

THE POWER OF PRAYER

I travelled to Portland, Oregon on Mother's Day Sunday evening to be at the beginning of General Conference 2016 (GC2016)...the world-wide gathering of United Methodists every four years. I came to support a friend at an event just before GC2016 begins on Tuesday.

As has been the case for decades in the UMC, there will be a lot of earnest and sometimes heated and painful debate over a number of issues within the UMC. However, as I write this column, I am thinking about how friendly everyone has been and the immediate connections that we can make over the miles as UMC's....and, how nice and welcoming it was to see the "cross and flame" as I came up the escalator into the main concourse at the airport Sunday evening...and meeting UMC folks everywhere I turn since arriving here.

On Monday morning, I had the privilege of being a part of a group that dedicated the Upper Room prayer center at the Conference Center. It is an amazing space with two labyrinths for walking in the center of the room...and many quiet places around the outside of the room with different worship centers for people to simply come and be and pray and be still and quiet amidst all of the emotions and energy of GC2016.

After we dedicated the room, we split into two groups and went throughout the Convention Center praying for all who would be a part of GC2016. We prayed for the delegates, for the committee rooms, for the volunteers, and ended at the huge room where the main plenary sessions with people from all over the world will be held. I stood on stage at the chair of a bishop who has been strongly against issues I hold dear to my heart...and, I prayed for him and his work these next two weeks. It was a powerful time for me.

Would that those feelings of unity and God's love for all on my first morning in Portland could carry us through the next two weeks as a denomination. However, there is much difficult work to do...and, it will not always be filled with happy connections, warm welcomes and unity. But, it can be filled with prayers. That is something that we all can do—pray!

Will you join me in praying for our New England delegation to GC2016 and for all the delegates...for those who will be in committee sessions this week deciding what will be brought as legislation to the plenary session next week...for the hundreds of volunteers and staff there to support GC2016 and its work. And, will you pray for our United Methodist church...local, in New England, in the U.S. and throughout the world as we work and live through these next two weeks and what it will mean for our denomination.

Blessings on the Journey, Lisa Fagerstrom

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS...

The Tower lighting for May is given in loving memory of my parents, Norman 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 May 22nd are given in loving memory of Bill Capen on the 10th anniversary of his passing by Janice Capen.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...

- ✠ That we pray with Bishop Devadhar for General Conference: that after it is over, the world will see in us "people who truly care for every child of God in our global community and who fight against the walls and barriers of all kinds that divide us."
- ✠ Beverly Patton, the mother of Stephen Boyns, who fell and fractured her pelvis in 3 places that she may find comfort, strength and the easing of pain.
- ✠ Someone who asks for peace in their home.
- ✠ The Aidoo family as they grieve the loss of Festus Aidoo's brother, Kwame.
- ✠ Someone's family in Ghana, that they may be reunited safely.
- ✠ Elizabeth Robinson at Nashoba Valley Medical Center that she may find comfort, healing and peace.
- ✠ Someone who asks for God's healing
- ✠ Pauline who gives thanks to the Lord for adding another year to her age
- ✠ Nurses all over the world as they celebrate nurses week
- ✠ United Methodist delegates to the General Conference that they may be led by the Holy Spirit and be discerning.
- ✠ All cancer patients in and around the world, orphans, kids who have lost their parents, and a friend who passed away recently.
- ✠ All graduates, may each one find their path in life. Whether it be onto another college or that they find a job.
- ✠ Naomi Poku and her partner, Ziggy, who are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Johanna, born on Saturday, May 7th.
- ✠ Festus Aidoo whose lost his Father exactly one week after losing his brother last week. May God comfort him in his grief.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Bridge Building Ministry to General Conference

As some of you know, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church is now in session. It began on May 10th and will last until May 20th. The General Conference is the legislative body of the United Methodist Church which meets every four years to discern policy and set the direction of the ministry and mission of the denomination in the coming years. [For a synopsis on the General Conference, see Deborah O'Driscoll's article: "Did you know"].

