

---

# THE WESLEY HERALD

---

June 2023

Recently we celebrated our centennial as a congregation. This blessed and joyous Easter-Pentecost Season and centennial celebration invite us to recall our mission as the people of the United Methodist Church: **“The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our tagline ‘Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.’ embraces who we are and how we seek to put our faith in action.”**

It is time to renew our commitment to this mission by asking: “How are we fulfilling our mission?” “Where is the Holy Spirit leading our congregation?” Our responses to these questions will be the first step of our visioning process that we approved last annual church conference.

Before responding to these questions, I want to invite you to contemplate on ourselves, where are we now, with two fundamental practices that hold our identity as God’s children: **prayer** and **witnessing love of God**.

Prayer is extremely crucial in our lives. But most modern Christians underestimate its importance. Prayer is a communication with God, and the quality of our prayer affects our relationship with God, who is the source of our being. **Without persevering prayer, how are we able to keep our relationship with God?** I have heard so many times that people are too busy to pray. How many hours do we surf internet? How many hours do we spend on SNS? How many hours do we watch sports games? How about the other activities? If we cannot set aside at least 20-30 minutes each day to communicate with our God, perhaps our life is losing its meaning and direction now.

The love of God has been poured into us by the Holy Spirit. This love can change and empower the lives of those who receive it. However, its power in our lives and relationships depends upon whether we witness it in our daily lives. Our Lord Jesus clearly commanded us, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**” How are we, empowered by God’s love, witnessing it to those in need, especially the least of the least? **Do people recognize us by our love?**

We are called, first of all, to pray with perseverance and to witness God’s love.

May we all respond faithfully and courageously!

Blessings,

Moo

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

Polly Boyns, Joan Hirst, Jim & Judy Hoffman, Lea Shea (Carol Samanen's sister), Terry Mosso (Phil's SIL), Don Johnson (Phil's brother), Bill Zoldak, Al D'Ambra, Charles (friend of David Potts), Rhianna Burke, Earl Flagg, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Donald McLaren, Dorothy Norcross, David O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Bill Wong, Laura Zoldak, Kelly (friend of David Potts), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman), Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Page (Allison Hansen's sister), Ralph (friend of Dorothy Adams).  
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Peter and Allison Hansen and family on the death of his father, Holger "Hogie" Hansen on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mercy Peacock and family on the death of her father, Prosper Awuma on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

**The Tower lighting** for June is given in loving memory of Hazel & Sherman Langille by The Bellil Family.

**The Rose Window** lighting for June is given in loving memory of George Hammond by The Hammond Family.

**August Rose Window lighting** is available. If you'd like to dedicate this lighting in memory/honor or celebration of a loved one, please call Debi in the office. The cost of the lighting is \$40.

**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

### Upcoming Heralds:

During the summer we generally have one Herald. However, we are going to try something a little different. The first Sunday of July and August, we will expand the Announcements as if it were a Herald. Please mark your calendars with the following deadline dates: June 23<sup>rd</sup> for the July 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcements, and July 28<sup>th</sup> for the August 6<sup>th</sup> Announcements. *Thank you, Debi*

### 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*

### Graduates... DEADLINE IS JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>!

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](mailto: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.

### **UWF Steering Committee to Meet Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m.**

UWF will hold its next Steering Committee meeting Saturday, June 3 in the John Wesley Room, beginning at 9 a.m. We ask that all officers and circle leaders attend. If you can't make it, please send a representative of your circle so we can hear what your circle proposes for your Isabel Smith Fund donation for the first half of the year. We will be discussing ideas for plans for next year.

*Allison Hansen and Barb Ingrassia*

### **Upcoming Mini-Harvests**

It's that time of year again to prepare for our annual Harvest. The Men's Mini-Harvest will be held on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Harvest will be on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Children's Harvest will be August 26<sup>th</sup>. The main Harvest will be on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Let us all pray about ways we plan to give to the Lord and know that is our little token of saying Thank you for all that He has done for us. Thank you.

