

“Au Revoir”

“You never really leave a place or person you love, part of them you take with you, leaving a part of yourself behind.” *Unknown*

“You get a strange feeling when you're about to leave a place, like you'll not only miss the people you love but you'll miss the person you are now at this time and this place, because you'll never be this way again.”

Azar Nafisi

Dear Wesley Family,

As many of you have heard, I will be leaving Wesley and my position as Director of Christian Formation and Discipleship to pursue a new opportunity—October 21st will be my last Sunday. I will be returning to my roots in Diversity and Inclusion and continuous improvement management as Practice Manager for a consulting and training firm. I am happy to talk more about this opportunity to any and all who are interested.

I did not go looking for this new job...it came to me. A friend who works with the company asked me to apply. The job and the company and the opportunity are a wonderful fit for all of my experience throughout my adult working career. Throughout my time of considering this move, I was praying for God's guidance in discerning the right path at this point in my journey. It was clear to me all along the way that this was an opportunity that I needed to pursue.

I will miss being with you each week... in worship and in our work in this corner of Worcester on days other than Sunday. As the quotes above say, I will leave a part of myself with you and take a part of you with me as I journey forward.

I chose the title “Au Revoir” to express how I feel as I leave my formal J-O-B with Wesley. I love this French expression of parting. For me, this is not good-bye... it is simply “until we meet again.” Although I will not be worshipping each Sunday at Wesley, I will be back for visits and to worship with our church family from time to time.

My most fervent prayer is that our legacy together will be a bright flame that will burn and burn and burn... and light other fires of faith and justice and ministry as God's Spirit continues to move and do new things in this wonderful place of love and life and faith.

May the Lord Bless You and Keep You,
Lisa Fagerstrom, Dir. of Christian Formation and Discipleship

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Tower lighting for October is given in loving memory of Esther and Stanley Salme and Susan Salme Keith by Ruth and Fred Austin and family.

The Rose window lighting for October is given in loving memory of Heik P. And Irene B. Garabedian, Robert Demers and my grandson Jason Sullivan by Shirley and family.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✝ Cindy Baker and Nancy Cook on the death of Cindy's sister, Kathy Bangma.
- ✝ Barbara Gorman in the ICU on life support.
- ✝ A dear friend who's mom lost her battle to cancer last week. Strength and peace to him and his family.
- ✝ CeCe Stygles, 2 yrs old, with Neuroblastoma cancer. Strength for her parents and sister and a cure for little CeCe.
- ✝ Paul Keister now at the Lutheran Home.
- ✝ Susan Ramsay for continued strength.
- ✝ Linda D'Acri as she prepares for cataract surgery on Tuesday, October 2nd.
- ✝ Laurel Wood, daughter of Susan Williams, recovering from surgery.
- ✝ Jenniemarie "Scottie" DeMartinis, grandmother of Jeanmarie Loss.
- ✝ Those who were impacted by the effects of Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas.
- ✝ Those who were impacted by the Typhoon in the Philippines.

A note from the office...

Just a reminder that the church office will be closed on Monday, October 8th in celebration of Columbus Day. We will reopen on Tuesday morning at 9 am.

A MESSAGE FROM SPRC

Update in Christian Formation Area:

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee would like to inform you that Lisa Fagerstrom, the Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship, submitted her resignation from Wesley, effective the end of October, to pursue another professional opportunity. We are sad to see Lisa go, and are deeply grateful for Lisa's ministry among us in Christian formation and discipleship. She has strengthened Christian education and equipped laity to take on new leadership roles. She has performed multiple roles for the past year and we give thanks that her spiritual gifts have helped Wesley in this period of transition and throughout her ministry. The SPRC will be in a process of discernment as we plan for the future.

We will have an opportunity to give thanks for Lisa and celebrate her ministry with us on Sunday, October 21. We invite you to please submit your notes of appreciation for Lisa's ministry to the SPRC mailbox in the Welcome Office. Please join us in thanking Lisa for her ministry at Wesley and in praying for her as she moves on to a new ministry.

Update of Music Ministry:

The Search Committee continues to review applications for the Director of Music Ministry position. The Committee held telephone interviews with promising candidates and, already, three candidates have been invited to come for in-person interviews and auditions during this month of October. Please keep this process in prayer, asking for guidance and discernment for all involved.

