

# Sunday Announcements for December 22, 2024

## Music Notes for today's worship service

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

If you're in Provence on a Christmas eve, you might witness a local tradition: a parade of children on their way to midnight mass, dressed as milkmaids and shepherds, carrying candles and singing the lively, infectious melody, its 3/8 meter, rooted in traditional Provençal dance rhythms; it may have been that era's swing music. The lyrics, Flambeau, Jeanette, Isabella, are by an anonymous lyricist and first appeared in written form in a 1553 book of French Christmas carols. Jeannette and Isabella, are two farmhands who find the Baby Jesus and his mother, Mary, in a stable. Excited by this discovery, they run to a nearby village and many rush to see Mary and the Baby. Visitors to the stable are urged to keep their voices quiet, so the newborn can enjoy his dreams.

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella,  
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!  
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;  
Christ is born and Mary's calling:  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the Mother!  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is Her Son!

Who is that, knocking on the door?  
Who is it, knocking like that?  
Open up, we've arranged on a platter  
Lovely cakes that we have brought here  
Knock! Knock! Open the door for us!  
Knock! Knock! Let's celebrate!

It is wrong when the Child is sleeping,  
It is wrong to talk so loud"  
Silence, all, as you gather around,  
Lest your noise should waken Jesus:  
Hush! Hush! See how fast He slumbers;  
Hush! Hush! See how fast He sleeps!

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

Ruth Wentzell (friend of Elaine Peterson), Sandra O'Driscoll, Melissa Houlihan (friend of Bill Robbins), Alice Douglas, Deborah Plant, Barbara McLaren, Cathy (sister-in-law of David Potts), Rich Reynolds, Grace Woode, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Jim & Judy Hoffman, Don Johnson, Charles Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay, Barbara and the Vietze Family; Peter Woodcock, Laura Zoldak, 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.

Family and friends of Andrew (Andy) Dahl who passed away on November 30<sup>th</sup> at the age of 81. Cards can be sent to his wife Janice Dahl, 257 Monterey Drive, Naples, FL 34119.

## Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

**The Rose Window lighting** for December is given in loving memory of my parents, Henry and Katherine Williams by Susan J. Williams, their daughter.

**The Tower lighting** for December is given in loving memory of Jean and Calvin Williams by Debbie, Gail, and families.

### Announcements

#### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

**AN ALL-CHURCH MEETING – January 19, 2025 following Worship.**

### YEAR END REMINDERS!

As December comes to a close, please remember the following with regard to your 2024 donations:

- In order to post your donation to 2024, checks need to be dated 2024. Any check dated 2025 will be posted to next year.
- All donations for 2024 should be postmarked or received in the office by 12/31/2024. If a check is received in the church offering and it is dated in December, but not put in the offering until January, it will be credited to 2025.
- Once December deposits have gone to the bank and all accounts are reconciled, I will send your statements by the end of January. You will have one week to notify me of any corrections before I begin the statistical report for the New England Conference.

Thank you for your support. Wishing you a happy holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

**Upcoming Vacation...** Debi will be on vacation on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Gently Used/New Coats, Hats & Gloves are Needed**

***Do you have a gently used winter coat that you no longer wear?*** We are collecting gently used or new coats, hats and gloves for the people who come to the monthly Sunday Breakfast. During this season of giving let us help keep our neighbors warm.  
*Thank you, Linda D'Acri*

#### **January 2025 Herald: There are extra copies of the Herald in the Narthex by the Welcome Office.**

The January Herald will be part of the January 5<sup>th</sup> bulletin. The deadline for articles is Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. Since the following week is a very short week, I will not have time for late articles. Thank you for your cooperation.  
*Debi*

## ADVENT GIFT BOXES OR BAGS

For Advent this year at Wesley UMC, you are again invited to create Advent Gifts of small, needed items. These will be given out with the December 28<sup>th</sup> Community Supper, as a gift to our neighbors in need.

