

The Start of Something New

By maintaining my spiritual condition, by giving away what has been so freely given to me, I am granted a daily reprieve.

Daily Reflections, August 26

I shared the above quote in my sermon this past Sunday. I was preaching on the passage from Ephesians where Paul is instructing the church at Ephesus to put on the “Spiritual Armor” of God. My invitation to the gathered community was for us all to put on enough “armor” to enable us to *be with* God’s people in the world...but, not so much “armor” that we are *shielded from* God’s people in the world—to maintain our spiritual condition so that we are freely able to give what has been so freely given to us.

In that spirit, I would like to share with you a new ministry to be “given” at Wesley this fall and to introduce a new member of Wesley to you as well. Jason Tockey joined Wesley last spring and brings a wealth of experience of church leadership. I will let Jason’s “letter” below introduce the group he will be shepherding beginning this fall...

“Hey college-aged people! College and our early adulthood years are an amazing time of life. It is a time where we begin to think more deeply about the journey of life that we are embarking on; a time where we give further shape to our own ideas of what is important to us.

As a church, we believe that this time of life is important and that those of you in the middle of this part of your journey are important as well. Wesley wants to help create opportunities for belonging and community to happen, for each of you, as you live out this part of your journey.

At Communion Breakfasts, on the first Sunday of each month—beginning this Sunday (9/2), there will be a table set aside to sit together to talk, share thoughts and hopes for what this group will be, and to make plans for events and activities. I hope you will join us as we begin!

See you Sunday, Jason”

So, if you are a new high school graduate/college-aged, I hope you will come and join with Jason in helping to build this new group at Wesley.

And, if you are someone who is new to Wesley, been here for a while, or been here all your life...opportunities abound to be a part of groups for prayer, Bible and life-application study, hospitality and fellowship, committee membership, mission outreach, project and program work. Come join together in caring for our spiritual condition while we give away to others what has been so freely given to us.

With blessings for our “new year,” Lisa Fagerstrom, Dir. of Christian Formation and Disc.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Tower lighting for September is given in loving memory of Rev. Blaine Taylor by Lois Taylor.

The Rose window lighting for September is given in loving memory of Ralph W. Ellis.

The altar flowers on Sunday, September 2nd are given in loving memory of Caroline Sherman by her children and grandchildren.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Paul Keister who is recovering from his fall and surgery and is back in the hospital.
- ✠ Margaret Wissell who is in rehabilitation at Overlook Rehabilitation center after a brief hospital stay.
- ✠ Jerry Warren for continued strength and healing.
- ✠ Susan Ramsey for continued strength and healing.
- ✠ David Samanen who is continuing his recovery for healing and strength
- ✠ The Bellils' are pleased to announce the wedding of Linda and Stephen Grogan on Aug. 18 at their home in Douglas.
- ✠ The Bellils' are very thankful to God and helpers as they celebrate the return to health and the 90th birthday of Pierre on August 25th.
- ✠ Gladys Poku who gives thanks to God who has done great things for her and her family, and for His holy name.
- ✠ The McKinley family whose sister is in the last stage of cancer.
- ✠ Our nation as we mourn the passing of Senator John McCain and honor his courage to pursue compromise in our democratic process.
- ✠ Lyndy Scott and her dog Harper as they begin their journey to New Zealand where they will now call home. Pray for safe flights and well being for Harper during his separation period from Lyndy on the second flight and his quarantine period.
- ✠ Katie Hansen as she begins her new work and life teaching in Abu Dhabi.
- ✠ Kids going off to college for the first time and all those heading back to school.
- ✠ David Anderson who is going through a difficult time in his life.
- ✠ The 1000 plus survivors of clergy sex abuse referenced in the grand jury report from Pennsylvania.
- ✠ The victims and survivors of the bridge collapse in Italy.
- ✠ Those who have died or have been displaced because of the wild-fires in California.
- ✠ Wesley Church as we continue to discern God's will for our ministry.
- ✠ The Search Committee for the Music of Director as they continue their search and discernment.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

"They committed themselves to the teaching of apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers..." ~ Acts 2:42

If it is not evident by now, you should know that this peculiar and particular verse from Acts chapter 2 is somewhat of a life-verse for me. I return to this verse time-after-time when I am thinking about my ministry and leadership as a pastor. I find this verse as providing a succinct and beautiful summary of what the life of faithful discipleship looks like. So it should come as no surprise that I return to this verse again when we are entering into the Fall Season where many of our ministries get a renewed start.