While the search process is underway, the SPRC is pleased to announce that Marjorie Ness has agreed to continue serving as the Interim Director of Music Ministry through December. We are so grateful for Marjorie's ministry.

The SPRC is also pleased to announce that we have hired Desmond Cheatham to help assist Marjorie with leading the Ghanaian Choir. Desmond recently moved to Worcester from Ghana. He has served as choirmaster for a youth choir in Ghana, and has hopes to continue his schooling in music. Desmond will rehearse with the Ghanaian choir at practice and will accompany the Ghanaian choir and congregation during some of our worship music selections at the 10:30 service. Please join us in welcoming Desmond to our music ministry team and church family.

Gifty Bentum-Asante, SPRC Chair

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Is God calling us to do more in our ministry with people who are homeless?

Sometime ago, I shared with you that, I have observed how this congregation has a passion for ministry with the homeless. If you look at where our mission monies go and where we spend most of our mission energies, it is clear that we have a desire to do something about working with our homeless neighbors.

We support work done by Interfaith Hospitality Network, Stand Up For Kids, Abby's House, Florence House, Habitat for Humanity, Community Suppers, and Communion Breakfasts. All these are ministries serving some segment of our community touched by homelessness.

Ever since we started offering a free breakfast to the community on Communion Sundays, we started to see some of our neighbors come to the church on other Sundays besides Communion Sundays. It started with us simply providing a warm space and a cup of coffee in the winter months. The word spread that Wesley United Methodist Church is a sanctuary for people seeking a warm and dry place on a Sunday morning. As a result, we are seeing an increase in the numbers of people who are coming to Wesley on a Sunday morning for some respite and sanctuary—and all of them are hungry.

In seeing this need, the Hospitality Ministry team decided that we wanted to do more than just offer a cup of coffee to our neighbors. So, our Church has now added cereal to the table for our neighbors. This certainly presents challenges and questions. One challenge is discerning how to sustain this ministry of feeding with more volunteers to come in early to help with this need, and more financial resources. You will be hearing more from Hospitality about this recent development.

However, one question this recent development also raises is simply this: How is God calling us to faithfully respond to the needs of people touched by homelessness? I wonder if maybe God is also calling us to move beyond ministries that offer temporary help to ministries seeking for more just and permanent solutions. Mission work that is not also concerned about the justice matter of a problem may not be enough. I raise this question simply to invite you to first pray with me and the Council as we try to discern whether God is calling us to do more.

In faith and trust, Pastor Shandi

ACOLYTES NEEDED... Pastor Shandi will be holding a new training class for Acolytes. The age for serving as an Acolyte is 10 years and up. Adult Acolytes are also needed. 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.

HERALD NOTICE... The next Herald will be mailed on Wednesday, October 24th. Articles are due in the office by Wednesday, October 17th.

The schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

Mailed on—Thursday, November 15th with a deadline date of November 7th

Mailed on—Wednesday, December 19th with a deadline date of December 12th

These deadline dates will be imperative as this is a busy time of year. Please mark your calendar. Also, keep in mind that the December 19th Herald will be the last one for 2018. The first Herald of 2019 will be on January 9th so please plan your articles accordingly.

Thank you, Debi

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

UMW Launches Lunch + Speaker Series on Health Issues for Children and Mothers Saturday, October 13... Come learn more about child and maternal health with Wesley's United Methodist Women unit on Saturday, October 13. The first of a series of talks will feature Beth Vietze of Worcester Family Partnership, who will discuss what Worcester has to offer to support young families.

Lunch will be served at noon with the program at 1 p.m. We will be focusing on this theme for each of our all-circle meetings throughout the next year. Women of all ages welcome, child care always provided. Bring a friend!

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Hospitality Committee will sponsor a Family Movie night on 10/19 from 7-9pm. We welcome any suggestions for movies for children and for teens and adults. You can reach out to Judy Hoffman or Mercy Awumu-Peacock with suggestions.

MISSION MATTERS

Wesley's October 21 to 28 Week at IHN, Training on October 16th...

The sign-up sheet to volunteer is posted on the Mission Spotlight bulletin board, or talk with Mercy Peacock.

New this year is that IHN has printed procedures for volunteers, guidelines for families, and a "How Can I Help?" There is also a new Confidentiality Agreement which all volunteers must sign.

Director Joanne Alley will lead a training for all volunteers on Oct. 16th at 7 pm in the John Wesley Room. This is your chance to get your IHN questions answered by the Director.

