

LET THE CHILDREN COME

“People were bringing babies to Jesus so that he would bless them. When the disciples saw this, they scolded them. Then Jesus called them to him and said, ‘Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children. I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.’”

~ Luke 18:15-17

It is fascinating to read the scripture above and be reminded that the first disciples of Jesus were very much like us. They were so caught up in adult talk and adult life that when children were presented to Jesus, some of them saw it as a distraction. They were so inconvenienced that some of them scolded the parents of these children for bringing their children to Jesus.

How many times have parents in our congregation received a scowling look when their child cries or acts up in the midst of worship? I hope never but I am not that unrealistic. It’s even more sad when parents with young children feel like they cannot come to church because they are afraid that their children will diminish their worship experience and that of others.

Here at Wesley, I pray and hope that we are fostering a sanctuary culture the likes that children are welcomed with joy and open arms. I pray that we are fostering an environment and culture in which parents feel comfortable to bring their children to church and feel safe to do so.

There are so many ways that we can foster such a sanctuary culture for families. We can make sure that we have family friendly and intergenerational worship services. We can make sure there is age appropriate programming and resources for children. We can make sure that there is adequate child care for our worship service and programs. We can make sure that we have plenty of teachers and helpers who care about children’s ministries. We can make sure the space, toys, and furniture are all child friendly and safe. And I believe we’re working toward this goal.

My invitation is that we all see the importance of fostering such a sanctuary culture for families. All of us are needed to build and sustain a vital ministry with children. Whether or not you have children, you are needed to support our ministry with children. So I hope that the next time you hear an appeal for support for our ministry with children, you will be eager and excited to offer your support. “Let the children come... because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children.”

In faith and hope, Pastor Shandi

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Tower lighting for May is given in loving memory of my parents, Norma and Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

The Rose window lighting for May is given in loving memory of Dorothy Aho, Axel Swanberg, and Clara Swanberg by Nancy Aho, Heidi O'Leary and family.

The altar flowers on Sunday, May 14th are given in loving memory of Mrs. Estelle Clemons by Stanley Gutridge.

The altar flowers on Sunday, May 21st are given in loving memory of Bill Capen by Janice Capen.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ All mothers, step-mothers, foster mother's, women like mothers, and mothers-to-be. May their day be blessed with love and happiness today and always.
- ✠ Chris, a friend of William Kilmer, who is a missionary in Lebanon and whose permission from the Lebanese government for him to remain is being delayed. May God's will be done.
- ✠ Baby Serenity who was welcomed by her family on Friday, May 5.
- ✠ Caroline Sherman who continues her battle with Cancer.
- ✠ Jane Borthwick who is at Lutheran Home for rehabilitation after her fall.
- ✠ Enid Holmberg who is at Saint Vincent Hospital.
- ✠ Wesley Church as it celebrates its 90th anniversary of the building's dedication.
- ✠ All those who are a part of Wesley's ministries and all those who have been blessed and nurtured by Wesley's ministries.
- ✠ Judith Nichols who is recently had surgery on her eyes.
- ✠ Those suffering substance abuse.

NEW FLORIST FOR WESLEY ALTAR FLOWERS—Since Earl Johnson's Florist is closed we are now getting our flowers from Perro's on Grafton Street in Worcester. Please pay attention to the arrangements for the next couple of weeks. They are currently at \$50 for two arrangements, however I have been told that if we raise it to \$60/2 arrangements, it'll help enhance them some. I'd like to get input from anyone who would like to share it. You may email me at office@wesleyworc.org or leave a note in my box on Sundays. Many thanks! ~ *Debi Ritacco*

PRAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN

A Plan from the Worship Team and Trustees Committee

“Some people brought children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded them. ‘Allow the children to come to me,’ Jesus said. ‘Don’t forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children.’ Then he blessed the children and went away from there.”

~ Matthew 19:13-15

Children are an important part of our church community. Their presence is a sign of present vitality and future hope. So, as part of the Church Council’s goal to foster a sanctuary culture in our church, a plan is underway to establish a children’s playground space in our sanctuary.

The proposed space is a portion of the space in the transept (under the balcony). There are a set of pews against the wall that are seldom used. These pews are used typically on communion Sundays when the children come down from Sunday School to receive communion.

The plan is to remove the pews against that wall and create a family friendly, child friendly space. Some rocking chairs would be added for parents to hold their infants, a comfortable rug for children to sit and play on, and some space appropriate books and craft supplies to keep children engaged.

