

## 5-Areas of Passion *continuing the conversation...*

On Sunday, March 4, the Church Council led us in a church-wide conversation about our 5-Areas of Passion. These 5-areas are:

Spiritual Growth  
Welcome, Hospitality, & Inclusion  
Diversity & Multiculturalism  
Mission & Outreach  
Lay Leadership Development & Empowerment

**Church Council Observations:** On March 5, the Church Council met to debrief the experience on March 4, and there was an overwhelming sense of appreciation for the feedback we received. We read through people's responses, and had pages and pages of data from your responses. As you may recall we asked three general questions: (a) what we have done to date, (b) what you would like to see happen in the coming years, and (c) how you might want to contribute to helping us live into these 5-areas of passion?

**Growing With Hope Observations:** On March 8, the Growing with Hope team, which functions somewhat like a steering committee for the Church Council, also met to review the data from the March 4 meeting. Three things stood out for the GWH team as we looked at the data more closely.

1. There is a desire among the people *to be in community* and *to be connected* with one-another in deeper and meaningful ways.
2. There is a desire for us to involve and engage the *children* and *youth* more in the ministries of the church.
3. There is a desire for there to be more focused attention on *lay leadership development*.

**Pastor's Observations:** In my personal reflections on the data, I also made the following observations as your pastor. Many people saw these 5-areas of passion as talking about specific programs of the church (which may be different from seeing them as a way of being relevant to all programs). So people made suggestions for enhancing specific aspects of our programs and ministries, which I have summarized below:

- a. Under *Spiritual Growth*, suggestions focused on work done in Worship, Children and Youth ministry, and Christian Formation ministry (in particular, offering more opportunities for Prayer, Bible Study, and Small Groups).

*Continued on page 3...*

## 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.



**The Rose** window lighting for April is given in loving memory of Doris L. Tremblay by Tammy, Tracy, Allison, David, Nancy, and families.

**The Tower** lighting for April is given in loving memory of Margaret A. (Swan) Fuller by David, Kathy, Nancy and grandchildren.

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Janet DeNapoli awaiting surgery on Tuesday.
- ✠ I thank God for giving me one more year.
- ✠ Those having a difficult time looking for work and making ends meet.
- ✠ George Kronberg now in the Lutheran Home in room 306.
- ✠ The family of Lazarus Jensen who was born on February 15th and passed away a few hours after he was born. Taken away too soon from his family, but given back to God to live with in eternity. Prayers for Laz's parents Dusti & Joshua and his three brothers during this time of loss.



**NEW MEMBER CLASS...** Pastor Shandi is planning to hold a New Member class during the season of Eastertide on Saturdays beginning April 14th at 10:00 am. Membership classes will run for six weeks. If you are interested in becoming a member at Wesley United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Shandi at [pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org](mailto:pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org).

**COME... JOIN THE DORCAS CIRCLE** on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at noon. Our hostess this month will be Jeanne Dhavale. Bring your lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. A discussion about dealing with life's changes will follow. Questions? Call Emily Smith at 508-654-7780.

*5-Areas of Passion, continued...*

- b. Under *Welcome, Hospitality & Inclusion*, suggestions focused on finding better ways to *connect* with guests and to *engage* Wesley people in making these connections.
- c. Under *Diversity & Multiculturalism*, suggestions focused on our work to diversify the expression of our worship experience, and to create more opportunities for connecting with one another across cultures and age-groups.
- d. Under *Mission & Outreach*, suggestions overwhelmingly focused on providing more opportunities for mission.
- e. Under *Lay Leadership Development*, suggestions focused on the need to train, equip, and resource laity for leadership roles, and providing meaningful ways to engage laity in leadership.

If the suggestions offered fall within the purview of an existing ministry team or committee, these will be passed on to that group to inform their work.

However, as I understand the intent, the 5-Areas of passion are ultimately not programs in and of themselves. Rather, they are a set of core values that inform everything we do—a way of being—as a church. Spiritual growth, for instance, is not just something that we focus on in worship or Bible studies. Spiritual growth can be an aspect of the work every committee and volunteer team does. Debbie O’Driscoll, in her sermon on March 11, gave an excellent illustration of how each of the 5-areas of passion are manifest in what we do in worship. My hope is that every committee, ministry team and work area will explore how each of the 5-areas informs and transforms the work that they do. This work belongs to all of us, which is why the Church Council wanted to include you in this conversation.

