

**A PLACE OF SHALOM:
*Fostering Sanctuary Culture with Our Neighbors***

In a previous article, I pointed out how Wesley UMC seems to have a passion for ministry with the homeless. Most of our mission projects have been serving some segment of the homeless community: Interfaith Hospitality Network, Hope for Housing, Stand Up For Kids, Abby's House, Florence House, Habitat for Humanity, Worcester Fellowship, Community Suppers, and Communion Breakfasts. And now, every Sunday morning, we are welcoming people who are homeless and offering them a light breakfast, a warm and dry place to rest, and hopefully some warm hospitality.

I also recognize that this new effort to offer sanctuary space for our neighbors is making some among us uncomfortable. I recognize that it is changing the character of coffee-hour fellowship. And I also know that it is presenting some safety concerns for others.

The Church Council and I are in conversation and discernment about these concerns. We recognize that this new development is a direct result of our decision and commitment to be a "place of shalom" that fosters sanctuary culture for all, church members and non-church members alike. The Council and I believe that God is calling us to foster sanctuary space where people feel welcomed, valued, safe, and affirmed as persons bearing the image of God. This means that we are being stretched to grow in ways that may be challenging and uncomfortable. But, I hope that God's grace will be sufficient for us.

As I have been reflecting on some of these challenges and concerns, the scripture from passages like Mark 2:13-17 and Luke 15:1-7 came to mind. In these passages, some of the religious authorities were wondering why Jesus was making a point of associating with gentiles and eating with sinners. Jesus' response was simply that he came to minister with them, seeking out the lost, the last, and the least.

The call that Jesus is placing on our community's life is not going to be easy. We are going to face challenges. We are going to disagree about how to minister with the people to whom Jesus is sending us. However, I believe that, with the grace of God, we can find a way forward together that indeed fosters sanctuary experiences and contributes to the experience shalom for everyone. The Church Council and I will be offering an opportunity for a church-wide conversation and reflection on this new effort in the coming weeks. I pray and hope that you will join us as we discern God's will together.

May God bless you and keep you.

In faith and hope, Pastor Shandi

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Tower lighting for November is given in loving memory of William & Mina Warman by Arline Benoit.

The Rose window lighting for November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr. by Beth, Nancy, Craig, Tina Duxbury and Brian Pitts.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ The community of Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburg, PA, who experienced a traumatic tragedy in the shooting that took place on Saturday.
- ✠ Victims of and communities impacted by gun violence.
- ✠ Carla Beverly, wife of the pastor of Harvest Community Church in Kingsport, TN, as she faces serious surgery.
- ✠ Shalom of the Hoffman's son's family.
- ✠ Michael Edmunds and family who are grieving the death of Michael's father.
- ✠ Paul Keister for continued healing and strength.
- ✠ Susan Ramsey for continued healing and strength.
- ✠ Wesley Church and our ministry with our neighbors, especially the homeless community.
- ✠ Enoch Ukpong and family who are grieving the death of Enoch's sister who died Last Thursday
- ✠ Laurel's next surgery on November 6th. She is the daughter of Susan Williams.

A note from the office...

Just a reminder that the church office will be closed on Monday, November 12th in honor of Veteran's Day. We will reopen on Tuesday morning at 9 am.



REMINDER... DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget... Saturday, November 3rd before you go to bed be sure to turn your clocks back 1 hour.

SAFE SANCTURAY POLICY From the Pastor's Desk...

Do you know that we have a safe sanctuary policy as a church? We do! The purpose of Wesley UMC's Safe Sanctuaries Policy is: to have an official policy that helps create a "culture of intentional safety for children and youth" at Wesley, to provide clear expectations of behavior for staff and volunteers who work with children and youth, and to have a clear process for dealing with any incidents/accusations of abuse that occur or are suspected at Wesley UMC involving our children and youth.

Copies of the 6-page policy will be in the Welcome Office for anyone interested in a copy. Below is an overview of what is covered in the policy:

- All staff will be CORI checked at time of their hiring and every two years thereafter. The responsibility for staff CORI checks resides with the Staff Parish Relations Committee [SPRC].
- All volunteers who work with children/youth will be CORI checked. Volunteers will have a new CORI check every two years. Volunteers will have a training course every year before the beginning of the program year in September, and must complete a brief document that certifies that a) they have completed the training, and b) they understand the Wesley CORI policy components.
- Children should never be left unattended and without adult supervision. Whenever possible, there will be at least two adults present at all times when there is a program/class/event for children and/or youth.
- There is a specific chain of reporting and an investigation/reporting process that is outlined in the formal policy to ensure accountability of volunteers, staff, and the Pastor. All reports of a suspected incident will be taken seriously and dealt with in a sensitive, compassionate, thorough, and confidential manner.
- All outside groups who use the building will receive a copy of the policy and a one-page summary of the policy that highlights Wesley UMC's expectations of their group as it pertains to the safety of children.

