



May 1, 2024

'Warm-Hearted' Moments

"Aldersgate" is the name of a street in London where John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, had a spiritual awakening during a Bible study at a home there.

He wrote in his journal on the night of May 24, 1738, "I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Wesley said at that moment his heart was "strangely warmed." Apparently, John's hymn-writing brother Charles had a similar experience earlier in that same week. God was up to something because afterward the Methodist movement came to life in a new and vital way.

Through the years the people called Methodists have observed a remembrance of this pivotal "Aldersgate moment," and during the month of May, we also celebrate "[Heritage Sunday](#)." It not only commemorates the Methodists but founding moments of all the denominations of which we are a part.

Recently I was given a copy of a book titled, *A History of the New England Conference of the Evangelical Church*, by The Rev. Alton Dodge. It recounts the ministry of a Methodist Episcopal pastor by the name of Rev. Joshua Gill (1834-1907), who began his ministry in Northfield, Vermont.

Rev. Gill had a spiritual experience of God's sanctifying grace one night at a worship service. He subsequently severed his relationship with the Methodist Episcopal Church and went on to serve in the Evangelical Association as well as the holiness movement of that time. Not a few churches in the New England Annual Conference have roots in this denomination.

The Evangelical Association eventually merged with the United Brethren in Christ (1946) to become the Evangelical United Brethren in Christ, and in 1968 the Methodist Church and the EUB became known as The United Methodist Church of today.



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The same Spirit of God infused the many threads of ministry and leadership and spiritual awakenings of faith through the years with a pivotal direction for ministry and witness. These were humble people, used by God for soul-and world-transforming work, which is still our mission statement and witness.

Let's not forget our history and on whose brave shoulders we stand this day. Theirs was not easy work, and their sacrifices and struggles were likely more than we currently face. They persevered with the strength and empowerment of God to preach salvation and practice grace-filled living. Celebrate that heritage!

Do not neglect to seek God's Pentecost power for your personal life in some new way. Not every Christian has experienced a sudden life-changing moment that they can point to and say, "This was my 'Aldersgate'" or "That was the day I was born again." Even Ruth Bell Graham, Rev. Billy Graham's wife, said she could not name a particular day of salvation, but she had loved Jesus since childhood.

When we are in a justifying relationship with God, it is clear and compelling, and the "compass" of one's life turns from self to God. As we walk with the Lord, we continue to grow in grace and holiness, always "going on to perfection."

The future of the church is in your hands and the next history books will be written about you. What will they say? Do you have a warm heart? Is it evidenced by the way you live and the words you share? How has your warm heart made a difference in this world? Who experienced the love and justice of God and the witness of Jesus through you?

With God's Spirit, all things are possible. Remember your history — and make history with your warm heart of love.

Resources:

["How Aldersgate Changed John Wesley,"](#) video, April 20, 2016

[Heritage Sunday](#)

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>

<https://www.billygraham.ca/answer/is-it-true-that-you-arent-really-saved-unless-you-know-the-exact-date-you-gave-your-life-to-jesus/>



Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for May is given in loving memory of my parents, Norman and Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

The Rose Window lighting May is given in loving memory of my mother and brothers, Marjorie, Leonard, and Harry by Emily Smith.

Altar flowers can be donated in memory or celebration of a loved one or event. If you would like to donate the altar flowers on a given Sunday, you may sign up in the book in the Welcome Office. The cost of the two arrangements for the altar are \$60.

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

Linda Keister, Chris Flagg, Earl Flagg, Rosamond Hammond, Stephen Boyns, Georgia (Stacey & Stewart's daughter), Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Ray Cournoyer (friend of Bill Robbins), Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Beverly Grimshaw, Jim Hoffman, Don Johnson (Phil's brother), Charles & Samira Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, Sandra O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alysia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Grace Woode, Peter Woodcock, Laura Zoldak, Baby "T" (friend of Carol Samanen), Susan (friend of David Potts), Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Page (Allison Hansen's sister), Libby T. (friend of Phyllis Yngve), Neil Ashton (past member), Paula and Calvin Kelly (sister and brother-in-law of Linda Dylewicz), Al, Linda, and Kathy Freeburn (friends of Linda and Lou D'Acri), Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Linda D'Acri, family and friends of Sandra Scheys who passed away on April 16th.

Announcements

Vacation: Moo will be on vacation from Thursday, May 2, returning on Thursday, May 16. If you have a pastoral need or an emergency, please call the church office, Chris Flagg, or Judy Hoffman.

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

The May Herald will be part of the June 2nd bulletin. Please send all articles to me no later than Friday, May 24th.

Thank you, Debi

It's that Time of Year again... Graduates...

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 or leave a note in the office by Friday, May 31 at (office@wesleyworc.org). Please print clearly so I can read it.

Debi Reynolds

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.

Thank you, Debi Reynolds

Quilters Needed...

Once a month, on the first Thursday, at 10 am we gather in the sewing room on the second floor to prepare quilts for Prayers and Squares. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Jan England at 508-886-2585.

From Carty Cupboard.....

