

Open to Joy: The Promise of Pentecost

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Psalm 30:5b

I have a friend who lost their daughter to a heroin overdose when she was in her mid-twenties. This was decades ago—before the phrase “opiod epidemic” was a part of our everyday life in this country. Her death was a jarring shock to her family and friends and community. My friends’ lives were changed in an instant—as they pivoted in the midst of their own grief for their child, to begin the comforting and raising of their two young grandchildren who were left behind by their mother’s death.

I watched through the years as my friend’s family went through the depths of grief and sorrow. I watched as they endured trials as deep and painful as Job could recount. I watched as they put one foot in front of another in doing what needed to be done—even when there seemed to be no joy and only pain in their days and weeks and months.

A number of years after their daughter’s death, I was talking with my friend about life in the midst of such a shocking and life-altering event. My friend paused for a moment and then said with a profound sense of peace and depth of faith: “I have found through this all—that even in the midst of times of deepest sorrow, there are moments of inexplicable and almost infinite joy. It is this experienced reality in my life that has given me hope and faith to go on in days where there seems to be only sorrow and grief and sadness.”

I have never forgotten that moment. It is etched in my soul as if I was branded with a hot iron. As my friend spoke, it was if the room stilled and was simultaneously filled with the rustling energy of God’s Spirit. In moments in my own life—when sadness and grief and the heaviness of the world threaten to shake my faith and crush my spirit, I remember that moment with my friend and the Psalmist’s words: “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”

We as Christians are in the midst of the celebration of Pentecost—the remembrance of God’s gift of the Holy Spirit to the Christians gathered in Jerusalem. An invitation to be open to “joy in the morning” and to radiate that joy to a wounded and weary world.

As we live into this season of Pentecost in a world so in need of the healing presence of God’s Spirit, how is it with our soul? Are we willing and able and ready to have the renewing wind of the Spirit blow through our lives? Are we willing to be open to the gift of joy in the midst of pain and sorrow and grief? How are we Pentecost people in our own lives and in the midst of all the places we live and move in the world?

In Pentecost hope, love, and joy, Lisa Fagerstrom, Dir. of Christian Formation and Disc.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Rose window lighting for May is given in loving memory of Dorothy Aho, Axel Swanberg, and Clara Swanberg by Nancy Aho, Heidi O'Leary and family.

The Tower lighting for May is given in loving memory of my parents, Norman and Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

The altar flowers on Sunday, May 27th are given in loving memory of my husband, Bill Capen by Janice Capen.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Wesley students away in college and for college students in Worcester Colleges and Universities, and that God will help us find meaningful ways to connect with them.
- ✠ The children and youth of Wesley and the children and youth in our community, and that God can help us nurture and support them in their journeys.
- ✠ Those who are homebound and in nursing homes, and that God can help us to remain in community and relationship with them.
- ✠ Individuals and families that are experiencing homelessness in Worcester, and that God can help us find meaningful ways to offer help.
- ✠ Dave Samanen is now at Whittier Rehabilitation, 150 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581 in Room 218.
- ✠ Jerry Warren is in St. Vincent's following a mild stroke.
- ✠ Olivia Fondy in CO, for strength, comfort and healing.
- ✠ Lisa Sabacinski, a co-worker of Earl Flagg, for healing, comfort and strength.
- ✠ World peace for the entire congregation, hungry children around the globe who have no hope anywhere, broken down families, and my entire house.
- ✠ Churches in Indonesia.
- ✠ Patricia Shackett who recently celebrated her birthday. Wishing her many more years of happiness.

GRADUATES... Do you have a child(ren) graduating from high school or college? If so, please email your child's name(s), school he/she is graduating from, and where he/she plans on attending next. We will be lifting up their names on Sunday, June 10th. Please email Debi by June 4th at office@wesleyworc.org or leave a note in the office when you are in church. (Please be sure to print neatly so I can read what is written.) Thank you.

FROM THE STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Updates on the Staffing of our Music Ministry

Job Posting: The SPRC would like to share a few updates on the progress for hiring a Director of Music Ministry. Since April the job posting for the Director of Music Ministry position has been advertised in a variety of places locally and across the nation. Applications have been coming in and to date we have received fifteen applications. The position was also posted on the Wesley website. If you know of any prospective candidates, please feel free to share the job posting with them.

