



From the Pastors Desk

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel the first day until now."

— Philippians 1:3-5

Dear Friends,

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of Paul's heartfelt words to the Philippians—a community bound together by faith, love, and shared mission. Like Paul, I give thanks to God for each of you—for your prayers, your service, your faithfulness, and the many ways you reflect Christ's love in our church family and beyond.



Let me name just a few of the many things I am thankful for:

- **The Parsonage Renovations:** I am deeply thankful to Gary R., Phil J., Chris F., Jacob, and Gerard Piscitelli for the wonderful work done on the parsonage—the home that my sister Beulah and I are blessed to share for now. The conversations and laughter shared while working together have formed a deep bond of friendship.
- **Carty Cupboard Food Pantry:** This ministry continues to be a place of hope for our neighbors of all backgrounds. Those who come are grateful for food on their tables, and our volunteers are equally blessed in the serving.
- **Monthly Community Dinners:** Every first Saturday of the month, we share a delicious meal—175 were served in October! These numbers may grow in the current political climate, but the food (and fellowship) remains as warm and joyful as ever 😊.

- **Monthly Community Breakfasts:** On Sunday mornings and after worship, I am filled with joy when I walk into the hall and see full tables and hear the happy sound of conversation. What a beautiful expression of community!
- **World Communion Sunday:** Many of you shared that the altar and the “breads from around the world” were beautiful symbols of unity in diversity. Thank you to all who brought bread from your country of origin and shared it after worship.
- **The Lay People** of Wesley UMC: You are hardworking and willing servants of God. When I asked for help with worship leadership, you gladly said “yes.” **Laity Sunday** was a meaningful time of worship because of your participation and gifts.
- **My First Harvest Fair:** I will never forget it! The generosity, creativity, and joyful spirit of so many made it a success. A special thank-you to Gifty, whose energy and leadership were such a blessing. The “auction for mission,” in true Ghanaian tradition, was a wonderful celebration of cultural diversity and community.
- **UWF Sarah’s Circle:** This is truly a sacred, comfortable space, a place to relax, share stories, and enjoy Sandy’s delicious hospitality. Thank you for modeling self-care, sisterhood, and spiritual nourishment.
- **Worship and Service:** Worship is at the heart of who we are as followers of Christ. **I thank all who make it possible each Sunday**—those who prepare the building, open the doors, decorate the altar, and ensure the lights, sound, and live stream are ready. Thank you to our tech team, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, organist, liturgists, communion assistants, ushers, coffee hosts, counters, and cleaners. And to everyone who fills the pews—your presence is a gift and a ministry in itself.

I have now been with you for two months, and I thank God for your warm welcome, open hearts, and willingness to walk with me in ministry. I look forward to what God will continue to do among us.

May we continue to be a church where thanksgiving is not just a season, but a way of life.

Thank you. *Salamat. Gracias. Mercy. Medaase.*

In Christ,

Pastor Nizzi

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

Debbie O'Driscoll, Bishop Tom Bickerton, our DS Megan Stowe, Pastor Nizzi, Pastor Nory Leachon and Mayela, Stacey Nichols-Byll and her daughter Mali, Shawanna, Justin Bacon, Carty Cupboard Food Pantry, 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, Sandra O'Driscoll, Debbie Plant, Troy Potts, Shea Pugh, Rich Reynolds, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay, Barbara Vietze, Grace Woode, Peter Woodcock, 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.

Our Deepest Condolences...

Brent and Laurie Drajesk on the passing of Aunt Dorothy Norcross on October 22nd. Cards can be sent to Brent and Laurie at 15 Rogers Street, Millbury, MA 01527. Details of a service TBD.

Amber Kerns and the Wesley Church family on the passing of her uncle, Chris Kerns on Friday, October 17th. Cards can be sent to Amber at 18440 Dallas Ave., Riverside, CA 92508. A memorial service will be held in early December, date TBD.

Pamela Remillard and family on the passing of her sister Karen Petit on October 18th. Cards can be sent to Pamela at 32 Vinton Street, Worcester, MA 01605.

Scott and Patricia Shackett, his mother Maria and his sisters, on the passing of his sister Kim on Sunday October 12, 2025. Cards can be sent to Scott and Patricia at 26 C Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.

Evette Walters and family on the passing of her stepmother, Eunice C. Carey from St. Thomas, VI. Cards can be sent to Evette at 61 Dorchester Street, Apt. 1, Worcester, MA 01604.

Worship Attendance

October 5 – 147 October 12 – 77 October 19 – 111 October 26 - 110

Announcements

Committee Reports for Church Conference are due November 14th. Please email them to Pastor Nizzi (pastornizzi@wesleyworc.org). Thank you.

