

Dear members of the Wesley Community,

We have been discussing fostering Sanctuary Culture here at Wesley for several months now, identifying ways that we can make this church a sanctuary for all who enter its doors. The word sanctuary can carry deeply political connotations, but it can also call to mind spiritual and even literary ideals.

Some of you may not know this, but after I graduated from college here in Worcester I spent a year studying about blind organists in Paris, France. One of the organists at Notre-Dame Cathedral – the famous church of “The Hunchback” – is blind, so I passed a great amount of time up in the organ loft with Jean-Pierre Leguay, even playing a concert there on Ascension Sunday. So when I think of churches and sanctuary, I immediately call to mind Quasimodo rescuing his beloved Esmeralda and swinging her to sanctuary within the stone Gothic walls.

On a spiritual level, I think we are seeking a sanctuary from the outside world that can be so detrimental to life and wholesomeness. Much of contemporary life fosters persistent inner voices of judgment, depression, disconnection from our bodies, suspicion of foreigners, and addiction to technologies and social media, to name but a few contemporary yuckies to the eternal classics like fear, greed, and ignorance. What does it mean for Wesley to be a sanctuary from these causes of suffering? When you think of the future of this building and this community, what do you see? We often think of the technological future; I wonder what would happen if we envisioned the future – with Wesley as our focal point – in terms of the developments made in human understanding, in fostering communication skills, and in establishing sustainable community practices for spiritual and nutritional nourishment. I think we are building towards this future with every act of worship when we come together and try to weave together our shared hopes and aspirations in prayer and song.

The summer time is here, and my shoulders relax as the rehearsal schedule slows down for a few months. I would love to use the time to make contact with those of you who have a love of music but don't know where you might fit in. Do you love to play an instrument or sing a style of music that you haven't seen represented here in worship? Is there a kind of music you would like me to know about?

If you said yes to any of these questions, please send me an e-mail or call me at church (climbingorganist@wesleyworc.org). Let's schedule a time for you to stop by my office, have some tea, and either make some music, listen to some music, or discuss some music together. It's an exciting time to dream big for the fall.

Brett Maguire, Director of Music

p.s. I can't help but share that our stained glass rose window in the back of Wesley early in the morning this time of year is as beautiful to me as any glass in Paris. We have all inherited a beautiful sanctuary for worship!

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.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Jan England home with pneumonia.
- ✠ Isaac Berko who graduated from college on Sunday. May God guide him as he prepares to attend George Washington University.
- ✠ Jackie Swan who celebrated her birthday on May 21. May she know how loved she is.
- ✠ Scott and Patricia Shackett.
- ✠ Students who have or will be graduating high school and college this year. May God bless their futures.
- ✠ Enid Holmberg, Jane Borthwick, Stanley Gutridge, Joyce Sutherland, Mary Eichel, Karen Garrett, George Kronberg, Dorothy Norcross, Gerri Sundell, and Nancy Duxbury.
- ✠ Congratulations and Welcome to Wesley to our New Members: Irene Innis, Alexander Kwakye, Georgina Tyrie Kwakye, and Jorge Lebron

Mark Your Calendars...

Sunday, June 18th — There will be a joint celebration luncheon held in the Brewer Hall right after the 10:30 a.m. service for the Mothers and Fathers. Hope to see you all there. Thank you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO GIVE HOMELESS CHILDREN A BETTER TOMORROW.

Do you have 2 hours each week to PLAY with young homeless children in one of our shelter-based Playspaces in 19 locations across Central MA? Help a homeless child learn, play, and thrive. Upcoming volunteer training is on July 19th in Worcester. For more information, please visit www.horizonschildren.org, email central@horizonschildren.org or call Mandie at 508-755-2615. Thank you.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As some of you may know, my call to ordained ministry came when I was working with the United Way in Lycoming County PA. I was serving as the Director of Community Building and Funds Distribution. I was part of a team that was committed to community problem solving as we sought to address the variety of human and social problems facing our communities. Because I was working with an organization that provided funding and did not provide any direct services, part of my job was to connect with the many different human service agencies and nonprofit organizations that were doing good work in our community. I had the privilege of looking at the work they were doing and seeking to connect resources and assets in new and creative ways to address the problems our community faced. I loved my job and I felt that I was making a difference in the world.

I left the United Way because, in my calling, I heard God say to me that, as a person of faith who cares about the world, I was being given a unique calling to bear witness to the reality that God is (and should be) at the center of the work we do to make this world a better place. In my work with the United Way it was clear that the role of religion, faith, and spirituality in transforming lives was really never a consideration. If a church or faith-based organization was a part of our network of services, they often lamented the fact that, in order to receive government funding, they were always asked to refrain from “proselytizing.” This fear of proselytizing inevitably led many churches to feel like they couldn’t even share their faith in any meaningful way.