Search Committee: The SPRC has formed a Search Committee to begin the hiring process for the Director Music position. The committee will meet to review applications, discern which candidates to invite for interviews, and recommend a potential candidate for hire. Members of the Search Committee include: *Yaw Enyim (Ghanaian Choir rep.), Adrienne Hall-Philips (Wesley Choir rep.), Debbie O'Driscoll (Lay Leader and SPRC rep.), Florence Oppong (Children's Choir rep.), Jan Maguire (Bell Choir rep.), Bill Wong (member at large) and Pastor Shandi.*

Please Pray: The work of the Director of Music Ministry Search Committee and Staff-Parish Relations Committee is ultimately about discerning God's will for our church. As we lean on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we invite you to please devote yourselves to a life of prayer and to lift up this search process in your prayers. We are hopeful that by the end of the summer the interview process will be complete. So please stay tuned.

Announcing Interim Organist for the Summer: When the SPRC interviewed with Marjorie Ness for the Interim Director of Music Ministry position, she communicated with us that she had other commitments that would prevent her from serving in that capacity for the months of July and August. The SPRC hired Marjorie with this understanding and with the intent to work with Marjorie on identifying an Interim Organist for the summer. We are please to announce that we have identified Sam Long as the Interim Organist for the summer. Please refer to Marjorie Ness' article on the next page to learn more about this plan.

Thank you: The SPRC thanks you for your patience, prayers, and support during this time of transition. We especially extend a heartfelt "thank you" to Marjorie for her extraordinary leadership during this interim period. We on the SPRC have been extremely pleased with how Marjorie has been enriching our spiritual life as a congregation through her gifts and leadership in Music. Please be sure to let Marjorie know how much you have appreciated her ministry.

MESSAGES FROM MARJORIE NESS

Sunday JUNE 24: Special Malian Drummer coming

At 9:30 AM on Sunday, June 24, Issa Coulibaly and his assistant, Zach Coombs, will be with us at 9:30 AM in our Sanctuary to teach and encourage adults and young adults in the art of drumming. Those who choose to participate will work from 9:30 until 10:15 on patterns and accompaniments to the praise songs, Shalom, and the Ghanaian anthem of the day. This event will take place on the final Sunday of June's emphasis on Counter Culturalism. This cross-cultural event emphasizes inclusivity and just challenging oneself to learn and experience musical patterns from the "hands" of another. See video on <https://crocodilerivermusic.com/>

Please speak to Mercy Peacock, Debbie O'Driscoll, Adriene Phillips (youth) or me if you are interested in participating. You are also welcome to feel moved to participate on that day at 9:30 sharp in the Sanctuary. Our time will be limited for this wonderful event. You can also write music@wesleyworc.org. Thank you. Marjorie Ness (marjorieness@aol.com)

Summer Interim Organist

Samuel Long will be serving as Summer Interim Organist for Wesley Church. He will play both services and work with Summer Singers. Debbie O'Driscoll, music assistant and lay leader will assist in the work of the summer singers alongside Sam. I encourage you to give this former member of the congregation a hearty welcome as you celebrate the gifts he will share with us. His biographical write up follows.

Samuel Long

Sam Long (19) is an aspiring young organist, pianist and church musician from Rutland, Massachusetts. Sam's musical journey began at Wesley 16 years ago, when he sang in the cherub choir and by the age of 7, had already accompanied the children's choir and played a piano solo. He sang for the next four years at All Saints Episcopal Church, leaving in 5th grade to join the St. Thomas Choir School in New York City and sing with one of the finest choirs in the country, touring all over the Eastern United States, and Germany and Denmark. After graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy last spring, Sam decided to continue his education at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Sam has taken piano lessons off and on since he was 4 years old and spends time at home improvising on old hymn tunes. He had his first organ lesson when he was fourteen at a Pipe Organ Encounter in Southeastern Massachusetts four years ago and has dabbled with it intermittently before starting organ lessons at St. Olaf College last fall with Dr. Catherine Rodland. After a year of intensive organ practice and rearranging his schedule, Sam is currently on a B.A. Music track, hoping to switch to a B.M. Church Music or Organ Performance program.

