



Aug. 28, 2023

The Bell Tolls for Us

English poet John Donne (1572-1631) penned these words that ring with truth today:

*Each man's death diminishes me,
For I am involved in mankind.
Therefore, send not to know for
Whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.*



Another hate crime, the murder of three African Americans at the hands of a white supremacist armed with an AR 15 semi-automatic weapon, happened on Saturday in Jacksonville, Florida.

Public outcry seems to be a whimper. We are becoming so used to our culture of violence and hatred that it barely makes the news anymore. I can only reflect on how much more solidarity we need as a nation so that when our own people are murdered our collective voices rise loudly in unison to decry the horror.

I call all of us to remember these constant shootings are personal. These are crimes against humanity, and that is us. The slain are your siblings, your neighbors, your beloved.

During World War II as the Nazis were invading Europe and murdering and incarcerating Jews, the American public, for the most part, ignored the Holocaust. The United States turned back a ship full of Jewish people who were trying to escape death.

Denmark was different; the Danes stood in solidarity and the Jewish people were protected in a national rescue effort. They smuggled 7,000 Jews to safety in Sweden; another 500 who were deported by the Nazis were sent to a ghetto in Bohemia where the Danes continued to protect and advocate for them.

Why did they do this? They saw their Jewish citizens as their people, their family. We need more of this in our country.

It was 60 years ago today that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., before a crowd of 250,000 people.

There was an event in Washington this past Saturday commemorating this, the most important racial justice demonstration in U.S. history.

Yolanda King, Dr. King's 15-year-old granddaughter, spoke:

"Today, racism is still with us. Poverty is still with us. And now gun violence has come for our places of worship, our schools and our shopping centers."

The beloved community that we claim to be as Christians needs to speak out (and advocate and legislate) when any member of our human family is being oppressed and murdered.

Let us grieve the death of each one. It is our own.

Let us individually check our souls for racism and implicit bias.

Let us collectively own the racist history of this country and name freely that "liberty and justice for *all*" is still a long way off.

Until everyone is free, none of us is truly free.

The bell tolls for all of us.



A Message from Pastor Moo

We are nearing the end of the summer. Some of us have already returned from vacations, have gone back to work and school. We begin the routine of the fall. I hope that we have been able to experience the loving presence of Jesus, who promises that there is nothing that has more power than his loving Spirit.

Where are we returning to? We are coming back to our own honest reality. For most of us, our daily realities are not just full of happiness and joy. Sometimes they are more likely painful sores. We do not have to read or watch many news reports to realize how badly our society and world are damaged. However, it is the reality we need to live through. It is the world in which we have to witness our God and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ with our daily lives.

It is said that the longest journey of life is the one from head to heart. For it is more difficult to keep a warm heart than a cool head. But there is still another journey just as long. It is the journey from heart to hands and feet. Here "hands and feet" mean practice in daily life.

As we return to the ordinary routine of the life, we are called back to practice God's great commandments, to love God and our neighbor not just with our heart, soul, and mind, but also with our hands and feet. We know it is hard. It is really, really, really hard. There are so many things that curve us away from God and one another.

Yet, we have to remember that it is only when we live in the love of Jesus Christ, we find the power and the courage to honestly face and transform the harsh realities we live in and with. In our journey, Jesus Christ went first, and he also goes with us wherever we go and whatever we do. So let us give thanks to God for calling us back to our daily routine! Let us boldly step forward into the world with our Christ as a community of witness!

May God bless on our hands and feet!

Moo

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

Daniel Ankrah, Phil Johnson, Linda D'Acri, Judy & Jim Hoffman, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Al D'Ambra, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Joan Hirst, Don Johnson (Phil's brother), Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Dorothy Norcross, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Bill Wong, Bill & Laura Zoldak, Charles (friend of David Potts), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman), Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Page (Allison Hansen's sister).
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & 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 Ellis.

Altar flowers... 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

September Community Breakfast... The Community Breakfast will be from 8:30 – 9:30 am.

