

Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester, MA

Sunday Announcements for March 13, 2022

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

- Lauren Meltzer (16), grand-daughter of Susan Richard, with a heart condition and is unable to attend school.
- Peggy, Maggie Madsen's mom, who was recently diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- Family and friends of Enid Holmberg who passed away on Monday, February 28th. A graveside service will be held at 10 AM on Tuesday, March 15 in Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton.
- Paul Hayfron and the entire family in your prayers. Paul's sister, Grace Hayfron passed away on February 28 after a short illness. Condolences may be sent to at 173 Eastern Ave, #1, Worcester, MA 01605. Details about services will be shared when they are available.
- Newborn Eyad Saad, who's parents are friends of Jim & Judy Hoffman's.
- Baby Casey Webber (7 months old), who is very ill. He was born with a rare genetic disease and recently underwent a double-lung transplant. Please pray for his parents Molly Hammond Webber and Taylor, big brother Jack, and his grandparents Lynne and Philip Hammond during this difficult time.
- Donald Tremblay, who has been going through health problems.
- Clark Jones, a teacher of Beth Duxbury's, battling a severe blood infection and fighting cancer.
- Barbara Vietze, mom of Beth Vietze
- Pamela, Linda Keister's sister, home with 24-hour care.
- Barbara Fletcher, who continues to heal.
- Charles and Samira Kiefer at Oasis at Dodge Park.
- Paul Keister. Pray for peace for him.
- Bill Kilmer
- Bill Wong
- Dorothy Norcross
- Anne Burrows
- David Samanen
- Peter Woodcock
- Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting this month is given in loving memory of Dr. C. James Brenneman by his daughter Betsey.

The Rose Window lighting this month is given in loving memory of Heik P. & Irene B. Garabedian, Robert Demers, and my grandson, Jason Sullivan by Shirley and family.

I will have the 2022 calendar ready for altar flower dedications this week. 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) or by calling the office during the week.

Thank you, Debi

A Message from SPRC

It is with great pleasure that the Staff Parish Relations Committee welcomes Cordelia Ferdinand as the interim **Director of Children's Ministries**.

We look forward to working together with Cordelia to ensure that all children at Wesley have the opportunity to participate fully in the life of the church through worship, study, music, art, mission and service.

Support Ukraine through gifts to UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief arm of Global Ministries, is taking part in the humanitarian response for Ukraine. Support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift to **Advance #982450**. [UMCOR: how to assist the Ukrainian people](#)

Note about UMCOR disaster relief: Rather than assigning special numbers to be used for giving to support specific disasters, UMCOR has changed to using only 2 numbers for disaster relief efforts: one for disasters in the US (Advance #901670) and one for international disasters (Advance #982450). 100% of giving to these funds goes toward relief projects. Your offerings on UMCOR Sunday, March 27 this year, underwrite UMCOR's cost of doing business. [See more on UMCOR Sunday here](#).

Herald Update...

March Herald... It has been recently decided that there will not be a March Herald. Any articles will be placed in the Sunday Announcements for the month. Please have all articles to me by Wednesday afternoons at 12 noon for the Sunday announcements.

The April Herald will be sent out on April 1st. Please have all articles to me by Monday, March 21st.

Going forward, the herald will be sent out on the first of the month. The deadline date will remain the 21st of each month, giving me time to put the Herald together.

Thank you, Debi

2022 Offering Envelope Update... I reached out to the supplier again, and she is hopeful that we will have our envelopes by early April.

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).

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

Education update

Weekly In-person Sunday school for grades K-6 will resumed on Sunday, March 6th!

All children and youth should come into the sanctuary at the start of Sunday services and plan to leave together for Sunday school with Cordelia Ferdinand after the Conversation with the Pastor.

Please note: children will be returned to the sanctuary during the closing hymn.

IHN Giveaways to Announce their New Name and Variety Show/Fund Raiser

As you leave the sanctuary on Sunday, help yourself to IHN pens, refrigerator magnets and invitations to their Virtual Variety Show on Thursday, March 24 at 7 pm. They had to change their name but were able to keep the IHN abbreviation-- In the Hour of Need Family Shelter.

