

Sunday Announcements for April 16, 2023

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

Al D'Ambra, Charles (friend of David Potts), Rick (Jan England's brother), 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), 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 April is given in loving memory of Julius Sr, Helga, Julius Jr, Arthur, Lorraine, Jean, Dorothy, and Irene Tremblay by Donald Tremblay and nieces.

The Rose Window lighting for April is given in loving memory of Doris L. (Swan) Tremblay and Margaret A. (Swan) Fuller by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

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

Herald: The next Herald will be sent out on May 3rd. Please send your article(s) to me no later than Wednesday, April 26th. Thank you.

The following Tower & Rose Window 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.

Moving or Have You Moved?

If you have moved or are planning to move, please send a quick email or call the office to let me know your new address (and phone number if necessary). It's very important that we keep the database up to date. Thank you for your cooperation.

Debi Reynolds

Graduates... It's that time of year again...

Do you have a child(ren) graduating from high school or college? If so, please email your child's name(s), school he/she is graduating from, and where he/she plans on attending next. We will be lifting up their names in June. Please email me **by June 5** at office@wesleyworc.org or leave a note in the office when you are in church. (Please be sure to print neatly so I can read what is written.) *Thank you, Debi*

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. 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.

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, April 17 for delivery April 23.**

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

Sarah Circle collects outdoor toys until Sunday, April 16, 2023

Central Mass. Housing Alliance (CMHA) has asked if Wesley could collect outdoor toys and activities for them. This collecting 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*.

Gala Organ Concert

On Friday, May 12, 2023, at 8 pm, please join us for the Gala Organ Concert at First Baptist Church, 111 Park Avenue, Worcester, featuring Wesley Hall and William Ness. This is part of the final fundraising event for two organs to be in the sanctuary at FBC. Free.

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!