

What's In Your Heart?

During my sophomore year in college, I experienced a bit of a crisis. I felt lost, and struggled with a sense of purpose and direction. I had enrolled at the college as a Math and Computer Science major. I had dreams of becoming an architect. But, my dreams were quickly slipping away. I wasn't doing so well in my classes. The more advanced classes I took, the worse it became. My crisis hit when it became clear that I was going to fail out of a Differential Equations class. I only had one dream. What was I going to do?

That year, during Lent, the campus ministry sponsored a "retreat for busy people." It was a week-long retreat designed for college students who felt they didn't have much time to give to God. The retreat was simple. The campus ministry brought in pastors, priests, and nuns from local churches, monasteries and convents. Instead of students going away on a retreat, they brought the retreat to us. And the only commitment we were asked to make was to schedule one-on-one meetings with one of the faith leaders for spiritual direction, prayer, and reflection.

I remember talking with the spiritual director assigned to me, Sister Katherine, about my crisis. She listened. She asked me questions. She prayed for me. For a week, I didn't feel like I was getting anywhere. It wasn't until the last day of our meeting that I cried out with a sense of desperation: "What am I going to do? What the heck does God want me to do?!" In her quiet and reassuring way, Sister Katherine simply said: "Look into your heart. Sometimes God calls us from the deepest desires of our heart. *Look deeper* into your heart and you will see."

Sister Katherine then proceeded to ask me questions like: "What gives you joy?" "What gives you energy?" You see, she had been listening to me everyday for a week, and she had heard me share how my most deepest moments of joy were not in a computer lab, or Math class. My deepest moments of joy were in those times when I was serving my fellow students and the campus community. As we reflected on these and other experiences, it was then I came to realize that God had given me the heart of a servant; and that God was calling me to dedicate my life to serving others. The experience was so powerful that, after that retreat, I went to see my academic advisor and made plans to change my college major. The rest is now history.

In 1 Samuel 15, we hear the story of how David was chosen and anointed for his future role as King of Israel. And in this passage, we hear this beautiful statement in verse 7 that, "*the Lord does not see as mortals see... the Lord looks on the heart.*" I was so grateful for Sister Katherine's wisdom, and I want to share that same wisdom with you. What's in your heart? What has God placed on your heart? I believe that God is calling you to be a part of God's wonderful work in the world. And I believe that, if you look deep enough, you may find that already, God has been calling you from the deepest desires of your hearts. So, I ask again, what's in your heart?

In love and faith, Pastor Shandi

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, June 17th is in honor and celebration of fathers, including Jim Hoffman celebrating his 70th birthday, given by Judy Hoffman.

The altar flowers on Sunday, June 24th is in loving memory of Wesley Peterson by his family.

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.
- ✠ Someone’s nephew who is on his way to another state on a job assignment. Pray for his safety.
- ✠ Dave Samanen as he begins his new “adventure” with further rehabilitation in Connecticut to be near his grandchildren, Thea and Lyndon.
- ✠ Dorothy Norcross who is at Care One Rehabilitation Center in Millbury and is recovering from her surgery.
- ✠ Jerry Warren as he continues to heal after his stroke.
- ✠ All Wesley students who are graduating from school this year. Pray that God bless them and give them successful futures.
- ✠ Phillipa Brimah as she continues to grieve the loss of her mother. There will be a Ghanaian funeral celebration for Phillipa’s mother here at Wesley on June 23. All are invited.
- ✠ The Peterson Family as they prepare for Wesley’s memorial service on Saturday, June 23rd.

SUMMER SINGERS GATHER IN THE SANCTUARY

Time: 9:30-10:15 AM in the Sanctuary

Dates: July 8, 15, 22, 29
August 12, 19, 26

Enjoy time with other church members and learn a song specially chosen for that Sunday's service. Everything will be taught by western notation & tonic sol-fa or you can choose to learn by ear. It will be a more pleasing experience for learning if more people come. The Summer Singers will offer their piece in worship each week. When you plan to be in church, come at 9:30 and help lead the singing.

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

THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND CARTY DONATIONS...

Every month Carty Cupboard looks for an ingathering of certain food items and in the month of June is collecting... ketchup, mustard and relish (in plastic containers, please). In the same tradition and in addition to these items, we are asking for cranberry sauce and pickles 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 over-flowing! 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Year to Date — Budget Results through May 2018

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$ 249,894	\$ 256,366	\$ -6,472 less than budget
Total Expense	\$ 303,692	\$ 293,755	\$ 9,937 more than budget
Net Loss	\$ -53,798	\$ -37,389	\$ -16,409 more than budget

Pledges

Actual	\$ 111,458
Budget	\$ 137,312
Difference	\$ -25,854 below budget

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards, Lorna

CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

I would like to take this time to thank Donna Hirtle, Chis Flagg, and the Mission Committee for graciously offering to coordinate the Thanksgiving food distribution this year. While I am committed to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry, after 13 years of the Thanksgiving distribution as well as the weekly distributions, I can no longer do the additional heavy lifting of the extra 10,000 lbs we bring in that one week. My regular volunteers and I will continue to move the thousands of pounds we bring in and distribute weekly and monthly, and Donna, Chris and the community will do the Thanksgiving distribution.

