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# THE WESLEY HERALD

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August 2025

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

Joan Hurst, Sandra O'Driscoll, Janice Capen, Xuan Diep (niece of Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy),  
Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Janet DeNapoli, Alice Douglas, Dot Ellis,  
Barbara Fletcher, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Charles Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross,  
Debbie Plant, Troy Potts, Shea Pugh, Rich Reynolds, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay,  
Barbara Vietze, Danny & Veronica Winder, Grace Woode, Peter Woodcock, Laura Zoldak,  
David Patrick (Evette Walters husband), Kathleen Herbert (Evette's mom), Francis Mosso (BIL of Phil Johnson),  
Troy and Cathy Potts (brother & SIL of David Potts), Melissa Houlihan (friend of Bill Robbins),  
Robert Craft (friend of Michael Terzian), Susan (friend of David Potts), Page (Allison Hansen's sister),  
Libby T. (friend of Phyllis Yngve), Paula and Calvin Kelly (sister and brother-in-law of Linda Dylewicz),  
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Judith Barton and family on the death of her sister. Cards can be sent to 127 Randall Street, Worcester, MA 01606.

## Lightings & Altar Flowers

**The Rose window lighting** for the month of August is in celebration of all Carty Cupboard volunteers past and present. With Thanks from Nancy and Harry Spencer.

**The Tower** lighting for August is available. If you'd like to dedicate this lighting, the cost is \$40. Please reach out to Debi in the office. Thank you.

**Altar Flowers...** 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 have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Thank you, Debi Reynolds*

## Announcements

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 24, 2025 – Children's Mini-Harvest**

## Kofi & Ama Results from Women's Mini-Harvest

Sunday	\$ 180.00	
Monday	90.00	
Tuesday	205.00	<b>**Winner**</b>
Wednesday	51.00	
Thursday	135.00	
Friday	32.00	
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>82.00</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 775.00</b>	

**September 2025 Herald:** The next newsletter will be in September. All articles are due in the office no later than Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. *Debi*

## Back-to-School Drive for Local Families, 8/1-15

The Central Mass Housing Alliance wants to support local children and families for the coming new school year. Please bring your donations to their offices at 6 Institute Road in Worcester during normal business hours (9am – 5pm). Gift cards are welcome, but their wish list also includes:

Notebooks	Colored pencils
Binders	Markers
Loose-leaf paper	Scissors
Pencil sharpeners	White out
Backpacks	

Questions? Email Michael Maher at [mmaher@cmhaonline.org](mailto:mmaher@cmhaonline.org)

*Thanks! Allison*

## THANK YOU!!

To everyone who has ever volunteered at Carty Cupboard I Thank You.

To everyone who, over the years, has donated food or money I Thank You.

To Dot Ellis who asked me if I was interested in becoming director of the food pantry just when I needed some direction and purpose in my life, I Thank You. To those of you who have gone above and beyond, like Nancy Cook and Cindy Baker who have donated **thousands** of pounds of food over the years, I Thank You. To Carol Wipper, who has made and donated **hundreds** of special holiday and birthday bags for our families and children, I Thank You. To everyone who has donated a can or two of food when they could afford it just so someone they would never know would not go hungry, from the bottom of my heart, I Thank You. To my family, Harry, Erin, and Laura for all the support you have given me throughout the years, I Thank You. We could not do what we do, feeding hundreds of families every month, without the support of you all.

Bless You and THANK YOU ALL so very much.

*Nancy Spencer*

## God Moment

### A note from Betsy--

My husband's cousins from New Jersey visited. They were very interested in my coordinating God Moment stories for our Sunday newsletters. You will see the depth of their faith in this God Moment they wrote for Wesley (and for a possible similar column in their church's bulletin):

### The Faith of a Child

It was Christmas Eve morning, December 24, 1984. I lay in bed, going over in my mind all the last-minute details of the day-- things I had to prepare for our Christmas celebration the next day. There were a few presents still to wrap and the batch of cookies I had planned to bake. My husband Bill was starting to awaken. Our daughters Mary, eight, and Sara, five, were just beginning to wake up in the little bedroom next to ours.

