

Sunday Announcements for October 22, 2023

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

Margaret Watson, Nana Boadi Amoah, Deborah Plant, Tim Murphy, Linda D'Acri, Judy & Jim Hoffman, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Al D'Ambra, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Don Johnson (Phil's brother), Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Dorothy Norcross, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Bill & Laura Zoldak, Susan (friend of David Potts), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman), Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Page (Allison Hansen's sister).
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Joseph Fletcher and family on the death of his older sister, Joyce Gibson (nee Fletcher) on September 21, 2023, in London.

Arline Benoit and family on the death of her husband Ernie on October 6. Cards can be sent to Arline at 86 Point Breeze, Webster, MA 01570.

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars... The Church Conference will be held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7 PM via the Sunday worship zoom link online.

Spiritual Renewal Leave: Pastor Moo will be on Spiritual Renewal from October 25 – 31, returning to the office on November 1st. If you have a pastoral emergency please call Debi in the office, leave a voice mail if necessary.

Carty Cupboard: We are in need of meals in a can (chef Boyardee, stews, soups, chili...) and cereal (hot and cold). Thank you for your continued support.

Advance Pie Orders for Bake Sale: I will be taking advance orders for pies for the holiday. Please look for an order form beginning next Sunday in Brewer Hall. Payment must accompany orders. Order deadline is Sunday, November 12th.
Thank you, Linda D'Acri

MISSING: We are missing a 6' resin table and many of our plastic chairs. If you borrowed these items, please return them to the church immediately.

November Herald: *There are always extra copies of the Herald in the Narthex by the Welcome Office.*

The November Herald will be part of the November 5th bulletin. Please have all articles to me no later than October 25th. *Thank you, Debi*

Wesley United Methodist Church

Mission Matters:

Volunteering for Wesley's IHN Week-- Sunday, October 29 to Saturday, November 4

Please let Betsy Pennino know if you are able to provide coverage for the evening shift (5:30 to 8:30 pm) or the overnight (8:30 pm to 6:30 am) during Wesley's week at In the Hour of Need Family Shelter (IHN). (I expect to be at Wesley every Sunday until then, or you can use the sign-up sheet on the Mission Bulletin Board.) If you would like an explanation of how to do either shift, please ask Betsy.

Currently volunteers may choose to stay in the IHN office or move around the house to interact with the families. Volunteers no longer provide dinners but are encouraged to bring food to prepare their own.

The Mission Committee will give IHN Hope for Housing cards to pay for food and housing staples during Wesley's October 29 to November 4 week. Your donating these Big Y cards would save money to give to another mission.

Gerard Piscitelli on another Overseas Mission

Gerard has volunteered for a mission to Guam. The Pacific island was battered by 140 mph typhoon winds on May 24th.

If you might be interested in being part of an international mission, Gerard could give you information and contacts for Methodist mission sites all over the world. Gerard is the New England Conference's Disaster Response Coordinator. That's part of the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM). He has gone to help clean up and rebuild after hurricanes (Katrina, Sandy) and river flooding (Vermont).

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. **Order by Monday, October 23 for pickup on Sunday, October 29.**

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

Reger 150 Festival Concert at Wesley

The Wesley congregation and friends are welcome to attend, at no cost, the Reger150Festival concert to be held here at Wesley United Methodist Church on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 pm. The program will include works by Max Reger and will be performed by several members of the Worcester American Guild of Organists and friends. Selections will include organ, piano, violin and trumpet. For more information, see the website www.reger150.org. This event is supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Commission.

Wesley United Methodist Church

GOD MOMENT

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)

I prefer to post a God Moment from someone else in the congregation, but I didn't receive a new one, so here is another one from me:

A God Moment from Betsy Pennino

About 2 years before I met my husband, I asked my dad, and tried to find the old church in a park where we had picnicked every year until my twenties. My dad said it was in West Boylston on a reservoir. When I was living in Acton and met my husband-to-be, I found out that he lived half a mile from that old church! Almost no one I'd met in Massachusetts knew the location of Plattsburgh, NY where I had grown up-- but he did. Bruce had often heard about it from his mother who had attended Plattsburgh Normal School (where people trained to be teachers in the 1930's). She had decided to go there as a high school graduate in northern New Jersey! Her father believed that young women didn't need higher education and refused to contribute, so Betty cleaned houses.

Move ahead 25 years and little Betsy went to that very same school for nursery school through grade 8! By then it was Plattsburgh State Teachers' College (and eventually SUNY Plattsburgh). PSTC had a Campus School through grade 8 where every class had a head teacher and one or two student teachers who were in training.

Bruce's mother's name was Elizabeth Marie and mine is Mary Elizabeth. She went by "Betty" and I've always been "Betsy." Betty was a teacher for 40+ years and I was a teacher and then a counselor for most of my 40+ year career. Bruce says his mother would have loved to see me preparing classes on the same table she used.

I used to tell this story as a series of coincidences which people found remarkable. The story expanded as I recognized more connections. Now that I'm aware of God Moments, I feel that this story re-assures me that God had a plan for my life and, with God at my side, I found my way to a marriage and life in which I would be happy. May each of you Wesley folks see such connections or other signs that God is in your life! The reason for this column is to perhaps help others see the kinds of signs which contributors to the column have done their best to communicate.



Wesley UMC Community Suppers has been selected by the Store Leadership Team at Stop & Shop to benefit from the Bloomin' 4 Good Program. This time, your organization will receive \$1 from every specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of October 2023 at: 545 Lincoln Street, Worcester MA.



This is a great opportunity to bring some beautiful flowers into your home and help support the Community Supper program as well.

