

## Disciple-making Disciples: Our Vision for Church Growth

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are we to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.” (Romans 10:13-15)*

Many churches these days lament how their membership and worship attendance is declining, but when asked what they are doing to invite others to a relationship with Jesus Christ, the response is often silence. For some churches, the expectation is that the pastor does all the “evangelism” work in addition to all the “maintenance” work of keeping a church afloat. However, it is clear from the scriptures that the work of evangelism and church growth belongs to all disciples.

Here at Wesley UMC we have a wonderful opportunity and tremendous potential for church growth. On average, we have an approximate weekly attendance of 180. In a given year, we may receive an approximate average of 8 new members, while losing another 8 through death and transfers. Now imagine the difference if each professing member attending our worship services made a yearly commitment to invite at least one person to faith. Such an invitation could include: (1) building a relationship with that person based on common interests, (2) occasionally sharing powerful testimonies of what God has done for you in your life, (3) regularly praying for that person and their life situation, and (4) inviting them to worship, mission, and/or other opportunities of spiritual formation where they can eventually experience more of God’s grace for themselves. Imagine what God will do with something like that!

God has a plan for us here at Wesley. People in our community may never know the good news we know if none of us do our part to proclaim it with our word and witness. It has been my prayer that this church will be transformed to be a more vital disciple-making community. Such a community begins with a commitment from current disciples to be on an intentional spiritual journey of deepening our faith and trust in God. I appeal to you, therefore, brothers and sisters, to rekindle the faith that is in you, nurture it toward spiritual vitality, and seek every opportunity to entrust yourself to God’s grace which forms, reforms, and transforms the Christian life. This will be your witness for the world.

*In Faith and Hope,  
Pastor Shandi*

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

**The Tower** lighting for August is in loving memory of Kathryn W. and Melvin T. Thomas by Wayne, Susan, Kathryn, and Emily Thomas.

**The Rose** window lighting for August is given in loving memory of Rena Stephenson by Mark and Cindy Muncey.

**The Rose** window lighting for September is given in loving memory of Ralph Ellis.

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Natasha Hayfron-Benjamin and the family who are grieving the death of their father.
- ✠ Jordan and the Carlson family that they may have a great Fall season.
- ✠ The players on the Wesley Basketball team who played their last game of the summer league on August 28. We pray for the best during the play-offs this week.
- ✠ Kendra O-Tetteh who is starting her first week of college at UConn. Pray for her safety and wellbeing.
- ✠ College students Ellen, Eleanor, and Kendra and all children trying to survive in school.
- ✠ Alida Bloem that God may be with her.
- ✠ For marriages and family relationships.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of more volunteers to help wash down and clean the church pews, including the ones in the balconies. This will take a number of volunteers and maybe 2 separate days. You can make this a family day! These wood pews have been turning blackish over the years from our hands and from many First Night's, weddings, funerals, and church activities. I will be looking into the best products for cleaning the wood.

I will be putting together a volunteer sheet out in Brewer Hall. Please leave your name and number and email to be reached. I will pick a day/date that will accommodate all volunteers. We will split up into teams, some working the balcony and others the sanctuary, including the pulpits and choir area pews in back of the pulpit. I plan on making this a fun day of fellowship as well as it should be, with Christian music and hopefully lunch. Please consider this call of service. Let's keep Wesley Church looking beautiful and clean. If you are feeling this calling, please contact me, Gerard Piscitelli, or any other staff member to sign up, or sign up on the sheet in Brewer Hall.