I will be attending General conference from May 15-May 20 as a member of the Bridge Builders Ministry team, a collaborative effort between the Church's JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation (JustPeace) and The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR). The Bridge Builders ministry will be providing supportive and facilitative services to the General Conference for the purpose of helping to make more tangible the commitment to live faithfully as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ in our church. Working with delegates, officers, conference personnel, volunteers and leaders of the General conference, our role will be to serve as a sounding board, consultants, and facilitators helping to build up the GC community so that it can more fully function as one body where race, nationality, language, gender, age, ability and other diversities of identity are honored while maintaining fidelity to what it means to be united body of Christ. One of the challenges our Church faces is learning to talk about difficult and complex matters in a spirit of love and grace. In such a context, the Bridge Builders ministry team is tasked with the responsibility of facilitating communication and tending to the preservation of relationships between people when complex matters carrying diverse opinions and strong emotional content are raised. The Bridge Builders ministry role is not to advocate for particular outcomes but to provide support so that the processes of communication are fair, open and engaging to all. In short, we will be seeking to help GC participate to engage conflict well and raise awareness to issues that may hinder effective and fruitful engagement.

The work ahead is challenging and will be very tiresome. I ask for your prayers for all those who will be participating in General Conference this year. I pray and hope that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide all the work we will do and that we may be open to the movement of the Spirit in our midst. Thank you!

~ Pastor Shandi

MAY 15TH: PENTECOST SUNDAY!



Please join us for the “We Are the Church” Christian Formation and Education Fair in Brewer Hall! During the 9:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. coffee hours, Lisa Fagerstrom and Jean Grant and other ministry representatives will be in Brewer Hall for a small Christian Formation and Education fair – learn more about the programs and small groups offered at Wesley UMC. This will be an ideal time to sign up for groups and for volunteering in our children’s ministry. We’ll also have some yummy treats for the family. See you there!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Began Sunday, May 8, 12:30pm-2:00pm

A new member class has begun at Wesley. Membership classes will run for six weeks, and will be held on Sundays, (beginning May 8), from 12:30pm-2:00pm. Please contact Pastor Shandi to enroll. If you’re interested in becoming a member but the class schedule does not work for you, still contact Pastor Shandi and let him know. Contact info: pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org or 508-799-4191 x108.

FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

<u>April YTD Budget Results</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Budgeted Income	\$201,477	\$184,815	-\$16,662
Non-Budgeted Income	\$ 0	\$ 6,473	\$ 6,473
<u>Total Income</u>	\$201,477	\$198,288	-\$ 10,189
Budgeted Expense	\$234,839	\$216,780	-\$ 18,059
Non-Budgeted Expense	\$ 0	\$ 8,761	\$ 8,761
<u>Total Expense</u>	\$234,839	\$225,541	-\$ 9,298
Net Income/(loss)	-\$ 33,362	-\$ 34,253	-\$ 891

COME LEARN ABOUT PARENTING IN AMERICA... Parenting in general is a challenge. Parenting in America can even be more challenging if you grew up in a different culture. You are invited to a Forum on Parenting in America. You will learn more about the standards and expectations for disciplining children in America and of any legal implications. You will have a conversation with other African parents, learn some new parenting techniques, and get your parenting questions answered. The event will be held on **Saturday, June 4th from 9:30 am -1:00pm** at the African Community Education Program (Fanning Building, 24 Chatham St., Worcester). The event is collaboratively sponsored by the African Community Education Program, the MA Department of Children and Families, Worcester Public Schools, the Worcester Family Partnership, Family Health Center's WIC Program and the Worcester Connections Family Resource Center of YOU, Inc. A light lunch will be provided. In order to prepare a count for the food and resources, *please sign-up with Pastor Shandi: 508-799-4191 x108.*

GRADUATES... Do you have a child(ren) graduating from high school or college? If so, please email your child's name(s), school he/she is graduating from, and where he/she plans on attending next. We will be lifting up their names on Sunday, June 12th. Please email Debi by June 5th at office@wesleyworc.org or leave a note in the office when you are in church. (Please be sure to print neatly so I can read what is written.) Thank you.

SUMMER CAMP IS NOT OUT OF REACH! Summer camp experiences can last a lifetime for a child, and we want to make sure that any Wesley family interested in sending their child to a Methodist summer camp can do so. Thanks to the generosity of the hungry customers at United Methodist Women bake sales, we can offer "camperships" -- funding to help a child attend camp this summer. Children's Christian Education Director Jean Grant has request forms for interested parents to fill out. Camp registration season is soon, so please let Jean know if you'd like to apply for a campership. All requests remain confidential.

