



August 1, 2024

Time in New England

In the mid-1970s Barry Manilow had a hit song, “Weekend in New England.” At the time, I was a schoolteacher driving to and from work, and I used to sing along with his many top 40 songs on the car radio.

I remember as I listened to these lyrics, “Time in New England took me away, to long rocky beaches and you by the bay ...”

I thought to myself, “I’ll never be going there! It’s too far away.” God laughed at this provincial 20-something girl from Baltimore.

Indeed, many years, later my spouse and I had the awesome privilege of serving for 20 months in New England, not only by the rocky beaches but also in the mountains, cities, suburbs, and islands of your six wonderful states.

What can we say as we are packing our clothes and books? First and foremost, we offer a word of gratitude:

Mystic Meister Eckardt once said, “If all you said was ‘thank you,’ it would be enough.” In a macro sense, this is so true. When we say “thank you” we are acknowledging with humility our dependence on the giver. We express deep appreciation for the “alabaster jar” of grace expended on one’s behalf, undeserving, full and free.

We say “thank you” to the churches, pastors and laity of the New England Annual Conference for the warm welcome, respect, and abundant love lavished upon us during these short months we have shared together.

You have graciously borne with our Southern, quirky ways, our ignorance about the nuances of New England life, and our many mispronounced words (Leominster, Haverhill, Worcester, Peabody, Bangor, to name a few).

You have received my episcopal leadership with grace and patience.

These things I also know:

This Conference is graced and gifted with many resources and poised for much vital ministry in the future.



Bishop's Office

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Your diversity (geographically, theologically, culturally and linguistically) is a gift and at times, a confluence of rivers that causes waves. Blessedly, these waves often result in deeper conversation and collaboration.

The world is changing rapidly, and this Conference is experiencing the birth pangs of a new way of doing church. We are smaller, more technologically connected, more collaborative, more missional, and more engaged with a hurting humanity.

This Conference has a verve for justice that can position you to take on more formal roles of advocacy in our communities and in the world.

The lay and clergy leaders are talented, feisty and resilient.

I came here because of a clarion call from the Lord to volunteer to be considered for an interim coverage assignment, in the unlikely event one would become available. At the time, in the early fall of 2022, I felt it was as unlikely as it felt when I was singing with Barry Manilow in my car all those years before. In God's providence, it came to be.

I followed a great leader, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, who graciously paved the way for a smooth transition. I have been supported greatly by Cabinet and staff.

My goals included:

- Connecting the connection.
- Strengthening the spiritual atmosphere of the Conference.
- Shining a light on the margins.
- Listening to hearts and yearnings of our churches during these liminal times with personal presence.

I have not achieved it all, and I apologize to those I have hurt or who have suffered from decisions made or not made on your behalf.

It has been an incredible joy to serve here. Your acceptance and love healed my very soul and my spouse's as well.

Mary had open-heart surgery in the early months of our journey in New England. The excellent medical and pastoral care here repaired her heart and saved her life.

As some of you may know, I wear an artificial eye; during my time here I had a replacement eye crafted by a Boston-based ocularist. New England gave me a new eye.

These two health experiences are like object lessons for us. We leave New England with a new heart for justice, inclusion, and healing from the discrimination against trans people. We leave here with a new eye that enables us to see the vast expanse of mission that is possible in the years to come, not just in New England, but throughout the United Methodist Connection.

May God bless you. Know that you will always be in my prayers just as from now on, there will be Bean boots in my closet and Ben and Jerry's ice cream in my freezer.

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

Rich Reynolds (Debi Reynolds' brother), Shirley Pisarski, Judy Hoffman, Grace Woode, Isabella Consolatti (granddaughter of Gail and Ron Liston), Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Beverly Grimshaw, Jim Hoffman, Don Johnson, Charles Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, Sandra O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alysia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Peter Woodcock, Laura Zoldak, Georgia (Stacey & Stewart's daughter), 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),
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Phil and Cheryl Johnson and family on the loss of their sister-in-law Terry Mosso on Sunday, July 28th. Cards can be sent to Phil and Cheryl at 99 AF Putnam Road, Charlton, MA 01507.

