

## THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

The commemoration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this week has me reflecting anew on his legacy and work, and wondering what he would be thinking and saying about what is happening in our world at this moment in history. My reflections reminded me of Dr. King's concept of "The Beloved Community," and I spent some time reading about what he meant by this phrase and philosophy.

I found that the term "The Beloved Community" was first coined by the founder of The Fellowship of Reconciliation, Josiah Royce. Dr. King was also a member of The Fellowship of Reconciliation and made The Beloved Community philosophy a cornerstone of his work and ministry. In this week of commemorating Dr. King's birth, I want to share an excerpt from the King Center website about "The Beloved Community" and ask all who read this to reflect on what it might mean to the entirety of our individual and communal lives...

"For Dr. King, The Beloved Community was not a lofty utopian goal to be confused with the rapturous image of the Peaceable Kingdom, in which lions and lambs coexist in idyllic harmony. Rather, The Beloved Community was for him a realistic, achievable goal that could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence.

Dr. King's Beloved Community is a global vision, in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth. In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict.

Dr. King's Beloved Community was not devoid of interpersonal, group or inter-national conflict. Instead he recognized that conflict was an inevitable part of human experience. But he believed that conflicts could be resolved peacefully and adversaries could be reconciled through a mutual, determined commitment to nonviolence. No conflict, he believed, need erupt in violence. And all conflicts in The Beloved Community should end with reconciliation of adversaries cooperating together in a spirit of friendship and goodwill."

## ***LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS...***

**The Rose window** lighting for January is given in loving memory of Mrs. William B. Smith by the United Methodist Women.

**The Tower** lighting for January is given in loving memory of my mother, Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

## ***WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...***

- ✠ Michael & Sandra McManus and family on the passing of Robert McManus on Monday, January 18th at Briarwood.
- ✠ Someone's mother-in-law who has fallen and hit her head. Pray for God's healing.
- ✠ Brian Manahan and Johnny Lee Cook, both who underwent surgery last week. Prayers for a speedy recovery for both of them.
- ✠ The family of Michael Goesch who died on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Michael was the son of William and the late Sadie Goesch.
- ✠ A couple who the Lord has blessed with 27 years of marriage, that they may have more years to come
- ✠ Pastor Shandi and Allison, as Pastor Shandi takes his leave to finish his dissertation

**The Tower Lighting for August** is available for dedication in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a loved one. The cost of the lighting is \$40. If you are interested in dedicating the tower light in August, please contact Debi in the office at 508-799-4191 ext 102. Thank you.

**LOST & FOUND:** There are many items that have been left behind or found within Wesley. The next time you are at the church, please stop by the Welcome Office and see if anything belongs to you. There are gloves and hats, gym bag with clothing and sneakers inside, books, toys and jewelry too. I'm sure someone is missing something!

Also, just a reminder, that we are no longer accepting clothing items to be given out at the Carty Cupboard. So please—do not bring in clothing or shoes to the church any longer. You may donate them to the Salvation Army, Savers, or Catholic Charities. We appreciate your cooperation.

*Continued from page 1...*

[See more at: <http://www.thekingcenter.org/king-philosophy#sub4>]

I invite you to dream some dreams of The Beloved Community, and I leave you with these questions for reflection:

Imagine a world where The Beloved Community was the norm. What would that world look like, feel like, be like? What would be the same as things are now? What would be different?

Where in your life do you long for The Beloved Community to dwell? Family? Work? School? Church? Community? Government and nations? Why do you long for this?

Are you willing to work/continue to work toward co-creating The Beloved Community in the places where your life intersects the lives of others? In the places where you can make a difference each day?

What are the realistic, achievable, and attainable goals that you can set for yourself to live toward co-creating The Beloved Community?

What role does your faith life and spiritual formation play in your efforts to co-create The Beloved Community?

What one thing will you do to live your life as an active witness to co-create The Beloved Community?

During the 9:30 a.m. Sunday School time and during coffee hour/breakfast on February 7<sup>th</sup>, I invite you to engage in a conversation with me and others about “The Beloved Community” ... and what actively living the concept and philosophy might mean for Wesley UMC, our neighbors, and all who call this place our church home.

