowship Hall)

Sun., March 8th and Sun., March 29th, youth group with Aaron after 2nd service

Mon., March 9th @ 7:00 pm, Ad Council (Fellowship Hall)

Tues., March 17th– St. Patrick’s Day

Thur., March 19th @ 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at A’s Kitchen (Rock Falls)

Sun., March 29th, Palm Sunday

whether compassion interrupts our schedule. The father in the parable of the Prodigal Son shows us grace running toward us before we finish our apology. These stories do not flatter us; they restore us. They call us home and send us back out with a wider circle of mercy.

In John’s Gospel, Jesus says, “I am the bread of life” and “I am the light of the world.” Many of us are faithful and responsible, yet quietly tired. We know how to work hard and hold things together. We are less practiced at receiving nourishment for our own souls. Christ offers himself as sustenance for a deeper hunger. He does not deny the darkness we encounter; he promises presence within it.

As we approach Holy Week, we hear his final command: love one another as I have loved you. On the cross, he embodies forgiveness, speaks honest lament, and entrusts himself to the Father. On Easter evening, he steps into a locked room and says, “Peace be with you.” Resurrection does not erase scars; it transforms them and sends us back into the world with hope.

My prayer for us this March is that Lent will clarify our vision, deepen our trust, and shape our life together under the reign of Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paul

Altar Flowers (\$20)

The following dates are available for altar flowers :

March: 1st, 22nd & 29th

April : 19th & 26th

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

June: 7th & 21st

The 2026 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. You can also contact the office if you have a date in mind you would like to reserve. Payments can be mailed to or dropped off at the office. Thank you!

Office Number: 815-625-1968

Worship Schedule

| | |
|-------|---|
| 1st | Second Sunday in Lent Matthew 5:1-2, 7:24-27 The Life That Kingdom Builds |
| 8th- | Third Sunday in Lent Luke 10:25-37 When Mercy Moves First |
| 15th- | Fourth Sunday in Lent John 6:1-21; John 8:12; Exodus 3:13-15; Exodus 13:21; Psalm 77:19 The Great I AM: Bread and Light for the Journey |
| 22nd- | Fifth Sunday in Lent Rev. Mike Jones |
| 29th- | Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday John 13:34-35; Luke 22:24-26 The Last Words That Make Us Human |

Missions

Loose Coins 2026

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)

2026 Monthly Pantries Collections

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

Loose Coins for January ended up being \$365.16 for Rev. Young Seon

Loose Coins total for February was \$ 378.47 for Grace Children's Hospital and Pediatric Clinic, Haiti. Thank you!

22 tubes of toothpaste were collected in February!



Announcements

Greeting card Ministry,

Will be meeting March 5th at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Come join the fun and help prepare birthday & anniversary cards for April !!! All are welcome to attend!!!



Attention Lunch Ladies!!!

Our March Lunch out will be Thursday, March 19th at 11:30 am at A's Kitchen. (Rock Falls)

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



The Member Care and Mission Committees will be having a freewill donation rummage sale on Saturday, April 25th. All proceeds will go to local charities. Please bring donation items starting March 1st and continuing every Sunday through March and the first two weeks in April (during church hours 7:30 am until 11 am.) Items not accepted are electronics, appliances, baby furniture, playpens, bouncers, bottles and car seats. Any questions, please contact Jan Davey or Renee Duncan.

Fiber Group will be starting up in March! Every first and third Monday of the month from 2-3:30 pm. Everyone is welcome! You may contact Mary Downes if you have any questions.



