
THE WESLEY HERALD

May 2026



Happy Mother's Day!

“She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.”

— *Proverbs 31*

Dear Friends,

My mother's name was Evangelina. She was among the first group of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) hired by the British government in the 1970s, who served as a high school teacher at the Federal Government Girls College in Gboko, Benue, Nigeria. Each year, my seven siblings and I eagerly awaited her vacation—those precious days we cherished most, simply being with her.

My mother was a public high school science teacher. As many know, teachers are often among the lowest-paid public servants. This reality led her to seek work abroad, making sacrifices so our family could have a better future.

Yet through it all, my mom always saw life as a glass half full. She trusted deeply that God would provide for all our needs. On Saturday evenings, she made sure we were ready for church, and on Sunday mornings, she placed an offering in each of our hands to give during worship. I remember once deciding to keep mine, thinking of candies instead. She gently but firmly said, “Nechita” —the name she used when she meant serious business— “this offering is for God, your tithe to support the church, not to buy candies.”

As a child, I remember her carrying a large handbag that seemed to hold everything—small folding scissors, needle and thread, first aid, school supplies, and a coin purse. Whenever she encountered someone in need, she would gladly give whatever she had in that purse. Her actions spoke volumes: a quiet but powerful witness to generosity, giving without expecting anything in return.

I also remember her class record book. Tucked inside was a folded page, secured with a paper clip. Within it, she kept her tithe. She would show it to us and say, “This is for God—for the church—my tithe. I trust that God will provide whatever we need.”

On this Mother’s Day, I give thanks for my mother and for all mothers and mother-figures who embody such faith, sacrifice, and generosity. Their lives preach sermons more powerfully than words—stories that truly matter. May we honor them not only with gratitude, but by living out the same trust in God and care for others that they have shown us.

I miss you, Mom. I am who I am because of you, and I thank God every day for the gift of your life.

With gratitude and grace,

Pastor Nizzi

MAY 24TH IS PENTECOST SUNDAY!
WE WILL ACCEPT NEW MEMBERS.
PENTECOST SUNDAY, SITUATED FIFTY DAYS
AFTER EASTER, COMMEMORATES THE REMARKABLE
OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH.
WEAR RED OR ORANGE

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

Entire church, especially the students, Beth Vietze, surgery to remove tumor on May 8,
Melanie Rohr, recovering from heart surgery (Bill Robbins),
Yvonne Cotton, loss of her sister, Ermine (Yvette Walters)
Brett, Sarah, Jess & Josh (Jackie Wetton), Cousin Al, who is in a coma,
Marion & Jerry Warren (Bill Robbins), Jackie Wetton's brother, Donnie and sister, Pam,
Raye Bragg, Richard (Allison Hansen's brother), Alice Douglas,
Susan Williams who is at Life Care in Auburn,
Earl Flagg, Sandra O'Driscoll, Deborah & George Plant, Dot & Nancy Ellis,
Marion and Jerry Warren, Jane (Mark Muncey's cousin), Dr. Angel Lake (in St. Croix), Carolyn
and Pierre Bellil, Rosmond Caine (Cordelia's sister in St. Vincent), Steven Zoldak,
Allison Whisner, Barbara Ingrassia, 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, Bárbara Fletcher, Beverly Grimshaw,
Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Charles Kiefer, 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.,

World Peace

Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Worship Attendance

April 5 – 243 April 12 – 115 April 19 – 139 April 26 - 113

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window lighting for May is given in loving memory of my mother and brothers, Marjorie, Leonard, and Harry by Emily Smith.

The Tower lighting for May is given in loving memory of my parents, Norman and Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

Rose Window & Tower Lightings Available for August. Both the Rose Window and Tower Lightings are available for August. If you would like to dedicate either of these lightings, please contact Veronica in the office (office@wesleyworc.org) or call (508-799-4191). The cost of each lighting is \$40.

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).

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.

January 2026-March 2026 Financial Update from Matt Crane

Pledges:	\$56,782.60
Loose Offerings:	\$1,345.43
Regular Rentals:	\$15,830.75
Endowment Income:	\$61,686.31
Total Income:	\$140,056.02
Utilities:	\$36,603.05
Snow Removal:	\$34,630.00
Staff Salaries & Other Expenses:	\$118, 618.52
Total Expenses:	\$189,851.57

Thank you to our Office Volunteers

Tuesdays	Phil Johnson & Jacob Anderson
Wednesdays	Elizabeth Osei-Boateng & Mercy Agyemang
Thursdays	Phil Johnson & Matt Crane
Fridays	Jackie Wetton & Charlie Kennedy

Keeping You Connected!