Gary Robinson and family on the death of his mother, Marilyn Robinson, on Sunday, July 28th. Cards can be sent to Gary at 93 Paxton Street, Spencer, MA 01524. Her service will be on Thursday, August 26th at 10 am at East Greenwich UMC, 1558 South County Trail, East Greenwich, RI. Her obituary can be found online at Winfield and Sons Funeral Home of North Scituate, RI.

Donna Zwiep Williams and family on the passing of her mom, Marcia Zwiep, on May 6th in Florida.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose Window lighting for August is given in in loving memory of Polly Boyns by Steve Boyns.

The Tower lighting is available for August. If you'd like to sponsor the lighting in memory or celebration of a loved one, please call Debi in the office. The cost of the lighting is \$40.

Announcements

September Herald: *There are always extra copies of the Herald in the Narthex by the Welcome Office.* The September Herald will be part of the September 1st bulletin. Please send all articles to me no later than Monday, August 26th.
Thank you, Debi

From Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

For the month of August, we need nutritious Cold Cereal, Ketchup, Salad Dressing, Mayo, and Mustard please. The number of people we serve continues to grow. At this writing the numbers for July are not complete, however, the total will be over 500 families. Thank You to everyone who continues to donate to Carty.
Thanks, Nancy

Gift Cards Can Prevent Homelessness!

Hope for Housing Fall Dates

Do you buy groceries? Stop by CVS? Grab a coffee at Dunkin, Starbucks or a meal at Panera?

If you do, pay with a gift card instead of cash or credit. Buy your card at Wesley and your purchase will help a family threatened with homelessness actually remain in their home.

Allison Hansen will be selling cards in Brewer Hall after church on the following dates, and will accept orders by email at ACHis4788@aol.com. Please give her advance notice if you want to place a larger order.

August 4 – Gifts cards are great for college students heading back to campus!

August 25

September 22

October 13

November 3

November 17 – Shop for stocking stuffers and plan ahead!

December 8 – Secret Santa? Team gifts? Last chance for larger orders this year.

United Women in Faith Welcomes New Co-Presidents

2024 is a year of transition for Wesley's United Women in Faith unit. After 10 years of service, Allison Hansen has stepped down from her role as co-president, together with Barbara Ingrassia. While Barbara continues her position, joining her this summer are Sandra McManus and Cordelia Ferdinand as new co-presidents.

Please congratulate them on their new leadership roles!

Bake Sale Funds Help Wesley and the Wider World

When you support United Women in Faith with your purchase at one of their semi-annual bake, craft and plant sales, you support mission work both locally and abroad. For example, Wesley's UWF unit supports Wesley Church with gifts to Mission Shares.

Earlier this year, we helped Wesley purchase a new disposal unit for the dishwasher in the pantry. One of our church's goals is to become "**green.**" As Wesley becomes more environmentally conscious, we are all reducing our use of paper and plastic at events and using dishes and silverware more often. That means the church relies on its dishwasher more often, too. The disposal grinds up the food left on plates and helps the dishwasher work more effectively. While it was broken, we used the dishwasher less and paper plates more.

Purchasing the disposal unit is a prime example of how important bake sales are and have been used for a force of good for the various ministries at the Church and UWF community ministries.

We would love for all Wesley church members to participate in the Bake Sales with your talent, time, and contribution of baked goods, plants, or whatever ideas you have that would be a great fundraiser.

The next UWF Bake Sale will be **Sunday, November 24** -- mark your calendar and come prepared to buy great pies, breads, cookies, and other baked treats that will surely make your Thanksgiving meal more special.

Let us **Bake** bread together and give thanks for each other.

With thanks to Judith Barton for this article.

Moving or Have You Moved? Please remember to update the church office if you plan on moving or have moved. 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

FOUND: A men's ring, believed to be a wedding band, was found in the men's room behind the stage the week of July 1st. If you believe this is yours, please reach out to Debi in the office. You will be asked to describe it.
Thank you, Debi

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)

Two More God Moments from Enoh--

In the fall of 2015, I was on my way to work at about 8 am. As I was driving down the hill of Fairhaven St., my brakes failed. The truck I was driving rolled down the hill uncontrollably towards busy West Boylston St. I prayed for the Lord to spare my life and the lives of all the people on West Boylston St. One thought told me to drive into the bank building on my right so that I would be the only one killed. Before I knew it, I had crossed W. Boylston St., with no cars coming from either direction. Unbelievable!! I put the car in Park and called AAA. I was so, so thankful to the Lord for saving my life and the lives of other people.