In the early morning silence, I heard Sara cough. "Oh, no" I thought, "I hope Sara isn't coming down with something!" But a minute later, I heard her cough again, and then again. I began planning how I could fit Sara's little cold into all the things I needed to do. But my day began to change very quickly.

Sara vomited, and then again. And again. She was throwing up about every 15 minutes. I called the pediatrician, and he was able to see us that morning. Our pediatrician, normally a jovial, lighthearted man, said, "I don't like the way she looks and want you to bring her to the hospital." I was terrified. Suddenly, my day began to take on much scarier dimensions.

I drove Sara to the hospital where she was placed in a crib in an isolated "Contagion" room. I was told that I, and anyone else who came to visit Sara, would need to wear a mask, gloves and a gown to prevent the potential contagion's spreading. My husband Bill came to join us at the hospital. Then began the examinations and tests to find out what exactly was wrong with her. Suddenly, last minute Christmas Day preparations didn't seem important. The only thing that seemed important was for Sara to be OK, and that was the prayer of our hearts all that long day.

Sara had immediately been placed on an IV because of the fluid passing out of her body so rapidly. The isolation nurses came in over and over again with cool water to try to cool down the fever that was raging in her body. She seemed delirious at times, reaching out her little arms to me, wanting me to get into the tiny crib with her. Huge dark circles appeared under her eyes. Oh, she was so sick, so suddenly, and I felt so helpless. Sara still hadn't fallen asleep, and the vomiting continued.

That afternoon the hospital administrator came in with a photographer from the local paper. The hospital had obtained a rare Cabbage Patch Kid doll to present to a very sick child. Sara didn't smile, didn't even seem able to grasp the event at all. And all I could see were those dark circles under her eyes as the sickness ravaged her little body.

Pastor Russ, the Lutheran pastor I worked for, arrived between the church's Christmas Eve services. He was a hearty, cheerful man, so welcome to our eyes. He seemed to bring a breath of healing and normalcy and hope with him. He brushed off my warning to him about wearing gloves, mask and gown, and went right over to Sara's crib. I remember he put his big hand on her foot and began to pray for her. And as he prayed, Sara's little eyelids drooped and finally, she fell asleep. He had brought a big green plant with a little red mouse climbing up one of the long leaves and apologized that it was the only plant the florist had left. But as he came into the room, Sara had smiled. It was the first time I had seen her smile during all that long day.

Bill went home to care for Mary, and I stayed with Sara that night, and all the succeeding nights, in a lounge chair in that little private room. And through the night, the nurses continued to come with cool water to try to bring Sara's fever down. I remember thinking that this was probably the most authentic Christmas Eve I had ever spent. I wondered how the Virgin Mary must have felt, alone in that stable with only her husband to help deliver her child. Was she frightened? Oh, the night seemed so dark.

The next few days were a blur. Pastor Russ called, and very lovingly told me that I needed to give Sara to God, to trust Him for whatever would lie ahead. He himself had almost lost two of his children, and he spoke from experience. But God had given him back his children, and oh, how I wanted God to give us back our precious Sara. Praying that prayer, offering back to God the beautiful little girl He had given us five and a half years earlier, was one of the hardest things I have ever done. I did the best I could. God knew my heart.

Things continued the way they had been. I was living there at the hospital with Sara. About two or three days later, I noticed a drop of blood on her bed sheets, which were being changed frequently. That drop of blood terrified me. What was wrong with Sara? When the doctor came in, I showed him the blood, and I'll never forget what he said. "Blood! That's a classic symptom of dysentery." And it seemed that he ran out into the hall calling, "Nurse, nurse, what is the most frequently used medicine for dysentery?" So finally they had a diagnosis & knew how to help Sara get better. But that was not the end of the story.

After a few more days, Sara was finally able to come home, but she still wasn't right. She was frequently nauseous and had bouts of vomiting. We had a party at the house for our nephew Aaron, who was baptized on January 6, and Sara had to stay in her bedroom the whole time, because the smell of food made her feel sick. I stayed in her room with her all that day. And when I would drive her to school, there were days when she would throw up as soon as we arrived there, and I would just bring her home again.