For those of you who have donated the grocery bags with handles to Carty we really appreciate them! Please keep them coming.

Thank You, Nancy

Below are a list of items for the month for the next couple of 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.

MISSION MATTERS

June 30th Community Supper... Judy and Jim Hoffman have been volunteering in many efforts at Wesley during their first year here. On Saturday, June 30th, they will be bringing us a summertime supper: taco salad with all the fixings, beverages, and an ice cream sundae bar for dessert. *The congregation is asked to think about sundae toppings they have indulged in over the years, and donate them for the dessert bar (ie. fudge, sprinkles, whip cream, etc...).*

Habitat for Humanity Build Day on June 2nd... Ten Wesley folks, plus two of Gerard's mission volunteers, worked at Habitat's Northborough build site. Thank you Chris Kerns, Leslie and Tim McBrayer, Mark Muncey, Betsy and Bruce Pennino, Gerard Piscitelli, Robbins, Bill and Quinton Wong. Lorna also deserves a big thank you for bringing us a terrific lunch, and Stephanie Smyth, for the delightful cupcakes and macaroons. The Site Leader was amazed by how much our skilled carpenters got done-- cutting and installing flooring in two large living rooms. He also appreciated the amount of trim painted by those of us who lack skill with power tools.

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.

At the round table discussions, people requested more opportunities for mission... The American Foundation of Suicide Prevention has scheduled its community walk on Saturday, September 15. They will leave Institute Park at 10 am.

**CALLING ALL CHILDREN OF WESLEY..
AND CHILDREN OF NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS!!**



**“Superheroes: Then and Now”—
Wesley’s Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the Summer of 2018.**

This Summer’s VBS will be held at Wesley Church from **5-8 p.m. on Monday, July 23—Thursday, July 26**. All children *entering second grade* through those who have *completed sixth grade* are welcome to take part in Wesley’s VBS.

Join us for dinner, games, crafts, activities, and a chance to meet some super heroes of the past (Bible heroes) and present!! Spirit Man (aka: Pastor Shandi) will join us each evening to introduce us to the super heroes and to our theme for the night.

Each evening, children will gather in Brewer Hall at 5 p.m. for dinner and will be ready to be picked up in Brewer Hall by parents/guardians at 8 p.m. **Registration is free to all to attend this fun-filled and inspirational week!**



To register, complete a registration form (an insert in this Herald...and it is available in the Narthex, Brewer Hall, or during Sunday School in Wagner Hall) and:

- Mail it to: Wesley Church, 114 Main Street, Worcester, 01608,
Attention: Lisa Fagerstrom
- Drop it in Lisa’s mail box in the church office
- Sign up online at: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/f0fa76>.



In addition, we need volunteers to help with:

- Donations of supplies (see rolling board in Brewer Hall for items needed)
- Volunteers for meals (contact Judy Hoffman at: jhoffman24661@yahoo.com)
- Gift cards to Big Y for snacks and drinks (visit the IHN table in Brewer Hall)
- Youth and Adult volunteers to help with VBS leadership (speak with Lisa, Donna H., or Cordelia F.—or leave a message for Lisa at the church: 508-799-4191, x106)
- Adult volunteers to drive the van for transporting children to and from VBS (speak with Lisa or leave a message for her at the church: 508-799-4191, x106)

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN MAKING 2018 VBS A “SUPER” SUCCESS!!

WESLEY THINKS OUTSIDE THE FINANCIAL BOX TO SECURE FUNDING FOR MISSION

A team of Wesley members thought outside the financial box in an effort to secure funding for the Wesley UMC Community Meals Mission (Community Suppers and Community Breakfasts) by promoting the gifts and benefits of the mission when applying for a grant through the Grants Ministry of the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

The grant proposal described the mission, in part, as follows.

The mission of the monthly Community Meals Mission is to bring our neighbors (including those from local shelters, seniors housing, and halfway housing) and congregation into community and, through the shared meals, into communion with one another. In this community, we welcome our neighbors into a friendly, caring, safe environment, where they can enjoy a home-cooked meal. At the Community Supper, whenever possible, our guests receive their meal on china plates with metal flatware delivered to their table by servers—first-class meals for our first-class neighbors who, like us, are beloved by God.

In 2017, Wesley UMC served more than 1,300 meals at Community Suppers. On Easter Sunday 2018, Wesley UMC prepared 60 dozen eggs, 12 loaves of bread as French toast, and 10 gallons of orange juice to accompany the English muffins, pancakes, sausages, hash browns, corned beef hash, and fresh fruit for our guests and congregation.

The Community Meals Mission provides nourishment to many of our neighbors. More than that, however, it provides an opportunity for relaxing in a safe and friendly place and being in conversation with the people of Wesley Church who genuinely care about them, who call them by name, and who reach out in friendship.

