



From the Pastors Desk

*"The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of God's hands."
Psalm 19:1 NRSVUE*

Dear Friends,

Between 1987 and 1993, I served as an ESL Teacher and later a Supervisor in a U.S. Department of State refugee resettlement program based in Morong, Bataan, Philippines. Operated by the International Catholic Migration Commission, this program provided cultural orientation and English language instruction to teenage refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. My role involved preparing these young individuals for integration into American secondary schools, offering both linguistic and cultural tools to ease their transition. As a Supervisor, I also supported the development of training materials and led a team of educators committed to empowering students during a pivotal time in their lives.



In September 1994, I arrived in Boston with my older sister, Reah, after being invited by a colleague from the refugee camp to teach at a Christian school. Soon after settling in, our friend invited us on a "foliage tour" in New Hampshire. Excited by the idea, I pictured a lively day filled with hiking, photo ops, and scenic stops.

Instead, we rode in a bus with her church friends, admired the fall colors through the windows, stopped to eat at a restaurant, and then returned to Boston. That was it. At first, I was surprised — "That's the tour?" I thought. I had expected something more hands-on.

But later, I realized: for many New Englanders, the beauty of a foliage tour lies in its simplicity — a peaceful drive, good company, nature's colors, and a warm meal. It wasn't what I had expected, but it was a glimpse into a slower-paced, reflective tradition — one that values quiet appreciation over adventure.

Since that first experience, driving north each fall has become more than just a seasonal outing — it has become a quiet ritual, part of my own spiritual journey. There is something deeply grounding in watching the world change color, as if nature itself is reminding us to let go, to prepare for rest, and to trust the process of renewal.

Over the years, whenever friends or family come to visit during autumn, I offer them a foliage tour of my own. Now I am the one behind the wheel, pointing with my right hand toward the bursts of red, orange, and gold lining the highway.

And every time, with a smile, I say the same thing:
"Look at the foliage!"

It's no longer just about the leaves — it's about sharing a piece of peace, a moment of wonder, and maybe a little bit of the person I've become since arriving in this country.

New England foliage is truly a picture of nature singing praise to God, our Creator. Each autumn, as the leaves turn brilliant shades of red, yellow, and even purple, I'm reminded of the majesty of God's handiwork.

Standing in a high place in the White Mountain, looking out over a forest clothed in color, I can't help but marvel at how awesome our God is. The changing leaves aren't just beautiful — they're a living testimony to God's creativity, power, and grace. In those quiet moments, surrounded by the beauty of God's creation, my heart joins the chorus:
"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands."
(Psalm 19:1)

God truly goes before me. I see God's hand in leading me to Worcester — a place not far from the Berkshires, one of New England's most breathtaking regions for fall foliage.

This year, I look forward with joy and gratitude to experiencing the **Berkshires in autumn** for the very first time. I already know it will be another reminder of God's creativity and goodness — painted across the hills in colors only God could design.

It is my hope and prayer that *you*, too, will take time to enjoy this natural beauty — a gift from our Creator that we must never take for granted. Sometimes, all it takes is a quiet drive, an open heart, and the willingness to see what God is showing us through God's creation.

In Christ,

Pastor Nizzi



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

Thomas Sambito & Family, Dorothy Norcross, Tim Murphy, Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Janice Capen, Janet DeNapoli, Xuan Diep (niece of Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy), Alice Douglas, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Charles Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, Sandra O'Driscoll, Debbie Plant, Troy Potts, Shea Pugh, Rich Reynolds, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay, Barbara Vietze, 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.

Attendance

September 7 – 117 September 14 – 94 September 21 – 103 September 28 - 167

Announcements

Mark Your Calendars: **Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23rd**

UWF Bake/Craft/Plant Sale

Lunch following worship

Church Conference following lunch

Pastoral Need: If you have a pastoral need, please call the church office (508-799-4191) during the week and speak with Debi. After hours, please call Pastor Nizzi at home (508-304-6773 - please note this is a new number for the parsonage) or you can email her at pastornizzi@wesleyworc.org.

Matt Crane has new office hours. He will now be in the office on Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm beginning October. If you need to see him, this is the day he will be available. If you can call ahead to let him know to expect you, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

Upcoming Vacation: **Debi Reynolds** will be on vacation for the first two weeks of November. She will be returning to the office on Tuesday, November 18th. If you have any upcoming meetings that you need space for, please email her as soon as possible (office@wesleyworc.org). Thank you.

October 5, 2025 – World Communion Sunday

Let's come together and bring bread from your native country. If you plan to bring bread from your native country, please let Earl Flagg know (erf115@msn.com). You will bring your bread forward to be displayed at the Holy Communion table. We plan to fill the table with bread from all over to represent diversity and God's abundance.

November 2025 Herald: The next newsletter will be in November. Please mark your calendars for articles to be in no later than October 20th. The last week of October will be very busy for me as I will be preparing to be on vacation the first two weeks of November. *Thank you, Debi*

Carty Cupboard

Until further notice, Carty Cupboard food distribution will be offered once per month on the third Saturday of each month from 10:00-11:30 a.m. beginning September 20, 2025. October 18th will be the food pantry.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We currently need people who can:

- carry cases of food into the church on Friday mornings 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- Help with set-up on Saturday morning 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- Help with distribution 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Help w/clean-up 12:00 p.m.
- Help with offering hospitality
- At this time we are still searching for a director for the food pantry.

