

SHALOM AND FOSTERING SANCTUARY CULTURE

Shalom is the Hebrew word that is used to generally refer to the wellbeing of a people in their interior lives and in their external relationships – in their relationship with God, with themselves, with one another, and even with the whole of creation. Commonly translated into English as peace, shalom also means tranquility, harmony, prosperity, completeness, and wholeness. Shalom means all these things. Shalom is a way of being and a way life.

What if Wesley's vision for mission and ministry included this desire "*to bear witness to shalom (in all its fullness) through our church and in our community?*" What if we were intentional in sharing peace, harmony, prosperity, completeness and a sense of wholeness with others in our community?

What if Wesley's mission then included a commitment "**to foster sanctuary culture.**" The idea of sanctuary culture emerged from the Church Council's discernment process in 2017. By Sanctuary Culture we had multiple meanings in mind, including building a community in which people experience a sense of "*belonging, inclusion, wellbeing, safety, peace, and love,*" among other values. The Council saw fostering a sanctuary culture as a means of living out the values expressed in our **five areas of passion:** "*welcome & hospitality, diversity & multiculturalism, mission & outreach, lay leadership empowerment, and spiritual growth.*"

I find, therefore, that though we may use different terminologies and categories of meaning, we are still saying the same thing. I find that the ideas of Shalom and Sanctuary Culture are interrelated and interdependent. In order to experience the fullness of shalom we also need to be a part of environments that nurture our sense of wellbeing, peace, love, etc. So it seems to me that fostering a Sanctuary Culture is the means by which we bear witness to shalom and live into our five areas of passion.

I wonder, then, what would it mean if as a church we adopted this vision of "bearing witness to shalom (in all its fullness) through our church and in our community"? What would it mean if such a witness included a commitment "to fostering a sanctuary culture in which people experience a sense of belonging, inclusion, etc." What if this is a significant part of what it means "*to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the church and the world?*" That is, what if disciples are empowered laity, passionate about reaching out in mission in order to welcome others and extending hospitality, so that we can build a diverse and multicultural community that is committed to growing spiritually together? Well, I think we are already doing this. I just think we now need to do it with more intention and unwavering commitment. What do you think?

In faith and hope, Pastor Shandi

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 9th were given in loving memory of Roland Sundberg by Chloe Sundberg.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✝ Linda & Lou D'Acri celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on September 6th.
- ✝ Paul Keister for continued strength and healing.
- ✝ Jerry Warren for continued strength and healing.
- ✝ Susan Ramsey who is under nursing care at their Shrewsbury home.
- ✝ Padmore's three children to whom God has added another year to each of their ages.
- ✝ Edward O-Tetteh, Jr. who celebrates his birthday this week.
- ✝ Those who are going through fertility treatment and other major life changes; that they may find peace and comfort.
- ✝ Those who are sick and struggling; that God may guide the hands of their providers and give them comfort and peace.
- ✝ Justina Lamptey and family who give thanks to God for His care, and whose family members are celebrating birthdays.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Year to Date Budget Results through August 2018 and Forecast for Year End

	August YTD <u>Actual</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$422,267	\$410,478	\$11,789 positive
Total Expense	\$448,939	\$429,694	\$19,245 negative
Net Loss	\$-26,672	\$-19,216	\$-7,456 negative
<u>Pledges</u>	213,091	222,307	\$-9,215 negative

<u>Year End Forecast</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>Forecasted Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Income	\$655,630	\$672,458	\$16,828 positive
Total Expense	\$651,681	\$670,526	\$18,845 negative
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 3,949	\$ 1,932	\$ 2,017

Forecast is based on August actuals and is dependent on making budget with Harvest, Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. The forecast shows a profit at year end with these assumptions.

*Regards,
Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Business Administrator*



ACOLYTES NEEDED...

Pastor Shandi will be holding a new training class for Acolytes. If you are interested, see Pastor Shandi or reach out to Cynthia Fletcher at cjfletcher@townisp.com who will be the new coordinator for Acolytes. The age for serving as Acolytes is 10 years and up. Adult Acolytes are also needed.

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).

HERALD NOTICE... The next Herald will be mailed on Wednesday, October 3rd. Articles are due in the office by Wednesday, September 26th.

Thank you, Debi Reynolds (Ritacco)

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

SHARING THE TABLE...

What is it that makes Thanksgiving dinner special for you? Could it be Aunt Mary's pumpkin pie, a special blessing offered only on feast days, setting the table with candles and those tiny turkey salt and pepper shakers. Whatever it is, would you consider sharing it?

You are invited to share the unique opportunity of extending your family's thanksgiving table to include another family. This doesn't mean you will be inviting another family to your home for dinner, but instead, by providing the ingredients needed to create a thanksgiving dinner for another family you will have the unique experience of knowing that your table has been extended.