Summer Singers gather in the Sanctuary

June 17 at 9:30 Summer Singers begin

June 24 (see drumming notice)

July 8, 15, 22, 29

August 12, 19, 26

Communion Sundays will have soloists.

The Ghanaian choir will continue throughout the summer, but all members of the whole congregation are encouraged to participate when they can. Learning will be in various styles.

Matching pitch is good, but former experience in choral singing is not necessary.

Thank you from Marjorie Ness, Interim Organist Director

June is the last full month I will work with you before I leave summer in other people's hands. It has been wonderful to be back at Wesley. For me it has brought some things around "full circle" from being here before. The gifts of former times – the building and the instruments delight a musician, but the ministry is in partnership with the people. My work with two choral groups and one Handbell group has been great. With all the challenges of many cultures, you are doing wonderful work. I know God will guide in your search process. Thank you for welcoming me again. I'll see you off and on in the summer.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Year to Date Budget Results through April 2018

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$ 209,629	\$ 211,439	\$ 1,810 less than budge
Total Expense	\$ 249,393	\$ 243,602	\$ 5,791 more than budget
Net Loss	\$ -39,763	\$ -32,162	\$ -7,601 more than budget

Pledges thru March

Actual	\$ 92,520
Budget	\$ 111,159
Difference	\$ -18,639 below budget

Easter Donations through 4/17/18

Actual	\$ 7,690
Budget	\$ 7,000
Difference	\$ 690 more than budget

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Statements

Statements through 5/22/18 will be mailed this week. Please review and let me know of any discrepancies. If you are behind in your pledge, please make every effort to bring it up to date before the summer months begin. Thank you so much.

Peace,

Lorna

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This past Sunday we celebrated Pentecost. The story of Pentecost is told in Acts 2. I am always fascinated by this entire chapter. There are so many details that spark my curiosity and inspire my imagination. For instance, I am fascinated by the detail that when the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples, not only were they able to speak in different languages, but also that the people were able to hear, each in their own languages, what was being said. This detail leads me to imagine what kind of church Wesley could be if we truly had the ability to not only speak different languages but also to understand each other.

Another detail that fascinates me is the verse that mentions that there were Jews from many nations gathered in Jerusalem. This verse leads to me imagine what kind of a church Wesley could be if we could truly welcome and embrace Christians from many more nations than we currently have. My imagination leads to dream of a church that is doing multicultural ministry in even more dynamic ways than we are currently, and so I can't help to wonder what it would take to have a church like that.

Another detail that fascinates me is Peter's sermon when he stands up and proclaims that what was happening was in fulfillment of scripture. Peter references the prophet Joel who said, "in those days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh." This year I was particularly struck by the verse that says, "your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams." This verse struck me because the Church Council has been seeking to discern a vision for the future direction of our church. My curiosity leaves me to wonder and imagine: who are the young whom God is giving visions for our future and who are the old whom God is giving dreams for our future? I most certainly would love to hear what dreams and vision God is giving you for our church.

Another detail that fascinates comes at the very tail end of the chapter. In verse 43 we hear that those who believed Peter's message and were baptized, devoted themselves to a new life of learning, fellowship, prayer and worship. One verse that strikes me says, "day by day they spend much time together in the temple, broke bread in each other's homes and ate with glad and generous hearts" (v.46). This verse leads me to imagine and dream of a church that did just that. I wonder what God would accomplish with us if we committed ourselves to gather together not only at the church but also in each other's homes for prayer, study, and fellowship.

At one of the Expanded Church Council meetings, you told us that you wanted to have more opportunities to connect and be in community with each other. Could it be that you, yourselves, can provide an answer to this dream you shared with the council? Could it be that some of you are being called to open your homes for a small group for prayer, study, and fellowship? What better way to be in community to be connected than in the intimacy of your homes. But, who am I to dream such dreams! Could I be so mistaken to believe that this is one answer to your prayers?