### **Feast, Learn, Plan with UWF Thursday, June 15, 6 p.m.**

Bring a friend and come join Wesley's United Women in Faith group for a potluck supper. Learn more about one local afterschool program we have supported, African Community Education (ACE), a non-profit established to help new arrivals from Africa achieve academic and community success in Worcester.

After our speaker, we'll talk about plans for the year to come, starting in September. Bring your thoughts, hopes and dreams for UWF! And a dish to share, please. We'll eat at 6 and begin our program at 7.

*Allison Hansen and Barb Ingrassia*

### **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](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com). Please send your orders by the end of day Monday, June 26 for pickup on July 2.

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

**Organ Recital...** William Ness is playing in a recital at First Unitarian Church, June 18, 4:00 pm. Music by Back, Fischer, Paine, Simonds, Selby, and Reger. FREE to all.

### **New Bible Study Series on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Evenings**

Everyone is invited to participate, via Zoom, in the ongoing Tuesday group from 6:30 to 8 pm. This small group meets on the first and third Tuesdays, starting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The new book is The Miracles of Jesus, Participant's Guide. The group just finished a book from this series which requires no "homework." The book is mostly topics to notice in the videos, questions to discuss, and optional daily reflections. The videos explore the main events of Jesus' life to understand what made him so extraordinary. What is learned will be applied to life today.

Lorraine Kronberg will be facilitating the discussion and technical expert Bill Wong will make sure the videos run smoothly. Please contact Judy Hoffman to sign up. You can get a book (\$10) from Judy or Chris Flagg.

***"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."  
I Thessalonians 5:11***

### **Community Suppers at Wesley**

The May 27th Community Supper was quite a success! We served 134 chicken dinners and had a blast doing it. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who cooked, cleaned, and served: Beth D'Acridi, Judith Barton, Carolyn Bellil, Jan England, Cordelia Ferdinand, Jean, Christian, Henry and Ewan Grant, Judy Hoffman, Edith Isaac, Khoa and Helen Kennedy, and Jackie Wetton. Thanks also to Paul Hayfron for purchasing the chicken for us to cook, and Alison Hansen for the baked goods.

Interested in hosting a community supper? We still have dates available: July 29th, August 26th, and October 28th. Please contact me at [gorsuchkennedy@hotmail.com](mailto:gorsuchkennedy@hotmail.com) or 508 954 8233 to learn more or claim a date.

*Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy*

### **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

### Shaw's will hold it's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Drive - June 5 to 11

One in 12 people in Worcester County does not have enough nutritious food to eat. There are many outreach groups offering food and Shaw's will collect food for those centers. Both of Shaw's Supermarket locations in Worcester will be collecting food and essential household items. For more information, check the Mission bulletin board in Brewer Hall.

### Invitation to Father's Day Cookout at Dismas House

We are invited to the Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> Cookout at the Dismas House Family Farm. "Free food, animals, cornhole and more" are offered. The hours are noon to 3 pm and the location is 687 Lincoln Road, Oakham, MA. Questions? Call 508-882-0000. RSVPs are appreciated.

Across the U.S., Dismas Houses are geared to successful re-entry of former prisoners ("returning citizens") into society-- with vocational and life skills. John Wesley often visited the incarcerated and the Wesley Mission Committee gives them a significant gift every year.

## 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](mailto:betspenn35@hotmail.com))



### A God Moment by Betsy Pennino

The weeks between Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> are a good time to remember one of the great coincidences-which-was-more-than-just-a-coincidence: our 2<sup>nd</sup> President John Adams and 3<sup>rd</sup> President Thomas Jefferson died on the same day which was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence! Adams had been a major promoter of winning freedom from England and had written the Massachusetts State Constitution which influenced the U.S. Constitution. Jefferson had written the Declaration of Independence. Both were Ambassadors to France and won French support during the Revolutionary War and its aftermath when there were no laws in place about paying war debts and collecting money through taxes.

