

Dear members of the Wesley community,

I hope this edition of the Herald finds you enjoying these glorious summery days. I've become a bit obsessed with planting vegetables in containers everywhere there's adequate sunlight, and it's been an added joy to notice with greater detail the gardens all around me. If you haven't yet caught the itch, might I suggest a small pot of basil as a simple way to experience the feeling of summer's rich harvest?

This is also the time of the year when I sigh with relief as the music program calms down for the summer. There will be soloists, instrumentalists, and ensembles to put together for the summer, and there will be plans to make for the fall, of course. But for right now, this is a good moment to pause and appreciate this special place we find ourselves with the choirs.

June 11 marked our first retreat for the Ghanaian and Wesley choir members. We had two simple goals: foster a sense of fellowship among the choir members, and start exploring what it means to be musical leaders in a multicultural context. I am so grateful for Pastor Shandi's leadership and the planning by the Worship Team, because I thought there was an abundance of good spirit flowing during our time together.

Perhaps the most meaningful part of the day was the chance to hear one another's stories. We heard of people moving to new countries at the age of eleven, we heard from people who were separated from their children for twenty years, and we heard of people who learned as children what it was to be stigmatized for having a German name. The cumulative effect of hearing story after story was staggering. The oldest cliché can ring so true: we really are all the same in our desire to love and be loved.

I wonder how many of our problems could be resolved more quickly and easily if we started from this magical place we sometimes find ourselves, when we are intensely aware of the rich humanity of our neighbor. I'm inclined to think we'd likely find more bridges linking our apparent divides than we imagined.

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.

The Tower lighting for July is given in loving memory of Mable and Luther Marsh, and Evelyn and Martin Samanen by Carol, Dave, Steve, and Jeff Samanen.

The Rose window lighting for July is given in loving memory of Lois and Bill Bird and Paul Carlson by Timmy and Charlie Bird.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Larry King and family on the death of his mother, Anita (King) Goulding.
- ✠ Ken Hedenburg, Tom, Alison and Alexandra Kane, Pamela Bak, Kimberly Harmon and families on the death of Diane Kane on Friday, June 17th.
- ✠ Joyce Sutherland at home with pneumonia.
- ✠ Our father who is in so much pain.
- ✠ Sharon Webb recovering from surgery
- ✠ Tracy Braun, please help her to have faith and hope during this difficult time. We pray that she will remain cancer free after her surgery.
- ✠ The grieving families in Orlando and across the U.S. for their losses from gun violence.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family, I feel deeply humbled and incredibly grateful for the wonderful surprise that you gave me on Sunday. I don't know how you pulled that one off, but I totally had no clue this was coming, at least not until I came out of the 8:30 service and I saw the flurry in the kitchen. You were incredible! Thank you to the members of SPRC and everyone for your "scheming" and planning. :) Thank you all for the cards and gifts and for the honor you gave me. Thank you to those of you who were able to come to the ordination service. Your presence was truly humbling and affirming. I made it through this part of the journey with the grace of God, and you were means of that grace. I am grateful for your prayers and support. I continue to grow and together we will grow. The journey continues and I am pleased that I will be continuing to partner in ministry with you. May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you always! I love this church! I love you all!

In Christ, Pastor Shandi

Continued on page 3...

It is my hope as we move forward as a community that we hear in each other's music the same longing for joy and happiness that unites us all, whatever the melodies, harmonies, or rhythms that give form to that desire. It is a privilege and an honor to be a guiding force in creating the music that moves this great church forward into the decades of music making and growing ahead.

Shalom!

Brett Maguire, Director of Music

Below are a few picture from the retreat.



SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY + SUPPORT HOPE FOR HOUSING! Looking for a way to serve others on Sundays without even leaving the church building? Need community service hours? You can prevent homelessness by selling grocery gift cards after the 8:30 or 10:30 service. Five percent of each gift card sale -- for Big Y, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Hannaford, CVS, Panera or Dunkin' Donuts -- will help families stay in their homes. Stop by the table in Brewer Hall (conveniently located near the coffee and donuts) and sign up to volunteer for some summer Sundays. Allison Hansen can help get you started. Questions? Email her at AChis4788@aol.com or give her a call at 508-853-5339.