I came into the ministry with a hope and desire to live out of my faith and commitment to God and neighbor, and to employ the riches of my faith toward making a better world. However, I find that I am still wrestling with the questions I had back when I was wrestling with the call. One question that often plagues me is this: what is (or should be) the difference between a church that gives out free clothing and a secular non-profit organization that does the same? In a situation like that, what is our unique calling and what unique gift do we have to offer people as a church? We are not a *secular* non-profit organization. We are a church. But, what does that mean?

These and other questions come up time after time. The Bible says, “*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*” (1 Peter 3:15) I would be curious to hear from you about how you would respond to my questions. What makes (or should make) our social service ministries uniquely different from those you might find in a secular nonprofit agency? I am a co-learner with you and want to learn from you.

In faith and hope, Pastor Shandi

A MESSAGE FROM SPRC

After prayerful discernment, Jean Grant has decided to step down as Children's Christian Education Director, effective at the end of August, after the Vacation Bible School this summer. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) accepts this resignation with regret and with a deep sense of gratitude for Jean's significant contributions to our children's ministries over the last three years. Under Jean's leadership, the weekly Sunday School, seasonal pageants, and Vacation Bible School programs have been an important part of Wesley's ministries for our church family and the wider community. Jean reports that with her longtime goal of writing coming to fruition over the past year, combined with family obligations, that stepping down is the best option at this time. The SPRC would like to take the opportunity now to thank Jean for her ministry and leadership at Wesley, which will continue in other ways as she and her family remain members of the church. There will be opportunities for the congregation to thank Jean Grant again later in the summer.

The SPRC will be seeking input from the congregation about our ministries for children, youth and families in the coming weeks and months as Wesley plans for the future.



DRIVERS WANTED... Want to become a driver for the Church Van? Applications are now being accepted and are located in the church office. Drivers must be 25 years or older, and have a clean driving record. CORI and license checks will be performed. Contact Brent Drajesk if you have questions – 508-887-3786.

PAINT AND SERVE... If you feel the calling to help protect and beautify your church, this is for you. The Trustees are looking for 4 or 5 people to team up and paint the windows around Wagner hall (Sunday school rooms). We are looking for 4 or 5 people to scrape, sand and paint the outside windows and sills. Some windows are low (no ladder), and some are just above them. Tentative Date for this work is 9:00 am on Saturday, June 10th and we are expecting this to take 3-4 hours. Please contact Brent Drajesk to offer your service.

NEW FLORIST FOR WESLEY ALTAR FLOWERS... We are now getting our flowers from Perro's on Grafton Street in Worcester. As of July 1st the cost for 2 arrangements will be \$60. The calendar and forms to order flowers are in the Welcome Office. If you'd like to order altar flowers for a future date, please be sure to secure that Sunday in the book and complete an order form as soon as you are able. Thank you.

Debi Ritacco

MISSION MATTERS

VOLUNTEERING WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ON JUNE 3RD... We now have 14 volunteers signed up for our morning team who will work on Habitat's Northborough, MA build site, and 12 for the afternoon. Volunteers should have received directions and the Volunteer Info and Waiver Form. *If you have not given that form to Betsy, please bring it with you on June 3.* *Lorna Mattus-Merrill and Stephanie Smyth are providing the lunch and ask that you tell Lorna of any food allergies, need for gluten free food, etc.*

DISMAS HOUSE FUNDRAISER ON JUNE 10... 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.

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all those who helped make the Mother's Day 10:30 service so special. **Ushers** -- all under the expert guidance of David Dagle. **Reader:** Donna Hirtle **Music:** The Wesley Women's Chorus, Brett McGuire. **Special Mission Recognition testimonial:** Wesley UMW Co-President Allison Hansen. **Days for Girls presentation:** Lorraine Kronberg, Deb Bock, Violet Anseh. **Coordination of the theme for the day:** The Worship Team.

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to our 2017 Special Mission Recognition honoree: **Donna Hirtle.**

Thank you to the congregation for your generous **gifts to the DFG offering.**

Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia, Wesley UMW Co-President

Dear Wesley People,

Thank you so much for the wonderful reception and honor you bestowed upon me this past Sunday, May 7th. It has been my pleasure and way of life to teach, work with many of you and receive the many blessings here on earth. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us and show us the spirit of living in peace on earth. Special thanks to Nancy Cook who made it possible for me to share these blessings with you. May all of our efforts be spiritual models of generations of the future. Thank you again.

Stan Gutridge

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.

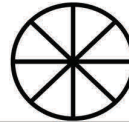
Many thanks! The VBS Team



The Ichthus ("Fish"): An Acronym



<i>Greek</i>	Ιησοῦς	Χριστός	θεος	Τιός	Σωτήρ
<i>Forms</i>	Jesus	Christos	Theos	Huios	Sotor
<i>English</i>	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

VBS is July 10-13 (Monday-Thursday), 5-8 p.m. Please see the 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





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.

