

# Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester, MA

## *Sunday Announcements for February 20, 2022*

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

- Tom Friend, whose Aunt Katie died last week.
- Ray Campbell, Debi Reynolds' uncle, in VA rehab in RI with a severe illness and diabetic issues. Pray for comfort and peace for him and her aunt Dianne.
- Clark Jones, a teacher of Beth Duxbury's, battling a severe blood infection and fighting cancer.
- Barbara Vietze, mom of Beth Vietze, recovering from surgery for a broken hip.
- Pamela, Linda Keister's sister, home with 24-hour care. She will need surgery in the future.
- Lorna Regentz, Judy Simoneau's daughter, recovering at home.
- Barbara Fletcher, who continues to heal. Please continue to pray for comfort and healing.
- Charles and Samira Kiefer at Oasis at Dodge Park.
- Paul Keister. Pray for peace for him.
- Bill Kilmer in St. Mary's Health Care Center.
- Bill Wong for strength and comfort.
- Anne Burrows at Sterling Village Rehab.
- David Samanen
- Peter Woodcock
- Ken Hedenburg
- Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

### **Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers**

Beginning in March, I will have the 2022 calendar ready for altar flower dedications. If you are interested in a Sunday in March that you would like to put flowers on the altar in memory or honor/celebration of a loved one, please let me know via email ([office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)) or by calling the office during the week.

*Thank you, Debi*



**Vacation Schedules:** Moo will be on vacation from Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have a pastoral need or emergency, please contact Rev. James Hoffman at [jhoffman24661@yahoo.com](mailto:jhoffman24661@yahoo.com) or at 860-965-2575.

**The Church Office** will be closed on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> in honor of President's Day.

**March Herald** will be sent out March 1. Please have all articles to me by Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you, Debi*

## **Wesley Changes Mask Policies**

As COVID-19 cases decline and public health guidance changes, Wesley is modifying its mask policies. **Wesley continues to require face masks in the Sanctuary during the Sunday worship services. At other times and in other areas of the building, Wesley is changing to a mask optional policy** on Friday, February 18, 2022. Wesley will resume the fellowship hour with refreshments after church on Sunday, February 20. The recent surge has ebbed so much that the combination of improved conditions, high vaccination rates, wider availability of testing, and air filtration at the church provide confidence that this change in mask policies is a prudent step during this transition phase of the pandemic. We look forward to the spring and Easter seasons with hope for the renewal and resurrection of the church. The full announcement is available at <https://www.wesleyworc.org/wesley-changes-mask-policies/>

### ***HURRAY!***

The reentry team, the worship team and the Education Committee have determined that it is safe (with masks and social distancing) to resume the children's time with the Pastor.

Starting on February 6<sup>th</sup> Pastor Moo will be inviting the children to come forward to the altar rail for a brief time together.

We are still working to reopen Sunday School for our elementary school children, we have curriculum and a temporary plan in place for this program but we still need volunteers who are willing to teach.

In the meantime, we will have children's activity bags that will be updated weekly to help children stay busy during worship.

Please consider volunteering, whether it's one Sunday a month or one a quarter, whatever frequency you feel most comfortable with, we need you!

\*All Curriculum and materials will be provided well in advance.

Please speak with Pastor Moo for more information or if you are interested in helping with this ministry. During the time Moo is on vacation, please reach out to Judy Hoffman/Chris Flagg.

**2022 Offering Envelope Update...** I recently heard from the supplier that our order is in line to print. Due to COVID they are still experiencing a paper/envelope shortage.

**Easter Flower** orders are due by February 27<sup>th</sup> due to the needs of the greenhouse. A form is included in this Herald, will be available in the Narthex, and on the website. Please submit your orders as soon as possible.

*Thank you, Debi*

### **Upcoming Bible Study: He Chose the Nails**

The new Bible study began on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is held via Zoom from 6:30 to 8 pm. This is a 5-session video Bible study written by Max Lucado entitled HE CHOSE THE NAILS. It explores the many gifts Christ provided us at his crucifixion.

The class meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. This invitation to join the study is open to all. You will be provided with zoom access. If you are interested, please call Susan Williams at 508-795-7331 or email J. Hoffman at [jhoffman24661@yahoo.com](mailto:jhoffman24661@yahoo.com).

Please join and enrich your Lenten experience.

