



April 3, 2023

Enough

Recently the Central Square Congregational Church (UCC) of Bridgewater, MA, put a display of empty chairs on its front lawn spelling out the word "E-N-O-U-G-H."

As we hear of yet another horrific mass shooting in this country, this simple and poignant message rings true in my heart and I am sure yours as well. This time it is a school in Nashville. There have been more than 100 mass shootings so far this year in our country. That is a staggering number, but each comes as a shock — and a horror. This almost everyday occurrence of assault rifle violence increases our sense of fear, hopelessness, and frustration.



We have prayed, we have written to our lawmakers about gun laws and background checks, we have called for greater accessibility to mental health services, we have declared our churches "gun-free zones." Still it appears that these horrific acts of violence are on the rise.

As we approach Holy Week, during which we walk the Via Dolorosa with the Lord of love once again, his brutal execution at the hands of religious and secular authorities shows me that humankind has long turned to violence and cruelty as its answer to disagreements, hatred, and threats to the powers that be. This is nothing new, but we cannot be given to despair and lose hope.

In his death, Jesus calls us to a better way: The way of love for our enemy, the way of sacrifice to foster peace-making, the way of forgiveness as the path to freedom from the personal bondage of hatred.

In his resurrection there comes the ultimate hope for the day when swords will become plowshares and spears will turn into pruning hooks (Isaiah 2:4). His bodily resurrection is just a part of the full restoration of peace for all people and all of creation. Believe this, no matter how long the wait.

As Easter people we still need to be working together with God to make a better day now. So, start with yourself. Where are you harboring hatred for people? How does your criticism and negativity against one of your siblings foment violence? Jesus said, "Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council and whoever says, 'you fool' will be liable to the hell of fire." (Matthew 5:22)

Teach peace in your churches' communities by instructing people about how to resolve differences and conflicts in restorative ways rather than with division and retaliation.

Take political action as you can. Our democracy calls on all of us to speak out for justice and laws that promote safety and health for all. If you do nothing, you are complicit in the continued wave of violence. Believe in the power of one voice. Remember that the faithful actions many have already taken and continue to take have made a difference.

New England Annual Conference, I rejoice in your faithful witness and pray for you as you journey on this Holy Season. Shout from the roof tops "Enough" and then follow the footsteps of Jesus in bringing life and reconciliation to this world.



Special Prayers for these Wesley Family, Friends, and Others...

Al D'Ambra, Charles (friend of David Potts), Rick (Jan England's brother), Donald McLaren, Rhianna Burke, Earl Flagg, Janet Tezerian, Joseph Boateng, Polly Boyns, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Dorothy Norcross, David O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank and the Vietze Family; Bill Wong, Laura Zoldak, Kelly, a friend of David Potts, Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman), Page, Allison Hansen's sister, Ralph (friend of Dorothy Adams).

Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for April is given in loving memory of Julius Sr, Helga, Julius Jr, Arthur, Lorraine, Jean, Dorothy, and Irene Tremblay.

The Rose Window lighting for April is given in loving memory of Doris L. (Swan) Tremblay and Margaret A. (Swan) Fuller by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Altar flowers... The 2023 calendar is available. If you'd like to place flowers on the altar on a particular Sunday, please stop at the welcome office and sign up in the book. Please be sure to fill your name in on the day, then take an order form and submit it to Debi in the office with a check.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May Herald: The next Herald will be sent out on May 3rd. Please send your article(s) to me no later than Wednesday, April 26th. Thank you.

The following Tower & Rose Window lightings are available for dedication in 2023:

The August Tower, October Tower, November Tower and December Rose window lightings are available. If you are interested in lighting any of these, either in memory or honor of a loved one(s), please let Debi in the office know. The cost of each lighting is \$40 for the month.

Wesley's Centennial Celebration

Sunday, April 23, 2022 – Worship and Lunch

Join us on Sunday, April 23, 2023 starting with Worship at 10 am to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Wesley Church! Rev. Vicki Woods will join our worship service, then after we will continue to celebrate with a sit-down lunch in Brewer Hall. Come see photos and a slide show of the church when it was built, and the people from the early years and onwards to 2023!

We are now taking reservations for the luncheon. Please see an usher for a form, pick one up in the Welcome office, or make your reservation online via the link on the Announcement page of the website (www.wesleyworc.org).

Thank you! Sandra McManus



UWF Mission Recognition

Each year the United Women in Faith sponsor a "Mission Recognition Award" to someone who has given of herself to Wesley Church. This award is open to any woman who attends Wesley Church, young or old. In recognition of this person's service, a donation is made to the mission projects sponsored by the District and Conference United Women in Faith.

We are now collecting ballot submissions. Forms can be found in the Welcome Office. You can drop your ballot in the box in the Welcome Office or mail it to Wesley Church, Attn: UWF Mission Recognition. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2023.

