

The *CHIMES*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | WESLEY UMC

APRIL 2024



From Our Pastor

As we journey beyond the celebration of Easter, our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude for the immense grace that God has bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Jesus' resurrection holds profound significance for all of us, shaping the core of our faith and offering hope. His triumph over death and sin extend the means of forgiveness and redemption for all. It provides us with assurance and hope for the future and signifies new life and transformation. In this season of renewal and rebirth, we should reflect upon the Wesleyan understanding of grace – Prevenient, Justifying, and Sanctifying – and how it resonates with the message of Easter.

Prevenient Grace, the grace that goes before us, is central to our Methodist tradition. It is the divine love and influence that surrounds us even before we are aware of it, drawing us toward God. Just as the resurrection of Christ offers hope and new life to all, Prevenient Grace reminds us that God's love is freely offered to everyone, regardless of our past or present circumstances. As the people of Easter, let us remember that God's grace is continually at work in our lives, guiding us toward the light of love.

Justifying Grace is the grace that forgives and transforms us, bringing us into the right relationship with God. It takes a moment for us

Church Events

Tue/Thur: Exercise Group

(Activity Rm) 3:30 pm– 4:30 pm

Sat : Men's Bible Study

8:00 am (Fireside Rm)

Thur. April 4, 9:30 am

Greeting Card Ministry

(Fellowship Hall)

Mon. April 8, 1:00 pm

College Care Packages

(Fellowship Hall)

Thur. April 18, 11:30 am

Ladies Luncheon

at Angelo's (Sterling)

Worship Schedule

April 7 – Ephesians 2: 8-10

April 14 – James 2: 14-18

April 21– Romans 13:11-14

April 28 - Rev. George Woosnam

to recognize God's presence and love in our lives. Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, we are justified by faith, not by our own merits. Easter reminds us of the ultimate act of love and redemption, as Christ willingly laid down his life for our salvation. As the people of Easter, let us rejoice in the assurance that we are made new and whole through his grace.

Sanctifying Grace is the ongoing work of God's Spirit within us, shaping us into the image of Christ. Just as Easter marks the beginning of a new chapter in the story of God's salvation, Sanctifying Grace invites us to participate in the ongoing transformation of our hearts and minds. As the people of Easter, let us be mindful of the grace that empowers us to love more deeply, forgive more readily, and serve more selflessly.

We will delve into this key understanding of grace in April. I hope and pray that this understanding of grace inspires us to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice in the hope Easter brings, knowing that through his Grace, we are called to share in the abundant life Christ offers to all.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Paul Lee

Men's Club Ham Dinner





MISSIONS

April loose coins will go to the *Caretakers of God's Creation*.

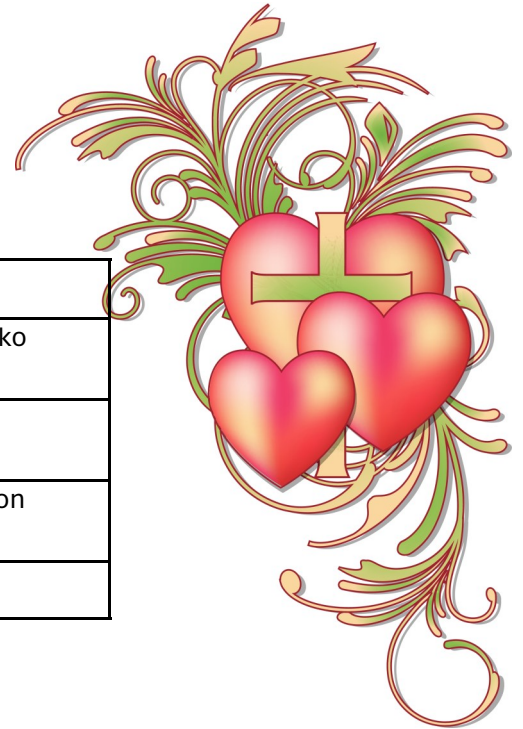
Lent and **Easter** offerings (envelopes) will be split between
Buddy Bags and Reynoldswood Christian Camp

March loose coins = 113.92 For Midwest Mission Distribution Center!
Lent = 355.00
March 31st Easter has not yet been counted

April Worship

April 8am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist
4/7 Jan Glover Derek Fitzanko	Aaron Fitzanko James Fitzanko	Wendy Fitzanko
4/14 Rita Smith	Rebecca /Shannon	Rory Smith
4/21 Lynn/Renee	Rebecca /Shannon	Harper Johnson Mary Nelmes
4/28 Jan Glover	Greg & Chris Gallentine	Jean Moe



