

Sunday Announcements for December 24, 2023

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

Baby "T" with a heart condition (friend of Carol Samanen), Beverly Grimshaw, Don Prior, Peter Woodcock, 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; 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.

There are prayer quilts for Pinamang Boateng and Grace Woode today. Please come tie a knot and say a prayer for God's love and comfort for them both.

Announcements

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*

Mission Matters

Members of the congregation have asked how to make donations to help the Palestinians and Ukrainians. You may know that the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and Methodist Global Ministries have mission locations all over the world. They especially work to help people in crisis whether due to war (as in the case of the Palestinians and Ukrainians), famine, disease, earthquakes, volcanoes, floods and other disasters.

To give by check to Palestinians in need of food, water, medical care, treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, and shelter, please make your check payable to Advance GCFA and note: Palestinians, Advance 14238A (Note: That Advance number is for the Center for Disabled Children in Jerusalem.)

To contribute to support for Ukrainians in need of the same life essentials, please make your check payable to Advance GCFA, and note: Ukrainians, Advance 982450.

You can mail your check to: (please be sure to put the Advance # on the check)

Global Ministries | UMCOR
GPO
P.O. BOX 9068
NEW YORK, NY 10087-9068

You can also donate online by going to their website: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>. Scroll down and choose the Advance you'd like to give to.

"Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks with compassion on the world."

Wesley United Methodist Church

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.

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

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 from Susan Williams

On Thursday, November 30th, I was walking home up Northampton St. (next to Adcare on Lincoln St.) As I reached the top, I fainted. I remember nothing until I woke up in the Crisis Center at UMass Hospital. I was bleeding profusely and required 6 stitches in my head. The rest of my body was fine. After many tests and staying overnight, we found I was dehydrated, so I was allowed to go home with my daughter Laurel. We understood that a visiting nurse would come to see me the next day.

Let me explain that I have many Christian cross-stitch pieces on my walls, and my house is decorated for Christmas with a nativity, etc. Laurel left to pick up supplies I needed. When the buzzer rang, she and the visiting nurse were waiting. There was something special about that man. I'm glad Laurel saw him before she left.

After he entered my apartment, he said, "I love your shirt." I looked down and it read, it said "Pray, Wait, Trust." He read my hospital information and went over my meds, then asked about my fall. After I explained what happened, he said, "Angels were protecting you." I shared my previous fall (I was tripped by exposed light pole wire and fell flat on my face, black and blue but nothing else.) Then he repeated, "you've had Angels watching over you." He mentioned my "Amazing Grace" cross stitch on the wall. As he was leaving, he asked me, "would you like to pray?" He prayed in the spirit! WOW! It was very powerful!

What a blessing, God surprises me when I least expect it. Thank you, God -- I think about it now and still my heart leaps for Joy!