

# THE WESLEY HERALD

December 2021

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*Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:28-32)*

Whenever I read this prayer of Simeon, it keeps me in silent meditation. It invites me to imagine his lifelong waiting and final joy. This passage always deeply moves me. It teaches and reminds the meaning of Advent.

Now we are in the Season of Advent. For many people, the Season of Advent and Christmas is a time for shopping madness and family gathering. As we know, however, buying more things and consuming more things are not the meaning of this Holy Season. This is the time of preparation for the coming of Christ, our Lord.

To respond to this coming Christ means to invite Jesus to live in our life. It means opening the door and inviting our Christ Jesus in. God promised that for those who accept Jesus, they will be called daughters and sons of God. They become a part of God's family. When we meet Jesus, there should be changes in our course of life. Transformation! This is the time to renew our encountering with Jesus Christ, the Lord of our life!

A man was giving his testimony at one of old Salvation Army open-air street meetings. As he was testifying, a heckler in the crowd yelled. "Why don't you shut up and sit down? You are just dreaming." Immediately that heckler felt a tug on his coat. He looked down and found a little girl, who said, "Sir, may I speak to you? That man is my daddy. Daddy used to be a drunkard. He used to spend all of the money he made on whiskey. My mom was very sad and would cry most of the time. Sometimes when my daddy would come home, he would hit my mom. I didn't have shoes or a dress to wear to school. But look at my shoes and this pretty dress. My daddy bought these for me." But the little girl wasn't through with the heckler yet. "See my mom over there. She is the one with the bright smile on her face. She sings even when she is doing the ironing." Then the little girl said, "Sir, if my daddy is dreaming, please don't wake him up."

What will we do in this Season of Advent and Christmas? Will we simply go with shopping and social gatherings that most of us missed last year, immersing ourselves in the parties without Jesus and come away unaffected? Or will we stay awake and make an effort to meet Jesus and to be transformed? **The choice we make will determine whether we have a Merry Christmas without or with Jesus.**

I wish we can pray and praise together in this Christmas: Thank you Lord for coming into the world, for living and dying in our place, and for giving eternal life for us. Today we give our hearts. No longer we will refuse by saying, "No, we have no room for you." We humbly invite you to be born within us, and live in our life throughout our days. Now we rejoice and born again because of your love and grace. Amen.

*Grace & Peace, Moo*

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

- Betty Osborn and family on the death of her husband, Richard, back in May.
- Betty Osborn recovering with pneumonia at home after a hospital stay.
- The Bombard family (family friend of Debi Reynolds) on the death of their husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather... Jimmy.
- Pamela, Linda Keister's sister, having surgery on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Lorna Regentz, Judy Simoneau's daughter, recovering in an after-care facility and is doing pretty good. She still has a way to go before she can be home on her own.
- Polly Boyns with health issues.
- Bill Wong for strength and comfort.
- Jaidyn, grandson of Linda & Lou D'Acri, recently diagnosed with Epilepsy.
- Ernie Benoit, for his health and for his wife Arline.
- Anne Burrows at Sterling Village Rehab.
- Bill Kilmer in St. Mary's Health Care Center. Please call a few days in advance to schedule a visit.
- Paul Keister. Pray for peace for him.
- Phil Johnson for continued healing
- Peter Woodcock
- David Samanen
- Ken Hedenburg
- Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.
- St. Vincent Nurses on strike

### Thank you, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

✝ Thank you to our Wesley family for your cards, calls, support, and your attendance at Bruce's celebration of life.  
*Judy Nichols and Kris Jackson*

### Tower Window Lighting

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

The Rose Window lighting for December is available for dedication. If you are interested in this, please contact [Debi](#) in the office. The cost of the lighting is \$40 for the month.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

|                       |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, December 4  | UMW Christmas Meeting, 12 pm, bring a lunch                                                                              |
| Sunday, December 12   | Advent Service of Lessons & Carols                                                                                       |
| Thursday, December 16 | Silent Night Service, 7 pm, Online Zoom Service                                                                          |
| Saturday, December 24 | Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 pm                                                                                           |
| Sunday, December 26   | Sunday Worship, 10 am, Online Zoom Only<br>We will share the New England Conference Service<br>with the Bishop's Message |



**Christmas Wreath Dedications...** There are 6 wreaths available for dedication this holiday season. The cost of each wreath is \$15 each. If you'd like to dedicate a wreath in memory of a loved one or in celebration of someone, please reach out to me by email ([office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)) or call the office and leave your name and number and I will return your call.

Thank you, Debi Reynolds

### Volunteers Needed for Poinsettia Delivery

Now that the Poinsettia's are ordered, it's time to find some volunteers to help deliver the plants to shut-ins after church on Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have some time and can deliver one or two plants, please email me ([office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)) or call me in the office at 508-799-4191, ext 102.