*Blessings as we journey,*

*Lisa Fagerstrom*

*Director of Christian Formation and Discipleship*

---

**2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available in Brewer Hall. Please stop by and pick yours up the next time you are at church.

If you did not request offering envelopes and would like them, please let Lorna or Debi in the office know or sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Office. Thank you!

**PROGRAM ON REFUGEES IN WORCESTER...** Refugee families are coming into Worcester County seeking shelter and assistance; the need is great. What can we do to help? On Sunday, February 7, at 12 noon staff members from Ascentria will give us a presentation to inform us about this situation. A twenty-minute power-point presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Please note that this program will be open to members of other churches and places of worship. It is an interfaith program, as Interfaith Worcester is calling upon local churches to give assistance. The program will be held in East Hall. Brunch will be served. Please direct any questions to Margaret Watson.

**BUILDERS FOR COMMUNITY...** Our interfaith group will meet on Tuesday, February 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mary Ellis Lounge. If you are interested in joining this interfaith committee, please check with Lisa Fagerstrom. We plan interfaith programs, such as the one on refugees, and collaborated with the United Methodist Women on the program featuring the Muslim panel on Dec. 3. The moderator of this panel, Asima Silva, is a member of the Builders for Community. Rep. James McGovern saw the article in the Telegram and Gazette re: the panel and invited Ms. Silva to Washington D.C. as his guest to attend the State of the Union address by President Obama.

**PANEL AT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH...** The Unitarian Universalist Church members became aware of the panel that gave a presentation on Islam at Wesley and is planning to offer a program at their church featuring the Muslim panel. The event, called "Linking Communities: Building Love and Compassion in an Age of Mistrust," is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, from 7-9 p.m. All members of the public are invited. The UU Church is located at the corner of Holden Street and Lakeshore Drive in Worcester. Light refreshments will be served.

**MEET THE AUTHOR BOOK SIGNING...** Join Tom Ingrassia on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 1 PM in East Hall, as he discusses his new book--*Reflections Of A Love Supreme: Motown Through The Eyes Of Fans. Reflections* presents 140 never-before published photographs taken by fans from around the world that tell the story of the people, places and things that made Motown the music that inspired a generation in the 1960s. A noted Motown historian, Tom worked for Mary Wilson of The Supremes for many years and travels the country with his "Motown and The Civil Rights Movement" lecture program. He is host of "The Motown Jukebox" on WCUW 91.3FM every Tuesday morning from 9 am to noon. His first book, *One Door Closes: Overcoming Adversity By Following Your Dreams*, received a National Indie Excellence Award in 2014. Following his talk, Tom will sign copies of his book (\$25.00, cash or check only, please). Tom is donating 20% of all book sales at the event to Wesley.

## MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

### 2015 FINAL Budget Results and Highlights

<u>Profit and Loss Statement</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Budgeted Income	620,460	619,888	572 more than budget
Total Non-Budgeted Income	38,695	0	38,695
Total Income	659,155	619,888	39,267 more than budget
Total Budgeted Expense	638,942	646,844	7,902 less than budget
Total Non-Budgeted Expense	35,314	0	35,314
Total Expense	674,256	646,844	27,412 more than budget
Total Difference	-15,101	-26,956	11,855 less than budget

### Pledges & General

**Fund Results:** 329,964 324,378 5,586 more than budget

**Christmas Results:** 5,855 6,200 346 less than budget

### First Night Results:

Total Income 1,565 1,000 565 more than budget

Total Expense 994 0 994 more than budget

Profit 571 1,000 429 less than budget

**Mission Shares** 44,382 44,382 Paid in Full

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lorna Mattus-Merrill  
Church Business Administrator*

## ***CONGRATULATIONS to Stanley H. Gutridge***

Stanley received the **Martin Luther King Jr. Eleanor Hawley Community Service Award** at the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast held at Quinsigamond College on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Stanley was a founding and organizing member of the MLK Breakfast in Worcester. He also served on the Advisory Board of Association for Colored People which sought to ensure that minority students had access to education and thereby award educational scholarships to students in kindergarten through graduate school.

