THE WESLEY HERALD

November 2022

One of the Gospel texts that I often meditate on is the story of temptation in the wilderness. Our life faces constant challenges, temptations and uncertainties, and many times we feel like we are in the wilderness.

A desert! It was not only an abode of wild beasts and demons; it was also a place where we make contact with God, where our God meets us. Here it is that Jesus is at once escorted by the Holy Spirit and tested by Satan.

Tempted to what, to what evil thing? Very simply, to use his power, his authority, as Son of God in his own interest, for his own purposes, apart from the mission given to him by God. 1) You are hungry; you haven't had a bite for 40 days. Well, you are the Son of God, aren't you? So, change stones to breads. Try it, you will like it. 2) You want to make a name for yourself, don't you? You want the people to listen. Well, here is your chance. Amaze the people, jump like Superman from the tip of the temple. 3) For a kingdom? Isn't that why you are here? So, I will give it to you. Just fall on your face and worship me.

Jesus' reply? In each instance, a reference to God. 1) You do not live on bread alone; You live on every word from God. 2) Do not you dare tempt God. 3) It is only the Lord our God a creature dares to worship.

Three temptations and three rejections. We too have a mission, a commission, from God. We are tempted at times to use our own powers, our gifts, our possessions just for our own self, for the sweet smell of success. We are indulged in individualism: Ultimately, I am the only one who matters. Temptations indeed. Not because money, power, fame are evils in themselves but forget and betray our God-given mission. Let us do not stop asking questions: Why? Why money? Why power? Why fame?

I am suggesting that we bring a bit of desert into our life. I mean, some space for solitude, where we can hear God speaking. God is wherever we are. A frightening thought if we are fleeing from God. But we have to listen to God, let God talk. The Lord can talk to us in so many ways: not only when the Bible is read to us but through wealth and poverty, power and hopelessness, fame and humiliation. But our ears, hearts, minds and souls must be open, attuned to God's whisper as well as God's thunder. Then, only then, our wilderness becomes the place of God's blessing.

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

Rocco Salvatore Yacino (infant), Marilyn (friend of Margaret Watson), Alice & Joseph Boateng,
Anne Burrows, Diane Campbell (aunt of Debi Reynolds), Barbara Fletcher,
Kay Hoover, Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Kris (daughter of Lorraine Kronberg),
Dorothy Norcross, David Samanen, Donald Tremblay, Barbara Vietze, Bill Wong,
Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman),
Emily (Donroy Ferdinand's cousin), Ralph (friend of Dorothy Adams).
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

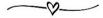
A memorial service for James & Shirley Patch will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 3:00 PM.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for November is given in loving memory of William & Mina Warman by Arline Benoit.

The Rose Window lighting for November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr. and Nancy Caryl Duxbury by Beth-Anne Duxbury & Brian Pitts, Craig Duxbury and Tina Duxbury, and Matthew Duxbury.

Altar flowers... 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

Vacation Scheduled: Debi will be on vacation from Monday, October 31 – Monday, November 7, returning to the office on Tuesday, November 8. Please email her (office@wesleyworc.org) with any requests and she will respond to you when she returns. If you have an urgent building use need that cannot wait, please contact Matt Crane (matt@wesleyworc.org) and he will be able to help you.

Herald: Our next Herald will be sent out on December 1st, with a deadline date of November 21st. Please pay mind to this deadline date as it is before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Thank you.

Poinsettia Orders are now being taken. You will find an order form in your Sunday bulletin, in the Narthex, and on the website. *The deadline date for all orders is Monday, November 21*st. If you plan to order plants this year, please be sure to send in your request with your payment. I will not have the time to make calls like I have in the past. Thank you! *Debi Reynolds*

Reminders: If you need to schedule a meeting or event here at Wesley, please email or call Debi Reynolds at office@wesleyworc.org or 508-799-4191, ext 102. If you would like information on your please contact Matt Crane at matt@wesleyworc.org or 508-799-4191, ext 111.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!! Wesley's IHN Week is Sunday, Oct. 30 to Sat., Feb. 5

Please let Betsy Pennino know if you are able to provide coverage for the evening shift (5:30 to 8:30 pm) or the overnight (8:30 pm to 6:30 a.m.) There will be a chart on the Mission Committee's bulletin board showing which shifts have been filled. 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 Oct. 30 to Nov. 5 week. Your donating Big Y cards would save money to give to another mission. If you would like an explanation of how to do either shift, please tell Betsy (betspenn35@hotmail.com).

God Moments

If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or email it to me. The story can be anonymous or signed, and all are invited to participate. Betsy (betspenn35@hotmail.com)

Several people are writing God Moments to send in, but here are 2 more from me until we receive some from others:

God is with Wesley folks as we volunteer our time at IHN (In the Hour of Need Family Shelter)

This story was in the 2016 Mission Committee Annual Report. One Wesley volunteer forgot her IHN shift in the rush to get her suddenly very ill father to the hospital. She didn't think of calling for a replacement and the IHN Director knew nothing about the emergency. Yet another church's volunteer appeared at the start of the Wesley shift, planning to stay for it!

