

# WESLEY

**United Methodist Church  
May 2026**



## The Chimes

From Our Pastor



## Church Events

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

**Tue/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!!

### Save the Date

**Sat., May 2nd,** Church Spring  
Work Day

**Mon., May 4th and Mon., May  
18th, @ 2-3:30 pm,** Fiber Group  
(Fireside Room)

**Thurs., May 7th, @ 9:30 am,**  
Greeting Card Ministry  
(Fellowship Hall)

**Sun., May 17th,** Youth Group w/  
Aaron after 2nd service-field trip

**Mon., May 18th @ 7pm,** Ad  
Council

**Thurs., May 21st @ 11:30 am,**  
Ladies Luncheon @ A's Kitchen

**Mon., May 25th,** Memorial Day,  
office closed

**Sat., May 30th,** Sauk Valley Food  
Bank

Greetings,

May has a way of arriving with its own kind of energy. The trees are greener, the days are longer, and suddenly the calendar begins to fill with moments that remind us how quickly life moves. In the life of the church, this month holds several such moments for us. We will celebrate graduation. We will recognize our high school seniors through the Lyon Scholarship. We will also observe Mother's Day, giving thanks for those women who have nurtured life, offered care, and shown us something of love's steady presence.

What strikes me is that all these moments, though different, share something in common. Each of them reminds us that life is always unfolding, often before we fully understand where it is leading.

That has also been the heartbeat of our current sermon series on Paul. We have been reflecting on how grace interrupts us, how calling takes shape over time, and how God holds our lives even when the road ahead is not entirely clear. Paul's story is not only about one extraordinary apostle. It is also about the life of every Christian. Before he became a leader others would remember, he was first a person being changed by grace. Before his calling became visible, it was quietly being formed. Before his life made sense to others, God was already at work within it.

That is true for our graduates as well. We are often tempted to treat graduation like a moment when everything should finally become clear. As if a diploma ought to come with a map, a timetable, and perhaps a customer service number for adulthood. Sadly, it does not. It is a meaningful milestone, but it is not the end of formation. It is one step in a much longer journey of becoming. Through the Lyon Scholarship, we do more than offer financial support. We are saying to our young

people, "The church sees you. We bless you. And we trust that God is already at work in your life, even where the next chapter is not yet fully visible."

Mother's Day also belongs to this same spiritual truth. Many of us have learned from mothers, grandmothers, or other women in our lives that love often takes shape quietly, patiently, and over time. It rarely announces itself with fanfare. It shows up in meals prepared, prayers whispered, rides given, worries carried, and hopes held for someone else. In that way, mothering reflects something holy. It reminds us that grace is often at work in ordinary faithfulness long before anyone calls it remarkable.

So, as we move through May, let us give thanks for every sign that God is still forming lives among us. Let us bless those who are graduating, honor those who have nurtured others in love, and remember that we all share a calling not yet finished. God is still at work, still guiding, still holding, and still shaping us by grace.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Paul Lee



I am happy to share that Bishop has appointed Rev. Matthew Krings to serve our church beginning July 1. I am especially grateful to welcome him not only as my successor, but also as my friend.

Pastor Matthew brings a warm, approachable spirit, a deep love for the church, and a genuine desire to help people know they are loved by God just as they are. He has experience serving people of all ages, including many years in youth ministry, and he cares deeply about worship that is spiritually grounded and meaningfully engaging. At the heart of his ministry is a commitment to helping congregations love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

I am truly glad for this appointment and thankful for the gifts he will bring to Sterling Wesley UMC. I believe you will come to appreciate his heart, his leadership, and his faithful presence among you. Please join me in warmly praying for him and his family in this transition.