Stanley's commitment to education is also evident in his 42 years of service as a church school teacher at Wesley United Methodist Church to which Stanley and Natalie would bequest funds for an education fund to support the church school program of Wesley. Stanley served in many roles in the life of Wesley Church including as Church School Superintendent, program chair of the Methodist Men, chair of the Missions and Social Concerns committee, and treasurer of the Central District of the Methodist Church for eleven years.

Within the Worcester community, Stanley served on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, and the Worcester Area Museum. He was treasurer of the Worcester branch of the NAACP, and served as the director of the Association of Colored Peoples.

In the course of his social witness, Stanley has been recognized with the Layman of the Year award by Wesley, the Friends of Worcester NAACP Award, and the Higgins School of Humanity Community Service Award by Clark University. Stanley was also given a Mayoral Citation in 1999 in recognition of the United Nations International Year of the Older Person.

On March 9, 2016, Stanley will turn 99 years old, but he continues to serve his community through many of his writings and poetry which often underscores the importance of personal responsibility, human rights, and community. All of Stanley's social witness is fundamentally rooted in his Christian faith which highlights the love of God and the love of neighbor as its strong tenets.

Please join in congratulating Stanley Gutridge for his tremendous achievements and laudable witness in Worcester.

## CARTY CUPBOARD

We are in need of size 4, 5, and 6 diapers, deodorant, and shampoo at this time. Also to keep you all posted of what we need at Carty Cupboard Food Pantry I will post the needed items on the bulletin board in Brewer Hall under the Carty Cupboard heading and on the bulletin board outside of the cupboard.

*Thank You! Nancy Spencer*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is that time for our yearly **Safe Sanctuary Training for Children's Christian Education**. All volunteers need to be re-trained yearly (this includes childcare workers, helpers, greeters, chaperones, and teachers). Likewise, if you are interested in helping out with the children for any trips, for Sunday School, or other events, a quick Safe Sanctuary training is required. Please contact Jean Grant or Lisa Fagerstrom if you have questions. We offer two training dates coming up (you need only attend one):

**January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 12:00-12:45 p.m.** in Wagner Hall (3rd floor), after the 10:30 worship service

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30-10:15 a.m.** in Wagner Hall (3rd floor), during the coffee hour

If you are unable to attend either of these trainings, please contact Jean or Lisa and we can set up some time with you.

*Thank you very much! Jean Grant*

## MISSION MATTERS

**Wesley's IHN Week is Feb. 7 to 14...** The Mission Committee will be overseeing coverage for the Feb. 7 to 14 week, so please tell Betsy Pennino if you can volunteer (508-829-7131). The Supper Volunteers (5:30 to 7 pm) now can decide whether they wish to cook meals or not. Other choices are to be the Evening Volunteer (7 to 9 pm) or Overnight Volunteer (9 pm to 6:30 am). If you're interested in joining the IHN team, we could find an experienced volunteer for you to partner with at first. We also need donations of Hope for Housing cards for residents to buy food for meals and snacks during Wesley's IHN week.

**Spotlight on IHN...** The Greater Worcester Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) will celebrate 20 years in 2017. For 9 of those years, IHN's day center and offices were housed at Wesley, and over 34 Greater Worcester congregations hosted families overnight. Because of fire code regulations at the various churches, and because it would feel more homelike to have a stable location, IHN started the complicated process of finding and purchasing a home-- 91 June Street. The number of homeless families in our area is growing, and the June St. House increased housing capability from 4 to 6 families.

These are families with children, who have recently lost their homes, and may have also suffered recent job loss, parting with pets, divorce, the costly illness of a family member... As volunteers, our main role is to provide a supportive presence during these stressful months in the families' lives, from 5:30 pm (when the staff leaves) to 6:30 am.