Mark Your Calendars:

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23rd

UWF Bake/Craft/Plant Sale

Lunch following worship

WAUM Church Conference with DS Megan following lunch



The church family that prays together stays together. We will get together for coffee, devotion, and offering to God the prayer requests of our faith community and beyond. If you are interested to participate in a weekly **Prayer Gathering**, please contact Pastor Nizzi.

Pastoral Need: If you have a pastoral need, please call the 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's office hours are Thursday's from 10 am to 1 pm. If you need to see him, please call ahead to let him know to expect you, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

Upcoming Vacation: I will be on vacation for the first two weeks of November, returning to the office on Tuesday, November 18th. If you have an emergency, please reach out to Pastor Nizzi. Otherwise, you can email me any requests and I will respond when I return. Thank you. *Debi Reynolds*

December 2025 Herald: The next newsletter will be in the December 7th bulletin. The deadline for articles is November 28th.
Thank you, Debi

Sunday, November 23, 2025... The UWF will sponsor our Pre Thanksgiving Bake sale, Plant Sale and Craft Sale in Brewer Hall. All women and men can participate by donating items and purchasing items for this "fun"d raiser that helps us continue our work for ministry to those in need.

Advance Pie Orders for Bake Sale... I am now taking orders for pies for the holiday. Please find me in Brewer Hall to place your order. Payment is appreciated at the time of ordering. The deadline to order is Sunday, November 16th.
Thank you, Linda D'Acri

Updated Harvest Results... To date Harvest 2025 has raised \$29,369. We still have outstanding IOU's to come in. Final results will be forthcoming.

UWF Save the date -- Saturday, December 13 will be UWF's annual Christmas Party at noontime. Come for lunch and enjoy our speaker -- Karen Spencer, Executive Director of Girls on the Run Worcester County. This local chapter of a national afterschool organization inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum that creatively integrates running. Bring a friend! All UWF meetings are open to any woman of faith.

Carty Cupboard continues to seek your help. We've grown a valuable team of volunteers to help on Saturday but we still need help with Friday pick ups, most importantly though... We need a permanent Director or team of Directors. We've broken the job down into 4 main sections

1. Inventory coordinator / shopper
2. Distribution coordinator
3. Computer / documentation
4. Volunteer coordinator

If you believe you could fill any or all of these positions, Please reach out to Chris Flagg 508-414-1696 or Pastor Nizzi via email (pastornizzi@wesleyworc.org).

Thank you to our Office Volunteers While Debi is on Vacation

11/4 & 11/11	Tuesdays	Mercy Agyemang & Phil Johnson
11/5 & 11/12	Wednesdays	Elizabeth Osei-Boateng & Chris Flagg
11/6 & 11/13	Thursdays	Veronica Winder & Matt Crane
11/7 & 11/14	Fridays	Susan Williams & Pastor Nizzi

Sunshine Girls Ministry

By Sandy McManus

On September 9th, at 10:30 AM, Sunshine Girls visited Dot Ellis.

On September 23rd, at 2:30 PM, we visited Janet DeNapoli at her home. (See picture below taken by Pastor Nizzi).



On October 7th, at 2:30 PM, we visited Anne Burrows.

On October 21st, at 2 PM, Sunshine Girls were at Oakdale Nursing Home West Boylston with 20 residents. Sandy coordinated this visit with the Activities Director. This was Gail Liston's initiative with her UMW circle. Sandy did this ministry with Shirley Pisarski. Shirley joins us in worship online.

If you wish to attend the visit or sing along for a church member or residents, or you need a ride to join, please contact Sandy McManus 508 847 9225.

Coming soon:

- 11/4, 2 PM Steve Boyns @ Odd Fellows Home
- 11/25, 2:30 PM Edla Bloom @ Careone Milbury, MA
- 12/2, 2:30 PM Anne Burrows Christmas Carols

Members (in alphabetical order 😊)

Marilyn Baptist, Carolyn Bellil, Linda Carlson, Janice England, Edith Isaac, Gail Liston, Stacy Nichols -Byll, Debbie O'Driscoll, , Martha Vigeant, Jackie Whetton, Susan Williams

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window lighting for November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr. by Beth, and Craig and Tina Duxbury.

The Tower lighting for is given in Thanks for Wesley Church.

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

God Moment

*Moving forward, God Moment/Random Acts of Kindness will be printed in the monthly Newsletters.
They will no longer appear in the Weekly Announcements.*

Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) from Betsy Pennino

We were visiting a friend in a NJ Assisted Living facility. Bruce was in our hotel's lobby and saw a young man disinfecting tables and chairs. The spray had an unusually strong ammonia odor. Bruce remembered a co-worker who hadn't diluted ammonia with water and was found with a red face and barely breathing. He told the hotel staff member that he had mixed too potent a solution and there was danger to his own health.

