



April 1, 2024

Resurrection

I remember a special Easter Sunday afternoon several years ago while I was serving as the bishop of the Philadelphia Area.

I drove to the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center to visit the daughter of a long-time friend who was a patient at this world-renowned organ transplantation hospital. Millie had just received a long-awaited double lung transplant. The miracle of resurrection was in the room. Organ transplants are a life-giving option that years ago was only a dream.

I paid my visit and offered prayer that day in her hospital room amid numerous support monitors and IVs. I heard a loud engine buzz overhead. Millie explained that this was a medical helicopter transporting life-giving organs from all over the country. The landing pad was on the roof of the hospital.

It was a bitter-sweet circle of life happening in real time. Not all transplants involve the death of the donor but many of them do. Death and new life are closely bound together at times. "Sorrow and joy flow mingled down."

I am sure that most of you probably know someone who has received an organ donation. I know several, including a pastor who had two heart transplants and a kidney transplant over a period of years. It is possible to donate kidneys, hearts, corneas, skin, lungs, pancreas, intestines, tendons, bones, heart valves and nerves as well as tissue.

People of all ages and medical histories can donate; the supply of organs depends entirely on the generosity of the public. All ethnicities are needed as matches are best accomplished between people of the same ethnic background and there is no cost to the donor.

We United Methodists support organ transplantation. According to our *Book of Resolutions*, "We believe that organ transplantation and organ donation are acts of charity, agape love, and self-sacrifice. We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their love and ministry to others in need. We urge that it be done in an environment of respect of deceased and living donors and for the benefit of the recipients and following protocols that carefully prevent abuse to donors and their families." (2016 BOR, page 144).



Bishop's Office

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Brenda Cayer
Administrative Assistant
Phone: (978) 682-7555 ext. 250
Fax: (978) 682-9555
BishopsOffice@neumc.org

April is “National Donate Life Month,” and as Easter people this is something that everyone can do. Sign up to become a donor (on your driver’s license and through the [Registry of Organ Donation](https://www.organdonor.gov/). Have a talk with your family to explain that at your death donating organs and tissue would be meaningful for you. Help educate people in your circle of influence — including at your church — about the blessing of the life-giving stewardship of one’s body.

Last year there were 39,000 organ transplants performed in the United States but there are many more on the waiting list.

Donors’ personal information is totally confidential unless the donor (or their family) and recipient both wish to communicate. When my 39-year-old second cousin died of a sudden heart attack several years ago, many of his organs were donated and both families were in communication. Tears of joy flowed as the life of this beloved son continues to live in the body of another young person to this day.

Celebrate Easter and National Donate Life Month as a witness to your faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, whose death brought forth abundant life.

Sources:

Donate Life America <https://donatelife.net/>

Health Resources & Services Administration <https://www.organdonor.gov/>



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

Stephen Boyns, Linda D’Acri, John Davis (Ronna’s husband), Georgia (Stacey & Stewart’s daughter), Rosamond Hammond, Libby T. (friend of Phyllis Yngve), Neil Ashton (past member), Paula and Calvin Kelly (sister and brother-in-law of Linda Dylewicz), Linda Keister; Al, Linda, and Kathy Freeburn (friends of Linda and Lou D’Acri), Sandra Scheys, Pinamang Boateng, Dot Ellis, Jim Hoffman, Dorothy Norcross, Grace Woode, Baby “T” (friend of Carol Samanen), Earl Flagg, Tom Friend, Beverly Grimshaw, Peter Woodcock, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Ray Cournoyer (friend of Bill Robbins), Barbara Fletcher, Don Johnson (Phil’s brother), Charles & Samira Kiefer, Sandra O’Driscoll, David Samanen, Alysia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Laura Zoldak, Susan (friend of David Potts), Malika Gujarati (family of the Hoffmans), 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 Rose window lighting is given in loving memory of Doris Tremblay, Margaret Fuller and Paul Dudos by their family.

The Tower lighting is given in loving memory of Julius Sr, Helga, Julius Jr, Arthur, Lorraine, Jean, Dorothy, and Irene Tremblay and Lefty Tremblay by Donald Tremblay and nieces.

Announcements

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ALL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday, April 14, 2024 – 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

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

The May Herald will be part of the May 5th bulletin; however, it will be posted by May 3rd. Please send all articles to me no later than Wednesday, April 26th. *Thank you, Debi*

From Carty Cupboard.....

We are in need of cold cereal, meals in a can, like stew and Chef Boyardee products, and this month we would also like jelly, (we do have a lot of peanut butter so jelly would be perfect!) We are still looking for reusable bags. Please Do Not bring us any more plastic or paper bags. Thank you to all of you who have and continue to donate to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry.

We served 528 Families in the month of March with your help!

Nancy Spencer

Save the Dates: United Women in Faith Spring into Action

Wesley's unit of United Women in Faith has a busy spring season. Be sure to put these dates in your calendar so you don't miss out!

April 19-21 Northeast Jurisdiction Conference in Providence -- Ask Allison about reimbursements for hotel and registration fees

Friday, April 26 -- deadline to submit Mission Recognition nominations

Saturday, April 27, 8:45 a.m. -- Steering Committee meeting, John Wesley Room

Sunday, May 12 -- Mother's Day and Mission Recognition Award presentation

Saturday, June 1, 8:45 a.m. -- Steering Committee meeting, John Wesley Room

Tuesday, June 18,* 6 p.m. -- Potluck and planning meeting with presenter Tiffany Lillie, CEO of Girls Inc. of Worcester.

*Please note this date has changed from the calendar distributed last fall.

Grocery Gift Cards -- Now Accepting Email Orders

Gift card sales to prevent homelessness will now be available after church once a month. If you would like to order cards, please email Allison at AChis4788@aol.com, and depending on availability, she will bring your order the following Sunday, or after the next pick-up date from Central Mass. Housing Alliance.

