

Sunday Announcements for March 5, 2023

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

Rick, Jan England's brother, Joseph Boateng, Polly Boyns, Annie Brima and family, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, 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.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for March is given in loving memory of Dr. C. James Brenneman by his daughter Betsey.

The Rose Window lighting for March is given in loving memory of Heik P. and Irene B. Garabedian, Robert Demers, and my grandson Jason Sullivan by Shirley and family.

The following lightings are available for dedication in 2023:

The August Tower, October Tower, November Tower and December Rose window lightings are available. If you are interested in lighting any of these, 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 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

Lenten Devotionals are available to pick up on Sundays or during the week in the church office. If you are unable to come pick one up and wish to have one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Herald – Change in Date: The next Herald will be sent out on April 4th. Please send your article(s) to me no later than Wednesday, March 29th. Thank you.

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.

We will meet via Zoom on Friday mornings at 10 am. If you'd like to join us, please reach out to Debbie or contact her (debodrscoll@aol.com) for more details. Alternatively, you may contact the church office to express your interest in participating in the study.

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.

William Ness is playing on the American Guild of Organists recital at Blessed Sacrament Church, 551 Pleasant St. on Sunday, March 12, 3:00 pm (time corrected). Their Skinner organ is similar to our Skinner organ built a few years later. My pieces were written by Alexander Russell who composed these works for the Skinner organ at Princeton University which relates directly to other Skinner organs of the same period. Free.

SAVE THE DATES!

March Madness is coming to Wesley!!!

Sunday, March 12, 2023 - 12:00 noon

UWF is inviting all Wesley youth to join us at our next all circle meeting.

Basketball coach Ryan Brown will be joining us to share his story of how he turned his disabilities into a success story that is sure to inspire all, and then we will move onto the court to learn some of the moves that led to his success.

**be sure you bring your sneakers for this one!*

Wesley's Centennial Celebration

Sunday, April 23, 2022 – Worship and Lunch

Join us on Sunday, April 23, 2023 starting with Worship at 10 am to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Wesley Church! Rev. Vicki Woods will join our worship service, then after we will continue to celebrate with a sit-down lunch in Brewer Hall. Come see photos and a slide show of the church when it was built, and the people from the early years and onwards to 2023!

Photos needed... We are looking for any photos you have taken at Wesley from around 1970 until now that would be okay to display in Brewer Hall. If you have older photos, we'd love to see them too!

Pictures of interest: Sanctuary service or event, Sunday school or Adult Bible group, Choir group, Carty Cupboard workers, bowling, etc. from the more recent past!!!

Please email any photos to sandramcmanus1@gmail.com or bring your photos to the church office in an envelope with your name and contact information so we can return them to you.

Thank you, Sandra McManus

Wesley Centennial T-Shirts

Students of Wesley Church will be designing a Centennial T-Shirt! Stop by and grab an order form and order your Centennial t-shirts today to wear on April 23rd during our celebration. The cost of each t-shirt is \$10. Checks are to be made payable to: Connor Sign & Graphics.

You can leave your order in the Welcome Office (in the box provided) or mail it to: ATTN: Centennial T-Shirts, Wesley UMC, 114 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608.

All Orders **MUST** be in by April 4th the latest. You can also drop your order off during the week when the office is open.

Here's a Chance to Prevent Homelessness

It's a simple idea -- buy your groceries (or your coffee or toiletries) and help a local family stay in their home. You'll be joining area stores in contributing to a fund that gives grants to families facing eviction. One back rent payment, utility bill or storage unit fee can keep families out of the shelter system and all the disruption to their children's schooling.

Here's how it works: When you purchase gift cards from Big Y, Shaw's, Stop & Shop, CVS, Dunkin Donuts, Panera, Starbucks, Amazon, Target or TJ Maxx/Marshalls/Home Goods, a percentage of that card's value is donated by those stores to Central Mass. Housing Alliance. Families come to CMHA seeking assistance, and since this program began, hundreds of families have received aid.

Look for the birdhouse in Brewer Hall -- at a table near the stage -- after church services. Cards are for sale every Sunday and by email to AChis4788@aol.com. Please send your orders by the end of day Monday, March 6 for delivery March 12 or Monday, March 27 for delivery April 2 to be sure your Easter basket gift cards are ready!

Come choose a Sunday to help with card sales -- it takes a team to tackle a challenge as big (and fast-growing) as homelessness.

Outdoor Toys & Activities for Those Needing Help with Housing

Central Mass. Housing Alliance (CMHA) has asked if Wesley could collect outdoor toys and activities -- kickballs, bubbles, jump ropes, etc. Sarah Circle has been helping CMHA with children's books and is asking the congregation to help with outdoor toys and activities. This collection is replacing the circle's 12-year Lenten Mission called Small Gifts for Shelters. We're hoping to receive a list of the most needed items and will share that in this space. *Betsy Pennino*

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 Judy Hoffman

As some of you may know I was sick recently and missed a week of worship. Many of you extended your concerns through my spouse, with cards, texts, and calls. All were appreciated. A very warm and sincere call was from a member who asked to pray with me. A very special God moment indeed.