



The Chimes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2025



From Our Pastor...

These days, everywhere we turn, we hear about Artificial Intelligence (AI). Machines are designed to learn, to adapt, to imitate hu-

man thought and speech. Some say that AI may even one day be “like us.” But this raises a deeper question: if machines are striving so hard to resemble people, are we, in turn, striving to truly live as human beings—those made in the image of God?

The truth is, a machine can be built, but a person must be formed. We are not manufactured; we are created—shaped by the hands of a loving God, breathed into with the Spirit, and called to bear the divine image. AI may mimic conversation, predict patterns, and provide convenience, but it cannot love. It cannot forgive. It cannot weep or pray. Only we, as God’s children, carry the dignity and mystery of being human.

This month in worship, we have a sermon series on the Lord’s Prayer. Each petition—“Our Father,” “Thy kingdom come,” “Give us this day our daily bread”—reminds us of who we are and

Church Events

Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 4 pm
Exercise Group (Activity Room)

Wednesday @ 9:30 AM
Bible Study (Fireside Room)

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

Fiber Group (knitting & Crocheting) Starting first week of September (contact Mary Downes)

Mon. Sept. 1st—Labor Day

Thur. Sept. 4th @ 9:30am:
Greeting Card Ministry (Fellowship Hall)

Mon. Sept. 8 @ 7 pm: Ad Council (Fellowship Hall)

Sat. Sept. 13—Habitat for Humanity

Sun. Sept. 14—Rally Day

Wed. Sept. 10th @ 5:30
Nominating Committee Meeting (Fireside Room)

Thur. Sept. 18 @ 11:30 AM
Ladies Luncheon @ Angelos in Sterling. Contact Beth Mathew (815) 625-4381

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whose we are. The prayer centers us, grounds us, and restores our humanity. It is not merely words we recite; it is a way of living that keeps us connected to God and to one another.

At the same time, September is **National Suicide Prevention Month**, a reminder that many among us wrestle with heavy burdens of despair, loneliness, and hidden pain. Machines may process data, but they cannot sit beside a grieving friend. They cannot whisper, “You are not alone.” That is our calling. As followers of Jesus, we are entrusted with the ministry of presence—listening without judgment, offering compassion, holding hope for one another when hope feels impossible.

The Lord’s Prayer teaches us to pray not “my Father” but “our Father.” Even in prayer, we are not alone. God has knit us into community so that we may carry one another’s burdens. And when someone feels like they cannot go on, we can remind them: your life matters, your pain is seen, and God’s love is steadfast.

So, as we think about the power of technology and the promise of AI, let us not forget the deeper truth: machines can never replace the gift of being human. We are created in God’s image, redeemed in Christ’s love, and sustained by the Spirit’s presence. Let us live into that calling with compassion, with prayer, and with courage.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Paul H. Lee

Worship Schedule for September

Sept. 7 Matthew 26:36-39, 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, Psalm 34:18

The Rock Beneath the Tide

Sept. 14 Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 15:18-20

Forgiveness: Running God

Sept. 21 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Matthew 6:9-13

Yours, O Lord, Are...

Sept. 28 1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Matthew 6:33

Kingdom, Power, and Glory Forever





Missions/News/Events



<p align="center"><u>2025 Upcoming Pantry Collections</u></p> <p>September: Toilet paper</p> <p>October: Bar soap</p>	<p align="center">AUGUST Loose Coins went to <u>RefugeeOne</u></p> <p>The total given: \$ 78.66 ___ Thank you!</p> <p>Loose coins collected for SEPTEMBER will go to <i>UMCOR (Refugee / Migration)</i></p>
<p>Items Collected in August:</p> <p>29 toothpastes</p> <p>16 toothbrushes</p> <p>8 travel size toothpastes</p>	<p>5th Sunday Collection for August was for Native American Ministries Sunday. We collected \$ 95. Thank you!</p>

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

**Door greeters may be asked to help w/ passing offering plate if needed!*

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
9/7 Larry Schuchard	Rebecca/Shannon	Jan Glover
9/14 Rita Smith	Rebecca/Shannon	Rory Smith
9/21 Jan Davey	Rebecca/Shannon	Jeff Davey
9/28 Tony McCoy	Rebecca/Shannon	Katie McCoy

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

**Door greeters may be asked to help w/ passing offering plate if needed!*

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
9/7 Rita Smith	Help w/offering –Rita Bill Parker/Steve Lopez	Rory Smith	Communion w/kids
9/14 Matt & Myla Wendelken	Ellie & Sadie Wendelken	Stacey Wendelken	Jamie Schwingle
9/21 Mary Sue Puckett/ Mary Newlon	Jaxson Williams, Eric Allen & James Allen	Jean Moe	Aaron/Devon Flick
9/28 Kala & Justin Allen	Eric Allen & Jaxson Williams	James Allen	Carrie Halverson



