

Oh, The Places You'll Go!

It's that time of year... warmer weather, longer days, nature bursting with a floral palette, parties, cook outs, and graduations galore! This time of year, which is chocked full of beginnings and endings, reminds me of Dr. Seuss's final published work, "Oh, The Places You'll Go!" (and if you haven't read it, oh please go check it out from the library!). In typical Seuss cadence, the story rhymes and weaves as a child journeys through the stages of life, the ups and the downs, all set against his typical backdrop of a fantastical world.

I love gifting this book to graduates, and have done so on more than one occasion. Although the message was not quite clearly received when I read it to my six-year-old the other night, it does ring loud and clear in the mature minds of a young adult. Dr. Seuss' message is intended not just for graduates, but all of us as we journey through life. In fact, he wrote this book shortly before his death. It was his reflection on life. He teaches us to persevere through life, to overcome our challenges.

What if we approach these challenges with the awareness that we have God beside and within us all along the way?

A few reflections on snippets of wisdom from Dr. Seuss:

"Bang-ups and Hang-ups can happen to you." Ouch, they sure do. It's what you do during and after them that molds us. Do you brush yourself off? Do you step back and reflect or pray? Do you spiral into a sad place?

"You'll come to a place where the streets are not marked. Some windows are lighted. But mostly they're darked. Do you dare stay out? Do you dare go in?" Does fear prevent us from taking that leap or putting ourselves out there in work, home, life, or ministry?

When have you been stuck in *"The Waiting Place"*...*"waiting around for a yes or a no" or "Another Chance"*? Oh that waiting place...we have all been there! Big and small, we all wait. Waiting strengthens our resilience. And when we get that "no" yet again, what do we do? I have spent 18 years (and thousands of hours) working toward being a published novelist. If I had let the first "no" stop me, I would not be as close to the finish line as I am! (By the way, I have lost count on how many no's I've received). What if Dr. Seuss had given up with the first "no"?

Continued on page 3...

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS...

The Tower lighting for June is given in loving memory of Hazel and Sherman Langille by The Bellil Family.

The Rose window lighting for June is given in loving memory of George Hammond by The Hammond Family.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...

- ✠ Tim Jordan who is at Jewish Health Care Rehabilitation center. Tim has played drums in our worship sometimes. Pray for peace, healing and strength.
- ✠ Anita Goulding who is at Clinton Hospital. Pray for peace, comfort, and healing in body, mind, and spirit.
- ✠ Gabrielle Adams who graduated from High School on Sunday, June 5th and is off to college in Texas in the Fall.
- ✠ Wesley Youth and all those who participated for the Relay for Life at Mount Wachussetts; and for all those who will benefit from their efforts.
- ✠ Lisa Fagerstrom that God may watch over her while she is traveling.
- ✠ Someone's family for good health, and for their three kids to experience success in life.
- ✠ For world peace.
- ✠ For all members of this church and their families.
- ✠ Pastor Shandi who is going to be ordained at Annual Conference.
- ✠ Adrienne Hall-Phillips and family as they mourn the loss of Adrienne's grandmother, Charlie Mae Brown who lived until the age of 93 years old.
- ✠ John Hansen who had follow-up surgery to remove another lump and have it biopsied from the other side of his neck.
- ✠ Jorge C. Mendoza's sister, Consolacion Mendoza Sason in Lexington, Kentucky who has terminal cancer.
- ✠ Families that are going through the divorce of parents that they may know God's healing love.
- ✠ For world peace, all church members and their families wherever they are.
- ✠ Owusu-Ansah family as they give thanks to God for their daughter's marriage.
- ✠ Elizabeth Robinson at Westside House, 35 Fruit Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Thank you, THANK YOU, Thank YOU!!!

I would like to thank Pastor Shandi and my church family for your kindness and support over the past year.

~ Tim Jordan

Places continued...

“There is fun to be done! There are games to be won.” There will be highs, too! There will be times when we feel we can conquer any challenge, and we will indeed, prevail. We will see our ministries thrive; we will see our impact no matter how small. We shed light on others even when we don’t know it.

However, *“some times you’ll play lonely games too. Games you can’t win ‘cause you’ll play against you.”* What is it that holds you back from your greatest potential? Fear, excuses, doubts, inabilities?

But *“on you will hike. And I know you’ll hike far and face up to your problems what-ever they are.”* We will overcome. We will move past internal battles. We will stumble, but we will learn, and grow.

