

An illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is kneeling on the left, holding the infant Jesus in her arms. Joseph stands on the right, holding a lantern. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with green pine branches and white stars. The title 'The Chimes' is written in a large, red, serif font across the top.

# The Chimes

*December 2018 Monthly Newsletter/  
Wesley United Methodist Church*

## Recurring Events

**Sundays:** WYG, 6:00-8:00PM -every 1st and 3rd Sunday

**Tuesdays:** Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

**Wednesdays:** Disciples Bible study, 9-11:30AM

Buddy Bags packing, 11:30AM

Bells practice, 5PM

Choir, 6PM in the sanctuary

**Thursdays:** Advent book study, 2PM

Exercise class, activity room, 5PM

Advent book study, 6:30-7:35

**Saturdays:** Men's Bible study, 8AM

**\*\*Please see additional monthly events on page 2\*\***

## Pastor's Reflections

*6 For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace (Isaiah 9:6-7b)*

The church calendar and the regular calendar don't quite match up. For the regular calendar the new year starts on January 1, but for the church calendar New Year begins on the first Sunday of Advent, this year being December 2nd. I'd like to think with you a while on the idea that our new church year is about to begin. Each year at New Years I reflect on what has been in the year past and look forward to the future. That is exactly what the season of Advent is about. It's about remembering how Christ came into this world, considering how Christ is still changing this world, and pondering that someday Christ will return. In the season of Advent and then the 12 Days of Christmas we remember that Jesus came and change the world forever, and that Jesus continues to change the world and we are invited to be part of that.

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## Volunteers Needed!

We are in dire need of volunteers for PADS, two shifts open for December 7th and all for next year. Sign up sheets are on "the board" in the fellowship hall by the kitchen.

## All Church Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 16, after second service.

Dutch treat lunch at Angelo's 2 in Sterling immediately after caroling.

Sign up on green sheets through December 9.

Song sheets will be provided.

Join in the fun and lift the spirits of all for Christmas!



### Article Continued ...

Change can be scary. From conversations I've had with several people in our congregation I've been thinking about how much has changed in their lifetimes. I am not even 40 yet, but politically, economically, and perhaps above all technologically the world has changed dramatically in my life time. Some of you reading this also have a longer frame of reference than my 39.25 years. How much change have you seen? We may be frightened by change, but we must also remember that much change is positive! Fundamentally Christ came to bring change. Christ came to change lives through relationship with God and the message of forgiveness and grace from God. Christ came to change how we live with our fellow creatures, guiding us through wise counsel towards peace and love between all people. Christ calls on us to continue to change, or perhaps grow would be a better word, in faith our whole lives, living into the changed life that God offers us and all people.

So, for the season of advent, I ask you how has Christ changed your life? I believe strongly the more we consider how Christ has and is changing us the more we can share that story. Thus making us a witness for Christ through our lives. Also, I ask in this season of giving considering Christ the greatest gift from God. What can you give to effect some positive change in our world? Christ is making all things new, how is Christ inviting us to help in some aspect of that? The New Year is here, how has Christ changed your life in the year past, and how can you help change and bless our world in this coming year?

In Christ,

Pastor Jeremiah

**Greeting card ministry** Thursday, December 6  
in fellowship hall at 9:30 AM. Join us if you can!

# December Worship Services

Worship throughout the month of December will help prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus and to celebrate all the hope Jesus brings us. Such a wonderful time of year to invite friends to worship with us!

**Sunday December 2:** 2018: Join us for the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of hope. We will hear from John the Baptizer and how Christ brings hopes to our world and how we can prepare our hearts for Christ.

**Sunday December 9:** 2018: The second Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of love. Our message will be from Rene Morris as she share with us the story of Elizabeth the relative of Mary the Mother of Jesus and the mother of John the Baptizer. She will talk about how God's love is always with us! There will be offerings of incredible special music as well!

**Sunday December 16:** The third Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Joy (wear pink! Seriously! Its the color of this week.) Our message will be the Angel Gabriel sharing the JOY of the Christmas story, the JOY of Mary the Mother of Jesus, the JOY God offers us all through Jesus. Our 10:00 AM service this week will have the joy of our children's Christmas presentation.

**Sunday December 23:** The forth Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Peace. Joseph of Nazareth will share how in the midst of stressful turmoil he found peace. As Jesus' earthly father and of the peace Christ offers to all the world.

**Monday December 24:** at 7:00 and 11:00 PM we have our Christmas Eve services. Invite your loved ones. Communion will be served at 11PM service only.

**Sunday December 30:** This Sunday of Christmas tide will be a time to continue celebrating Jesus, and to prepare our hearts for 2019. Come, as Dylan Hinrichs shares the message with us.

**Sunday January 6:** This Sunday marks the feast of Epiphany, when we remember how the Wise Men came to visit the Christ Child. Bruce Kramer will be sharing the message. Join us!

## Christmas Eve Service

On Christmas Eve, December 24, at 7:00 and 11:00 we will have Christmas Eve Services. The 7:00 PM service will be a time of story and songs, including a children's message as we invite people of all ages to remember what Christmas is all about. Finally we will end with the traditional and beautiful lighting of candles and singing *Silent Night*. The 11:00 PM service will also include scripture, songs, and stories, in addition to communion. We will celebrate the birth of Jesus remembering how God sent him to change our lives and our world forever.

If you are not traveling for the holiday please join us! We're in need of greeters, ushers and a liturgist for 11pm. Please call the church office if you are able to help. I also want to ask you to invite someone to join you. Christmas Eve is one of the best services of the year to invite a guest to, and your invitation to a person or a family might mean so very much and introduce them to our congregation. In the Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve we will have a little invitation card in the bulletin you can take and share with someone you love. Lets invite as many people as possible to come and share the joy and wonder of Jesus' birth!