In faith and hope, Pastor Shandi

ACOLYTE COORDINATOR NEEDED... The worship team is looking for someone to coordinate the acolyte ministry. Responsibilities include creating the schedule for the acolyte calendar for our weekly services, and scheduling training and resourcing meetings for the acolytes with Pastor Shandi. If you're interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Pastor Shandi via email.

MARKETING, PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM... Pastor Shandi will be convening a ministry team to help us enhance our publicity, marketing and communications as a Church. If you're interested in helping Wesley have a consistent presence via Facebook and Twitter, if you're interested in helping improve our Website, or help us to get word out into the community about our ministries and events, please join us on this team. For more information contact Pastor Shandi at pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org.

VISITATION MINISTRY... Pastor Shandi and the Hospitality Team would like to expand our visitation ministry and include lay visitation ministry. We are hoping to form three teams to visit (a) shut-ins or homebound members, (b) hospitalized members, (c) visitors, guests and other members we want to connect with. If you're interested in being part of one or more of the teams, please contact Pastor Shandi at pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org.

AN EASY WAY TO HELP OTHERS... Please remember that we are still collecting, All Year Long, in the Welcome Office on the counter behind the door, tabs from cans for Shriners Charities and Box Tops for Education for two of the Methodist Mission Stations in the USA. Thanks for your continued help and your time.

~ Carolyn Bellil

***FaithWorks* — New Name for Sunday Class**

The Adult Topical Studies Sunday School class has a new name—*FaithWorks*. The name represents the focus of the group—we study and discuss works (books, videos) about faith so that we can put our faith to work in our daily lives.

FaithWorks began a new study on Sunday, May 6th, with the reading and discussion of the book *Hope Sings: Risk More. Dream Bigger. Fear Less.* by Susanna Foth Aughtmon. Books are available from discussion leaders Anthony Phillips and Linda Keister. Reading the book is NOT a requirement for attending the class and participating in the discussion.

FaithWorks meets every Sunday, 9:35 am to 10:25 am in the John Wesley Room.

Calling all students entering second grade through those who have completed sixth grade!

“Superheroes—Then and Now” is the theme for Wesley’s Vacation Bible School to be held here at the church from **July 23—26, 2018**. Keep a lookout for more details and registration form in the weeks ahead and plan to join us for food, fun, and fellowship with your favorite ***Superheroes!!!***

THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND CARTY DONATIONS... Every month Carty Cupboard looks for an ingathering of certain food items and in the month of May is collecting MAYO and SALAD DRESSING (in plastic containers, please). In the same tradition and in addition to these items, we are asking for chicken or turkey GRAVY and boxes of STUFFING mix for our Thanksgiving food basket distribution. Feel free to bring your donations to worship and bring them forward during the Songs of Praise and Adoration and help us fill the bin to overflowing! Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will make a big difference to the many families that Carty serves!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED... Anthony Nana Marfo is involved in a mission project to collect school supplies for a school in Asonomaso, Ghana (the Junior Secondary School). We seek your support. Items needed include: Notebooks, Pens, Pencils, Rulers, Mathematical Sets, used Laptops, and Shoes (sneakers sizes 6-10).

Anthony will be gathering these items between now and June 30th and they will be shipped to Ghana in the summer. A donation box is located in Brewer Hall. More valuable items can be given directly to Anthony, and if you have any questions please contact Anthony at 508-304-9009. Thank you for your support.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS AT FLORENCE HOUSE... Now that the special Spring Events are over, Wesley Women have the opportunity to help the young mothers from Florence House with furnishings for their first apartment.

We will be collecting all NEW towels, kitchen supplies and household helps including queen and twin sheets beginning the last Sunday in May in a box with pink and purple decorations on the table outside the Welcome Office.

You may also bring your gift to the pot luck, Thursday June 14.

Thank You, Carolyn Bellil

Do good! Seek Peace and go after it! *Psalm 33: 14b*

HERO CENTRAL: SUPERHEROES NOW AND THEN



It's that time again! VBS is just around the corner (July 23-26; look out for registration forms!). We'd love your help with supply donations. Beginning May 27th, there will be a Hero Central Donation wall located in Brewer Hall with a list of requested items. Grab a slip, write down that you're donating it, and drop it off in the large labeled plastic bin in Brewer Hall near the office. See Lisa Fagerstrom (or Jean Grant) with questions.