Just remember as Dr. Seuss says, that *“Life’s a Great Balancing Act.”* And we are not on this journey alone. Children, graduates, mid-lifers, retirees...we all have our brothers and sisters in Christ together on this journey. We have it in us to succeed. With God’s spirit in your pocket, *“you will move mountains”*.

Oh, the places you’ll go!

Jean Grant, Dir. of Children’s Christian Ed.

ALL CHURCH MEETING ~ SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH

You are invited to an All Church Meeting on June 12th, immediately following the 10:30 worship service. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and the Church Council are hosting this meeting in order to solicit your input about the direction of our music ministry. Please come prepared to share your thoughts in light of the following two questions: (1) *What have been your favorite aspects of our Music Ministry and WHY?* (2) *What hopes and dreams do you have for the direction of our Music Ministry?* Restrictions set aside, we would like to receive your thoughts on how to enhance and build upon our Ministry of Music in all its facets. Perhaps you have thoughts about strengthening our choirs (Bells, Wesley, Ghanaian, and Children/Youth) and to involve new people. Perhaps you have thoughts about enhancing our experience with music in worship, how to share our music ministry in other settings and with the wider community. Your input is appreciated. Please note that this is NOT intended to be an evaluation of Brett Maguire but an opportunity for visioning for the future of our ministry with music. We look forward to hearing from you on June 12th.

PASTOR SHANDI IS BEING ORDAINED!!!

On **Friday, June 17th at 7 PM** there will be an Ordination Ceremony for Pastor Shandi (and others during Annual Conference) at the Radisson Hotel Manchester Downtown, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101. All are invited.

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 DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM BOOK CLUB will be meeting on Wednesday, June 15, at the YWCA in Worcester. The beginning time will be 7:30 p.m and not the usual 7 p.m. We will be discussing the observance of Ramadan this month. Please bring a dish or dessert for all to enjoy, as Muslims can break their fast after sundown. Please, no gelatin or pork. See you there!

MEMBERS OF WESLEY HAVE BEEN INVITED to the observance of Ramadan in a program and dinner to be presented by the mosque of the Islamic Society of Greater Worcester. The event is planned for Sunday, June 26, beginning at 7 p.m. The mosque is located at 57 Laurel St. in Worcester. There is no charge, but the number of seats is limited. Please contact Margaret Watson as soon as possible if you wish to attend. Thank you.

WOMEN OF WESLEY: POTLUCK, PLANNING & DAYS FOR GIRLS, JUNE 16, 6:30 P.M. All women of Wesley are welcome on Thursday, June 16 in Brewer Hall for a potluck supper and an evening of learning about the Days for Girls initiative and next year's plans for United Methodist Women. Childcare will be available.

Know what you'll bring? Need a suggestion? Call Allison Hansen at 508-853-5339 or email her at ACHis4788@aol.com. Hope to see you then!

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

2016 Financial Results:

<u>May YTD Budget Results</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Budgeted Income	\$ 252,681	\$ 230,247	-\$ 22,435
Non-Budgeted Income	\$ 0	\$ 7,351	\$ 7,351
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>\$ 252,681</u>	<u>\$ 237,597</u>	<u>-\$ 15,084</u>
Budgeted Expense	\$ 291,259	\$ 272,401	-\$ 18,858
Non-Budgeted Expense	\$ 0	\$ 9,599	\$ 9,599
<u>Total Expense</u>	<u>\$ 291,259</u>	<u>\$ 282,000</u>	<u>-\$ 9,260</u>
Net Income/(loss)	<u>-\$ 38,578</u>	<u>-\$ 44,403</u>	<u>-\$ 5,824</u>

As we enter the summer months, please make every effort to keep your pledges up to date so we can avoid any cash flow concerns. Thank you!

Spring Appeal Results:

Budget: \$2,000

Actual: \$4,594

Diff: \$2,594 more than budget!! Thank you for your generosity!!

Capital Budget - Lighting Project Updates

Chancel Lighting:

The chancel lighting in the arch of the ceiling has been examined and the consensus of opinion is that it is too costly to replace. The project quote came in at over \$14,000 because of the need to rent a lift, and pay two electricians. Instead, it has been recommended that we disconnect the arch lights because of very deteriorated wiring, and install new LED lights just over the choir pew area. We will be seeing a demo of this idea in the coming week to see if it will provide the light needed to read sheet music and hymnals. If this works, it will save thousands of dollars.

