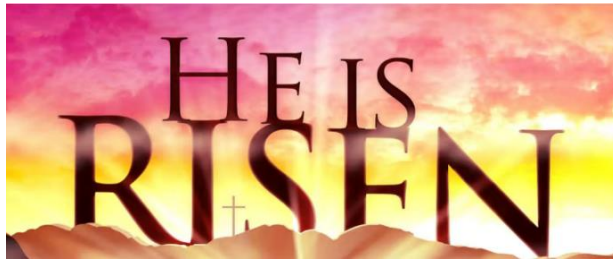


From the Pastor's Desk



“So they said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road...?’” – Luke 24:32

Dear Wesley Church Family,

Easter is not the end of the story—it is the beginning.

After the resurrection, Jesus did not simply disappear. Instead, He continued to meet people in very real and personal ways. He entered a locked room and showed Thomas His hands and feet. He walked alongside two disciples on the road to Emmaus. He spoke of Himself as the gate—the one who leads us into life, safety, and hope.

These are not just stories from long ago. These are **stories that matter**, because they remind us that the risen Christ still meets us today.

Jesus meets us in our doubts, just as He met Thomas. When we struggle to believe, Jesus comes near and offers peace.

Jesus meets us on the road, just as He met the disciples on the way to Emmaus. When we feel discouraged or lost, Jesus walks beside us—even when we do not recognize Him at first.

And sometimes, we see these resurrection stories unfolding right in front of us.

Recently, a couple became stranded in Worcester after a car accident left their vehicle totaled. They found themselves on the front lawn of our church on a cold Sunday, far from home. As we were preparing for worship, they asked for help— simply a coat to stay warm.

What followed was a beautiful moment of Christ’s presence among us. A coat was found, warm socks were given, and soon more help arrived. Winter clothes were brought, including a coat that fit the man perfectly, along with even a rolling suitcase for their journey ahead.

Their response was simple but powerful: “You are a blessing! Thank you!”

Later, from Beth Duxbury, I learned that the coat belonged to Stan Gutridge, a beloved member of Wesley UMC. It was hard not to feel that this, too, was part of God’s story—that even through a simple act of sharing clothing, love continued to live on.

This is what Easter looks like.

Easter is not only about an empty tomb long ago—it is about the living Christ at work today. It is about hope showing up on a church lawn, kindness shared in a moment of need, and love passed from one life to another.

We are called to carry the spirit of Easter into our broken and troubled world—to be people who open doors, walk alongside others, and offer what we have with compassion.

When we serve, when we give, when we pray, and when we love— we continue the story of Easter.

This April, as we reflect on these “Stories that Matter,” may we open our hearts to recognize the risen Christ among us. And may our lives become part of God’s ongoing story of grace, hope, and renewal.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Nizzi

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

Marion and Jerry Warren, Richard (Allison Hansen's brother), Jane (Mark Muncey's cousin), Dr. Angel Lake (in St. Croix), Carolyn and Pierre Bellil, Rosmond Caine (Cordelia's sister in St. Vincent), Nancy Ellis, Steven Zoldak, Allison Whisner, Barbara Ingrassia, Earl Flagg, 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, Bárbara Fletcher, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Charles Kiefer, Sandra O'Driscoll, Debbie Plant, Troy Potts, Shea Pugh, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay, 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.

A Memorial Service for Chris Kerns will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 11 am with a collation to follow.

Worship Attendance

March 8 – 105

March 15 – 109

March 22 – 105

March 29 - 121

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window lighting for April is given loving memory of Nancy Carryl Duxbury by Beth-Anne Duxbury, Brian Pitts, Craig and Tina Duxbury

The 2026 Altar Flower calendar is 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.

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) or call (508-799-4191). The cost of the lighting is \$40.

Keeping You Connected!

2026 Bishop's Regional Meetings

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton will be at the CWD & CED. Clergy are ***strongly encouraged*** to attend and all laity are welcome. You can attend any event. [Registration and information](#)

Commonwealth East and Commonwealth West Districts

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Meal at 5:00 pm

Talk from 6:00-8:00 pm

Aldersgate UMC, 242 Boston Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824

Free CPR Class for Wesley Volunteers on April 12th or April 26! Limited Spots! There will be a free CPR class for Wesley Volunteers, and you may choose either date, depending on availability. Please note that while the class is free, you will need to purchase your certification cards yourself. See Rhianna for more details and to sign up in Brewer Hall after the Easter Service.