God is at Wesley's Community Suppers

At the June, 2015 community supper, I told another Wesley worker that we probably didn't have enough take-out containers for guests who might want to take some food home or to their homeless locations. At that very moment, in walked Bill Wong with hundreds of take-out containers! They were from his mother's restaurant which was closing.

UWF Steering Committee meeting Saturday, November 5, 8:45 a.m.

Officers and all Circle representatives are requested to attend the next UMF Steering Committee meeting on Saturday, November 5 at 8:45 a.m. in the John Wesley Room. Our early start will give us the time needed to review our draft budget for 2023 and discuss future programs and initiatives.

Allison Hansen and Barbara Ingrassia

UWF Pre-Thanksgiving Bake/Craft/Plant sale Sunday, November 20

Bring your appetites and gift-giving lists to the Sunday, November 20 Bake/Craft and Plant sale organized by United Women in Faith. *All baker and crafter donations welcome!*

United Women in Faith Christmas Program

The Wesley United Women in Faith will host their Christmas Program on Saturday, December 3 at 12 noon. Following the holiday lunch, a presentation on antique wooden puzzles will be given by Robert Armstrong. A number of puzzles featuring Christmas and the winter season will be displayed. Robert, an international expert on wooden puzzles, has been featured on public television. He has also participated in several exhibits nationally. This presentation gives us an opportunity to view rare examples of an art no longer practiced but appropriate for the season. Remember the date! You won't want to miss this program!

Wreath Making Class

Plan to join us on Saturday, November 26th at 10:00 a.m. in East Hall for a fun morning of wreath making and fellowship.

\$25.00 per person (Price includes supplies)

Pre-registration is required so that we can be sure to have the appropriate amount of supplies for each attendee. Reserve your spot today, call or text Chris Flagg 508-414-1696.







Do you like to SING?

The Music Ministry is now creating a Service of Lessons and Carols, specifically for the Advent season, to be presented in worship on Sunday, December 11. We'd love to have some additional singers to join in this special service. Our musical tradition here at Wesley is strong, vibrant and uplifting, and we'd love to have others join in. Rehearsals are held after church, in the choir room upstairs, until approximately 12:30 (you'll be home in time for kick-off if that's a consideration!) and will begin, in earnest, on October 23. Come try us out! You may love it SO much that you'll decide to be a regular member of the Wesley Chancel Choir. Any questions? Please speak to David Potts or William Ness. Thanks!

Keeping in Touch with our College Students

Some of you have been wondering how Wesley keeps in touch with our college students and encourages them in their faith journey.

Since the beginning of COVID, the Hospitality Committee has been sending our college students notes twice a year. In September we send blessings on their school year along with prayer cards. In April we send another note with a token gift card and encouragement before final exams.

Our church music director encourages and supports students with musical talents to participate in Wesley's programs and worship.

If anyone has additional ideas and would like to play a rose in our efforts, please contact:

Judith Barton (jbarton@clark.edu)
Judy Hoffman (jbarton@clark.edu)

Carty Cupboard

Bag update, at this time we ONLY need the type of paper bags pictured above. They work best for what we are packing. We no longer need any plastic bags. Thank You to Everyone who continues to donate to Carty Cupboard. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.



Thank You Thank You!! To everyone who donated cereal to Carty when we requested it in September, we really appreciate your help. Thanks to you we were able to have cereal in every bag! Thank You for your kindness.

Upcoming Hope for Housing Card Order Dates

Think ahead for those hard-to-decide gifts! Please let me know in advance of these dates if you have any large orders in mind.

Card orders submitted to Allison Hansen at <u>AChis4788@aol.com</u> by end of day Tuesday, November 1 will be delivered after church on November 6.

The second opportunity to order cards before Thanksgiving and to anticipate Christmas gift giving will be due by end of day November 15 for delivery after church on November 20.

December orders will be due Tuesday, December 13 for pick up after church Sunday, December 18.

Don't forget we have much more than grocery cards available now -- T.J. Maxx, Amazon, Target and Starbucks gift cards were added recently, while continuing with Big Y, Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Dunkin' Donuts, Panera and CVS cards.

Please consider volunteering for card sales on Sundays -- one Sunday a month would be a great help!

Allison Hansen

Wesley Centennial Wall Calendar

Our church will soon be celebrating its one hundredth birthday! In April 1923 the parishes of Grace and Trinity Churches united to form Wesley Methodist Church of Worcester, Massachusetts.

