

The Chimes

November 2024

From Our Pastor



Church Events

As we approach the end of this year and prepare for the start of 2025, I find my heart overflowing with gratitude, trust in the Lord, and the spirit of Thanksgiving. I want to take a moment to share an important update with you: beginning the day after the first Sunday of January, I will step away from ministry for 9 weeks to undergo an intensive surgery I've mentioned a few times. The surgery will take place in mid-January, and I will be hospitalized for two weeks or more, followed by time for recovery.

While this will be a challenging process, I am resting in the peace and comfort that God provides. Habakkuk 3:17-18 has been a guiding light for me; "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." Even when the road ahead looks difficult, I rejoice in God's steadfast presence, trusting in God's love and the peace the Lord promises.

I am also deeply grateful for the vital leadership and active participation of our congregation, which continues to be led by the Holy Spirit. We have seen God's hand at work through our vibrant ministry this year, and I know that, even in my absence, the Spirit will continue to guide and empower you all. From our worship and Bible studies to our service, the Spirit's presence has been palpable in every corner of our church. We've seen lives touched

**Join us Sundays in-person:
8:00am and 10:00am**

Ongoing:

Tuesdays & Thursdays @ 4:00 PM
Exercise Group (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesdays@2-3:30PM
Fiber Group-Knitting & Crocheting

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

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

Save the date:

Sun. 11/3- All Saints' Sunday

Mon. 11/4-Church Conference
@ 7PM SPRC @ 6:15PM

Thur. 11/7-@ 9:30am
Greeting Card Ministry group

Sun. 11/10- Veteran's Sunday

Sun. 11/11- Veteran's Day

Thur. 11/21- Ladies Lunch at Angelo's
(Sterling) @ 11:30

Sat. 11/23- Salvation Army
Bell Ringing

Thur. 11/28 Thanksgiving

And transformed through our fellowship and service, and I know that this good work will carry on.

I am especially thankful for our strong, Spirit-led leadership. The love and dedication of our church leaders have been a constant source of inspiration. Your active participation and willingness to follow the Spirit's lead have created a community where God's love is truly lived out. Whether in moments of decision-making, planning events or simply caring for one another, the Spirit's guiding presence has been evident in all you do.

As I prepare for this upcoming surgery and the time of recovery, I want to express my deep confidence in the continued vitality of Sterling Wesley UMC. The Spirit is at work in this place, and I know that our church will continue to thrive, offering love and support to one another and to our community.

As we enter The Year of Grace in 2025, we prepare to embrace The Year of Grace, and I encourage us all to keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive in our hearts. Let us continue to rejoice in the Lord, grateful for the love we share as a church family and for the many ways God is working through us. Even in my absence, I know the Spirit will continue to lead us forward, filling us with hope, peace, and gratitude.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and the incredible love you show to one another and to our community. I am so grateful to serve such a remarkable congregation. Let us enter this season of Thanksgiving with hearts full of gratitude and joy, knowing that God's grace will sustain us every step of the way.

With deep gratitude and trust,

Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lee

Winter Weekend of Joy Camp

2nd Annual WINTER WEEKEND of JOY CAMP at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL

Friday, January 3rd - 6PM CHECK IN with Dinner!

Sunday, January 5th - 3PM CHECK OUT & dismissal.

4th graders through current Seniors in high school are **INVITED & ENCOURAGE to COME!** Campers & Leaders will be housed in the Manor House.

Pack for OUTSIDE, SNOWY adventures! Bring layers of clothes & outer wear!

There will be cozy, inside games, crafts, activities, and adventures, too!

Area churches Chana UMC, Dixon 1st UMC, and Sterling Wesley UMC are providing meals, Dixon Grace UMC will host worship with breakfast, with lunch served back at camp. New Lenox UMC is providing hot cocoa supplies for the weekend!

Registration opens **October 15th** on joycamp.org website. Registration fee is \$65.00 per camper.

OLD TOWELS - but still good for showering! NEEDED for Winter Joy Campers who forget their towels, need extra towels after getting wet & cold over & over again on their outdoor adventures! Contact NANCY PITTSCH if you're able to donate some! 815-499-3802. Thank you in advance!

