

Vacation Bible School — It Takes a Village!!

It is that time again...the time for preparation for Wesley's annual Vacation Bible School (VBS). Each summer, the people of Wesley Church provide a time of fun, friendship, recreation, and learning for approximately 50 children and several dozen youth and adult volunteer leaders. This year is no exception.

In addition to the Wesley children, youth, and adults, we will be joined by members of Wesley Korean Church, Jesus Life Center UMC (formerly Aldersgate), Quinsigamond UMC, and other neighbors in our community. VBS will be held this year from Monday, July 23rd-Thursday, July 26th from 5-8 p.m. We will begin each evening in Brewer Hall with dinner.

Our theme this year is "Hero Central: Superheroes Now and Then." We will feature different guest "superheroes" each evening and our own Pastor Shandi as "Spirit Man" as our emcee! All children who recently completed 1st through 7th grade are welcome to participate in VBS.

Each night will include a gathering time, a time with the superhero of now and the superhero of the Old Testament (then), a closing time together...as well as recreation, arts & crafts, science projects, and a mission opportunity for the children and families of Puerto Rico (still impacted by last year's hurricane).

I would like to take this time to thank Cordelia Ferdinand, Donna Hirtle, Jean Grant, Judy Hoffman, the Prayer Quilt folks, and all of the "superheroes" and group/team leaders for their terrific work in preparation for next week. It does truly "take a village" to make VBS happen!!

If you are interested in being a part of VBS as a volunteer or with a child in your life as a participant, please contact me via email at lisa@wesleyworc.org or by phone at 508-799-4191, ext. 106. You can also register your child on line at: vbspro.events/p/f0fa76.

Finally, there are still opportunities to take part with donations. If you are interested in making a donation to offset the cost of food or to be a part of the mission project for Puerto Rico: contact Lisa, mail a donation check to the church, or leave an envelope in Lisa's mail box on Sunday. Please note VBS Mission or VBS Food/Supplies on your check or envelope.

With blessings, joy, and hope, *Lisa Fagerstrom, Dir. of Christian Formation and Disc.*

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Tower lighting for July is given in loving memory of Mable & Luther Marsh, and Evelyn & Martin Samanen by Carol, Dave, Steve, and Jeff Samanen.

THE JULY ROSE WINDOW LIGHTING is available for dedication in memory of a loved one or in celebration of someone special. The cost of the lighting for the month is \$40. If you would like the Rose Window for July, please contact me as soon as possible in the office at 508-799-4191, ext 102. Thank you. *Debi Ritacco*

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✝ The family of Judy Stern who passed away on Monday, July 2nd.
- ✝ Paul Keister who is in the hospital at UMass Medical Hospital after having fallen and broken several bones, and had to have surgery. Pray for healing, comfort, and strength.
- ✝ Beverly Grimshaw was in the hospital briefly over the weekend.
- ✝ Susan Ramsey as she continues to heal and find new strength while in the hospital in Bangor, ME.
- ✝ Dorothy Norcross who is at home and is recovering from pneumonia.
- ✝ Jerry Warren as he continues to heal and find new strength after having suffered a stroke.
- ✝ Strength and healing for Earl Flagg's brother, Frank, in their time of need.
- ✝ Chris who is on life support after suffering a brain hemorrhage several weeks ago.
- ✝ Justina Royalbabe Lamptey whose grandfather, step-father, and a cousin have died in the last couple of weeks.
- ✝ The United Methodist Church as we continue to pray for our Way Forward and wait for the 2019 Special General Conference.
- ✝ The Wesley UMC Basketball team which made it to the Auburn League finals.
- ✝ The family of Judy Stern who passed away on Monday, July 2nd.

SAVE THE DATES...

Sunday, July 29 th	Children's Mini Harvest
Friday, August 24 th	Family-friendly Movie Night: 7–9 p.m.
Sunday, August 26 th	Women's Mini Harvest
Saturday, September 8 th	Ghanaian Picnic at Greenhill Park, 1-6pm <i>All are Invited to Come</i>
Sunday, September 30 th	Harvest

HERALD NOTICE...

