

## February 8, 2026 Wesley UMC Weekly Updates

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

Wabbey, Barbara Ingrassia, Earl Flagg, Susan Williams, Udeme Ukpog (Enoh's husband),  
Bishop Tom Bickerton, DS Megan Stowe, Pastor Nizzi, Pastor Nory Leachon and Mayela,  
Stacey Nichols-Byll and her daughter Mali Shawanna, Justin Bacon, Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng,  
Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Janice Capen, Janet DeNapoli, Xuan Diep, Alice Douglas, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher,  
Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Charles Kiefer, Sandra O'Driscoll, Debbie Plant, Troy Potts,  
Shea Pugh, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay, Barbara Vietze, Grace Woode, Peter Woodcock,  
David Patrick, Francis Mosso, Troy & Cathy Potts, Melissa Houlihan, Robert Craft, Susan, Page, Libby T.,  
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

We extend our sympathy to Evette and Sharon Walters and family in the death of their mother, Kathleen Hebert in St. Thomas. *Cards can be sent to Evette and Sharon* at 61 Dorchester Street Apt 1, Worcester, MA 01604.

We also extend our sympathy to Ruth Ann White in the passing of her husband John (Jack) White. Cards can be sent to Ruth Ann at P.O. Box 26, Lunenburg, MA 01462.

### Worship Attendance

January 11 – 98   January 18 – 71   January 25 (Snow Day) – Zoom: 35 logons   February 1 - 103

### Lightings & Altar Flowers

**The Rose window lighting** for February is given in loving memory of Joan Ventura by her husband Gary, and in-laws James, and Deborah.

**The Tower** lighting for February is given in loving memory of our parents, Joseph and Rose Ventura, in honor of their wedding anniversary by Gary, James, and Deborah

### The 2026 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. The cost is \$80 for both arrangements on the altar (\$40 per arrangement), or a single arrangement for \$50. You may still enhance your arrangement(s).

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. Please DO NOT leave your request in the binder in the Welcome Office. We will not get the order that way.

If you have any questions, please call the office (508-799-4191). Thank you.

**Rose Window & Tower Lightings Available...** The following lightings are available for dedication:

April: Tower

August: Rose Window and the Tower

October: Tower

If you'd like to dedicate any of these lightings, please contact Veronica in the office ([office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)) or call (508-799-4191). The cost of the lighting is \$40.



### **Ash Wednesday Community Gathering & Service**

#### **Imposition of Ashes**

You are warmly invited to join us for our **Ash Wednesday Community Gathering and Service**, hosted by **Wesley United Methodist Church**.

We will begin the evening with a **Community Soup Supper at 6:00 PM**, a simple meal that reflects the spirit of Lent—gathering, sharing, and preparing our hearts together. Following the meal, we will move into a **joint Ash Wednesday Service** at 6:45 pm led and participated in by **United Methodist Churches from across Worcester**.

#### **What is Ash Wednesday?**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of **Lent**, a 40-day journey of prayer, reflection, repentance, and renewal as we prepare for Easter.

#### **What is the Imposition of Ashes?**

During the service, worshippers may receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. The ashes are a sign of our human frailty and our need for God's grace. As the words are spoken, *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,"* we are reminded of both our mortality and our deep dependence on God's mercy.

#### **Why do we receive ashes?**

We do not receive ashes to shame ourselves, but to **begin Lent with honesty and humility**—acknowledging our need for forgiveness, healing, and new life in Christ. The ashes also point us toward hope, reminding us that God is always at work, calling us to repentance, renewal, and love.

This service is open to all—longtime church members, friends, neighbors, and anyone seeking a meaningful way to begin the Lenten season.

**Location:** Wesley United Methodist Church

**Time: 6:00 PM:** Community Soup Supper

**Service to follow:** Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes

**Led by:** Participating Worcester United Methodist Churches clergy

## Keeping You Connected!

**ONECALL TELLALL...** Don't sit and wonder on a Sunday morning if a church is going to be cancelled. Instead, receive a phone call and find out immediately! Whether it be cancellation because of a snowstorm, a meeting that has been cancelled or even to remind you of a special event taking place at Wesley, we will reach out to you by phone. This is a pre-recorded call, so please make sure your voicemail has space and it should save the call in case you miss it.

If you would like to sign up for this, please put your name, home phone number and **one phone number per household** on the sign-up sheet just outside the Welcome Office.

This is just another way for us to help keep you informed of what is going on at your church.

**Offering Envelopes...** Offering envelopes are available in the Narthex. You may pick up your box at any time. If you would like to receive a box, please contact Veronica in the office ([office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)) or call (508-799-4191).

**Wesley UMC Prayer Circle, Wednesdays from 12-1 pm in Mary Ellis Lounge.** A church family that prays together stays together. Come as you are! Led by Pastor Nizzi.

**The February Community Dinner** will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Please join us Baked Stuffed Chicken, oven-roasted potatoes, vegetable, salad, beverages, and desserts.

**March 2026 Herald:** The next newsletter will be in the March 1<sup>st</sup> bulletin. The deadline for articles is February 24 at 9:00 am. *Thank you, Debi*

### A message from SPRC

Please keep Debi Reynolds in your prayers as she recovers from surgery. Debi expects to be out of the office for 4-8 weeks while she recovers.

In the meantime... **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We need a volunteer to assist with answering phones on Thursdays and Fridays.

Veronica Winder has agreed to cover as many of the office responsibilities as she can during the time Debi's out. This means the church will continue to be open Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.

Veronica has worked in a church previously and we are confident that together with her previous experience and your assistance, the office will continue to be a source of information and welcome for all.

For anyone who would like to send well wishes to Debi during her recovery, the address is:

*Debi Reynolds 12 Old Colony Rd. Auburn, MA 01501*

### A Quick Note from Debi

While I am out, we will not be scheduling any Events (mainly evening events, weddings, etc.). If a committee has a meeting that needs to go on the calendar, Veronica can take care of that. If you have an event that you would like to schedule for further out in the year, please send an email and I will respond as soon as I am able to after I return.