**Community Suppers...** UMW is in charge of the Jan. 30th supper which will be baked lasagna, salad, bread & butter, beverage and dessert. The Youth Group has volunteered to do the Feb. 27th supper, and the D'Acri family will be in charge of March and May, so April, June, and the months following are available for your group to volunteer to lead a supper. Please speak with Lisa Fagerstrom or Betsy Pennino to sign up.

**Imagine No Malaria (INM) Campaign Results...** Our New England Conference donated \$840,000, close to the \$1 million goal. With the funds gathered nationwide, INM trained more than 11,000 volunteer care workers, and provided medical care through more than 300 Methodist hospitals and clinics. INM trained 13 health boards, serving in 16 African countries.

**Volunteering at Habitat for Humanity...** We're looking for a team of 12 to 15 Wesley folks to work on Habitat's new Homestead Ave., Auburn build site. We've long talked about doing this mission again, and have signed up for Saturday, April 23, 8 am to 4 pm, the last Saturday of the public school vacation week. Tasks at all levels of skill are available-- if you're not confident in using a nail gun, for example! Working for a half-day is possible, if another Wesley person can fill in for the other half-day. Please tell Betsy Pennino if you're 16 or older and would like to volunteer. Thank you.

**Gathering a Storm Team...** The 27 Community Suppers to date have all been blessed with OK weather, but what if a supper is scheduled for a day of snow and ice? The Church Council would like to have a team of volunteers who live near Wesley and would be able to get here safely during a winter storm. The goal would be to provide some basic warm food to those who show up for supper. If you could help in stormy weather, please tell Lisa Fagerstrom or Betsy Pennino.

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN AT WESLEY**

### **UMW Hosting Community Supper Jan. 30 4-6 p.m. Please Help!**

United Methodist Women at Wesley are the hosts for this month's community supper. Come feed our neighbors -- about 100 of them! Emily Smith needs helpers to prepare, serve and clean up a menu of baked lasagna, salad, and rolls with butter. Please call Allison Hansen at 508-853-5339 or email her at [AChis4788@aol.com](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com) to let her know how and when you can help. Donations of baked goods for dessert are also appreciated. Many thanks!

### **UMW Annual Meeting Thank You's...**

We want to thank everyone involved in making the United Methodist Women's annual meeting a success on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. To chief chef Dale Anderson and her Priscilla Circle team, to Debbie O'Driscoll for tolling the bell for those women we lost last year, to Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah for volunteering to take the minutes, and to Judith Barton and Sandra McManus who worked so hard to pull together a slate of officers. Thanks too to everyone who brought an umbrella for our "Umbrella defense" against human trafficking photo opportunity. Together we will be a force for good in 2016!

*Allison Hansen and Barb Ingrassia, Co-Presidents*

---

**VENERINI ACADEMY**, a private Catholic (PK-3 through Grade 8) elementary school, located at 27 Edward Street, Worcester, 01605, invites you to our winter Open House on Sunday, January 31st from 12:15-3:00 pm. Meet our parents, students, teachers and tour our campus. Please call the Admissions Office at 508-753-3210 x7310 for more information. Visit our website [www.veneriniacademy.com](http://www.veneriniacademy.com) or our Facebook page, Venerini Academy School.

## SHROVE TUESDAY

Please join us for a **Shrove Tuesday evening of preparation, celebration, fellowship, and devotions, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7:30 p.m.** Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of our Journey in the Dark Wood Lent series. We will prepare for Lent with activities such as making Lenten journals (adults and children), a brief interactive devotion for adults which includes prayers and discussion), crafts, bowling, and of course a delicious dinner of pancakes and the fixings. This event is sponsored by Sarah Circle and Christian Formation and Education.

**Did you know?** Shrove Tuesday occurs on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, officially ending the season of Epiphany and is the vigil for the starting of Lent. Shrove is derived from the word “shrive”, which means to confess and receive absolution, so traditionally this day has been marked as a day of repentance and final day of feasting before the Lenten season. It is both a day of spiritual preparation and celebration, allowing Christians to reflect and renew before entering Lent.

