

THE WESLEY HERALD

May 2022

Dear Wesley family,

Easter has come and gone! What has changed in our life because of Easter? Where is the Risen Christ now? How and where are we living resurrection life? The season after Easter Sunday is all about searching for the signs of resurrection in our world and claiming the gifts of Easter in our life. Easter Sunday might have come and gone. But God of Resurrection has come not to go back but to stay with us.

One thing God has done through the very first Easter is to move Jesus from the tomb to within and among us. The Risen Christ now dwells in us through the Holy Spirit. We are the new home for Christ because it is us that accepts, gives, feels, and wills to love. And love that knows no end is the gift of Easter that can only dwell in our relationships. This is why Jesus said, “where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in their midst!”

This is one of the reasons why we celebrate May as the festival of Christian Home Month. If Christ dwells in our relationships, our family and home should be the first places for Christ to dwell. Family is the most foundational place for human relationships. It is where we are born into the web of relationships. It is where we learn to be in nurturing relationships. Therefore, it is in our family where we first need to search for the signs of resurrection. It begins from our homes where we need to claim the gifts of Easter and practice the resurrection living.

There is no perfect family. The good family is the one that never stops learning to grow together closer to each other. And it is when we bring our family closer to God that we begin to get closer to one another.

May God of Easter bless you and your families as you celebrate Christ’s presence in your homes and learn to build up your families in God’s way!

Moo

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

- Richard Simoneau
- Peggy, Maggie Madsen's mom
- Baby Casey Webber (9 mos) & family
- Barbara Vietze, mom of Beth Vietze
- Pamela, Linda Keister's sister.
- Barbara Fletcher
- Donald Tremblay
- Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.
- Anne Burrows
- Charles and Samira Kiefer
- Bill Kilmer
- Bill Wong
- Dorothy Norcross
- David Samanen

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting this month is given in loving memory my parents, Norman and Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

The Rose Window lighting this month is given in loving memory of my mother and brothers, Marjorie, Leonard, and Harry by Emily Smith.

The 2022 altar flower book in the Welcome Office is now available. If you'd like to place flowers on the altar on a particular Sunday, please fill your name in on the day, then take an order form and submit it to Debi in the office with a check.

Announcements

Herald Notice... The June Herald will be mailed on June 1st. Please have all articles to me by Monday, May 23rd.

Thank you, Debi

Graduates... It's that time of year again... Do you have a child(ren) graduating from high school or college? If so, please email your child's name(s), school he/she is graduating from, and where he/she plans on attending next. We will be lifting up their names in June. Please email Debi **by June 5** at office@wesleyworc.org or leave a note in the office when you are in church. (Please be sure to print neatly so I can read what is written.) Thank you.

Moving or Have You Moved? If you have moved or are planning to move, please send a quick email or call the office to let me know your new address (and phone number if necessary). We need to keep the database up to date. Thank you for your cooperation.

Prevent Homelessness through Grocery Shopping

The next order date for Hope for Housing cards is by end of day Tuesday, May 31 for pickup on Sunday, June 5th. We are also selling cards in Brewer Hall the second Sunday of each month. Additional Sundays are possible if people want to volunteer to help out!

We have cards for CVS, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Panera, Big Y and Dunkin' Donuts, as well as Target (\$10/\$25/\$50/\$100), Amazon (\$25/\$50/\$100), TJ Maxx (\$25/\$50) and Starbucks(\$10/\$25). Contact Allison at ACHis4788@aol.com for orders or more information. *Thank you! Allison*

Small Gifts Much Appreciated

Thank you to everyone who donated socks, shampoo, toothbrushes, snacks, etc. to Worcester Fellowship (an outdoor ministry led by a Methodist pastor), the SMOC Shelter (formerly People in Peril), and StandUp for Kids (SUFK). The collection for SUFK was delivered on the cold and drizzly afternoon when staff were about to go looking for homeless youth in their usual sleeping spots. Think how cared for the 14 to 25-year-olds probably felt upon receiving healthy snacks, dry socks, etc. from a Worcester congregation that wanted to give to them! - Sarah Circle

Sunday School News

Our Lenten journey was filled with much excitement as the aged old story of Jesus being tempted by the devil, his prayers in a garden, being captured by soldiers, Peter's denial, Judas' betrayal, Pilate and Barabbas and being hung on a cross to die for everyone's sin was retold in an engaging way. As to be understood by young children. Lulu's answer to Chris Flagg's question of "what happened to Jesus?" in our Easter Children's Conversation of "We cooked him", can tell you that indeed the children are paying attention.

If only we can digest a "cooked Jesus" to let him nourish and strengthen us as only he can. Our walk and work for him may seem less tedious. The pandemic has left not only our Wesley Education Leaders, committee and teachers exhausted but also our children tired and confused. Personally, I find it difficult to remember another time in my lifetime when something as fatal, disruptive and confusing as COVID 19 has physically separated all of humanity from each other. Even more confusing is that it caused a rift in religious assemblies worldwide at a time when we were unable to gather. Before, we could pull together and we wanted to work out differences, we wanted to be of one accord, a crisis situation always seems to make us stronger. What about COVID-19 fractured us so bad?