My choice of radio station has always been 96.1 FM at home and in my car. Last December, the car radio started playing religious songs. I checked and it was 95.5 FM. I left it on, wondering who changed my station. My husband and grandchildren are not into the radio. It has been a great blessing to me for the Lord to have orchestrated this blessing for my good. To God be all the Glory.



Wesley UMC Community Suppers has been selected by the Store Leadership Team at Stop & Shop to benefit from the Bloomin' 4 Good Program. Wesley Church will receive \$1 from every specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of August 2024 at: 545 Lincoln Street, Worcester MA.



This is a great opportunity to bring some beautiful flowers into your home and help support the Community Supper program as well.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each week in our Sunday morning worship services we hear at least one reading from Scripture. You may have heard references to the fact that these readings frequently follow the *lectionary*, which in its broadest definition, refers to “an ordered system of selected readings appointed for liturgical use on specific occasions in the church year.”* Did you know that the concept of the lectionary traces its roots back to the synagogue which also had fixed readings from the Hebrew Scriptures designated for the Jewish festivals, as well as a series of readings for ordinary Sabbaths?

As Christians, our concept of Scripture is broader than that of the Hebrew Bible, and so the designated weekly readings generally include three lessons as well as a psalm. Usually the first lesson is from the Old Testament, the second from an Epistle, and the third is always from a Gospel, with selections chosen to follow the sequence of the Christian Year. There is a three-year cycle of readings whose character varies and is determined largely by the Gospel. We are presently in Year B, in which Mark is the prominent Gospel. (Year A=Matthew, Year C=Luke; the Gospel of John is interspersed throughout all three years, especially during the Easter cycle.) During certain portions of the Liturgical Year, the Old Testament and Epistle readings relate to the themes of the Gospel, and at other times, especially during ordinary time, the readings through the Old Testament and Epistles are semicontinuous.

As we now progress through this portion of the liturgical year sometimes referred to as the weeks after Pentecost, the readings through the Old Testament and Epistles are in fact semicontinuous. In Year B during the summer months the source of the Old Testament readings is 1 and 2 Samuel, and the Epistle readings come from 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, and James.

While the above lessons function as proclamation, the psalm is generally meant to function as a response, usually to the Old Testament lesson. Since the book of Psalms is essentially the worship book and hymnal of the Jews of the Old Testament, many psalms summarize the same history as the Old Testament lesson while at the same time allowing for the expression of human reaction to the images and events. In some traditions the Psalm is sung or read responsively as a prayer of the people. Often verses from the weekly Psalm are incorporated into the Call to Worship in our services.

Our use of the lectionary ensures that we experience stories and teachings of the Bible in a systematic and complete way; it also links us to other denominations that are following the same texts each week.

*Submitted by,
Deborah O’Driscoll*

* *The New Westminster Dictionary of Liturgy and Worship*, J.G.Davies, ed.

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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		Ivy Hammond
Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham	Youth Bible Study	Joseph Fletcher
Director of Children's Ministries	Rhianna Burke	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	William Wong
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane		Peter Hansen
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Financial Secretary	Earl Flagg
Building Consultant	Tim Murphy	Church Auditor	Cynthia Fletcher
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson	Ghanaian Association	Paul Hayfron
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Hospitality Chair	Linda D'Acri
	Gerard Piscitelli	Medical Ministry	Ron Ramsay
Head Usher	David Dagle	Mission Coordinator	Betsy Pennino
Communion Steward	Earl Flagg	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Chris Flagg
Wesley Tech Team	Mark Muncey		Judy Hoffman
Church Council	Brent Drajesk	United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Barbara Ingrassia,
Co-Lay Leaders	Gifty Bentum-Asante		Sandra McManus, Cordelia Ferdinand
	Joseph Fletcher	Music Committee	Debbie O'Driscoll
Board of Trustees	Gary Robinson	Worship Committee	Debbie O'Driscoll