WYG (Wesley Youth Group) Potluck Fundraiser

On Sunday December 9, help fight off the cold of the coming winter with some warm food and fellowship after church! There will be a youth potluck following our 10:00 AM service, with some warm food and some good conversation. There will also be a free will donation. The money raised will go to help our youth attend the Winter Extreme Retreat at Lake Geneva the first weekend of March 2019. Your donation can help our youth and our adult volunteers go to this fun and faith building week-end. So please join on the 9<sup>th</sup> and please give what you can.



## WYG (Wesley Youth Group) Calendar for December and January (bring your friends to any and all!)

**December 2**, 6:00 PM, join us for WYG for food, for games, for a conversation about Mary the Mother of Jesus and this brave teenager helped change the world!

**December 9**, 11:00 AM: WYG Potluck, bring something to share as we raise money to go to the Winter Extreme conference in March!

**December 16**, 6:00 PM: join us for the WYG Christmas party, there will be food and fun, and a white elephant gift exchange

**December 21**, 7:00 PM- December 22 7:00 AM: WYG winter lock in, get your Winter Break off to a fun start at the lock-in. There will be games, there will be food, there will be fun, there will be faith as well, join us and bring your friends! (parents/guardians will need to sign people in and or fill out a permission slip so be aware of that!)

**January 13**, 11:00 AM (weather permitting) back by popular demand join us for the Frozen Hike to Starved Rock state park to see the frozen waterfalls. If it stays cold enough for the falls to freeze we will be there. It's natural beauty at its most amazing, awesome, and cool (pun intended) Join us and bring your friends!!!

**January 20**, 6:00 PM, Join us for WYG, fun, food, games, faith, worship, music, and planning for 2019, especially our Summer Mission Trip to South Dakota!



Toby Hodges, Erin Graves, Joe Gatz



Cal and Roger Jacobs, Warren Heuck, Doug Brandau, David Siex, Lowell Jacobs, Edd Rosser, Cory Canas

### Veteran's Day Service



Judy Bushman and Judy Dennis

## December Events

**December 2:** Chili cook-off and dessert auction, 11am

**December 5:** Fellowship hall reserved 10:30am-2pm

**December 6:** Greeting card ministry, 9:30am

**December 9:** WYG potluck fundraiser 11am

**December 12:** Women's breakfast, 8:30am at Benny's

**December 14:** Ladies luncheon, 11:30am, Kegger's

**December 16:** Children's Christmas program, 10am service

Christmas caroling after 10am

**December 24:** Christmas Eve services, 7pm and 11pm

**December 25:** Office closed



## Birthdays

**December 2** Derek Fitzanko, Coralee Jacobs  
**December 4** Emily Schwingle  
**December 12** Kay Clark  
**December 13** Sue Morris, Julie Van Ausdal  
**December 15** Bill Adams, Luke Stutzman  
**December 16** Nick Ceruzzi, Shane Williams  
**December 18** Zephan Drew  
**December 19** Jonathan Abele, Chad Duncan  
**December 22** Elliot Noble, Sally Unterzuber

**December 23** Cindy Melton, Abiella Thompson, Elaine Hilger  
**December 24** Lenna Drew  
**December 27** Sarah Rodriguez, Sierra Sotelo  
**December 30** Mallory Osborn  
**December 31** Maddux Osborn

## Anniversaries

**December 11** Rich & Sue Morris  
**December 12** Roger & Nancy Wait  
**December 16** Darrin & Amy Driscoll  
**December 28** Lowell & Coralee Jacobs  
**December 31** Scott & Emily Morgan, Rick & Karen Palmer

## Bread Hosts

Thank you Barb Quick for serving as bread hostess for the month of November, and to everyone for baking bread!  
 The hostess for December is Dave Fredericks.



## Servers for December - 8 a.m.

	<b>Greeters/Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>December 9</b>	Toby & Debbie Hodges Jack & Sydney Graves	Nancy Pitsch
<b>December 16</b>	↓	Jan Glover
<b>December 23</b>	↓	Dylan Hinrichs
<b>December 30</b>	Marc & Cindy Melton	↓

## Coffee Hosts

**December 9** Denny & Alice Vetter  
**December 16** Christie, Melissa, Brooklynn Freas  
**December 23** Donnie & Stacey Stutzke, Rich & Sue Morris  
**December 30** Clodfelter family

## Servers for December - 10 a.m.

	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers/Acolytes</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>
<b>December 9</b>	Debbie Kramer, Rosie Davis	Kris & Elliot Noble Alice Vetter & Cameron Taylor	Bruce Kramer
<b>December 16</b>	Wes & Liz White	Gabrielse family	Alice Vetter
<b>December 23</b>	Ed & Jan Anderson	Mike, Lynette, Nick, Haley Ceruzzi James Morris & Megan Stutzke	Jan Anderson
<b>December 30</b>	Steve & Mary Downes	Curt & Jaime Greenfield family	Steve Downes



## Wesley United Methodist Church

2200 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Sterling, IL 61081

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Wesley United Methodist Church

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Website: [www.sterlingwesley.org](http://www.sterlingwesley.org)

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### Open Heart, Open Minds, Open Doors

You are invited to join us for worship Sundays  
at 8 and 10 a.m. with Sunday School  
and fellowship at 9 a.m.

### 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:

- Donations of bedding, small appliances, and other **household items** to support Trinity UMC and the VA Clinic/Valor Program, as they work to find homes for local veterans. A list of needed items is on the table in the fellowship hall.
- **Shampoo** for Bear Necessities, Everyday Essentials and the FISH Food Pantry.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for the Trinity and FISH pantries.
- **Loose coins** to benefit FISH food pantry in December.