

## Sunday Announcements for January 1, 2023

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

David O'Driscoll, with a foot ulcer and leg infection. Paige, Allison Hansen's sister.  
Alice & Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Barbara Fletcher, Cheryl Johnson (Phil Johnson's wife),  
Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Kris (daughter of Lorraine Kronberg), Dorothy Norcross,  
David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank and the Vietze Family;  
Bill Wong, Laura Zoldak, Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman),  
Emily (Donroy Ferdinand's cousin), Marilyn (friend of Margaret Watson),  
Ralph (friend of Dorothy Adams).  
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

### Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

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

**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.

**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.

### SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES TO MAKE NOTE OF:

Monday, January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Office Closed
Sunday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Community Breakfast, 7-9 am
Sunday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>	Worship, 10 am

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Herald:** The next Herald will be sent out on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please send your article(s) to me no later than Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you.

### Community Suppers have a New Coordinator

Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy has agreed to be in charge of community suppers starting in January. She has led several suppers, assisted always by her family and usually by her scout troop also.

Thank you, Maria! If your group or family would like to sign up for a month to lead a community supper, speak to Maria (or I could give her a message). Suppers are held on the last Saturday of each month.

The January 28<sup>th</sup> supper will be prepared and served by the United Women of Faith (formerly UMW).

*Betsy Pennino*

## YEAR END REMINDERS!

As December comes to a close, please remember the following with regard to your 2022 donations:

- In order to post your donation to 2022, checks need to be dated 2022. Any check dated 2023 will be posted to next year.
- All donations for 2022 should be postmarked or received in the office by 12/31/2022. 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 2023.
- 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.

### Wesley Centennial Calendar

Help celebrate the New Year with the beautiful photos the calendar displays!

We will continue to display and sell the 2023 Wesley Centennial Calendar after church services on the first three Sundays in January. They will be available in Brewer Hall and will also be available for the Annual UWF Meeting on January 15. If you live locally and cannot attend the church services, we can take calendars to your home. If you would like to have a calendar delivered, please contact Margaret Watson at [margikw@outlook.com](mailto:margikw@outlook.com) or 508-414-2430.

The calendars are \$20. each. Checks should be made out to: Wesley UMW

Best wishes for the New Year!

*Margaret Watson*

### UWF Annual Meeting/Lunch Sunday, January 15

All women of Wesley are invited to the United Women in Faith annual meeting in Brewer Hall on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> after church. Thanks to Linda D'Acri, we will have a delicious soup lunch before our meeting. We will be reviewing the past year, honoring those who passed and discussing ideas for a new year.

To prepare the annual report, would all officers and circle leaders please submit their reports by email to Allison Hansen at [ACHis4788@aol.com](mailto:ACHis4788@aol.com) by **January 2**.

Thank you!

*Allison Hansen and Barbara Ingrassia, co-presidents*

### Prevent Homelessness with Gift Cards

It's a simple idea with community-wide impact -- buy gift cards for your groceries or other shopping and help Worcester-area families stay in their homes!

Working with the Central Mass. Housing Alliance, Wesley offers gift cards for sale each Sunday. A portion (anywhere from 2 to 10 percent) of the face value goes into a fund that helps families who are facing eviction. One rent check or utility bill payment from this fund can keep a family together in their home, rather than the upheaval of living in a shelter or on the street.

Available in a variety of denominations, grocery gift cards are on sale from Shaw's, Stop & Shop and Big Y. Cards are also for sale from CVS, Target, Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, Panera, TJ Maxx/Marshalls/Home Goods and Amazon.

Look for the display near the stage in Brewer Hall after church! Volunteers are always welcome -- pick a Sunday that suits your schedule.

Advance orders may be made via email to Allison Hansen at [ACHis4788@aol.com](mailto:ACHis4788@aol.com). January orders are due by end of day Jan. 17 for distribution Sunday, Jan. 22.

### Help Us Celebrate Dave Samanen's Birthday!

As some of you may know, Dad's 80th birthday is coming up on January 10th! He's been at Hancock Hall nursing home in Connecticut dealing with Lewy Body Dementia in 2017, and thus a party is basically out of the question, so instead I'd like to bring the party to him!

I'll be making a video birthday greeting, and you can all join in!!!

All you have to do is video yourself or someone you love saying happy birthday to Dad, and whatever else you want to say or do! You can email it (samanen@inreach.com), text it to me (818-383-1507).

For those who haven't seen or spoken to him recently, he's mostly still there mentally, he will almost certainly recognize you, and Jeff will turn the volume up loud for when he shows it to him. I'll edit all the videos together and throw the finished product up on YouTube, then Jeff can show it to Dad on his birthday.

The deadline for video's is Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please pass this along to anyone you think would be interested.

Thanks in advance for taking the time, I know this will mean EVERYTHING to him!

*Steve Samanen*

### ***Birthday Cards...***

If you'd rather send a birthday card to Dave, you can send it to Dave Samanen, Hancock Hall Nursing Home, 31 Staples Street, Danbury, CT 06810.

*Carol Samanen*

### 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](mailto:betspenn35@hotmail.com))



*Jeanne Dhavale writes:*

In Spring 2019 Dileep and I with our son traveled with friends who live in England and their daughter for a week in Jordan. We traveled in a van with our driver, Osama, a Jordanian Palestinian. We learned that his grandparents had emigrated to Jordan from Palestine following the Six Day War in 1967. Osama is a fine young man who is an excellent driver and guide. He was delighted to show us the sites, including some out-of-the-way spots, and treated us to Jordanian delicacies. Within a short time, Osama was more than our driver—he was our companion and fellow traveler. We were aware of the call to prayer wafting from the numerous mosques. We felt the Bible come alive in Ancient Moab from atop Mt. Nebo where Moses beheld the Promised Land. We waded in the River Jordan where John baptized Jesus. The week passed all too quickly, and it came time to drive to the Israeli border. We would be in Israel the following week. As we collected our luggage and prepared to leave, Osama told us he was going to miss us, we are good people. On the Jordanian Israeli border people from varying nationalities, from three major religions, Muslim, Hindu and Christian said our genuine, heart-felt good-byes with photo taking, hugs, tears and one-last wave before we walked across the border. As we enter the Advent Season, let us reaffirm our earnest prayer—Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.