

## SHALOM...

There is no doubt that one of the most energetic and engaging parts of our 10:30 am worship service is when we all pass the peace to the sound of the choirs singing Shalom. I have witnessed the joyful expressions on peoples' faces lighting up the room, and I have experienced the warm fellowship that is shared in that liturgical moment lifting up the heart and reviving the soul. And if I can be honest, I cannot imagine a Wesley without Shalom at the 10:30 service, and I almost do not want to believe that there was a time when Shalom was not part of Wesley's liturgical expression.

When I served as pastor at Grace-Linn Memorial United Methodist Church in Maine, they too had a tradition that created in me similar feelings of joy and warmth. At Grace-Linn, they always concluded their worship service in a circle, holding hands around the sanctuary, and their liturgical tradition was to sing the song, Shalom, which is found in the United Methodist Hymnal on page 666. They sang it acapella, looking at each others' faces with smiles and sometimes tears, and every member (except the occasional guest) knew this congregational response by heart. The singing together, the holding hands, and the circle all created a sense of community much like I have experienced when we pass the peace here at Wesley.

I have been fascinated by the fact that two very different congregations have a liturgical moment in their worship service in which the word "Shalom" is central. Even though the songs we sing are different, coming from very different cultures, in both congregations I have experienced these moments to be affirming of our communal spirit and shared identity as a Christian community. I have felt that these moments speak volumes about what it means to be the church and that they speak to an important part of our calling as disciples of Jesus, so much so that in 2012, I articulated a personal vision for my ministry with you as a congregation.

I shared my hope that Wesley UMC would "bring wholeness (shalom) to the spiritual and communal life of our neighborhood, city, and greater Worcester community." I envisioned a church that is engaged with our community to share with it peace, harmony, prosperity, completeness and wholeness, which are all part of the definition of the Hebrew word Shalom.

So I wonder: What would it look like if the peace we shared during Shalom overflowed out of our hearts and lives and spilled over into our neighborhoods, city and world? What would it look like if Shalom—and all its meanings—came to be a central expression of our faith and not just a liturgical expression? The worship team and I hope to explore these and other questions during our Fall Worship Series: Shalom. The series begins with Welcome Back Sunday/Ministry Fair Sunday on September 9. We look forward to being with you as we explore this theme and idea more deeply this Fall.

*In Faith and Hope, Pastor Shandi*

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

**The Tower** lighting for August is given in loving memory of Mary Barbe Kerns by Christian Kerns.

**The Rose window** lighting for August is given in loving memory of Rena Stephenson by Mark and Cindy Muncey.

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Paul Keister who is in UMass Hospital with pneumonia.
- ✠ Traveling mercies for all those moving to new homes and who are traveling for vacation.
- ✠ Wishing for God's blessings for Akosua Ababio and Yvette Ababio (mother and daughter) who are celebrating their birthdays this month.
- ✠ College students entering and returning to school, and for God's guidance in their decisions.
- ✠ Someone's sister who's birthday is August 9th. Happy birthday.
- ✠ Julia Jordan and Emily and all college students as they prepare to return for the fall.
- ✠ David Anderson during a difficult time in his life.
- ✠ Family of Irma McKeown who died earlier this month. Irma was the wife of Rev. Tom McKeown who served Wesley for a short time.
- ✠ People with Alzheimer's
- ✠ Cindy who is battling cancer
- ✠ Breanna for her health, safety and wisdom, and faith to continue flourishing
- ✠ Strength and courage for Florence
- ✠ Alida Bloem for strength and healing
- ✠ Pastor Shandi and Allison who are expecting their second child in December
- ✠ Jerry Warren for continued healing and strength. It was good to see him and Marion in worship recently.
- ✠ Susan Ramsey
- ✠ David Samanen
- ✠ Giving thanks for Lisa Fagerstrom and for her team for a job well done with VBS
- ✠ For the Search Committee who are conducting interviews for a Director of Music Ministry. May God give them guidance in their discernment.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

*The following is a reprinting of a letter previously mailed out.*

On behalf of the Church Council and Board of Trustees, I am writing to communicate to you a decision that was made to use funds from the Permanent Endowment to fund significant repair projects on our church building.

As you may recall, the trustees shared a report in the April 18 Herald newsletter communicating some of the building maintenance issues we were facing. Three of these projects mentioned included, (a) the roof which was leaking, damaging the front pews on the north side of the sanctuary.; (b) the cement used to frame the doors and windows of the church (the painted areas), which has been deteriorating in several areas causing safety concerns in the lower State Street entrance; and (c) a steam leak in the pipe inside that wall of the north balcony stairs which not only damaged and weakened the wall, but also damaged the heater for the chapel directly below it.