### Coffee Hour

Now that we are joining together for in person worship, we have recently resumed coffee hour. Many are enjoying a beverage and donuts as we fellowship socially distanced.

Please consider volunteering to set up, serve and clean up on a frequency that works for you. Please contact Judy Hoffman at 860-965-2573 or email her at [jhoffman24661@yahoo.com](mailto:jhoffman24661@yahoo.com). She will assist you as needed.

Thanking you in advance for helping keep this program going for our congregation.

### Prevent Homelessness through Grocery Shopping

Think ahead for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers! Large card orders are due to me by November 30<sup>th</sup>, otherwise orders are due by the end of the day, December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> you can pick them up. We have cards for Shaw's and Stop & Shop (\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100), Big Y (\$25, \$50, \$100), CVS (\$10, \$20, \$50), Dunkin' Donuts (\$10, \$25) and Panera (\$10, \$25).  
*Thank you, Allison Hansen (achis4788@aol.com)*

## YEAR END REMINDERS!

As December comes to a close, please remember the following with regard to your 2021 donations:

- In order to post your donation to 2021, checks need to be dated 2021. Any check dated 2022 will be posted to next year.
- All donations for 2021 should be postmarked or received in the office by 12/31/2021. 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 2022.
- Once December deposits have gone to the bank and all accounts are reconciled, I will send your statements no later than the third week 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.

Tim Carty



## Carty Cupboard... Thank You!!!

Thank You to Chris Flagg and Donna Hirtle and their team of volunteers for their work on this year's turkey distribution. Through their efforts and your donations of the requested items and money we were able to give 77 families a Thanksgiving box.

Thank You to Nancy Cook and Cindy Baker for continuing to donate huge amounts of food, and to the people of Epworth, Trinity, and United Congregational for continuing to donate very generously all year long. I am in awe at the amount of food these folks donate, helping our food pantry stay fully stocked.

Thank You to ALL the volunteers who make Carty Cupboard happen on a weekly basis. Louie and Beth, Donna, Annie, Susan, Edith, Peggy, Mark, Harry, and Moo make distribution happen smoothly. Behind the scenes Bill, JoAnn and Rick, and Bill keep the bags packed and the cardboard broken down and taken away. The volunteers of Carty Cupboard have continued to go above and beyond during the uncertain times of the pandemic to help the clients in need. I am truly blessed to know and work with these dedicated people. Thank You one and all!!!

*Nancy Spencer*



Wesley United Methodist Women  
Cordially Invites You to Our

**In-PERSON Christmas Party!**

Saturday, December 4

Noon – 2 p.m.

with speaker Maria Ravelli of the WooFridge program

Dress is festive!

~ Please bring a bag lunch ~

*Masks required*

Wesley United Methodist Church  
114, Main Street, Worcester, MA

**Please R.S.V.P. by December 2**  
to Allison Hansen at [ACHis4788@aol.com](mailto:ACHis4788@aol.com)

**Advent Wreaths & Devotionals**

This year we gave out 30 Advent Wreaths, 42 Children’s Devotionals, and 28 Adult Devotionals.

All the wreaths are gone.

If you would like a devotional for either children, teens, or adults, please reach out to Nan Gibbons.



**The Christmas Tree in Brewer Hall**

is given by Solomon and Henrietta Aryee in thanksgiving of their newborn daughter, Suomo, baptism.



## A Message from William Ness, the Music Director

Many of us first think of the music associated with Christmas at this time of the year. If you do any shopping in department stores you are bound to hear standard familiar carols over and over most of which you can sing theoretically in your mind, so you do know them. The church brings about Christmas through the season of Advent which encompasses four Sundays leading to Christmas to prepare us for the arrival of Christmas. It is a time when we experience the waiting of the Messiah as described in the Hebrew scriptures through the prophets. Christ was in the plan from the beginning but people on earth were still surprised at his appearance.

On December 12, the third Sunday in Advent, is when you will experience prophecies of Christ in the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols through the reading of Hebrew scripture and in music from a chorus from *Messiah* to Vivaldi's *Gloria* first movement. In between those works will be a setting of the text of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel by Elaine Hagenberg entitled, *O Come, Emmanuel*. This anthem has cello and piano accompaniment. *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* by Charles Wesley is another anthem set to music by Hal Hopson for choir, string quartet and flute. This work was commissioned by the Center for Sacred Music at Virginia Wesleyan College in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the 1707 birth of Charles Wesley. The last new work we will sing is by Karen Marroli based on Isaiah 65:17-25 scripture entitled *Great Creator*. This anthem is accompanied by string quartet and written for the Chancel choir of First UMC of Trussville, Alabama. Considering all these musical connections this will truly be a United Methodist musical celebration of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Both choir our Ghanaian and Wesley choirs will participate in this celebration, and I hope you will too. Our string players will present two quartets on familiar tunes and the flutist will play two advent hymns arranged for flute and organ in the Prelude and one flute solo in the service.

