

## REJOICING IN OUR DIFFERENT TRADITIONS

Believe it or not, the Lenten season is just around the corner. Hard to believe as some of us still may have our Christmas lights up or Nativity sets on display (I know my wreath is still hanging on my door!). February 10<sup>th</sup> marks the first day of Lent, and on the 9<sup>th</sup> we have the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Planning this supper got me thinking about traditions. For example, why pancakes? (See my article within this Herald for that answer.)

Each holiday season comes with a variety of traditions: spiritual/faith, family, cultural, and regional/geographical to name a few. Many of us approach Lent as a season of soul-searching, spiritual growth, reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter. What will *your* Lent look like?

As a parent, I approach each new holiday season with the question of: what do I want our family's tradition to be? Do I carry on a tradition I grew up with, do I add a new one, or do I merge them? As I've grown in my own spiritual journey, I also take into account what I've learned in my faith.

The Wesley family is diverse and rich in varying traditions—look at the flags we have hanging in Brewer Hall! During this Lenten season, I encourage you to reach out to another member (or two...) at Wesley and share your traditions over a cup of coffee or at the monthly breakfast, during Bible Studies, small groups, or meetings and events (There are many opportunities for study, reflection, and fellowship during Lent, by the way!).

Over the past year, I have enjoyed chatting with the youngest members of our church to discern what some of their family traditions are. Kids are a wealth of knowledge, observations, humor, and honesty. In the spirit of the persistent question of a three year-old, "Why?" (And oh, how they do exhaust you with their whys!), I encourage us to ask our own "Whys." And, add to that the "Whats," "Whos," "Hows." Why do we have a pancake supper? Why do people "give something up" during Lent? Why do we decorate the sanctuary with lilies and tulips? How do you journey through Lent? Who do you celebrate Easter with? What foods and traditions does your family incorporate into their Lent and Easter? Why do we sing Handel's Messiah on Easter (I encourage you to look that one up – I found the answer!)?

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

**The Tower** lighting for February is given in loving memory of Lois and Bill Bird and Paul Carlson given by Charlie Bird and his son, Timmy.

The altar flowers on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> are given with thanks be to Jesus who shed His blood to earn my relationship with God Almighty from Gladys Poky and family.

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

- ✠ Continued prayers for John Hansen, recovering after surgery
- ✠ The Aidoo family thank God for the blessing of another grandson; Jasper Kwaku Bart-Appiah.
- ✠ For someone asking for healing for themselves and for their mother
- ✠ Daniel Kwakye and family for good health and prosperity
- ✠ For Kendra O-Tetteh as she discerns her choice of college
- ✠ For Bob K., a familiar guest of our community suppers, as he recovers from knee surgery and undergoes further testing
- ✠ For a church member beginning treatment for lung cancer
- ✠ For Pastor Warren Hicks of Worcester Fellowship who is recovering from successful hip surgery
- ✠ For all the children and youth of Wesley Church who are seeking their way in the world as people of faith

**FOR SALE:** Wheelchair available, \$100.00, proceeds will go to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry... please see Dot Ellis if interested.

## **THE WORCESTER CHORISTERS ARE COMING TOGETHER AGAIN!**

In what is becoming an annual event, The Wesley Choir is hard at work preparing for a combined choral event with several other area church choirs. In addition to singing shared movements from John Rutter's beautiful Requiem, each choir will perform individually as well. Come hear the sound of many voices singing together, accompanied by organ, piano, harp, and cello.

**Venue:** All Saints Episcopal Church, 10 Irving St, Worcester, MA 01609

**Date & Time of Concert:** Sunday, February 28, 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

**Free** (snow date: March 13)

*Continued from page 1...*

I am eager to find out what you learn during this journey! Now if only this gal, raised in German-influenced Pennsylvania, could find a fasnacht donut around here for Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup>!

I look forward to seeing you at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6-7:30 p.m.. Come with an open spirit, appetite, and eagerness to share your traditions with others!

*- Jean Grant, Dir. of Children's Christian Ed.*

---

**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!

**DORCAS CIRCLE AND ANY INTERESTED WOMEN...** Dorcas Circle will meet for our lunch out on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Our restaurant of choice this year is Val's in Holden. Please bring two or three valentines appropriate for our shut-ins. We would love to have some new faces. If you think you might be interested in checking out Dorcas Circle, please join us. If you have any questions and to make reservations, please call me at 508-963-2920. Hope to see you there!

*~ Emily Smith*

**PRESENTATION ON NEEDS OF REFUGEES:** On Sunday, February 7, at 12 noon a presentation will be given in East Hall regarding the needs of refugees who have recently moved into the Worcester area. The program will be given by Beth Singley and Lisa Brennan, staff members of Ascentria Care Alliance, formerly Lutheran Services.. A power-point presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer period. The meeting will be held in East Hall, and should last about one hour. Members from other churches and the Islamic mosque have also been invited. Light refreshments will be served.

**MUSLIM PANEL AT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH:** The Unitarian Universalist Church is hosting a panel on Islam on Tuesday, February 16 from 7-9 p.m. The presentation is called "Linking Communities: Building Love and Compassion in an Age of Mistrust." The church is located at the corner of Holden Street and Lakeshore Drive in Worcester. Light refreshments will be served.

**ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE:** Worcester's annual Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held at Assumption College on Friday, February 12, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on campus. Because of the tremendous challenges facing many refugees, donations will be accepted to support the work of the Ascentria Care Alliance who assist refugees settling in the Worcester area. Prior to the prayer service, a social reception will be held at 6 p.m. in the Luring Community Room of the Tinsley Campus Ministry Center. All are invited to the reception and are asked to bring personal care items to assist the refugees who are among our newest neighbors in Worcester: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and toilet paper.

