

## Sunday Announcements for January 8, 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Church will be closed** on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

**Herald:** The next Herald will be sent out on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send your article(s) to me no later than Friday, January 27<sup>th</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*

### 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*

## **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*

## **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 the end of day, January 17 for distribution Sunday, January 22.

## **Volunteering for Wesley's IHN Week-- Sunday, January 29 to Saturday, February 4**

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 am) during Wesley's week at IHN. (Her contact info is in the online directory.) If you would like an explanation of how to do either shift, please tell Betsy.

On the Monday of Wesley's October week at IHN, all of their staff and families were tested for Covid. Members of 3 families tested positive and the director notified me immediately. I quickly emailed our members who were volunteering and asked if they wanted to cancel. Currently volunteers may choose to stay in the IHN office or interact with the families. Volunteers no longer provide dinners but are encouraged to bring food to prepare their own.

The Mission Committee will give IHN Hope for Housing cards to pay for food and housing staples during Wesley's January 29 to February 4 week. Your donating Big Y cards would save money to give to another mission.

## 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](mailto: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 was Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, but you can send them in by Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

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))



### **A God Moment by Debi Reynolds**

As I was getting ready for my latest vacation, an international cruise, I was asked for my license at the bank on Saturday. I was in complete horror when I noticed my license was not in my wallet. She let me process my request, by asking lots of questions, and then off I went in search of my license. I retraced my steps to every single place I had been that morning. On my way home to look I called my mother and was about to cry telling her I can't find my license. I asked her, 'who do you pray to when you need to find something?' She told me and I said my prayers. When I got home, I searched everywhere! High and low, looked in the same places 3 times, maybe more!

At this time, I decided to go to church because that's the only other place I had been. Again, I searched everywhere! Every folder I made the last few days, between papers I touched or filed, in the kitchen... absolutely everywhere! I was so sick to my stomach that I couldn't find my license. I needed it to travel! I was heading out to leave and as I walked by the counter in the sewing room, I found a debit card. I spoke with Allison and Barbara for a minute in the kitchen while they were preparing the Community Dinner, then went and dropped the card off in Matt's office.

As I was about to leave again, I walked through the kitchen yet again and Judy Hoffman had just come in and said, "fancy seeing you here." As my stomach turned in knots, my reply was "I can't find my license." She said to me, "I have a copy of it." I shook my head and thought to myself, 'What good will a copy do?', and replied to her 'What?', and she said again, 'I have a copy of it, for the Cori check.' And just then the lights came on!

I remembered taking it out to make a copy of it for SPRC for my Cori check. I ran to the office and there it was sitting on my printer in my office! I happily heading out, through the kitchen, thanking Judy ever so much for coming in! and I said to her, "This is a God Moment!"

I was not going to come to work to look for it because I honestly believed I had it with me on Thursday and Friday! But, as I was in complete despair at home, my gut told me to go to work to look! Had I not come to work, and had I not found that debit card and stopped to talk to Allison and Barbara, I would have left earlier and missed Judy coming in. And I probably would not have remembered taking it out to make a copy of it.

I firmly believe in the power of prayer and that God directs us to where we need to be.