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.

KITCHEN ALERT! For years our own Dot Ellis has been taking the kitchen towels, cloths, etc. home to wash and dry on a weekly basis. She is no longer able to perform this task, and volunteers are needed to take home to wash and dry the towels and cloths from the Wesley kitchen. Anyone with a washing machine is eligible to perform this task, men included. If you are willing and able to help, please contact Allison Hansen as soon as possible as a schedule needs to be developed. Many thanks.

DAUGHTERS OF ABRAHAM... The book club met on Wednesday, June 15, to hold a discussion on the observance of Ramadan and to share the breaking of the fast with our Muslim sisters. We shared our experiences and benefits of fasting in our respective faiths. The assignment for July will be published in the next Herald.

WORCESTER INTERFAITH met on June 14 with many members of various churches, mosques, and temples in attendance. Ascentria Alliance staff members Lisa Brennan and Beth Singley gave a power point presentation on the situation of refugees newly arriving in Worcester. One new family has just arrived. Furniture is especially needed for the new arrivals. Many faith communities help to orient them to the new culture and transition to independence, a process that usually requires about six months.

VIGIL FOR ORLANDO VICTIMS... A vigil organized by local Muslim believers was held on the steps of City Hall in Worcester on Friday, June 17, in the afternoon. Prayers were offered for peace. Asima Silva of the Builders for Community spoke during the program. Speeches were also given by Rep. James McGovern and City Manager Edward Augustus. About 100 individuals attended the outdoor service.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

NEW LOCK FOR UPPER GERTRUDE DOOR AND ASSOCIATED KEY

PLEASE NOTE that we will be changing the lock on the UPPER GERTRUDE DOOR on June 30, 2016. If you currently have a key, you will need to turn it in to the Church Business Administrator to obtain a new one.

In some cases, people may no longer need a key, but they should be returned anyway since they will not work.

Thanks, Lorna

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please Note: There will be NO Sunday School on July 3rd.

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>.

A call for a few more donated items for VBS:

1. Plastic Baby pool (will return)
2. Large storage bin (shallow - 2 ft x 4 ft x 6 inch deep)- purchase to donate
3. Empty large 2 Liter soda bottles! Lots! Some smaller water bottles (1L or 16 oz) are also okay.
4. Large empty rolls - from wrapping paper, carpet rolls, etc. No more paper towel -sized - we are all set.

Thank you for all your donations!

~ Jean Grant

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

MISSION MATTERS

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 .

JULY 30TH COMMUNITY SUPPER... Donna Hirtle will lead the July Community Supper. Her group will be "Wesley graduates," the wonderful young people who were in recent Youth Groups.



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.

BILL WONG NAMED LAYMAN OF THE YEAR

Born in New York, Bill learned the value of a strong work ethic at the young age of 12 when he began working in the family restaurant and giving back to the community as a Jr. Volunteer for the local ambulance service.

He moved to Worcester in 1987 to attend one of Massachusetts finest schools, WPI. Wanting to graduate debt free, he was on the 6 year plan as he worked full time as a Worcester EMT while going to school.

In 1990, his dedication to helping others continued. As part of his IQP Project at WPI, he developed a volunteer, on campus, first responder program that is now WPI EMS. His project and the many volunteers that have followed in his footsteps, have literally saved dozens of lives over the years.

He met his wife, Deanna, while working at St Vincent Hospital and began attending Wesley where they were married in 1997. He and his family moved to Colorado where they became active members of Trinity United Methodist Church in Denver.

Bill is an amazing father. He has instilled in his two boys his own strong work ethic; teaching them that a Dad can do laundry, iron, cook a great meal and do the dishes. He also has instilled in his boys the value of community service and living a debt free life. All the while making sure homework is done when he's thousands of miles away or on another continent.