The next Herald will be mailed on Wednesday, August 8th. Articles are due in the office by Wednesday, August 1st. Please note that I have changed the deadline date to one week before the mail date. *Keep in mind that the Ministry Fair is Sunday, September 9th, so please plan your articles accordingly.* This deadline date will be most important as I have a lot to get done before my vacation, so please be sure to have them to me by the deadline date.

Also, just a heads up... there will be a Herald on August 29th with the deadline date of August 22nd. Again, the Ministry Fair is Sunday, September 9th, so please plan your articles accordingly. *Thank you, Debi Ritacco*

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED... Do you have a few hours to spare in the morning, once or twice a week? Would you like to fill that voided time? The church office is looking for volunteers to help answer the phones and do other light office work. We would like to fill the time 9am—12/1pm. If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to Debi in the office.

We are also in big need of help during my vacation: August 13-16 and 20-23 (two weeks) (Friday's are all set). The time would be 9-3 if possible for the first week, and 9-12/1 for the second week. *Thank you, Debi Ritacco*

HERALD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

Each month we have a group of volunteers that gather together to help get the Herald ready for the mailing. They generally meet on Wednesday mornings 9-11am. A couple of times during the year it may fall on a Thursday. If you have some spare time on Wednesday mornings and would like to help with the Herald and have some fellowship time, please contact me in the office (508-799-4191 x102). No experience is needed. *Thank you, Debi Ritacco*

WESLEY GAME NIGHT AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL – FRIDAY, JULY 20TH FROM 7-9 P.M.

The Hospitality Committee invites all Wesley members, along with friends and families, for an evening of fun on **Friday, July 20th from 7-9 p.m.** Some board games and ice cream sundaes “fixins” will be provided. However, you are invited to bring your own card and board games to play and to share with others. Come and join the fun and an opportunity to meet and get to know others in the Wesley UMC family!

Also... *Mark the date* for our upcoming Family-friendly Movie Night:

Friday, August 24th, From 7 – 9 p.m.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND CARTY DONATIONS...

Every month Carty Cupboard looks for an ingathering of certain food items and in the month of July is collecting... diapers, sizes 2-6.

In the same tradition and in addition to these items, we are asking for desserts... boxed cake mixes with frosting, boxed pie crust mix with pie filling, and brownie 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 over-flowing! Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated and will make a big difference to the many families that Carty serves!

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee has been busy making plans in response to requests by members to increase our connectedness as a congregation.

Over the last two months we have launched a trial e-mail entitled ‘Wesley Church’s Daily Reflections’. Through this effort we are reading and praying together daily.

We have planned fun evenings throughout the Summer with a game night & ice cream social planned for July 20th and a family friendly movie night planned for August 24th. Both will run from 7:00 to 9:00pm with child care available.

For the Fall we are planning small group dinner gatherings called ‘Eats for 8’. We will link folks together to enjoy a social time. Sign-ups for this event will begin during the Ministry Fair held in Brewer Hall on September 9th after worship.

If you have any ideas for promoting our goal of increased connectedness, please see Vivian Assie or Judy Hoffman, co-chairpersons.

CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

The items of the month for July are... Diapers sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. I have expanded the sizes as the need has increased for the listed sizes.

The items of the month for August are... School Supplies for children aged 5-14 - pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks, and notebooks.

Backpacks will also be needed. **Just a note here, school starts in Worcester on August 27th. We will need all the donated items by August 15th so we can sort and put together everything for distribution to the children in time.

The items for September are... Personal Care Products - deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and body wash are what's needed the most. As you can see by the items needed we are so much more than a food pantry to our clients and we can't do it without your kindness and giving.

Thank You, Nancy

MISSION MATTERS

July 28th Community Supper... Alice Boateng, her family and members of Esther Circle are in charge of the Community Supper on Saturday, July 28th, 4 to 6 pm. The menu will be baked chicken, jollof rice, salad, beverages and dessert. Dessert bakers, your contributions would be much appreciated. We're hoping that cooler weather will encourage baking!