"Apostles' Teaching": I want to encourage each and everyone of you to be a part of a group that seeks to learn from the teachings of the apostles—the apostles in scripture and the apostles who have followed Christ since. We have a growing ministry in **Christian Formation** led by Lisa Fagerstrom. Through this ministry we are seeking to offer as many opportunities for Bible Study and Small Group learning. Find one opportunity and commit to be a part of one. If you cannot find something that works with your schedule or meets your particular need, please see me or Lisa. We will be glad to help you find something.

The ministry of Christian Formation belongs to all of us. The scripture points to the "apostles teaching." But, who were these apostles? The apostles were simply the same disciples of Jesus who received the gift of the Holy Spirit and embraced their calling and commitment to share what they had learned from Christ.

You are also a disciple of Jesus, and you also have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, so you too are called to embrace your calling and commitment to share what you have learned and what you are learning from Christ. For this reason Lisa Fagerstrom's primary responsibility is not to lead every Bible Study or Small Group, but to equip you, resource you, and support you for this work we are called to share in together.

The same applies to me. My primary responsibility as a shepherd—pastor—is to equip you for ministry and point you to Jesus the Good Shepherd. So, I hope that you will not be hindered by the fact that we are asking you to claim your gifts as apostles who share in this ministry of Christian Formation. So, come let us learn together!

In faith and love, Pastor Shandi

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATES

Update on the Search for a Director of Music Ministry: The Search for a Director of Music Ministry is ongoing. The Search Committee is working diligently to ensure that we hire the right candidate whose gifts and qualifications match the needs of our ministry. Please continue to keep the search committee in your prayers.

Farewell and Thank You to Sam Long: On Sunday, August 26th we bid farewell to Sam Long who was serving as our Summer Interim Organist. Sam is a student at Saint Olaf College in their music program. We were so blessed to welcome Sam back and be recipients of his gifts and service this summer. We prayed for Sam in worship and gifted him with a prayer quilt that holds the many prayers of this congregation. Let us give thanks to God for Sam and for his ministry while he was with us, and let us wish him well for his continuing studies and ministry.

Marjorie Ness to Return in September: We are pleased and grateful to share that Marjorie Ness will return to lead our music ministry in September, while the SPRC and Search Committees continue their work to find a Director of Music Ministry. We look forward to welcoming Marjorie back. Below is information about scheduled practices.

- ♫ **Wesley Choir** will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 5 at 7pm.
- ♫ **Ghanaian Choir** will continue rehearsals on Saturday, September 15 at 10:30am.
- ♫ **Bell Choir** Rehearsals are to TBD.

Inviting New Singers and Bell Ringers: The Fall is a time when our ministries undergo renewal of life and spirit. Ministries that take the summer off start back up again; and those that continue through the summer experience a sense of revival. The same goes with our Choirs. If you have a *curiosity* or *interest* in becoming a part of one of our Choirs, this is a time for you to take a step-out in Faith and see where God leads you. Please feel free to contact Marjorie Ness and communicate your curiosity or interest. Even if you are interested but you fear that your skills are not adequate or the rehearsal schedule may not work for you, still speak with Marjorie about it. God is making all things new and you will never know what God can do with you if you don't step-out in faith. Marjorie can be reached at marjorieness@aol.com.

WITH LIFE COMES CHANGES...

Beginning immediately you will start to see a 'new name' on things. I have recently gone through a divorce and have changed my name back to my maiden name. For the next few weeks I will list my name as *Debi Reynolds (Ritacco)* so people can begin to get use to seeing it. At some point in September I will drop my married name completely. Blessings.

Debi Reynolds (Ritacco)

HERALD NOTICE...

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

Thank you, Debi Reynolds (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 Reynolds (Ritacco)

THANKSGIVING BASKETS AND CARTY DONATIONS...

Every month Carty Cupboard looks for an ingathering of certain food items and in the month of September is collecting Personal Care Products - deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and body wash are what's needed the most.

