

# The CHIMES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEYUMC

APRIL 2021



## FROM OUR PASTOR

It's April. We celebrate Jesus' resurrection, and I'd like to revisit the meaning of Easter. We focused on what happened to Jesus from the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday until his crucifixion on Good Friday during the Lenten season. While meditating and preparing sermons, I kept asking one question, "What did Jesus feel?"

He seemed to know that Judas would betray him. His disciples, who had followed him and learned from him for three years, still didn't get it, and they were debating which one of them was the greatest, just a few hours before he was arrested. What did Jesus feel? All of his disciples scattered except Peter, but he's also hiding from people, denying knowing Jesus three times. What did Jesus feel? The Son of God was put on trial for blasphemy before Jewish religious leaders and people shouted, 'Crucify him.' What did Jesus feel? He spoke a few words on the cross, which we all know. His words touched my heart with that question again, "What did Jesus feel?"

He said, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.' The pain, sorrow, and humiliation he experienced was still present sentence when he spoke this word. He was still suffering nearly to death on his cross. Jewish leaders were taunting him, and Roman soldiers were mocking him and gambling for his clothing at his feet. (cont.on p2)

## Church Events

**Wednesday: Disciple Bible Study**  
9:30-11:00 a.m. (Zoom)

**Thursday: Bible study with Nancy Pitsch**  
6:45-7:45pm (Fellowship Hall)

**Saturday: Men's Bible study 8:00-9:30 a.m. (Zoom)**

**Church Cleaning Day on Sat., May 1st starting at 8:00 am**

**Trustees meeting on May 11th at 6:00 pm**

It seemed everything was over. There were a large number of the crowd who had dreamed of political independence through Jesus' leadership and who had hoped for a better world with enough food on their table. Their expectancy became in vain with Jesus on his cross. Some of them were weeping, and some were cursing him. At that moment, Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'

His last word was 'It is finished.' What was finished? What was it Jesus pursued even on his cross? What was that for? Wasn't it forgiveness? I think it is about forgiveness, forgiveness for love. Jesus came down for our salvation, which is forgiveness and restoration. I believe Jesus knew what he was doing, and he was clear about what he hoped to happen among his people. That's why he endured all his suffering on his cross. It is like a sprout coming up in the spring, shouting, "I'm still alive. It was harsh winter with cold weather and heavy snowstorm. It looked like everything could not survive in it. But I've gone through harsh and dark moments, and I'm alive, and I'm going to bloom again." Isn't it what Jesus was hoping for?

And it was not just his mission. When his disciples were debating on the Last Supper, which one was the greatest, Jesus said, "Do you not understand what I have done for you?" I think Jesus is still asking us this question after Easter. It is a message and example for us. Giving us an example of forgiveness and unconditional love on his cross, Jesus is asking us to forgive and love so that we may overcome our dark moment in our lives and get restored and bloom again in Jesus.

This April, we will be talking about forgiveness. Let's be honest! Forgiveness is hard. Why is it so hard? What is it that makes us so unforgiving of ourselves and each other? We'll take an honest, realistic look at how to seek, extend and accept forgiveness. Amen.

## Worship Schedule

**April 4 (Easter)**

**"Victory, Promise, and Presence"**

**April 11th**

**"Accepting Forgiveness "**

**April 18th**

**"Forgiveness in Marriage and Intimate Relationship"**

**April 25th**

**" Forgiving Others"**

## Children's message

**April 4: Easter**

**"Jesus Dies and Rises Again"  
with Carol Cravatta**

**April 11**

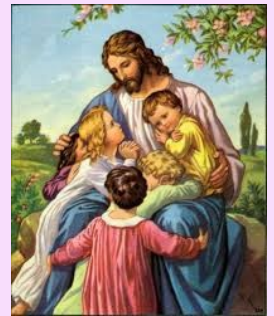
**"Jesus' Power over Sin and Death"  
with Rene Morris**

**April 18**

**"Jesus Forgives Peter"**

**April 25**

**"The Pentecost"**





# MISSIONS

**March loose coins = \$129.62**

**Thank you!! From the Midwest  
Mission Distribution Center**



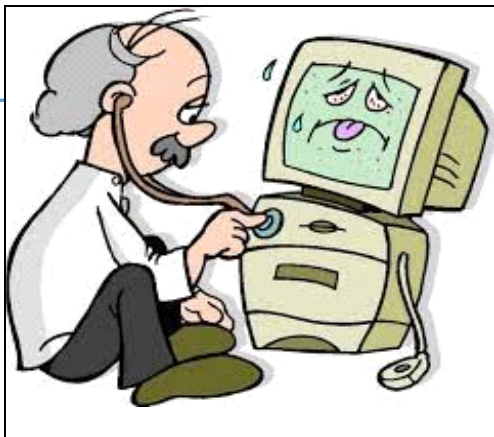
**April loose coins** will go to the *Caretakers of God's Creation*. **Lent** and **Easter** offerings (envelopes) will be split between *Buddy Bags* and *Copacabana Bolivia New Church Fund*.

**Coming up----- May's "5th Sunday"  
giving opportunity:**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS and THANK YOU'S

We are getting very close to updating and repairing our current **A/V system!** The system is about 5 years old and in computer years that's like 100 years old. The doctor has come out for the check-up along with Comcast adjusting our needed signal strength. The repairs parts, both software and hardware, have been ordered and will be installed once they arrive. Thank you all for your patience during these troubling times and our staff who has managed to hang in there through the whole process. Special thanks to Mike Drew, Logan Ayala, Isaac Halverson, Dylan Hinrichs, Pastor Paul, and Welcome back to our "back on board" sound staff Holli Drew!