The Community Meals Mission also provides opportunities of stewardship and gift-giving for the Wesley Church community—giving time, gifts, cooking talents—and opportunities for discipleship by being truly present in the lives of our neighbors who often live on the margins of society.

Continued on page 8...

Wesley Thinks continued...

The Community Meals Mission has taken the “soup kitchen” to a new level by providing our guests an opportunity to dine in style—great home-prepared meals served on china plates with metal flatware (when possible), delivered to them at their table with a smile and a blessing.

Our neighborhood guests say that, of all the free meals served in the Worcester community, they like Wesley’s suppers best because they feel most comfortable in our church setting. A few of our neighbors have started worshipping with us. They say they appreciate talking with staff members and the Wesley volunteers and guests, who are caring people.

Members of the grant proposal team contributed to the proposal as follows: Tom Ingrassia wrote a letter of endorsement from a Church Council perspective; Linda Keister wrote the proposal; Betsy Pennino, who as Mission chair coordinates the meals program, provided statistics and anecdotal information; Pastor Shandi provided overall pastoral support and signoff; and Bill Wong coordinated the entire effort. District Superintendent Rene Perez wrote a letter of endorsement from a district perspective.

Now we wait in prayer and hope.

Submitted by Linda Keister

DID YOU KNOW?

Throughout the month of June our scripture readings will include a psalm. Although we do not necessarily include a psalm in our scripture readings every week, for each week of the liturgical year the lectionary readings include three lessons as well as a psalm. In general the psalm is meant to function as a response, usually to the Old Testament lesson, and it is thus appropriate that the psalm is often sung or read responsively by the congregation.

Noted church music scholar Paul Westermeyer speaks of the Psalms as “the womb of church music” and the preface to the Psalter in the *United Methodist Hymnal* refers to the book of Psalms as “the hymn book of the Bible.” From the beginning the psalms were meant to be sung. Many of the individual psalms have subtitles that refer to singing, or tune names or musical instruments, and some of the words for which we do not know the exact interpretation are believed to relate to specific methods of performance. Although the Hebrew title for the book of Psalms translates as *praises*, our English title *Psalms* refers directly to music. It comes from the name given to the book in the Greek translation of the Old Testament and is derived from the word *psalmos*, originally referring to stringed instruments such as the harp and lute, but eventually referring to songs accompanied by such instruments.

Psalms appear in the current *United Methodist Hymnal* in several different guises. Most obviously, the Psalter found at the end of the hymnal contains texts from 100 of the 150 psalms as well as musical responses referred to as antiphons (from the Greek word *antiphonos* = responsive). This word also is the basis for a form of singing of psalms known as antiphonal psalmody, in which the verses of a psalm are sung alternately by two halves of a choir facing one another on opposite sides of the altar (as in our divided chancel). Texts of traditional antiphons generally are derived from the psalm itself, or occasionally from a related scripture. Our hymnal uses a variety of musical responses including excerpts taken from familiar hymns as well as musical settings specifically composed for this hymnal.

Continued on page 10...

Did You Know continued...

The texts of psalms also appear in our hymnal as hymns in a form known as metrical psalmody. A metrical psalm is a translation of all or part of a psalm into vernacular strophic verse, meant to be sung as a hymn. This form came into being at the time of the Reformation to allow congregational singing of psalms in the vernacular language. Some of these metrical psalms and paraphrases are more easily recognized than others. For example most people would recognize Psalm 23 in “The Lord’s My Shepherd” (*UMH* 136) or Psalm 100 in “All People that on Earth Do Dwell” (*UMH* 75). On the other hand, it perhaps is not quite as obvious that “Joy to the World” (*UMH* 246) is based on Psalm 98.

Westermeyer, in his book *Te Deum: The Church and Music* speaks of the reality of life embodied in the texts of the Psalms:

“In the Psalms we deal with the height and depth of human life, articulated in a most compelling way. We see our struggles against the backdrop of God’s goodness and mercy—our struggles with God and God’s struggles with us in steadfast love and faithfulness. We view the human drama in its savagery and kindness, in its barbarity and finesse, in the specificity of our daily lives and the cosmic proportions of life, in the call to treat one another justly and with mercy. Mostly we come face to face with God.”

Our use of Psalms in worship not only links us to the oldest forms of sacred music in the Judeo-Christian tradition but also allows full expression of our humanity before God.

Submitted by Deborah A. 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., July 16	Wed., July 25
Mon., Aug 6 <i>(this is a tentative date)</i>	Wed., Aug 15

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!

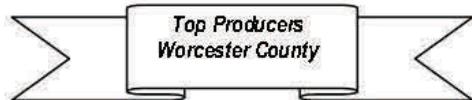


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Web page: www.wesleyworc.org

VBS Information Inside!
Be Sure to Check it out!

WESLEY HERALD
JUNE 13, 2018

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Pastor Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda
- Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship Lisa Fagerstrom
- 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 Yaw Enyim
Co-Chairs 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

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