Small Gift for Shelters

Sarah Circle will again be collecting useful or edible items for Worcester shelters. On Sundays in Lent through April 10th, you're invited to leave any of the following in the purple bag you'll find in the church pantry:

- Soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, toothpaste, lotion, deodorant
- First Aid supplies, sunscreen, Chapstick
- Chocolate, dried fruit, cereal bars, small bags of cookies or crackers, or other snacks which have some food value
- Packets of hot chocolate, small juice containers
- Socks, hats, washcloths, pens, Post-its, Scotch tape
- whatever else you think a person at a shelter would appreciate

The items will be delivered to shelters on Easter weekend.

Questions? Contact Betsy Pennino (betspenn35@hotmail.com).

Donate "Gently Used" Children's Books?

Many more children are sitting for hours at the Central Mass. Housing Alliance office, now that homelessness in Worcester increased 30% in one year. Sarah Circle has heard about how much your donated books have been appreciated at the housing office. Some are taken to shelters where their clients live. Please give any books you have to Betsy Pennino or another member of Sarah Circle.

You're Invited!!!

Worcester United in Assisting Afghan Families!

The United Methodist Women's group is delighted to announce that their meeting on Saturday, March 12, will feature a panel presentation on the assistance provided to Afghan families now arriving in our city. Four speakers will discuss ways in which their organizations are addressing their needs.

Ms. Karen Rucks-Walker will represent Ascentria, our Worcester neighbor which has been especially active in making refugees feel at home. Next our own Chris Flagg will describe the efforts of the Rebecca Circle and other UMW members in offering winter clothing to those newly arriving. Three houses of worship, the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Holden, the Beth Israel Synagogue, and the Universalist Unitarian Churches in Worcester joined to give help through a Neighborhood Support Team. Diane Mann will represent the NST, locally called "Allyship"--combining "ally" and "friendship." The Muslim community is giving personal assistance to new Afghan families by providing dinners, accommodations, friendship, and ESL classes. A representative from the Worcester Islamic Center will detail these efforts.

On March 12 the United Methodist Women will conduct a business meeting in Brewer Hall at noon. The program will begin promptly at 1 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The presentation is open to everyone, both in-person and via Zoom. More Afghan families continue to arrive at our doorsteps. Let us spread the word so that others may become aware of the opportunities to provide help to those in need!

Monday Night Eye Clinic

The Monday night eye program has reopened. We are seeing patients on two Monday nights per month and our hours are 6PM to 8PM. There have been some changes in our process due to COVID. Appointments are recommended, only patients may come in (exceptions for translators and necessary support people), masks are required as well as social distancing. We are offering exams and the same optical services as offered in the past.

As with any situation that is suspended and then restarted, we are now looking for some people to help with several parts of the program. registration. and assisting with patient flow. If helping people in our community with their vision needs sounds interesting to you, please contact me at the number below to discuss the possibilities.

Ron Ramsay (774-287-9002)

Have you experienced a "God Moment"?

This is a suggestion from the Tuesday Bible Study/Book Group started by Jim Hoffman 3 years ago. Susan Williams, leader of the new study, asked, "Where have you experienced God working in your life?" Another way of saying that is, "Have you experienced a God Moment?" Often God Moments are remarkable coincidences which seem to be God's encouraging us.

I thought it would be inspiring to hear from the congregation stories of seeing God at work in our midst. These could be anonymous or signed in the Herald. If someone wanted to tell a story but not write it down, I could be the listener who tries to capture the God Moment in writing.

In a time when Covid is separating us, sharing God Moments could bring the congregation together. Sharing God Moments would perhaps allow others to perceive similar experiences in their lives. If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or send it to me (betspenn35@hotmail.com). All are invited to participate. Betsy Pennino



A "God Moment"

Susan Williams shares this story--

Several years ago, she arrived early at Wesley to help prepare refreshments for a collation. She saw a bus schedule on a kitchen counter and picked it up because it was different from the bus schedules she had. Her friend Carolyn asked if Susan could do a favor after the collation. The favor was to pick up a bus schedule in a Main St. store with no parking. What a surprise for Susan to realize that the bus schedule Carolyn needed was the very one she had picked up earlier!