

In the book we are using during Lent in worship and study groups -- Wendy Miller's "Come with Me: Daily Living with a New Monastic Rule of Life" — we are invited on a journey to deepen our faith and connection to God through reflecting on our baptismal covenant commitment to: Prayer, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness.

Author, Wendy Miller writes about this journey...

"As the followers of Jesus enter into the rhythm and rule of Jesus their lives are changed. His ways become their ways. Jesus becomes their center. It is from this Center in Jesus that they live and serve. This kind of attentiveness to our inner soul and being is foreign to the world we know, and most often to the way we experience congregational life. This calls for a shift within us – even as this kind of rhythm and rule of life and missional ministry called for a deep change within the lives of the early disciples."

Reading this passage in the book reminded me of something a participant in a training program said to me years ago about people making decisions to change... "Most people don't make changes until something in their life drives them to it." I was decades younger at the time, and I thought that this man (probably the age then, that I am now!) was really cynical. However, time and life experience have shown me that there is some truth to what he was saying to me. In our busy lives full of demands and ego and pride and fear, we are often driven to make change only when circumstances demand that we change in order to relieve our pain or to "survive."

One of the reasons I love this book, is that it invites us to look at change in ourselves and in our world in a different way -- to embrace change as a journey of deepening commitment to God through walking in relationship to the life and teachings of Jesus. It invites us to make a conscious commitment to allow ourselves to be changed from the inside out... and, to allow the change in us to change the world through our service and witness.

So, this Lenten season, will you take a risk to be open to change and to be the change the broken world needs? Will you take the time to enter more fully into the rhythm and rule of Jesus -- to be as attentive to the ways of your soul as to the ways of the world? Will you answer anew Jesus' call to "Come with Me?" It just might change your life... and, the world.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Rose window lighting for March is given in loving memory of Heik P. & Irene B. Garabedian, Robert Demers and my grandson Jason Sullivan by Shirley and family.

The Tower lighting for March is given in loving memory of Dr. C. James Brenneman by his daughter Betsy.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- † Peace for families.
- † Safety in our schools.
- † Prayers for the Wesley Congregation.
- † The entire congregation, peace in the world, my wife and three kids, God give us strength to help them as always, all families who are going through hardship.
- † The Bruso family at the loss of their husband, dad and grandfather, Bill Bruso.
- † Those mourning the loss of Rev. Billy Graham.
- † Peter Bomil, a friend of Craig Duxbury's, who has recently been diagnosed with a serious health condition.
- † Bob as he finds his way on the journey ahead.
- † Someone's mother recovering from knee surgery.



THE TOWER lighting for August is available for dedication. If you are interested in dedicating the Tower in memory or in honor of a loved one, please contact Debi in the office as soon as you are able to. The cost of the lighting is \$40/month.



REMINDER... DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Saturday night, March 10, before you go to bed be sure to move your clocks ahead. You don't want to miss church on Sunday... *do you?*

OFFICE VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED... We are still in search for 1 or 2 more people to help answer the phones, the doors, and other small office tasks. I currently have 3 volunteers, however I am looking for one or two more to help from 9 am to 1 pm, Monday-Friday. Having a few people will make it easier to create a schedule and have a backup person if need be. If you have time in the morning on one or more days and are interested in helping, please contact Debi in the office (office@wesleyworc.org or 508-799-4191 ext 102). Thank you.

REMINDER... UPCOMING HERALD MAILING DATES

Below is a list of the mailing dates for the next few months. Remember, beginning with April, we will be publishing the newsletter once a month. So please, plan your articles accordingly and PLEASE be sure to get your articles to me by the due date. This will be much more imperative as I will be working on the Herald a week in advance from now on.

The Herald publishing schedule for the next few months is as follows...

<u>Article Due Date:</u>	<u>Publishing Date:</u>
Monday, March 12 th	Wed., March 21 st
Monday, April 9 th	Wed., April 18 th
Monday, May 14 th	Wed., May 23 rd
Monday, June 11 th	Wed., June 20 th

Please note that while the Herald is published on a Wednesday, the due date for articles to the Herald is on the second Monday before the publishing date (see schedule above, this works out to be 10 days before the Publishing Date).

We will re-evaluate how this new schedule is working during the summer. In the meantime, we are grateful for your cooperation and support for this new plan.

You can email your article(s) to me at office@wesleyworc.org. Having them in a Word document would be very helpful. Many thanks!

~ Debi Ritacco

DORCAS CIRCLE... Come join the Dorcas Circle at noon on Thursday, March 15th. This is our "Lunch Out" meeting. We will grace O'Connor's Restaurant (1160 W. Boylston Street, Worcester) with our presence. Wear your green for St. Paddy's Day. Contact Emily Smith at 508-654-7780 with any questions. Thank you.

