

Sunday Announcements for July 7, 2024

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

Judy Hoffman, Isabella Consolatti (granddaughter of Gail and Ron Liston), Grace Woode, Rosamond Hammond, Pierre Bellil, Linda Keister, Stephen Boyns, Georgia (Stacey & Stewart's daughter), Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Ray Cournoyer (friend of Bill Robbins), Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Beverly Grimshaw, Jim Hoffman, Don Johnson, Charles Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, Sandra O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alysia Simoneau, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Peter Woodcock, Laura Zoldak, Susan (friend of David Potts), Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Page (Allison Hansen's sister), Libby T. (friend of Phyllis Yngve), Neil Ashton (past member), Paula and Calvin Kelly (sister and brother-in-law of Linda Dylewicz),
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for July is given in loving memory of Mable & Luther Marsh, and Evelyn & Martin Samanen by Carol, Dave, Steve, and Jeff Samanen.

The Rose Window lighting for July is given in loving memory of Bill Woodring by Blair, Karl, John, and Mary Jett Woodring.

The altar flowers this week are given by two individual families...

One arrangement of altar flowers is given in honor and celebration of Sherry Curran by Tom Banks.

One arrangement of altar flowers is given in honor and celebration of Katie Hansen's and Patrick King's marriage, celebrated June 22 by Peter and Allison Hansen.

Announcements

PARKING... IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please DO NOT park in the *Unitarian Church parking lot across the street. If you are currently parked there, kindly go move your car. You can park in our parking lot behind the church (accessed by State Street) or you can park on State Street or Main Street. Parking meters are not in effect on Sunday. Thank you.

Note: The Unitarian Church has parking stickers, so you could be towed if your car does not have a sticker.*

August Herald: The August Herald will be part of the August 4th bulletin. Please mark your calendar to have articles to me by Friday, July 26th.

Reminder: Sincere there is no Herald in July, if you have an article you'd like in the Announcements, please send it to me no later than the Wednesday before the Sunday you'd like the announcement in.

Thank you, Debi Reynolds (office@wesleyworc.org)

Vacation Bible School - July 29 - August 2

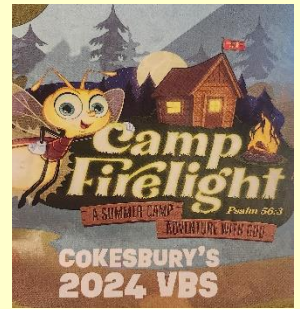
Our Vacation Bible School week is coming quick! Children ages 5-12 yrs old may join us 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm each night. More information to follow shortly.

Register with Rhianna at education@wesleyworc.org

SIGN YOUR CHILD(REN) UP TODAY!

Come to our VBS table in Brewer Hall for child sign ups.

Check out the Education Newsletter attached for more information!



Men's Mini-Harvest & Kofi & Ama Preliminary Results

Thank you for all your support. Here are the preliminary results. A total of \$4022 was raised for the day. We will update with the final figure in a couple of weeks.

Harvest	\$ 2,748	
Kofi & Ama Offering		
Sunday	\$ 350	WINNER!!!
Monday	251	
Tuesday	114	
Wednesday	92	
Thursday	165	
Friday	160	
Saturday	138	
No day specified	\$ _____	4
TOTAL	\$ 1274	

Altar flowers... We've been very fortunate to not have had a price increase with our altar flowers over the last 5 years or more. However, it is now time for that increase to happen. With \$60 you are just not able to receive two beautiful arrangements for the altar, without the florist losing money. After a recent meeting with the owner of Perro's, we have agreed upon \$80 for the two arrangements (\$40 per arrangement) for the altar flowers on Sundays. This price change IS effective July 1, 2024.

However, we are going to try something new... if you'd like flowers for a given Sunday, we will take a single order for \$50. This arrangement will be placed on the center of the altar on a brass flower stand. If by chance, like today, two people would like flowers, we will list them both and they will be placed in the same area as usual, on each side of the altar.

If you would like to donate the altar flowers on a given Sunday, you may sign up in the book in the Welcome Office or call me during the week. There is a form in the book as well that will need to be completed and returned to me with the payment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you, Debi Reynolds

From Carty Cupboard

This month, we are looking for **canned fruit in fruit juice, jelly, both strawberry and grape, and large cans of baked beans 20oz or 28oz. please.**

Thanks, Nancy

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)

Another God Moment from Enoh--

In 2016, I woke up on a Thursday morning, and told my husband that I wanted to retire. He was surprised because we had never talked about it. He asked me if there was any problem at the College and I said no. I told my husband that I didn't understand but at the same time, I couldn't shake it off. Retirement never occurred to me and I never checked into what it entails to retire. As I was talking with my husband about it, I was getting ready to go to the social security office here in Worcester. I had no idea where it was located, so I used the GPS. I got there, but whatever information they gave me didn't make much sense to me. From the SSO, I went straight to my college, the then Becker College, to tell my boss, the Dean of Nursing, that I wanted to retire. She was very surprised and asked me if there was any problem at home. No, there's no problem at home, my husband asked me if there was problem at the College and I said no. There is no problem anywhere, I just don't understand it, but still, I'm going ahead with my retirement.

