

Sunday Announcements for February 23, 2025

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

Katie Johnson (Phil Johnson's daughter-in-law), Justin Clark (Debi Reynolds' neighbor), Jane Borthwick, Troy (David Potts brother, wife of Cathy), David Patrick (Evette Walters husband), Kathleen Herbert (Evette Walters mom), Giendora Lewis (Evette Walters aunt), Carolyn Bellil, Debbie Plant, Sandra O'Driscoll, Melissa Houlihan (friend of Bill Robbins), Alice Douglas, 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, 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.

Andreas Abbey has lost his Mum. Madam Gifty Naa Karley Odai-Nash passed away in Ghana on Thursday, February 6, 2025. Please remember Andreas and family in your prayers. Cards can be sent to Andreas at 80 Seymour Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

Bob, Melissa, and Brian Bak, Kim and Ed Harmon, Tom Kane, and families on the death of Pamela Bak on February 12. Cards can be sent to Melissa Bak, 31 Plimpton Ave, Sturbridge, MA 01566. Calling hours are at Beers and Story Funeral Home, 646 Newton Street, South Hadley, MA, on Friday, February 21st from 4 to 7 pm. The funeral will be here at Wesley Church on Saturday, February 22nd at 11 am.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings

The 2025 altar flower calendar is now available.

If you'd like to order altar flowers in honor, celebration or memory of a loved one, come to the Welcome Office and sign up in the book. Please take a form to complete and return it to the office with your payment. It's \$80 for both arrangements on the altar (\$40 per arrangement), or a single arrangement for \$50. The single arrangement will be placed on a brass flower stand in the center of the altar. If by chance two people would like flowers on the same day, we will list them both and they will be placed in the same area as usual, on each side of the altar.

If you would like to donate the altar flowers on a given Sunday, you may sign up in the book in the Welcome Office or call me during the week. There is a form in the book as well that will need to be completed and returned to me with the payment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you, Debi Reynolds

Announcements

AN ALL-CHURCH MEETING
today following worship.

Save the Dates:

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Soup & Bread Dinner at 6:00 pm; Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 8, 2025, from 10 am to 2 pm

Spiritual Uplifting Retreat sponsored by United Women in Faith

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Daylight-Saving Time Begins

Sunday, March 16, 2025

You're Invited to a Celebration Luncheon

Confirmation Class will begin on Sunday, March 2nd at 11:40 am in John Wesley. All Parents and Mentors are expected to attend with the student(s) please.

From Carty Cupboard Food Pantry... During the month of February, we need strawberry or grape jelly, and oatmeal in the variety packages please. Thank you to everyone who continues to purchase food for Carty Cupboard, we appreciate your kindness. *Nancy*

Lenten Study: The Grace of Les Misérables

Join us for a Lenten study, The Grace of Les Misérables by Matt Rawle, Abington Press. The study, led by Veronica Winder, will meet in the John Wesley room on Friday mornings March 7 - April 18 from 10 am to 12 pm. Sign up after church in Brewer Hall. Books can be purchased from Amazon. Please contact Veronica (615-424-8960 or via email vmwinder@gmail.com) or Chris Flagg (erf115@msn.com) with any questions.

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. Please give her advance notice if you want to place a larger order.

February 23 ❤️ March 16 - stock up now for Easter baskets!

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

The March Herald will be part of the March 2nd bulletin. The deadline for articles is Monday, February 24th at 11 am. Thank you for your cooperation. *Debi*

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

I want to say Thank You to Nana Aryee, Danielle & Cordelia Ferdinand, Betsy Pennino, Ron Ramsey and Chris Kerns for volunteering their time to sit with the four families that are struggling during this time of homelessness.

IHN, "In Hour of Need", is a Homeless Shelter at 91 June Street, Worcester that ask for volunteers from all different church denominations to sit with families. We all take on different weeks during the year.

This past week, one of the mothers shared with me her gratitude for all of us coming in and spending time playing games with their children and reading books to them. She wanted to thank you all as well.

Thank you all for making a difference to these families.

Blessings, Gerard Piscitelli

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 Kim (a friend of Debi Reynolds)

My daughter-in-law was napping at home with my grandson, almost 3. She woke up to thick smoke in the house, so badly that she could not see anything. They had just received an oil delivery that morning and that morning my son had just shown her where the shut-off valve was. She quickly grabbed my still sleeping grandson and ran downstairs, shut the valve off and ran outside.

Once outside, she saw a police officer talking to the next-door neighbors, porch combined. She noticed the road had already been blocked off and the firemen were there as well. The police officer put my DIL and grandson in the back of his car because she just had shorts on - no coat or shoes. The firemen were able to get their dog and put it in the car with them and found their cat and was able to put it in the dog crate in the home for the time being.

Turns out, there was a fire still within their heater. Thankfully, because of a passerby, it did not spread further. By the time I got there, the front door was open, and they were airing out the house.

She learned that someone had been driving by, saw the smoke from the chimney and thought that it was not your normal chimney smoke, so had called 911.

I truly believe it was a higher power that they were lucky that things happened the way they did and how everything is coming together for them so far. There was another home just days before that did not fare as well. I believe it was destroyed by the fire, no lives lost thankfully. I know they just had their heater serviced about three weeks prior, but I am not sure if their chimney was cleaned.



A SPIRITUAL UPLIFTING RETREAT

Saturday, March 8, 2025

10 am – 2:30 pm

Wesley United Methodist Church

114 main Street, Worcester, MA 01608



Megan McDonough
CEO, Wholebeing Institute

Guest speaker, **Megan McDonough** is author of *Infinity in a Box* and *a Minute for Me*. She will speak on

“Finding Peace in the Midst of Challenge”

Come and join us in a spiritual journey with other women at Wesley UMC! These five stations are included:

1. **Pool of Bethesda** with Susan. A group circle of prayer is a gift with the privilege of praying for one another as we “Wade in the Water.”
2. **“Zen Tangles”** with Janice. Start with a Squiggle or a line and fill it in with different patterns.
3. **Labyrinth** prayer in the Chapel. A self-guided journey seeking a closer walk with God through prayer, meditation and reflection.
4. **Knitting and Crocheting** with Veronica and Beth. Try something new! Learn to knit or crochet. Or check in with our master knitters on a project you’re thinking about.
5. **Love Feast**, “Amazing Grace” with Susan.
Closing Worship

We will be taking time for selfcare through crafts, contemplation and fellowship.

Lunch will be included. We only ask for a donation of a non-perishable item(s) for our food pantry, like peanut butter, hearty serving size soup, canned fruit, etc.

Mark 6:31: Jesus said to his disciples, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest for a while.”

RSVP by Monday, March 3: Cordelia Ph:774-437-9453 or email: puttsghs@msn.com Or

Sandy Ph: 508-847-9225 or email: sandramcmanus1@gmail.com