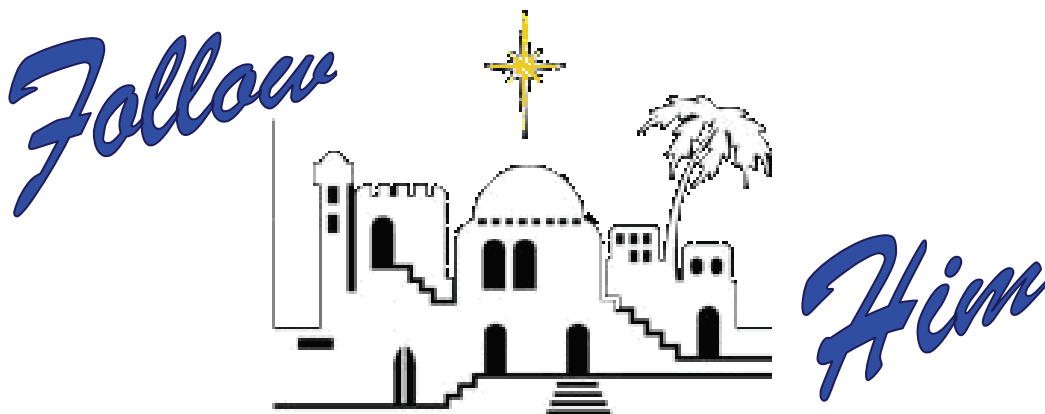


2009 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

At Wesley UMC and Around the Community



2009 ADVENT LECTIONARY READINGS

<u>Liturgical Date</u>	<u>Hebrew Bible Lection</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Epistle Lection</u>	<u>Gospel Lection</u>
First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2009	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalm 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2009	Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2009	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2009	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

ADVENT HYMN STUDY
Led by Deborah O'Driscoll

THURSDAYS: 11-12 PM (Mary Ellis Lounge)
DECEMBER 3, 10 & 17

In this study we will reflect on various themes of Advent using the texts of Advent hymns and the scripture passages on which they are based.

TAIZÉ SUNG PRAYERS

THURSDAYS, 12:15 PM
all things... peace, joy, simplicity and mercy

Come join us for a mid-week Service of Meditation and Music in the Chapel. Songs of the Taizé community will be our source of worship.

COME TO THE MANGER
An Advent Study for Adults
Led by Pastor Shandi

SUNDAYS: 9:30 AM (Mary Ellis Lounge)
November 29, December 6, 13, & 20

This Advent Study will be based on the lectionary readings of the season. In exploring what it means to celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we will focus on some of the biblical figures we don't always focus on during Advent. By embarking on this journey, we hope to "re-think" what it means to be church and faithful christians in this new day and age. Please come and join us!

PRE-CONCERT LUNCHEON
Prepared by the United Methodist Men

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
12:00 PM ~ EAST HALL

Please join us for a light lunch before the Pipes Alive! Concert. A donation of a nominal fee is appreciated.

PIPES ALIVE! CONCERT
BRETT MAGUIRE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
12:30 PM ~ SANCTUARY

Brett Maguire plays excerpts from Olivier Messiaen's La Nativité du Seigneur Olivier Messiaen's La Nativité du Seigneur consists of nine pieces, or meditations, on Biblical themes surrounding the birth of Jesus. Brett will be playing excerpts from this highly atmospheric set as a way to begin the Advent season.

WESLEY RINGERS PLAY AT
LIGHTS OF LOVE SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
6:00 PM

Each year there is a service held at Trinity Lutheran Church to honor the families of those who have needed hospice care. It is a time of quiet reflection in which the Wesley Ringers will again be sharing two musical contributions as they have in years past.

UMW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

All Women are Welcome to Attend

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
6:30 PM ~ BREWER HALL**

Prior to the program, dessert and beverages will be served. Trinity Brass Quartet will perform Christmas music beginning at 7 PM. Refreshments will be provided by the Rebecca Circle. The program is open to all Wesley women.

BOARS HEAD FESTIVAL

Snow Date: December 13, 4:00 pm

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
4:00 PM ~ SANCTUARY**

Usher in the Yuletide and welcome the New Year with this established Worcester Holiday tradition, as the Worcester Children's Chorus, Shrewsbury Ringers, and mummers players join the Master Singers and instrumentalists under the direction of Malcolm Halliday to celebrate in Renaissance period costume the passage of the winter solstice. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended for this popular event, which also features our own Wesley organist Brett Maguire. Tickets: \$25 general admission & \$20 for seniors and students, \$10 for children 16 and under. Call 508-842-1349 for tickets or visit www.mswma.org.

CELEBRATION OF LIVING GIFTS AT OVERLOOK FARM

Heifer International's Overlook Farm

216 Wachusett Street, Rutland, MA

**DECEMBER 12 & 13
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

Come to Heifer International's Celebration of Living Gifts and learn how animals like these can provide food and income for a family in need, take pictures with the animals and buy gifts from around the world in our fair-trade Shop@Heifer. Enjoy hot cocoa and cider, make gingerbread animal cookies and warm yourself by a bonfire. There is no charge for this event, but everyone is asked to bring canned goods to donate to the Worcester County Food Bank. Please call 508-886-2221 for more information.

SILENT NIGHT

"A Time for Reflection and Hope"

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15
7:00 PM ~ SANCTUARY**

Come for a time of quiet reflection, scriptures. Special music will be offered by the Wesley Ringers and others. Fellowship & refreshments will follow in the Formal Parlor.

HANDBELL CONCERT
First Baptist Church, Park Ave., Worcester

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
7:30 PM

The Wesley Ringers will be joining the handbell choirs of First Baptist Church of Worcester and First Baptist Church of Holden for a concert of Christmas music. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear different handbell choirs performing, both separately and then together at the end.

WESLEY'S LIVING NATIVITY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
DURING THE 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for our special children's Christmas message, as our Savior's birth comes to life in the fullness of the scriptures. An experience you won't want to miss as we bring the true meaning back into Christmas! Save the date and invite friends and family! You will also be hearing more of how you can get involved in our Advent mission project to support Heifer International. The children's bell choir, led by Deanna Wong, will offer a special piece.

WORCESTER AREA UNITED METHODISTS GATHER
"CHRISTMAS JOY"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
3:00 PM

Come enjoy this traditional celebration of Christmas through music and fellowship with our sisters and brothers in the Worcester Area United Methodist churches at Covenant/St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 24 Hamilton Street, Worcester. No tickets this year.. Just a special offering.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

FAMILY SERVICE	4:30 PM
PRELUDE BY WESLEY & GHANAIAN CHOIRS	10:30 PM
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	11:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY GHANAIAN SERVICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 ~ 10:30 AM

HOLIDAYS
WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
2:00 PM

West African sounds come to the Museum with a performance by the Ghanaian Choir of Wesley United Methodist Church. Led by Charles Ato Brown, enjoy this group as they perform gospel music and native songs in traditional Kente cloth attire.