The above mentioned projects are among the most costly and urgent, but there are other maintenance projects that have been on hold for lack of funds, and others that come up unexpectedly and need immediate attention. As a result, this year's anticipated maintenance costs are already in excess of \$72,200. However, the Trustees receive from the endowment \$20,000 annually to use for building maintenance. In light of this, the Church Council, at the request of the Board of Trustees, voted on June 4 to use funds from the Permanent Endowment to fund this year's projects.

The implications of the Council's decision is that our operating budget income will be negatively impacted because we will have less funds in the Permanent Endowment on which to draw using our 7% spending rule. This year the Permanent Endowment contributed \$159,691 to our operating budget. Future income from the endowment will consequently be less.

The decision the Church Council made was difficult. Not only do we want to support the ministries of the church and make sure that our operating budget can support the work we are called to do, but we also need to ensure that the church building which houses our ministry efforts does not fall into disarray.

*Continued on page 4*

## *From the Pastor's Desk continued...*

The decision that the Council made was a short-term solution. There are more long-term considerations to keep in mind. For instance, if the cost of maintaining the church building continues at current levels, and if we cannot afford to continue the practice of delayed maintenance, all the while still depending on the endowment to support the annual operations of the church, then we are in an unsustainable situation. So, the Church Council leadership recognizes that we are being called to find more adaptive and long-term solutions to the challenges we face. The Council is committed to continuing the discernment process to help us move toward this goal of responsible stewardship and sustainable ministry.

In the meantime, we are called to seek solutions that address both short-term and long-term needs, and to seek a healthy balance in addressing these needs. The Council invites your help in this matter. We would like to present you with two options for responding to this particular need: (1) We invite you to consider making a special donation to the Permanent Endowment so that we can strengthen the position of our endowment to support our ministry and mission; (2) We invite you to consider making a special donation to a Building Maintenance and Capital Projects fund to address the specific needs we have this year. By doing so, you help reduce the amount that the Trustees will have to draw from the Endowment.

Both options have the future and our long-term needs in mind, though option 2 may appear only to address the present financial need for 2018. These options are intermediate requests while the Church Council discerns what long-term and sustainable solutions God is calling us to implement for our future.

Finally, members of the Church Council and Board of Trustees will be available to answer questions from the congregation on Sunday, August 19. If you have any questions, please feel free to come to East Hall where members of the Council and Trustees can meet with you and address any questions you may have.

I invite you to please pray for our church. I ask that you pray for God to show us a clear path to take that will lead us to God's desired future for us. In all things, we are trusting in God and praying for God's wisdom and direction. I thank you for your partnership in this precious ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church.

*Sincerely, Pastor Shandi Mawokomatanda*

**PLEASE NOTE: The floors in East Hall and Brewer Hall will be refinished this week, beginning on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>—Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**PLEASE make sure to follow the posted signs to get to the office. Thank you.**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 13-17...**

Lorna will be on vacation from August 13-17, returning to work on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Please make note of this and be sure you take care of any necessary business prior to Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> or wait until Lorna returns on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Debi will be on vacation for two weeks beginning August 13<sup>th</sup>. She will be returning to work on August 27<sup>th</sup>. If you want altar flowers during that time, please be sure to get your order in to her by Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Also, remember that the next Herald deadline remains as Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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.

**HERALD NOTICE...**

The next Herald will be mailed on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Articles are due in the office by Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. ***Keep in mind that the Ministry Fair is Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, so please plan your articles accordingly.***

*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 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*



### **THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND CARTY DONATIONS...**

Every month Carty Cupboard looks for an ingathering of certain food items and in the month of August is collecting 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 27<sup>th</sup>. We will need all the donated items by August 15<sup>th</sup> so we can sort and put together everything for distribution to the children in time.

In the same tradition and in addition to these items, we are asking for boxes of muffin or bread 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!

*Thank you, Donna Hirtle*

### **Help Prevent Homelessness One Gift Card at a Time**

You can be part of the solution to Worcester's increasing challenge of affordable housing. Just volunteer one Sunday a month after church to sell gift cards for area grocery stores, CVS, Dunkin' Donuts and Panera. A percentage of each sale goes into a fund to help families on the brink of homelessness. When they remain in their home, their children stay in their community school and they don't become part of the state's less-than-ideal shelter system.