Stairway and Hall Lighting Fixture Upgrades:

There are 46 lighting fixtures throughout the church stairwells and hallways that will be replaced this summer with new energy-efficient LED light fixtures.

Warehouse Light Fixtures:

Two of the fixtures on the warehouse roof will be replaced with LED fixtures. These lights are on all night long to keep the parking lot safe, and this will eliminate the need to change them as often, saving us approximately \$500 for each fixture.

Exit Emergency Lights:

Over the past several years, we have been replacing the old exit signs with new energy-efficient lights with emergency lights on either side. We have 11 of these left, and we will be replacing 6 of those 11 this year. This phased project is almost done!

NEW LOCK FOR UPPER GERTRUDE DOOR AND ASSOCIATED KEY

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE CHANGING THE LOCK ON THE UPPER GERTRUDE DOOR SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. If you currently have a key, you will need to turn it in to the Church Business Administrator and obtain a new one.

AS SOON AS THE LOCK IS SCHEDULED TO BE REPLACED, I WILL NOTIFY YOU THROUGH THE SUNDAY NEWS, THE HERALD, AND VIA EMAIL IF AVAILABLE TO COME PICK UP YOUR NEW KEY.

IN SOME CASES, PEOPLE MAY NO LONGER NEED A KEY, BUT THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED ANYWAY SINCE THEY WILL NOT WORK.

Peace, Lorna

FROM CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

As we get close to the end of the school year we are trying to get together some extra snacks and healthy food items for families with children. So when the cry “there’s nothing good to eat!” goes out we can have some healthy things to offer them. We are looking for the following items to offer them...

- Granola bars
- Cereal with high protein
- Fruit cups packed in juice not syrup
- 100% juice, juice boxes

Thank you for thinking of the children in need when you shop. ~ Nancy Spencer

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School! There are two easy ways to register for our fun summer camp! Complete a registration form at the office desk and turn into the office or Jean Grant or register at this link: <https://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/WesleyWorcester>.

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!!



Welcome to Red Fire Farm!

Growing Delicious Organic Food in Massachusetts since 2001

Red Fire Farm's CSA Shares **start the week of June 6th!**

Shares feature fresh, certified organic vegetables, with add-ons of local fruit, flowers and eggs! You can sign up here: <http://redfirefarm.com/CSA/join.html> or call the office with any questions at 413-467-7645.

Shares include free Pick Your Own crops for all members at farm locations in Granby and Montague.

Wesley Church is coordinating with the CSA host site in Worcester at the First Unitarian Church, by picking up excess food left at share distributions. Instead of being thrown out or wasted, all extra food will go to the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry.

Questions God Asks Us:

A Summer Worship Series and Small Group Opportunity

Have you ever stopped to think about the questions that God asks in the Bible? Most of us think of the Bible as a book of answers but maybe we may be approaching God and the Bible from the wrong direction. Rather than always looking for answers in the Bible, perhaps God invites us to think more carefully about the questions that God asks. God wants to enter into a conversational relationship with each of us, and one way in which God shows this deep desire is by asking questions. When we start hearing these questions as addressed to us, we receive a glimpse into those things that God wants to talk about with us. Our answers then draw us into a relationship of deeper sharing and intimacy with God.

The worship team will be designing worship services around some of these questions. If you would like to be a part of small group conversations based on these questions, please contact Pastor Shandi, Lisa Fagerstrom, or Debbie O'Driscoll.

Schedule of Worship Series

- May 29: Where are you? – Genesis 3:1-11
- June 5: Where is your brother/sister? – Genesis 4:1-10
- June 12: What is that in your hand? – Exodus 3-4
- June 19: *Father's Day*—1 Kings 19:1-15a, Luke 8:26-39
- June 26: What is your name? – Genesis 32:22-32
- July 3: What are you doing here? – 1 Kings 19:1-18
- July 10: What are you looking for? – John 1:35-42
- July 17: Who do you say that I am? – Matthew 16:13-20
- July 24: Do you want to get well? – John 5:1-9
- July 31: Why are you crying? – John 20:11-18
- August 7: Do you understand what I have done for you? – John 13:1-20