Worship Schedule

March 8am Rebecca Tieman /Shannon Klausing, Head Ushers

| Door Greeter(s) | Usher/Acolytes | Liturgist |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 3/1 Jan Glover Larry Schuchard | Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing | Nancy Pitsch |
| 3/8 Tony McCoy | Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing | Katie McCoy |
| 3/15 Sue Reese Jean Moe | Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing | Jean Moe |
| 3/22 Sue Reese Jean Moe | Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing | Jean Moe |
| 3/29 Larry Schuchard | Rebecca Tieman Shannon Klausing | Jan Glover |



March 10am Steve Lopez/Bill Parker, Head Ushers

| Door Greeter(s) | Usher/Acolytes | Liturgist | Matthew Meetings |
|--|--|--------------|---------------------|
| 3/1 Frank & Janne Rausa | Arianne & Tim- acolytes/ushers Steve Lopez & Bill Parker | Beth Wicks | Nancy Pitsch |
| 3/8 Janne Rausa Carolyn Allen | Frank Rausa Steve Lopez & Bill Parker | Beth Wicks | Jamie Schwingle |
| 3/15 Kala & Justin Allen | Jaxon Williams, James & Eric Allen Steve Lopez & Bill Parker | Aaron Marken | Aaron & Devon Flick |
| 3/22 Carolyn Allen Katrina Cornwell | Jaxson Williams & James Allen Billy Tyler & JoAnna Rabadan | Eric Allen | Jessica Truedson |
| 3/29 Carolyn Allen Katrina Cornwell | Rich Halverson & Rita Smith Steve Lopez & Bill Parker | Rory Smith | Carrie Halverson |

Easter Flowers

We are taking orders for Easter Flowers. Easter Lilies are \$13. Tulips and Hyacinths are \$10 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 is **20th of March.**



Birthdays

March 1 Rich Lobdell, Dave Allen
March 2 Cody Hansen and Sue Klock
March 4 Aaron Fitzanko & Tony McCoy
March 7 Stephanie Jakobs
March 8 Jan Davey and Alice Vetter,
Millie Allen
March 9 Jillian Parker
March 11 Shay Papoccia and Brent Boelkens
March 13 Remy Flick
March 15 Levi Freas, Abriana Poci,
Greg Gallentine and Ethan Finley

March 16 Jaclyn Davey and Megan Stutzke
March 18 Amber Greenfield
March 19 Marla Boynton
March 20 Mary Downes and Dakota Hayes,
Owen Finley
March 22 Roberta Fredericks and
Lynette Nieman
March 23 Colton Duncan,
Toby Johnson



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 is still going strong. We have averaged over 300 meals a week in January-at least until the cold snap!

With rising cost of food and supplies, all donations are very important to us. We greatly value your continued support!

Thank you again!

Sue Abate

Loaves & Fishes Secretary

Dear Wesley Members,

So many times we have been asked if we have laundry soap. We have told them we are sorry but we don't keep laundry soap on the shelves. We are so excited because now we can help a family in need. Thank you so very much for your donation.

Graciously,

FISH Pantry

*Thank you,
Sterling Wesley*

Wesley Funeral Luncheon Team-

Thank you all so very much for the wonderful luncheon you prepared and served after David's funeral. The food was delicious and we are so grateful for the time, effort and care that each of you put into the day. Thank you to those who prepared food, those who set up, those who served, those who tore down and cleaned up. Your kindness brought great comfort to our family during this difficult time. Thank you again for everything.

The Family of David Siex

Sharon, Curtis and Jill



FIFTH SATURDAY FOOD BANK





Round-To-It's meet the second Monday of every month. Our own Andy Pitsch spoke about Wahl at February's meeting. Many women from our church and community are part of the group. If you have any questions regarding the group you can ask Carolyn Heuck.



Methodists love to cook and love to eat!! Enjoying fellowship at the church potluck.



Fun recording hymns for service!

Ash Wednesday Service



Ladies Luncheon at A's Kitchen. The ladies meet once a month. Come join the fun and fellowship! Any questions, please contact Beth Matthew.



WHAT'S COMING



PRAIRIE SOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2026

SAT, MAR. 7, 9 A.M. TO NOON
Oregon UMC

- SPRC Training
- Budgeting and Stewardship
- Practicing Hope
- Engaging your Community
- Mapping the Life of Your Church
- Creative Worship



Palm Sunday MARCH 29



Maundy Thursday

7 pm, Apr. 2, 2026

Seder Meal
will be shared
during the service.

RSVP, please



Good Friday

7pm, April 3 (Fri)



EGG HUNT

April 4 (Sat)



Easter

April 5



Easter Breakfast between services



RUMMAGE SALE

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



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**