Open Positions at IHN... The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) on June St. in Worcester has two part-time positions open. One is an Administrative Assistant position of 10 to 12 hours/week. *Days and hours can be flexible, but must include Fridays.* The other job is a Weekend Staff Person to cover Sundays (8:30 am to 6 pm). Some coverage may also be needed for holidays or during the week. This position would make attending either of Wesley's Sunday services impossible, but perhaps folks know others who would be interested. Experience with families in crisis is a plus for working at IHN. To apply, call the IHN Director, Joanne Alley, at 508-755-2212.

Habitat for Humanity Needs Volunteers on Saturday, July 21 for Critical Home Repair... Habitat's Critical Home Repair addresses health, life and safety/code issues for low income homeowners. A veteran living at 47 Highland St. in Marlborough is in need of help with painting, and rebuilding a porch on his old Victorian home. Habitat is looking for volunteers (who are at least 16 years old) to work there on Saturday, July 21 from 8 am to 4 pm. To volunteer for this request *or other Habitat projects in Greater Worcester*, please email Molly, the Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@habitatmwgw.org. *Also, Habitat MetroWest/Greater Worcester encourages more low income homeowners to apply for painting and exterior repairs.*



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

FOSTERING SANCTUARY CULTURE

On Sunday, June 24, those of you who were in worship heard a report from annual conference shared by our Lay Leader, Debbie O'Driscoll, in which she reported about a resolution passed at this year's Annual Conference entitled: Taking A Stance Against Separating Immigrant Children. The resolution called upon United Methodists in New England to express dismay and outrage at the horrifying treatment of separating children from families, and to work in our local communities to be in ministry with individuals and families navigating the immigration process. The full resolution may be found on the Annual Conference website here:

<https://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/ac18-saturday-june-16-recap-11505781>

Since the resolution passed, President Trump issued an Executive Order meant to end the separation of families at the border. However, the work to reunite families and improve immigration policy continues. The work urged in the resolution also still stands. As the resolution states: "WE RESOLVE, both individually and together, to engage whatever platform, voice, and power we have to protect every family of every configuration and of every nation; to be a voice for the voiceless in the halls of government, at border crossings, in detention centers and wherever else families are being torn apart." I found this concluding resolution statement to be particularly one that transcends the specific issue that the resolution was addressing. Families are being torn apart in many different ways and places and we have a responsibility to do something.

Then, on Sunday, July 8, as we lifted up the example and witness of Esther in the Bible, I invited the congregation to consider ways we may be called like Esther — individually and corporately — to stand up to the powers-that-be, both within the church and outside of the church, and advocate for justice. In my message, I reminded us of the decision our Church Council made in 2017 to set as a goal for our church “Fostering Sanctuary Culture”. Last summer, after the Council made this decision, the worship team spent several weeks unpacking this theme of Fostering Sanctuary Culture. We acknowledged that the term “sanctuary” has had both religious and political connotations, and we committed to continue to give definition and provide context for this goal.

I therefore believe that part of the context of Fostering Sanctuary Culture is our very congregation, which seeks to be a diverse and multicultural community, practicing hospitality, welcome and inclusion of ALL persons, even as we reach out in mission and service in the world. I believe that fostering sanctuary culture begins with us seeking to live into these areas of passion.

We are a community of immigrants, recent and longstanding. We are a community in the heart of the city where the plight of people who are homeless is visible right from our front steps. We are a community that is located near a courthouse where many families stand before a judge to find out what may happen to their loved ones. Families are being torn apart not only at the borders, but also in our courtrooms and in the very streets of our community. Fostering Sanctuary Culture therefore means providing a space and community of respite and refuge for people who face so many different challenges in our world. I believe Wesley can do this.

So, I believe and hope that no matter what differences we share, we can find common ground in Jesus Christ to prepare our lives and our church as sanctuary spaces in which others can encounter the holy. It is Jesus who urges us to welcome and love one another as he has loved us, especially welcoming the “least of these” as described in Matthew 25. I pray that part of what it means to Foster Sanctuary Culture, means that each of us will do our part to share the love of God in us with those whom others in our world seem to hate and despise. For this reason I pray in the words of the hymn, Sanctuary, and say:

“Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.”