In the same tradition and in addition to these items, we are asking for cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, gravy, pie crust & filling, and cake mixes 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. 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

CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

I would like to thank Debi Reynolds (Ritacco), Donna Hirtle, Carol Wipper, Nancy Cook, and Cindy Baker and two anonymous folks from the congregation for generously donating school supplies and backpacks. We provided 17 children with supply filled backpacks before the start of school. As one Mom and I selected everything to put into her daughter's new backpack she looked at me and said, " I really didn't know how I was going to do it." That right there is an example of why we do what we do! Thank you all for your generous giving.

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.

The items of the month of November are Diapers.... in sizes 4, 5, and 6 please. The items of the month for 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*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATES...

Sunday, September 9th Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 30th Harvest



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

“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.

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.

MISSION MATTERS

Mission Committee Opportunities... At our Ministry Fair table, you can gather info on current Wesley missions (and other tables will also invite you to their groups' missions). We would appreciate hearing any mission ideas which you may have and how we could help you make them happen. See you at the fair!

Sept. 29th Community Supper and Celebrating 5 years... Esther Circle will be in charge of our September 29th Community Supper. The menu will be baked ziti, salad, rolls, beverages and dessert. Wesley bakers, your contributions would be much appreciated!

We will celebrate 5 years of Community Suppers on October 27th. It seems fitting that Linda D'Acri and family will be providing the dinner and cake.

Walk for Suicide Prevention on September 15... Worcester's annual Out of Darkness Walk will be on Saturday, Sept. 15. Registration is in Institute Park from 9 to 10 am, and the walk is from 10 to 12. If you have questions, you could ask Jennifer Tharp or visit the website at centrilmawalk@gmail.com.

Wesley's October Week at IHN and back-to-school needs... If you're an IHN volunteer and looking at your fall calendar, our next hosting week is October 21 to 28. Also, IHN parents are in need of gift cards to Walmart to buy back-to-school supplies and clothing/shoes. If you can donate a gift card, please give it to Mercy Peacock.

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'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.

MISSION & MINISTRY FAIR SUNDAY

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018 we will hold our annual Mission and Ministry Fair. This is an opportunity for ministry groups to tell their story, celebrating past accomplishments and sharing goals for the future. All mission and ministry groups are invited to set-up a table and tell their story. If you plan on setting up a table, please contact the church office (office@wesleyworc.org) by Thursday, September 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Shandi.

ACOLYTES NEEDED...

Pastor Shandi will be holding a new training class for Acolytes. If you are interested, there will be a sign-up list at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, Sept. 9th. Or, feel free to contact Pastor Shandi at pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org if you or your children are interested in serving in this ministry.

UPDATING OUR CHURCH DATABASE...

Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number or email address?

If you have moved this year, changed your phone number or eliminated your land-line and are only using a cell phone, or even have changed your email address -- please either call, email (office@wesleyworc.org or 508-799-4191 ext 102) or drop me a quick note in the mail with any information I need to update in our database. We will be changing our database in the next month or so and I would like to have everything updated as much as possible. Thank you.

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 void? 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 (office@wesleyworc.org).

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

A **BIG** thank you to Susan Williams for all her help volunteering in the church office for the last 6+ months. Just having her here to answer the phones and the door is tremendous, but having her here to help put the bulletins together and help me with other work has been a blessing. From the bottom of my heart,
Thank You Susan! *Debi Reynolds (Ritacco)*



Wesley UMC 2018 VBS
Hero Central: Superheroes, Then and Now
[Corrected list of volunteers!]

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, Violet Ansah, 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, Judy & Jim Hoffman

Transportation: Gary Robinson, Mercy Peacock, & Bill Wong

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

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), Dani Ferdinand, Deb O'Driscoll, Jason Assie, Nick Assie, Edward Ogbarney-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

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES AT WESLEY

Christian Spiritual Formation is a process that helps grow and maintain a vibrant “spiritual condition” and encourages us as United Methodists in our ministry and mission of being disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. All are welcome!

New once-a-month small group forming in the fall...