Blessing of the Backpack Sunday





Blessing of the Backpack Sunday



SEPTEMBER
**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION
 AWARENESS MONTH**

988 Suicide and
 Crisis Lifeline

Wesley
 UNITED METHODIST

**MEMBERSHIP
 CLASSES**
Growing Together

Sept. 7, 2025

Wesley
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Habitat
 for Humanity®

Sept 13 (Sat), 2025

If you have any questions, please contact Rory Smith.

Wesley
 UNITED METHODIST

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?**

PADS

**IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO DONATE TIME,
 A MEAL AND CLEAN UP.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
 CONTACT ANN AT
 (815) 449 - 7333**

Wesley
 UNITED METHODIST

Come find out about the Leadership at Wesley! Each committee will share their beautiful ministry during our "Rally Day" celebration . After the 10 am worship the Membership Care team will serve a light lunch. Come join us!

RAILY DAY

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025

Wesley
 UNITED METHODIST

GUEST SPEAKER
OCTOBER 5
PASTOR PIUS YUGI

Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Pius Yugi will update us on his hometown near Kisumu, Kenya.

Come join us October 5th.

World Communion Sunday brings Christians worldwide together on the first Sunday of October. This day is a vivid celebration of unity among different Christian denominations.

WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY

OCT. 5TH (SUN), 2025

Wesley
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FIBER GROUP - KNITTING & CHROCHETING



BACK THIS FALL! / BACK SOON!
ANY QUESTION? PLEASE CONTACT MARY DOWNES



We are running low on prayer shawls so get your needles ready!



NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

We've got you covered!

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

We'd need drivers!



Any questions?

Please contact Lynn Majewski

(815) 499-1067



2026 Church Team & Committee

We love our church and work together as a team.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for joining a team/committee.

Let's build a healthy community together. :D

Trustees

Staff-Parish Relations

Finance

Endowment

Membership Care

Nomination

Worship

Christian Education

Mission



YOU ARE INVITED!!!

Wesley Nomination

I volunteer or nominate _____ to serve a committee/team (please mark below) to grow in discipleship, and nurture and enhance the ministry of our Wesley family.

Name: _____

Contact No.: () -

E-mail: _____@_____





Updates/corrections:

please let the office know--- thank you!

(Jamie: 815-625-1968 or
office@sterlingwesley.org)

Anniversaries

Sept. 10 Bill & Peg Burke

Sept. 12 Brandon Fredericks & Rachel Comingor

Sept. 14 Dave & Sharon Siex

Sept. 16 Louis & Barb Quick

Sept. 17 Al & Diane Rude

Sept. 28 Steve and Lynn Majewski



Birthdays

Sept 2 Steve Lopez

Sept. 4 Deana Hermes

Sept. 5 Haleigh Freas, Brady Papoccia

Sept 7 Jovie Flick

Sept. 9 Karen Abele

Sept. 11 Nancy Wait

Sept. 12 Judy Randall

Sept. 14 Shannon Klausing

Sept. 15 Kawai Tablante

Sept. 16 JP Papoccia, Diantha Wentling



Sept. 21 Brooklynn Freas, Elisa Gatz

Sept. 22 Barb Quick

Sept. 23 Eric Canas

Sept. 24 Ashlei Behrens

Sept. 25 Judy Bushman, Jaz'Mya Castaneda,
Nathaneal Rodriguez

Sept. 26 Jan Andersen, Alan Beggerow,
Elijah Tablante

Sept. 27 Pat Jacobs

Sept. 29 Susan Reese

Altar Flowers (\$20)

The following dates are available:

September: 28th

October: 19th

November: 16th, 23rd & 30th

December: 21st

Please contact the office to reserve or just sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to take the flowers with you after services on the Sunday you provide them. Just return the vase to the church at your convenience. Thank you!



In September we are going to

Angelo's (Sterling)

The date is **Thursday, September 18th**

at 11:30 a.m.

Please reserve in advance with
Beth Mathew, 815-625-4381

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:

- Toilet paper is being collected for local pantries (Sept.).
- Travel-sized toiletries are needed for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- **SEPTEMBER** Loose coins to benefit: UMCOR (Refugee/Migration)
- Save the date: Chili Cook-Off fundraiser October 20th after 10am service (funds raised and donations to benefit the Sauk Valley Food Bank)