

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

Shea Pugh, Katie Johnson (Phil Johnson's daughter-in-law), Justin Clark (Debi Reynolds' neighbor), Jane Borthwick, Troy (David Potts brother, wife of Cathy), David Patrick (Evette Walters husband), Kathleen Herbert (Evette Walters mom), Giendora Lewis (Evette Walters aunt), Carolyn Bellil, Debbie Plant, Sandra O'Driscoll, Melissa Houlihan (friend of Bill Robbins), Alice Douglas, 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, 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.

## Announcements

### AN ALL-CHURCH MEETING

will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2025, following worship.

### Mark Your Calendars:

#### Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Soup & Bread Dinner at 6:00 pm; Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 pm

#### Saturday, March 8, 2025, from 10 am to 2 pm

Spiritual Uplifting Retreat sponsored by United Women in Faith

#### Sunday, March 9, 2025

Daylight-Saving Time Begins

#### Sunday, March 16, 2025

You're Invited to a Celebration Luncheon

**Confirmation Class** will begin on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:40 am in John Wesley. All Parents and Mentors are expected to attend with the student(s) please.

**Lenten Devotionals** for adult, youth and children are available in the Narthex.

**Lenten Study: The Grace of Les Misérables...** Join us for a Lenten study, The Grace of Les Misérables by Matt Rawle, Abington Press. The study, led by Veronica Winder, will meet in the John Wesley room on Friday mornings March 7 - April 18 from 10 am to 12 pm. Sign up after church in Brewer Hall. Books can be purchased from Amazon. Please contact Veronica (615-424-8960 or via email ([vmwinder@gmail.com](mailto:vmwinder@gmail.com)) or Chris Flagg ([erf115@msn.com](mailto:erf115@msn.com)) with any questions.

### **Lenten Labyrinth Walk**

Walking a labyrinth is a contemplative spiritual practice which symbolizes the Christian spiritual journey. The physical walking of the labyrinth provides time and space for interior reflection. As we enter the Lenten season Wesley's floor labyrinth and materials for a self-guided walk will be available in the chapel during the following times:

- Ash Wednesday March 8 from 5-6:30 pm as well as immediately following the conclusion of the evening Ash Wednesday service
- Saturday March 8 during the retreat sponsored by the United Women in Faith
- Sunday March 9 following morning worship

The walk is intended to open the way for your Lenten pilgrimage and to provide an opportunity for you to set your intentions for your spiritual walk through this holy season. All are welcome.

### **Help Keep Families in Their Homes**

Looking for a way to help Worcester families facing homelessness? Buy groceries or a cup of coffee! This is an easy way to help address our city's growing numbers of unhoused individuals and families.

- 1) Buy a gift card for Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Big Y, CVS, Panera, Dunkin, Starbucks, Amazon, Target or TJ Maxx/Marshalls. Larger orders, please email Allison Hansen at [AChis4788@aol.com](mailto:AChis4788@aol.com).
- 2) Do your regular shopping.
- 3) Rejoice that close to 10 percent of your purchase goes to grants for back rent, utilities, car repair or other expenses that make the difference for families remaining home or on the street.
- 4) Repeat!

Allison will be in Brewer Hall after church on:

March 16 & April 6 -- Two chances for Easter baskets!

May 4 – Don't forget Mother's Day! ● June 1

*Thank you! Allison Hansen*

**You're Invited!** Sandra and her husband, Stephan, joyfully invite the church family to a luncheon after the church service on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the baptism of their daughter, Yvonne Ekoa Blay-Morkeh. This moment marks a significant milestone in Yvonne's life, and they are eager to share this joyous occasion with their church family. Join them for a time of heartfelt fellowship, delicious food, and grateful thanksgiving as they dedicate Yvonne to the Lord.

They look forward to celebrating this occasion with you!