Please reach out to Chris Flagg 508-414-1696 or Pastor Nizzi (pastornizzi@wesleyworc.org) if you would like to volunteer.

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window lighting for October is given in loving memory of John Hansen by his family.

The Tower lighting for October is available for dedication. If you'd like to light the Tower, the cost is \$40. Please reach out to Debi Reynolds (office@wesleyworc.org).

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

Thank you, Debi Reynolds

Preliminary Harvest Results

To date Harvest 2025 has raised \$22,000. The numbers below are approximate, as we await for the remaining pledges/IOU's to come in. Final results will be forthcoming.

Appeal for Funds... \$18,327

Kofi & Ama Results from Harvest...

Sunday	\$ 559.00	
Monday	270.00	
Tuesday	294.00	
Wednesday	729.00	
Thursday	1,438.00	**Winner**
Friday	192.00	
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>191.00</u>	
Total	\$ 3,673.00	

God Moment

God Moment from Betsy Pennino

Have you done a Random Act of Kindness (RAK) or experienced one from a stranger or friend?

A Wesley person told me that reading about RAK's has influenced how she drives. No longer is her goal to reach destinations as efficiently as possible. Now she sometimes lets other cars go ahead of her and feels good about it.

When driving, I'm a big fan of waving at other drivers for thoughtful things they do, such as letting me turn left across a line of traffic. How would that change our world, if many more folks waved "thank you" to other drivers who were helpful?

The grocery store offers many opportunities for kind acts. I saw a mother with two young children who were expressing their discontent with shopping when it was close to dinnertime. I asked her quietly if she knew there were free cookies at the Stop & Shop bakery? She told me I had saved her life!



Ascend Hospice provides patients, with life limiting conditions, the opportunity to live life more fully with control, comfort, and dignity. Our team provides exceptional care including emotional and spiritual support. Volunteers are the heart of hospice and a vital member of our hospice team.

We are currently seeking volunteers to provide companionship and supportive visits to our patients, and respite to their loved ones. Volunteers can help by making friendly visits, reading to patients, writing letters, and much more. One of the most important things the volunteer can offer is being "present", listen, and share quiet moments of contemplation or offer a gentle touch when needed. Help bring light, love, and cheer to those on hospice care with your time, smile, and presence.

Please contact Joy Rehfeld @ 508-454-2893 or joy.rehfeld@ascendhealth.com for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Throughout the summer and several times in recent weeks the lectionary psalm for the week has been included in our worship service. Although we do not necessarily include a psalm in our scripture readings every week, for each week of the liturgical year the lectionary readings include three lessons as well as a psalm. In general, the psalm is meant to function as a response, usually to the Old Testament lesson, and it is thus appropriate that the psalm is often sung or read responsively by the congregation rather than read by the liturgist alone as most other scripture reading(s) are.

Noted church music scholar Paul Westermeyer speaks of the Psalms as “the womb of church music” and the preface to the Psalter in the *United Methodist Hymnal* refers to the book of Psalms as “the hymn book of the Bible.” Many of the individual psalms have subtitles that refer to singing, or tune names or musical instruments, and some of the words for which we do not know the exact interpretation are believed to relate to specific methods of performance. Although the Hebrew title for the book of Psalms translates as *praises*, our English title *Psalms* refers directly to music. It comes from the name given to the book in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible and is derived from the word *psalmos*, originally referring to stringed instruments such as the harp and lute, but eventually referring to songs accompanied by such instruments.

The Psalter found at the end of the *United Methodist Hymnal* contains texts from 100 of the 150 psalms as well as musical responses referred to as antiphons (from the Greek word *antiphonos* = responsive). This word also is the basis for a form of singing of psalms known as antiphonal psalmody, in which the verses of a psalm are sung alternately by two halves of a choir facing one another on opposite sides of the altar. Texts of traditional antiphons generally are derived from the psalm itself, or occasionally from a related scripture. Our hymnal uses a variety of musical responses including excerpts taken from familiar hymns as well as musical settings specifically composed for this hymnal.

This week’s Psalm 137 is a song of lament expressing deep grief of the Jewish people in exile in Babylon. As a whole the Book of Psalms addresses the gamut of human emotion. Westermeyer, in his book *Te Deum: The Church and Music* speak of the reality of life embodied in the texts of the Psalms:

“In the Psalms we deal with the height and depth of human life, articulated in a most compelling way. We see our struggles against the backdrop of God’s goodness and mercy—our struggles with God and God’s struggles with us in steadfast love and faithfulness. We view the human drama in its savagery and kindness, in its barbarity and finesse, in the specificity of our daily lives and the cosmic proportions of life, in the call to treat one another justly and with mercy. Mostly we come face to face with God.”

Our use of Psalms in worship not only links us to the oldest forms of sacred music in the Judeo-Christian tradition but also allows full expression of our humanity before God.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O’Driscoll



A Smart Move
Gibbs REALTY INC.
800 Main Street, Holden | 508-886-6100



***Your Proud
Wesley Family
REALTORS®
Since 2006***

*Jeffrey Gibbs
Christy Gibbs
Tyler Gibbs
Sophia Gibbs*

**Top Producers in
Worcester County**

Learn More
508-886-6100



WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan	Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Organist	Ronna Davis		Ivy Hammond
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		Janet Amoako
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	Chris Flagg		