



A Note From Our Pastor...

Sterling Wesley Family Members,
October asks something tender and brave of us. It invites us to remember that the

Church is larger than our zip code, our politics, and even our preferences. On World Communion Sunday, we will welcome Pastor Pius Yugi from Kenya, a brother whose whole community now has access to electricity by a generator your generosity helped provide. When he stands among us, the bread and cup will feel different – wider somehow – because we will taste what we often forget: the world is God’s, and all of us, however different, are kin.

The truth arrives in a season when the country feels frayed. Headlines sharpen our fears and concerns. Sometimes I think we are put or sorted into one side, like the YouTube algorithms. It is easy to become brittle, to guard our corner and measure our neighbors. Yet the Lord’s Table keeps saying what the cross has already declared: love is stronger than contempt; grace runs deeper than grievance; the future belongs to the Prince of Peace, Jesus. The body of Christ stretches from Sterling to the other side of the planet, from cornfields to city blocks,

Continued on page 2...

Church Events

Ongoing:

Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 4:00 pm
Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)

Thursdays: Fiber Group-Knitting & Crocheting @ 2 pm or 6:30 pm (Fireside Room)

Wednesdays @9:30 am Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Saturdays @ 8:00 am:
Men's Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Remember the date:

Thurs. Oct 2nd: Greeting Cards @ 9:30 (Fireside Room)

Sun. Oct. 5th : World Communion Sunday

Sun. Oct. 12th: Youth Group after 10 AM service

Mon. Oct. 13th: Columbus Day (office closed)

Thurs. Oct 16th: Ladies Lunch @ 11:30AM at White Pines

Sun Oct 26th: Trunk -n-Treat @ 9:30AM

and the Spirit has not stopped knitting us together.

This month, we will lean into a way of life that can hold in one heart both tenderness and courage. John Wesley called it a “plain account” of Christian living – simple enough to remember, sturdy enough to live by. It is not a program or a slogan; it is the daily decision to let Jesus set our tone. We will practice speaking words that heal instead of harm. We will look for ways to do good that no one will tweet about and that heaven will not forget. And we will keep ourselves in the love of God – through Scripture and prayer, through bread and cup, through showing up for one another when it is inconvenient as well as when it is easy.

None of this ignores the hard things. Peace without justice is just a pause; love without truth is sentimentality. But the gospel gives us a different posture. We tell the truth without hatred. We pursue justice without revenge. We keep company with the poor without looking down on them. We guard the dignity of those with whom we disagree. We steward creation and time as gifts, not commodities. We let the Spirit train our habits until reconciliation feels as natural as resentment once did.

Here is my prayer. October would be a month when our local community can see what Jesus looks like in the flesh of this church. May our tables grow longer, our tempers grow softer, and our courage grow steadier. May our neighbors find in us a people who keep their promises of faith and hope. And when we fail – as we will – may we fail toward one another, ready to repent, forgive, and begin again.

Come hungry. Come hopeful. Come ready to carry the peace of Christ from this sanctuary into every room you enter.

What’s Coming?

World Communion Sunday (October 5th): join us for a special service at 8 AM and 10 AM as we unite with Christians worldwide to celebrate the Lord’s table.

Laity Sunday (October 19th)

Trunk-n-Treat (October 26th) Decorate your trunk and hand out candy between the worship services (starting at 9:30 AM). A safe and fun way to celebrate Halloween for kids of all ages!

All Saints Sunday (November 2nd) Join us as we remember and honor the saints during our worship services.

Church Conference (Tuesday, November 4th) Come and participate in our annual Church Conference at 7:00 PM as we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future.

Veteran’s Sunday (November 9th)

Chili Cook-off & Dessert Auction (November 9th) Bring your best chili and dessert, or just come to taste and enjoy! Stick around for the dessert auction, with proceeds supporting missions.



Missions/News/Events



2025 Upcoming Pantry Collections

October: Bar Soap

November: Dish Soap

September **Loose Coins** went to

UMCOR Refugee/Migration

The total given: \$598 Thank you!

Loose coins collected for October will go to YWCA Crisis Center for Domestic violence

October 8 am Rebecca Tieman and Shannon Klausing Head Ushers

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
10/5 Larry Schuchard	Rebecca/Shannon	Jan Glover
10/12 Rita Smith	Rebecca & Shannon / James Fitzanko	Rory Smith
10/19 Elijah Tablante & Eli Halverson	Rebecca & Shannon	Mary Downes
10/26 Elijah & Eli	Rebecca & Shannon	Mary Downes

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
10/5 Rich & Sandra Lobdell	Steve & Bill	Beth Wicks	Jess, Nora & Carlie Truedson
10/12 Mark & Sharon Taylor	Jaxson Williams, Eric & James Allen	Mary Spitzer	Stacey , Ellie & Myla Wendelken
10/19 Aaron Flick	Jovie & Remy Flick	James Allen	Aaron & Devon Flick
10/26 Frank & Janne Rausa	Curt Greenfield	Jaxson Williams	Jaime Greenfield Trunk or Treat

Worship Schedule

5th Pastor Pius Yugi
12th Romans 12:14-19, 13:8-9
 Do No Harm-Living in God's Time
19th Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:17; John 13:34-35
 Do Good-A Calling You Can Live
26th John 21:15-17, 19
 Stay in Love with God-Community Of Promises Kept

Let's Show Some Love!!

Dave & Sharon Siex are at Heritage Woods of Sterling, Apartment 206 and Sue Hondley is at Resthave Care and Rehabilitation in Morrison, Room 147.

