

Sunday Announcements for November 10, 2024



November 6, 2024

Reflections on the Day After

On the days before the election, I stated publicly that no matter who was elected, there would be deep feelings and raw emotions expressed.

On this day after the election, it's true. Today is a somber, sobering day for many. It is a day when there are few words to salve the wounds of some or to temper the strong feelings in others. Some feel defeated. Others feel emboldened. We are and will remain divided.

Today is a day to be careful with our words, gentle with one another, and sensitive to the vulnerable state in which we find ourselves. In the midst of all that needs to be sorted through, I write with special concern for many who feel diminished, lessened, and even frightened today: Women, especially women of color, who are deeply gifted and blessed with extraordinary leadership skills, yet often deemed not enough; immigrants who worry about their safety, their families, and their future; all people viewed as "other" in this fractured political environment, leaders who have taken a different path who, today, worry about retribution. The list is long.

Today is a day to be careful with one another, sensitive to raw feelings and personal pain in our midst, and prayerful that somehow, some way, there may be a day when we will pursue unity rather than division, when grace rather than retaliation will be the driving force, and love, not hatred, will be the standard.

Today is a day to be careful with one another because there is someone today who is afraid and in pain.

But tomorrow is a day to begin again the work of creating a just world for everyone, working tirelessly to eliminate racism and gender bias that seeks to diminish the gifts of many, creating a pathway of hope for those who have none, and navigating a channel of love that will make the world a better place for our children, our grandchildren, and, in fact, everyone wherever they are in the world.

Today it's okay to be reflective and somber. But staying that way will only feed those who hope to keep us down. Tomorrow it's time to let the presence of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit guide our steps and inform our words going forward.

Today the General Board of Church and Society posted this prayer written by Rev. Allison Mark and Bishop Julius Trimble. It is titled, "*A Prayer for our Country after Election Day.*"



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*Spirit of the living God, guide us in the way of peace,
keep us on the path of justice, and the way of love for the whole of the human family.*

We pray for those who weep today as our elections reveal winners and losers.

*Our hope for a more inclusive and unified country remains our prayer, and that the
Gospel and the church bring healing and help to those in most need. Amen.*

At the Council of Bishops meeting today, a chorus quietly emerged as a part of our worship. It was the old Bill Withers's song, *Lean on Me*:

Sometimes in our lives

We all have pain

We all have sorrow

But if we are wise

We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me

When you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on ...

May it be so. Oh Lord, our God, may it be so.



Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

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

Sandra O'Driscoll, Melissa Houlihan (friend of Bill Robbins), Alice Douglas, Deborah Plant, Barbara McLaren, Cathy (sister-in-law of David Potts), Rich Reynolds, Grace Woode, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Tom Friend, Jim & Judy Hoffman, Don Johnson, Charles Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay, Barbara and 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.

Family and friends of Chloe Sundberg who passed away Friday evening, November 1st. A Celebration of Life will be held in the Spring.

There is a prayer quilt today for Gail Morgan. Please come tie a knot and say a prayer for comfort, strength, and healing for Gail.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for November is given with thanks and blessings for Carolyn & Pierre's 63rd Wedding Anniversary.

The Rose Window for November is given in loving memory of Clifford s. Duxbury, Jr. by Beth, Craig, Tina, Matthew Duxbury and Brian Pitts.

Altar flowers are available each Sunday for dedication of a loved one in celebration of a special event or in memory of someone. If you are interested in dedicating flowers, the order forms are in the Welcome office. Cost of both arrangements is \$80, and a single arrangement is \$50 (placed in front of the altar). Please leave your order form and payment in Debi's office. Thank you.

Announcements

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8 – All Church Meeting following worship

Continue the Conversation on Wesley's Future December 8th

Stay after church on Sunday, December 8 to continue the conversation about Wesley's future with the Vision Task Force. Our topic will be low-risk Scenario 1, "Stay and Grow Ministries." We want to hear your thoughts on how best we can secure Wesley's future. Save the date!

Advance Pie Orders for Bake Sale: I am now taking advance orders for pies for the holiday. Please look in Brewer Hall for the order forms. Payment is appreciated at the time of ordering. Order deadline to order is Sunday, November 17th.
Thank you, Linda D'Acri

Annual Bake, Craft, and Plant Sale Fundraiser... United Women in Faith will be having their annual Bake, Craft and Plant Sale the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 24th). Please help us make this a huge success as it does help with missions here and abroad as well as camperships! Please bake if you can and bring your checkbooks for the delicious homemade goodies!! Also, if you can lend a hand during the sale, before or after church, please let Linda D'Acri know.

