

Sunday Announcements for March 19, 2023

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

The family of Cynthia Anne (Vasil) Barry who passed away in February.

Donald McLaren, Rhianna Burke, Earl Flagg, Janet Tezerian,
Joseph Boateng, Polly Boyns, 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),
Rick (Jan England's brother). 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

Wesley COVID Response Team Update

Today, March 19th, Wesley is removing the mandatory mask requirements and moving to mask optional. **The mask optional policy means that anyone may wear a mask at any time.** People may choose for themselves to wear a mask based on their age, vaccination status, risk tolerance or underlying health conditions. Vaccinations, air filtration, health checks and one way masking help to mitigate risks for anyone attending Wesley. If you are feeling under the weather, please stay home. Wesley will continue to utilize the improved air filtration for the sanctuary and other common areas. Please continue to use the hand sanitation stations, or frequent hand washings. Please be respectful for those choosing to wear a mask and afford them their personal space.

April Herald: 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.

From William Ness...

Today's anthem was composed in 1976 as a single octavo and was later included in Rutter's *Requiem* from 1985 in memory of his father. The first complete performance of this *Requiem* was at Lovers' Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas. Many of Rutter's most popular anthems were commissioned by U.S. choral directors and hence their first performance was in the U.S. Rutter inserted his setting of Psalm 23 and Psalm 130 *Out of the Depths* into this otherwise traditionally structured requiem. He, like Brahms, wanted more to a requiem than what the latin mass text offered. The original oboe solo scored for this movement is played today by Istan Slamet on clarinet.

Today's organ voluntaries are all settings of Psalm 23 on four hymntunes. While two of these hymntunes are not included in UMH they are still nonetheless well known. Searle Wright's setting of *Brother James' Air* is published by Oxford U Press of England and is played around the world. Searle Wright was for many years organist at Columbia University in NYC. Franklin Ashdown continues to compose organ and choral music after he has retired as a physician.

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!

We are now taking reservations for the luncheon. Please see an usher for a form, pick one up in the Welcome office, or make your reservation online via the link on the Announcement page of the website (www.wesleyworc.org).

Thank you! Sandra McManus

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 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.

Mission Matters

A Sunday for Giving to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief

On Sunday, March 19, Methodists around the world will have special collections for UMCOR which is the humanitarian arm of the Methodist Church. UMCOR helps those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters, including famine, flood, fire or war. There are UMCOR workers in 115 countries, including the US. On March 19, there will be an envelope with each bulletin for you to donate to UMCOR; or you could mail a contribution to Wesley, writing "UMCOR Sunday" on the envelope. These donations will go toward administrative costs so that all other contributions go directly to projects which alleviate suffering. Thank you.

Sarah Circle collects outdoor toys for Families needing Help with Housing

Central Mass. Housing Alliance (CMHA) has asked if Wesley could collect outdoor toys and activities for them. This collection will replace the circle's 12-year Lenten Mission called Small Gifts for Shelters. Sarah Circle gives CMHA gently used children's books, but *the toys should be new with all of the safety information*. Here are more suggestions than you could possibly need:

- kickball, soccer ball-- could be smaller than regulation size or Neuf/sponge balls-- and/or goal-net (small)
- Basketball and/or hoop which hangs on a post or door
- plastic bat and/or baseball, Whiffle ball, Neuf ball
- beachball, Frisbee, toss-and-catch toys
- ride-around toys for toddlers
- bubbles solution with larger wands as well as small ones
- toddler push toys such as a fake lawn mower
- kid garden set/tools (plastic); jump ropes
- bean bags for games such as corn-hole
- chalk for sidewalk games such as hopscotch

Please bring your donations to the labeled carton in Brewer Hall. Questions? Contact *Betsy Pennino*.

UWF Mission Recognition

Each year the United Women in Faith sponsor a "Mission Recognition Award" to someone who has given of herself to Wesley Church. This award is open to any woman who attends Wesley Church, young or old. In recognition of this person's service, a donation is made to the mission projects sponsored by the District and Conference United Women in Faith.

We are now collecting ballot submissions. Forms can be found in the Welcome Office. You can drop your ballot in the box in the Welcome Office or mail it to Wesley Church, Attn: UWF Mission Recognition. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2023.

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 from Jean Grant

The Mission Committee and Sarah Circle spent a Saturday in May 2013 planting flowers and spreading mulch at the IHN house. Homeless families had first moved there during the previous February. Jean Grant wrote this after returning that fall to tend to the new plants:

As I finished up at the IHN house on June St. yesterday, pruning back flowers planted in the spring, I noticed that one lone flower still bloomed. A lone Easter lily trumpeted headstrong out of the garden. I was surprised to see a lily like that bloom in mid-autumn, but there it stood, petals open, announcing its presence like a white trumpet. As the rest of the flowers were browning, their blooms spent, save for a few yellow tickseed at the end of their bloom, the lone lily (brought by Emi Smith, I believe) stood tall. I couldn't bring myself to cut it back, so I left it there. I left IHN after a morning of work... the rest of the perennials pruned back to the ground for their winter slumber, awaiting their own rebirth in spring... while the lily, a symbol of purity, Easter hope and peace, stood resplendent in the fall sunshine, noting the almost 1-year anniversary of the house's opening. I don't think it was a coincidence.

Betsy adds...

I recently read a related story at the quaint home in Yarmouth, MA of the cartoonist Edward Gorey and his sister. Protected by two wings of the house was a huge magnolia, maybe 25 feet tall. Gorey and his sister had both stated that they wished to have only flowers from their yard at their funerals. As the years went by, each died when the magnolia had finished blooming. Yet, on the morning of each funeral, one perfect, white flower appeared on the magnolia tree!