In faith and trust, Pastor Shandi

2018 LAYMAN OF THE YEAR

This year's Layman of the Year spent his younger years in many places—Colorado, then college and graduated from West Virginia University in 1978 with a BS in Chemistry, then Florida, before settling in Northern Worcester County where he is employed in the retail field. Also, he was included in the Diamond Anniversary Edition of Who's Who in America 2006. Over 20 years ago he was drawn to Wesley Church because of his interest in stained glass and Wesley's beautiful stained glass windows. He was hooked! He continued to travel 30 miles each way every Sunday to worship at Wesley.

When there was an opportunity to serve on the ushering team he stepped up and has been ushering at the 10:30 service for 20 years now. Each week his appearance shows that he is proud to be contributing to the worship service. He is always dependable, on time, helpful, and friendly. He helps to collect the blue prayer cards to be delivered to the pastor.

He is also involved in many other Wesley activities. As a member of the Mission Committee, he has volunteered many overnight stays at the Interfaith Hospitality Network shelter and worked at Habitat for Humanity projects. He can be found helping at First Night, community suppers, coffee hours, and Sunday breakfasts. He is quick to volunteer whenever and wherever there is a need.

Most of us know this man by his nickname, but his involvement speaks for his given name, Christian. Yes our 2018 Layman of the Year is Chris Kerns.

Congratulations Chris!



WESLEY'S FOURTEENTH ANNUAL HARVEST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

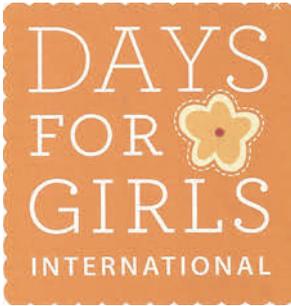
HARVEST SUNDAY ~ SILENT AUCTION

We will be having a Silent Auction, so if you have anything you'd like to donate to the auction, please bring it to the office by Wednesday, September 26th. Please be sure to complete a form (available in the office) with a starting price and a description of your item. For more information contact Paul Hayfron and watch the Heralds to come.

OUR CONGREGATION IS OF MANY NATIONS BUT WE WILL PRAISE HIS BOUNTIFUL HARVEST AS ONE

- SILENT AUCTION BEGINNING AT 9:30 am
- SANCTUARY SERVICE AT **10:00 am**
 - ★ KOFI AND AMA EVENT - Celebrate the day of your birth
 - ★ PRAISE AND CELEBRATION MUSIC
 - ★ HARVEST AUCTION
 - ★ APPEAL FOR FUNDS
- FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP IN BREWER HALL FOLLOWING SERVICE
 - ★ LUNCHEON – prepared by our Ghanaian Community





DAYS FOR GIRLS
NORTH WORCESTER MA TEAM
WESLEY U M CHURCH
VIOLET ANSAH, DEB BOCK, LORRAINE KRONBERG

Your Wesley Team has been at work each week throughout the year and wonderful results have transpired. 100 kits have been delivered to the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC via the DFG team in Grande Prairie, Canada.

A wonderful gift of 90 yards of new quality fabric was given to us by Black Cat Quilt Shop in Holden when they went out of business.

Women from the UMW in Oakdale UM Church have joined our team and have been working with us on Wednesday mornings sewing DFG kit components.

Exciting days for us with renewed enthusiasm... join our team any Wednesday morning at 10:00am in the second floor sewing room....we welcome extra hands any day.

JANUARY 2018 STATISTICS

'DAYS FOR GIRLS' IS REACHING 120 COUNTRIES

THERE ARE OVER 1,000 TEAMS AND 50,000 VOLUNTEERS

KITS HAVE BE DISTRIBUTED TO 101 NATIONS ON SIX CONTINENTS

ONE MILLION KITS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED AS OF JANUARY 8, 2018

THIS TRANSLATES INTO:

2 MILLION SHIELDS 8 MILLION LINERS

1 MILLION BARS OF SOAP 1 MILLION WASHCLOTHS

2 MILLION GIRLS BRIEFS

Thank you, Wesley UMC, for your continued support and interest in this wonderful mission. Your donations are always welcome to keep us in supplies for kits.

