

## Sunday Announcements for December 18, 2022

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

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 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 Laura Plant and in honor of Bette Peloquin by Debbie and George Plant.

**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:*

<b>Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Silent Night Service, 7 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Service with Holy Communion, 10 am</b>
<b>Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lunch, following worship</b>
<b>Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Monday, January 2, 2023</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>

## **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.

### **2022 Silent Night Service**

**December 20, 2022, 7 PM in person in Wesley sanctuary or online via worship links**

Are you seeking calm respite and time for reflection in the midst of the busyness of the season? For quite a few years one of the Advent worship opportunities beyond Sunday morning worship at Wesley has been the Silent Night service. This contemplative service arose out of the tradition of Blue Christmas, a recognition that there are people who are not in a festive mood of celebration during the Advent/Christmas season. Many of us find ourselves in need of quiet comfort and somber reflection. Even for those who are not particularly sad this service offers an opportunity for a contemplative break from the noisy busyness that often leads up to Christmas. For the past two years this service has been online only with each of us worshipping from our homes but now we have the opportunity to return to the beauty of our sanctuary setting for this meaningful service. You may attend in person or worship online as this service unfolds in the beautiful

sacred space that is our sanctuary. Please join us for a time of reflection with prayer, hymn singing, instrumental music, readings, candle lighting, and silence.

Each year one of the most meaningful and moving parts of the service is when worshippers come forward to light candles of hope and remembrance. People worshipping online are encouraged to create a worship center at home and participate by lighting your own candles (tea lights, votives, jar candles, etc. — whatever is meaningful and beautiful to you) at home. (Please remember to practice fire safety if you do so!)

This service is for all for who seek time and space to simply breathe and be still. Please join us either in person in the Wesley sanctuary or online (using worship links on church website) on Tuesday, December 20 at 7 PM.



### **Christmas Day Lunch**

There will be a lunch after worship on Christmas Day. Please join us, and if you can, bring a dish or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you all.

### Hope for Housing Card Order Dates

Last chance for those hard-to-decide gifts! 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. Look for the table in Brewer Hall near the stage.

Please consider volunteering for card sales on Sundays -- one Sunday a month would be a great help. Just email Allison Hansen at [ACHis4788@aol.com](mailto:ACHis4788@aol.com)!

*Allison Hansen*

### Wesley Centennial Calendar

The Centennial Calendars have arrived in time to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of our beloved Wesley church! Our thanks go out to our photographers, Chloe Sundberg and Janice England, who donated the best photos of Wesley church in their collections. Our thanks are also extended to Allison Hansen who provided excellent technical advice when it was needed.

The calendars will be available in Brewer Hall on Sunday mornings until they are gone. Let us celebrate the months of 2023 with the memories associated with our first one hundred years and let us pray that the next one hundred years will be peaceful with blessings for all humankind.

If you desire to purchase a calendar but cannot attend the Sunday church service, please contact Margaret Watson at [margikw@outlook.com](mailto:margikw@outlook.com) to make arrangements to have one or more brought to you.

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

*Margaret Watson for the United Women in Faith.*

### 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.

## 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:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| *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."*

### Stop & Shop – Bloomin' 4 Good Program

Once again, the Wesley Community Supper program has been selected to benefit from the Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program. In January 2023, whenever a \$10.99 bouquet (in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good,") is purchased at Stop & Shop, 545 Lincoln Street, Worcester, the Community Supper program will receive a \$1 donation. It's that simple! So, if you need flowers during January, be sure to go to Stop & Shop on Lincoln Street and purchase the bouquets in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good."