THE RAMADAN OBSERVANCE this year will be held at the Islamic Society of Greater Worcester mosque at 57 Laurel Street in Worcester (not the mosque on East Mountain St. this year). The observance will be held the evening of Sunday, June 26. There is no charge, but the seats need to be reserved, so if you wish to attend our interfaith celebration, please inform Margaret Watson, as the mosque has asked us for a head count.

THE BUILDERS FOR COMMUNITY will meet on Tuesday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m., place yet to be determined. Please contact Margaret Watson if you are interested in joining this group. Thank you.

WORCESTER INTERFAITH met at the First Baptist Church on Thursday, May 5. More refugees will be coming into the Worcester community, and we expect now that some will have physical or emotional disabilities, not surprising considering their experiences in their homelands. The meeting was well attended with a number of churches, mosques, and temples eager to participate in programs developed by the Ascentria Alliance to assist refugees. The faith communities are united in this effort.

THE BAPTIST WOMEN MINISTRIES is holding their annual conference in Leominster this year and have invited Asima Silva of our Builders for Community to address the group at breakfast on Saturday, May 14. The theme for the breakfast is “Let Our Light Shine” as Baptist and Muslim women will continue the dialogue around our love for God and His Word and discuss commonalities and ways that we can enlighten our world.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM BOOK CLUB will meet on Wednesday, May 18, at the YWCA located at Salem Square in Worcester. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the conference room located on the second floor. The book to be discussed is “Searing for Your Soul: Writers of Many Faiths Share Their Personal Stories of Personal Recovery” by Katherine Kurs. Please read from page 294 to the end of the book.

HERALD VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED: We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help put the Herald together on Wednesday mornings. They begin around 8:30/9 am and finish by 10:30. Often we will gather for coffee, snacks, and fellowship time afterwards. If you have a couple of hours every other Wednesday (sometimes a Thursday) and would like to help, please speak with Debi in the office. Thank you.

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all those who helped make the Mother’s Day 10:30 service so special. **Ushers:** Akosua Ababio, Rebecca Aidoo, Judith Barton, Deborah Bock, Polly Boyns, Linda D’Acri, Elizabeth Vietze—all under the expert guidance of David Dagle. **Reader:** Cynthia Fletcher. **Children’s time/CWS blanket collection:** Polly Boyns, assisted by Lisa Fagerstrom, Jean Grant, Pastor Shandi. **Music:** The Wesley Women’s Chorus, Brett McGuire. **Special Mission Recognition testimonial:** Wesley UMW Co-President Allison Hansen. **The wonderful luncheon:** Esther Circle. **Coordination of the theme for the day:** The Worship Team.

~Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia, Wesley UMW Co-President

SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 15th: Pentecost Sunday!

Important Notes:

There will be NO Sunday School. The 10:30 a.m. worship service will be child-friendly and intergenerational. The kids will be provided engaging activity work pages to go along with the service as we celebrate the birthday of the church! The sermon will also be presented in a way so that the children will understand it.

Please dress the children in RED. The children will be participating in the service by walking down the aisles during the praise time. Please bring your children to the PARLOR before the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

There will still be infant/toddler childcare during both worship services.

Please join us for the “We are the church” Christian Formation and Education Fair in Brewer Hall during the 9:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. coffee hours!

Vacation Bible School! Please see the VBS page for information about this free, fun camp. Pre-registration form can be turned into the office or to Jean Grant, grantgirl05@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed!!! Vacation Bible School relies on the combined effort of its many volunteers. We had a great turn out of over 45 kids last year with over 20 volunteers! Interested in helping with our children's ministry? This is a great way! We can use help in ALL areas - behind the scenes (donations, decorating, preparation, shopping, cooking, cleaning, set-up) or hands-on with the kids (station leaders, youth crew leaders, registration, music/sound). All help is welcomed! Please see Jean Grant to inquire. I'd love your help! grantgirl05@yahoo.com or 508-886-6571.

Teachers, Greeters, and Helpers... Our Sunday School program also relies on its dedicated volunteers. We are seeking anyone interested in helping - from helpers (youth, adults), to greeters (youth, adults), or teachers (adults). See Jean. Scheduling is flexible and based on your own personal availability.

Closet Clean up... I would love some hands-on helpers to spend a few hours with me to sort through two of the Sunday School closets. If you are available to help out, let me know. We can schedule the clean up for a weekend or a weekday. Thanks so much!!