We were also receivers of RAK on the trip. Our friend uses a walker on wheels. When she took one step to cross a busy street, drivers in both directions stopped and held back the traffic. Later our friend fell onto one knee and couldn't stand up. We couldn't lift her, and a kind man realized the situation and held her so that she didn't fall backwards before the EMT's arrived.

A note on Methodist history: We were in Ocean Grove which was founded in 1869 by a group of Methodist ministers. They wanted a permanent Methodist camp meeting site on the Jersey Shore. Crowds of up to 25,000 gathered for these summer camp meetings! To live in one of the small Ocean Grove houses, residents could not use alcohol or tobacco. Also forbidden were playing cards, chewing gum, dancing and reading novels! On Sundays, riding in vehicles and going to the beach were not allowed. The beaches were opened on Sundays after a lawsuit-- in 2024.



Wesley UMC Celebrates Debbie O'Driscoll as the Lay Spiritual Director

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, Wesley United Methodist Church joyfully affirmed **Debbie O'Driscoll** as our **Lay Spiritual Director**. Surrounded by our church family, Pastor Nizzi led a beautiful service of blessing and anointing, recognizing Debbie's faithful ministry and her ongoing call to guide the spiritual life of our community. The reflection and prayer below were shared by Pastor Nizzi during that special moment of affirmation.

Introduction: Debbie O'Driscoll

By Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

My first interaction with **Debbie O'Driscoll** was at a Board of Ordained Ministry gathering at Rolling Ridge Conference Center in Andover, Massachusetts three to four years ago. She was a new member then, and I was already in my 11th year serving on the team that examines candidates for provisional membership or ordination as full elders. I welcomed her warmly as part of the group — and that was it.

Now, seven weeks into my journey as your pastor here at **Wesley United Methodist Church**, I've had the blessing of getting to know Debbie more closely. Almost every week, she and I meet to talk through the details of Sunday worship. And after just three weeks — and with the gentle nudging of the Holy Spirit — I knew in my heart that it was time for us to formally affirm Debbie as a **Lay Spiritual Director** in this faith community.

Debbie is a retired pediatrician, but her ministry did not end with medicine. Like me, she pursued a Master of Divinity at **Boston University School of Theology** — she graduated in 2015, and I in 2002. We also share a connection through the **Gateways to God** program at Rolling Ridge Conference Center, where she earned a Certificate in Spiritual Direction and Congregational Formation. I, too, was shaped by that sacred space.

Many of you have known Debbie longer than I have. And many of you have been blessed by her quiet, faithful leadership. Here at Wesley, she has been a spiritual voice and guide — writing for our monthly newsletter *The Herald*, the *Did You Know*; weekly worship bulletin inserts, the *For the Journey* reflections, and the *Daily Reflection* emails that so many of us look forward to each day.

Debbie has said “yes” to God's call to care for the worship life and spiritual formation of this community — of you, the people who are friends of Wesley United Methodist Church. Today, we honor that call. We affirm her presence among us, and the gifts she brings to this body of Christ.

Anointing with Oil: A Symbol of God's Blessing

Anointing oil serves as a physical representation of God's sanctifying work. The act of anointing signifies a spiritual transformation — a transition from common to sacred, from ordinary to holy. When priests, kings, or sacred objects were anointed in the Bible, it signified divine approval and empowerment for a holy purpose.

For us, this tradition reminds us of God's presence and power to bless, sanctify, and fill us with divine joy. It reflects the work of the Holy Spirit — bringing peace, gladness, and courage for the ministry to which God calls us.

Prayer of Affirmation for Debbie O'Driscoll

Gracious and Loving God, we give You thanks today for the life and faithful witness of Your beloved daughter, **Debbie O'Driscoll**.

From her years of tending to children as a pediatrician, to her pursuit of deeper wisdom at Boston University School of Theology, and through her sacred listening as a spiritual director — You have shaped her with compassion, insight, and grace.

We praise You for the gifts You have planted in her: for the clarity of her words, the steadiness of her presence, the tenderness of her care, and the depth of her faith.

You have called Debbie not only to serve, but to companion others on the journey — to create space for reflection, growth, and worship — to tend the souls of this community with humility and strength.

Today, as her church family, we affirm her call. We recognize the Spirit's movement in her life and bless the path she continues to walk among us. Lord, let her presence remind us that ministry is not bound by titles or roles, but by love made visible in service. Let her words continue to challenge and inspire. Let her leadership continue to be guided by wisdom, gentleness, and truth. Empower her with fresh courage for the days ahead,
and fill her with joy in the work You have given her to do.

