

**The Great Turning**

"If the world is to be healed through human efforts, I am convinced it will be by ordinary people, people whose love for this life is even greater than their fear."

~ Joanna Macy

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building."

~ 1 Corinthians 3:9, NKJV

In December, I attended a renewal retreat where I was introduced to the work and writings of Joanna Macy and her concept of "The Great Turning" in our world and lives.

Macy describes The Great Turning as "a global awakening to: the dis-ease of our planet; our love of life; and, the revolution that can heal our world."

I have been struck by the power of this idea to describe the opportunity for change; for rebirth and renewal; for repentance and redemption at any moment in our lives. Surely, it is a vital idea for the place that we find ourselves in our church, our country, and our world at the present time. However, it also seems an idea and concept that is timeless. Are we not always in a place where something in our life, our communities, our country, our world could use a good/great turning?

What if we were to consistently live as people of "The Great Turning"... people who are eagerly expecting and anticipating God's call to be co-workers/co-creators of God's realm here on this earthly plane? What if we were to intentionally live as people of and in the moment... as well as people who have learned from the past and are eager to embrace the future?

Where is your soul yearning for...our church community longing for... our neighbors hoping for... our country crying for... our world needing "The Great Turning" in our thoughts and actions? How is God's Spirit at work in all of this? What do we need to do to be open to the Spirit's leading and the invitation to discern and act on that leading in our lives—individually and collectively?

Interested in the idea... the concept... the possibility? Let's talk... and, act!

*Blessings on the journey (with turnings great and small),*

*Lisa Fagerstrom*

*Director of Christian Formation and Discipleship*

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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

**The altar flowers** on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> were given in loving memory of Brad Gibbs from his family.

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✝ Sharon Webb who continues to recover from knee replacement surgery
- ✝ Ann Gorman hospitalized in Florida with a heart condition.
- ✝ A successful graduate school interview at WPI for Mike this week, and a good final undergrad semester at Clark for the both of us.
- ✝ Our family to find love and peace and understand each other in Jesus' name.
- ✝ Maude Meier who is recovering from kidney transplant.
- ✝ Eleanor Assie who celebrated her birthday on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Asking for God's guidance and protection.
- ✝ Phil Neiman and his wife Ruth as he recovers from a severe car accident on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and has suffered a severe concussion.

*Thank you! Thank You!! THANK YOU!!!*

To those who came to Diane's service to comfort and support our family—Thank You! It meant so much to us. To those who always ensured she received flowers at the holidays—Thank You! She so enjoyed flowers. Sincerely, Linda Cobbol (Diane's sister)

*The family of John Hansen is very appreciative for all your support through a difficult time. Thanks for all the visits, cards and good thoughts to help John into eternal life.*

**Thank you** to all who have served as READERS at the 8:30 and 10:30 services in 2017. This simple act of generosity enhances the worship experience for all of us. Thank you.

We invite others in the congregation to participate as READERS as well. For more information, please contact one of us.

*Gifty Bentum-Asante*

*Linda D'Acri*

*Barb Ingrassia*

**ALTAR FLOWERS...** Beautiful floral arrangements on the altar during Sunday worship is a special gift we offer to God as part of our praise and worship. The arrangements are usually dedicated in celebration of or in memory of a loved one. By your choice, you may take the flowers home to enjoy or you may request the flowers be delivered to a shut-in or member/friend in the hospital. If you are unable to join us in church, arrangements can be made for the flowers to be delivered to you at home after the service.

A calendar of available dates and order forms are available in the Welcome Office. The cost for altar flowers is \$60. If you are not able to come to church but would like to dedicate flowers, please call Debi in the office (508-799-4191).

*Thank you, Debi Ritacco*

## **MISSION MATTERS**

### **WESLEY'S IHN WEEK IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 THROUGH SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10...**

Please sign up with Mercy Peacock if you are able to do the evening shift (5:30 to 8:30 pm) or the overnight (8:30 pm to 6:30 am). Or you could sign up on the Mission Spotlight Bulletin Board chart. Each evening volunteer can now choose whether to provide dinner or not. Residents would appreciate our cooking 2 or 3 dinners (or providing takeout), if you're up for that. The other meals and kitchen staples during our week will be paid for by the Mission Committee, using (Big Y) Hope for Housing cards. Your donating Big Y cards (to Mercy or Betsy) would save money to give elsewhere.

### **FOR 2018, DATES OF COMMUNITY SUPPERS**

*Community Suppers in 2018* are all on last Saturdays of the months, except for March 31<sup>st</sup> which is the night of the Easter Vigil. There will be the Easter Community breakfast the next morning. The March supper will be on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to groups who have volunteered to lead suppers through May! Please tell Betsy Pennino if you could take charge of a supper in June through October.