**Shrove Tuesday originated** during the Middle Ages. Foods such as meats, fats, eggs, milk, and fish were restricted during Lent. To prevent the food from wasting, families would have big feasts on Shrove Tuesday in order to consume those perishable items. The English tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use as much milk, fats, and eggs as possible before Ash Wednesday began. In France, the consumption of all fats and fatty foods on this day coined the name "Fat Tuesday" or *Mardi Gras*. In some traditions, this event was a three-day celebration, beginning on Sunday before Ash Wednesday. *Carnival* became associated with Shrove Tuesday, in part from the Spring Equinox celebrations that were practiced by the Romans and the ancient tribes of Europe. The word "carnival" comes from the Latin *carnem levare*, meaning "to take away the flesh".

**How is Shrove Tuesday marked in your home town or region?** Many cultures have adopted forms of doughnuts: German Fastnachts (Pennsylvania), Polish Paczki (seen here in MA), Portuguese malasadas (seen in New England), French Beignets (New Orleans), Italian castagnoles, and West African calas, originating in early 1700s cultures.

## ***LENTEN RETREAT —***

### **The Artful Journey of Grieving: Living and Loving in the Midst of Loss and Change with Retreat Leader Lisa Fagerstrom, Director of Christian Formation and Discipleship**

**Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-4:30 p.m.**

In an introduction to their workshop *Accepting Grief as a Lifelong Companion*, Joanne Turnbull and Claire Willis of Sage-ing International state: “We cannot choose whether or not we will grieve; nor can we choose when we will grieve. It is possible, however, to choose certain paths that support us as we develop the inner resilience that living with loss demands.” As humans, we may experience grief not only over the loss of a loved but also with a changing life experience at home, work, church, or in the world.

As we begin the reflective season of Lent, this retreat will invite us to consider the variety of losses and changes that we experience throughout our lives and to explore paths to healing and wholeness in the midst of grieving. Utilizing materials from Turnbull and Willis as well as other readings, exercises, and spiritual practices, this retreat will offer an afternoon “away” to reflect on times of grieving loss and change in our lives, how we grieve, and a path forward in our living, grieving, and healing.

The retreat will begin with a light lunch of soup, salad, and sandwiches followed by opening worship. There will be time for group discussion, personal reflection on materials and exercises, craft projects, and a closing circle for sharing experiences of the afternoon.

All are welcome to this day of fellowship and reflection! There will be sign-up sheets available beginning this Sunday (1/24). Please sign up on one of the sheets provided, or e-mail or call Lisa: [Lisa@wesleyworc.org](mailto:Lisa@wesleyworc.org) or 508-799-4191, ext. 106.

## THE SUPER BOWL, THE UMBRELLA DEFENSE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND UMW

Football fans of long standing may know the "Umbrella Defense."

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, United Methodist Women will be *Opening an Umbrella* to form a virtual line of defense around Levi's® Stadium, in Santa Clara, CA, to prevent and protect those who may be victimized by **human trafficking**."

While Human Trafficking is a 365 day/yr scourge, UMW units around the world seek to raise awareness of Human Trafficking annually around the Super Bowl. Very large gatherings, such as the Super Bowl, attract many travelers--and not all of them go there voluntarily.

"The Super Bowl ranks second only to Thanksgiving as the day on which Americans consume the most food, and some of those who are trafficked will be serving food in restaurants or at catered parties related to the Super Bowl. Others will clean hotel rooms, wash dishes, tidy nail salons, deliver dry cleaning, or wash windows. Some will be trafficked as sex workers for escort services or in "gentlemen's" clubs." <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/intercept>

To join a virtual line of defense around Levi's® Stadium, Wesley women in attendance at the UMW annual meeting on Sunday, January 17 gathered with opened umbrellas for a photo to proclaim WE ARE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OPENING UMBRELLAS TO INTERCEPT HUMAN TRAFFICKING. The photo of our umbrellas will be connected to others, and we will become part of UMW's ***Umbrella Line of Defense*** around the stadium.

Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery. As many as 30 million people internationally have fallen victim to human trafficking, and the epidemic has become the second largest criminal activity behind the sale of illegal arms.