NOVEMBER 8am

Door greeter(s)	Ushers	Liturgist
3rd Mary Downes	Rebecca/Shannon / Steve Downes	Nancy Pitsch
10 th Rich & Elias Halverson	Rebecca/Shannon/ Carrie Halverson	Erin Graves
17 th Rita Smith	Rebecca/Shannon Rita Smith (help pass plate)	Rory Smith
24th Jan Davey	Rebecca/Shannon Jan Davey (help pass plate)	Nancy Pitsch

NOVEMBER 10am

Door greeter(s)	Ushers	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
3rd Frank & Janne Rausa	Bill Parker/ Andy Pitsch Frank & Janne (help pass plate)	Amy Lopez	Nancy Pitsch (All Saints Communion!)
10th Greg Bontz Rodger VanAusdal David Siex	Roger Jacobs/ Warren Heuck Lowell Jacobs/ Edd Rosser	Nancy Pitsch	Jamie Schwingle
17 th Dave & Roberta Fredericks	Steve Downes Bill Parker Dave & Roberta (help pass plate)	Mary Downes	Jaime Greenfield
24 th Matt & Ellie Wendelken	Myla & Sadie Steve Lopez/ Bill Parker Andy Pitsh (pass Plate)	Dave Fredericks	Stacey Wendelken Ellie & Myla

Worship Schedule

3rd– All Saints Sunday

Matthew 6:25-34

Choose Joy, Not Worry

10th– Veteran’s Sunday

Matthew 6:1-2,5,16,19,& 21

What’s Driving You??

17th– 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 7:1-2,7, 12-13

Four Keys to Living Well

24th– Thanksgiving Sunday

Matthew 5:20-22, 27-29,43-44,48

Jesus’ Challenging Call to Live
Differently



Announcements



Calling all bakers! It's that time of year again! Our church has been asked to donate 30 dozen cookies, as we have done in the past, for the 2024 Rock River Hospice & Home Festival of Trees Country Store at Northland Mall located in the old Finish Line. Please let Stacey Wendelken know if you are willing to help! You will need to bake 3-4 dozen cookies (any variety such as Christmas cookies, snickerdoodle, sugar, cut-outs, oatmeal, peanut butter, thumb prints, chocolate chip, peanut butter blossoms, etc.), **store them in a disposable container** (Ziplock bag or a container that can be thrown away) and deliver them to the church kitchen on or before **Thursday, November 21, 2024**. The building will be open during office hours from 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. If you can't deliver your cookies at that time, please contact Stacey Wendelken at 480-220-6337 or stacey.wendelken@comcast.net to make other arrangements. Thank you!

The Wesley Lunch Group

We will meet at Angelo's (Sterling) on **Thursday, Nov. 21st** at 11:30. If you have any questions please contact Beth Mathew 815-625-4381.



Thank You

Wesley Church Family,

Never are we more aware of how much our friends and family mean to us than at this time of loss. Your kindness and sympathy will always be remembered.

The family of Jean Partridge

Thank you so much for the cards you send every month. We look forward to them. We always wonder what lady sent it!!!

Joan Partridge

Wesley UMC,

Thank you for your support, prayers, efforts and thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

The Family of Diana Rausa



The Wesley Greeting Card ministry will meet Thursday, November 7th at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall to prepare December cards. Come join us and help spread some joy.

Snowbirds, As many of you start to head to your winter addresses, please make certain those addresses are updated through the office so we can stay in touch.



Christmas Poinsettias

Orders for Christmas poinsettias are being taken through **Monday, November 11th**. Forms are available in the church office and Fellowship Hall. The color choices are red and white. Please return them to the office. Currently we do not know the cost of each plant. County Market has been able to keep the \$10.00 price tag for several years. If the cost is greater than \$10.00, you will be informed, and you may cancel your order or pay the additional cost.

Thank you



Letter from the Finance Team

Dear Members of the Wesley family,

We are writing on behalf of the church finance team. As in recent years our income will fall short of our expenses, so we need our members to consider increasing their support of our church.

We need everyone's support to continue the programs we have at Wesley. With your support Wesley can continue to offer a great Sunday school program, an inspired music program, meaningful worship opportunities, enjoyable fellowship opportunities, mission and community programs plus opportunities for everyone to deepen their walk with Jesus Christ.

