



November 1, 2023

On a 'Mission from God'

Did you ever see “The Blues Brothers” movie (1980). The plot centers around their “mission from God” to save the orphanage where brothers Jake and Elwood were raised. The catchphrase, “mission from God” can be heard throughout this whimsical film.

I think we can all relate to having a certain calling to do something that God continually lays on our heart. As United Methodists we are to make disciples for the transformation of the world — that is a god-sized “mission from God.”



Speaking of being on a mission from God, in the New England Annual Conference, we are blessed with some notable United Methodist missionaries serving the Board of Global Ministries. One of them, Belinda Forbes was called into the field of medical mission from one of our churches, Uncasville UMC, more than 20 years ago. You can read about her on [her bio page](#) and learn how to provide financial and prayer support.

Another blessing from Global Ministries is a missionary that was sent to serve the New England Annual Conference in 2001. He is [Rev. Juarez Goncalves](#). He and his wife, the Rev. Clauri Goncalves, have planted seven Portuguese-language churches in Massachusetts. He also serves as our coordinator of Latino ministries and half time as pastor of Family UMC.

Our mission board believes that anyone can serve anywhere. No longer are only American missionaries serving in developing countries, as it was years ago. All of us stand in need of the giftedness and cultural expertise of those from the vast diversity of the world’s family. We are blessed to have the Revs. Juarez and Clauri and many other pastors from Brazil who are serving with distinction among us.

In other news, we will soon be blessed with the services of a retired General Board of Global Ministries missionary; Dr. Mark Zimmerman just completed 35 years of service as a medical doctor in Nepal. He and his wife, Deirdre, also a GBGM missionary and dietician, will be moving to New Hampshire where Mark will be serving the Lebanon UMC beginning in February 2024. They will also be able to interpret mission for us as they live among us.

How about you? Do you feel a call to mission work? The fields are ripe for harvest, and our United Methodist Board of Global Ministries is still sending forth missionaries to a plethora of mission assignments in the U.S. and abroad. There is a Global Mission Fellows program for young adults. There are also numerous Volunteer in Mission opportunities to explore.

Your church can sponsor a GBGM missionary in Covenant Relationship. Rev. Gil Lee (pictured below), our Mission Secretary, is happy to tell you more about it (His email: gilpyo.lee@gmail.com).

His churches in Scarborough and Saco, Maine (West Scarborough and Cornerstone) have just signed on to be in Covenant Relationship with Rev. Courtney Randall who is soon to be serving in Sligo, Ireland. Her husband, Dan, will be serving some local churches as well.

The Randalls were former members of the Cornerstone UMC in Maine. A Covenant Relationship is second mile giving (\$5 per member) that keeps our missionaries connected to our local congregations. They share about their work and prayer requests and the possibilities of networking and outreach are endless.

The work of missions extends the ministry of Christ. As churches take seriously their mission outreach they grow and become vibrant in new and wonderful ways.

Check out the Global Ministries website (umcmmission.org) and find out more ways you and your congregation can be involved in our very own mission board. You too can be on a "mission from God."



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

Jim & Judy Hoffman, Margaret Watson, Nana Boadi Amoah, Deborah Plant, Tim Murphy, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Al D'Ambra, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Don Johnson (Phil's brother), Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer (now home), Dorothy Norcross, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; 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) in London.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose Window lighting for November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr., and Nancy C. Duxbury by Beth-Anne Duxbury & Brian Pitts, Craig & Tina Duxbury, and Matthew Duxbury.

The Tower lighting for November is given in Thanks for Wesley Church.

Altar flowers... 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

CHURCH CONFERENCE

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

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.

Sunday School: Rhianna Burke, Sunday School Director, contact information is education@wesleyworc.org.

Advance Pie Orders for Bake Sale: We are now taking advance orders for pies for the holiday. Order forms are available in Brewer Hall and online. Payment must accompany orders. Order deadline is Sunday, November 12th.
Thank you, United Women in Faith

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.



Advent Study

Friday Mornings, December 2 - 22

10:00 - 11:30 AM

John Wesley Room

This Advent season join Rachel Billups and read through the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas.

Plan to join us for this video study, discussion and fellowship each Friday morning during lent. For more information and to pick up your book please reach out to Chris Flagg at 508-414-1696.



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

The December Herald will be part of the December 3rd bulletin. Please send all articles to me no later than November 27th. *Thank you, Debi*

Mark Your Calendar... Friday, December 1st Worcester Symphony Orchestra will hold a Christmas Concert here at Wesley Church in the evening. More information to come.



Mission Matters: 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. Many other denominations besides the Methodists will be helping with the rebuild. The U.S. Government's "State of Emergency" funds are paying for the re-build, and FEMA is funding the volunteers' flight costs and accommodations.

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, November 13 for pickup on Sunday, November 19.

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 this Saturday, November 4th at 7:30 PM

The Wesley congregation and friends are welcome to attend, at no cost, the Reger 150 Festival concert to be held here at Wesley United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 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. Visit the website www.reger150.org for more information. This event is supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Commission.