Poinsettia Orders are now being taken. We have a short window to get our order in, so please be sure to order your Poinsettia(s) soon! The deadline for ALL orders is Monday, November 25th. Order forms can be found in your bulletin, in the Narthex, and online. There is a box in the Welcome office to place your orders in.
Thank you, Linda D'Acri & Debi Reynolds

Volunteers are needed on the first Sunday of each month during the breakfast rush. If you can help before or after church, please sign on the sheets near the kitchen. We will have signup sheets for December, January, and February to begin.
Thank you, Linda D'Acri

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 1st bulletin. Please send all articles to me no later than Wednesday, November 20th. With Thanksgiving the following week, I will need to work on the newsletter earlier.
Thank you, Debi

Advent Study

November 22 – December 20

Friday mornings – 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in John Wesley room

AN UNLIKELY ADVENT

Extraordinary people of the Christmas story

By Rachel Billups

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 Advent. For more information and to pick up your book please reach out to Chris Flagg at 508-414-1696.



United Women in Faith All Circle Meeting and Holiday Party...

On Saturday, December 7th from 12:00 to 2:00 pm, the women of Wesley, the “United Women in Faith” (UWF) will gather in Brewer Hall for an All Circle and a festive Holiday Party including a luncheon with a brief meeting.

Florence House women with children are attending and our babysitters are coming to help!

Please bring a wrapped new or gently used children’s book and a wrapped adult book to be given to someone else in our group!

Rebecca Circle will be providing the luncheon.

So please mark your calendars now so not to miss this annual event, to enjoy one another’s company and to share in the spirit of Christmastime love and giving.

From Carty Cupboard Food Pantry...

It’s November, the month we all try to take some time to let those in our lives know just how thankful we truly are for them. I would like to let some special people know how much they mean to me. To Harry, Louie and Bobby D’Acri, Phil Johnson and his Grandson Jake, Bill Robbins, Edith Isaac, Susan Williams, Mark Muncey, Donna Nelson, Alana and Autumn Cales, I am so very thankful that you all are volunteers for Carty Cupboard Food Pantry. I am very Blessed to have you all in my life. ~Nancy

To the people who continue to donate food and or money to Carty Cupboard, I thank you.

This year we will have record-breaking numbers of people served from our food pantry. In October we served over 700 families in need.

This month we are looking for reusable shopping bags, no paper or plastic please. We are also in need of cereal, hot or cold, hearty canned soups, and meals in a can like stew, or Chef Boyardee products.

Thank you so much!

Nancy

Gift Cards Can Prevent Homelessness!

Do you buy groceries? Stop by CVS? Grab a coffee at Dunkin, Starbucks or a meal at Panera? If you do, pay with a gift card instead of cash or credit. Buy your card at Wesley and your purchase will help a family threatened with homelessness actually remain in their home.

Allison Hansen will be selling cards in Brewer Hall after church on the following dates and will accept orders by email at ACHis4788@aol.com. Please give her advance notice if you want to place a larger order.

November 17 – Shop for stocking stuffers and plan ahead!

December 8 – Secret Santa? Team gifts? Last chance for larger orders this year.

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 Chris Flagg

God is Good!

On September 21st I had plans to attend the District UWF meeting with other members of my circle. First, I would need to pick up a friend so that we could then head to Wesley to meet others and finally head to the meeting together.

When I arrived at my first stop, it was pouring rain, and I misjudged the depth of a pothole. I ended up with a flat tire, and of course that was the moment when I realized that I had forgotten to renew my AAA membership several months ago. My brain immediately went into overdrive, over-thinking about everything...

We are stuck on the side of the road,
people are waiting for us to arrive at the church,
we are going to be late for the meeting,
this is gonna cost a fortune.

I was completely stressing myself out and needed to just stop for a minute. I put my head in my hands and closed my eyes. Then I sensed someone standing beside me, I opened my eyes, and a very nice man was standing in the pouring rain beside my window offering to change my tire. What a blessing!

But the story doesn't end there. While I was waiting, I called my husband. He came right out to meet me so that I could take his car while he got my car's tire replaced. It was a good plan except I really don't like driving his car. He convinced me it was best to not be driving on a spare in the heavy rain, so I agreed.

I got to the church to pick up the person we were meeting. Not thinking, I went to plug in my GPS so that I could use WAZE for directions, but my husband's car is older than mine and doesn't have that capability. Of course I went right back into stress mode, and then for the first time EVER my phone started automatically playing music. I have no idea how this happened but the first words we heard were "everything's gonna be all right," yes, a familiar song that has saved me before. I was so surprised that I almost started to cry, and I'm quite sure the rest of my passengers felt something similar.

I still have no idea where that sweet man came from, nor do I have any idea how that song started playing, and I'm not sure I'd even believe any of it myself if it weren't for the witnesses riding with me, but I do know one thing for sure, God is watching out for me and he makes a way... and God is good! All the time!!!