A woman from our church, a French woman, who had grown up in Vietnam, said to me, "She is going to have recurring bouts of this all her life." And so, we lived with that for the next several weeks.

But our God is a God of miracles! One afternoon, Bill and I were sitting talking in the living room, and Sara was taking a nap in her bedroom. She woke up and came out into the living room, and said, "I just had a dream. Pastor John came to the house, and Uncle Fred, and Uncle Rich, and Uncle Tony. And they stood around me in a circle and they prayed for me. And I got better."

Pastor John was our pastor at the time, and Fred Parsons, Rich Higby and Tony Scudero were elders at the Assembly of God church we attended. They were all elders there, but Sara didn't know it. She didn't even know what an elder was. These were just kind, fatherly and grandfatherly men to Sara. But WE knew who they were. And we knew the Bible verse in James 5:14-16 - "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders... and the prayer of faith will raise the sick person." Before Sara had even finished speaking to us, Bill ran to the telephone to call Pastor John, and Fred and Rich and Tony, and they came to our house. And they stood in a circle around Sara. And they prayed for her. And she got better. Completely better! How great is our God that He is able to place such a detailed and prophetic dream into the mind of a small child!

Sara is now 46 years old, and the mother of two beautiful, healthy daughters, now 13 and 15. Since that time, in all these years, she has only had one or two very minor stomach viruses. When God gives us a miracle healing, the part that has been healed often becomes the healthiest part of the body, and so it was for Sara in this case. He gave Sara her life back, He gave Bill and me our precious daughter back, and He gave us a glimpse into the glorious greatness of His mercy and His love.

## RESTLESS? SEARCHING?

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If you desire to bring a deeper dimension to your faith...

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- ◆ A discovery of spiritual friends who will listen to and pray for you.

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Spiritual Journey • Prayer • Scripture  
Vocational Gifts • Spiritual Friendship

If you would like more information or are interested in this study,  
please contact Susan Williams at 508-795-7331.

## DID YOU KNOW?

It is the custom of our congregation to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. At the heart of the service order when Christians celebrate Communion is the prayer generally referred to in our bulletin as “The Great Thanksgiving”. In some traditions it is also called the “Eucharistic Prayer” from the Greek *eucharistia*, (=thanksgiving) or “Anaphora”, a Greek word meaning “offering”. Such prayers have been central to the celebration of the Lord’s Supper throughout the centuries of Christian worship. The roots of the Great Thanksgiving in terms of both form and content extend back to the characteristic grace used by Jews before eating, in which, in addition to thanking God for blessings, they also remember the history of God’s mighty acts. It is believed that Jesus would have used the form of such a prayer when he offered thanks at the Last Supper. Historically the early church borrowed from such Jewish prayers, and the basic pattern of the Great Thanksgiving is ancient.

While there have been many variations in the details of the texts used by various denominations through the centuries of Christian worship, there are many common elements that are presents in most forms of the Great Thanksgiving. These common elements include:


- Introductory dialog between pastor and people
- Thanksgiving and remembering God’s acts of salvation
- Narrative of the institution of the Lord’s Supper by Jesus
- *Anamnesis*—commemoration; “Do this in remembrance of me”
- *Epiclesis*—invocation of the Holy Spirit
- Intercessory prayer
- Concluding doxology offering praise to the Trinity

This prayer is led by the pastor with intermittent responses of acclamation and adoration by the entire congregation. In August we will reintroduce the singing of musical settings of portions of the text, such as the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy), the *Memorial Acclamation* (Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again) and a concluding threefold *Amen*, an affirmation of our participation in this mystery of faith.


Certain portions of the Great Thanksgiving are frequently varied by the addition of textual content related to the specific season of the liturgical year, but the basic form connects us with ancient traditions of our faith and offers a concise summary of the central beliefs of our faith. It also serves as a reminder to approach the Lord’s table with thanksgiving, not only for God’s wondrous acts throughout history, but in our daily lives as well.

*Submitted by,*

*Deborah A. O’Driscoll*



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