I would like to thank all of you who have donated reusable bags. We can still use more if you have any available. This month we are looking for jelly, mayo, and ketchup please. We served 562 families in the month of April. This is the most we have ever served!! We appreciate all of you who continue to donate to Carty Cupboard.

Nancy

From United Women in Faith (UWF)

The UWF would like to remind the congregation that a blanket offering for Church World Service (CWS) will be collected next week on Mother's Day. So please remember to bring some cash to donate to this special offering that brings comfort and peace to mothers and children in times of disaster. Thank you.

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!

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:

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

June 16

June 2

August 4

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

Allison Hansen

Mission Matters

The Mission Committee recently made two donations. One was to St. Lukes Episcopal Church on Pleasant St. They have adopted a refugee family of 9 who need everything. Judy Hoffman's neighbor said that All Saints wants to partner with another church to gather services, housewares, and other needed items. The first request was for funding drivers' lessons for two family members. The Mission Committee voted to donate \$600 toward the lessons.

A second donation was to In the Hour of Need Family Shelter (IHN). Here are the key points in a letter received from an IHN Advisory Board member:

"We want to thank you for your many years of support in so many ways... This year, there is a shortfall in our finances. The Emergency Shelter Grant for \$50,000 ended after Covid. As you know, the cost of everything has risen greatly. As a result, we are struggling to make ends meet. Our long-standing commitment to serve homeless families is now in jeopardy."

Since IHN moved into the June St. house, the Wesley Mission Committee has donated \$2,000 most years, and \$2,500 for the last two. The committee voted to give \$2,500 for 2024. Fewer and fewer churches are able to contribute to IHN in the \$2,000 range. Wesley is fortunate to have mission funding generated over many years by the Bessie Carty Special Purpose Fund. This money can only be used for mission efforts. It also helps to pay a portion of Wesley's Mission Shares (New England and World Missions).

Betsy Pennino

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)

More God Moments from Enoh Upkong

I was born into a Christian family. We went to church on Sundays, but I didn't know the Lord as my savior and it didn't matter to me then, until after high school. This was when I knew that I needed the Lord in my life. I started searching for Him by attending different churches and nothing happened.

I was in this search for God's mode, when I started Nursing School in Nigeria. Here, the students had a religious organization called Scripture Union or SU. They invited me to attend their meetings which were held every Wednesday, from 7 pm to 9 pm and I declined. After 3 months, I decided to check it out. This was a day of prayer and fasting. Lo and behold, I encountered my Lord and Savior that night. A shining light struck me, and I started speaking in tongues. Since this incident, my life has changed forever. I found my risen Lord. To our Lord be all the Glory.

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. In the summer of 2019, I wanted to visit Nigeria with all my children and grandchildren. My husband did not agree with this plan. I had prayed about it and my Lord said, go ahead, so I did. The visit was such a blessing. The weather was perfect, very cool with no rain throughout the period we were there. We came back safely.

Shortly after that came Covid. I can't even imagine if I hadn't used that window of opportunity.

I lean so much on the Lord and never take anything for granted. If I'm running behind time, the Lord will turn all my traffic lights green. As I pass each of the green lights, I will lift up my right hand, giving Glory to my Lord, who knows my needs and provides accordingly for me.

I have learned to depend on my Lord in all aspects of my life and He has worked miracles for me. He has given me the peace and comfort that I need to navigate through this tough world. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope it's helpful.



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, at 4:00 pm, 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?

In a couple of weeks on Sunday May 19, we will celebrate Pentecost, the liturgical commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and the “birthday” of the church. This celebratory festival marks the conclusion of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. Prominent visual symbols used at Pentecost include the liturgical color red for the tongues of fire as described in Acts 2 and flame as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Did you ever wonder about the origins of some of the imagery and symbolism related to the Holy Spirit? Another common symbol of the Holy Spirit is the descending dove, based on Gospel accounts that the Holy Spirit descended “like a dove” at the time of Jesus’ baptism. Other Biblical images for the Holy Spirit include wind and breath, as the same Hebrew word *rûah* translates as “wind,” “breath,” and “spirit.” Similarly the Greek word *pneuma* used in the New Testament, is sometimes translated as “wind” and the verb form *pneō* means “to blow.” The fullness of this imagery is explained in this way:

“The common image, which all three meanings share, is that of invisible forces or life energies whose sources cannot readily be observed but whose effects are transparent...Like the wind, the creative power of the Holy Spirit is beyond all human ability or comprehension. Wind underlines the fragility and vulnerability of the human sphere to forces that persons cannot control or manipulate...Like wind, the Spirit comes with a force that cannot be easily resisted by human means, a blowing movement that shapes the hearts of the disciples into courageous forms.”

Dictionary of Biblical Imagery (Ed. Leland Ryken, James C. Wilhout, and Tremper Longman III)

We may not fully understand the mysterious workings of the Holy Spirit, but we can see the effects in our lives of the gifts of the Spirit given to all believers to empower us for the work of the church. Pentecost is a time for celebrating the presence and work of the Holy Spirit not just within our hearts, but also within our church community.

*Submitted by,
Deborah O’Driscoll*

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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
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