**March 2025 Herald:** *There are extra copies of the Herald in the Narthex by the Welcome Office.*

The April Herald will be part of the April 6<sup>th</sup> bulletin. The deadline for articles is Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Debi*

## **Tower & Rose Window Lightings**

**The Tower lighting** for March is given in loving memory of Dr. C. James Brenneman by his daughter Betsey.

**The Rose Window** lighting for March is given in loving memory of Rose Ventura, their mother, and Thomas Ventura, their brother, in celebration of their birthdays by Gary, James, and Debbie.

### **The 2025 altar flower calendar is now available.**

If you'd like to order altar flowers in honor, celebration or memory of a loved one, come to the Welcome Office and sign up in the book. Please take a form to complete and return it to the office with your payment. It's \$80 for both arrangements on the altar (\$40 per arrangement), or a single arrangement for \$50. The single arrangement will be placed on a brass flower stand in the center of the altar. If by chance two people would like flowers on the same day, 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

## 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](mailto:betspenn35@hotmail.com))

### **A God Moment from Kim** (a friend of Debi Reynolds)

My daughter-in-law was napping at home with my grandson, almost 3. She woke up to thick smoke in the house, so badly that she could not see anything. They had just received an oil delivery that morning and that morning my son had just shown her where the shut-off valve was. She quickly grabbed my still sleeping grandson and ran downstairs, shut the valve off and ran outside.

Once outside, she saw a police officer talking to the next-door neighbors, porch combined. She noticed the road had already been blocked off and the firemen were there as well. The police officer put my DIL and grandson in the back of his car because she just had shorts on - no coat or shoes. The firemen were able to get their dog and put it in the car with them and found their cat and was able to put it in the dog crate in the home for the time being.

Turns out, there was a fire still within their heater. Thankfully, because of a passerby, it did not spread further. By the time I got there, the front door was open, and they were airing out the house.

She learned that someone had been driving by, saw the smoke from the chimney and thought that it was not your normal chimney smoke, so had called 911.

I truly believe it was a higher power that they were lucky that things happened the way they did and how everything is coming together for them so far. There was another home just days before that did not fare as well. I believe it was destroyed by the fire, no lives lost thankfully. I know they just had their heater serviced about three weeks prior, but I am not sure if their chimney was cleaned.

Safety Note: Perhaps this story made you think about reviewing where the oil shut-off valve is with the adults and teens in your house. Some houses have a safety switch in another part of the house too.

If you have gas heat instead of oil, the shut-off switch is on the furnace, at least in the newer models. Since the gas furnace is probably in the cellar, you don't want to go there. Instead, if you smell gas get everyone and your pets out of the house immediately and Call 911.



## A SPIRITUAL UPLIFTING RETREAT

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

**10 am – 2:30 pm**

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

**114 main Street, Worcester, MA 01608**



**Megan McDonough**  
CEO, Wholebeing Institute

Guest speaker, **Megan McDonough** is author of *Infinity in a Box* and *a Minute for Me*. She will speak on

### **“Finding Peace in the Midst of Challenge”**

**Come and join us in a spiritual journey with other women at Wesley UMC! These five stations are included:**

1. **Pool of Bethesda** with Susan. A group circle of prayer is a gift with the privilege of praying for one another as we “Wade in the Water.”
2. **“Zen Tangles”** with Janice. Start with a Squiggle or a line and fill it in with different patterns.
3. **Labyrinth** prayer in the Chapel. A self-guided journey seeking a closer walk with God through prayer, meditation and reflection.
4. **Knitting and Crocheting** with Veronica and Beth. Try something new! Learn to knit or crochet. Or check in with our master knitters on a project you’re thinking about.
5. **Love Feast**, “Amazing Grace” with Susan.  
Closing Worship

**We will be taking time for selfcare through crafts, contemplation and fellowship.**

**Lunch will be included.** We only ask for a donation of a non-perishable item(s) for our food pantry, like peanut butter, hearty serving size soup, canned fruit, etc.

Mark 6:31: Jesus said to his disciples, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest for a while.”