*I am very appreciative of all the love and support from our congregation. The cards and visits at the window are so uplifting and keep a smile on my face.*

*Love,*

*June Teachout*

Thank you's were received from the Midwest Distribution Center and the Let's Feed our Children programs for our donations. Also a thank you was received from Bear Necessities for help with their personal care supply needs. (Missions)

**If you have moved since our new directory has been published and have not notified the office, please call or email the office with your name and change of address or change of telephone number. We want to stay in touch with you. Phone: 815-625-1968.**

**Email: [office@SterlingWesley.org](mailto:office@SterlingWesley.org).**

**If you or a loved one would like a prayer shawl, please call the office and make arrangements to pick one up during office hours.**

**Phone: 815-625-1968**

**\*Greeting card ministry will continue working from home in April.**



## April Birthdays



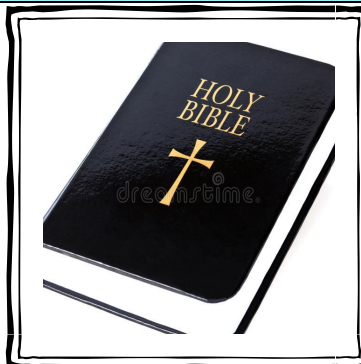
<b>April 1</b>	<b>Elizabeth Mathew</b>	<b>April 14</b>	<b>Randy Smith and Don Warkins</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Ken Newlon</b>	<b>April 16</b>	<b>Peg Burke</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Janet Lindsley and Olivia Schwingle</b>	<b>April 17</b>	<b>Karen Palmer</b>
<b>April 4</b>	<b>Gloria Grant</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>Allison Ramirez</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Jeffrey Spitzer</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>Austin Cedro</b>
<b>April 8</b>	<b>Mark Gatz and Frank Rausa</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>Nick Papoccia and Juanita Nerstheimer</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Isaac Carrion</b>	<b>April 25</b>	<b>Nick Abele and Craig Truedson</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Sue Inks and Violet Windham</b>	<b>April 28</b>	<b>Sarah Gabrielse</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Pastor Paul</b>	<b>April 30</b>	<b>Amber Farnham</b>



## Anniversaries



<b>April 1</b>	<b>Pastors Paul and Rosa Lee</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>Marc and Cindy Melton</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Ron and Judy Bushman</b>	<b>April 19</b>	<b>Toby and Debbie Hodges</b>
<b>April 5</b>	<b>Arnie &amp; Jeanne Burch</b>	<b>April 24</b>	<b>Jeff and Jan Davey</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Walter and Janet Lindsley</b>	<b>April 29</b>	<b>Alan and Jessica Wade</b>
		<b>April 30</b>	<b>Joe and Elisa Gatz / Dennis and Alice Vetter</b>



## April Liturgists

<b>April 4</b>	<b>Bruce Kramer</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>Rick Palmer</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Darla Ewing</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Nancy Pitsch</b>



# *Earth Day photo contest and display!!!*

## **Photos Wanted!**

### **The Beauty of the Nature, taken by YOU**

Collection: March through April. 11 (Sun) Display: From April 19 through May 16  
(Sunday before the Pentecost)

**Any questions? Please find Pastor Paul Please send your photos to [lovegn247@gmail.com](mailto:lovegn247@gmail.com)**

*For one of the Stewardship that God has entrusted to us, we have a responsibility to nurture God's creation, to promote the need of our collective works as God's co-workers, and to prevent the harm and damage on the earth.*



## **LET'S SPREAD SOME CHEER!**

**Some of our members have been quarantined in their nursing home rooms since the pandemic began. If you feel like sending a note or card, here are their addresses:**

<b>Carole Finnicum</b>	<b>Marion Quick</b>	<b>June Teachout</b>
<b>Regency Care #312</b>	<b>Regency Care</b>	<b>Regency Care #412</b>
<b>612 St Mary's Road</b>	<b>612 St Mary's Road</b>	<b>612 St Mary's Road</b>
<b>Sterling, IL 61081</b>	<b>Sterling, IL 61081</b>	<b>Sterling, IL 61081</b>

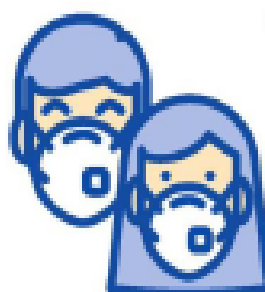


# Wesley In-Person Worship Instruction

## 1) Let's Gather Safe



## 2) Mask Is Required

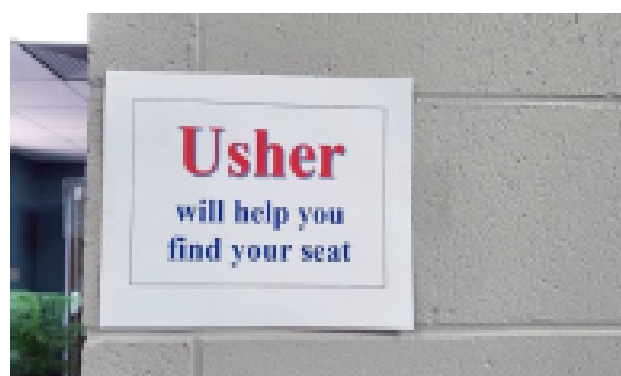


Wearing a mask is

**LOVE**



## 3) Please Listen to the Usher



## 4) 6ft Plus Indoor and Outdoor with Masks



## 5) Alternatives to the Handshake and Hug



## **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 Heart, 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:**

- **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.**
- **Bar soap for Bear Necessities, Trinity, and the FISH Food Pantry.**
- **Travel-sized toiletries for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.**
- **Loose coins to benefit: Caretakers of God's Creation for April.**