The Worship planning team and Trustees committee invite your input for developing this playground at Wesley. The idea of a playground is not new to churches. Many churches have been developing such spaces to invite and welcome families in. Playgrounds are about extending a ministry of hospitality to children and their families. Playgrounds say that “children are welcome in our sanctuary space and that they are an important part of our worship.” Jesus says, “let the children come to me.”

We want the children to come, and as a church we want to do all we can to welcome them. Wesley is committed to celebrating our diversity which includes diversity in age. So help us to become more welcoming and inclusive of the people God joins to us.

Members of the Worship Planning Team and Trustees Committee.

AVON39 WALK BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER... On **Sunday, May 21** after the 8:30 and 10:30 services, Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah will be having a Bake Sale to raise funds for her “Avon39 Walk to end breast cancer” walk in June. Kim will be walking 39.3 miles over 2 days to raise funds that will be distributed to **local** hospitals and shelters to help women receive mammograms and cancer treatment. Come and ask more about it or find her info at <http://info.avon39.org/goto/KLindseyAmoah>.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP BEGINNING A NEW STUDY

The Men’s Bible Study (MBS) group meets on the second and fourth Saturdays, 8:00-9:15am, John Wesley Room. On May 13, we’ll begin Paul’s four-chapter letter to the Philippians, believed to have been written while he was imprisoned in either Ephesus (rainy season, 55-56) or in Rome (about 58-60). The subject of much research, parts of chapters 2 and 3 may be considered the beginning of the field of Christology, which seeks to address the seemingly simple questions, “Who was Jesus?” and “What did he do?”

The MBS group uses no study guide. After we’ve read each chapter, as we begin our analysis we’re inspired by our group discussion to expand our individual points of view, sometimes in unexpected directions. It’s recommended that the participants review any commentary (or commentaries) of their choosing before we begin each chapter. We usually cover one chapter per session. Pastor Shandi joins us as his schedule permits.

Light refreshments of one sort or another are always provided. We always welcome new colleagues to join us for as long as they wish. I’ll begin my rotation as facilitator for the next three months or so. Please contact me if interested in attending this study of Philippians.

Charles Kiefer; kieferc@townisp.com; (508) 871-6744

THANK YOU! to all those who helped make the CMA District UMW Spring meeting a great success and blessed experience! *Special Thanks* to: Margaret Watson, Lorraine Kronberg, Deb Bock, Pastor Shandi. Dolores A., Carolyn B., Polly B., Janice E., Chris F., Linda K., Sandy M., Lorna, Debi, Tim, and Tom.

Co-Presidents:

Barbara Ingrassia

Allison Hansen

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Year to Date Budget Results through April, UMCOR Sunday, and Revised Easter offering:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	236,531	248,276	-11,745 less than budget
Total Expense	233,531	241,699	-8,168 less than budget
Net Income	3,000	6,577	-3,577 less than budget
Pledges thru April	95,889	114,930	-19,041 less than budget
Easter Total	7,028	5,600	1,428 more than budget
UMCOR Sunday	711	-0-	Not a budgeted item

Statements:

Statements were mailed on Thursday, May 4. As we get closer to the summer months, please make every effort to keep up with your pledges. We find that donations drop off during the summer and cash flow can be challenged. Please remember that automated giving through Vanco is an alternative to weekly envelopes. If you wish to participate, as several of our members do, please contact me for more information.

Peace, Lorna

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

The Church Council and I would like to thank everyone who made our 90th Anniversary celebration as meaningful as it was. Thank you to Allison Hansen and the United Methodist Women for the beautiful sign installed on the State Street entrance. Thank you to Barbara and Tom Ingrassia for inviting the Mayor who sent a representative to give the Proclamation from the City. Thank you to Lisa Fagerstrom and Jean Grant for preparing for and setting up the Photo Timeline display. Thank you to Margaret Watson for inviting the Telegram to run a story on the event. Thank you to Linda D'Acri and her team for preparing the wonderful breakfast. Thank you to Brett Maguire and Nan Gibbons for organizing a wonderful concert on Sunday afternoon. Thank you to Harry Spencer for preparing a wonderful slide show of photos of the building in its early days. I fear I am missing some folk, so please forgive me if I have neglected to mention you. Thank you to each one and everyone who set up displays showcasing our ministries and everyone who served in a variety of roles to make this event a successful event. May God bless us with 90 more years!