My boss then said to me, "you work a lot, I'm going to give you some time off." The time off she gave me was the whole spring of 2017, plus the summer. When I returned from that sabbatical leave in September of 2017, Becker had let go all the tenured faculty and hired new ones. Even my old boss who granted my sabbatical leave, was gone.

I went to the business office to ask what had happened, to let that many tenured faculty go. I also let them know that I was out of there. The HR manager said to me, "You are not going anywhere, the Lord saved you from what happened, why do you want to punish yourself?" "...You could have been affected if you had been here then."

I realized what she was saying and broke down, weeping hysterically. It was then I realized that my Lord had protected me from what was coming. To God's Glory, I continued working at Becker College till it was closed in 2021.

From Chris Flagg, New England Annual Conference

GOOD MORNING CHURCH!!

These were the first words spoken by almost everyone that stepped up to the podium at Annual Conference this year.

GOOD MORNING CHURCH!

Can you feel the energy that those words carry!

Can you feel the Joy!

Can you feel the promise?

It was my honor and very great pleasure to serve as our church's lay delegate once again this year at the New England Annual Conference

and I am happy to report

.... It's a new day and GOD is on the move!

IT's a new day.... And WE the Church are on the move!

The overall theme for this year's conference was Missions

And we spent several glorious hours hearing about mission field work.

Work that was made possible through mission shares!

\$3.5 million dollars was spent this year by the conference to create, develop, and implement missions that serve.

\$31,000.00 was used to support New England Conference field missionaries Courtney Randall and Belinda Forbes

And another 2.5 million was used by congregations in the conference to support an estimated 500,000 people through a variety of programs including

Community building events

Clothing ministries

Ministries with the homeless

Education ministries

Immigration and refugee ministries

Prison ministries

Medical ministries

Environmental ministries

Recovery ministries

Housing ministries

Disaster relief

Climate care

toys for children

And a whopping 42% of congregations provided feeding programs that reached approximately 3000 people per week.

That's more than 150,000 meals provided to the hungry among us.

God is with us, and together we are on the move people!

And I'm not done,

There are mission on the move opportunities galore!

Some new opportunities have been created and some of the missions we've all known for years have been revitalized.

Disaster relief teams are out doing what they do with UMVIM and Umcor

The Maine economic ministry is once again ready to welcome work teams

UM Army, a mission away opportunity for our youth is back

Cooper Community is welcoming anyone who would like to visit, to come and see what they are doing

United Methodist MEN is alive in new ways, they've created an App for Apple users, it's filled with devotions, bible study and ways to get involved.

And...

They are organizing a national Men's conference which will be held in North Carolina in 2025

And a number of education and spiritual renewal opportunities are also available

Lay servant ministry classes will be held again this year

Rolling Ridge retreat center is open

Walk to Emmaus in southern New England is ready if you are

All of the camps are open and waiting for our kids to arrive

Mission U is ready to welcome everyone, this includes not just women!

Men, youth and children are all invited! And on a side note Wesley's United Women of Faith is offering scholarships if anyone would like to join us this July.

God is calling us to move!

It is important that I also note that the whole conference was not a just celebration of mission. Several resolutions were brought forth to be voted, some passed and some did not but all of them were addressed by a body United, United in our commitment serve God. The separation of hearts that threatened to destroy us last year has been removed.

Thanks be to God!

A request was made by the General conference this past spring that all annual conferences take part in the following apology, and likewise we were asked by Annual Conference to bring this to our individual congregations

I'll close this morning by reading the following:

Introduction

Sexual misconduct is a current and real problem within The United Methodist Church. Today, we acknowledge there are people here who have been mistreated, abused, and assaulted by clergy and lay leaders in the Church.

We honor those who have shared their stories and those who have sat with their stories in silence. We commend the courage of all survivors of sexual misconduct to walk a path they did not choose.

Too often those who suffer from sexual misconduct are silenced, ignored, or not believed by the Church.

Sexual misconduct includes psychological, emotional, and spiritual abuse. This apology is a beginning point for confession and hope in prevention and response to sexual misconduct in The United Methodist Church.

Apology

The United Methodist Church apologizes for the times we allowed our desire to protect the Church to outweigh our desire to care for victims and survivors of sexual misconduct. We have allowed polity and protection of the institutional Church to prevent us from holding persons accountable, thus perpetuating harm within our local churches and other ministry settings, and damaging the whole United Methodist connection.

We apologize for the times we have not listened to you, doubted your stories, ignored your wounds, and have not tended to your pain. We believe this has contributed to allowing an unsafe culture to exist.

An apology is worthless without a commitment to the challenging work which must follow. The United Methodist Church pledges to:

- 1. Apologize in every annual conference across the connection.**
- 2. Educate Church leaders regarding sacred trust in ministerial relationships and power imbalance within those relationships.**
- 3. Provide healing resources to all affected in accordance with ¶ 362. Complaint Procedures.**
- 4. Develop a trauma-informed response to complaints of sexual misconduct.**

This apology alone is insufficient for healing. The United Methodist Church accepts our responsibility and publicly states our commitment to carry out the steps named to do no more harm. May God's blessing and never-ending love guide our work and see it through.