*Gerard Piscitelli*

## **BRING A FRIEND/ NEIGHBOR/ CO-WORKER TO CHURCH**

In an ideal world, every Sunday is Bring a Friend or Neighbor or Co-worker to church Sunday. This year, however, on *Sunday, September 11*, I would like to challenge you and encourage you to invite one person to worship with you that Sunday. Just one person! It can be a friend, a neighbor, or co-worker, or it can be someone whom you have noticed has not been worshipping with us for some time. If anyone declines your invitation, *do not* be discouraged! Pray that God will lead you to someone else and extend the same invitation to them. “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try, try again.” :)

When you make your invitation, offer to give them a ride or to meet them in the church parking lot or the church entrance so you may sit together. When they come, be sure to introduce them to at least three people from Wesley, and be sure you reach out to someone else’s guest yourself. Then after their visit, call them up and ask them out for a cup of coffee and ask them what they thought about worship. Then, invite them back for a second time.

In the beginning of the gospel of John, we find Jesus inviting people to discipleship who in turn extend invitations to others. To Andrew Jesus said “*Come and see*” (John 1:39). Andrew in return went and invited his brother, Simon, saying “*We have found the Messiah*” (John 1:41). To Philip Jesus also said, “*Follow me*” (John 1:43); and Philip in turn found Nathaniel and invited him saying, “*We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph of Nazareth*” (John 1:45).

While every Sunday is Invite Someone to Church Sunday, I thought I would give you a practice run, in case you haven’t been doing it all along. :) I look forward to meeting your guests!!

*In faith and hope, Pastor Shandi*

## **MISSION AND MINISTRY FAIR: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

This year’s Mission and Ministry Fair is scheduled for Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:30 AM. This is an opportunity for you to share with the congregation information about your ministry, mission, or work area. BE CREATIVE! You want people to be as excited as you are about the work you do. So find fun and engaging ways to tell your story.

Bible Studies, Small Groups, Mission groups, etc, this is an opportunity for you to also reach out to others and invite them to join you in the work you do. But, for church Committees, the Lay Leadership Development Committee is responsible for filling out open vacancies on our administrative and ministry committees. You need not recruit people to your committee but you simply need to tell the story of your work area.

You are all invited to participate. If you need a table, please contact the church office and let us know by Thursday, September 8.

**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. The next upcoming Herald mailing date is September 21.

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.

### **HOW CAN GROCERY SHOPPING PREVENT HOMELESSNESS?**

Imagine that you and your family are facing a stark choice -- pay the rent or pay for food and your child's critical medical care. Your landlord is ready to evict you, as this isn't the first month you've fallen behind. You're just \$500 away from being out on the street, looking for one of those very few shelters that accepts families.

Hope for Housing bridges that \$500 gap. with a grant that keeps families in their homes, and keeps them together. Not in the state's inadequate and expensive shelter system.

That \$500 comes from grocery stores, CVS, Dunkin Donuts and Panera. They sell gift cards in bulk to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, and Hope for Housing banks the discount when volunteers sell those gift cards in churches across Worcester County.

Come be part of the solution and prevent homelessness! All it takes is 15 minutes after church as a volunteer sales person, or even less time to buy a gift card for where you normally shop or grab a coffee. Simple! Find out more from Allison Hansen at [AChis4788@aol.com](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com), or sign up to volunteer at the table in Brewer Hall.

*Allison Hansen*

## MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

### Men's Mini-harvest Results

\$2080 was collected on Sunday and another \$63 has come in since then. Congratulations!

### Brewer Hall Floor

The Brewer Hall floor was sanded and coated on Monday, August 29, 2016. It will be available for foot traffic on Wednesday, August 31, after 3 pm. Chairs and tables will be limited to East Hall only for an additional week.

### Boiler Return Tank

The boiler return tank which holds 200 lbs of water has failed and will be replaced before the heat is turned back on in the Fall. This will be an interesting project to follow—the new tank will be installed through the old coal shoot into the basement using a rigging truck. Unfortunately, if we do not have this tank, we cannot use the boiler!—so it is a very important piece of work that needs to be done. The cost will be part of the capital budget this year--\$6200!

Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

*Lorna*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fall will be here before we know it! Some important dates & events:

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** – Labor Day weekend – there is **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**. Childcare will be available.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** – The kids will be baking bread for our mini-harvest in the kitchen during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday School.