~ Pastor Shandi

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Did you see the board in Brewer Hall with the fish all over it? What do those fish mean? Well, it's the "ichthus," an early Christian symbol. It is reported that in early times it was used by Christians as a secret symbol that all would recognize, whether scratched on walls, rocks, or sand. It plays a prominent role in this year's VBS: Rome and Paul and the Underground church.

Those fish on the board in Brewer Hall all contain supplies we are seeking for VBS.

Can you help by donating? Come check the board, take a fish, sign up, and bring the item in.

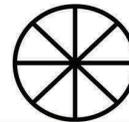
Many thanks! The VBS Team



The Ichthus ("Fish"): An Acronym



Greek Forms	Ιησοῦς	Χριστός	θεός	Τιός	Σωτήρ
English	Jesus	Christ	God	Son	Saviour



A way of writing the Ichthus symbol by superimposing the initial Greek letters one on top of another

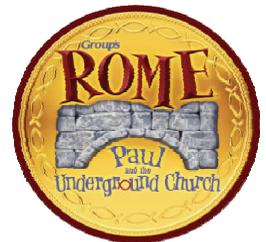
Got a Pop-Up or EZ-up open-sided tent? **We need 4 of them for VBS.** They will be returned. To make our Roman "marketplace" these tents are **KEY!** Please help us out! Thanks! See Jean Grant.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

No Sunday School on Memorial Day weekend, May 28th

VBS is July 10-13 (Monday-Thursday), 5-8 p.m. Please see registration insert or go online: vbspro.events/p/4d3515

We are still in **need** of Summer Sunday School helpers to help our teachers. Without the extra help during summer, we have a difficult time meeting the needs of our Sunday school families. Please consider volunteering! Every extra hand helps! No task is too small for this ministry.



See Jean - grantgirl05@yahoo.com or 717-333-5367

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES AT WESLEY

“Spiritual formation is the continuing response to the reality of God’s grace shaping us into the likeness of Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, in the community of faith, for the sake of the world.”

Jeffrey P. Greenman and Donald Goertz
“Towards a Definition of Spiritual Formation”

Thursday Morning New Testament Bible Study—

After taking a recess during Lent, the Bible Study has begun with the “Introducing the New Testament” study from the Massachusetts Bible Society. This is a continuation of the “What Is the Bible?” and “Introducing the Old Testament” studies. The group will meet in the John Wesley room on Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon. All are welcome to this engaging and informational study and fellowship!

Social Concerns Group Forming—

A new group is forming at Wesley to discuss and consider actions to address social issues that impact and affect our congregation, our neighbors, and the world. All interested in knowing more about this new group and its work and purpose are invited to gather for an initial meeting after worship on Sunday, May 7th. Grab some breakfast, coffee, and/or juice and join us at a table in Brewer Hall with a “Social Concerns Group” sign.

Two New Small Groups Forming—

There will be a new small group forming for Spiritual Direction. This will be a group of 3-6 people who are interested in meeting monthly for in-depth discussion around the Wesleyan question “How is it with your soul?” ...

Also, there will be a small group forming to read and discuss the book “One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are” by Ann Voskamp. In a world of uncertainty, fear, and upheaval, *One Thousand Gifts* “beckons you to leave the parched ground of pride, fear, and white-knuckle control and abandon yourself to the God who overflows your cup.”

See or contact Lisa Fagerstrom (508-799-4191 xt 106, or lisa@wesleyworc.org) if you are interested in further information about or joining any of these groups. All are welcome!!

MISSION MATTERS

Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity on June 3rd... I'm celebrating that we now have at least the minimum of 12 volunteers signed up for the Wesley team who will work on Habitat's Northborough, MA build site. The exact number is undetermined, as several are to let me know whether they can work a full or half day. If you would still like to sign up, Habitat allows as many as 15, and some substitutes are welcome, in case of last minute illness, etc. Volunteers include Pastor Shandi, DCFD Lisa, and 2 members of Gerard's Baton Rouge mission team. The Northborough location is on Main St. (Rte. 20). We have signed up for Saturday, June 3rd, 8 am to 4 pm. Please tell me (Betsy Pennino) if you're 16 or older and would like to volunteer. I'll send directions & the Volunteer Information Form. *We still need people to provide parts of the lunch.*

Community Supper on May 20th... The Linda & Lou D'Acri and family will be providing the May 20th Community Supper. The menu will be baked chicken, mashed potato, vegetables, salad, beverages, and dessert. *If you can contribute baked desserts (cookies, cupcakes), please let Linda know.* Note: This is the only 2017 supper which is not on a last Saturday, because of Memorial Day Weekend when many Wesley folks are busy.