**What’s Next?** So the inevitable question you may have is, “what now?” Well, the Church Council will be meeting on Monday, April 2 to prepare for **the next church-wide conversation** that we have **scheduled for Sunday, April 29th**. Our end goal from the beginning has been to ultimately discern some priorities for our work and ministry as a church in order to grow. I believe we are moving steadfastly toward that goal, though it may seem slow. I am hopeful that, with each conversation, we are moving closer to becoming the church that God is calling us to be. So, I thank you for sharing with us in this important work, and invite you to stay-tuned for the next step in our discernment and conversation. May God bless you!

*In faith and hope, Pastor Shandi*

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

### **Article Due Date:**

Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

### **Publishing Date:**

Wed., April 18<sup>th</sup>

Wed., May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Wed., June 20<sup>th</sup>

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*

## 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*

***DO YOU LIKE TO SING???*** The choirs of Wesley are all looking to welcome new members. If you have an interest in participating, please contact Marjorie Ness for Wednesday nights: Bell Choir at 6 pm and Wesley Choir at 7-8:30 pm.

Contact Mercy Peacock for Ghanaian Choir: Saturday 10-12 noon. Contact Nan Gibbons for Childrens' Choir which meets at 9:30 AM on Sundays.

All of these groups provide fellowship, growth in discipleship, and excellent musical opportunities to learn and expand your worship, expression, and witness.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### **How Are We Helping the Homeless in Worcester?**

*All-circle, all-church program on tackling the challenge of homelessness in Worcester on Saturday, April 7, noon lunch, program 1-2 p.m.*

Members of Wesley and friends, please Join United Methodist Women at their all-circle meeting in Brewer Hall on Saturday, April 7. We will host a discussion of how the city and several agencies supported by UMW are addressing the homelessness issue in Worcester.

The panel will help attendees understand the challenges involved in tackling homelessness in Worcester and the ongoing efforts to eliminate it. Speakers will include:

- ◆ Noemi Martinez, Director, Housing Counseling Program, Central Mass. Housing Alliance
- ◆ Katherine Calano, Homeless Projects Manager, City of Worcester Department of Health and Human Services
- ◆ Representatives from Interfaith Hospitality Network and Abby's House

Dorcas Circle will provide lunch at noon with the one-hour program beginning at 1 p.m. in Brewer Hall.

While the program is open to all, please let Allison Hansen know at 508-853-5339 or [AChis4788@aol.com](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com) if you plan to come for lunch so we can have an accurate headcount. Childcare is available at all UMW circle-wide events.

*Allison Hansen, UMW Co-president*

### ***Sharing God's Love with a few people we wish we could see more often...***



With support from Wesley's UMW, Rebecca Circle members were able to purchase supplies and gather to build these Easter Baskets that will be delivered to a few very special people.

## MISSION MATTERS

**EASTER EGG HUNT ON SATURDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>...** 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.

*The age 4 and under children will hunt for eggs on the second floor, the 5 to 8 group will be in Wagner Hall, and the older kids will search for eggs on the first floor. Our Korean children will join us and Florence House toddlers and moms are invited. Some IHN families will attend, if we can provide transportation.*

## HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES & SERVICES

### **PALM/PASSION SUNDAY: MARCH 25**

WORSHIP, 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

UMW BAKE SALE

9 AM — AFTER EACH WORSHIP SERVICE

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY: MARCH 29**

DINNER, 6:00 PM

WORSHIP, 7:00 PM

### **GOOD FRIDAY: MARCH 30**

TAIZE WORSHIP SERVICE

WESLEY UMC CHAPEL, 11:30 AM-12:45 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

WESLEY UMC, 12:45-6:30 PM

### **SATURDAY: MARCH 31**

EASTER EGG HUNT

WESLEY UMC, 10:00-11:30 AM

### **EASTER: APRIL 1**

SUNRISE SERVICE

INSTITUTE PARK, WORCESTER, 6:30 AM

BREAKFAST

8:00 AM AND AFTER EACH WORSHIP SERVICE

WORSHIP

WESLEY UMC, 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

**During the Lenten season**, we have been using the book “**Come with Me**” by Wendy Miller. Wendy’s book is an invitation into a deeper and more intentional way of following Jesus—being more fully formed into the image of God in our daily Christian faith.

During Holy Week, you are invited to reflect on the possibilities below as a way of life—a daily journey of practicing intentional Christian Formation...

