

From the Pastor's Desk

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

Isaiah 43:19

Beloved Church Family,

June greets us with warmth, color, and the quiet beauty of God's creation in full bloom. The days are longer, the light is brighter, and the world around us reminds us that God is always at work—bringing life, renewal, and hope in every season.

On the fifth Sunday of May, we celebrated a joyful Children's Sunday.

Our children helped lead worship, shared their gifts, and reminded us

of the sincere faith at the heart of the Gospel. They sang "*Jesus, Friend of Little Children, Be a Friend to Me,*" filling the sanctuary with joy and trust in God's love.

Special thanks to the adults who helped prepare our children: Rhianna Burke, Joseph Fletcher, Janet Amoako, Pastor Joseph Wilson, and Ronna Davis. To all our children who lighted the candles (Tessa & Emmanuel), sang, read Scripture (Joyce, Jormo & Jeremiah), led prayers (Obama & Evy), and participated in worship: **I am so proud of you!** By the grace of God, a children's choir will be starting soon.

May also became a month of unexpected grace. On Pentecost Sunday, we welcomed thirteen new members into the life of the church by profession of faith. In my nine months among you, I did not originally plan to hold a membership class, but God is full of surprises! What unfolded was a beautiful witness to how the Holy Spirit gathers people into community in ways we do not always expect but deeply need. We give thanks for each new member and for the journey of faith we now share together.



Left to right: Pastor Nizzi, Quincy, Beatrice, Chelsea, Faustina, Tete, Quin, Sonia, Sharon, Sheniqua, Sheeba, Ebenezer, and Yvonne (not pictured: Gladys).

The United Women in Faith Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, held under the theme *“Dream it! Believe it! Do it!”* brought together nearly three thousand women from around the world to inspire, worship, and connect in mission. Powerful speakers, including Stacey Abrams and her mother, Carolyn Abrams, as well as Elizabeth Eckford—one of the Little Rock Nine who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957—offered inspiring messages of faith, courage, perseverance, and resilience. From the New England Conference, thirty women participated, including Cordelia, Danielle, Beulah, and Pastor Nizzi. On June 16th, at 6PM, during the UWF All Circles meeting, the four of us look forward to sharing what transpired in this event.



As we move into June, we look forward to celebrating Father’s Day on June 21 during worship. Men of the congregation will lead us, offering their voices and gifts in praise to God. We will give thanks for fathers, father figures, and all who reflect God’s steadfast love, strength, and care in our lives. Come and be with us!

May this month continue to draw us closer to Christ and to one another as we walk together in faith, hope, and gratitude.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Nizzi

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

Dorothy Drajesk (Brent's mother), Donald McLaren, Kendra, Alice Boateng, Naa Dromo Aryee, Joan Hirst, the Entire church, especially the students, Earl Flagg, Laura Zoldak, Beth Vietze, Melanie Rohr (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, Jackie Wetton's brother, Donnie and sister, Pam, Raye Bragg, Richard (Allison Hansen's brother), Alice Douglas, Sandra O'Driscoll, Deborah & George Plant, Dot & Nancy Ellis, Jane (Mark Muncey's cousin), Dr. Angel Lake (in St. Croix), 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, Page, David Patrick, Francis Mosso, Troy & Cathy Potts, Melissa Houlihan, Robert Craft, Susan, Libby T., *World Peace*
Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

**For pastoral emergency, contact Pastor Nizzi directly
at 617 480 2955 (cell), so she can respond in a timely manner.**

Worship Attendance

May 10 – 126 May 17 – 120 May 24 – 126 May 31 - 133

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window lighting for June is given in loving memory of George Hammond by The Hammond Family.

The Tower lighting is given in loving memory of Hazel and Sherman Langille by the Bellil family.

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

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.

UPCOMING VACATION:

Pastor Nizzi will be on vacation from June 9-13.

For pastoral emergency, please call Joseph Wilson at 508-963-9555.

Wesley UMC Financial Report: January – April 2026

Total Income:		\$192,898.84
Total Pledges & Offerings:		\$ 90,346.93
Pledges:	\$ 87,499.60	
Loose Offerings:	\$ 2,847.33	
Regular Rentals:		\$ 17,870.75
Endowment Income:		\$ 79,022.90
Other Income:		\$ 5,658.26
Tithe (10%) on Pledges, Offerings & Rentals =		\$ 10,821.77
Total Expenses:		\$228,055.21
Building Expenses:	\$ 93,338.13	
Staff Salaries & Benefits:	\$106,414.75	
Other Expenses:	\$ 28,302.33	

Keeping You Connected!

Church Office Message: Debi Reynolds is back! She will be working part-time for the foreseeable future so the church office will be open Tuesday – Friday, 10 am – 1 pm. If you need to meet with Debi, please call the office (508-799-4191) to schedule an appointment. Thank you.

Graduation Recognition is coming soon! Please submit names of your graduates by sending an email with their name and school to the office as soon as possible and no later than June 15th at 9:00 am.

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.

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.

Upcoming Concert Series: The William Ness Concert Series of First Baptist Church of Worcester is proud to present The Back Bay Ringers with Cathy Meyers, organist in concert on Saturday, June 13, 7:30pm in the sanctuary at 111 Park Avenue, Worcester. *A Celebration of Handbells and Organ* will feature works and arrangements by JS Bach, Edvard Grieg, Anna Lapwood, and Louis Vierne. Go to backbayringers.org/events to order tickets using promo code *venue26* for discount. Back Bay Ringers is the premiere handbell ensemble of the greater Boston area who will perform an outstanding memorable concert. Don't miss this!

Volunteers Needed

For over 20 years Wesley Church has been the home to the Eye Glass Medical Clinic. We are open every other Monday evening from 6 – 8 pm.