RSVP by Monday, March 3: Cordelia Ph:774-437-9453 or email: [puttsghs@msn.com](mailto:puttsghs@msn.com) Or

Sandy Ph: 508-847-9225 or email: [sandramcmanus1@gmail.com](mailto:sandramcmanus1@gmail.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

As we come to the close of the season of Ordinary Time following Epiphany we will observe Transfiguration Sunday on March 2, as a transition into the season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. During this Lectionary Year C we will hear the story from the Gospel of Luke, but each of the synoptic Gospels records this event in Jesus' life in which his appearance became radiantly transformed in the presence of three of his disciples on a mountaintop with the appearance of Moses and Elijah, and an audible voice from heaven.


Although this particular event is commemorated and celebrated at different times by various traditions within the Christian Church, the Protestant tradition observes Transfiguration on the Sunday prior to Lent for the theological role the Transfiguration plays in the overall calendar of the liturgical year. In the Transfiguration we see a fuller expression of the deity of Christ and the glory he has with God. The presence of Moses and Elijah is usually interpreted as an indication that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). In the context of the Bible, the story of the Transfiguration is told as a bridge between Jesus' public ministry and his Passion. Similarly for us as we hear this story just before the start of Lent, we are reminded that the same Jesus who is manifested as the Savior of the World at Christmas/Epiphany is the same Jesus who after the pilgrimage of Lent will also be manifested as Savior of the World at the Easter celebration of his Resurrection.

The word *glory*, which appears hundreds of times in the Bible, plays a prominent role in hymns and liturgies Transfiguration Sunday. One of the main Hebrew words which is translated as glory means "weight" or "importance", but glory also refers to concepts of splendor and magnificence. It is a word which in the Old Testament is applied to the places where God is worshiped as well as to God, especially in God's visible manifestations to humans, as in God's encounters with Moses on Mt. Sinai and in the visions of the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel. In the New Testament glory pervades the story of Jesus from his birth to the transfiguration to his resurrection and ascension, as well as to the future images of the second coming of Christ


Ascribing glory is a key component of the worship of God; thus it is not surprising that the word *glory* appears more than 50 times in the book of Psalms alone. During Sunday morning worship at the time of the presentation of our tithes and offerings we usually sing a "Doxology". The word *doxology* itself translates from the Greek as "words of glory." Doxological verses of praise and blessing are found at the close of each of the five sections of the book of Psalms, which is essentially the ancient Hebrew hymnal. In the Christian tradition, doxological texts usually also include a trinitarian reference to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What all of these doxologies have in common is that they express one of the main purposes for and meaning of worship itself—the acknowledgment and celebration of the Glory of God. As we continue to ponder our mission and ministry as individuals and as a congregation, how appropriate it is that the words engraved over the front entrance to our church building are "To the Glory of God and the service of man."

*Submitted by,*

*Deborah A. O'Driscoll*



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Pastor	Rev. Byungmoo Lee	Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Organist	Ronna Davis	Youth Bible Study	Ivy Hammond
Chancel Choir Director	David Potts	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham	Financial Secretary	William Wong
Director of Children’s Ministries	Rhianna Burke	Church Auditor	Peter Hansen
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane	Ghanaian Association	Earl Flagg
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Hospitality Chair	Cynthia Fletcher
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson	Medical Ministry	Paul Hayfron
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Mission Coordinators	Linda D’Acri
Head Usher	Gerard Piscitelli	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Ron Ramsay
Communion Steward	David Dagle	United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy
Wesley Tech Team	Earl Flagg	Music Committee	Donna Hirtle
Sunday Security	Mark Muncey	Worship Committee Chair	Chris Flagg
Church Council Chair	Adam Flagg		Judy Hoffman
Co-Lay Leaders	Brent Drajesk		Barbara Ingrassia,
	Gifty Bentum-Asante		Sandra McManus, Cordelia Ferdinand
	Joseph Fletcher		Debbie O’Driscoll
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