*Submitted by,  
Barbara Ingrassia*

## John in Ultra-High Context: John 18:1-27

{notes from the Brewer Hall Study Group, January 3—17, 2016}

+++++

John 18:1-19:40 marks off a literary unit that interweaves the formal elements of a Roman trial and the Hellenistic consecration of a king. This unit is marked off by mention of a garden at the outset (18:1) and at the conclusion (19:41).

### Arrest (18:1-11)

{The scene of Jesus' arrest is the garden across the Kidron valley from his final gathering with the disciples in Jerusalem.}

(vv. 1-3) The location of the impending arrest and the cast of characters evokes images of the sheepfold and the good shepherd (10:11). The cast of characters includes Jesus and his disciples, Judas with a band of soldiers, and some officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, whose orders Judas follows (11:57), rather than remaining loyal to Jesus and the group.

(vv. 4-9) From the point of view of those following the orders of the chief priests and Pharisees, the arrest scene simply describes Jesus being taken into custody. But from the view of his disciples, Jesus remains in charge at all times in his arrest, as would be expected by a person of honor, rather than controlled by others.

"Knowing all that was to befall him", he evokes the good shepherd image as he "came forward" (v. 4) ("he goes before them"; 10:4), *initiates* the exchange *twice* (vv. 4-5, 7-8): "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth.", and identifies himself twice with God's name, "**I am** he." Jesus' restrained power is inferred by the soldiers, as "they drew back and fell to the ground." (v. 6). Then he commands his opponents to "let these men go" (v. 8), fulfilling the scripture that he "lost not one" of those that God had given him to protect, except "the son of perdition" (17:12; Ps 41:9).

(vv. 10-11) Peter's attempt to have Jesus escape (v. 10) is rebuked by Jesus' willingness to please the Father ("shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"; v. 11).

### Before the High Priest & Peter's Disloyalty (18:12-27)

{Verses 12-18 link the scene of Jesus' arrest to the scene of the confrontation with Annas (beginning in v.19), the former high priest (6-15 AD; appointed by the Roman legate [Quirinius](#) as the first [High Priest](#) of the newly formed Roman province of [Judea](#) in 6 AD). This linkage is via "the band from the chief priests and the attendants from the Pharisees" (literal translation) brought to the garden by Judas Iscariot (v. 3). The Greek word for "soldiers" (*otratíōtai*, as in 19:2) does not appear in either vv. 3 or 12 but is added to the English translation only because the inclusion of the term *chiliarchos* (a commander of 1000 men; RSV "captain", NRSV "officer") in v. 12 implies such.

However, translating *upêrétai tōn 'Ioudaion* (lit., “attendants of the Judeans”) as “the Jewish police” (NRSV) is totally anachronistic. From a religious point of view, the adjective “Jewish” applies only to traditions compiled in the Babylonian Talmud of the sixth century AD, and there were no “police” in antiquity as the term is used in the modern sense. The temple military existed to serve the needs of God as interpreted by the high priest.}

(vv. 12-14) The band and the attendants bind Jesus to take him first to Annas, who was also the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the current high priest. [Following the raising of Lazarus, the chief priests and Pharisees had met and reasoned that if they let Jesus continue his miracles, “everyone will **believe into** him” and the Romans would destroy both the temple and the nation. As high priest, Caiaphas then concluded that it would be “expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish” (11:48-51) and so had given the order for Jesus’ arrest (11:57).]

{Verses 15-18 and 25-27 focus on Peter’s situation as he waits in the courtyard of the high priest for word about Jesus’ interrogation.}

(vv. 15-18) Simon Peter and “another disciple” followed. The other disciple “was known to the high priest” and was therefore allowed to enter the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. [This “other disciple” is later identified as the disciple whom Jesus loved (20:2). This could be Lazarus, a member of the Judean elite living in the Jerusalem suburb of Bethany (11:1-3).]