SMALL GIFTS FOR SHELTERS... Sarah Circle will again be collecting useful or edible items for Worcester shelters. On Sundays in Lent through Palm Sunday (March 25th), you're invited to leave any of the following in the purple bag you'll find in the church pantry:

- ◆ Soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, toothpaste, lotion, deodorant
- ◆ First Aid supplies, sunscreen, Chapstick
- ◆ Chocolate, dried fruit, cereal bars, small bags of cookies or crackers, or other snacks which have some food value
- ◆ Packets of hot chocolate, small juice containers
- ◆ Socks, hats, washcloths, pens, Post-its, Scotch tape
- ◆ whatever else you think a person at a shelter would appreciate

The items will be delivered to shelters on Easter weekend. Questions? Please contact Betsy Pennino.

EASTER EGG HUNT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST... You are invited to the Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts on Saturday, March 31, 10 to 11:30 am. Please provide one dozen pre-filled eggs for each child you bring. These can be filled with stickers, candy, etc. For the younger children, you can fill eggs with Goldfish, animal crackers, and Cheerios, and put stickers on those eggs so the older kids won't collect them.

Any youth who would like to help hide Easter eggs can tell Betsy Pennino. Please invite your relatives and friends... Just be sure that someone brings 12 eggs for each child. This event is sponsored by Sarah Circle.

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY... Our Small Group Study continues, reading and discussing the book, Raising Peaceful Children in a Violent World. This book gives us the opportunity to look at our own attitudes and develop strategies to handle conflicts in our homes and communities.

Everyone is welcome! Come whenever you can, and please let us know if you would like a copy of the book. We meet on Sundays at 9:30 in the second floor classroom above the kitchen pantry.

Jim & Judy Hoffman

HOSPITALITY NEWS

Another successful Community Breakfast took place on March 4th. Serving from 8 am to 12:30 pm we served over 300 people, half of whom were from city shelters and the neighborhood. Believe it or not, we used 55 dozen eggs, 9 large loaves of bread, 8 gallons of Orange Juice, and 175 sausage patties. All of that was prepared by the amazing D'Acri family and friends! We thank them for all that they do for Wesley UMC and our community.

Judy Hoffman

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Spring Cleaning is not just for your house, but also your financial matters

Spring is in the air (or at least will be soon) and for some it is a time to get to doing some dusting and cleaning around the house. This year, it may also be a good time to take a look at your financial house and seeing if some cleaning needs to be done there as well. Here are some suggestions as to what a financial cleaning looks like:

Clean out file drawers: Are you still holding onto old billing statements from 10 years ago? While some documents need to be kept for 7 years and in some cases forever, others need only to be kept for 6 months-1 year. For example, utility bills, ATM receipts, sales receipts (unless you are sales tax write-off on your federal tax return) and bank deposit slips can all be shredded after 6 months.

Prune unnecessary expenses: Are you paying for things on a monthly basis that you don't need or use? Are you getting the value out of that gym membership? Do you need 250 channels in your cable lineup? What about the need for both a landline and a cell phone? Take an in-depth look at your monthly expenses and have a discussion with the family to see if there are things that can be cut. This is an important step to take if you are trying to get out of debt.

Update important documents: Is your Will updated, and does that include any changes in beneficiaries? How about 401k, life insurance and IRA beneficiaries that need updating? Does the home and car insurance need to be looked at, could it use an updating in terms of coverage and deductibles? What worked 2 years ago may not work for your situation today so it is good to review these documents every now and then.

Solomon said in the Bible, "Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds" (NKJV, Proverbs 27:23). It is important to know where things stand and this takes some organizational skills. By doing a little organizing and cleaning this year, it will make it easier in the long run. Let's look forward to enjoying the summer by being diligent in the spring.

AND A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM

In Sunday's **expanded Church Council** meeting, **17 children had their own table** – with Legos! They were given an assignment to build the future church that they wanted to see. Here are two lists of comments from that conversation; the first is what we have now that they want to keep. The second is what they would like to add.

Good stuff to keep that we have now:

We learn about God. We figure out what we believe. We learn how to be close to God.

We talk about stuff in our life. We tell our experiences.

People care about what we think.

We can ask why and get answers if there are answers, and we can talk about stuff where only God knows the answers.

We figure out hard stuff like what to do when we mess up. We learn how to decide stuff.

We pray about stuff – especially stuff we don't understand. We read the bible.

We learn what everyone is learning (downstairs and upstairs).

Pastor Shandi visits us because we have more fun than downstairs!

They feed us well at breakfast (not snack).

We are a team. We try to listen to each other.

We can make a difference with kindness. We get to help others.

We have a beautiful place to meet. Our teachers love us.

We make awesome stuff.

We learn by doing stuff. We learn to be better friends.