## Worship Schedule

- 3rd Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Acts 13:2-3; Romans 1:1-7**  
**Calling That Takes Shape Over Time**
- 10th Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**2 Corinthians 4:8-9; 14, 17-18**  
**Life That Holds Even in Uncertainty**
- 17th Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**Music Sunday with Dan Holmes**
- 24th Eighth Sunday of Easter**  
**Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 6:25-34**  
**Living Unafraid: When Fear Lives Inside Us**
- 31st Ninth Sunday of Easter**  
**1 John 4:18; Mark 12:30-31**  
**Living Unafraid: When Fear Divides Us**

## The flower calendar has these dates available:

**May 17th and 24th**

**June 7th and 21st**

**July 19th**

**August 9th and 16th**



If you wish to honor someone please contact the church office or sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$20.00 for flowers which are delivered to the church.

You can take them with you after the 10:00 am service or pick them up later.

Payments can be mailed or dropped off to the office. You can also put in the offering plate with a memo for flowers.

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8 am to Noon

Office Phone Number: 815-625-1968

# ANNOUNCEMENTS/THANK YOUS

## Wesley Spring Workday

**Saturday, May 2nd**

**8:30 am to Noon**

Sign up sheet is on the table in

Fellowship Hall

Questions Contact Barb Quick or

Bob Allen

*"when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me." Jesus (Matthew 25:40)*

Dear Friends in Ministry, Thank you! The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be *Thank you!*

Rev. Young Seon Kim, \$375

UMCOR-Where Most Needed, \$1,638

## Greeting Card Ministry

Our next meeting is

**Thursday, May 7th at 9:30 am**  
in Fellowship Hall.

We will prepare and send cards for  
June.

Come join the fun!!

Thank you to everyone who donated casseroles and helped with the Easter breakfast. It's always a good time!!

Member Care Team

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for your donations to Bear Necessities. Faith is when you close your eyes and open your heart. You make a difference!

Blessings,

RFUMC

Bear Necessities

"A most Sincere and Heartfelt Thank-you" to Pastor Paul and to my Wesley Church Family for your thoughts, prayers, support, cards, calls and food during this difficult time of my grandson Ben and great grandson Connor's tragic accident. Your "kindness and caring" touched my heart. God has received "two of the very best into His Kingdom".

God Bless, with hugs to all of you.

Elaine Hilger

## Lunch Ladies,

Ladies will be meeting on  
**Thursday, May 21st at 11:30 am**

@ A's Kitchen  
(Rock Falls)

Come and join us!!!



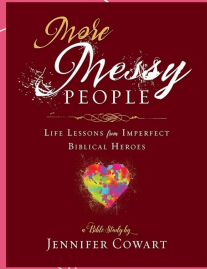
## Sauk Valley Food Bank Volunteers

You are invited to help our neighbors

**Saturday, May 30th @ 9:00 am**

Sign up sheet will be on the table in  
Fellowship Hall.

Any Questions? Contact Andy Pitsch



**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
**9:30 AM**  
**FIRESIDE ROOM**



**CHURCH  
 WORKDAY**

**MAY 2ND (SAT), 2026**



**CHANGEOVER  
 ZONE** Transitions  
 Workshop



**UNDERSTAND THE APPOINTMENT CHANGE AND YOUR ROLE IN IT**

**SAT., MAY 2, 9 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.**

**SCHAUMBURG: OUR SAVIOUR'S, 701 E. SCHAU MBURG RD.**



*Her children arise and  
 call her blessed.*



*Mother's Day Sunday*

**May 10th (Sun), 2026**

*Proverbs 31:28*



# Upcoming Events



**MUSIC SUNDAY**

with Dan Holmes

**MAY 17TH (SUN)**



*Honoring and  
 Remembering*  
**MEMORIAL  
 DAY**



**GRADUATION  
 SUNDAY**

on May 31st



**Lyon Scholarship  
 Award**

**May 31st, 2026**



## Habitat for Humanity

The next dates for our Habitat for Humanity work will be June 20th and October 17th. More information will be coming. If you have any questions, you may contact Rory Smith.

## Vacation Bible School 2026 Snack List NEEDS & Donation SIGN-UP is available in Fellowship Hall!

PLEASE sign your name & phone number next to the item you are bringing! When you bring your non-perishable donation, put in box marked VBS and check your name off the list so we know who's brought their item (s) in & who still needs to!  
*FRESH FRUIT, muffins, veggies can be dropped off Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>!*

(or whatever date the snack list might specify!)