Ministry Fair... The Ministry Fair will be held on Sunday, September 10th following worship. If you would like a table, please let me know (office@wesleyworc.org). Thank you, Debi Reynolds

Mission Matters... The Abby's House 5K Run or Walk is on Saturday, 10/14/23. Starting at 9 AM at the West Boylston Middle/High School, participants will have views of Wachusett Reservoir. There's no need to obtain sponsors because the Registration Fee is the donation. Registration before Oct. 1 is \$30 per adult. All adults, students and babies in strollers are welcome (no pets). Abby's House provides shelter and advocacy services to homeless, battered and low income women and their children. More info at abbyshouse.org/event/.

SPAM EMAILS... Once again people are receiving emails from Moo asking for help. Please delete these immediately! DO NOT click on any links. Moo or anyone else from the church for that matter, will never send an email to anyone asking for help monetary or even for gift cards. Also, check the email address the email came from. How? Hover your mouse over the sender's name and it should show you the email address. Any emails from church employees will have @wesleyworc.org... nothing else!

Matt Crane, the Church Business Administrator, will have set office hours on Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm. Please email or call Matt to let him know you're coming in (508-799-4191, ext 111 or email him at Matt@wesleyworc.org). Thank you.

October Herald: *There are always extra copies of the Herald in the Narthex by the Welcome Office.*

The September Herald will be part of the October 1st bulletin. Please have all articles to me no later than September 25th. *Thank you, Debi*

Support Hawaii Wildfire Relief Efforts

Please join us in prayer for those affected by the wildfires in Hawaii. Wind-driven fires on Maui have caused loss of life and widespread damage. UMCOR is currently coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to provide a solidarity grant for emergency supplies. If you want to make a donation with a check, please note the UMCOR Advance #901670 in the memo field.

[Donate to this and other U.S. disasters online here](#)

Upcoming Vacation... Debi will be going on vacation for two weeks beginning Monday, September 11th. If you have any upcoming events that you would like an article in the Announcements in September, please have them to her by Tuesday, September 3rd as she will be preparing everything in advance.

Also, if you have any upcoming meetings you need to schedule for while she is away, please email her as soon as possible. Thank you.

Harvest 2023... The annual Harvest will be on Sunday, September 24th with the International Lunch to follow. If anyone has an item(s) they would like to donate for the main Harvest on September 24th, please bring it to the Church Office or speak with Gifty Bentum-Asante. 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.

International Lunch

Hello Church Family,

As most of you already know, the Harvest Service will be held on the last Sunday of September. Following the service we will hold an International luncheon.

In the past, members of our congregation make a favorite dish from their heritage to share with fellow members. We are looking for those of you who love to cook and try new things to join us in this celebratory day! There are pans already out for you to take to fill with what you would like to bring on Harvest Sunday.

I am also looking for volunteers to help with setting up beforehand and clean up afterwards.

For those of you bringing food, please email me the name of your dish, Country of where your dish is from (so I can make a flag of the country it represents to place next to it) and list of ingredients (for those who have allergies or are gluten free).

My email is smyth0822@gmail.com

Thank you in advance and I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you!

Kind Regards,
Stephanie Smyth

Do You Love to Sing?

If you answered "Yes!" to this question, then please consider joining the Wesley Chancel Choir. Did you know that singing in a choir has many health benefits? Singing not only exercises your brain, it has many physical benefits. Research has shown that singing can improve breathing, posture, and muscle tension. It is also a wonderful way to meet and get to know new friends.

We rehearse upstairs in the Clark Choir Room beginning 15 minutes after the end of our Sunday service (approximately 11:15) until approximately 12:30.

In addition to the full Chancel Choir, there will be opportunities for smaller group singing such as quartets, treble groups, and duets.

Everyone is invited to sing with the Chancel Choir. Don't worry if you can't attend every rehearsal. Join us when you are able. Enjoyment of music is the only requirement.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

David Potts - pdpotts@yahoo.com



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. September orders will be due by September 11 for pickup on September 17.

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

GOD MOMENT

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 from Chris Flagg

My Daughter was scheduled to have heart surgery; needless to say I was a wreck with worry.

On the day of the surgery, I decided since there was nothing I could do for her I would go to work, of course that was a foolish idea ... I tried my best to concentrate on driving, but my thoughts kept getting the best of me, frantic thoughts filled with "what ifs" and imaginings of how it would affect her children and God forbid, how I could go on without her.

