

## Sunday Announcements for December 4, 2022

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

Phyllis Yngve and family on the death of their sister, Cynthia JoAnn Yngve on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Bill Wong and family on the death of his grandmother, Frances Hsu., Laura Zoldak

Alicia Simoneau, Marilyn (friend of Margaret Watson), 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, 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.

### Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

**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 given in loving memory of my parents, Henry and Katherine Williams by Susan J. Williams.

**The altar flowers today** are given in loving memory of my mother, Marjorie Merchant by Emily Smith

**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.

### Music Notes for the bulletin

Today's organ music are all settings of *Veni Emmanuel* which is the tune name for *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. It is probably the most well-known hymn of all the advent hymns we sing in churches around the globe. The simple melody of this tune makes it a favorite of advent hymns. Composers continue to write works based on this tune as you can hear today. The hymn has its origins over 1,200 years ago in monastic life in the 8th or 9th century. Seven days before Christmas Eve monasteries would sing the "O antiphons" in anticipation of Christmas Eve. The first setting in today's prelude was written by my organ teacher I studied with during my high school years in Des Moines, Iowa. He was a valued friend and mentor to me. We sing this tune each Sunday in Advent as a Doxology-in many ways it is our "theme song" for Advent.

Wesley Ringers is ringing in the **Mini Handbell Extravaganza** on Wednesday, **December 14, 6:30 pm** at Briarwood Community, Loring Auditorium. This is in cooperation with First Baptist Church ringers where Handbell Extravaganza is normally held. Solos, duets, sextets, quartets and two massed anthems comprise this concert plus a few surprises. All are welcome to this free concert. You won't be disappointed in this lively presentation of Christmas music of which three pieces are written by Marjorie and William Ness for our handbell ensemble.

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Advent Devotionals** for Adults, Youth and Children are available to be picked up after church.

**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.

**No Community Supper in December...** The last Saturday in December this year is New Year's Eve, so there will not be a community supper. We sometimes have switched to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday but that, of course, is Christmas Eve.

### **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 are to be submitted to Allison Hansen at [ACHis4788@aol.com](mailto:ACHis4788@aol.com) by end of day 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*



### **Christmas Wreath Dedications...**

There are 2 wreaths left available for dedication this holiday season. The cost of each wreath is \$12 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

### **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 Christmas, and the New Year.

***To reserve a calendar for yourself, please contact Margaret Watson at [margjkw@outlook.com](mailto:margjkw@outlook.com), giving your name and contact information, phone and email address and number of calendars desired. The cost of each calendar is \$20.***

We look forward to your support for the celebration and commemoration of the one hundredth birthday of our church!

*Margaret Watson, UWF*

## 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))



*Susan Williams has been aware of many God Moments in her life, we've added another one for you to read:*

One December day, I took the Auburn Mall bus which went up Lincoln St., so I didn't have to change buses. On the ride home, it started to snow and I could see the snow accumulating. A quiet voice in my head said, "Change buses." At the City Hall stop, I switched to the Belmont St. bus. When I got off near my apartment, it was very slippery walking, but the ground was flat the whole way home. If I had stayed on the other bus, I would have tried to climb the hill from Lincoln St. and might have fallen or been unable to get up the hill.



TV ads kept repeating that people on Medicare could get 8 free Covid tests kits. I ordered some and was waiting for the mail to bring them. One morning I felt ill and kept getting sicker. That day the Covid tests arrived! I was able to test myself and find out immediately that I tested positive for Covid.



On Friday, Nov. 10, 1978, I came to Worcester to grocery shop. On my way home, I stopped at McDonalds for lunch. As I started eating in my car, I began feeling weird. My cheek was numb and I felt sick. I thought, "what is going on?" I heard in my head, "You are having a stroke." I said, "Not now Lord." He said, "Yes, now." What do I do?

I drove to my Mom's house and said I was very sick and needed to go to the hospital. I heard someone go down the cellar stairs. It was the meter reader and I called for help. He came into my sight and asked, "What's the matter Sue?" It was Sam, the only person at Mass. Electric that I knew personally, and he knew exactly what to do. (God's perfect timing)

At Hahnemann Hospital, as I lay on the stretcher, a man came and held my hand, talking peacefully to me. He continued to do this in the ambulance, until we got to St. Vincent's. Then he left and I never looked to see who he was, but I knew God used the man for His purpose. And this was just the beginning of God's closeness during this whole experience. I will never forget how much God showed me He loved me, just as if I was His only child.

## Supporting a Local School to Reduce Food Waste

On one of the Bishop's Days on the District, Bishop Devadhar talked to a MA school teacher who is working on including conversations on reduction of food waste into the middle school science curriculum in MA. I am sharing this information because I find it to be critical to work towards a reduction in food waste and composting what food scraps remain. Please take 2 minutes to add your support to a petition to get "food waste reduction" added with other sustainable practices in the Massachusetts science curriculum.

Did you know that reducing food waste is one of the most effective ways of fighting climate change but we waste 40 % of the food we produce in the US. Education matters - much of this food waste happens in our very own homes. Our students will waste less food with simple actions, when they know how much it matters! We need a show of support to bring it in front of the Department of Education and make this happen. Please forward this petition to your friends and family too.

You can learn more about the petition and impact of food waste in the announcements on our website or go to <https://www.lexingtongreenteams.org/advocate/fwcurriculum>.

## ADVENT GIFT BOXES OR BAGS

As an Advent mission this year at Wesley, you are again invited to create Advent Gifts of small, needed items. Please place items from the list below in a shoebox (or small Wesley UMC backpack, available on Sundays in Brewer Hall). There's no need to include a Christmas card since the gifts will be given out in January. That's because the last two Saturdays in December are Christmas and New Year's Eves, so there will be no December Community Supper. We're spreading the word of a January 8<sup>th</sup> Community Breakfast. You can bring to Brewer Hall your wrapped gift box (or backpack with tissue paper) by December 18<sup>th</sup>.

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 backpacks 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. *There's no need to include all items on the list.* Also add a plastic spoon & knife which a homeless person would need. Questions? Ask Betsy Pennino.

### Recommended Items:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| *Toothbrush & toothpaste        | *Cereal bars                             |
| *Bar or small bottle of soap    | *Juice boxes or small juice bottle       |
| *Tissues, Antibacterial wipes   | *Single serve applesauce cups (pull-top) |
| *Wash cloth                     | *Goldfish or cheese crackers             |
| *Socks                          | *Dried fruit                             |
| *Gloves                         | *Hot cocoa packets                       |
| *ChapStick or lip balm          | *Canned tuna with pull-top               |
| *Band-Aids                      | *Meal in a can (pull-top)                |
| *Pens or pencils                | *Dark chocolate                          |
| *Tablet of paper/small notebook |  |

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