IHN Fundraiser is Auction & Dinner... On May 20th, the Treasures of the Community Gala will raise money for IHN and 3 other groups. Auction previews are at 5 pm and dinner is at 6. The event is at the Devens Community Center and run by First Church Sterling. There are roles you could play in addition to participating on May 20th. More info is available at FCTreasures.com. IHN's portion of the proceeds will be used to renovate the second floor kitchen.

Dismas House Fundraiser on June 10th... Dismas Houses across the US are geared to the successful re-entry of former prisoners into society-- with job and life skills. The Dismas Family Farm (687 Lincoln Road in Oakham, MA) is holding a BBQ, barn dance and hayrides from 6 to 9 pm. If interested, contact Betsy Pennino for info on how to buy tickets (kids free). You could also ask about the programs to interact with former prisoners during the farm's growing season, or to mentor a resident at Dismas House in Worcester.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) Registration

Dates: July 10-13 (Mon-Thurs)

Times: 5-8 p.m. (dinner at 5 p.m.)

Who: Grades K-middle school

What: Pre-registration

How: at this link or online vbspro.events/p/4d3515

Parents and all are encouraged to volunteer for this largest event of the year! Help with any part (big or small!) is appreciated – prep, supply collection, teachers/helpers at VBS (even signing up to be a guest helper one night is a great support to this ministry! There are many smaller roles to be filled!), set-up/clean-up, etc. Please see Jean Grant if interested in supporting this ministry.
grantgirl05@yahoo.com or 717-333-5367

Send your kids on a journey through Rome!

Bring your entire family to the ancient city of Rome! You'll travel back into Bible times—without setting foot outside our community. Experience this fun, hands-on Bible-times Empire! You'll explore authentic Marketplace shops, visit the Apostle Paul (who's under house arrest), sneak to the cave where the Underground Church meets, take part in games, sing, participate in a mission, and discover more about the early church.

Our week's themes include:

* God's love is a gift * God's love changes us *

* God's love is always with us * God's love saves us * God's love is worth sharing *

Lessons are based on Romans chapters 1, 5, 6, 8, and 12.

STANDUP FOR KIDS SAVER'S EVENT

Location: Worcester Youth Center
326 Chandler Street
Worcester, MA 01602

Date: May 13, 2017
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
Drop off Items for the collection.

20¢ per pound for Soft Goods

Clothing & Shoes— Men's, Women's, Children

Accessories—hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, ties, socks, purses/wallets, backpacks, bags

Other Textiles—Bath towels, sheets, blankets, pillows, Curtains, tablecloths

5¢ per pound for Hard Goods

Electrical— small toasters, blenders, coffee makers, juicers, waffle irons, hair dryers, curling irons

Kids—toys, games, puzzles, stuffed animals

Kitchen—pots, pans, utensils, cups, mugs, dishes, cutlery, glassware, silverware, stemware, vases

Knick-knacks—jewelry, crafts, candles, baskets, hand tools, ornaments

Media—magazines, records, tapes, CDs, videos, DVDs, computer software

Sports Equipment—balls, bats, tennis rackets, Frisbees, baseball gloves



Saint Mary School to Host Red Cross Blood Drive

Saint Mary School's Fourth Grade Class will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Tuesday, May 16th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm** in the first floor Gathering Space at 16 Summer Street in Shrewsbury.

Donating blood saves lives! Adults 17 years of age and at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate.

Appointments preferred, but not necessary. Please call 508-842-1601 to register or send an email to Lisa Powers at Elizabeth.Powers@stmarysparish.org with any questions.



**DAYS FOR GIRLS ++ UMW
ORANGE RIBBON SUNDAY**

Wear a ribbon to show your support

May 14, 2017

Our initial funding was a generous gift from United Methodist Women through the Isabel Smith Fund. Now we need the sponsorship of the entire congregation to continue our mission.

How can you help?

