

# Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester, MA

## *Sunday Announcements for January 9, 2022*

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

- David Samanen celebrating his 49<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Cards can be sent to Dave at Hancock Hall Rehab Center, Room 123, 31 Staple Street, Danbury, CT 06810.
- All those who are sick during this time.
- Deborah Surette, James Ventura, Bob Ventura (nephew) and other family and friends on the death of their brother and uncle, Thomas Ventura, who passed away on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Charles and Samira Kiefer now at the Oasis at Dodge Park, 102 Randolph Road, Worcester, MA 01606. (There is no room number. If sending cards, please put "Attn: Dr. Charles & Samira Kiefer")
- Barbara Vietze, mom of Beth Vietze, recovering from surgery for a broken.
- Lorna Mattus-Merrill, at home after a brief hospital stay, recovering from pneumonia.
- Steve & Polly Boyns recovering from COVID.
- Pamela, Linda Keister's sister, readmitted to the hospital for additional wound treatment on Tuesday and is facing another surgery.
- Lorna Regentz, Judy Simoneau's daughter, now recovering at home.
- Barbara Fletcher, who fell in October and is still recovering from a broken arm and other injuries. Please pray for comfort and healing.
- Paul Keister. Pray for peace for him. Visits are not allowed at this time.
- Bill Kilmer in St. Mary's Health Care Center. Please call to schedule a visit.
- Bill Wong for strength and comfort.
- Ernie Benoit, for his health and for his wife Arline.
- Anne Burrows at Sterling Village Rehab.
- Betty Osborn
- Henry Rand
- Peter Woodcock
- Ken Hedenburg
- Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

### **Tower & Rose Window Lightings**

The Tower lighting for January is given in loving memory of my mother and father, Mary & Norman Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher, by Barbara Fletcher.

The Rose Window lighting for January is given in loving memory of Mrs. William B. Smith by the United Methodist Women.

**January Herald...** The next Herald will be sent out on January 17<sup>th</sup>. All articles should be to me by Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank you, Debi*

**2021 Annual Reports** are due by January 24<sup>th</sup>. You may email ([office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)) your report to me or drop off a printed report to the office.

*Thank you, Debi*

### **Welcome to a New YEAR!**

A new Bible study will begin on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8pm via Zoom. 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.

### **Shoebox Gifts are still Welcome**

If you almost completed an Advent Gift Box, you can still donate it. Since 2022 is upon us, please wrap the gift in something other than Christmas paper. Another option is to put the items in a small backpack. To get backpacks, tell Betsy Pennino ([betspenn35@hotmail.com](mailto:betspenn35@hotmail.com)) that you want to pick them up on a Sunday morning.

Since the first takeout community meal was scheduled for breakfast on January 2, the plan was to give out the Advent Gift Boxes then. You'll recall that the January 2<sup>nd</sup> service was via zoom only, so we'll give out the gifts during the next community takeout breakfast on February 6. We will also be donating some before then to groups working with homeless people.

*Thank you to all who gave the 42 gift boxes we have received!*

### **Wesley's IHN Week is Sunday, January 30 to Saturday, February 5**

Please let Betsy Pennino know if you can provide coverage for the evening shift (5:30 to 8:30 pm) or the overnight (8:30 pm to 6:30 am). If you would like an explanation of how to do either shift, please email Betsy ([betspenn35@hotmail.com](mailto:betspenn35@hotmail.com)). IHN had to choose a new name and managed to keep the IHN abbreviation with "In the Hour of Need Family Shelter."

The Mission Committee will give (Big Y) Hope for Housing cards to pay for food and housing staples during Wesley's Jan. 30 to Feb. 5 week. Your donating Big Y cards would save money to give to another mission.

## **Prevent Homelessness through Grocery Shopping**

We are working hard to prevent many families from becoming homeless, as more people face eviction either due to the pandemic, or because rents keep going up, we are seeing many seniors, families and low-wage earners struggling even more. Central Mass. Housing Alliance makes bulk purchases of gift cards at a discount, and the difference from their face value goes into a fund to cover back rent or utility bills.

Please email your gift card orders for January to Allison Hansen at [AChis4788@aol.com](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com) by Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Cards can be picked up on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> after church or at a pre-arranged time if you worship remotely. Please email me to make arrangements.

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*

## **Afghan Coat Project Still Needs Your Help!**

The Afghan Coat Project is coming along nicely, and we have been distributing winter gear to several of the folks that have arrived in Worcester.

We continue to need coats of all sizes, however, we find the following items we are lacking...

Children's coats (not toddlers)

Men's Medium & Large coats

Women's footwear (no heels) sizes 7, 8 or 9

Warm gloves for men and women

Children's hats and gloves

At this time, we do not need hangers.

Lastly, we need volunteers who can commit to being at Wesley for 2-3 hours on Saturday mornings to receive community donations. If we get enough volunteers, we can split the time, so the same person is not always here. We would like to add the Coat Project to the WARM website (Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministry [www.warmwelcoming.org](http://www.warmwelcoming.org)) but we need to be able to state a regular drop off time. If you would like to help with this, please let me know ASAP. Thank you for your continued support with this Wesley community mission.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation to help us purchase what we need, checks can be made out to Wesley Church, with 'Coat Project' in the memo field.

Rebecca Circle and I would like to thank everyone who has reached out to help us!

*Chris Flagg (508-414-1696)*

## **Nanny Needed...**

We are looking for a Nanny to help with our 3 children on Massachusetts Ave, Worcester. The hours would be Monday - Friday from 8 am - 4pm. Pay is \$800 per week. The children are 5, 2 and 10 months, but the older one is in school Monday - Friday. If you are interested, please contact Douglas Pendleton at 978-340-5614.

## **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. 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.

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.