Numbers were always easy for this year's Layman of the Year, so he began serving on Wesley's Finance & Stewardship committee. He is dedicated to helping others find financial freedom through personal financial education. He has taught many Wesley families how to save thousands of dollars and lead debt free lives through teaching Financial Peace University courses right here at Wesley. He's shared multiple personal testimonies on Stewardship during Wesley's annual stewardship campaigns.

Today he continues to show his first responder roots as a member of the United Methodist Disaster Early Response Team and as a member of the emergency response team at Cisco, where he works.

You can find him here at Wesley in services, doing coffee hour, cooking in the kitchen, washing dishes after a community supper, putting away tables and chairs or attending the Saturday morning men's group.

We thank Bill for his continuing service and dedication to Wesley United Methodist Church.

WELCOME OUR NEW NEIGHBOR!

We are pleased to welcome **RIA House (Ready Inspire Act)** as our new neighbor. RIA House is renting office space on Wesley's Lower Level (Conference Room A) – a small portion of the space formerly rented by IHN.

RIA House (Ready Inspire Act): *A Sisterhood for Change* is a 501c 3 nonprofit organization supporting and standing with women who have experiences in the commercial sex industry, sexual exploitation, and/or sex trafficking. In addition to other sources of funding, it has been awarded a 3-year federal grant (VOCA — Victims of Crime Act grant) that asks RIA to provide services in Framingham and Worcester.

RIA House trains and educates various local groups, offers case management/mobile peer counseling and accompaniment, and supports community efforts. It is funding two Peer Advocates & Mentors (per diem, case by case), two Regional Outreach & Care Coordinators (presently half-time: one in Worcester and one in MetroWest), and one Group Specialist (part-time)

Staff includes survivors and allies in recovery from addiction, DV, sexual trauma and exploitation; these staff members specialize in trauma and substance abuse recovery. The RIA House Executive Director, two development staff, Board and Advisory Team members are all volunteers.

In order to fulfill its mission, RIA has been seeking office space in Worcester in order to establish a badly needed physical presence here. Prior to this, RIA staff meetings have been held in catch-as-catch can spaces, and files, etc., have been transported from place-to-place in their cars.

Now, thanks to a *Mission Possible* special projects grant to RIA House from Wesley UMW's Isabel Smith funds, this important mission project can establish a home base in Worcester. We are pleased that the Board of RIA House has chosen to rent space at Wesley.

We're planning a "welcoming event" for the fall so that we can become better acquainted as neighbors. For more information about RIA House: **www.Riahouse.org**

Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia

PLANNING YOUR SUMMER READING?

Here are some suggestions from the *2016 UMW Reading Program...*

There's something for Everyone: Adults, children, youth. Print, Large Print, ebooks, Sources for the visually impaired. English, Spanish, Korean.

Categories: *Spiritual Growth, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Education for Mission, Leadership Development*

Challenging, encouraging, inspiring, thought-provoking, empowering...

SEE the titles with descriptions at:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/umw/pdfs/READING_PROGRAM_2016_PR7.pdf

OR <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram/2016>

Check your local public library, physical and online bookstores (new and used), UMW Mission Resources, etc. for some *great reads!* Let us know what you think.

Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia



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.

During the summer one Herald is mailed out each month for July and August.

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.

REMINDER... We are having a baby shower for Allison and Rev. Shandi on Sunday, June 26th following the 10:30 service. Hope to see you there!

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



DAYS FOR GIRLS
North Worcester MA Team
United Methodist Women

We have started our work meetings and they are exciting and productive! Each Friday morning from 10:00 – 12:00 we are on the second floor in the sewing room.

I am pleased to report that the Serger is up and running and we have started to make liners for the shields. There is cutting, ironing, serging, sewing and much more activity.