MISSION MATTERS

IHN House Needs Volunteers Next Week... If you are able to cover the supper, evening, or overnight shifts during the half week of Weds., May 18 to Sat., May 21, please contact Mercy Peacock (774-922-3236 or mercyp_61@yahoo.com). She is now Wesley's IHN Coordinator. There will also be an IHN sign-up table on Sunday after both services.

May 21st Community Supper... Linda D'Acri and family are again bringing us another great meal of baked chicken, potatoes, vegetable and salad, beverage and dessert. *Donations of desserts (finger foods) would be much appreciated.* You are always encouraged to share the meal with our neighbors.

Leaders Needed for Community Suppers... YEAH! Esther Circle for offering to run the June 25th supper! *July 30, Aug. 27, and Oct. 29 are the 2016 dates remaining for you or your group to volunteer to lead a community supper.* Please talk with Betsy Pennino or Lisa Fagerstrom about which month to reserve and any questions you have.

Give a Used Phone... Save a Life... Safe Havens, an interfaith partnership against domestic violence, is again collecting used cell phones (not-so-smart phones only), with batteries and chargers. Newer phones will be reprogrammed *to allow victims of domestic violence or elder abuse to dial 911 and other emergency numbers.* Older phones will be sold for parts, and the proceeds will support Safe Havens' work to help victims and survivors. Often abusers try to prevent victims from phoning for help, so your used phone could become a lifeline. You may leave your discarded phones in the Brewer Hall box labeled for Safe Havens. Pastor Shandi will take them to Annual Conference on June 16th.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Job Posting... Perhaps you know someone who would be interested in providing coverage at the June St. house on Sundays, 8:30 am to 6 pm. Candidates must be 21 or older and able to drive a 15-passenger van. More info and how to apply are posted on the Mission Spotlight bulletin board, along with 3 Habitat for Humanity jobs.

IHN's "Family Fundsday" on Saturday, June 4th... A "Families Together" day of arts & crafts, games, raffles, music, homemade food, bake sale, etc. will be offered on June 4, starting at 1 pm. The \$3 admission will support IHN's renovating a 3rd bathroom. The location is the Unitarian Universalist Church, 90 Holden St. in Worcester (next to Bancroft School).

BETSY PENNINO RECEIVES 2016 UMW MISSION RECOGNITION

For the past 40 years, the United Methodist Women unit here at Wesley has singled out a woman to recognize her service to our church. Nominations come from all at Wesley, not just members of UMW, and any woman at Wesley is eligible. In honor of our Mission Recognition award winner, we make a donation to mission projects sponsored by our district and the wider Conference of United Methodist Women.

There were several excellent nominees this year. One in particular stood out for the extent of her service to Wesley across the more than two decades that she has been a member here. See if you can guess who I'm talking about!

She has contributed in many ways, including as a member of SPRC, the Education Work Area and the Mission Committee. Some weeks, she can be at church every day.

She has a strong passion for the support of women and children, the least and the lost among us. Over the years, she has worked with the young mothers of Florence House, the homeless women of Abby's House, and more broadly, people living in homeless shelters or simply members of our community looking for a warm meal and some friendly faces.

Within UMW, she has led a circle and organized many family events in collaboration with other church committees.

Not surprisingly, she is a master of many details, and has a friendly answer for most questions involving where to find things and how to go about accomplishing a task.

Underlying her devotion to serving others is a strong commitment to her own spiritual formation, participating in bible study, Sunday morning book discussions and many other opportunities to grow in discipleship.

This year's nominee has helped Wesley look far beyond its doors to create opportunities for service to others, as well as sustaining efforts to welcome people into our building for our monthly Community Suppers, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. She spearheaded churchwide efforts to imagine a world without malaria, to collect small gifts for shelter residents, and more recently, to support families in transition living in the Interfaith Hospitality Network house on June Street, or working to build a new home with Habitat for Humanity.

She has grown in her leadership at Wesley and for the past three years, has chaired the Mission Committee. Through her many initiatives and her positive outlook on life's possibilities, she has steered us all to find new ways to serve Christ in the world.

On behalf of Wesley's unit of United Methodist Women, I am pleased to present this year's Mission Recognition Award to Betsy Pennino.

