

Sunday Announcements for May 7, 2023



May 1, 2023

As Christians, Let's Commit to Climate Care

Since arriving in New England in January, I have been impressed with the passion of our churches for environmental care.



At last year's session of Annual Conference you voted to hire a part-time "Climate Coordinator" to engage our churches in practical steps that will slow climate change. You have several "[EarthKeepers](#)" in your midst (people who have been trained by the General Board of Global Ministries to engage in local climate preservation projects.) You have a helpful link on our website (www.neumc.org/creationcare) that directs folks to many resources from our denomination as well as a variety of community-based and state-sponsored efforts. I commend you for this important ministry.

I would like to highlight food waste as part of our stewardship of the earth. If we were honest, we would all admit that we have wasted food, a lot of food, and we often don't think about its impact. According to [Recycle Trac Systems](#), Americans throw away about 40 million tons of food every year, more than any other country on the planet. The rotting food in landfills creates methane gas, which is warming our planet.

Jesus modeled food conservation on the day he fed 5,000 people. After everyone had eaten, he sent the disciples back out to collect what remained. "Gather up the leftover fragments, so that nothing may be lost." They came back with 12 baskets full (John 6:12-13).

Rev. Travis Bonnette-Kim, who serves First UMC in Melrose, MA, told me about a program that's reducing food waste and feeding people in their community.

The Food Drive, which began in 2020, utilizes its extensive volunteer network to recover good food that would otherwise be thrown away and delivers it to people dealing with food insecurity.

The Food Drive partners with over 25 grocery stores, restaurants, farms, and other businesses to recover their excess food, and distributes that food through 24 community pantries, soup kitchens, low-income housing facilities, and senior housing facilities in Everett, Lynn, and Malden, Medford, Melrose, Saugus, Wakefield, and Woburn, MA.

The Food Drive reached more than 145,000 people in 2022, and aims to provide food for some 200,000 this year. [Read more about The Food Drive.](#)

How can you personally take responsibility for the food waste in your home and at food-related events at the church? Can you take part in salvaging food from grocery stores that can be donated to feeding programs and food banks? Can you eat all the leftovers in your refrigerator? [Find tips for reducing food waste from the EPA](#)

Are there farms in your area that allow people to “glean” vegetables too small for market or left behind by harvesting machines from the fields? The United Methodist Men have long partnered with The Society of St. Andrew (endhunger.org) to engage gleaning work teams. The society has fed millions of people since its founding in 1979. This year alone, they gathered and distributed 2,398,463 pounds of fresh produce, which became 9,593,852 servings of food.

Being a disciple of Christ means taking care of those in need, and food insecurity is a serious problem in this world. Responsible stewardship of the earth’s bountiful resources means many things – including not wasting the food that God has provided for us. This is yet another way we can demonstrate our faith. Each one of us can play a part, and together we can make a difference.



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

Giuliana Sunden and her family (friends of Debi Reynolds), Bill Zoldak, Al D’Ambra, Charles (friend of David Potts), Rhianna Burke, Earl Flagg, Janet Tezerian, Joseph Boateng, Polly Boyns, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Donald McLaren, 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, Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman), Margie (Linda Keister’s sister), Page (Allison Hansen’s sister), Ralph (friend of Dorothy Adams).
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Solomon Aryee and family on the passing of Solomon’s father, Bishop Seth A. Aryee, who passed away in Ghana last week.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for May is given in loving memory of my parents, Norman and Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

The Rose Window lighting May is given in loving memory of my mother and brothers, Marjorie, Leonard, and Harry by Emily Smith.

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

May Herald Announcement... Due to my arm injury, there will not be a May Herald. Please pay special attention to the Sunday Announcements and any possible emails with important information.

Thank you, Debi

Upcoming Vacation...

Pastor Moo will be on vacation beginning May 11th, returning on Thursday, May 25th. If you have an emergency, please call Debi in the church office (508-799-4191, x 102).

Altar Flowers for June

If you would like altar flowers in June in memory or in celebration of a loved one, please have your order to me no later than June 1st. I will be on vacation starting June 9th, returning to the office on June 20th. 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 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

A Message from Staff Parish Relations Committee

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) announced the retirement of our music director William Ness effective July 2, 2023. We have been blessed with William's inspiring music ministry. We will miss his enthusiasm, dedication, talent, and love of Wesley.

As the process for his replacement moves along, we will continue to update the congregation. We welcome your input.

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, May 8 for pickup on May 14**, and May 29 for pickup on June 4.

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

Moving or Have You Moved?

It is really important that you let the church office know if you are moving or have moved so we can keep our database up to date. So 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). *Thank you, Debi Reynolds*

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.

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 June 6th. The new book is The Miracles 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.

Lorraine Kronberg 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 (\$10) from Judy or Chris Flagg.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."
I Thessalonians 5:11*

Mission Matters

Shaw's will hold their 29th Annual Food Drive from June 5 to 11

One in 12 people in Worcester County does not have enough nutritious food to eat. There are many outreach groups offering food and Shaw's will collect food for those centers. Both of Shaw's Supermarket locations in Worcester will be collecting food and essential household items. For more information, check the Mission bulletin board in Brewer Hall.

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 Betsy Pennino

At a 2017 community supper, the volunteer in charge wondered what to do about having spent \$100 more than the Mission Committee's stated maximum for food. Her husband (loyal volunteers both) was telling me this and added that they wondered if they should pay for \$100 of the food. I said no and about two minutes later, one of our regular guests walked over to give me a \$100 bill! He told me that the suppers had been events to look forward to in his life, on the last Saturday of every month, and he wanted to support them. I showed the volunteer the \$100 bill and said it must be to cover the extra spent on food. We laughed because he is a pastor and has heard of many such occurrences. Later I asked Pastor Jim how he understood such coincidences/God Moments. He said that he didn't understand them but knew they were from God.

Adding a quote from poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "Earth's crammed with heaven... but only he who sees, takes off his shoes."