Want to learn more? Talk to Allison Hansen after church at the Hope for Housing gift card table or via email at [AChis4788@aol.com](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com). Seeking volunteers for after both the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Pair up with a friend and be part of the solution!

*Thank you, Allison Hansen*

### **For Medicare members...**

People in Massachusetts will be receiving NEW Medicare cards beginning the end of July. You will no longer have your Social Security number as your Medicare number. You will need to notify your doctors and other related medical staff of your new number.

*Carolyn Bellil, Shine counselor*

## CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

The items of the month for September are... Personal Care Products - deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and body wash are what's needed the most.

Also so you can watch the sales and plan ahead... The item of the month for...

October is... Hearty LOW Sodium canned soups

November are Diapers.... in sizes 4, 5, and 6 please.

December are... Dessert Mixes - cake and brownie mixes would be great and give our families a little extra treat around the holidays

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*

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

**Family Movie Night....** On **Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**, the Hospitality Committee will be sponsoring a Family Movie Night. The event will include a family friendly movie, popcorn and Lemonade from 7-9pm. As any of the 37 people who attended the July Game Night can attest, a good time was had by all! Please join us for Family Movie Night in East Hall.

**"Eats for Eight"...** A dinner social event sponsored by the Hospitality Committee will be held this Fall. The event will invite groups of eight church members and friends to share a meal together. The meal may be held at someone's home, at the church, at a restaurant, or at a park. It can be 'pot luck', 'take out', or shared as the group decides. Timing for the meals and fellowship is at the discretion of the group members. The Hospitality Committee will set up the groups and let everyone know. Our hope is that these dinners will help us to become better acquainted with other members of our church family.

Sign up for this event will be held on Sunday, September 9th at the Ministry Fair after worship. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to speak with any member of the Hospitality Committee. They can also help you sign up. Hospitality Members: Janice England, Dave Dagle, Chris Kearn, Mercy Peacock, Vivian Assie, Krysta Asante, and Judy Hoffman.

## MISSION MATTERS

**August 25<sup>th</sup> Community Supper...** The Wesley Youth Group, and their adult leaders Adrienne and Anthony and Lisa Fagerstrom, are in charge of the August Community Supper. The menu will be spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, bread, beverages and dessert. Wesley bakers, your contributions would be much appreciated.

**July Community Supper...** Alice Boateng, her family and members of Esther Circle brought us the July 28<sup>th</sup> Community Supper. Her son, Isaac Berko, is the leader of the very successful Wesley Basketball Team, and team members served the supper. Isaac also brought many dozens of rolls and coupons from Texas Roadhouse. And he showed up with a State Rep and a young man running for Worcester City Council. They talked with workers and guests. Thank you, Alice, for deciding to donate the food and for spending your birthday in our steamy kitchen!

**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...** Habitat's Critical Home Repair program addresses health, life and safety/code issues for low income home owners. To volunteer for Habitat projects *in Greater Worcester*, please email Molly, the Volunteer Coordinator, at [volunteer@habitatmwgw.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatmwgw.org). *Also, Habitat MetroWest/Greater Worcester encourages more low income homeowners to apply for painting and exterior repairs.*

**Habitat's ReStore has ReOpened...** Habitat for Humanity's ReStore just opened at their new location-- 640 Lincoln St. There you can find donated furniture, appliances, building materials and similar items at minimal prices. You can also donate stuff you no longer want.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **SAVE THE DATES...**

- Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>      Family-friendly Movie Night: 7–9 p.m.  
Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>      Women's Mini Harvest  
Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>      Ministry Fair  
Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>      Harvest

### **UPDATE: WESLEY'S ANNUAL COOKOUT...**

To the Wesley Community,

Unfortunately, the Annual Cookout that was originally scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. Apologies from the Executives of the Ghanaian Association.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### **New season starts -- September 8 UMW Steering Committee**

Calling all UMW officers and circle chairs -- please come to our next Steering Committee meeting on Saturday, September 8 at 8:45 a.m. in Mary Ellis Lounge. We have lots of planning to do for upcoming programs! Please send a circle representative if you cannot attend yourself.

### **Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!**

Thanks to all who contributed supplies for the apartments for the new mothers from Florence House. Your generous gifts were so appreciated.

Some said that there are great sales this season. If you find something , give me a call and I will arrange to deliver it. Carolyn Bellil 508-798- 9848. Thanks again

# 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 26<sup>th</sup>. 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





## Wesley UMC 2018 VBS

### Hero Central: Superheroes, Then and Now

With profound gratitude and thanks to all who made this year's VBS such a success and so much fun!!