Cards from local grocery stores, coffee shops, CVS, Panera and Target will still be on offer after church on:

April 14

June 2

May 5 (just in time for Mother's Day and graduations)

June 16

August 4

Thanks to all the people who continue to support this ministry!

Allison Hansen

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)

God Moments by Dr. Enoch Upkong

I arrived in Worcester for the first time from Nigeria in January 1979 at 7 pm. Having no idea what the weather was here, I had a dress on and open toe sandals and a sweater. I would never have imagined that the weather could be that cold. I stepped out of the public bus, and it seemed like midnight. Cars and taxis were going by, nobody was walking. I waved at the taxis to get a ride, none stopped. I was frozen and didn't know what to do except talk to my Lord. This was my prayer that evening, "Thank you dear Lord for bringing me safely to Worcester, in the US. I know you didn't bring me this far to abandon me to die on the roadside. I know and believe that you will provide a way for me to get to my designated apartment. Amen." About 5 minutes after my prayers, I saw a lady coming out of her office. I tried to shout to get her attention, but nothing came out of my mouth. I waved my hands and ran towards her. Finally, she saw me and came to save me by calling a cab. Within 10 minutes, the cab came. Oh, what a Mighty God we serve.

I go to St Vincent Hospital, Worcester, for clinical experience. I normally park outside the hospital, not in the garage. On our last clinical day, I parked in the garage as I had stuff to deliver to the units and it was easier from the garage. At the end of my day, I saw a Spanish lady in the garage. She looked so lost that I had to ask her if she was ok. No, she answered, I have been here for about 15 minutes, trying to get out of here. What kind of car did you drive? Oh, I don't have a car, I'm trying to find my way to downtown. She shouldn't have been in the garage if she didn't drive. At this point, I knew that she was really lost. I offered to give her a ride to wherever she was going. This lady was so thankful and grateful. The lord has been with me all the way, guiding, protecting, and blessing me. I completely depend on Him, and He has never disappointed me.



CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Baptist Church Organ Gala Concert and Dedication, Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 4:00 pm with h'oeuvres before and dessert following a two-organ concert using gallery and chancel organs performed by Michelle Graveline, Wesley Hall and William Ness. Free

PIPES OF ALL TYPES Concert - Sunday, June 23, 2024, First Unitarian Church, 90 Main Street. This brass, organ and choir concert with William Ness, organist, and Allegra Martin, conductor features music by Diemer, Hailstork, Sowerby, Dupre, etc. Free.

DID YOU KNOW?

This past Sunday we experienced the celebration of Easter Day with a wonderfully festive worship service, but did you know that that was only the beginning of our celebration of Easter? The true celebration of Easter in all its fullest occurs throughout the liturgical season known as the Great Fifty Days. The Great Fifty Days is the oldest and most important season in the Christian year, but its origin relates to a harvest festival of ancient Israel. In Biblical times the Feast of Weeks began with the opening of the harvest season two days after the start of Passover, and culminated in the great celebration of the completion of the wheat harvest fifty days later at Pentecost. The duration of the Biblical feast was rooted in a theological symbolism of numbers. For the Jews the number seven connoted fullness, so a forty-nine (= seven times seven) day period as a “week of weeks” set apart one seventh of the year as holy. In addition, fifty was considered to be a number of liberation and restitution, so that the spring harvest festival of forty-nine days was closed by a fiftieth day as a sign of newness and rejoicing. According to Laurence Hull Stookey in *Calendar: Christ’s Time for the Church*:

“The church readily adapted this symbolism for its own purposes. Christ is fullness heaped on fullness... and so can be symbolized by seven times seven... As Israel rejoiced in the spring harvest for fifty days...so the church rejoiced in the resurrection for fifty days...”

The spirit and significance of the season are reflected in the environment of worship. The lighting of the Paschal Candle each week continues to remind us of the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst. The liturgical seasonal color is white, and we continue to use white paraments and sing Alleluias.

Especially during the Great Fifty Days of Easter the celebratory nature of our Sunday morning worship reinforces our identity as an Easter people. However, we are not people of the resurrection just on Easter Sunday and not even just during the Great Fifty Days, but throughout the liturgical year. From earliest times, Christians have included celebration of the resurrection of Jesus as an important part of worship. One of the main reasons that most Christians have adopted Sunday (rather than the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday) as the day for worship relates to the fact that Sunday is the day of the resurrection. We have only begun our celebration of the resurrection, which is commemorated by a day of the week (Sunday), a special day of the year (Easter Sunday) and a liturgical season (the Great Fifty Days). Wishing you all a joyous Easter!

*Submitted by,
Deborah O’Driscoll*

Gibbs REALTY INC. *A Smart Move*
 800 Main Street, Holden | 508-886-6100



**Your Proud
 Wesley Family
 REALTORS®
 Since 2006**

*Jeffrey Gibbs
 Christy Gibbs
 Tyler Gibbs
 Sophia Gibbs*

**Top Producers in
 Worcester County**

Learn More
 508-886-6100



WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Byungmoo Lee	Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
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	Rhianna Burke	Financial Secretary	William Wong
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane	Church Auditor	Peter Hansen
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Ghanaian Association	Earl Flagg
Building Consultant	Tim Murphy	Hospitality Chair	Cynthia Fletcher
Building Superintendent	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	Music Committee	Chris Flagg
Church Council	Mark Muncey	Worship Committee	Judy Hoffman
Co-Lay Leaders	Brent Drajesk		Allison Hansen
Board of Trustees	Gifty Bentum-Asante		Barbara Ingrassia
	Joseph Fletcher		Debbie O’Driscoll
	Gary Robinson		Debbie O’Driscoll