**THANK YOU! All contributions help serve HEALTHY snacks each day!**

### May 2026 Worship

**May 8am** Rebecca Tieman / Shannon Klausing, Head Ushers

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
5/3 Jan Davey	Jeff Davey	Nancy Pitsch
5/10 Josie Gallentine Ian Casten	Rebecca Tieman / Shannon Klausing	Ian Casten
5/17 Jan Glover Larry Schuchard	Rebecca Tieman / Shannon Klausing	Jean Moe
5/24 Jan Davey	Rebecca Tieman / Shannon Klausing Jan Davey	Jeff Davey
5/31 Larry Schuchard	Rebecca Tieman / Shannon Klausing	Jan Glover

**May 10am** Steve Lopez / Bill Parker, Head Ushers

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
5/3 Mary Sue Puckett Matt Wendelken	Myla, Sadie & Ellie Wendelken	Nancy Pitsch	Stacey Wendelken
5/10 Carolyn Allen Katrina Cornwell	Brent Boelkens & Jillian Parker	Dave Fredericks	NO CLASS
5/17 Carolyn Allen Aaron Flick	Acolytes: Jovie & Remy Flick Andy & Nancy Pitsch	Kasha Sebok	Devon Flick
5/24 Carolyn Allen Katrina Cornwell	Arianne Cravatta & Tim Mussmenn	Beth Wicks	NO CLASS
5/31 Carolyn Allen Dave Fredericks	Acolytes: Jionni & Isabella Brent Boelkens & Jillian Parker	Dave Fredericks	Amber and Jaz'Mya Cataneda and Amber Celletti



# MAY Birthdays



<b>May 2</b>	Addison Gabrielse	<b>May 17</b>	Bryn Gatz
<b>May 3</b>	Bob Allen	<b>May 18</b>	Mike Ceruzzi, Max Parker
<b>May 5</b>	Sue Abate, Joey Cordell & Tristan Flory	<b>May 22</b>	Carlie Truedson, Marilyn Campbell
<b>May 7</b>	Nora Truedson	<b>May 24</b>	Dennis Vetter
<b>May 8</b>	Kris Noble	<b>May 25</b>	JuJu Casteneda, Clem
<b>May 9</b>	Elaina Grady	<b>May 26</b>	Kala Allen
<b>May 11</b>	Quinn Carbaugh	<b>May 27</b>	Jaxson McCarter-Hans
<b>May 13</b>	Renee Duncan, Sue Hayes	<b>May 29</b>	Jaime Greenfield
<b>May 15</b>	Chandler Allen	<b>May 30</b>	Ed Andersen, Ethan Cravatta
<b>May 16</b>	Erin Graves	<b>May 31</b>	Jerry Celletti

## Anniversaries

<b>May 1</b> Joe & Carol Cravatta	<b>May 26</b> Brad & Erin Graves
<b>May 10</b> Steve & Mary Downes	<b>May 28</b> Mike & Michele Drew

## MISSIONS corner



**LOOSE COINS for April-Caretakers of God's Creation is = \$382.56**

***Lent and Easter offerings will be split between- Buddy Bags and Reynoldswood Christian Camp Total = \$845***

**April Missions collected- 54 bars of soap**

**May LOOSE COINS will go to *Bishop's Appeal (General Conference) Education for Central Conferences-see flyer on the Missions Table in Fellowship Hall***

***May we will be collecting - Dish Soap***

**We will also be collecting fruit cups for Let's Feed Our Children through May 17th**

**May 5th Sunday-Peace with Justice Sunday**

**Thank You Everyone!!**



# Easter Egg Hunt Fun





Kevin, Lynn and Rory making the sanctuary beautiful for Easter Sunday.

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# Church Rummage Sale



Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on this year's rummage sale. We had great help and so many donations. We made \$2,500. Member care will meet to see what charity the money will go to.





**BISHOP'S APPEAL 2026**  
Giving Abundantly, Generosity Overflowing  
**Education for Central Conferences**

Every year, the Northern Illinois Conference raises funds for a project of the area bishop's choosing and brings the money raised to the Annual Conference session in June. Together, we join our resources and bring hope to the world.