Please place items from the list below in a wrapped shoebox. The gift is complete when the shoebox is full (no need to include everything on the list). Please bring your wrapped gift box to Brewer Hall by December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Recommended Items:

- \* Toothbrush & toothpaste
- \* Bar or small bottle of soap
- \* Tissues or Antibacterial wipes
- \* Wash cloth
- \* Socks
- \* Gloves
- \* ChapStick or lip balm
- \* Band-Aids
- \* Pens or pencils
- \* Tablet of paper/small notebook
- \* Cereal bars
- \* Juice boxes or small juice bottle
- \* Single serve applesauce cups (pull-top)
- \* Goldfish or cheese crackers
- \* Dried fruit
- \* Hot cocoa packets
- \* Canned tuna with pull-top
- \* Meal in a can (pull-top)
- \* Dark chocolate

Questions? Please ask Sandra Toffay (stoffay@gmail.com) or Bertha Amoako (berthaamoako79@gmail.com).

*“Christmas... a gladdening of hearts, a renewing of faith, a sharing of love.”*



## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR IHN (IN HOUR OF NEED)

IHN works in partnership with The Faith Community, groups and individual volunteers to provide shelter and assistance to families with children who are experiencing homelessness. They house up to six families, located at 91 June Street in Worcester.

We are looking for volunteers for 2 shifts for the week of January 26<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, Sunday – Saturday, time slots: Evenings 6:30 – 8:30 pm  
Overnights 8:30 pm – 6:30 am (a room is provided for you)

You can sign up in Brewer Hall on the bulletin board under “Mission”. Please provide your name and phone number for contact.

Please contact me for more information or with any questions.

*Gerard Piscitelli (774-253-7362)*

### **From Carty Cupboard Food Pantry...**

In the month of December, we now have an urgent need for canned fruit.

To everyone who continues to support the mission of Carty Cupboard Food Pantry we appreciate your kindness. Thank You & Merry Christmas!

*Nancy*

## Gift Cards Can Prevent Homelessness!

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](mailto:ACHis4788@aol.com). Please give her advance notice if you want to place a larger order.



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

### God Moment from Lorraine Kronberg

A God Moment - - You are my Sunshine

It has been almost four years since I moved to Kingsport, Tennessee. I have found a home here with my daughter Kris and her family. It was not an easy decision to make because I had lived in Worcester for most of my life and attended Wesley for all those years. Music has been something I have enjoyed from a young child. My husband George and I sang in the Wesley Choir for more than 50 years. I have such wonderful, wonderful memories of those years with my dear friend LeRoy Hanson. The other group I miss is the "Sunshine Girls" and our singing at nursing homes and for shut-ins.

My new church is Harvest Community Church where my daughter is an associate pastor. I love everything about Harvest and singing only praise music with our very talented band. But I do miss singing hymns which I have loved since I sang them with my grandmother at St. James Methodist Church in Springfield MA as a child. Once every few months I attend Crossroads Methodist for their traditional service. A few weeks ago, I needed my 'hymn fix' and went to the 9:00 service where two of the hymns we sang were "Precious Lord, take my Hand", and 'The Hymn of Promise'.

After the service a very friendly woman who had played the Prelude of hymns on the piano that morning reached out to me. She asked if I would like to join a singing group that met at the Senior Center every week to sing hymns with others who love to sing. Well, I thought it over and went on Tuesday. I had a wonderful morning and met such lovely people. At the end of the morning Amy announced which nursing home they would be singing at on Thursday. Surprise! They sing at a different nursing home every week. She gave me a binder with over 100 hymns to keep and bring with me.

Thursday morning, I drove to the Holston Nursing Home and joined the other members who were going to sing that day. I was given the list of hymns for the morning. After an opening prayer we stood to sing our first song which was not on the list. It was "You are my Sunshine" which the Sunshine girls always sang at the beginning of their programs. I felt my heart open up and knew that God had brought me to this group to fill a place in my life that had been empty. What a joy! On Tuesday and Thursday mornings I will be singing the hymns and remembering the music and friends I loved at Wesley.

**"We have shared together the blessings of God"**

**Philippians 1:7**