**2017 Community Suppers served 1,340 meals.** The Conference asks Lorna to report total meals served, not the number attending. Fortunately, Linda D'Acri has taught us the strategy of counting plates and take home containers beforehand.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In light of our conversations about envisioning our future, I have been thinking a lot. As I was thinking about this, I was reminded that we have so many people who do things quietly and faithfully behind the scenes to make our ministries possible. It is often when these people feel called to stop serving in their various capacities that we begin to feel the weight of the work they do. And so, I thought that, perhaps, in this article, I would share with you a little bit about some of the work that goes into preparing for a meaningful worship experience, as an example.

- ✧ Worship planning
- ✧ Preaching/sermon preparation
- ✧ Music and Choirs preparation
- ✧ Connecting Worship to Formation (e.g. The Journey)
- ✧ Connecting Worship to Sunday School
- ✧ Altar preparations (changing paraments, refilling altar candles, etc.)
- ✧ Coordinating altar flower purchase and flower delivery to shut-ins
- ✧ Sanctuary preparation (e.g. cleaning, restocking prayer cards, making sure heat is on, etc)
- ✧ Worship center creations (including special seasonal decorations)
- ✧ Coordinating and preparing Ushers for their work
- ✧ Communion preparations and set-up
- ✧ Coordinating & preparing communion servers
- ✧ Coordinating & preparing Readers
- ✧ Coordinating & preparing Acolytes
- ✧ Coordinating Offering counters
- ✧ Sound system management
- ✧ Printing worship bulletins
- ✧ Attending to hospitality (making sure someone connects with guests)
- ✧ Attending worship services

I will apologize from the onset because I know that this list is not exhaustive. It is only intended to give you an idea of what all goes into making your worship experience meaningful. If you are one of those people who makes worship possible. Thank you! And may God bless you for the ministry that you offer.

*Yours in faith,  
Pastor Shandi*

## Christian Formation and Discipleship...

*"...We may need to remind ourselves of this obvious fact: not everyone is called to leave the boats and nets, to leave family and place. The vast majority of us are called to stay where we are as we serve God." ~ Melissa Bane Sevier*



Jonah 3:1-5,10 † Mark 1:14-20

### Questions for Reflection—

- When in your life have you heard God's call to discipleship? When have you felt as if you were/are not hearing a call to discipleship in your life? How was/is it with your soul in both of those times?
  
- How have you experienced God's call in and on your life? Have you felt a call to leave the place where you were born and raised—to leave family and place—and serve God? Has your call been more to stay and serve where you are? What does being called mean to you?
  
- If you believe that God calls us all as people who follow the life and teachings of Jesus, what are you doing/are you willing to do to hear that call...to be open to that call...to follow that call on your life? What keeps you/will keep you from fully hearing and answering God's call on your life? What difference will it make in your life and the world if you more/most fully answer God's call to discipleship?

### Daily Household Prayer

Gracious and loving God, when the buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears, call us into your way of life. When the complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision, lead us into your vision of life. Give attention to our ears—and our very spirits— so that, when the cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts, we may be guided to follow your example of living for others. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

## REGISTER NOW FOR FINANCIAL PEACE U STARTING MARCH 4, 2018!

It's not too late to start thinking about your New Year's Resolution. If one of them is to get better control of your personal finances, why not consider taking FPU? Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 9-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make Biblical based money decisions to help you achieve your financial goals. We'll walk you through the basics of **budgeting, dumping debt, planning for retirement and college tuition, understanding all kinds of insurance, and much more.**

It is not just for those who are in debt but offers more.

Create a plan that gives you freedom.

Know your kids are taken care of.

Be free to give like you've always wanted.

For more information or to sign up for the program, contact Bill Wong by email at [bill922@gmail.com](mailto:bill922@gmail.com) or (508) 320-5620. Classes begin March 4, 2018 at 6:00pm in John Wesley Room, for 1.5 to 2 hours each time. Through a special grant, FPU now only costs \$50 (a \$159 savings) per family for Wesley Church attendees in which the book "Total Money Makeover," workbook, audio CDs, and starter envelope system are provided. Also for new signups, the lessons will be available online for 1 year as well as access to the Every Dollar Plus (valued at \$100), one of the best budgeting apps out there. You can even attend all 9 weeks for free by just listening in class, taking notes, and participating in the group discussion (no materials provided).

For more information about Dave Ramsey and FPU, visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com) and look for Financial Peace University under classes or enter the following link, <https://fpu.com/1058834>.

### *Spend a Day at NDA!*

Notre Dame Academy is inviting all current sixth grade, seventh grade and transfer students to spend an academic day at NDA through May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested, please contact the office of Admissions at 508-757-6200, ext. 229 or email [admissions@nda-worc.org](mailto:admissions@nda-worc.org). NDA is the only Catholic private and independent college preparatory school for young women in grades 7-12 in Central Massachusetts. Please visit our website at [www.nda-worc.org](http://www.nda-worc.org) to learn more about the NDA experience!