Then the “other disciple” spoke to the portress and brought in Peter. This portress maidservant said to Peter, “Are not you also one of this man’s disciples?” He said, “I am not”. [This is the first of Peter’s three “I am not” statements of non-identity, ironically correlating with Jesus’ three “I am” statements of identity at the time of his arrest (vv 5, 6, and 8).] To “the world” (Judean society), by each of his disavowals, Peter reveals himself to be without honor, denying his relationship to Jesus even to such a low-status person like a maid. To Jesus and the disciples, to whom he had given his loyalty, he stands as an outsider with Jesus’ opponents (servants and officers), warming himself from the cold at their fire.

(vv. 19-21) Annas opens the interrogation of Jesus by asking about his disciples and his teaching, presumably to follow with questions about the way of life being taught. Jesus realizes that the motive underlying the question has political overtones, i.e., did Jesus teach openly or in secret? Jesus’ response addresses the motive, i.e., he has spoken and taught openly to “the world” (i.e. Judean society), in formal gatherings, in the temple, and wherever Judeans come together. Why ask him? Ask the witnesses.

(vv. 22-24) Jesus’ last rhetorical question is taken by one of the temple military officers as an insult to Annas, and is obliged to defend the priest’s honor by striking Jesus in the face. Striking someone in the face is an insult and a serious dishonor. The officer then further challenges Jesus honor with a demeaning question {that one might ask of a child}.

Jesus' riposte to the officer is unanswered – the silence indicating the loss of honor by the officer and the gain of honor by Jesus in the interaction.

Jesus, still bound, is carried off to Caiaphas, the current high priest.

(vv. 25-27) Concurrently with the exchange inside the court of the high priest, Peter continues to stand by the fire in the cold. He denies a second time being one of Jesus' disciples ("I am not"), and a third time, this to an eyewitness in the garden, a relative of Malchus, whom Peter had de-eared. The cock crows, and the narrator recalls Jesus' words to Peter the prior evening. Peter's disloyalty is now complete.

To the dominant society, Peter's disloyalty simply showed that Jesus was a poor judge of character, whose disloyalty reflect on the rest of the disciples. But to those who **believe into** Jesus, the account confirmed Jesus' full knowledge of what was happening to him and his expectations of Peter.

Marshall, A. *The R.S.V. interlinear Greek – English New Testament. The Nestle Greek Text with a literal English Translation.* London: Samuel Bagster and Sons Ltd., 1958.

Malina BJ, Rohrbaugh RL. *Social-Science Commentary on the Gospel of John.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998. pp. 44-46, 249-254.

*Annas.* Wikipedia, 27 December 2015.

---

## ONECALL FOR WESLEY CHURCH...

This warm weather won't last much longer. Let's face it, we live in New England and we will get snow! So get a jump start and put your name on the OneCall list. Be one of the lucky ones and receive a phone call to find out if choir has been cancelled, or a meeting has been rescheduled, or even if worship has been cancelled. OneCall is not only for storms and closings, it's for those unexpected cancellations or change of location of a meeting or even a reminder of a special event at Wesley — we will be able to do any of this and more over the phone.

If you would like to sign up for this, please email me ([office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)), call me in the office, or sign up in the Welcome Office on Sunday when you're here for church. I will need your name, home phone number and one cell phone number for each family. This is just another way for us to help keep you informed of what is going on at your church.

If you signed up last year, you are still on the list and there is no need to do anything, unless you have changed/removed a phone number.

*Thank you, Debi Ritacco*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Christian hymnody contains abundant references to rivers and streams such as the text “Shall we gather at the river” sung by the Wesley Choir this past Sunday. There are many references to rivers in the Bible from the four rivers which watered the Garden of Eden described in the opening chapters of Genesis to the “river of the water of life” in the heavenly New Jerusalem described in the last chapter of Revelation. Throughout the Bible symbolic references to rivers draw upon this imagery of a paradisaical and/or heavenly river as a symbol of God’s presence and a source of life. In the Bible the water of rivers and streams becomes “living water”—always in motion.