How many people help out with the children's program? Lots! It takes a village of volunteers to make this ministry a thriving success. In fact, we are in need of MORE helpers. For our weekly Sunday School program alone, we use 3-4 teachers, 1 childcare worker, 1 greeter, and 1-3 helpers. That's 6-9 people every week! I challenge the entire congregation to consider volunteering just **ONE Sunday a year** to help our program out. Are you up for that challenge? Wouldn't it be amazing if we got every family to have one member help with the education program in some way or another? If so, drop me a line – grantgirl05@yahoo.com or when you see me on Sunday.

As we wrap up another school year, I'd like to take this moment to thank everyone who's helped with Education programs this past year! And this thank-you list will grow with this year's VBS crew. Stay tuned for that!

Thank you, Jean

Lisa F. * Ann O. * Bill Z. * Ron B. * Lori C. * Jan M. * Carol & Lottie F.
Carolyn B. * Judith & Rebecca B. * Abbe A. * Gabby A * Belinda A.
Rhianna B. * Maria G-K. * Steve W. * Florence O. * Linda, Louie & Beth D.
Kathryn E. * Gary R. * Lorraine K. * Donna H. * Cordelia F. * Betsy P.
Beth V. * Rachel, DJ, Danielle * Katy M. * Christian G. * Gerard P.
Gail L. * Brett M. * Pastor Shandi * Allison M. * Nan G. * Sandy M. * Rebecca A.
Adrienne and Anthony P. * Youth group * Middle schoolers * Sarah Circle * UMW

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES AT WESLEY

“One Thousand Gifts” Small Group—

(Second Saturday of each month starting July 8th)

A small group is 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.” The first group forming will meet at Wesley Church once a month at 9 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month—starting July 8th. Additional groups will be offered during the week if there is interest expressed in this option. See or contact Lisa Fagerstrom if you are interested in further information about or joining one of these groups. All are welcome!!



**WESLEY CHURCH TEAM
DAYS FOR GIRLS**

Leaders: Violet Ansah- Deb Bock-Lorraine Kronberg

***THANK YOU TO THE WESLEY CONGREGATION
YOUR GENEROUS GIVING TO OUR
DFG ORANGE RIBBON SUNDAY WAS OVERWHELMING!***

We have purchased the new “Brother Serger” and it is getting a lot of use already. We are now able to continue sewing liners, hot spots and bags to complete our goal of over 50 kits by September. You can continue to help by working with our team here at Wesley on Friday mornings or at home. We have all types of needs from cutting, tracing and sewing. Call any team member for information.

WHY DOES DFG MATTER?

When a girl is educated, *everything changes*. It’s better for her health, her family, her job prospects, her community and her country. The point is: Girls do better when they stay in school.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER WILL BE ‘KIT SUNDAY’, WHEN YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND ASSEMBLE THE KITS TO BE SENT OUT.

EVERY GIRL...EVERYWHERE...PERIOD

DID YOU KNOW?

Each week during worship the prayers of the people usually incorporate prayer requests submitted by members of the congregation, and the Sunday News and Herald always include a list of prayer concerns thus enabling us to continue to pray for each other's concerns throughout the week. When we pray for others we are participating in what is known as intercessory prayer. The English verb intercede derives from the Latin *intercedere* "to go between".

The Bible contains many examples of this type of prayer. In the Old Testament many of the psalms are in the form of intercessions, and the prophets often offered intercessory prayer on behalf of the Israelites. In the New Testament Jesus instructs his followers to pray even on behalf of their enemies. John 17 records how Jesus himself offered intercessory prayer for his disciples (and all future believers) on the night on which he was betrayed. Jesus also offers the ultimate example of intercession when he prayed for those who crucified him: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

Intercessory prayer is one of the most common forms of prayer, and often in our formal liturgy we pray for God to intervene not only in the lives of the members of the congregation but also in our communities and the world. As members of a Christian community we are called to continue to pray for others not only during worship but during our own private prayer time during the week. Our prayer for others affects not only the lives and hearts of those for whom we pray, but such prayer also transforms us as we grow in faith and discipleship.

*Submitted by,
Deborah A. O'Driscoll*

ALL FAITHS CEMETERY

On Memorial Day, May 29th, All Faiths Cemetery, operated by the Swedish Cemetery Corporation will be celebrating its 131st anniversary. A Memorial Day worship service will be held as usual at the Pavilion located in the center of All Faiths Cemetery, 9 Island Road, Worcester. We would like as many people as possible to enjoy this day with us. The service will begin at 10 am. The service will be followed by coffee and pastry at the Pavilion.

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., June 5	Wed., June 7
Mon., June 19	Wed., June 21

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 \$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.



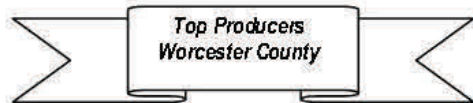
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WESLEY HERALD
MAY 24, 2017

***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
- Asst. Director of Ghanaian Choir Wesley Hall
- 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 Yaw Enyim
Co-Chairs Gary Robinson
- Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Nancy Spencer
- Communion Steward Linda D'Acri
- Finance & Stewardship Michael Edmunds
Co-Chairs 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 Barbara Ingrassia
Co-Chairs Allison Hansen

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