

Sunday Announcements for December 10, 2023

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

Bill Kilmer, Don Prior, Grace Woode, Nana Boadi Amoah, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Ray Cournoyer (friend of Bill Robbins), Al D'Ambra, John Davis (Ronna's husband), Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Kathy Freeburn (friend of Linda D'Acri), Jim Hoffman, Don Johnson (Phil's brother), Charles & Samira Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, Sandra O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Margaret Watson, Phyllis Yngve, 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.

We have two prayer quilts this morning. One for Amy Cummings for strength and comfort; and one for Judy Conn for strength and recovery.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose Window lighting for December is given in loving memory of my parents, Henry and Katherine Williams by Susan J. Williams, their daughter.

The Tower lighting for December is given in loving memory of Jean and Calvin Williams by Debbie, Gail, and families.

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

Advent Devotionals are now available in the Narthex. Youth and Adult devotionals are the same. Please stop by and take one.

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

The January Herald will be part of the January 7th bulletin; however, it will be posted by January 5th. Please send all articles to me no later than December 27th. *Thank you, Debi*

Bulletin Boards in Brewer Hall... We are ready to fill the bulletin boards in Brewer Hall now. If you would like space, please call or email me in the office and let me know what committee/group you would like space for. I'd like to be able to have the boards ready by December 15th, so please let me know by Monday, December 11th. Thank you!

Debi Reynolds (office@wesleyworc.org)

ADVENT GIFT BOXES OR BAGS

As an Advent mission this year at Wesley, you are again invited to create Advent Gifts of small, needed items. Please place items from the list below in a shoebox and include a Christmas card. You can bring to Brewer Hall your wrapped gift box by December 24th and the gifts will be distributed at the December 30th Community Supper. Any remaining will be given out at the January 7th Community Breakfast.

We have shortened the list below to include only the most needed gifts which are easily recognizable to folks from other cultures. Also, we found that cans of fruit & vegetables were too heavy for homeless people and single serve cups were more usable. We have some backpacks left which we will give to homeless folks when they are putting the items in their pockets. Please use shoeboxes (not boot boxes) and the gift is complete when the shoebox is full. *There's no need to include all items on the list.* Also add a plastic fork, spoon & knife which a homeless person would need. Questions? Ask Linda D'Acri or Betsy Pennino.

Recommended Items:

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| * Toothbrush & toothpaste | * Cereal bars |
| * Bar or small bottle of soap | * Juice boxes or small juice bottle |
| * Tissues or Antibacterial wipes | * Single serve applesauce cups (pull-top) |
| * Wash cloth | * Goldfish or cheese crackers |
| * Socks | * Dried fruit |
| * Gloves | * Hot cocoa packets |
| * ChapStick or lip balm | * Canned tuna with pull-top |
| * Band-Aids | * Meal in a can (pull-top) |
| * Pens or pencils | * Dark chocolate |
| * Tablet of paper/small notebook | |

"Christmas... a gladdening of hearts, a renewing of faith, a sharing of love."

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 Monday, December 18 for Sunday, December 24 pickup after the morning service.

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

Wesley United Methodist Church

From Carty Cupboard...

The volunteers of Carty Cupboard served 517 families in November! However, for the first time ever the Worcester County Food Bank doesn't have the amount of food we need to fill the bags we pack each week for those we serve. **We really need your help!** Please help us by donating a box of cereal each week to Carty Cupboard in the basket in Brewer Hall. It can be hot or cold cereal, either will help to make a complete bag for our clients. We can also use thick plastic bags like the ones from Shaw's, and paper grocery bags with paper handles, like the ones from Trader Joes.

Thank you! Nancy Spencer

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)

A God Moment

Mark Muncey is a leader of Wesley's Tech Team which makes our Sunday services available to be watched after each service ends. This capability started via Zoom and now uses other technologies. Mark had the persistent idea that perhaps another area church could help us with the changing technologies. He started researching this and discovered that the church right next door, across State St., has the same system as Wesley. Also, James, the First Unitarian Church's Assistant Music Director, is an "IT guy" (an information technology professional who works on computer systems). James is very eager to help Wesley! He even loaned Wesley a cable which we needed until Mark could get one of our own. Mark says, "The kingdom of heaven on earth is full of people who are anxious to help each other."