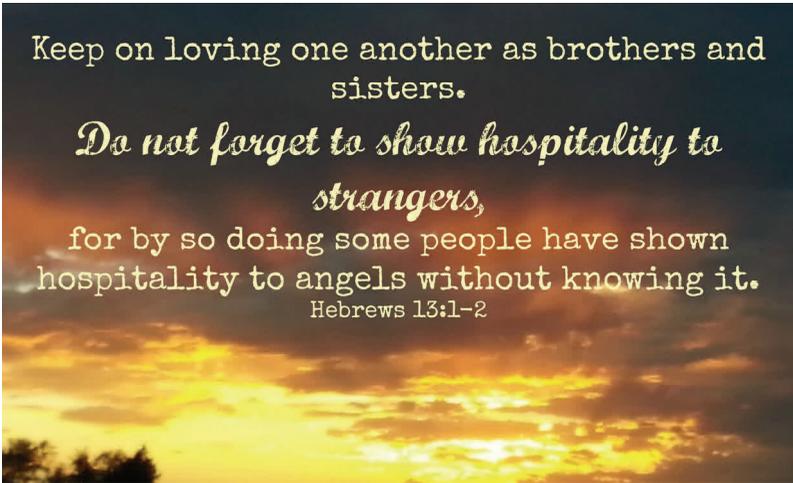
MISSION MATTERS

Leader(s) Needed for July 30th Community Supper... Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah volunteered to be in charge of the Aug. 27th Community Supper, but July 30th has not been spoken for. Please talk with Pastor Shandi or Betsy Pennino if you could volunteer. Debi Ritacco needs the menu by June 20th, in order to make the flyers we'll pass out at the June 25th supper. That's our best advertising. Several pages of suggestions for ease in running a community supper are in the Mission Committee mailbox, and all questions will be answered.

June 25th Community Supper... Esther Circle will produce the June meal of spaghetti and meatballs, salad, beverages and dessert. *Donations of desserts (finger foods) would be much appreciated.* You are always encouraged to share the meal with our neighbors .

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.



Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,

for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2

1 Thessalonians, *In Context* (1 Thess 3:1-13) {notes from the Brewer Hall Study Group, May 22, 2016}

Previously (Chapter 2), Paul had continued the letter with a brief mention of the hostile opposition to the Gospel of God from the established Israelite community at Philippi, but far less hostile opposition at his first visit to Thessalonika. He noted his awareness that the Thessalonian Jesus group he had gathered was able to endure and persevere after he had left (in spite of this opposition) and had expressed his desire to revisit but had been hindered from doing so.

Outcomes of Timothy's Visit

(vv. 3:1-5) This segment of the letter forms a {literary} unit, bracketed by the phrase in v. 1, *Diò mēkēti otégontes* (“Wherefore no longer bearing up”; RSV/NRSV “Therefore when we could bear it no longer”) and in v. 5, *dià toûto kagō mēkēti otégōn* (“Therefore I also no longer bearing up”; RSV/NRSV “For this reason I could bear it no longer”).

Paul's context in this segment {reiterates 1:6}, i.e., his expectation of continued *thlipsisin* (distress and anxiety) from their fellow Israelites – harassment for their adoption of the Gospel of God, causing grief and social suffering. His concern was that this persistent annoyance, and their pleas {to leave the new Jesus group and return to traditional Israelite behavior} marked a temptation or loyalty test, which he ascribed to *umâs o peirázōn* [“you the [one] tempting”, i.e., “the tempter” (RSV/NRSV)]. {Essentially, Paul is marking such traditional Israelites as agents of the tempter.} For Paul, to ‘labor in vain’ would be a shameful mark against his honor as a change agent.

(v. 6) However, Timothy has just brought welcome news that the Thessalonian Jesus group has persisted, relying upon God (“faith”), their in-group attachment (“love”), and still holding Paul in high esteem. [The presumption of being quickly forgotten by one's friends and acquaintances is a stereotypical Mediterranean quality (cf., 1 Cor 11:24-25; Luke 22:19).]

(vv. 7-9) Now that Paul's own distress and anxiety are allayed because the Thessalonians are firm in their resolve “in the Lord”, not only does he feel alive (again), but is actually joyous.

(v. 10) Paul notes that he is *nuktòs kai ēméras uperekperissoû deómenoi* (“night and day exceedingly petitioning”) to revisit, with the motive to amend shortcomings {&/or to advance} their faith, {which is encompassed} within the role of a change agent. Such amendments would include a deeper commitment to the Gospel of God (evidenced by behavior).