We sing great songs and drum. We sing a lot. We love Choir.

We love VBS.

Stuff we really want to add NOW!:

More field trips.

A month of VBS and longer- lots more.

Better snacks – more fruit, warm popcorn, make ice cream together! Cook together.

Bigger classrooms – especially the oldest class.

Get more/better books for the library.

More doing, less adults talking. And talking. And talking...

Breakfast every Sunday before Sunday school so we can think—like school!

Find more ways to help other people.

Stuff we really want to add NOW! (cont'd.)

A place to bring our friends that is NOT Sunday morning – they get to sleep on Sunday mornings. We don't. After school classes and clubs.

Go on trips together. Go camping together. Families camping together in cabins.

Movie night/Game night/Bowling./Art night for families.

More music (after school?) learn piano, guitar, ukulele and that weird lap thing. !

Longer pageants or plays. Use the stage.

Art after school. Longer classes or more classes at other times when we can do more: adults get to be at church a lot more than we do.

Put the nursery (noisy babies) someplace else so we can hear better while worshipping, praying and talking in the beginning of Sunday School.

Put up more pictures and posters (with bright colors).

Hang banners from the ceiling.

Let us hang out upstairs with games when people are meeting forever downstairs.

Ideas specific to Children's Choir:

Let us sing a lot more in church.

Let us walk in with the adult choir wearing our robes.

Let us sing the praise songs with them, or play drums.

Sing with microphones when we sing alone so old people can hear.

Sing from the balcony sometimes.

Do concerts.

Sing with us playing instruments.

Learn piano, guitar, ukulele, and that weird lap thing.

Go sing for older people who can't come to church.

CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY....

At this time we are looking for grocery bags with handles like the ones you would get at Trader Joe's, and of course plastic grocery bags are always good too.

The item(s) of the month for:

March is Jelly... in plastic please.

April are Diapers ...sizes 3, 4, and 5.

May are Mayonnaise, and Salad Dressings...in plastic please.

June are Ketchup, Mustard, and Relish...In plastic please.

I would like to take this time thank each and everyone who continues to support our mission to help those who are hungry.

Although the number of donations is small, the generosity and devotion of those who continue to donate is great.

Thank You! ~ Nancy

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW STEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET SATURDAY, MARCH 10 AT 8:45

All officers and Circle representatives, please come to Mary Ellis Lounge for Wesley's UMW Steering Committee meeting next Saturday, March 10th at 8:45 a.m. We will be discussing the upcoming all-circle meeting on Saturday April 7 at noon. Thank you.

Allison Hansen and Barb Ingrassia

MISSION MATTERS

THE MARCH COMMUNITY SUPPER IS NOT ON THE LAST SATURDAY

On March 24th, Linda D'Acri and family will bring us a corned beef and cabbage dinner. If you could contribute baked desserts (finger food), please contact Linda. This is the only 2018 supper which will not be on a last Saturday, because March 31 is Holy Saturday. And the D'Acris will also be bringing us the Easter breakfast the next morning.

VOLUNTEERING WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ON JUNE 2

We're looking for a team of 12 to 15 Wesley folks to work at Habitat's Northborough build site on Main st. (Rte. 20). That's the same location as last year. We have signed up for Saturday, June 2, 8 am to 4 pm. Working for a half-day is possible, if someone else can fill in for the other half-day. Tasks at all levels of building skills will be available. Please tell Betsy Pennino if you're 16 or older and would like to volunteer.

MISSION COMMITTEE BUDGET SUMMARY 2017

As part of Wesley's effort to be transparent, the Mission Committee wants to share how much we donated to various mission projects last year. A further description of our giving is in Wesley's 2017 Annual Report.

Mission Committee funding comes from a Bessie Carty endowment, not the Wesley operating budget. In 2017, we received \$20,510 from the Bessie Carty Special Purpose Fund, and supported the following mission activities:

Abby's House	\$ 1,500
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 1,000
Interfaith Hospitality Network	\$ 2,350
THRIVE (for Restorative Justice)	\$ 500
Suicide Prevention Walk in Worcester	\$ 250
Stand Up for Kids	\$ 250
Worcester Fellowship	\$ 200
Elm Park School Food in Backpacks	\$ 100
Wesley Basketball Team snacks	\$ 70
Youth to Taize with Bishop	\$ 2,000
Baton Rouge Mission Trip	\$ 500
Guatemala Mission Trip	\$ 500
Mission to ship Medical Supplies to Ghana	\$ 500
Bore well for a church in Ghana	\$ 500
John & Irene Innis' work in Liberia	\$ 500
Wesley Van Gas & Maintenance	\$ 300
Support for Community Breakfasts	\$ 300
Food for Community Suppers	\$ 3,900
Wesley Mission Shares (operating budget)	\$ 5,000
Carry over to fund January supper	\$ <u>290</u>
Total Mission Committee 2017 donations	\$ 20,510

REGISTER NOW FOR FINANCIAL PEACE U

STARTED MARCH 4, 2018

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!!!