**MINISTRY FAIR – September 11<sup>th</sup>** – please come visit our table during the coffee hours to learn what's going on in our Children's Christian Education ministry! Interested in volunteering? Come on over. :)

**Children's-led Worship, September 18<sup>th</sup>**- Children and Youth will be leading the 10:30 a.m. worship service, along with hosting a mini-harvest offering. Bibles will be presented to children who do not have them yet, to preschoolers/toddlers (a Bible story book), or to youth that have transitioned to middle school.

## FROM CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

We are looking for a volunteer to take the broken down cardboard to the recycling center in Worcester. The day we take our cardboard to be recycled is Wednesday. We also have another volunteer opportunity... we are in need of a person to do the set up for distribution on Friday mornings. You must be able to lift grocery bags of food and cases of bread and pastries, and produce. The set up time is 8:30 AM and it takes about 45 minutes. If you are interested in helping out with either opportunity please call Nancy Spencer at 508-887-1481.

For September we continue to ask for backpacks for kids in grades K thru 12 both girls and boys. In each backpack we ask that you put an age appropriate item for coloring, from crayons for the little ones to markers or colored pencils for the older ones. These tend to be more expensive than pens and pencils and usually are not bought when our client's funds are tight.

Thank You for taking the time to think of those kids in need! It is a wonderful thing to see the happiness of a girl or boy when they get their very own new backpack with a surprise inside!

Food items needed to help fill bags at Carty Cupboard at this time are...

Meals in a can... like baked beans, pasta, and stews

We are also in need of jelly in plastic please.

Thank You!

~ *Nancy Spencer*

## MISSION MATTERS

**Worcester Fellowship Fundraiser at Wesley on September 17<sup>th</sup>...** Worcester Fellowship, the outdoor mission on Worcester Common, is offering an all-you-can-eat dinner of penne and homemade sauces, meatballs and sausages, drink and dessert. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 10. The meal is in Brewer Hall, Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 8 pm. Info on how to register is posted in Brewer Hall.

## UPCOMING CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES...

Come by the Christian Formation and Discipleship table at the Wesley Ministry Fair (Sunday, Sept. 11th) to learn more about the many events and opportunities for deepening and broadening your faith journey and exploration.

There will be sign up sheets to be a part of **newly forming small groups** (or to take part in small group leadership training)... to continue with the **Mass Bible Society's study in exploration of the Old and New Testament**... or to join a newly forming group with the introductory "What Is the Bible?" study... to be a part of a **prayer team looking to open the church building for prayer** several times each week... to be a part of the **fall retreat (Saturday, Oct. 1 from noon-4:30)** reflecting on Trevor Hudson's book "Questions God Asks Us"--the book we used for our summer sermon series.

Additionally, there will be information about Sunday School classes and other planned study groups and events throughout the program year... as well as an opportunity for your voice to be heard about what other things you would like to see offered to help in your individual faith formation and journey and our work together here at Wesley UMC. Hope to see you at the Christian Formation table at the Ministry Fair!

*Lisa Fagerstrom*

## JOIN US FOR DINNER AT WRIGHTS CHICKEN FARM

Would you like to have dinner at Wright's Chicken Farm (in Harrisville, Rhode Island) after church on Sunday, September 18th? We can carpool after the 10:30 service.

Please call the Nevers (508-949-7919) for table reservations and driving directions.

## GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

### Donated Items Needed

**Take advantage of those BACK TO SCHOOL SALES now  
(Staples, Walmart, Target, etc)!**

A crew from Wesley UMC will be going on a mission trip to Guatemala in October. We will be assisting with construction/moving of a preschool. The preschool and health clinic have a wish list of items we will bring with us. There will be a large bin in Brewer Hall in September, as well as at the Ministry Fair table (on September 11<sup>th</sup>) for collections. Donated items are listed in the boxes below.  
**Thank you for your support!**

We are also looking for a few **ROLLER/CARRY ON-sized suitcases** (donated) to bring these items. These suitcases will stay in Guatemala. Families use these suitcases as wardrobes/dressers in their homes.