What do we need?

- Very large flat boxes (or able to be flattened) – BIG!
- Black Spray Paint (3)
- Yellow Post-it notes (several pads of 3 x 3 and 6 x 4)
- Large Rolls of brown craft paper (many)
- Stick on, printable name tags – 350 tags (AVERY 8395)
- Gallons of water
- 6-9 oz Plastic cups
- Poster boards (the multipacks) – 20 sheets
- Empty Paper Towel Rolls (MANY! Keep 'em coming)
- Standard size Cardstock: solid white (200 sheets)
- Duct Tape: assorted colors and designs
- Bubble/puffy paints (assorted colors)

- Straws – sturdy, thicker (100)
- Rubber bands (basic size, 200)
- Ice Cream Salt (Morton's makes it: it's called *Ice Cream Salt, Rock Salt*): 4 4-lb boxes
- Baking Soda: 8 boxes
- White Vinegar: 1 gallon (or several small)
- Food coloring (liquid): 3 boxes of multi-color
- Medicine droppers: dozen
- Tin/Foil baking pans (larger, 9 x9 or 9 x12): 12
- Unscented natural soap (hand): 2 bottles
- Assorted colored sharpies: 2 boxes (20-25 markers)
- Blue, Red, Yellow acrylic paint: 3 of each
- Paper bowls (cereal size): 200



CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

A Note of Thanks...

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the following people for their years of support of Carry Cupboard through their very generous donations.

For several years Carol Wipper has provided snacks, treats and her handmade decorations for the children of our clients. Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, School Vacations, Valentine's Day, Easter, she has covered them all. She has also made beautiful fleece blankets for our clients. Her latest project is birthday bags with cake mix, frosting and even cake pans to bake them in. Thank You Carol. Your kindness and generosity has brightened many client's lives.

For many years Nancy Cook and Cindy Baker have been extremely generous in donating food and personal care products to Carty Cupboard. Every week they donate several bags of food and personal care products. Thank You Nancy and Cindy.

Your kindness and generosity has filled many, many bags for our clients in need.

Thank You, Nancy

Below are a list of items for the month for the next few months....

June: Ketchup, Mustard, and Relish...all in plastic please.

July: Diapers in sizes 3, 4, and 5.

August: School Supplies for kids ages 5 - 14. Pencils, Pens, Markers, Colored Pencils, Crayons, Scissors, Glue Sticks, and Notebooks. Backpacks are also greatly appreciated.

We are in desperate need of paper grocery bags with handles, like the ones from Trader Joe's.

A Note from Nancy Spencer...

Sadly a very elusive thief has stolen the church's shopping cart which is used for many things around the church. The volunteers of Carty Cupboard use it for moving all the heavy boxes and bags of food we use during our pantry distributions.

I am wondering if anyone knows where we can get another shopping cart donated to the church. If you happen to have one you would like to donate or know where we can get a donated one please call Nancy Spencer at 508- 887-1481 or the church office at 508 -799- 4191.

Thank You, Nancy

MISSION MATTERS

May 26th Community Supper...

The May Community Supper will be brought to us by Linda D'Acri and family. Baked macaroni ("lazy lasagna"), meatballs, salad, bread, beverages and dessert will be the menu. *Linda asks that Wesley bakers contribute dessert items.*

Note: This supper is on the holiday weekend which we haven't tried before.

Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity on June 2...

We still need at least 2 more people 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. Tasks at all levels of building skills will be available. All participants should have received the Habitat waiver which must be filled out and turned in before work begins.

We have asked the other 4 UMC's in Worcester to participate, and all past workers on this project have been contacted. Please tell Betsy Pennino if you're 16 or older and could volunteer, or if you didn't receive your waiver.