Lorraine Kronberg, Team Leader

EVERY GIRL...EVERYWHERE...PERIOD

DID YOU KNOW?

Most United Methodists are aware that the regulations for the organization and governance of the denomination at all levels—from local church to annual conference to general agencies—are found in *The United Methodist Book of Discipline*. This publication comes under scrutiny and is revised every four years by the General Conference, the primary legislative body which has the authority to speak on behalf of the entire United Methodist Church. What people may not realize is that the Council of Bishops has the authority to call special sessions of General Conference outside the usual quadrennial schedule, and such a session has been called next year.

At the last General Conference in 2016, there were numerous petitions before them concerning the topic of human sexuality and issues of LGBTQ inclusion, topics causing much grief among United Methodists over the last few decades. With protests and talk of possible schism, discussion and voting on resolutions related to human sexuality were tabled at General Conference 2016. Subsequently the Council of Bishops created the Commission on a Way Forward and called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held in February, 2019 in St. Louis.

Representing 9 countries and a variety of theological perspectives, the 32 members of the Commission (11 laity, 13 clergy, and 8 bishops) met 9 times to examine paragraphs in *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality and also explored options to strengthen the unity of the church. The purpose of the Special Session is to act on recommendations from the Commission on a Way Forward, with the Council of Bishops endorsing what is known as the One Church Plan. (Although bishops attend General Conference, they cannot vote. Individual bishops rotate as presiding officer during the sessions; other bishops cannot speak unless given permission by the delegates, comprising equal numbers of clergy and laity.)

In his Episcopal Address at Annual Conference this year Bishop Devadhar pointed out that what is really at stake is the health of our communal heart as a people called United Methodists. His address was followed by a panel discussion with several active and retired bishops. Amidst discussions about the Way

Continued on page 12...

Did You Know continued...

Forward it was emphasized that congregations need to be aware and informed about the upcoming Special Session; our Annual Conference passed a resolution urging and encouraging as many members of our churches as possible to attend the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019 in order to support our delegates and interpret the outcome for our churches.

Here at Wesley we hope to offer opportunities in the fall to engage in dialogue about the proposals made by the Commission on A Way Forward. While the report was presented to the Council of Bishops in May, the full text has not yet been publicly released as it presently is being translated from English into French, Kiswahili and Portuguese (the three other official languages of General Conference) with an expected release date of July 30. In the meantime you can find general information about the Way Forward and General Conference on our conference website (<https://www.neumc.org>) as well as through the United Methodist News Service (<https://www.umnews.org>). It is important for all of us to keep informed about the upcoming decisions which are crucial for the future of our denomination.

Submitted by Deborah A. O'Driscoll



Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

JUNE COMMUNITY SUPPER... A successful community supper was held on June 30th. Over 100 meals were served. Brewer Hall was moderately hot but the taco salad and ice cream menu was a good match for the heat. Many thanks to Donna Hirtle, Betsy Pennino, Edith Isaac, Chris Kerns, Lisa Fagerstrom, Linda D'Acri, Beth Maider, Linda Keister and James Hoffman.

Thank you, Judy Hoffman

I would like to say Thank You to a few people who have been very helpful in the office over the last six months. We needed people to help answer phones and with simple office work, and Susan Williams, Mary Brytowski, Emily Smith and Beth Maider were kind enough to help. Thank you to each and every one of you! You all helped Lorna and myself in so many ways. We so appreciate all you have done and continue to do for us.

Thank you, Debi Ritacco

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>
Wed., Aug 1	Wed., Aug 8
Wed., Aug 22	Wed., Aug 29

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!

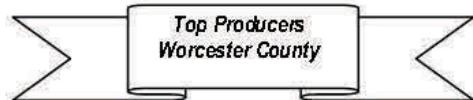


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Web page: www.wesleyworc.org

VBS Information Inside!
Be Sure to Check it out!

WESLEY HERALD
JULY 18, 2018

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda
Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship	Lisa Fagerstrom
Director of Children's Music	Nan Gibbons
Interim Summer Organist	Samuel Long
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

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