

Sunday Announcements for February 12, 2023

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

Anthony Brima in ICU in St. Vincent's hospital and for his wife Annie during this time, Rick, Jan England's brother, Janice Mitchell (Susan Williams sister) and family on the death of her husband, Chester last week, Family of Rev. Louis Bond who passed away January 27th.

Alice & Joseph Boateng, Polly Boyns, Anne Burrows, Barbara Fletcher, Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Kris Kronberg, Dorothy Norcross, David O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank and the Vietze Family; Bill Wong, Laura Zoldak, Kelly, a friend of David Potts, Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman), Emily (Donroy Ferdinand's cousin); Page, Allison Hansen's sister, Ralph (friend of Dorothy Adams).
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Family and friends of Shirley Ferris (98 yo) who passed away on January 11th in Newcastle, ME. Cards can be sent to Judi Ekholm, 44 Marigold Farm Lane, Whitefield, ME 04353; or to Lisa Maliska, 3 Heritage Lane, Apt 2D, Wiscasset, ME 04578. Shirley's obituary can be seen on the board in Brewer Hall by the office.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The following lightings are available for dedication in 2023:

The February Rose Window and Tower lighting, August Tower lighting, October Tower lighting, December Rose window lighting.

If you are interested in lighting either in memory or honor of a loved one(s), please let Debi in the office know. The cost of each lighting is \$40 for the month.

Altar flowers... The 2023 calendar is now available. If you'd like to place flowers on the altar on a particular Sunday, please stop at the Welcome office and sign up in the book. Please be sure to 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 Schedule:

Moo is on vacation from Thursday, February 2 – Wednesday, February 15, returning to the office on Thursday, February 16th. If you have a pastoral need or emergency, please contact Rev. James Hoffman at jhoffman24661@yahoo.com or at 860-965-2575.

Herald: The next Herald will be sent out on March 1st. Please send your article(s) to me no later than Friday, February 24th. Thank you.

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. February orders are due by the end of the day February 14 for distribution on Sunday, February 19.

New Bible Study Series on 1st and 3rd Tuesday Evenings

Everyone is invited to participate via Zoom in the ongoing Tuesday group from 6:30 to 8 pm. This small group meets on the first and third Tuesdays, starting on Feb. 7th. The new book is The Life of Jesus, Participant's Guide. The group just finished a book from this series which requires no "homework." The book is mostly topics to notice in the videos, questions to discuss, and optional daily reflections. The videos explore the main events of Jesus' life to understand what made him so extraordinary. What is learned will be applied to life today.

Betsy Pennino will be facilitating the discussion and technical expert Bill Wong will make sure the videos run smoothly. Please contact Judy Hoffman to sign up. You can get a book (\$7) from Judy or Betsy.

Ash Wednesday 2023 at Wesley

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection in which we are invited to deeper Christian discipleship. This year on Ash Wednesday, Wesley will provide several different times and ways for you to enter into the season of Lent. It is hoped that having multiple options with a flexible schedule will enable as many people as possible to mark the beginning of the Lenten journey in a meaningful way.

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, from 11am-1pm and 3pm-5pm Pastor Moo will offer distribution of ashes and Holy Communion at the wooden footbridge in the rear parking lot. Should you wish to spend time in individual prayer and reflection either before or after receiving ashes and Communion outside, the sanctuary and chapel will be open during the same hours. The floor labyrinth along with materials for a guided walk to contemplate Lenten intentions will be available in the chapel.

Should you wish to participate in corporate worship there will be an evening service of imposition of ashes and communion in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. (This will be our first in-person Ash Wednesday service since 2020.) A light soup supper will be available in Brewer Hall at 6pm. You may also choose to walk the labyrinth in the chapel before or after the service.

It is our hope and prayer that the observance of Ash Wednesday will open the way for your spiritual pilgrimage through Lent.

Lenten Small Group Study

In the season of Lent many people take on an additional spiritual practice. One such practice is to participate in a seasonal small group study. During the six weeks of Lent Debbie O'Driscoll will facilitate a daytime online small group using the book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield. This devotional book considers ten everyday objects (dust, bread, a cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones), looking at scriptural references to each object and using the object as a lens through which to consider aspects of the Lenten spiritual journey.

The intention is for the group to meet via Zoom on Wednesdays during Lent, either morning or afternoon, with the exact time to be determined based on what works best for those participating. Please speak to Debbie or contact her (debodrscll@aol.com) for more details. Alternatively, you may contact the church office to express your interest in participating in the study.

ONECALL TELLALL

Don't sit and wonder on a Sunday morning of a storm if church is going to be cancelled. Instead, receive a phone call and find out immediately! Whether it be a cancellation because of a snowstorm, a meeting that has been cancelled or even to remind you of a special event taking place at Wesley, we will reach out to you by phone. This is a pre-recorded call, so please make sure your voicemail has space and it should save the call in case you miss it.

If you would like to sign up for this, please put your name, home phone number and **one phone number per household** on the sign-up sheet just outside the Welcome Office.

This is just another way for us to help keep you informed of what is going on at your church.

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)

A God Moment by Nancy Cook

Right Place at the Right Time

When IHN used rooms in the church I connected with the leaders and families there. One day as I drove in the parking lot, their director Joanne was leaving. We both stopped and she told me their van had run out of gas, with families on board. She was on her way to help them, but she had no gas can. I knew where one was, so got it and took her and gas to the van way out on Grafton Street. It happens sometimes that I am at church just when I am needed... to unlock a door, give out some food, or find a requested item. And once to deliver gas.



Free Console piano available on ground level at Wesley. This is a working piano that anyone may have upon removing it from the church. No steps from ground level since the piano would leave from the ground level door facing Main Street. Contact the office to say that you are interested in the piano and when you'd like to move it.