Each was near death but wanted to live until the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their grand experiment: it was unheard of in the 1700's that citizens could elect their leaders and government representatives and that people would have equal rights before the law. It took generations for the country to live up to the hopeful vision set forth in the Constitution.

On the morning of July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson was near death at Monticello and asked, "is it the 4<sup>th</sup> yet?" John Adams also hovered near death in his Quincy, MA home. When he died, his last words were, "Thomas Jefferson survives." Jefferson had actually died 5 hours before that, but the fastest news could move then was on horseback. Five years later, the 5<sup>th</sup> American President, James Monroe, also died on July 4th.

## 2023 UWF Mission Recognition Award Goes to Judy Hoffman

Every year, Wesley's unit of United Women in Faith seeks to honor a woman whose work among us has often gone unnoticed or unheralded.

This year we honor someone who – as nearly every nomination noted – is always willing to help. And often, she doesn't need to be asked, she just sees something that needs doing, and does it!

One nominator praised "her unconditional service to Wesley." But it's not just her service we want to recognize, it's her quiet ways of taking action or suggesting an approach that helps others grow in their faith.



By New England standards, she's a relative newcomer to Worcester. Her arrival at Wesley brought new strength and energy to our congregation.

She volunteered at the community supper held after she first came to church and nearly every supper we've held since.

A natural connector, Judy is often the person to welcome newcomers. Then she promptly introduces them to someone she thinks they'd like to know. When refugees from Afghanistan needed warm clothes, she welcomed them too, by helping with the coat ministry.

Her experience in other churches has meant she brings new ideas for us to try. New ways to welcome visitors – and their children in need of activities in the pews, new ways to welcome new pastors, and remind our college students and healthcare workers that their Wesley family cares about them.

You can't join a Methodist Church and not serve – at some point – on a committee, and Judy has already co-led two – Hospitality and SPRC. She's also led Bible studies together with her husband, retired pastor Jim Hoffman.

What can seem like her non-stop service means she can be among the last to leave the building on a given Sunday.

Please join me in celebrating this year's Mission Recognition Award for Judy Hoffman!

## DID YOU KNOW?

We recently celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the merger of two Methodist congregations, Grace Church and Trinity Church to form the congregation which subsequently relocated to 114 Main St. Our church takes its name, *Wesley United Methodist Church*, from the family name of the founders of the Methodist movement, John, and Charles Wesley. Did you know that one of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary is devoted to this family? It is the window that is facing you on the right as you look up into the North balcony (pulpit side) from the sanctuary floor. (In fact, all the windows in this balcony are portrayals of various leaders of Methodism, rather than Biblical figures as depicted in the windows in the upper walls of the main part of the nave.)

Interestingly, the central figure in the window is neither John nor Charles but their mother Susannah. The booklet *The Windows at Wesley Methodist Church, Worcester, Massachusetts* explains that Susannah Wesley “must be included because of her unusual molding influence on their lives.” In the lower medallion beneath her she is shown teaching John as a young child representing “all the devoted instruction of her children.”

Charles Wesley is depicted in the right lancet of the window with a pen and scroll of music and is shown composing a hymn in the medallion below. He wrote at least 6,500 hymns, and is known as the most prominent hymn writer of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.


In the lancet on the left, John Wesley is depicted holding a closed book, and in the medallion below, he is shown preaching to miners. After the Aldersgate experience (the anniversary of which is May 24) in which he “felt his heart strangely warmed,” he spent the rest of his life as an itinerant preacher. What is somewhat lesser known about John is that he also made significant contributions to hymnody as well. He was the compiler of *A Collection of Psalms and Hymns, 1737*, the first English hymnbook for use in worship.

*Submitted by Deborah O’Driscoll*


*Top Producers  
Worcester County*

**Gibbs**  
REALTY INC.

*A Smart Move*



**Jeffrey Gibbs**  
Broker/REALTOR®



**Christy Gibbs**  
REALTOR®

*Your Wesley Family REALTORS®  
Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County*

**GibbsRealtyInc.com \* 508-886-6100**



**WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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