The most prominent geographic river in the Bible is the Jordan River, which serves as a physical boundary of the Promised Land; throughout the Bible it is mentioned in stories of various battles as it served as a boundary between nations. Many Biblical events of note occurred at the Jordan—Elijah was carried into heaven and Elisha was commissioned after they had crossed the Jordan together; the Syrian king Naaman was cured of leprosy after washing in the waters of the Jordan; and Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Rivers in the Bible serve not only as literal physical boundaries and geographic points of reference, but also as spiritual boundaries. Many other significant encounters with the divine as documented in the Bible occur at or near rivers. In the book of Genesis, Jacob wrestles all night long with an angel before he receives God’s blessing and a new name as he prepares to cross a river to re-enter Canaan. The prophets Ezekiel and Daniel both receive visions near rivers in Babylon.

The *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (IVP, 1998) summarizes the prominent role of rivers and streams in the Bible in the following way:

“On a physical plane references to them keep us situated in a real world where water brings life and sustenance and its absence threatens existence. On a symbolic level, streams picture the deepest theological realities....even human beings may be conduits of life when out of their ‘heart shall flow rivers of living water’ (Jn 7:38, NRSV)”

*Submitted by,  
Deborah A. O’Driscoll*

## 2016 HERALD SCHEDULE

Below are the next Herald mailing dates along with the deadline dates.

<u>Article Deadline Date</u>	<u>Herald Mailing Date</u>
Mon., Feb. 1	Wed., Feb. 3
Tues., Feb. 16	Thurs., Feb. 18

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:

**office@wesleyworc.org**

**2016 ALTAR FLOWER** calendar is now available in the Welcome Office. If you would like to donate flowers on a particular Sunday in honor, celebration or in memory of a loved one or friend, stop by the office and reserve the date. You can reserve the chapel or the sanctuary. After church you are welcome to take the flowers home to enjoy or you may leave them to be delivered to a shut-in. The cost for the two arrangements in either the chapel or sanctuary is \$50. Please be sure to complete a form with the dedication and return it to Debi with the payment as soon as you are able.



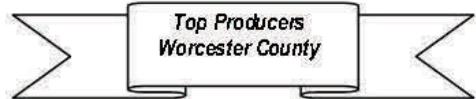
**United Methodist  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

Providing full-service financial products  
and services to United Methodists

New England Branch  
207-591-6449

**www.umfcu.org**

California Headquarters  
toll-free 800-245-0433



**Gibbs**  
REALTY INC.  
*A Smart Move*



Jeffrey Gibbs  
Broker/REALTOR®



Christy Gibbs  
REALTOR®

*Your Wesley Family REALTORS®  
Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County*

**GibbsRealtyInc.com • 508-886-6100**



## WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Shandirai Mawokomatanda
Director of Music Ministries	Brett Maguire
Ghanaian Choir Master	Kwaku Dankwa
Music Assistant	Deborah O'Driscoll
Director of Children's Christian Education	Jean Grant
Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship	Lisa Fagerstrom
Toddler Care Leader	Lori Conlon
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson
Business Administrator	Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Secretary	Debi Ritacco
Custodians	Carol Flionis, Gerard Piscitelli, Steve Boyns
Head Usher	David Dagle
Administrative Council	Ron Ramsay
Board of Trustees	Annelle Benson
Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
Communion Steward	Earl Flagg
Education Work Area	Chris Flagg
Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	Michael Edmunds William Wong
Ghanaian Association	Emmanuel Okrah
Hospitality Team	Paul Arsenaunt Vivian Assie
Layleader	Deborah O'Driscoll
Medical Ministry	Ron Ramsay
Memorial Gifts	Carolyn Bellil
Mission Coordinator	Betsy Pennino
Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Mark Muncey Gifty Bentum-Asante
Youth Directors	Pastor Shandi & Lisa Fagerstrom
United Methodist Women Co-Chairs	Barbara Ingrassia Allison Hansen

***DON'T MISS OUT...  
READ THE HERALD TODAY!***

**WESLEY HERALD**  
**JANUARY 21, 2016**

**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
**114 Main Street**  
**Worcester, Massachusetts 01608**

**Church Phone: 508-799-4191**  
**Fax: 508-799-3725**  
**E-Mail: [office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)**  
**Web page: [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)**