In II Corinthians Paul exhorts us to be "a cheerful giver...God's grace abounds toward you, always having all sufficiency in all things and abundance for every good work." In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus is explaining our duty to use well all the good things God has given us.

One of the ways to live thankfully is to return a portion of the material gifts God has entrusted to our care. This letter is inviting you to give from your gratitude for the blessings in your life.

We are Christ's disciples in our community. Through our gifts of time, talent and money we can carry forth his works to our friends and neighbors. For it is in giving that we receive.

May God bless you in all things you do.
Thank you for your faithfulness,

Rita Smith - Finance Chair
Paul Lee - Pastor



Thanksgiving Baskets Donations

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.



Salvation Army BELL RINGING!

Sign up sheet is on the Missions Table under TV

When: November 23rd
Where: Farm and Fleet

You may also contact Roberta Fredericks or office to sign up

SAUK VALLEY FOOD BANK



**EIGHTEEN OF US
VOLUNTEERED AT THE SAUK VALLEY FOOD
BANK TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS IN TOWN.
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY
TO SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS
AT THE FOOD BANK LATER.**



5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK



BLESSING OF THE PETS



DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING (CPR & AED)



CHURCH WORKDAY



**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AND CLEANING
THE CHURCH INSIDE AND OUT!
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP A LOT!!!**



PARSONAGE DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION



CHILI COOK-OFF & DESSERT AUCTION



FIBER GROUP (TUESDAY @ 2 P.M.)

FIBER GROUP - KNITTING & CROCHETING



TUESDAY 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
FIRESIDE ROOM



Wesley
UNITED METHODIST



FUN FISHING DAY



WHAT'S COMING?

All Saints Sunday

Remembering those who have passed

NOVEMBER 3, 2024



Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

Veterans Sunday

(Nov. 10)



Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

Happy
Thanksgiving



Wesley
UNITED METHODIST

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM

STARTING ON NOV. 20

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OR PASTOR PAUL**



Wesley
UNITED METHODIST



TRUNK-N-TREAT



Missions:

The total **Loose coins** collected in **October** for **YWCA Domestic Violence** is **\$ 144.91**

The **Chili Cookoff** raised **\$ 961.00** for the Sauk Valley Food Bank.

World Communion Sunday will add **\$ 45.00** to various international scholarships.

November we will be collecting **Dish Soap** for Pantries



In **November**, we will be collecting for **FISH Food Pantry.**



Birthdays

Nov. 1 Alyssa Cedro, James Fitzanko

Nov. 3 Walter Lindsley

Nov. 4 Jeremy Maxfield

Nov. 6 Mary Anne Batten

Nov. 7 Devon Flick, Faith Minor

Nov. 10 Gloria Rodriguez, Grace Wetzell

Nov. 11 Bill Parker

Nov. 13 Jan Glover, James Morris, Sena Warkins

Nov. 14 Logan Ayala

Nov. 15 Jamie Schwingle

Nov. 16 Blake Parker

Nov. 18 Edd Rosser

Nov. 19 Holliana Drew

Nov. 20 Jionni Castaneda

Nov. 23 Bill Abate, Ava Lyon

Nov. 25 Mary Spitzer

Anniversaries

Nov. 4 Tim & Jamie Schwingle

Nov. 11 Steve & Kay Bierman

Nov. 16 Rich & Carrie Halverson

Nov. 17 Antonio & Amber Castaneda

Nov. 20 Curt & Jaime Greenfield

Nov. 22 Bill & Sue Abate, Don & Sena Warkins

Nov. 30 John & Linda Larson

Altar Flowers (\$20) The following date is available for altar flowers:

December 15th

Please contact the office to reserve. Payments can be mailed to/dropped off at the office. Thank you!

The 2024 poster is on the bulletin board--- But you can also let Diane know (church office) if you have a date in mind: 815-625-1968

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

You are invited to join us for Livestream worship on Facebook at 10 a.m.

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SterlingWesleyUMC>

Upcoming Events

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 and Travel-sized toiletries for local pantries.

Loose coins for November will benefit Fish Food Pantry

The office is staffed