At the round table discussions, people requested more opportunities for mission:

The American Foundation of Suicide Prevention has scheduled its community walk on Saturday, Sept. 15. It will leave Institute Park at 10 am.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Worcester's Walk for the Homeless on May 20th

Eleven Wesley folks did the 3-mile walk, and we donated \$527. That's \$277 from the congregation and \$250 from the Mission Committee. Wesley walkers were from the Youth Group and Social Action Team, and other mission-minded people joined us. Proceeds from the walk (\$136,600 last year!) support IHN, Hope for Housing and other programs to prevent homelessness in Greater Worcester. As Pastor Shandi has observed, easing the pain of facing homelessness is a passion for Wesley.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Scholarships Available for Mission U

Come learn about the Earth and money at this year's Mission U, held at Southern New Hampshire University the weekend of July 27-29. The Spiritual Growth Study, "Embracing Wholeness: Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living," will be led by Study Leader Mimi Magee, and the Social Issue Study, "What About Our Money" will be led by separate Study Leaders for adults, youth and children.

Wesley's unit of United Methodist Women is offering scholarships for families who want to attend.

Registration forms and more information about Mission U can be found at <https://necmissionu.wordpress.com> and scholarship forms will be available in the office and through UMW circle chairs and officers.

Save the dates:

UMW STEERING COMMITTEE JUNE 2, 8:45 AM, AND

POTLUCK PLANNING MEETING JUNE 14, 6 PM

Circle chairs and officers, please plan to attend our Saturday, June 2 Steering Committee meeting in Mary Ellis Lounge at 8:45 a.m. We will discuss next year's calendar for formal approval at the Thursday, June 14 potluck supper/meeting as well as other funding requests. Bring your creative ideas!! If you cannot attend, please send a Circle representative in your place.

Our potluck planning meeting will start at 6 p.m. with supper and include a program on the recent UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio attended by four Wesley members.

UMW Mission Recognition Award

Mercy Peacock Receives Mission Recognition Award

For her dedication, her deep faith and her joyful spirit in everything she does, Wesley's United Methodist Women unit presented the 2018 Mission Recognition Award to Mercy Peacock.

During the May 13 service, she was described as someone whose first response is always, "How can I serve?"

She was one of the first people approved to drive the van. She helped to build a nursery care team and now staffs the welcome office with her warm smile. Not surprisingly, she also brings new ideas and energy to the Hospitality committee, is a regular helper at community suppers and the eyeglass ministry, and coordinates volunteers to provide a week's worth of service to the Interfaith Hospitality Network families twice a year.

A new ministry working with returning citizens needed people to commit to a year of support of these citizens while still promoting accountability, and Mercy stepped up with her encouraging attitude.

She is generous not just with her time, but with her talents, singing soprano every Sunday. In her quiet way, she is a natural leader and bridge builder within our congregation.

As one person noted, "her faith radiates from her being."



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Honor the women and those who have served in the military in our lives

The month of May brings along 2 major holidays to think about. The first major one is Mother's Day. Although not all women are mothers, women in general need to be listened to in making decisions in our lives. As it says in the Bible (NKJV) in Proverbs 31:10-12 [emphasis added] "Who can find a virtuous wife? **For her worth is far above rubies.** The heart of her husband safely trusts her, so **he will have no lack of gain.** She does him **good** and not evil, all the days of **her life.**" One could replace "virtuous wife" with "virtuous mother" and it will be just as significant of a verse for this chapter is from King Lemuel who was given this advice from his mother.

For those who are Mother's, we give you thanks for all that you do. Motherhood is all about giving. It starts with giving birth. However, it doesn't just stop there. Mother's give up their sleep, their time, even their health at times. They give hugs, encouragement and a listening ear. For those experienced Mom's, they give up control as their kids get older, but continue to give hope. The good news is that motherhood doesn't require perfection. Kids do offer their grace in that they aren't looking for a perfectly clean home, a perfectly cooked home made dinner or the best pictures on social media. Mom's should be encouraged just for showing up and being you, doing good and in the end your worth will far exceed rubies.

Men, we need to lift the women in our lives every day, and not just the one day out of the year.

Second, and not to take away from Mom's out there, we also give thanks for those who have served and are currently serving in both our military and in public service. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who protect our freedoms both in the past and in the present, and honor those who serve. Let's spend time with those who are veterans and for those families who have a loved one currently deployed. We love you Mom's and Veterans!

DID YOU KNOW?