### **Prayers**

We will pray daily—using a variety of forms and types of prayers  
We will regularly fast

### **Presence**

We will take reflective time in order to be present to God, the world, and ourselves  
We will be hospitable to our neighbors in our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces  
We will be hospitable to our faith community through participation in our worship, fellowship, and mission

### **Gifts**

We will honor and care for the gift of the earth and its resources, striving for simplicity rather than excessive consumption  
We will practice generosity in sharing our material resources, and use our spiritual gifts and talents to serve God within and beyond this community

### **Service**

We will practice regular Sabbath as a means of renewal so that we can lovingly serve God and neighbor  
We will practice mutual accountability for how we serve God and neighbor with a covenant/small group within the community

### **Witness**

We will practice racial and gender reconciliation  
We will resist evil and injustice, and we will pursue peace with justice  
We will share the redeeming, healing, creative love of God in word, deed, and presence in order to invite others to Christian discipleship.

*[adapted from page 37 of “Come with Me” and based on the UMC Baptismal/Membership covenant]*

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**Which practices call to you to adopt and live into them?**

**What difference will adopting and living into these practices make in your life and the world?**

## DID YOU KNOW?

We are about to enter the final week of Lent, which we observe as Holy Week, during which we commemorate the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Did you ever wonder about the terminology that is used for the special liturgical observances of this particular week of the liturgical year?

The 6<sup>th</sup> and final Sunday of Lent is known as *Passion/Palm Sunday*, and marks the start of Holy Week. Palm/Passion Sunday is the only Sunday of the liturgical year for which the Lectionary assigns two Gospel readings and two Psalms. The duality of the title as well as of the readings reminds us that on this day we not only commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but we prepare to follow the journey to the cross. Christ's Passion is probably one of the most dramatic events in history, and it is only with a complete awareness of that story that we can celebrate Easter fully.

Thursday of Holy Week is known as *Maundy Thursday*. The word *maundy* derives from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment), and its use in this context refers to Jesus' teaching the disciples a new commandment during the Last Supper: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34, NRSV). In the traditional Latin liturgy of the church the text of the first sung response of the foot washing ceremony begins with the words *mandatum novum*. Our worship services on this day often include both foot washing, following Jesus' example of humility and servanthood, as well as communion, remembering Jesus' final meal with his disciples in the Upper Room.

The Friday before Easter is known among English speaking people as *Good Friday*, for reasons that are not entirely clear. In *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, Laurence Hull Stookey suggests that it is a "corruption of the English phrase 'God's Friday.'" This day is known by other titles in other cultures, including *Holy Friday* (Latin and Hispanic countries), *Friday of Mourning* (Germany) and *Long Friday* (Norway).

In many traditions Holy Saturday, the final day of the Lenten season and the day Jesus rested in the tomb, is a day of quiet reflection and meditation, waiting for the joy of Easter.

Finally, we come to the great festival of Easter itself. The word *Easter* is derived from secular sources (as is *Lent* which comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring".) It is believed to be a variant of *Eastre*, a Teutonic goddess of springtime and fertility. Certainly in the climate of the Northern hemisphere the metaphors of spring and new life help to reinforce the themes of Easter, but the true meaning is better embodied in the word *Pasch*, which is used in both Greek and Latin to refer to the observance of the celebration of the resurrection. This in turn derives from the Hebrew *pesach* for "Passover". In fact in many other languages (e.g. Spanish *pascua*, French *paques*, Italian *pasques*, Welsh *pasg*) the word for the observance of the resurrection derives directly from *Pasch*. We use the term when we refer to the *Paschal Candle*, the large freestanding white candle that is located near the baptismal font and which is a symbol of the triumph of Resurrection over the darkness of sin and death.

*Submitted by Debbie O'Driscoll*

## 2018 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., April 9                | Wed., April 18             |
| Mon., May 14                 | Wed., May 23               |

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.



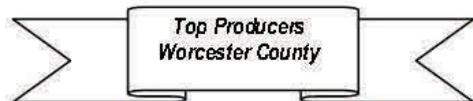
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**WESLEY HERALD**  
**MARCH 21, 2018**

**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 Yaw Enyim  
Co-Chairs Gary Robinson
- Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Nancy Spencer
- Communion Steward Linda D'Acri
- Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs Michael Edmunds  
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- Ghanaian Association Paul Hayfron
- Hospitality Co-Chairs Vivian Assie  
Judy Hoffman
- Medical Ministry Ron Ramsay
- Mission Coordinator Betsy Pennino
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