This is a service to be cherished for its rich musical inspiration to illuminate the wonderful scriptures detailing Christ's first and second coming. Ending the service will be everyone singing Charles Wesley's wonderful hymn *Lo, He comes with clouds Descending*.

Blessings to you this Advent season!

William Ness  
Director of Music

## 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 a January Community Breakfast which would probably be a packaged take-out meal. In 2019 you created 98 Advent Gifts so we gave some to a shelter and that could happen again. Please place items from the list below in a shoebox (or Wesley UMC plastic bag, if we're able to supply them) with a Christmas card. Then bring to Brewer Hall your wrapped gift box (or bag with tissue paper) by Dec. 19th.

We have shortened the list below to include only the most needed gifts which are easily recognizable to folks from other cultures. Also, we found that the cans of fruits & vegetables were too heavy for homeless people and single serve cups were more usable. We think that reusable bags are helpful to homeless folks, while shoeboxes work for others. Please use shoeboxes (not boot boxes) and the gift is complete when the shoebox is full (no need to include all on the list). *Also add a plastic spoon & knife* which a homeless person would need.

### Recommended Items:

- \*Toothbrush & toothpaste
- \*Bar or small bottle of soap
- \*Tissues, 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? Ask Betsy Pennino ([betspenn35@hotmail.com](mailto:betspenn35@hotmail.com)).

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

## Volunteers Needed

Rebecca Circle will be coordinating a winter gear shop at Wesley that will benefit the Afghan refugees who are beginning to arrive in Worcester, and we need your help! – in 2 ways.

1<sup>st</sup> We need material help. We will be looking for donations of new or excellent condition, clean winter coats, new hats, new mittens/gloves, and warm scarves. These can be brought in on Sunday mornings and left in the large box labeled COAT PROJECT that will be on a table outside the office, in Brewer Hall.

We also need strong hangers and, if anyone has a clothing rack they aren't currently using, we could definitely use a few more of those as well.

2<sup>nd</sup> We need physical help in multiple ways in the shop...

- ◆ We anticipate opening the shop 2 times per week, one weekday and one weekend day (both to be determined). We anticipate opening for 2-3 hours each of the days.
- ◆ We need at least 2 volunteers for each day that we open (may be 2-3 hours or could be shared time).
- ◆ We need at least 1-2 volunteers to come in and sort each week.
- ◆ We need people willing to wash donated merchandise that qualifies as good but may not be clean.
- ◆ We need someone willing to take whatever is not usable to another donation sight weekly.
- ◆ We need someone to be a greeter each day we are open.

Please keep in mind... while this may be labeled a Rebecca circle project, it will succeed only if we all work together.

One last thing... The families are already arriving in Worcester, so the project needs to move fast. We have already begun to move merchandise in this week and plan to begin sorting next Sunday after church. With that thought in mind, I would sincerely appreciate as speedy a response as possible from anyone who may feel they can help in any way.

To God be the Glory,

Chris Flagg  
508-414-1696



### **M.L. King Book Drive for Worcester 2nd and 3rd graders**

Worcester Area Mission Society (WAMS), the United Way of Central MA, and others are inviting you to give books to 2nd and 3rd graders in Worcester Public Schools. The goal of the book drive is to give age-appropriate books to young children who may not have access to many books at home. I think we all know the value of books in expanding horizons and increasing the language skills of reading, speaking and writing.

There is a suggested book list available on the [WamsWorks](http://WamsWorks) website, which includes books about Dr. King and other wonderful books by authors who are people of color. I've listed a few books below for those of you who cannot access the website. These are just suggestions, of course, and you may have your own favorites. Additionally, some of these books may be easier to find than others. Two independent bookstores are cooperating with us on this project by making as many titles as they can, available for purchase:

- ❖ Tidepool Bookshop <https://www.tidepoolbookshop.com/>, which is offering a 10% discount on all books for the drive;
- ❖ Root and Press <https://rootandpress.com/>, which will donate a third book if you buy two.

A few books suggested list from the website:

#### Preschool:

- I am Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Brad Meltzer
- The Story of Martin Luther King Jr.** by Johnny Ray Moore
- My Uncle Martin's Big Heart** by Angela Farris Watkins
- My First Biography: Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Marion Dane Bauer
- A Sweet Smell of Roses** by Angela Johnson

#### Elementary School

- Be a King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You** by Carole Boston Weatherford
- The Story of Martin Luther King Jr.** by Christine Platt
- Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** by Doreen Rappaport
- I Have a Dream** by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech That Inspired a Nation** by Barry Wittenstein
- Martin's Dream** by Jane Kurtz
- The March on Washington (American Girl: Real Stories From My Time)** by Bonnie Bader

There is also a small sampling of the books included in The Conscious Kid website: <https://www.theconsciouskid.org/book-lists>. These titles seek to affirm the identity of Black, Indigenous and People of Color through stories that support inclusion, respect and belonging.