As human beings, we use movements of our bodies as a means of expression. It is thus no surprise that movements of all kinds have been a part of worship from ancient times. Such movements include postures (standing, sitting, kneeling), gestures (bowing the head, sign of the cross in blessing, elevation of the communion elements) and various forms of locomotion such as processions. Some of these movements are more formal than others, but all of them have symbolic meaning in the context of worship.

One special form of movement is dancing, and almost every Sunday we have the opportunity to experience this form of movement in worship as some of us dance to the music of our praise songs. Dancing itself—a rhythmic and patterned succession of movements usually performed to music—as a form of human expression and worship is something that is known from ancient times and has persisted across time, culture and various religious traditions. In a sense the formal procession which *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship* defines as “a planned movement of a group of people from one place to another for some specific religious purpose, often to the accompaniment of singing and music” could be considered a form of dance.

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the Bible speaks of dancing in both the secular and religious life. The Old Testament tells of Miriam’s dance of thanksgiving after the deliverance of the Israelites at the Red Sea and of David’s dance before the Ark of the Covenant. The book of Psalms, ancient Israel’s book of worship contains many references to dance and other forms of liturgical movement, including the injunctions to “praise his name with dancing” (Psalm 149:3a), and to “praise him with tambourine and dancing” (Psalm 150:4a). In Aramaic, the vernacular language of Jesus, the word used for “rejoice” and “dance” are the same, so that in a sense all our calls to rejoice in worship are calls to dance.

Early Christians used dance as part of celebration at worship and festivals. Joyful circle dancing is described as being part of early Christian liturgies in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. It is also known that monks and nuns in monasteries and convents where the rule of silence was observed expressed themselves through gesture and music, chanting as they moved through a symbolic “maze of life” in the monastery or sanctuary. They also danced circle dances before the altar.

Did You Know continued...

In the Middle Ages dancing in churches occurred during the great festivals of the church. In the 16th and 17th centuries, as the Roman Church formalized all liturgy, liturgical movements became more formally defined, and were limited to the gestures and processions of the priests as the congregation became spectators to worship. While there are some references to a renewed interest in dance in the church during the Reformation which returned worship to the people, by the 18th century religious dances were very rare as part of the formal liturgy in both Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions, and they were virtually unknown in the Enlightenment period, with the exception of certain religious sects such as the Shakers.

Through dance, expressions of prayer and worship can be made manifest in ways that go beyond words. For those who dance, it is an opportunity to worship in totality; for those who observe, the visual perception of motion also serves to enliven and enrich the offerings of worship. As we experience various movements of worship, may we always be reminded that we do indeed worship with all that we are—hearts, souls, minds, and bodies.

Submitted by Deborah A. O'Driscoll



Saint Mary Preschool Visit Day

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Visiting Hours: 9:30 am – 11:00 am or 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Saint Mary School in Shrewsbury will host our Preschool Visit Day on Wednesday, June 6. Visit our Preschool classrooms in session and observe our students building knowledge through engaging play and creative exploration.

Saint Mary Preschool welcomes students and families from all faiths and ethnic backgrounds.

Registration packets for the 2018 – 2019 school year are available on our website.

Saint Mary School is located at the corner of Main and Summer Street
at 16 Summer Street in Shrewsbury.

For more information, please contact our Admissions Director, Cheryl Dolan at Cheryl.Dolan@stmarysparish.org or 508 842-1601. Visit our website to learn more about Saint Mary Preschool: <http://school.stmarysparish.org/preschool>.

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., June 4	Wed., June 13
Mon., July 16	Wed., July 25

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN!

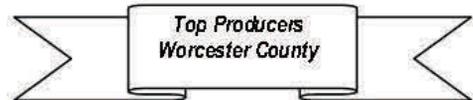


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Director of Children's Music	Nan Gibbons
Interim Director of Music Ministry	Marjorie Ness
Music Assistant & Layleader	Deborah O'Driscoll
Building Superintendent	Tim Murphy
Business Administrator	Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Secretary	Debi Ritacco
Custodians	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	Gifty Bentum-Asante
Youth Directors	Anthony & Adrienne Phillips
United Methodist Women Co-Chairs	Barbara Ingrassia Allison Hansen

Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

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Web page: www.wesleyworc.org

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MAY 23, 2018

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