**BUILDERS FOR COMMUNITY:** The Builders for Community which supports the Worcester Interfaith efforts is looking for new members. We meet once a month and have done the planning for the invitation to the Islamic mosque at Ramadan, the Muslim panel presentation at Wesley in December, and the program on needs of refugees to be given on Feb. 7. If you are interested in joining this group for ideas and planning purposes, please contact Margaret Watson or Lisa Fagerstrom.

**DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM BOOK CLUB:** The Daughters of Abraham Book Club continues to grow in both membership and enthusiasm! The book club is open to women of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish faiths. We will meet next at the YWCA in Worcester (next to the Worcester Public Library) on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. The book we will discuss that evening is "The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions" by Huston Smith, chapters 6, 7, and 8 (Islam, Judaism, Christianity, respectively). You may bring some refreshments for all to share. For further information, please contact Lisa Fagerstrom.

**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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**VBS!** Vacation Bible School for this summer will be July 11-15, from 5 – 8 p.m.— beginning with dinner. We're looking forward to another great week of VBS at Wesley! Be on the lookout for registration forms for this exciting and rewarding event!

**Children's Choir: Children will be singing in church on February 7<sup>th</sup> during children's time. There will be no practice following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on February 7<sup>th</sup>.**

*Thank you very much! Jean Grant*

## MISSION MATTERS

**WESLEY'S IHN WEEK STARTS ON SUNDAY, FEB. 7<sup>TH</sup>...** The Mission Committee will be overseeing coverage for the Feb. 7 to 13 week, so please tell Betsy Pennino if you can volunteer (508-829-7131). Here are the shifts we still need filled:

- 4 Overnight Volunteers (9 pm to 6:30 am) for Sunday 2/7, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
- 2 Dinner Volunteers (5:30 to 7 pm) for Thursday, Friday-- making dinner no longer necessary

(Starting on Sunday at the end of the Super Bowl, later than 9pm, is an option.) 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/snacks during Wesley's IHN week.

**Community Suppers...** The Youth Group has volunteered to do the Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

## 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.** This year at Wesley, Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of our journey in the “Gifts of the Dark Wood” Lenten worship 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.

**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. Traditionally this day has been marked as a day of repentance and final day of feasting before the Lenten season begins. Thus, Shrove Tuesday 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.

**All are welcome to this Shrove Tuesday celebration and time of reflection** sponsored by Sarah Circle and Christian Formation and Education.

## Join us for One-Day MISSION U

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016**  
**9 AM-3 PM**

Hosted by United Methodist Women  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
114 Main St. Worcester, MA 01608

### **Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God**

The early Methodist tradition used the language of happiness often. Not only did John Wesley preach and teach about happiness but his brother Charles wrote hymns about happiness that the early Methodists sang. The happiness they sought was happiness in God. This study examines the understanding of happiness and how to live the life that God calls us to.

**What is Happiness?** It's a subject of conversation all around us. We say we want to "be happy," but what does that *mean* for each of us? Is it selfish to want to be happy? How can I be happy in God?

We welcome ARLENE MACKIE as our leader and facilitator to explore happiness as John Wesley taught. Arlene has been active in UMW for many years; she has served as President of the NEC UMW. She was a leader/facilitator for this study at Mission U 2015.

**9:00-9:30 Registration and light breakfast**  
**Program—including Worship, Fellowship and Luncheon**  
**Childcare available.**

*Questions? Contact: Barbara Ingrassia at 508-829-6359*

Registration: \$5 per person. Checks payable to: Wesley UMW

**Mail to: Sandra Toffay, UMW Treasurer, Wesley UMC**  
**114 Main St. Worcester, MA 01608**

**RSVP online to: [UMW@wesleyworc.org](mailto:UMW@wesleyworc.org) (pay at the door)**

**Registration deadline: March 1.      *We're looking forward to seeing you!***

*Please include:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_ Childcare? Y/N No. of children \_\_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_

## Did You Know?

As we come to the close of the season of Ordinary Time following Epiphany the lectionary for 2016 designates Sunday February 7 as Transfiguration Sunday. In terms of the liturgical year this Sunday functions as a transition into the season of Lent which this year will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 10. Each of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) records this event in Jesus' life in which his appearance became radiantly transformed in the presence of three of his disciples (Peter, James and John) on a mountaintop. Other important elements of the story include the sighting of Moses and Elijah, and the hearing of a voice from heaven.

This particular event has been commemorated and celebrated at different times by various traditions within the Christian Church over the course of liturgical history. The Eastern Church has observed this festival (which they called "the metamorphosis") since the 4<sup>th</sup> century. It has been observed as a feast in the West since the 9<sup>th</sup> century, and in 1457 was assigned a fixed date of August 6 in the calendar of Holy Days. However, Roman Catholics also now include the story of the Transfiguration on the second Sunday in Lent.

The Protestant tradition has moved the observance to the Sunday prior to Lent for the theological role the Transfiguration plays in the overall calendar of the liturgical year. In the Transfiguration we see a more full expression of the deity of Christ and the glory he has with his Father. The presence of Moses and Elijah is usually interpreted as an indication that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). In the context of the Bible, the story of the Transfiguration is told as a bridge between Jesus' public ministry and his passion. Similarly for us as we hear this story before the start of Lent, we are reminded that the same Jesus who is manifested as the Savior of the World at Epiphany is the same Jesus who after the pilgrimage of Lent will also be manifested as Savior of the World at the Easter celebration of his Resurrection.

*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>
Tues., Feb. 16	Thurs., Feb. 18
Mon., Feb. 29	Weds., March 2

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.



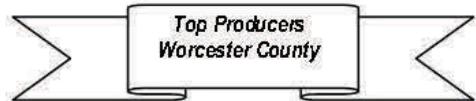
**United Methodist  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

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**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 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)**