VBS Sign-up Time! Please find our VBS table for this year's sign-up information in Brewer Hall. Our Mascot is a Seal, and he is waiting to meet everyone for this year's Bible fun. A forty-five-minute volunteer meeting will be held on May 31st right after service in the Sunday School room @11:45am.

Blanket Sunday is next Sunday, May 10. Please bring an offering to help support those whose lives have been impacted by natural disasters. Donations help people receive blankets, water, food, shelter, and much more.

Adult Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in John Wesley Room. Everyone is invited to attend this study led by Pastor Joseph Wilson.

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! Co-led by Pastor Nizzi and Cordelia.

The May Community Dinner will be held on May 23rd at 4 pm. Please join us for Hawaiian chicken, cornbread, green beans, salad, bread & butter, dessert and beverage.

Carty Cupboard Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, May 2 and Saturday, May 16 at 10 am.

June 2026 Herald: The next newsletter will be in the June 7th bulletin. The deadline for articles is Monday, June 1 at 9:00 am. *Thank you, Veronica*

God Moment

A God Moment from Linda D'Acri—

*If you open your heart to the hungry,
and provide abundantly for those who are afflicted,
your light will shine in the darkness,
and your gloom will be like the noon.*

Isaiah 58:10 (Common English Bible)

Wesley UMC hosts a free community meal once a month. One evening, while we were cleaning up, a volunteer gave me a placemat with a note written on it. The person who wrote it was deaf and unable to speak.

The note said, "You are my angel. It is so wonderful to come here, have a hot meal, spend time with my friends, and see smiles on peoples' faces."

When I read those words, I began to cry. I feel so blessed to be part of something that brings comfort and joy to others, even through something as simple as a shared meal.

Note: Thank you, Linda, for all the meals over so many years! Your joy in caring and giving is felt by the folks you feed. Betsy

Events



Prayer Circle Meets Every Wednesday 12-1 pm



Sunshine Girls Visitation Ministry



Betsy with Dot Ellis



Batch #2 Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED

DID YOU KNOW?


Throughout the history of Christian worship bells have been used in a variety of ways to enhance liturgy. Here at Wesley, we have occasionally been experiencing musical offerings by the Wesley Ringers playing handbells in worship, but generally, when most people think about bells in relation to the church, they tend to think of tower bells (and we do have an electronic carillon in our tower). Did you know that the origin and existence of English handbells such as those played by our bell choir is closely related to the history of tower bells?

The introduction of bells fixed to church buildings occurred in the 5th or 6th century, and by the 9th century they were hung in towers. Bells were used to call people to worship, but eventually an elaborate system evolved in which the ringing of bells of different types distinguished various occasions. In the Middle Ages, bells rung from the towers of churches were important in regulating daily life. There also were superstitions attached to bells, such as a belief in the power of bells to ward off evil spirits, giving rise to the tradition of the “passing bell”, tolled when someone was dying, as well as the “death knell”. These early uses of tower bells thus served as signals to regulate the life and worship of the church, as well to celebrate festival occasions and mourn losses.


The Reformers desired to rid bell ringing of the associated superstitions but did not eliminate bell ringing entirely. Some adopted the ringing of a “sermon bell” to announce the beginning of a service that was to include preaching. Eventually, however, tower bells came to be used as musical instruments. In England, change ringing from church towers became very popular. “Changes” are complex systems for ringing bells in various patterns based on the mathematics of permutations. Such change ringing occurred daily all over England. As you might imagine, it was very disturbing for the people of a town to listen to someone learning to play changes on the tower bells, so English handbells evolved as a means to rehearse change ringing. Eventually the handbells came to be used not only for practice, but also for performance of musical pieces.

The ringing of handbells in our worship services is a form of musical expression that provides another way to experience the song and worship of the church.

Submitted by
Deborah A. O’Driscoll



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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
Temporary Admin Assistant	Veronica Winder	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	Linda D’Acri	Mission Coordinators	Linda D’Acri
Wesley Tech Team	Mark Muncey	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Ron Ramsay
Sunday Security	Charlie Kennedy	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, Cordelia Ferdinand & Cordelia Ferdinand