We are in need of a minimum of 4 volunteers for the following positions:

1. Checking In Patients and Registration
2. Checking Patients Out
3. Help with moving patients along smoothly
4. Filing

These positions can be shared between 2 people each, where you would alternate evenings.

If you'd like to see how the evening runs, you are welcome to come to a clinic and see what goes on throughout the evening. Please reach out to Ron Ramsay (rhr6253@yahoo.com) to let him know you'd like to come observe one evening or if you'd like more information. The clinic is open next on June 15th.

United Women of Faith, Woman of the Year Award

This year's UWF Mission Recognition Award winner is Vivian Assie! She is known as a "very lovely lady" and a mother of three children. She is considered to be extremely "selfless" in every sense of the word.

You can see her often behind the counter in Brewer Hall during Coffee Hour serving church members coffee and donuts, pastries, fruit, orange juice and baked goods that she has prepared.

And this lady makes quite a delicious Cornbread and yummy Spring Rolls too!

She works with Linda D'Acri too on the Hospitality Team and participates often with our monthly Community Dinners that serve the needy in and around Wesley UMC and with members in our congregation.

What you may not see or notice is that this special, gentle woman will visit Wesley members after church who may be homebound due to frailty, have an illness or are in the hospital. Comforting and visiting others is a wonderful personality trait of our recipient this year. Jesus, our Lord and Savior, is quite pleased with her I'm sure.



God Moment

A God Moment from Emmanuel Sam

An Unexpected Encounter

It happened on a bitter December morning in 2024, right here in Worcester, Massachusetts. Internally, I was in a state of complete mental turmoil—overwhelmed, deeply confused, and exhausted by life's heavy challenges. Spiritually and emotionally, my soul was at its lowest ebb. I felt utterly dejected and weighed down.

Hoping to distract myself and clear my head, I jumped on the bus to pick up a few items from the grocery store. After shopping, I walked over to a nearby bus stop—one I had never used before. The winter air was unforgiving. Even wrapped in my long winter coat, I stood there shivering, waiting for the bus to take me home.

Then, all of a sudden, out of nowhere, an old bearded man appeared. He walked slowly up to me, looked me in the eyes, and said:

"My brother, don't worry about nothing, okay? I say, DON'T WORRY ABOUT NOTHING!"

Before I could even process his words, he turned and walked quietly away. Instantly, goosebumps ran across my skin and a profound chill washed over me. When I finally snapped out of my shock, I looked around to find him. I wanted to thank him, or at least see where he went—but he was nowhere to be found. In a matter of moments, he had completely vanished.

In that quiet emptiness, a wave of supernatural inner peace washed over me. I realized I had just experienced a divine intervention. It was as if God Himself was telling me to cast away all my worries, doubts, and fears, and instead lean entirely onto the Savior. It brought to mind the beautiful promise in Matthew 11:28:

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Brothers and sisters, in our moments of confusion and despondency, we so easily forget the supernatural provisions God has already made for His children. When life overwhelms us, we must remember to run to God, not away from Him. No matter how heavy the burden, if we bring our difficulties to Him, He is always faithful to give us rest.

Emmanuel Sam
Prayer Circle

DID YOU KNOW?

Our closing hymn on Pentecost Sunday, *Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love* (UMH 422) is not one that we have sung frequently, and yet it might have seemed quite familiar as it uses the same tune (AZMON) as the quintessential and very familiar Charles Wesley hymn, *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (UMH 57). While we may sometimes think of hymns as being a unique combination of music and text, that is far from being the case. If you look in the hymnal you will see that most often the author of the hymn text and the composer of the music are not the same person. In many instances, the poetry of the hymn was not written for a specific tune, and conversely, the tune may have been composed without a specific text in mind, although of course there are specific examples in which poet and composer do work in direct collaboration (and sometimes are the same person). So how do hymn texts and tunes become linked?

Did you ever look closely at the page in the hymnal and wonder about the series of numbers located in the lower right-hand corner of the page? Since hymn texts are poetry, the pattern of syllables can be described in terms of numbers representing a formula that tells how many syllables are in each line of the hymn text. These formulae are given at the bottom of the page for each hymn. Sometimes instead of numbers there are letter abbreviations. For example, CM is an abbreviation for *common meter* which in turn refers to the numerical pattern 86.86 (8 syllables in the first line, 6 in the second, 8 in the third, 6 in the fourth.) The use of periods within the numbering system sometimes is a further reflection of the rhyme scheme of poetic text, or an indication of which lines comprise a single theme or thought.

There was a time when hymnals included texts only, and musicians had to use such a metrical analysis to find a tune appropriate to the text. Over the course of time certain texts and tunes became linked with each other, but the association is not always the same from one denomination or tradition to another. Even today we still use this information to interchange tunes and texts. Our current edition of the *United Methodist Hymnal* contains several hymns that use different tunes than were used in the previous edition for the same text. This process can be facilitated by the use of the Metrical Index, found in the back of the hymnal. This index lists all the metrical patterns and the hymn tunes which “match” that pattern. Thus, it often is possible to sing a given hymn text to many different melodies. Singing a familiar text to a different tune may make us more aware of the message of the text, as we have to “think” a bit more as we sing. Similarly, singing an unfamiliar text to a well-known tune can make it easier to concentrate on the meaning of the text.

Many contemporary hymn writers take advantage of the existence of so many wonderful hymn tunes by writing hymn poetry that correlates with the pattern of existing tunes. There are many hymns in *The Faith We Sing* that consist of new texts set to familiar melodies. In these hymns we experience new expressions of faith in a context that incorporates the rich heritage of Christian hymnody through the centuries. There are indeed many ways to experience the wonderful traditions of Christian hymnody, which is always growing.

Submitted by
Deborah A. O’Driscoll

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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