With grateful hearts, we affirm and celebrate Debbie — Your faithful servant and our beloved sibling in Christ. *In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

Affirmed by:

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan

Pastor & Spiritual Director

Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester, MA

October 19, 2025

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Christian calendar All Saints Day officially falls on November 1, but in the United Methodist tradition we observe All Saints Sunday on the first Sunday of November, usually in conjunction with the sacrament of Holy Communion. The term *Holy Communion* has connotations of the loving relationship we have with God and with each other, and also is an acknowledgement that when we receive the bread and grape juice, we are in communion or fellowship with one another in our congregation as well as with all Christians in the world. Moreover, this communion extends beyond the confines of both geography and time to unite us with Christ and all Christians throughout history, the “communion of saints” in which we express our belief when we recite the Apostles’ Creed. In lighting candles and tolling a bell as the names of those dear to our congregation who have died in the past year, we remember the saints who have lived among us; we reflect on and give thanks for deceased persons who have been influential in our life as a congregation.

The visual environment of our sanctuary also reminds us of the communion of saints across time in the imagery in the *Te Deum* window (the large stained-glass window above the altar.) The *Te Deum Laudamus* (We praise you, O God) is the text of a very ancient hymn which is not only a testimony of praise and thanksgiving but also an expression of the faith of the church. The full text of this hymn can be found in the *United Methodist Hymnal* No. 80, *Canticle of the Holy Trinity* (UMH 80). In addition, the hymn *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* (UMH 79) is a metrical English version of this text.

The text of the *Te Deum* is divided into three main sections. The first section is largely a hymn of praise to God the Father, although it concludes with a Trinitarian doxology. The second portion is Christological, a hymn of praise to Christ as Redeemer and Judge. The last section is a litany of short passages derived mostly from various psalms and contains elements of supplication as well as an expression of confidence and trust in God.

Many of the phrases of the actual text are inscribed in the window, but much more striking are the visual images depicting the text. Included are events in the life of Christ from the Annunciation and Nativity through the Resurrection, Ascension, and Enthronement. The window also contains images of saints throughout the ages: Old Testament patriarchs and prophets, New Testament apostles, martyrs and other leaders of the early church. The overall effect of this collection of images inspired by this great hymn of the historic church serves to remind us of our connection to the church universally through time and space, a very fitting reminder for the week in which we celebrate All Saints Sunday. As we gather for worship each week may we always remember that we are connected to the “holy church throughout all the world” and to all those who have been baptized and called to live in Christ across the centuries.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O’Driscoll



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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		

Wesley United Methodist Church

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00am Hybrid Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 11:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Birthday Celebration (Innis) (BH) 7:00pm Sunday AA (CH)	27 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm Go Hard or Stay Home Basketball 5:30pm Worship Committee (Hybrid)	28 5:30pm Go Hard or Stay Home Basketball 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	29 2:00pm Jose/LaPlant Wedding 7:00pm AA - BBSS (CH) 7:30pm SPRC	30 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	31 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	1 All Saints Day 9:30am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL) 9:30am UWF Steering Committee (JW)
2 Daylight-Saving Time Ends 8:00am Community Breakfast 10:00am Hybrid Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 11:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sunday AA (CH)	3 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm Eye Glass Clinic 7:00pm Church Council - Zoom	4	5 7:00pm AA - BBSS (CH)	6 10:30am Staff Meeting (JW) 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	7 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	8 9:00am Masons (LL) 9:30am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL) 7:00pm Contra-Dance (BH)
9 10:00am Hybrid Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 11:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sunday AA (CH)	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11 Veterans Day 12:00pm Go Hard or Stay Home Basketball	12 7:00pm AA - BBSS (CH)	13 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	14 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball 7:30pm Sarah Circle	15 9:30am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL) 10:00am Carty Cupboard Food Pantry
16 10:00am Hybrid Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 11:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 11:30am Mission Committee (JW) 7:00pm Sunday AA (CH)	17 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm Eye Glass Clinic 6:30pm SPRC	18	19 7:00pm AA - BBSS (CH)	20 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	21 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	22 9:30am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
23 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY UWF Bake, Craft & Plant Sale 10:00am Hybrid Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 11:15am Lunch after Worship 11:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 12:15pm CHURCH CONFERENCE following Lunch 7:00pm Sunday AA (CH)	24 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm Worship Committee (Hybrid)	25	26 7:00pm AA - BBSS (CH)	27 Thanksgiving Day 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	28 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	29 9:30am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL) 4:00pm Community Dinner (BH)
30 Advent 10:00am Hybrid Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 11:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sunday AA (CH)	1 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm Eye Glass Clinic 7:00pm Church Council - Zoom	2	3 7:00pm AA - BBSS (CH)	4 10:30am Staff Meeting (JW) 12:00pm Staff Christmas Lunch 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	5 5:30pm Fruits of Labor Basketball	6 9:30am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)