Please consider purchasing a book at one of these stores, if you can, either by visiting the store or calling in your order. Once purchased, the books will be set aside for WAMS to pick up. Alternatively, WAMS would be happy to do your shopping for you with your donation. There are two ways to make a cash donation: through the [WamsWorks](http://WamsWorks) website or by mailing a check payable to: Worcester Area Mission Society, 6 Institute Rd., Worcester, MA 01609. Please note "books" on the check.

Also, on the WAMS website is a recording of the one-hour forum which WAMS hosted on November 10<sup>th</sup> with folks from Ascentria Care Alliance, Welcome MA and the Southern NE Conference of the UCC. The webinar and the slides are full of practical information on how you can get started in supporting Afghan refugees.

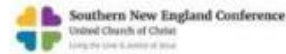


*"For I was a stranger*

*and you*

*welcomed me."*

*- Mathew 25:35*



## Job Opportunity...

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We are a family-owned small business located at 315 Park Ave, Worcester. [www.roccothetailor.com](http://www.roccothetailor.com)

Interested candidates may contact me directly at 508-207-8602.

Antonio Froio  
Rocco's Gentlemen's Clothing  
315 Park Ave  
Worcester, MA 01609  
Work: 508-752-6892

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## Did You Know

One of the cherished musical aspects of our worship as we approach Christmas is the opportunity to sing carols. Although we most commonly associate the singing of carols with the Christmas season, there are also carols for other seasons of the liturgical year, including Advent, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. It is speculated that one reason that there are so many Christmas carols is that they were used at feasts and banquets that accompanied the festive celebration of the twelve days of Christmas. Did you ever wonder why we refer to these songs of the season as carols rather than as hymns, which is the term we use for most of the congregational song in worship?

Carols as a musical genre first originated in England in the Middle Ages as a round or line dance with musical accompaniment. Eventually the term was used for songs with English or Latin texts related to Mary or some aspect of Christmas. Many carol texts are macaronic i.e. a mixture of two languages, usually Latin and a vernacular language. (An example of a macaronic text would be “Angels We Have Heard on High” with stanzas in English and a Latin refrain *Gloria in excelsis Deo*.) The content of medieval carols was narrative, dramatic or lyrical and was intended to inspire ordinary Christians. Two additional characteristics are that they consisted of two parts, stanza and refrain, and they grew out of dance movement. They may originally have been used in various processions. Carols also may have been sung at church doors before and after the liturgy. The typical performance would involve the people’s standing as the leader sang the verses, and then all would join in both dancing and singing on the refrain. Eventually, through repetition, the carols became familiar enough that all participants could join in singing stanzas as well as refrain.

The use of carols declined during the Reformation, but there was renewed interest in the late 19th century, with an expansion of the definition. Carol singing in churches as part of worship services did not arise until the late 19th century.

We presently use a more broad definition, which encompasses similar songs even if not of English origin, but which generally retain the characteristics of being strophic (having multiple stanzas), often traditional, and with texts related to Christmas. Whatever their form, these songs certainly enhance our worship experience, especially during the Advent/Christmas season.

*Submitted by,  
Deborah O’Driscoll*

  
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**WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor<br>Organist & Choir Director<br>Ghanaian Choirmaster<br>Director of Children,<br>Youth & Family Ministries<br>Music Assistant & Layleader<br>Church Business Administrator<br>& Financial Secretary<br>Church Secretary<br>Building Superintendent<br>Custodians<br><br>Sunday Security<br>Head Usher | Rev. Byungmoo Lee<br>William Ness<br>Desmond Cheetham<br>Nan Gibbons<br><br>Deborah O’Driscoll<br>Tim Carty<br><br>Debi Reynolds<br>Tim Murphy<br>April Dylewicz<br>Tom Friend<br>Gerard Piscitelli<br>Phil Johnson<br>David Dagle | Church Council<br>Board of Trustees<br>Carty Cupboard Food Pantry<br>Communion Stewards<br><br>Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs<br><br>Ghanaian Association<br>Hospitality Co-Chairs<br>Medical Ministry<br>Mission Coordinator<br>Staff-Parish Relations<br>Youth Directors<br>United Methodist Women Co-Chairs | Anthony Phillips<br>Gary Robinson<br>Nancy Spencer<br>Rebecca Copeland<br>Linda D’Acri<br>William Wong<br>Peter Hansen<br>Paul Hayfron<br>Vivian Assie<br>Ron Ramsay<br>Betsy Pennino<br>Tom Ingrassia<br>Anthony & Adrienne Phillips<br>Barbara Ingrassia<br>Allison Hansen |
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