### **Prevent Homelessness through Grocery Shopping**

The next order date for Hope for Housing cards is by end of day Tuesday, March 8. I will have the cards available on Sunday, March 13 after church, or at another arranged time if you worship remotely. Please email me to submit an order or make pickup arrangements ([AChis4788@aol.com](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com)).

I want to thank everyone who supported this ministry last year. Together, Wesley Church members bought \$20,205 in cards, which helped dozens of families on the verge of homelessness.

Buying groceries or prescriptions, eating a donut or having a meal at Panera, they're all ways to help our neighbors stay in their homes despite a tough economy.

We have cards for Panera (\$10, \$25), Shaw's and Stop & Shop (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100), Big Y (\$25, \$50, \$100), CVS (\$10, \$20, \$50), and Dunkin' Donuts (\$10, \$25).

*Thank you! Allison*

### **Advent Gifts**

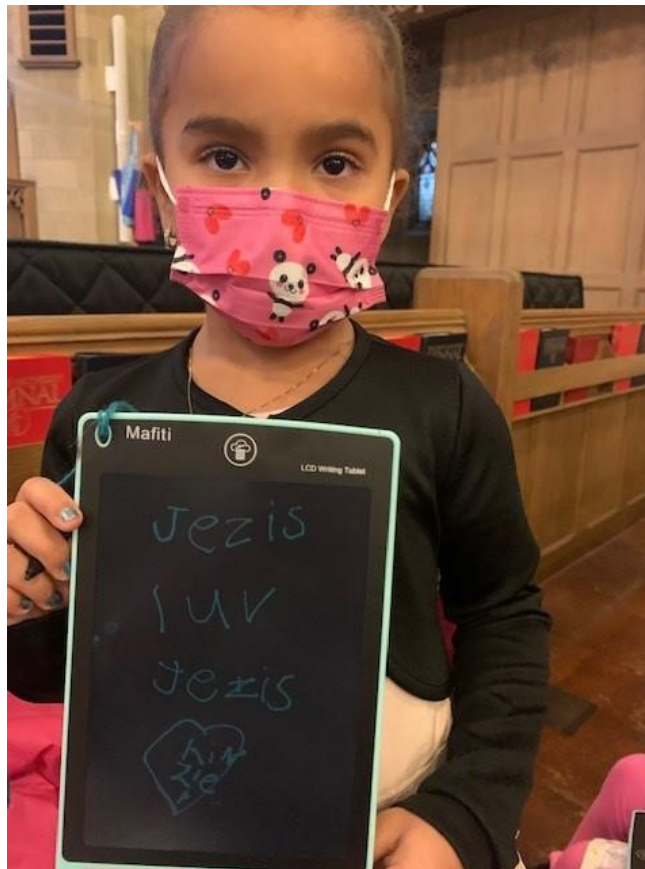
Thanks to everyone who made a shoebox gift of personal care items and healthy snacks. Forty-five gift boxes were created. Beth Duxbury's volunteers made 20 of the gifts. Beth also purchased small backpacks which were especially appreciated by our homeless guests and are now spreading Wesley's name around the city. The plan had been to distribute the gift boxes/bags at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast, but Wesley was closed that Sunday because of Covid. Then Linda D'Acri and her family got approval to hold a Community Breakfast on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

We were disappointed by the number of guests. About 18 of them chose gifts and we had also handed out some near Sally's Place where a free lunch is offered to anyone. All expressed delight at receiving theirs and thanked us more than once. Then an Outreach Worker from StandUp for Kids (SUFK) arrived at the breakfast and told us that the items we had collected are exactly what he needs to give out to people on the street or in overnight shelters such as Grace Hotel. StandUp for Kids works with homeless youth, ages 14 to 24. He was very happy to accept the remaining gifts.

## Sunday Reflection from a 5-year-old...

“Jesus is love, Jesus loves Kinzley”

Sunday, February 13, 2022



## Stop & Shop's "Bloomin 4 Good"

Once again Wesley Church has been selected for Stop and Shop's "Bloomin 4 Good" program!

For the month of February every "Bloomin 4 Good" bouquet sold at the Lincoln Street Stop and Shop store during the month of February, the Community Supper program will receive \$1.00!

Look for the flowers with the sticker on them! What a great way to enjoy some flowers and brighten your home and be able to support the Community Supper program!