Thanks to all those at Wesley who worked tirelessly to make sure that we kept going. All our strength comes from God and with him all things are possible. The assurance from Paul in his letter to the Romans 8:38-39; "for I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" gives me comfort that if I'm intentional about my service to him all will be well. COVID-19 too shall pass.

Going forward we will be teaching the children of God's word and God's life. I hope that parents would take a moment to ask their children questions of what is happening in Sunday School.

We are hoping to host VBS this Summer and it would be a monumental task after not being in contact for two years. I am looking for help in all areas of planning and executing this and is asking for volunteers from the congregation. More information will follow.

We are also looking for volunteers for our regular weekly Sunday School program. Anyone who is interested can talk to Pastor Moo, Chris Flagg, Judy Hoffman or myself. We can really use your help.

Blessings,

Cordelia Ferdinand

Mission Matters

July and September Community Suppers Need Leaders

Community Suppers were back as of March 26. Our previous Community Supper had been in February 2020 so the pandemic closed us down for exactly two years. On September 24th, we'll have contributed 6 years of meals to the Worcester community. Thanks to all of you who have led or worked on those suppers!

Please let Betsy Pennino know if your family, committee, or group can be in charge of a meal that's not yet spoken for, July 30th or September 24th. Always willing Linda & Lou D'Acri said they could take on September, but they already are doing March, May, November and December. Thanks to them and to those who signed up for June (Judy & Jim Hoffman), August (Esther Circle), and October (UMW).

Build Day at Habitat for Humanity

Perhaps you recall my announcement during the months of quarantine that only Habitat's regular, year-round volunteers could work there. They're just starting to let groups of volunteers work in late June. Only two Wesley people could volunteer on one of these June Saturdays, so we won't have a Habitat Build Day this year. Habitat greatly appreciated the level of building skills which many of the Wesley volunteers have, so contact Betsy Pennino if you would like to try to join another team. *An at-Wesley opportunity for painters, however, is the group William Ness has gathered to paint areas of the church.*

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Thank you all for the prayers and well wishes these past weeks while I have been sick. I'm on a slow road to recovery but am feeling much better.

Debi Reynolds



Have You Experienced a "God Moment"?

If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or send it to me. The story can be anonymous or signed, and all are invited to participate. Betsy



A "God Moment" from Judy Hoffman

Before Covid closed us down and when coffee hour was full of fellowship, we had 2 young children who liked to run around the periphery of Brewer Hall. To slow them down and show affection I told these 5-year-olds they had to give me a hug whenever they passed me in the Hall. To my surprise they did this! I knew God was there when, after the 2-year hiatus, these children resumed hugging me without prompting!

"Oh there is a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord."



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All COVID guidelines will be followed as required.

DID YOU KNOW?

We are now in the midst of observing the liturgical season of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, which extends from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. Throughout this celebratory season we sing our alleluias and consider the full implications of the Resurrection of Christ for how we live our lives.

Within the United Methodist tradition, we also impose on the liturgical year a rhythm of what are known as “Special Sundays”. These Special Sundays emphasize certain themes which complement the liturgical year but are not meant to supersede it; designated offerings collected on those days provide support for particular programs approved and supported by the denomination as a whole. Each of the Special Sundays is scheduled for a particular day in order to demonstrate the commitment and solidarity of United Methodists as a whole in supporting these various causes.

The Third Sunday of Easter (on May 1 this year) is designated as Native American Ministries Sunday. A section “Native People and The United Methodist Church” in the 2016 *United Methodist Book of Resolutions* states: “The General Conference of The United Methodist Church affirms the sacredness of American Indian people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.” Supporting Native American outreach at both the annual conference and national levels, as well as providing seminary scholarships for Native American students, the offering received on this Sunday “equips and empowers Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus with the fullness of their culture and heritage.”*

The opening hymn for our service on May 1 was a reflection of part of the Native American culture and tradition. The text of “Many and Great, O God” (UMH 148) was originally written in the Dakota language by Joseph Renville, a French-Dakota bible translator and fur trader. He paired his text with the same tune with which the English paraphrase is paired in the *United Methodist Hymnal*; LAQUIPARLE is a traditional Native American melody.

Altogether there are six Special Sundays sanctioned by the United Methodist Church throughout the year and designated for receiving financial offerings. In addition to Native American Ministries Sunday, the Special Sundays include Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday (formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing), Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and United Methodist Student Day. While each of the Special Sundays has its own unique emphases. All of these days together remind us that we are part of a connectional church committed to discipleship, outreach, and missions.

Submitted by,

Deborah O’Driscoll

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