Submitted by Allison Hansen

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**Sunday, May 15
3:00 pm**

Wesley United Methodist Church

73-rank Skinner Pipe Organ

*“What if you woke up today
with only the things you
thanked God for yesterday?”*

Taken from GUIDEPOSTS, March 2015
Reader Brad Johnston, of Shadyside, Ohio

1 Thessalonians, *In Context* (1 Thess 1:1-10)

{notes from the Brewer Hall Study Group, April 24-May 1, 2016}

About the author. {Roman citizen by birth, Pharisee by training and persecutor of the earliest of Jesus' followers}, following his conversion experience (Acts 9:1-9) Paul became an apostle, a change-agent commissioned by the God of Israel, to communicate God's innovation in raising Jesus from the dead, and its implication for Israelites. After establishing Jesus groups (clients) in various Israelite communities outside Palestine, Paul's main task was to establish information exchanges to diagnose rising problems, to maintain the clients' intent to change, and to translate this intent into action. This letter, to the Israelite *ekklēsia* of Thessalonika (established c. AD December 50-May 51), is the first of Paul's writings (AD 51) to have come down to us. [Ecclesia: gathering of the entitled residents of a *polis* (first century "city"); here used as a Jesus-group assembly.]

Letter Opening (Superscription)

(v. 1) Hellenistic letters opened with a superscription (or prescript) naming the sender (s) and addressee(s), and adding a greeting. The senders of this first of Paul's letters are Paul (*Hebr.* Saul), Silvanus (*Hebr.* Silas), and Timothy (Greek father, Israelite mother; Acts 16:1). The addressee is the *ekklēsia* of the Thessalonians. The greeting, *cháris umîn kai eirēnē* ("Grace to you and peace) modifies the traditional greeting of the time, "Peace to you" (cf. John 20:21, 26) by preceding this with *cháris* ("grace").

(vv. 2-3) Connecting the superscription with the body of the letter came the thanks-giving – a statement of gratitude to God for something done in the past, plus wishes for the proximate future. From the outset, the letter has an interpersonal emphasis (first and second person plural) which points to an insistence on mutual commitment and solidarity, rather than a concern for power (authority) or influence (teaching). Paul's trio of faith, love, and hope are mentioned here for the first time. "Faith" is the social value of one's trust in the reliability of another (person, quality, or object), and the social glue that binds one person to another. "Love" is the personal attachment to one's group (family or association), and to God, expressed in actions. "Hope" is personal allegiance or abiding confidence in another. In this context, the trio refers to the groundwork norms that mark off Jesus-group social identity – enduring, personal, trusting loyalty to God, group attachment, and abiding confidence in the Lord Jesus, who is soon to establish a theocracy.

Reception of God's Innovation Communicated at Thessalonika

(v. 4) Paul addresses his audience as *adelphoi ēgapēménoi upò [toû] theou* ["brothers (NRSV "brothers and sisters") having been loved by God"], indicating that his Jesus

groups were a type of domestic/household religion expanded to include non-family members – fictive kin – brothers and sisters to whom God is notably attached.

(v. 5) {In retrospect}, Paul knows that God has chosen those in the Thessalonian assembly because they had adopted the innovation that he had proclaimed at their founding *and* because they experienced the word “in power and in the Holy Spirit and (with) much assurance”. “Holy Spirit” refers to God’s power and activity – his experienced presence in human life.

(v. 6) The noun *thlípsei* (“affliction”; NRSV “persecution”) should be understood as mental distress or anxiety (originating from the fellow Israelites in their community who rejected Paul’s proclamation and were now aggrieved because the new Jesus-group members were often splitting with the local community).

(vv. 7-8) Paul gives a grant of honor to the Thessalonians, underscoring their proven worth among the other Jesus groups in Macedonia and Achaia by becoming a *túpon* (“pattern”; RSV/NRSV “example”) to the believers.

(v. 9) “They themselves” (i.e., the Jesus groups of this region) {apparently must have heard about the Thessalonians’ enthusiasm for the original message brought by Paul and his associates.} This enthusiasm included their turning from *eidōlōn* (“images”; RSV/NRSV “idols”; probably images of a deity) to serve a living and true God. The members of the Thessalonian Israelite Jesus group were probably well along the way of assimilation into the Hellenist society, including the adoption of local worship patterns.