Here's a Chance to Prevent Homelessness

It's a simple idea -- buy your groceries (or your coffee or toiletries) and help a local family stay in their home. You'll be joining area stores in contributing to a fund that gives grants to families facing eviction. One back rent payment, utility bill or storage unit fee can keep families out of the shelter system and all the disruption to their children's schooling.

Here's how it works: When you purchase gift cards from Big Y, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Panera, Starbucks, Amazon, Target or TJ Maxx/Marshalls/Home Goods, a percentage of that card's value is donated by those stores to Central Mass. Housing Alliance. Families come to CMHA seeking assistance, and since this program began, hundreds of families have received aid.

Look for the birdhouse in Brewer Hall -- at a table near the stage -- after church services. Cards are for sale every Sunday and by email to AChis4788@aol.com. Please send your orders by the end of day Monday, April 17 for delivery April 23.

Come choose a Sunday to help with card sales -- it takes a team to tackle a challenge as big (and fast-growing) as homelessness.

From Carty Cupboard Food Pantry.

We are no longer accepting any clothes at Carty Cupboard, the clients just don't seem to need them. However, if you have household items like dishes and cups, (without cracks and chips please) or clean pots and pans you would like to donate, those items are still needed by our clients.

If you are wondering what we really need at Carty Cupboard to help fill our shelves it's CEREAL, hot or cold. Hot oatmeal is more and more popular all year long. The variety packs of oatmeal are great because folks seem to like those the best. Regular sized boxes of cold cereal are good too.

2023 Thanksgiving at Carty Cupboard Food Pantry...

We are changing with the times at the cupboard. Over the past couple of years more and more clients have said that they are not interested in cooking a turkey for Thanksgiving and are instead wanting to make other dishes that are special to their families or to their culture. In order to still be able to help them celebrate, we are no longer distributing the Turkey boxes but instead giving them gift cards to purchase the items they would like. We would like to give each family that signs up in advance at least \$30.00 in gift cards from Shaw's or Stop and Shop. Here's how you can help, when you see the Hope for Housing table on Sunday morning you can purchase a gift card and tell the person at the table that it is for Carty Cupboard Thanksgiving, and they will get it to us. Any denomination gift card will be helpful.

To Everyone who continues to donate to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry we thank you.

Nancy

Mission Matters

Sarah Circle collects outdoor toys until Sunday, April 16, 2023

Central Mass. Housing Alliance (CMHA) has asked if Wesley could collect outdoor toys and activities for them. This collecting will replace the circle's 12 - year Lenten Mission called Small Gifts for Shelters.

Sarah Circle gives CMHA gently used children's books, but *the toys should be new with all of the safety information*. Here are more suggestions than you could possibly need:

- kickball, soccer ball-- could be smaller than regulation size or Neuf/sponge balls -- and/or goal-net (small)
- Basketball and/or hoop which hangs on a post or door
- plastic bat and/or baseball, Whiffle ball, Neuf ball
- beachball, Frisbee, toss-and-catch toys
- ride-around toys for toddlers
- bubbles solution with larger wands as well as small ones
- toddler push toys such as a fake lawn mower
- kid garden set/tools (plastic); jump ropes
- bean bags for games such as corn-hole
- chalk for sidewalk games such as hopscotch

Please bring your donations to the labeled carton in Brewer Hall. Questions? Contact *Betsy Pennino*.

Graduates... It's that time of year again...

Do you have a child(ren) graduating from high school or college? If so, please email your child's name(s), school he/she is graduating from, and where he/she plans on attending next. We will be lifting up their names in June. Please email Debi **by June 5** at office@wesleyworc.org or leave a note in the office when you are in church. (Please be sure to print neatly so I can read what is written.)

Thank you.

Moving or Have You Moved?

If you have moved or are planning to move, please send a quick email or call the office to let me know your new address (and phone number if necessary). It's very important that we keep the database up to date. Thank you for your cooperation.

Debi Reynolds

God Moments

If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or email it to me. The story can be anonymous or signed, and all are invited to participate. Betsy (betspenn35@hotmail.com)



A God Moment by Betsy Pennino

At a 2017 community supper, the volunteer in charge wondered what to do about having spent \$100 more than the Mission Committee's stated maximum for food. Her husband (loyal volunteers both) was telling me this and added that they wondered if they should pay for \$100 of the food. I said no and about two minutes later, one of our regular guests walked over to give me a \$100 bill! He told me that the suppers had been events to look forward to in his life, on the last Saturday of every month, and he wanted to support them. I showed the volunteer the \$100 bill and said it must be to cover the extra spent on food. We laughed because he is a pastor and has heard of many such occurrences. Later I asked Pastor Jim how he understood such coincidences/God Moments. He said that he didn't understand them but knew they were from God.