Finally, I got control of myself and decided I would try to distract myself with the radio, thankfully we are always tuned into 107.3 the Christian music channel. Just as I turned it on a song I'd never heard before started playing, "Gonna be Alright" by Ryan Ellis.

If ever there was a song written to provide the comfort of God's Love and care for me, it was this!

I have no doubt that God heard my cries for help that morning and I have no doubt that God provided the perfect comfort at the exact time I needed it most.

And I am so grateful to know that Everything's gonna be alright!



Know any crafty crafters?

UWF wants them for our Craft/Quilt Fair October 21!

Calling all crafters --
that could be you or friends and colleagues.

United Women in Faith will be hosting a fundraising Craft and Quilt Sale on Saturday, October 21. Quilts like the one in this photo made in Uganda will be auctioned off that day.

Please let Chris Flagg know if you or a friend want to buy a table for that day. Email Chris at erf115@msn.com.

All funds raised will support missions for women and children.



DID YOU KNOW?

In our recent congregational music survey, the organ was second only to congregational singing of hymns in being considered by respondents as essential to our musical offerings in worship. The high regard for the role of the organ in the worship of our congregation is a continuous thread in the history of our congregation. A. Leslie Jacobs, Wesley's first Minister of Music, came to Worcester in 1926 before the building of the church was completed to help select the specifications for the E.M. Skinner organ that was to be built in the sanctuary.

Since our church thus has had a large pipe organ that was in place before the dedication of the church, we probably tend to take it for granted that the organ plays such a prominent role in our worship services. Did you ever wonder how the organ came to be one of the main musical instruments used in churches? Believe it or not, in ancient times the early predecessors of the organ as we know it now were very much associated not with worship, but with secular entertainment such as theater. Because of these associations, the writings of the early church contain objections to the use of the organ (and other musical instruments) in worship.

It is unclear when the organ first began to be used in Christian rituals. It is known that there were organs in churches in Europe as early as the 8th C, but it is uncertain if they were used in any way that was connected to liturgy. (One speculation is that they may have been used to teach music.) By the 10th C there are records of organs (and bells) being used at least for special occasions by monastic communities. By that time there were also written descriptions of large loud organs located in churches throughout most of Western Europe. It is not until the 12th C, however, that the organ clearly was serving a defined liturgical function; by the 15th C its use in worship was widely accepted.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the organ assumed a very central role in the celebration of the mass, with the playing of organ pieces called versets, based on chant, often substituting for or alternating with the singing of the chant. In a similar way, after the Reformation, in the Protestant Lutheran tradition the organ was used in alternation with the choir and congregation in the singing of hymns, and by the early 17th C eventually came to actually accompany the singing. The Calvinists, on the other hand, removed organs from their churches thinking that the use of the organ prevented the active participation of the congregation in worship. Similarly, the Puritans in England destroyed organs during the English civil war, but this trend was reversed during the Restoration era. Finally, the "Modern Revival" of the organ which began with the Romantics of the mid-19th C, led to the widespread acceptance of the organ as a means to support the large group singing that is an essential part of Christian worship.

In addition to hymns, the vast musical literature for the organ written over the centuries is filled with pieces written for use in Christian worship. Often these pieces are based on hymn tunes, liturgical chant, and/or inspired by scripture texts. Of course, even pieces not written with a specific liturgical theme can add to our worship as sources for inspiration, reflection, and meditation as well as expressions of God's gift of creativity.


Submitted by Deborah O'Driscoll

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Pastor	Rev. Byungmoo Lee	Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
Interim Organist	Ronna Davis	Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Chancel Choir Director	David Potts	Youth Bible Study	Ivy Hammond
Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Director of Children’s Ministries	Cordelia Ferdinand	Financial Secretary	William Wong
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane	Church Auditor	Peter Hansen
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Ghanaian Association	Earl Flagg
Building Superintendent	Tim Murphy	Hospitality Chair	Cynthia Fletcher
Assistant Building Superintendent & Sunday Security	Phil Johnson	Medical Ministry	Paul Hayfron
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Mission Coordinator	Linda D’Acri
Head Usher	Gerard Piscitelli	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Ron Ramsay
Communion Steward	David Dagle	United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Betsy Pennino
Wesley Tech Team	Earl Flagg	Worship Committee	Chris Flagg
Church Council	Mark Muncey		Judy Hoffman
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