In light of our new efforts to foster sanctuary culture, the Church Council will be reviewing and updating the safe sanctuary policy so that it is inclusive of concerns to keep not only children safe but also other adults. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

In faith and trust, Pastor Shandi

ACOLYTES TRAINING... On Sunday, November 11th at 12 pm 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 Thursday, November 15th. Articles are due in the office by Wednesday, November 7th. Please mark your calendar and plan your article(s) accordingly.

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

DISCIPLE SMALL GROUP... Our Tuesday evening study will continue on the first and third Tuesdays. Our next gathering will be Tuesday, November 6th. Come at 6 pm for a light supper or at 7 pm for just the study. We meet in the Mary Ellis Lounge.

Our study is Disciple "light" - a bit less intense than the full Disciple bible series. We are starting with books of the prophets. We will be on the second chapter. If you need a workbook please contact Jim and Judy Hoffman at jhoffman24661@yahoo.com. We are stretching and growing in our understanding of the Bible and have lively discussions and fellowship.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER GAME NIGHT... The Hospitality Committee will be sponsoring a Game Night on Friday, November 16th in East Hall from 7-9pm Please bring your favorite games for young and young at heart and join us for fun and fellowship. Contact Judy Hoffman or Mercy Peacock for questions.

MISSION MATTERS

IHN DIRECTOR'S TRAINING AT WESLEY

Thanks to those who made up a good audience for Joanne Alley's explanation of some new guidelines for volunteering at the June St. house. She made clear a few approaches which we vaguely knew and answered questions. Any IHN volunteer who would like the written guidelines can ask Betsy Pennino for a copy now, or wait to get a copy in February before our next IHN week.

"YOUNG AT HEART" SENIOR CLUB

Now that cold weather days are approaching, Wesley friends might want to attend a weekly Wednesday gathering from noon to 1:30 pm. It's at the Salvation Army Citadel, 640 Main St., Worcester. Lunch is served at noon, followed by a program which might be singing, inspirational or educational. A monthly trip to a local attraction is also offered. Open to anyone at least 45 years old.

FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

2018 HARVEST RESULTS

Account 1056 Harvest period ending 10/17/18	\$48,100.50
Pledges or post-dated outstanding	\$ 2,815.00
Total Anticipated at year end	\$50,915.50
2018 Donations for Turkey Baskets	\$1,130.00

Thank you for your generous donations!

Lorna

DID YOU KNOW?

Whenever we celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we probably take it for granted that the baptismal font is located in a prominent position in our main worship space, but did you know that there was a time when there were separate buildings for the administration of baptism? Of course in the early centuries of the church baptism did not occur in a specific architectural setting. During New Testament times and through the second century, gatherings for worship occurred in private homes, and baptism was administered in rivers, lakes and pools.

Once more formal architectural settings for worship were introduced, so were special places for the rite of Christian initiation. Such a place is called a *baptistery* (sometimes also spelled *baptistry*). In ancient times the term *baptisterium* referred to a place for bathing, and the form of early baptisteries for Christian initiation were based on models provided by the bathing apartments of the pagans. Originally in the third and fourth centuries, these baptisteries were either totally separate from the main church building or only loosely attached, and this pattern of construction continued as late as the fourteenth century. It was not until the later Middle Ages that the font was placed within the church itself, in recognition of the public nature of Christian baptism. Generally at this time the font was placed in the nave of the church near the main door as a symbol that baptism itself is the means of entrance to the church. In some cases a simple railing was placed around the font as a means to define a space that recognized the importance of baptism as the first sacrament of the church.

Over the course of time various traditions arose regarding the location of the baptismal font. Many denominations continue to use the historic location of the baptismal font in a separate chapel or near the entrance to stress baptism as the entry rite of the church. Other arrangements emphasize the concept of baptism as incorporation into the community of faith by placing the font in a location (such as at the front of the nave or sometimes at a central crossing in the middle of the congregational seating area) where it is visible to much of the assembled congregation, thus allowing for more congregational participation in this sacrament.

In the sanctuary at Wesley our primary furnishings of worship—the font symbolizing our initiation into the community of faith, the altar/communion table reminding us of the death and resurrection of Christ, and the pulpit reflecting the revelation of the word of God—are all located at the front of our worship space where they serve as tangible reminders of the essential components of our faith and our worship.

*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., Nov. 7	Thurs., Nov. 15
Wed., Dec 12	Wed., Dec. 19

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!

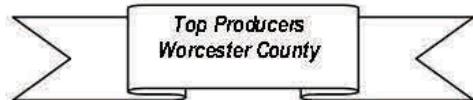


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WESLEY HERALD

OCTOBER 31, 2018

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Pastor Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda
- 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 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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