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)

God Moments from Debi Reynolds

While on vacation we took a bus tour of Curaçao, visiting Mambo Beach. I enjoyed the water and then sat on the beach. A father and his son, Jess (3 years old) played in the sand. With several family members in the water, the dad looked at Jesse and told him to stay right there and he would be right back. Jesse watched his 'papa' run to the chairs, but he lost sight of him and started walking into the water towards his family. I started to become more and more nervous because I knew there was a substantial drop-off.

Just as I was jumping up to run in, Jesse's 6-year-old sister swam quickly to him. From my peripheral vision I saw the dad running. He looked at me quickly and just tossed his phone at me as he ran into the water.

In these days, anything can be misconstrued. If I had grabbed him earlier anything could have happened to me. However, the dad came over thanked me profusely for going to his son's aid. He said that though he kept his eye on his son, he was watching me too, as a safety. He said that when he saw me stand and quickly go in the water, that is when he saw his son in the water.

Is think God wanted me there at that time. Every time we saw the family on the ship, the father and the mother said Thank You to me. We became quick friends.

While in Bonaire, we found a beach and jumped in the water. While swimming I shared with Derick that I had an 'off feeling' about a couple of men who would come and go from the dock area to a wall and sit down.

Derick and I decided to go on the dock, and me being me, I connected with a couple of young ladies (mid 20's) and they shared their concerns... same as mine. So, we conversed on the dock like we were all together. The two men left. Then one of them returned with a coconut drink and gave it to the ladies. They were both surprised and did say no thank you, but he proceeded to give it to them (he did not speak English). They took it and said thank you and pretended to drink it. He ran off and quickly came back with another... but while he was gone, they threw it in the trash. He tried to converse with them, but they didn't respond. He continued to jump off the dock and kept trying.

A little later I met a local mom and her three young kids. While talking with her, she mentioned to be careful of some of the men, and if the girls in the water were ours, to have them stay close. I decided to tell the ladies, loudly, that we were headed back to the ship. I was thankful the girls took my message and left the beach too. As it turned out, the ladies were on the ship too as our Thursday night entertainment.

I don't like to judge people, but when you have a 'feeling' and others tell you something similar about a possible danger, I believe that's a sign from above.

DID YOU KNOW?

In a few weeks many of us will gather to feast with family and friends as we observe Thanksgiving Day, a holiday that has religious associations, but which is not part of the official liturgical calendar. However, the general tradition of celebratory feasts has deep Biblical roots. From Old Testament times, religious feasts and festivals have been joyful celebrations notable for instrumental music and singing, dancing and elaborate meals with abundant food. Much more than a party, these Biblical feasts were occasions for the commemoration of God's goodness. These occasions not only offered an experience of fellowship among human beings but also celebrated relationship with God.

We are all familiar with the Ten Commandments, but did you know that in the Old Testament there are also six feasts commanded by the covenant of Moses? These feasts, which are still observed by Jews today, include:

- The springtime **Feast of Passover** and **Feast of Unleavened Bread** which together commemorate the deliverance of the Hebrews from bondage in Egypt
- The **Feast of Trumpets** (also known as Rosh Hashanah) marks the start of the new year in the fall
- The **Feast of Firstfruits** and the **Feast of Weeks** which are both harvest celebrations
- The **Feast of Tabernacles** (also known as Succoth) which commemorates God's provision of sustenance during the time of wondering in the wilderness

In the New Testament the Gospels tell us that Jesus observed the traditional Jewish feasts, but he then transformed the Jewish Passover into a remembrance of his sacrificial death. In the Christian tradition we observe this as often as we celebrate Communion. In addition, the liturgical year, which begins anew as we enter Advent, is built on a cycle of feasts that commemorate events in the life of Jesus and experiences of the early church:

- **Christmas** which celebrates the birth of Jesus
- **Epiphany** commemorating the visit of the Magi
- **Easter** the celebration of Jesus' resurrection
- **Ascension** remembering Jesus' ascent into heaven
- **Pentecost** celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit


Our congregation's recent celebration of Harvest was also a feast in every sense of the word, as we experienced worship and fellowship along with the International Luncheon in an expression of thanksgiving for all God has done for us. Our feasting continues every month as we celebrate the sacrament of Communion, as we will do this coming Sunday, November 5. In a few short weeks we will begin another journey through the liturgical year of feasting with the start of Advent.

Submitted by Deborah O'Driscoll


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WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Byungmoo Lee	Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
Interim Organist	Ronna Davis	Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Chancel Choir Director	David Potts		Ivy Hammond
Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham	Youth Bible Study	Joseph Fletcher
Director of Children’s Ministries	Rhianna Burke	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	William Wong
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane		Peter Hansen
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Financial Secretary	Earl Flagg
Building Superintendent	Tim Murphy	Church Auditor	Cynthia Fletcher
Assistant Building Superintendent & Sunday Security	Phil Johnson	Ghanaian Association	Paul Hayfron
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Hospitality Chair	Linda D’Acri
	Gerard Piscitelli	Medical Ministry	Ron Ramsay
Head Usher	David Dagle	Mission Coordinator	Betsy Pennino
Communion Steward	Earl Flagg	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Chris Flagg
Wesley Tech Team	Mark Muncey	United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Judy Hoffman
Church Council	Brent Drajesk		Allison Hansen
Board of Trustees	Gary Robinson	Music Committee	Barbara Ingrassia
		Worship Committee	Debbie O’Driscoll
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