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 April Community Dinner will be held on April 25th at 4 pm. Please join us for Swedish meatballs, noodles, green beans, rolls, dessert and beverages.

Carty Cupboard Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, April 4 and Saturday, April 18 at 10 am.

May 2026 Herald: The next newsletter will be in the May 3rd bulletin. The deadline for articles is April 21st at 9:00 am.

Thank you, Debi and Veronica

God Moment

A God Moment from Justina Lamptey (Royal Babe)

“Now there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of work, but the same God works in all of them in everyone.”

(1 Corinthians 12:4–11)

After I came home from a visit to my doctor, I received very sad news from Ghana. My adopted son told me that his wife and their new baby had died. My heart felt very heavy with pain.

Soon after that, my other adopted daughter invited me to join a Zoom prayer meeting with about one hundred people. During the meeting, a man who did not know me began to speak. He said, “Royal Babe, you are a good woman. God made you so that people can see your good heart wherever you go. Your church, Wesley UMC, is praying for you. God has healed you, and everything will be okay.”

As he spoke, I began to cry. He even shared things about my life that only I knew. In that moment, I felt God very close to me. I believe God was speaking through him, using the gift of prophecy.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH SERVED March 2026

- Community Breakfast 275
- Community Dinner 137
- Carty Cupboard Food Pantry 3/21 255
- Clothing Ministry 102

Sunshine Girls Visitation Ministry

Getting Wesley Church Family Connected with our Homebound



CareOne in Millbury, MA with Jackie W., Janice E., Pastor Nizzi, Sandy M., Linda C., Betsy P., and Marta V.



Betsy & Sandy with Edla Bloom



Sterling Village in Sterling, MA with Martha, Betsy, Linda, Jackie, Janice, Anne Burrows & Sandy, our Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW?

Our worship on Easter Sunday morning includes the lighting of a special candle known as the Paschal candle. The word *Pasch* is used in both Greek and Latin to refer to the observance of the celebration of the resurrection. This in turn derives from the Hebrew *pesach* for “Passover”. In fact in many other languages (e.g. Spanish *pascua*, French *paques*, Italian *pasques*, Welsh *pasg*) the word for the observance of the resurrection derives directly from *Pasch*.

Since the Old Testament story of the Exodus from Egypt foreshadows the New Testament resurrection of Jesus, much of the symbolism of Holy Week and Easter is rooted in the Jewish Passover. The Paschal candle is reminiscent of the Pillar of Fire that led the Israelites in the desert just as Christ is our guide who leads us out of bondage to sin and death. In many denominations a new Paschal candle is lighted each year as part of the Service of Light in the context of an Easter Vigil. Since we do not celebrate an Easter Vigil as part of our Holy Week services, our Paschal candle is generally lighted during our Easter Sunday morning worship to celebrate Christ our Light and the triumph of Resurrection over the darkness of sin and death.

The most notable feature of the Paschal candle is its sheer physical size—it is significantly larger than any other candle used in worship by the church. Some of the larger ones in history were used during medieval times, with the one at Salisbury Cathedral being thirty-six feet tall and the one at Westminster Abbey weighing three hundred pounds—ours is quite modest in comparison!

In the historic liturgical church the Paschal candle is usually lighted at every service during the Great Fifty Days (i.e. from Easter through Pentecost). Often during this time it is placed in a more prominent position in the worship space, usually near the altar. For the remainder of the liturgical year it is commonly located near the baptismal font and is lighted only for funerals or services of baptism. Although we may associate the Paschal candle with Easter, throughout the year it can serve as a reminder of an important symbol of baptism: light. In a custom that actually dates back to the eleventh century, a candle lighted from the Paschal candle is often given to the newly baptized (or a sponsor or parent in the case of an infant). According to Laurence Stookey in *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*, “These uses outside the Easter season remind us that baptism is our enlightenment and promise of resurrection, and that Christ, our Light, precedes us in death to show the way to eternal life.”

Submitted by
Deborah A. O’Driscoll

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