Best Wishes for Divine Favors

(vv. 11-13) This last section of Chapter 3 is the second section of the formulaic letter thanksgiving. The first section (1:2-3) looks to the past and present, while this second section looks to the near future, and will have to substitute for Paul's presence "until our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you" (v. 11). These three verses comprise a literary unit in chiasmic form:

A God the Father ... Our Lord Jesus (v. 11)

B may the Lord make you ... love (v. 12a)

C as we abound in love for you (v. 12b) [the theme of the first three chapters]

B' may he so strengthen your hearts (v. 13a)

A' God the Father ... Our Lord Jesus (v. 13b)

In summary, Paul has focused the first three chapters on the mutual attachment of all concerned in this innovation enterprise, i.e., God (the Patron); the cosmic Lord Jesus (the intermediary with God); the change agent (Paul); and the innovators and first adopters (the assembly at Thessalonika).

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. 44-45.

GOING TO A NATIONAL PARK THIS SUMMER? WORSHIP THERE TOO! America's national parks are celebrating their 100th anniversary this summer, and many people are planning road trips to experience them. If you are headed to visit one of our nation's spectacular wilderness areas, look for God in those awesome places... and if it's a Sunday, you might even find an ecumenical church service! Since 1951, A Christian Ministry in the National Parks has provided worship services in many of the country's largest national parks, and a few of the smaller ones too. College students and seminarians work in the parks and offer visitors a chance to encounter God in truly awe-inspiring wilderness settings.

A Christian Ministry in the National Parks is an interdenominational ministry that embodies and extends the ministry of Jesus Christ to those who live, work, and vacation in our national parks. To learn more, visit acmnp.com or ask Allison Hansen about it.

DID YOU KNOW?

As is our custom on the first Sunday of each month, this past Sunday our congregation participated in the sharing together of a sacred meal of bread and grape juice. Although in our congregation we most commonly refer to this meal as Holy Communion, there are several other names which are used, such as Eucharist or Lord's Supper. Each of these names emphasizes a different aspect of this sacrament.

The term **Holy Communion** has connotations of the loving relationship we have with God and with each other. It is an acknowledgement that when we receive the bread and grape juice, we are in communion or fellowship with one another in our congregation as well as with all Christians in the world. The communion extends beyond the confines of both geography and time to unite us with Christ and all Christians throughout history.

The word **Eucharist** comes from the Greek *eucharistia*, meaning "thanksgiving", and has been used since the beginning of the second century to refer to celebration of the Lord's Supper. As part of our Communion liturgy we generally include what is known as the Great Thanksgiving. The roots of the Great Thanksgiving in terms of both form and content extend back to the characteristic grace used by Jews before eating, in which, in addition to thanking God for blessings, they also remember the history of God's mighty acts. It is believed that Jesus would have used the form of such a prayer when he offered thanks at the Last Supper. Historically the early church borrowed from such Jewish prayers, and the basic pattern of the Great Thanksgiving is ancient.

Referring to the **Lord's Supper** reminds us that the observance of this meal derives from the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples on the evening before his crucifixion. We commemorate the occasion of the Last Supper specifically on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week. In the New Testament Paul uses the term Lord's Supper as he describes Jesus' meal with the disciples. (I Cor 11:20) To refer to this sacrament as the Lord's Supper is a reminder that each time we participate in this meal, Christ is the one who issues the invitation and is the host for the meal.

No matter what name we use for the celebration of this sacrament, it is the means by which we appreciate the present reality of the Risen Christ who sustains us for ongoing worshipful service.

*Submitted by,
Deborah A. O'Driscoll*

2016 HERALD SCHEDULE

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

Article Deadline Date	Herald Mailing Date
Mon., June 20	Wed., June 22
Mon., July 18	Wed., July 20

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.



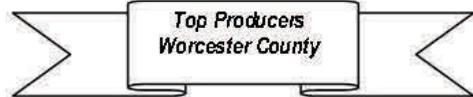
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WESLEY HERALD
JUNE 8, 2016

***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
- Church Council Ron Ramsay, Tom Ingrassia
- Board of Trustees Annelle Benson
- Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Nancy Spencer
- Communion Steward
- Education Work Area
- Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs Michael Edmunds, William Wong
- Ghanaian Association Paul Hayfron
- Hospitality Team Vivian Assie
- Layleader Deborah O'Driscoll
- Medical Ministry Ron Ramsay
- Memorial Gifts Linda Carlson
- 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