If you have not heard about DFG and our mission to make Feminine Hygiene Kits and want more information about this important mission that our women have undertaken please contact:

Lorraine Kronberg (508) 852-6629 or e-mail Lorrgeo@aol.com

Girls miss school and work for up to five days a month because they do not have access to feminine hygiene items. Girls worldwide suffer indignities, infection, even exploitation trying to stay in school. We women (and men) need to do everything in our power to change this situation. We have made a good start but need many handsjoin us.

Next sewing times: Friday, June 24, Friday, July 8, Thursday, July 14, and Friday, July 22.

EVERY GIRL... EVERYWHERE... PERIOD

1 Thessalonians, *In Context* (1 Thess 4:1-18)
{notes from the Brewer Hall Study Group, May 29-June 5, 2016}

Previously (Chapter 3), Paul had first warned the Thessalonian Jesus group of continued harassment from their fellow Israelites in the community who had rejected his Gospel of God at his arrival less than seven months prior. But with Timothy's recent report – that the group had persisted, firm in their resolve in the Lord, he shared his relief, and his prayers to revisit – to deepen their commitment.

Solemn Appeal to Divine Conduct, and to Sanctification/Holiness

(vv. 1-2) In this introduction, Paul urges the Thessalonians to (continue to) “walk and please God”, i.e., to exhibit God-pleasing conduct, which would become a mark of group identity noticeable by outsiders for its distinctive, honorable character. Within this context, Paul then specifies God-pleasing conduct in vv. 3-12.

(v. 3a) The term *agiasmòs* (“sanctification”) means exclusivity, i.e., whatever belongs to a person. [What belongs to no one in particular belongs to the area termed the profane, common, not exclusive.] Paul is telling the Thessalonians to conduct themselves as belonging exclusively to God, in a way that reflects God's qualities.

(vv. 3b-8) One area of conduct that Paul specifies is desisting from transgressions of interpersonal purity rules (Leviticus 18). The *éthnē* (“nations”; RSV “heathen”, NRSV “Gentiles”) refers to the surrounding majority population, whether non-Israelites or assimilated Israelites who don't know God in practice.

(v. 6) Paul's directive that “no man go beyond and defraud (RSV “transgress and wrong”; NRSV “wrong or exploit”) his brother in this matter” means that the Thessalonian Jesus group males should set a higher moral standard than other males of the city. God's honor is {jeopardized} by deviant behavior of those whom he has set apart, and “the Lord is an avenger in all these things”.

(v. 7) The term *akatharsía* (“uncleanness”; NRSV “impurity”) marks a person or object that is out of place, which is *not* the opposite of *agiasmō* (see v. 3a note).

(v. 8) The rejection of the above specified deviances is demanded by the authority of God, who gives his Holy Spirit, or power for the benefit of the group [“you” (plural)].

About Proper Ingroup Behavior

(vv. 9-10) Paul notes that the Thessalonian assembly [atypically for Mediterraneans] has spontaneously set aside customary ingroup attitudes with regard to fellow Jesus group assemblies “throughout Macedonia”, and ascribes this {spontaneous connection-alism} to the direct action of God (“taught by God”).

(vv. 11-12) But expanding this attitude inward, Paul encourages the Thessalonian assembly to conduct themselves so that they command respect from the outsiders, and not provoke negative reactions (“be dependent on nobody”). Thus, he [reminds] them to aspire to “live quietly”, “mind your own affairs,” and “work with your hands”.

Concerning Group Members Who Have “Died”

(vv. 13-14) Paul then transitions to the topic of grieving for “the [ones] sleeping” (NRSV “those who have died”). For believers in the resurrection, the adjective *koimōménōn* (“sleeping”) is *not quite* a euphemism for “died”. The related noun, *koimētērion* (“cemetery”) means “dormitory”, i.e., a place for sleeping prior to the resurrection. With God in charge of Jesus’ resurrection, and now Jesus as intermediary with God, Jesus group members not only live, but also die, in and through the Lord. Jesus’ resurrection is an event of hope – certainty of resurrection and honor with God.