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

**January is HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH.** While trafficking of humans is a daily scourge, it is especially likely to take place around large gatherings, e.g. conventions and sporting events. Because the Super Bowl commands so much attention, the UMW takes this opportunity to draw awareness to this exploitation through its annual INTERCEPT HUMAN TRAFFICKING campaign. This year's football-related theme is **STAND IN THE RED ZONE.**

In football, the area between the 20-yard line and the goal of the defensive team is known as the Red Zone. When a team on offense has the ball in the **Red Zone**, that team is often about to score; *fans take notice and pay close attention to what is happening on the field.*

In the fight to end human trafficking, United Methodist Women is in the **Red Zone**, poised to score points that Intercept Human Trafficking.

The National Football League created a television network called the NFL Red Zone to report on "every touchdown and field goal scored" and the strong offensive drives. United Methodist Women is keeping our own stats: We are counting new beds for women in need, new funding for services and increased prosecutions. We are making offensive plays to Intercept the Traffickers. Our efforts have put us in a **Red Zone**, where we are applying our skills of advocacy to weaken those who prey on the vulnerable.

**ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, LET'S WEAR RED** to show we want to protect those who are vulnerable and want to prosecute those who commit the crime of human trafficking. **Stand in a Red Zone** to celebrate the potential, courage and heart of trafficking survivors. **Stand in the Red Zone** so that all who have been victimized by trafficking see the **United Methodist Women's Red Zone**—for we will be with them from trauma to victory. SOURCE: **Stand in the Red Zone!** <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/intercept>

*Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Right now we are in the midst of a portion of the liturgical year known as Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time actually consists of two segments of the liturgical year—the two blocks of weeks outside the main liturgical cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. In some denominations these weeks are referred to by terms such as “time after Epiphany” and “time after Pentecost.” Did you ever wonder what it means to call these seasons “Ordinary Time”? It actually has nothing to do with our sense of the ordinary as everyday, commonplace, uneventful or boring. What it does reflect is that in the original lectionary system these Sundays were designated by ordinal numbers (meaning “counted”) e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, and so Ordinary Time is literally “counted time”.

The first period of Ordinary Time begins on Epiphany Day (January 6) and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday; the second begins on the Monday after Pentecost and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. Combined, these two periods are the longest time in the liturgical year, totaling of 34 weeks, and thus encompassing more than half of the liturgical year. While the total is the same, the length of each of the two periods is variable due to the variability of the date of Easter. For example this year the first portion of Ordinary Time is relatively short, comprising 6 Sundays, since Ash Wednesday (which can fall anywhere from February 4 to March 10) is on February 14.

The two periods of Ordinary Time during the liturgical year are not Winter Break and Summer Vacation for the worship life of the church or for our individual spiritual journeys. During these weeks we must be particularly aware of the work of God in our midst, for the liturgical year exists in part to remind us that Christ sanctifies all of time. As Wendy Wright writes in her book *The Time Between: Cycles and Rhythms in Ordinary Time*:

“The cycles and seasons in which we are engaged during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time are both outward and inward. We participate in the ever-changing, cyclical patterns of the natural seasons...Similarly, we respond to the rhythms of our lives in faith. Interiorly, we grow and change, for as spiritual beings we are not static...To move in response to the Spirit’s prompting is both to realize our innate potential and to be teased into something greater than what is possible in our own little lives. During this lengthy season of the church year we are thus invited to become attentive to the call of discipleship both outer and inner. What are we called to do? What work? With whom? Where? But also: What are we called to be?”

Please continue to be among us for worship and for the life and work of the church during this Ordinary Time and throughout the remainder of the liturgical year, as we seek to answer these questions for our own individual lives as well as for the congregation of Wesley United Methodist Church.

*Submitted by Deborah O’Driscoll*

## 2018 HERALD SCHEDULE

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

<b>Article Deadline Date</b>	<b>Herald Mailing Date</b>
Mon., Jan. 29	Wed., Feb. 7
Mon., Feb. 12	Wed., Feb. 21

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

**office@wesleyworc.org**

## ALTAR FLOWERS

On Sundays altar flowers are available for donation in honor, celebration or in memory of a loved one or friend. Stop by the office and reserve the date in the Altar Flower book. 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 or member/friend in the hospital or in rehab. The cost for the two arrangements in either the chapel or sanctuary is \$60. Please be sure to complete a form with the dedication and return it to Debi with the payment as soon as you are able.



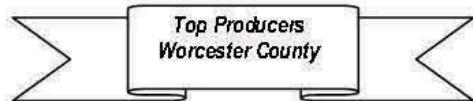
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**WESLEY HERALD**  
**JANUARY 24, 2018**

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

**WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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- Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship Lisa Fagerstrom
- Director of Music Ministries Brett Maguire
- Director of Children's Music Nan Gibbons
- Music Assistant & Layleader Deborah O'Driscoll
- Building Superintendent Tim Murphy
- Business Administrator Lorna Mattus-Merrill
- Church Secretary Debi Ritacco
- Custodians April Dylewicz  
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