In commemoration of this anniversary, the United Methodist Women are sponsoring the printing of special wall calendar for the year of 2023 featuring photos of our beautiful church building and its stained-glass windows. The calendar will be available later this fall for our members in time for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year.

Information concerning the centennial calendar will be available at the UMW exhibit at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 11. Please inquire if you wish to reserve a copy for yourself or hope to make the calendar a special Christmas gift. We look forward to your support for the celebration and commemoration of the one-hundredth birthday of our church!

Margaret Watson, UWF

UMW's Afghan Refugee Program Featured in Magazine

After organizing the speakers, Wesley's own Margaret Watson authored an article about the March 2022 program on how various religious groups have welcomed Afghan refugees to Worcester. *Response* magazine, published monthly by United Women in Faith (formerly known as United Methodist Women), featured Margaret's article in the July-August issue. The program featured speakers from Ascentria, representatives from several churches supporting one Afghan family, and the Worcester Islamic Center.

Thank you, Margaret, for your dedication to sharing this important story with the wider world!

The Salisbury Singers presents...

Light Shines in the Darkness

Alzheimer's Reflection

Wesley United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 6, 2022 at 4 PM

We begin our 49th season with a concert reflecting on the impact of Alzheimer's in our lives, both personally and across our communities.

This concert will focus on Michael John Trotta's work for chorus and strings, *Light Shines in the Darkness*, which uses beautiful texts from sacred and secular sources as well as four songs of Johannes Brahms for choir and piano. We will balance this work with other pieces reflecting on the joy and challenge of being with family and friends who are experiencing Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

Tickets can be purchased online at SalisburySingers.eventbrite.com or at the door.

Adults \$25 • Seniors • \$20 Students \$12



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH MISSION BAKE, CRAFT & PLANT SALE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022

To support the following UWF Mission Projects:

All profits will go to the ongoing support of UWF Mission Programs and Summer camperships for Wesley youth.

COOKIES BREADS PIES CAKES... AND MORE!!!

Support the UWF in this Mission fundraiser and enjoy "home-made" baked goods for your Thanksgiving Celebration.



DID YOU KNOW?

A favorite summertime destination for many people is the coastal shoreline where we are awed at the power and beauty of the sea. It is thus not surprising that images of the ocean or sea figure prominently throughout the Bible from the cosmic primordial sea of Genesis to the sea of glass in the throne room of God described in Revelation. In the book of Exodus the parting of the Red Sea and the consequent drowning of the Pharaoh and his army are evidence of God's power over evil. In the New Testament Jesus uses similar power to calm the sea during a storm and also to walk on the sea.

Even as we gather for worship each week in our sanctuary we are not far removed from nautical imagery. A term for the main part of the worship space where the congregation sits is the *nave* derived from the Latin *navis* meaning ship. The ship was used as a symbol of the church in drawings in the catacombs and reflected the oral teaching of the early church which described the church as a ship voyaging on the waters of life with human souls as passengers and Christ as the captain. Our architecture reflects this in the sense that with a high arched vaulted ceiling the nave of our sanctuary (and of many other churches) is shaped like the overturned hull of a ship. The center aisle which leads us to the altar can be seen as the gangway of that ship.

The Latin word *navis* is also the root of the English word *navigate*. It is the experiences of worship in the hull of the ship which is our sanctuary which enable us to navigate life's journey whether we are figuratively experiencing smooth sailing on calm sea or finding ourselves in the midst of the turbulence of crashing waves in a storm.

Submitted by,

Deborah O'Driscoll

THE FRUITS OF LABOR BASKETBALL CLUB



CO ED

5th/6th Grade Division 7th/9th Grade Division

Games on Thursday & Friday Evenings

DECEMBER 08, 2022 | FEBRUARY 09, 2023

\$60/Participant







For more information contact Kunon Taylor at thefruitsoflabor21@gmail.com



WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Byungmoo Lee	Church Council	Brent Drajesk
Organist & Choir Director	William Ness	Board of Trustees	Gary Robinson
Chancel Choir Director	David Potts	Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
Ghanaian Choirmaster	Desmond Cheetham	Communion Stewards	Linda D'Acri
Director of Children's Ministries	Cordelia Ferdinand	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	William Wong
Music Assistant	Deborah O'Driscoll		Peter Hansen
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane	Financial Secretary	Earl Flagg
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Ghanaian Association	Paul Hayfron
Building Superintendent	Tim Murphy	Hospitality Co-Chairs	Vivian Assie
Assistant Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson		Judy Hoffman
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Medical Ministry	Ron Ramsay
	Tom Friend	Mission Coordinator	Betsy Pennino
	Gerard Piscitelli	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Chris Flagg
Head Usher	David Dagle		Judy Hoffman
Wesley Tech Team	Mark Muncey	Youth Bible Study	Joseph Fletcher
		United Methodist Women Co-Chairs	Barbara Ingrassia
			Allison Hansen