- #1 Get involved with the work as we meet most Friday mornings to work in the upstairs sewing room. We have all types of needs from cutting, tracing, and sewing.**
- #2 Sew at home - complete and easy to follow instructions are available for sewing shields.**
- #3 Make a donation today to fund the ongoing work and purchase the much needed serger/overlock machine that enables us to complete kits that last for three years of use.**

All checks should be made out to: United Methodist Women with DFG in the memo.

Honor your mother, daughter, sister, friend or any special woman in your life this Mother's Day by a contribution to benefit a young women in need somewhere in our world.

EVERY GIRL... EVERYWHERE... PERIOD

Did You Know?

This past Sunday we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the dedication of Wesley Church on May 8, 1927, when worship services were held in our sanctuary for the first time. As we celebrate this wonderful sacred space and the commitment and vision of those who planned and built this structure, it is good to be reminded of our history as a congregation. Not many of us presently enter the building through the front doors that face Main St., but did you know that there is a decorated alabaster panel inside that main entryway that summarizes this history?

Most people who know something of the history of the church are aware that Wesley Church was the result of the merger of two churches, Grace Church and Trinity Church. The union of these two churches became official on April 13, 1923. However, each of these churches also had other historic roots.

The presence of Methodism in Worcester predated any physical building. The first Methodist Class in Worcester was organized in 1833 and held meetings in a leased room. Later that year permission was obtained for preaching services to be held in the Town Hall. In 1834 the Methodist Episcopal Religious Society in Worcester was formed. The Society built its first church, known as Meadow Church, in 1836. When this building burned in 1844, the church rebuilt and relocated, and became known as Park St. Church, which eventually relocated again and became Trinity Church in 1871. In addition a second congregation was formed after the fire in 1845 and became Laurel St. Church, which merged in 1915 with Grace Church, founded in 1867 due to overcrowding at Park St. In the end, when both Grace and Trinity Churches began to plan new buildings, the merger that resulted in Wesley Church was effected.

The congregation of the new Wesley Church was established on April 13, 1923, and initially met for worship in the old Trinity Church building. The merger of the two congregations allowed for plans that gave us the building in which we now worship. Ground was broken on July 8, 1925 and the cornerstone laid on May 16, 1926. Finally the building was dedicated and the first worship service held in the newly consecrated sanctuary on May 8, 1927. Since that time our building has been a place not only of prayer and spiritual nurturing for members of the congregation but has also provided the physical space for us to engage in a variety of ministries to the community.

Submitted by, Deborah A. O'Driscoll

2017 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., May 22	Wed., May 24
Mon., June 5	Wed., June 7

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

office@wesleyworc.org

ALTAR FLOWERS on Sundays 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 \$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.



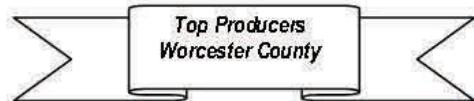
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WESLEY HERALD
MAY 10, 2017

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

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

- | | |
|--|---|
| Pastor | Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda |
| Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship | Lisa Fagerstrom |
| Director of Children's Christian Education | Jean Grant |
| Director of Music Ministries | Brett Maguire |
| Director of Children's Music | Nan Gibbons |
| Music Assistant & Layleader | Deborah O'Driscoll |
| Toddler Care Leader | Lori Conlon |
| Building Superintendent | Tim Murphy |
| Business Administrator | Lorna Mattus-Merrill |
| Church Secretary | Debi Ritacco |
| Custodians | April Dylewicz
Tom Friend
Gerard Piscitelli |
| Security | Steve Boyns |
| Head Usher | David Dagle |
| Church Council | Tom Ingrassia |
| Board of Trustees
Co-Chairs | Yaw Enyim
Gary Robinson |
| Carty Cupboard Food Pantry | Nancy Spencer |
| Communion Steward | Linda D'Acri |
| Finance & Stewardship
Co-Chairs | Michael Edmunds
William Wong |
| Ghanaian Association | Paul Hayfron |
| Hospitality Co-Chairs | Vivian Assie
Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah |
| Medical Ministry | Ron Ramsay |
| Mission Coordinator | Betsy Pennino |
| Staff-Parish Relations | Gifty Bentum-Asante |
| Youth Directors | Lisa Fagerstrom
Anthony & Adrienne Phillips |
| United Methodist Women
Co-Chairs | Barbara Ingrassia
Allison Hansen |

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