It's not too late to start thinking about your New Year's Resolution. If one of them is to get better control of your personal finances, why not consider taking FPU? Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 9-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make Biblical based money decisions to help you achieve your financial goals. We'll walk you through the basics of **budgeting, dumping debt, planning for retirement and college tuition, understanding all kinds of insurance, and much more.**

It is not just for those who are in debt but offers more.

- ◆ Create a plan that gives you freedom.
- ◆ Know your kids are taken care of.
- ◆ Be free to give like you've always wanted.

For more information or to sign up for the program, contact Bill Wong by email at bill922@gmail.com or (508) 320-5620. Classes begin March 4, 2018 at 6:00pm in John Wesley Room, for 1.5 to 2 hours each time. Through a special grant, FPU now only costs \$50 (a \$159 savings) per family for Wesley Church attendees in which the book "Total Money Makeover," workbook, audio CDs, and starter envelope system are provided.

Also for new signups, the lessons will be available online for 1 year as well as access to the Every Dollar Plus (valued at \$100), one of the best budgeting apps out there. You can even attend all 9 weeks for free by just listening in class, taking notes, and participating in the group discussion (no materials provided).

For more information about Dave Ramsey and FPU, visit www.daveramsey.com and look for Financial Peace University under classes or enter the following link, <https://fpu.com/1058834>.

DID YOU KNOW?

During Lent this year in both worship and in small groups we are reflecting on various aspects of the baptismal life, and the image of the baptismal font at Wesley has been prominently displayed on the bulletin cover. The baptismal font is in fact one of the primary furnishings of worship in the sanctuary. The English word *font* is from the Latin *fons*, meaning spring of water, and in the early church baptism often occurred outdoors in running water. Did you know that traditionally there are various shapes of baptismal fonts, each of which is meant to represent some aspect of the meaning of baptism? The font at Wesley is octagonal in shape. In Christian symbolism the octagon represents the eighth day of the week, that is, the first day of a new week, the day of Christ's resurrection. Thus an octagonal font emphasizes co-resurrection with Christ in baptism.

In the historical sequence of shapes of fonts, the most primitive form is the quadrilateral, which is similar to a sarcophagus or coffin. This symbolic shape is a reminder that in baptism the believer is buried with Christ. A cruciform (cross-shaped) font (or the variant quatrefoil), connects with the concept of Christ's death on the cross. Similarly a hexagonal font relates to the crucifixion and burial of Christ on the sixth day of the week (Friday) and again is a reminder of the believer's dying with Christ. A circular or round font connects with the concept of rebirth, and in this case the font is thus a type of womb from which baptized believers emerge to new life. No matter the choice of symbolism, it can be seen that the font is not just a receptacle to hold water for baptism, but that the form helps to convey the meaning of the sacrament. While we do not celebrate the sacrament of baptism every week, the presence of the font in our worship space is a constant visual reminder of our membership in the body of Christ that is the church.

*Submitted by,
Debbie O'Driscoll*

Come With Me On Prayer



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 4, 2018

10:30—11:45 AM

2018 HERALD SCHEDULE

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

Article Deadline Date	Herald Mailing Date
Mon., March 12	Wed., March 21
Mon., April 9	Wed., April 18

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:

office@wesleyworc.org

ALTAR FLOWERS

On Sundays altar flowers 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.



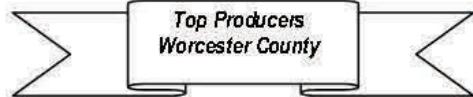
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WESLEY HERALD
MARCH 7, 2018

GET YOUR EASTER FLOWER
ORDER IN TODAY!

THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 18TH!

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

- | | |
|--|---|
| Pastor | Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda |
| Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship | Lisa Fagerstrom |
| Director of Children's Music | Nan Gibbons |
| Temporary Organist/Choir Director | Marjorie Ness |
| Music Assistant & Layleader | Deborah O'Driscoll |
| 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 Co-Chairs | Yaw Enyim
Gary Robinson |
| Carty Cupboard Food Pantry | Nancy Spencer |
| Communion Steward | Linda D'Acri |
| Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs | Michael Edmunds
William Wong |
| Ghanaian Association | Paul Hayfron |
| Hospitality Co-Chairs | Vivian Assie
Judy Hoffman |
| Medical Ministry | Ron Ramsay |
| Mission Coordinator | Betsy Pennino |
| Staff-Parish Relations | Giftly Bentum-Asante |
| Youth Directors | Anthony & Adrienne Phillips |
| United Methodist Women Co-Chairs | Barbara Ingrassia
Allison Hansen |

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