(v. 15) A *lógō kuríon* (“word of the Lord”) signifies taught or instructed by the Lord, so what follows (vv. 16-17) is stated with authority and certainty, to allay grief over Jesus group members who have fallen asleep prior to the *parousían* (“presence”; RSV/NRSV “coming”) of the Lord.

(vv. 16-18) [Although the Gospel of God proclaims Jesus as the appointed Messiah over Israel, he has not yet exercised this role with the power accorded to him at the resurrection. His presence/coming/arrival would mark the beginning of this role.]

The Lord’s arrival (the *parousia*) would actually take place – “with a word of command”, “a voice of an archangel and with a trumpet of God” marking his proximate arrival, and then his descent from heaven, with the “dead in Christ” rising first and “then we the living remaining[,] together with them shall be seized in clouds to a meeting of the Lord in the air”. And those with hope will be with the Lord forever.

Within the high context culture shared by Paul and his Israelite audience, the *parousia* would obviously take place in Jerusalem, via an opening in the sky to the celestial realm of the God of Israel (well attested in 1 Kgs 22:19; 2 Chron 18:18; Ezek 1:1).

However, these words of comfort link with continued allegiance and trust in God and his Messiah, Jesus.

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. 45-50.

Did You Know?

This past Sunday our opening hymn was “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (UMH 384). Did you know that this hymn is considered to be one of Charles Wesley’s finest texts? It is included in the major hymnals of most Protestant denominations, yet its major theme is that of Christian perfection, which is at the core of John Wesley’s theology of holiness. This text was first published with four stanzas in *Hymns for those that seek, and those that have Redemption in the Blood of Christ* (1747). The text is often cited as a spiritual parody of a poem by John Dryden which was set to music by Henry Purcell in his opera *King Arthur* in 1791. The poem’s text begins “Fairest Isle, all isles excelling, Seat of Pleasures, and of Love.” Charles Wesley’s hymn text, which is addressed to Christ as the Love above all loves, is permeated with attitudes of praise and adoration. It begins in the first stanza with a prayer for the indwelling of that Love in our lives and culminates in the final stanza’s prayer for sanctification. According to British theologian and liturgical scholar Geoffrey Wainwright as cited in the *Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal*, “positively formulated, perfection meant for Wesley the pure love of God and Neighbour.”

In our hymnal Wesley’s text is paired with the tune Beecher, a tune composed in 1870 by John Zundel, a German-born musician who came to the United States in 1847 to become an organist in New York City. He composed this tune specifically for Wesley’s text. However, since this tune was composed more than 100 years after Wesley wrote the text, it is clear that it had been sung to other tunes originally. In fact John Wesley paired the text with a Purcell melody in *Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed*, 1761. In 20th C hymnals, the text is most commonly paired with the tune Beecher as in our hymnal, but a not insignificant number of hymnals pair it with the Welsh tune Hyfrydol (the tune our hymnal uses for another Charles Wesley text, “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” UMH 184.) No matter to what tune we sing this text, it reminds us that we are called to reflect God’s love in the way we live our lives.

*Submitted by,
Deborah A. O’Driscoll*

¹ *Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal*, Carlton R. Young, ed., Nashville: Abington, 1993

² http://www.hymnary.org/text/love_divine_all_love_excelling_joy_of_he

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>
Mon., July 18	Wed., July 20
Aug—TBD	Aug—TBD

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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Music Assistant	Deborah O'Driscoll
Director of Children's Christian Education	Jean Grant
Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship	Lisa Fagerstrom
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United Methodist Women Co-Chairs	Barbara Ingrassia Allison Hansen

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

**WESLEY HERALD
JUNE 22, 2016**

**Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608**

**Church Phone: 508-799-4191
Fax: 508-799-3725
E-Mail: office@wesleyworc.org
Web page: www.wesleyworc.org**

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