**Leadership Team:** Cordelia Ferdinand, Donna Hirtle, & Lisa Fagerstrom

**Supply Coordination & Organization:** Jean Grant

**Participant Messenger Bags:** Lorraine Kronberg, Coordinator  
Janice England, Judy Simoneau, & Deb Bock

**Superheroes:** *Spirit Man*—Shandi Mawokomatanda

*Iron Man*—Thiago Vieira

*Samson*—Bill Kilmer

*Wonder Woman*—Francisca Turkson

*Queen Esther*—Rebecca Aidoo

*Black Panther*—Isaac Berko

*Solomon*—Steve Wakadilo

*Princess Leia*—Debi Ritacco

*Hannah*—Deb Bock

**Meals:** Judy Hoffman, Coordinator

D'Acri Family, UMW, Alice Boateng & Rebecca Aidoo, Jim Hoffman

**Transportation:** Gary Robinson, Mercy Peacock, & Bill Wong

**Registration:** Belinda Adams, Debbie O'Driscoll & Allison Mawokomatanda,

**Crafts:** Tori Gibbs

**Recreation:** Mindy Sherman

**Science (and Tech Help):** Adrienne Hall-Phillips & Anthony Phillips

**Photography:**

Jim Hoffman

**Volunteers & Helpers:** Mercy Peacock, Debora Marques and her team from Jesus Life Center (Cida, Yasmin, & Milka), Danielle Ferdinand, Deb O'Driscoll, Jason Assie, Nick Assie, Edward Ogbarmey-Tetteh, Krysta Asante, Andrea Ashton, Antoinette Enyim, Gracie Burke, K.J. Remillard, D.J. Ferdinand, Edith Isaac, Bertha Amoako, Janet Amoako, Gail & Ron Liston, Dick & Betty Nevers, Gabby Adams, Judy Hoffman, Akosua Ababio, Tom Friend, Donna Hirtle, Cordelia Ferdinand, Peter Hansen, Lawrence Hammond, James Hammond, Judith Barton

## Did You Know?

As we received communion this past Sunday, we were offered bread, which we then dipped into grape juice in a cup (a method of administration of communion known as intinction). The primary visual symbol of the Eucharist in worship, even for those services in which we do not actually celebrate communion, is the altar or communion table, but did you ever wonder about the serving vessels themselves?

The cup used to serve communion is known as a chalice (derived from the Latin *calix*, meaning cup). The cup used by Jesus at the institution of the Lord's Supper was most likely one of the ordinary two handled cups common in that time, and the earliest types of chalice were bowls with two handles but without a stem. In later times the more common present day shape of the chalice evolved with elongation of the stem and a smaller bowl.

The plate or dish used to hold the bread is known as a paten (Old French *patene*, from Latin *patina*, shallow dish or pan). The form of the paten has also evolved over the centuries of Christian worship. In early Christian times church members brought bread and wine (as well as other foodstuffs) from which a portion was presented as the offering to be consecrated for use as the communion elements. The earliest forms of the paten were thus used for the collection of the offering of bread from the people and resembled a tea-tray or large basket. In later medieval times the form became smaller and rounded and was usually shaped to fit into the top of the bowl of the chalice.

Because of their important functional role in the service of communion, these liturgical objects have received much artistic attention throughout the history of the church. Originally made of glass, earthenware, or even wood, after the official recognition of Christianity by Constantine in the 4th Century, chalices of gold and silver decorated with precious gemstones began to be used. With the influence of the liberal art of the Renaissance, some of the decoration was in the form of secular motifs. Such chalices are now more appropriately on display in museums.

In our time these sacramental vessels can be made of a variety of materials, including metal (gold or silver plate, pewter, brass), glass, or earthenware. The chalice and paten sets we are presently using most commonly for our communion services are made of porcelain ceramic. Both the chalice and paten are decorated with symbols in raised relief—the chalice with grapes and the paten with wheat. Although these vessels can be significant works of craftsmanship, what is most important about this altarware is its functional role conveying to us the cup of salvation and the bread of life.

*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>
Wed., Aug 22	Wed., Aug 29
Wed., Sept. 5	Wed., Sept. 12

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!**

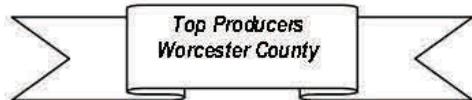


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**Web page: [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)**

**VBS Information Inside!**  
**Be Sure to Check it out!**

**WESLEY HERALD**  
**AUGUST 8, 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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