Living in Sacred Balance—Are you soul-weary? Do you struggle to make time for God in the midst of a packed schedule? In their book *The Cycle of Grace: Living in Sacred Balance*, Trevor Hudson and Jerry P. Haas invite participants to utilize practical spiritual exercises and devotional times to restore/keep balance and to live grace-filled lives. Sign up at the Ministry Fair on Sept. 9th or contact Lisa.

Some of the Current Small Groups Open to New Members this Fall—

9:30 Sunday School Hour:

Topical Sunday School Class: John Wesley Room

Disciple Bible Study: Old “Prayer and Squares” room near Upper Gertrude stairs.

Lectionary Bible Study: Brewer Hall

Saturday Book Group: This group meets monthly in the Formal Parlor (across from the Sanctuary) from 9-10 on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Highlanders Group: 60’s/70’s-ish group meets monthly on Monday mornings.

Tuesday Evening Supper and Study: Meets in Mary Ellis Lounge from 6-8 p.m.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: Meets in the John Wesley Room from 10:30-noon.

Thursday Evening Bible Study: Meets in Mary Ellis Lounge from 7-8:30 p.m.

Save the Date(s):

Small Group Leader Training: Sunday, Sept. 16th from Noon-2:30 p.m.

Fall Retreat: Saturday, October 13th from Noon-4:30 p.m.

Interested in being a part of one of these small groups, have ideas for other small groups, and/or would like some individual resources for Spiritual Formation?

E-mail Lisa Fagerstrom at: lisa.wesleychurch@gmail.com, talk with her on Sunday, or leave a message at her office at Wesley: 508-799-4191, ext. 106.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each month as we celebrate Communion during worship, we are reminded of the important symbol of bread, and our sermon series during the month of August was based on the theme of “Living Bread: Sharing God’s Gifts with the World.” As Christians, we recall Jesus’ words at the institution of the Lord’s Supper, as he took bread, broke it, and gave it to the disciples: “This is my body” and for us it becomes the bread of life. However, since bread was a basic staple of life in biblical times, it is not surprising that we find many other images of bread in the Bible. Did you know that the name *Bethlehem* means “house of bread”?

Because bread was so important in the diet of biblical peoples, the word *bread* was frequently used to designate food in general, and in some ancient cultures grains were used as currency. In a practical way, sharing bread was often a sign of hospitality. In addition, bread also played an important role in the religious rituals of Old Testament times—bread was one of the traditional sacrificial offerings to God in Temple worship, and 12 loaves of bread “showbread” or “bread of the presence” were kept on a table before the Holy of Holies. Unleavened bread has been used to commemorate the Passover since biblical times.

Miracle stories demonstrate that the ultimate source of bread is God—from the provision of the manna in the wilderness and Elisha’s feeding of some hungry people in the Old Testament to the New Testament stories of Jesus’ feeding of thousands. In the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray for “our daily bread,” a phrase with both literal and symbolic meaning.

Bread is indeed a potent and pervasive symbol in the bible as well for us. The *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (IVP, 1998) summarizes it this way:

“Bread is one of many biblical images that...yields a picture of salvation history and biblical doctrine in microcosm...Salient points include...bread as a staple of life that comes to all people from God’s providence, the miraculous sustenance of life of God’s chosen people in their wilderness wanderings at the time of the Exodus, the spiritual reality of faith in Christ and his atoning death, and the participation in the coming eschatological messianic banquet.”

*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., Sept. 5	Wed., Sept. 12
Wed., Oct. 1	Wed., Oct 3

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!

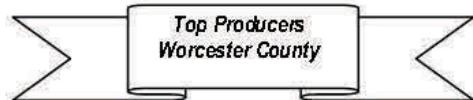


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VBS Information Inside!
Be Sure to Check it out!

WESLEY HERALD

AUGUST 29, 2018

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Pastor Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda
- Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship Lisa Fagerstrom
- Director of Children’s Music Nan Gibbons
- Interim Organist Marjorie Ness
- Music Assistant & Layleader Deborah O’Driscoll
- Building Superintendent Tim Murphy
- Business Administrator Lorna Mattus-Merrill
- Church Secretary Debi Reynolds (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 Michael Edmunds
Co-Chairs 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 Barbara Ingrassia
Co-Chairs Allison Hansen

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