Dismas Family Farm Festival on October 6th... Dismas House is holding its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 6th, noon to 4 pm. Hayrides, family activities, live music and seasonal eats will be offered at their farm (687 Lincoln Road, Oakham, MA). Tickets are \$10 adults, \$6 children. Register at website dismasisfamily.org to save.

October 27th Community Supper... Linda D'Acri and family will be in charge of our Community Supper on October 27th. The menu will be ham and beans, salad, bread, beverages and cake. Wesley bakers and others, please donate chocolate or yellow cake mixes for Linda to make her amazing sheet cakes.

Celebrating 5 years of Suppers... We will celebrate 5 years of Community Suppers on October 27th. All Supper Volunteers past and present are invited to attend and share the celebration. Please give to Linda or Betsy any photos of community suppers you may have (by Oct. 18th, with your name on the back). Also please tell us any insights on how the community suppers have impacted you or others attending.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR DISTRIBUTION

We need your help! We are running out of time!

We are in need A LOT of items by next Sunday, October 7th!

Please help us fill the baskets for Thanksgiving for these families!

Thank you to those of you who continue to donate! We are slowly filling the chart and baskets. However, as you can see, we have a long way to go. All food donations must be received by next Sunday, October 7th. We have to place our order by October 10th in order to ensure that we will be able fill every basket, this means that whatever items we don't collect ahead of time will have to be paid for by the church.

*Grocery wish lists are available at the table with the graph on it. Or perhaps you'd like to consider "Sharing the Table." Information for this is also on the table.

Feel free to bring your donations/offerings on Sunday morning and dance them forward to the table as part of the Songs of Praise and Adoration.



Please help us reach our goal!

You can see just how much we need!

We still have such a long way to go if we want to bring Thanksgiving dinner to 250 families this year, but I'm confident, that with your help, we can do it!

If you have any questions or might like to volunteer to help with this project, please contact Chris Flagg at 508-414-1696 or Donna Hirtle at 774-364-2686. Thank you!

Did You Know?

This coming Sunday we will be observing World Communion Sunday. Celebrated on the first Sunday of October, World Communion Sunday is an outgrowth of what was originally a Presbyterian observance, which was then adopted in 1940 by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America as World-wide Communion Sunday, an interdenominational observance. The name was changed to World Communion Sunday in 1971. The celebration of World Communion Sunday recognizes the fact that Christians of many different denominations and theologies are connected across those differences by their participation in the Lord's Supper.

In the United Methodist tradition a special offering is often taken on World Communion Sunday, which is one of six Special Sundays designated by the United Methodist Church for collection of special offerings to support various ministries of the global United Methodist Church. (The other Special Sundays are United Methodist Student Day, Human Relations Day, One Great Hour of Sharing, Native American Ministries Sunday, and Peace with Justice Sunday.) All of these days remind us that we are part of a connectional church committed to discipleship, outreach and missions. The offerings received for World Communion Sunday are used to support World Communion Scholarships through the General Board of Global Ministries, as well as the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program overseen by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Our celebration of World Communion Sunday is of course much more than an opportunity to make a special monetary gift. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians of many cultures and denominational traditions celebrate Communion and remember that we are all part of the universal body of believers despite our different liturgies and cultural practices. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate and appreciate the diversity not only of our congregation but also of the wider community of faith.

*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., Oct 17	Wed., Oct 24
Wed., Nov. 7	Thurs., Nov. 15

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:

office@wesleyworc.org

ALTAR FLOWERS

On Sundays altar flowers are available for donation in honor, celebration or in memory of a loved one or friend. Stop by the office and reserve the date in the Altar Flower book. You can reserve the chapel or the sanctuary. After church you are welcome to take the flowers home to enjoy or you may leave them to be delivered to a shut-in or member/friend in the hospital or in rehab. The cost for the two arrangements in either the chapel or sanctuary is \$60. Please be sure to complete a form with the dedication and return it to Debi with the payment as soon as you are able.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN!

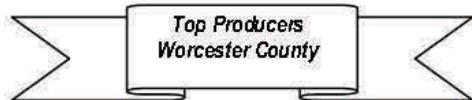


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WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda
Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship	Lisa Fagerstrom
Interim Organist	Marjorie Ness
Director of Children's Music	Nan Gibbons
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 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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WESLEY HERALD

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