(v. 10a) This marks the first time in Paul’s letters that he refers to the God of Israel by the new Jesus-group name, ‘the one who raised Jesus from the dead’. Belief in such resurrection was rooted in Israel’s Persian experience, and transmitted by the Judean group named after the Persians (Farsi), i.e., the Pharisees.

(v. 10b) The resurrected Jesus “delivers us from the coming wrath”, which is Paul’s usual way of referring to God’s defending his honor by taking satisfaction on those who have broken the covenant, i.e., Israelite sinners.

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 Letters of Paul.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006. pp. 28-39.

Definition of Thessalonica. *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (ed. Orr J). bible-history.com – ISBE (www.bible-history.com/isbe/); 1915.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most United Methodists are aware that the regulations for the organization and governance of the denomination at all levels—from local church to annual conference to general agencies—are found in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*. Perhaps not as well known is *The United Methodist Book of Resolutions*, a separate volume which outlines the church's views on a variety of social justice issues. While the *Book of Discipline* is considered binding, the statements in the *Book of Resolutions* are considered to be instructive but not binding. Each of these publications comes under scrutiny and is revised every four years by the General Conference, the primary legislative body and the only entity with authority to speak on behalf of the entire United Methodist Church. Did you know that 2016 is a year for the gathering of General Conference? By the time you read this article the 2016 General Conference will be in session, meeting from May 10th to May 20th in Portland, OR. General Conference 2016 is expected to consider over 1,000 pieces of legislation*, the primary source of which comes from petitions submitted by individuals, organizations, and church agencies.

Although it is an international gathering, General Conference has traditionally been held on a rotating basis in each of the church's five jurisdictional (regional) conferences in the United States. Of note, General Conference is slated to be held outside the United States for the first time in 2024, when it will be in Manila, Philippines, and again in 2028, in Harare, Zimbabwe.

You may be surprised to learn that although bishops attend General Conference, they cannot vote. Individual bishops rotate as presiding officer during the sessions; other bishops cannot speak unless given permission by the delegates. So who does make the decisions? It may also surprise you that voting delegates comprise *equal numbers* of clergy and laity, all of whom are elected by their annual conferences. Because United Methodism is a global denomination the delegates represent annual conferences from around the world.

Here are some statistics about the delegates for 2016: Of the 864 total delegates, 504 delegates (58.3 percent) will come from annual conferences in the United States. The central conferences (groups of churches in Africa, Asia and Europe) will send 350 delegates—260 from Africa, 40 from Europe and Eurasia, 50 from

Did You Know continued...

the Philippines. In addition there are 10 delegates from “concordat” churches with which United Methodism has formal relationships. These represent special covenant relationships with Methodist churches in Great Britain, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Caribbean and the Americas.

Our bishop has called us to be in prayer for our General Conference. In particular, as we approach the celebration of Pentecost this coming Sunday, May 15, (which is also the mid-point of General Conference) he urges us to “pray tirelessly that God would bestow upon our Church new winds and baptism by fire of the Holy Spirit.” Pentecost was not just a singular event that gave birth to the early church as described in the Book of Acts, but instead is an ongoing process through which the Holy Spirit continues to breathe new life into individuals, congregations, and the church as a whole.

Submitted by,

Deborah A. O’Driscoll

*You can find information about General Conference 2016: <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>, including links to more specific information about legislation under consideration.



ALL FAITHS CEMETERY AND CREMATORY

9 Island Road
Worcester, MA

On Memorial Day, All Faiths Cemetery, operated by the Swedish Cemetery Corporation, will be celebrating its 130th anniversary. A Memorial Day worship service will be held as usual at the Pavilion located in the center of All Faiths Cemetery. We would like as many people as possible to enjoy this day with us. The service will begin at 10:00 am.

The Cemetery’s service will be following by coffee and pastry, to be held at the Pavilion.

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., May 24	Thurs., May 26
Mon., June 6	Wed., June 8

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.



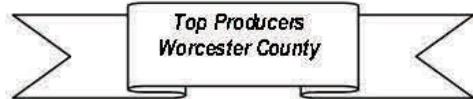
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WESLEY HERALD
MAY 11, 2016

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

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Pastor Shandirai Mawokomatanda
- Director of Music Ministries Brett Maguire
- 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 Paul Hayfron
- Hospitality Team Paul Arsenault 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 Lisa Fagerstrom Anthony & Adrienne Phillips
- United Methodist Women Co-Chairs Barbara Ingrassia Allison Hansen

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