Adding a quote from poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Earth's crammed with heaven... but only he who sees, takes off his shoes."

DID YOU KNOW?

We refer to the final week of Lent as *Holy Week*, during which we commemorate the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Did you ever wonder about the terminology that is used for the special liturgical observances of this particular week of the liturgical year?

The 6th and final Sunday of Lent is known as *Passion/Palm Sunday*, and marks the start of Holy Week. Palm/Passion Sunday is the only Sunday of the liturgical year for which the Lectionary assigns two Gospel readings and two Psalms. The duality of the title as well as of the readings reminds us that on this day we not only commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but we prepare to follow the journey to the cross. Christ's Passion is probably one of the most dramatic events in history, and it is only with a complete awareness of that story that we can celebrate Easter fully.

Thursday of Holy Week is known as *Maundy Thursday*. The word *maundy* derives from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment), and its use in this context refers to Jesus' teaching the disciples a new commandment during the Last Supper: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34, NRSV). In the traditional Latin liturgy of the church the text of the first sung response of the foot washing ceremony begins with the words *mandatum novum*. Our worship services on this day often include both foot washing, following Jesus' example of humility and servanthood, as well as communion, remembering Jesus' final meal with his disciples in the Upper Room.

The Friday before Easter is known among English speaking people as *Good Friday*, for reasons that are not entirely clear. In *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, Laurence Hull Stookey suggests that it is a "corruption of the English phrase 'God's Friday.'" This day is known by other titles in other cultures, including *Holy Friday* (Latin and Hispanic countries), *Friday of Mourning* (Germany) and *Long Friday* (Norway).

In many traditions Holy Saturday, the final day of the Lenten season and the day Jesus rested in the tomb, is a day of quiet reflection and meditation, waiting for the joy of Easter.


Finally, we come to the great festival of Easter itself. The word *Easter* is derived from secular sources (as is *Lent* which comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring".) It is believed to be a variant of *Eastre*, a Teutonic goddess of springtime and fertility. Certainly in the climate of the Northern hemisphere the metaphors of spring and new life help to reinforce the themes of Easter, but the true meaning is better embodied in the word *Pasch*, which is used in both Greek and Latin to refer to the observance of the celebration of the resurrection. This in turn derives from the Hebrew *pesach* for "Passover". In fact in many other languages (e.g. Spanish *pascua*, French *paques*, Italian *pasques*, Welsh *pasg*) the word for the observance of the resurrection derives directly from *Pasch*. We use the term when we refer to the *Paschal Candle*, the large freestanding white candle that is located near the baptismal font and which is a symbol of the triumph of Resurrection over the darkness of sin and death.

Submitted by Deborah O'Driscoll

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WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

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| <p>Pastor</p> <p>Organist & Choir Director</p> <p>Wesley Chancel Choir Director</p> <p>Ghanaian Choirmaster</p> <p>Director of Children’s Ministries</p> <p>Music Assistant</p> <p>Church Business Administrator</p> <p>Church Secretary</p> <p>Building Superintendent</p> <p>Assistant Building Superintendent
& Sunday Security</p> <p>Custodians</p>
<p>Head Usher</p> | <p>Rev. Byungmoo Lee</p> <p>William Ness</p> <p>David Potts</p> <p>Desmond Cheetham</p> <p>Cordelia Ferdinand</p> <p>Deborah O’Driscoll</p> <p>Matt Crane</p> <p>Debi Reynolds</p> <p>Tim Murphy</p> <p>Phil Johnson</p>
<p>April Dylewicz</p> <p>Tom Friend</p> <p>Gerard Piscitelli</p> <p>David Dagle</p> | <p>Wesley Tech Team</p> <p>Church Council</p> <p>Board of Trustees</p> <p>Carty Cupboard Food Pantry</p> <p>Communion Stewards</p> <p>Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs</p>
<p>Financial Secretary</p> <p>Ghanaian Association</p> <p>Hospitality Chair</p> <p>Medical Ministry</p> <p>Mission Coordinator</p> <p>Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs</p>
<p>Youth Bible Study</p> <p>United Methodist Women Co-Chairs</p> | <p>Mark Muncey</p> <p>Brent Drajesk</p> <p>Gary Robinson</p> <p>Nancy Spencer</p> <p>Linda D’Acri</p> <p>William Wong</p> <p>Peter Hansen</p> <p>Earl Flagg</p> <p>Paul Hayfron</p> <p>Linda D’Acri</p> <p>Ron Ramsay</p> <p>Betsy Pennino</p> <p>Chris Flagg</p> <p>Judy Hoffman</p> <p>Joseph Fletcher</p> <p>Barbara Ingrassia</p> <p>Allison Hansen</p> |
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