Lets make their day with a call, card or visit!!



Missions / Announcements / Opportunities:



Thanksgiving Basket Donation

Wesley is collecting for **the Township's Thanksgiving Baskets**. Each basket costs approximately **\$35**. We will be collecting monetary donations starting mid **October** and the first three **Sundays** in **November**. Please place donations in the turkey located on the **Mission's table**.

Our goal is to raise enough for **25 baskets**.

Come join us as we prepare
November greeting cards

We meet at 9:30 in the
Fellowship Hall, Thursday, Oct. 2nd
It's fun to work, visit, and catch up.
No experience necessary.
Hope to see you there!

Altar Flowers (\$20)

The following dates are available
for altar flowers:

October full

November 16th, 23rd & 30th

December 21st



Please contact the office to reserve a date or sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. Payments can be mailed to/dropped off at the office.
Thank you!

Hello Lunch Ladies.

Thursday Oct. 16th at 11:30 AM @ The Pines. We will meet at the church and carpool to The Pines. If you are carpooling meet at the church at 11:00.

I will be asking for reservations closer to the date.

Beth 815-625-4381

Fiber Group has started!!

If enjoy knitting or crocheting come join the fiber group!! They meet in the firside room for fellowship and knitting/crocheting. 2025 dates and times are:

Oct. 2, 2 pm

Dec. 4, 2 pm

Oct. 16, 6:30 pm

Dec. 18, 6:30 pm

Nov. 6, 2 pm

Nov. 20, 6:30 pm



Youth Gathering



Upcoming Events

SOUTH SUDAN ETHIOPIA
UGANDA KENYA SOMALIA
RWANDA BURUNDI NAIROBI
TANZANIA
ZAMBIA MALAWI
MADAGASCAR

GUEST SPEAKER
OCTOBER 5
PASTOR PIUS YUGI

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

OCT. 5TH (SUN), 2025

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

OCT. 26, 2025 (SUN)

TRUNK OF TREAT

STARTING AT 9:30 AM

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

WESLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COME JOIN US
WORSHIP - BOCOM & PROGRAM
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9AM
REV. PAUL H. LEE

CHURCH CONFERENCE 2025
NOVEMBER 4 (TUES)
@ 7 PM (SPRC @ 6:15 PM)

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST



Sept. 7th was Suicide Prevention Sunday



All Saints Sunday
 Remembering those who have passed
NOVEMBER 2, 2025



Wesley's youngest usher!



Veterans Sunday
 (Nov. 9)



Invite your friends and family for a fun time!

 A photograph of a large blue-handled pot filled with chili, sitting on a table. There are various toppings around it, including shredded cheese, green onions, and lime wedges.

Chili 

COOKOFF

Dessert Auction

Nov. 9 (Sun), 2025
After the 10 am service

Enjoy a Variety of Chili and Dessert!
 Your Donation Goes to Mission

AT WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



6th Annual Missions Chili Cook Off and Dessert Auction Fundraiser will be held immediately following second service. Sign up sheets will be on the Mission's table along with an information sheet for participants. Trophies will be awarded for 1st & 2nd place around 12:30 pm



Birthdays

- October 2 Rick Palmer
- October 6 Lynette Ceruzzi
- October 7 Roger VanAusdal
- October 9 Kay Bierman,
Whitney Schwindenhammer
- October 10 Roger Wait
- October 12 Mary Terrie Snavely
- October 13 Seiler Noble, Cameron Taylor
- October 14 Steve Majewski, Mary Newlon
- October 17 Nate Lobdell, Larry Schuchard

- October 18 Tim Cox, Nicole Peterson
- October 19 Chris Gallentine
- October 21 Eric Imel
- October 22 Janay Dalton
- October 26 Elias Halverson
- October 27 David Siex
- October 28 Ellie Wendelken, Heather Johnson
- October 29 Denver Wasson
- October 30 Cory Duncan



Welcome New Members!



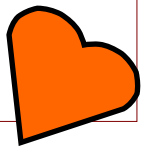
Welcome Daniel Rhodes and Carolyn Allen

Daniel Rhodes-

“Born 9/20/82. For many years I lived an ungodly life, full of anger and resentment. I was truly lost for many years which manifested itself in drug addiction and poor life choices. I came back to God in August of 2022 and haven’t looked back since. Someday I hope to be a substance abuse peer counselor. I am a living example of God’s grace.”

Anniversaries

- October 4 Russ & Mary Spitzer
- October 8 Kevin & Sarah Gabrielse
- October 9 Andy & Nancy Pitsch
- October 16 Nicole & Dan Peterson
- October 19 Eric Fredericks & Angela Vaquero
- October 28 Bob & Cheryl Allen

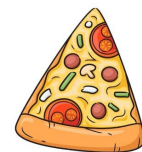


Welcome Aaron Marken- New Youth Leader!!!

Hi! My Name is Aaron Marken. I am a 32 year old carpenter from Davenport, IA . I like nerd hobbies and doing stuff with my hands. I’ve been a Joy Camp counselor for 14 years and going to camp for 23!

Aaron will be here Oct. 12th. There will be food for the body and the soul!!

Fellowship, Snacks
-and Fun!!



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

Join us for Sunday services

8:00 am and 10:00 am

We will continue to share the message
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:

- **Bar soap** is being collected for local pantries in October.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- **OCTOBER** Loose coins to benefit: **YWCA Crisis Center for Domestic Violence**