April 10am

Door Greeter(s)	Usher/Acolytes	Usher/Acolytes	Liturgist	Matthew Meetings
4/7 Curt Greenfield Antonio Castenada	Curt Greenfield Antonio Castenada	Mary Sue Puckett Gia Campbell	Jaz Mya Castaneda Jaime Greenfield	Aaron & Devon Flick
4/14 Craig Truedson Carlie Ttruedson	Aleeya Dykstra Jessica Truedson	Aleeya Dykstra Jessica Truedson	Johanna Cravatta	Jamie Schwingle Emily Schwingle
4/21 Craig Truedson	Nora & Carlie Truedson	Nora & Carlie Truedson	Jaxson Williams	Jessica Truedson Nora/Carlie
4/28 Rich & Sandi Lobdell	Jaxson Williams Eric Allen	Jaxson Williams Eric Allen	James Allen	Carrie Halverson Elias

ANNOUNCEMENTS / THANK YOU'S

** If your contact information has recently changed, remember to notify the office.
Please call or email us: 815-625-1968 / office@sterlingwesley.org.

The Member Care Committee will be packing **college care packages** on **Monday, April 8 at 1 PM** in Fellowship Hall. If there are any address changes since we sent packages in October, please contact the church office. Any donations or anyone willing to help pack would be welcome! If you have any questions please call Sue Abate at 815-625-0539



Greeting Card Ministry

Our next meeting is
Thursday, April 4th at 9:30am
in Fellowship Hall! We'll
prepare and send cards.

It's Fun!!



Wesley Friends,

I want to thank you for the beautiful prayer Shawl you sent to me. Most of all, thank you for your prayers and the many cards. I look at them around the house and it reminds me people are praying and caring about me.

God Bless you and keep the prayers flowing.

Love, Judy Dennis

Thank you,



Hello Lunch Ladies,

A sign of spring is that the Lunch Ladies begin going to different spots for lunch. Our first "new" spot will be Angelos in Sterling, Our date is Thursday, April 18th at 11:30. We are excited that Angelos is open for lunch.

I'll send an e-mail closer to the time so you can make a reservation.

Beth



Birthdays

April 1	Elizabeth Mathew	April 16	Peg Burke
April 3	Janet Lindsley and Olivia Schwingle	April 17	Karen Palmer
April 4	Gloria Grant	April 18	Allison Ramirez
April 5	Jeffrey Spitzer	April 19	Austin Cedro
April 8	Mark Gatz ,Frank Rausa, Rich Halverson	April 23	Nick Papoccia and Julie Carrion
April 9	Isaac Carrion	April 25	Craig Truedson
April 13	Pastor Paul	April 28	Sarah Gabrielse
April 14	Randy Smith, Don Warkins and Amy Lope	April 30	Amber Farnham and Amber Castaneda
April 15	Isaac Halverson, Noah Halverson, and Darci Imel		




Anniversaries



April 1	Pastors Paul and Rosa Lee	April 19	Toby and Debbie Hodges
April 2	Ron and Judy Bushman	April 20	John and Fabiene Plummer
April 17	Walter and Janet Lindsley	April 24	Jeff and Jan Davey
April 18	Marc and Cindy Melton	April 30	Joe and Elisa Gatz

EARTH DAY PHOTO DISPLAY!

The Beauty of Nature, taken by YOU

Display: April through

Sunday before the Pentecost

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.



EARTH DAY

APRIL 22

Palm Sunday



Easter Sunday



New Youth Director Welcoming



JOY CAMP 2024 will be Sunday June 23- Saturday June 29th!

Youth that will be in 5th grade fall of 2024 through graduating Seniors– You Are Invited!

A week of adventures, worship, archery, canoeing, swimming, gaga ball, team building, crafts, service projects, hikes, great food, campfires, non stop fellowship, running, playing, climbing ALL OVER the beautiful endless acres.

Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, IL

Registration will be available “soon”!

Please contact Nancy Pitsch or Pastor Paul for more details or questions!!



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

Sermons are available on Facebook / website

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

website: www.sterlingwesley.org

Mission Corner / April 2024

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:

- ***Bar soap*** for local pantries.
- **Travel-sized toiletries** for Bear Necessities and FISH pantries.
- ***Loose coins*** for APRIL to benefit: Caretakers of God's Creation.