Sharing a dinner ...

includes one of each item....

stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, pickles, pie crust and filling, bread mix,
*Gift card for turkey and fresh vegetables.

Sharing an experience...

This would include adding one or

more of the "extra" items that one might find at your table Examples might include adding a family blessing, a recipe for your favorite dish, candles, a tablecloth, a centerpiece, fancy salt & pepper shaker set, holiday napkins etc. whatever it is that makes Thanksgiving dinner special for you and your family.

**gift cards for several local grocery stores are available at the Hope For Housing table in Brewer Hall every Sunday*

Thank you, Chris Flagg

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

FAMILY GAME NIGHT... On September 21st the Hospitality Committee will be sponsoring a Family Game Night from 7-9 pm in East Hall. We will be focusing on introducing traditional African and American games to the group. Please bring any favorite games to the event. Hope to see you there!!!!

MISSION MATTERS

Sept. 29th Community Supper and Celebrating 5 years... Esther Circle will be in charge of our 9/29/18 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 centralmawalk@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 families are in need of gift cards to Walmart for parents to buy back-to-school supplies and clothing/shoes. You may give them 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.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION...

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.

Small Groups are a wonderful way to engage in Spiritual Formation while forming and deepening relationships with others at Wesley. All are invited and 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.

Some of Wesley’s Current Small Groups Open to New Members this Fall—

9:30 a.m. Sunday School Hour:

Topical Sunday School Class: John Wesley Room

Disciple Bible Study: Old “Prayer and Squares” room (2nd fl) near Upper Gertrude stairs.

Lectionary Bible Study: Brewer Hall

Saturday Book Group: Meets monthly in the Formal Parlor (across from the Sanctuary) from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Highlanders Group: 60’s/70’s-ish group meets monthly on the 2nd Monday from 10:30-noon.

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.

Companions in Christ Group: Speak with Susan Williams

Save the Date(s)... and sign up today:

Small Group Leader Training: Sunday, October 14th from Noon-2:30pm [Lunch provided]

Fall Retreat—Living Shalom in Our Daily Lives: Saturday, October 20th from Noon-4:30 p.m.

Interested in being part of one of these small groups, have ideas for other small groups, and/or would like some individual resources for Spiritual Formation? Sign up in Brewer Hall on Sundays, e-mail Lisa Fagerstrom at: lisa.wesleychurch@gmail.com, or leave a message at her office at Wesley: 508-799-4191, ext. 106.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each week in worship at some point we recite the Lord's Prayer, a prayer used universally in worship by Christians of all denominations and traditions. Given the central importance of this prayer for Christian worship, it is not surprising that the chapel at Wesley has the complete text of this prayer painted above the altar in the manner of a medieval illuminated manuscript. *Illumination* in this sense refers to the use of colors, designs, and illustrations to decorate texts. Often the first letter of the text is significantly enlarged and embellished, and the various designs, which can include interlacing geometric patterns, foliage, and flowers, often spill over into the borders and margins. In the very strictest sense, this term *illuminated manuscript* was originally applied to handwritten manuscripts decorated with gold or silver, but eventually came to refer to any decorated text.

In Western Christianity the earliest illuminated manuscripts date from the 5th to 7th centuries, and come primarily from Ireland and Italy. Illuminated manuscripts arose as a means of giving special stature to ancient texts, and the monastic scribes who produced them are responsible for the preservation of many important ancient documents that might have otherwise been lost. Although eventually in the late Gothic and Renaissance times secular texts such as works of literature were illuminated, in the Middle Ages most of the texts were of a religious nature, and included Gospel books, Psalters, and even entire Bibles, as well as personal prayer and devotional books. Children often learned to read from such books, and devotional books specifically for children often contained illuminations of basic Christian texts such as the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

The beautifully decorated prayer text in the chapel is just another example of the way that our church building is lavishly decorated with visual art, including stained glass, carvings, and paintings that enhance our worship experience and our sense of sacred space.

*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 26	Wed., Oct 3
Wed., Oct. 17	Wed., Oct 24

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!

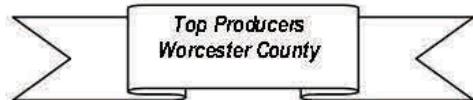


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WESLEY HERALD

SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Pastor Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda
- Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship Lisa Fagerstrom
- Director of Children’s Music Nan Gibbons
- Guest Musician Marjorie Ness
- Music Assistant & Layleader Deborah O’Driscoll
- Building Superintendent Tim Murphy
- Business Administrator Lorna Mattus-Merrill
- Church Secretary Debi Reynolds
- 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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