This year's appeal invites us to invest not only in classrooms and curriculum, but in futures, in young people's discovering their gifts and in pastors and leaders who are equipped to guide communities with wisdom, compassion, and courage. Gifts to the appeal will be divided equally between two projects.

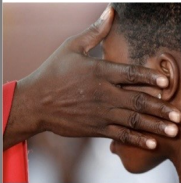
**High School Construction in Tanzania**

Led by United Methodist missionary Rev. Christina Kim, clergy member of the Northern Illinois Conference.



**Council of Bishops' Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Central Conferences**

Supporting theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.



**How to help:**

- Pray for students, teachers, and church leaders in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines
- Give online [umcnic.org/2026BishopsAppeal](http://umcnic.org/2026BishopsAppeal) or scan QR code
- Give to your church's special offering **Loose Coin**



**Fill the Truck**

Make checks payable to Wesley UMC and in the memo put **Fill the Truck.**

**Bishop's Appeal**

Give to your church's special offering:

**Loose Coins**

187th Northern Illinois Annual Conference  
**Fill the Truck**  
Mission Challenge Collection Drive

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



**Sunday, June 14**

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Monday, June 15**

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

\*Times subject to change



The NIC Board of Global Ministries is coordinating with Midwest Mission to organize its annual conference collection drive for Midwest Mission's Most Needed Items.

**MIDWEST MISSION CURRENTLY HAS A URGENT NEEDS FOR:**

**Home Care Kits**

- Liquid Household Cleaner, 54 - 80 oz. (no spray bottles)
- Liquid Dish Soap, 42 - 64 oz.
- Liquid Laundry Detergent, 100-150 oz.
- Scrub Brushes
- 5 Gallon Round Buckets With Resealable Lid

**Adult Bicycles**

**Personal Dignity Kits**

- Hand towels (no kitchen towels)
- Washcloths (no dishcloths)
- Toothbrushes (no multipack)
- Bars of Soap, 3-4 oz.
- Shampoo Bottles, 12-19 oz.
- Deodorant, 2-3 oz. (stick, roll on, or pump)
- Lotion Bottles, 8-10 oz.
- Gallon Resealable Plastic Bags

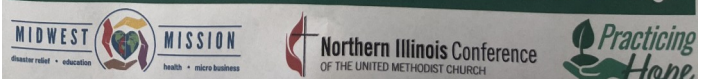
**If you prefer to make a financial contribution or a bulk purchase:**

- Make checks out to Wesley and in memo put Fill the Truck, checks and money can be placed in truck basket on Missions Table.
- collection items can be left on table by the sign.

Midwest Mission will be on site to accept the above Most Needed Items and any Midwest Mission kits, bleacher lumber, retired firefighting gear (including jaws of life), treadle sewing machines, gently used hand tools. New or slightly used medical supplies, medical equipment, blankets and bicycles will also be accepted.

For questions email message with NIC Mission Challenge in the Subject Line to [dnlpbrg@gmail.com](mailto:dnlpbrg@gmail.com).

Find out more at [umcnic.org/2026MissionChallenge](http://umcnic.org/2026MissionChallenge)





**REGISTER TODAY FOR WESLEY UMC  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

*scan here!*



**JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**9 AM - 11:30 AM**

**PREK - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**JOIN US FOR GAMES, MUSIC, STORIES,  
CRAFTS, AND SO MUCH MORE!**

## **VBS 2026**

### **Shine Bright in a Dark World**

Invite kids to Illumination Station VBS for the brightest week of the year! While many people in the world claim to know about Jesus, many are in the dark about who He really is. During VBS kids will explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects and reveals at Illumination Station and the world around them. Enjoy bible stories, music, snacks, games and crafts. Come join the Fun!

## 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>**

## Missions 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:

- **Dish Soap** for Bear Necessities and the FISH Food Pantry.
- Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- Loose coins to benefit: **Bishop's Appeal (General Conference)** for May.