- 6 King-sized flat sheets (beige or light color)
- Cough drops
- Pain relieving cream/muscle rub (small tubes)
- Prenatal vitamins (expiration must be 6-12 months from now)
- Nasal decongestant
- Nasal saline spray
- TUMS
- Pepto chewables

- Post-it sticky notes (all sizes)
- Children's large toothpaste (8 oz). NO mint or cinnamon
- 12 Crayola thick colored pencils (50 packs)
- Elmer's school glue (50)
- Large Pencil Erasers (50)
- Pencils (the octagonal – like yellow Ticonderoga, NOT round) (100)
- Pom-poms (10 bags)
- Pipe cleaners (chenille wire) (500)
- Small white boards (size 8.5 x 11 inches) (25)
- Rulers with inches and centimeters (50)
- Loose leaf paper (50)
- Children's scissors (50)



# **DAYS FOR GIRLS**

**North Worcester MA Team**

**United Methodist Women**

**Lorraine Kronberg, Team Leader**

**Visit the DFG table on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Learn more about this wonderful ministry sponsored by United Methodist Women. Our DFG tree will be waiting for your help to make it blossom. Each donation will add a blossom.....help us continue this vital ministry.**

**MAKE IT A REALITY**

**EVERY GIRL...EVERYWHERE...PERIOD**

**YOUR DONATION WILL HELP TO BUY THE SUPPLIES NEEDED TO COMPLETE FEMININE HYGIENE KITS**

**\$5.00 – WILL BUY WASHCLOTHS OR SOAP**

**\$10.00 – WILL BUY GIRLS PANTIES**

**\$13.00 – WILL BUY ONE YARD OF PUL**

**(moisture proof lining for shields)**

**Donations in any amount will enable us to purchase PUL, fabric for bags and shields, and flannel for shield liners.**

**(Checks to United Methodist Women with Days for Girls in the memo)**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our worship each week is filled with various sounds — of the voices of the congregation and choir singing; of the spoken words of prayer, Scripture and preaching; of the music of the organ and other instruments. However, silence is also a very important component of worship. A few Sundays ago we had the opportunity to experience the silence of centering prayer. The use of silence in worship is certainly not a new concept, however.

The Bible contains numerous references to silence in worship and other encounters with God. In I Kings 19 God speaks to Elijah not in the earthquake or the fire but in a “gentle whisper”, and there are many exhortations to be silent before God:

“Be still and know that I am God.” Ps. 46:10a

“The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence.” Hab. 2:20

Jesus himself often sought solitude and silence for prayer, and the heavenly worship described in Revelation 8:1 includes a mysterious half hour of silence.

Silence and solitude have been used throughout the history of Christianity as a means to listen for God’s voice. By the 4<sup>th</sup> Century early Christian monastics retreated to the desert in search of God. This form of spirituality evolved into the Hesychasm (Greek *hesychia*: silence) of the Orthodox Church and the contemplation of the Catholic monastic tradition.

Silence has long been used in many ways in Christian worship. In his book *Participating in Worship: History, Theory and Practice*, Craig Erickson discusses many types of silence within worship including the silences of preparation, centering, confession, listening, adoration, and communion. In our busy society we are much more used to sound than to silence. However, as Erickson points out:

“The silence of worship is more than the absence of sound. Liturgical silence provides a context a frame for the hearing of God’s word...Liturgical silence is not a void or a gap. It is a creative and pregnant silence, from which issues forth the wisdom of God.”

*Submitted by,  
Deborah O’Driscoll*

## 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., Sept 19	Wed., Sept 21
Mon., Oct 3	Wed., Oct 5

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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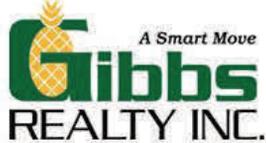
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## WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. 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

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

**WESLEY HERALD**  
**AUGUST 31, 2016**

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