

From the Pastor's Desk

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
Psalm 34:18

Beloved Wesley UMC Family,

July is a month that reminds us that life is often woven together with both tears and joy. As a church family, we have walked through a season of loss, while at the same time witnessing God's faithfulness in new and life-giving ways.

In recent weeks, we have said goodbye to four beloved members of our Wesley family. We continue to hold their loved ones in prayer and give thanks for lives that have blessed our congregation. This season of grief has also touched me personally with the unexpected passing of my nephew, who died peacefully in his sleep in his thirties. Like many of you who have experienced loss, I have found comfort in God's presence and in the prayers of God's people.

While grief is part of our story, it is never the whole story. We are Easter people, and our hope rests in the risen Christ, who walks with us through every season and continues to bring new life even in the midst of sorrow.

Last week, our church was filled with the joyful sounds of children as they gathered for Vacation Bible School. Their laughter, curiosity, and growing faith remind us that God is always at work raising a new generation of disciples. Thank you to the many volunteers whose time, creativity, and love made this ministry possible.

Later this month, we will celebrate Graduation Sunday as we recognize the accomplishments of our graduates and pray for God's guidance as they begin new chapters in their lives. We rejoice with them and look forward to seeing how God will continue to lead them.



We also anticipate our Women's Mini-Harvest on the last Sunday of July. I am grateful for the faithful leadership of the women of Wesley and for this special opportunity to worship together, celebrate God's abundant blessings, and support the ministries of our church.

As I reflect on these past weeks, I am reminded that this is what it means to be the church. We carry one another's burdens, celebrate one another's joys, pray for one another, and keep our eyes fixed on Christ. Thank you for the many ways you care for one another and for the warm welcome you continue to extend to all who enter our doors.

May this summer be a season of renewal for you and your family. Whether you are traveling, spending time with loved ones, or simply enjoying the longer days, may you find moments to rest in God's presence and be refreshed by God's grace.

In 1956, the General Conference of The Methodist Church granted women full clergy rights — a historic recognition of the Holy Spirit's call to women to preach, teach, lead, and serve. As we mark the seventieth



anniversary of that milestone, The United Methodist Church celebrates the courage of those who came before and the faithfulness of the many women whose ministries continue to shape and enrich our communities of faith. (umcdiscipleship.org)

This year, I celebrate **20 years as an ordained Elder in the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church** and **24 years in pastoral ministry**. As I reflect on this milestone, my heart is filled with gratitude for God's faithfulness and for the many people who have accompanied me on this journey.

I am especially thankful for the clergywomen God has placed in my life. They have generously shared their wisdom, encouraged me through the joys and challenges of ministry, and offered a listening ear without judgment. Their friendship, mentorship, and steadfast support have been invaluable gifts of God's grace.

With deep appreciation, I thank **Rev. Linda Reynolds, Rev. Marlu Scott, Rev. Carole Calhoun, and Rev. Susan Morrison**. I am blessed by their faithful witness and grateful for the ways they continue to shape my life and ministry.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Nizzi

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

Dorothy Drajesk (Brent's mother), Kendra, Joan Hirst, the Entire church, especially the students, Earl Flagg, 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, Jackie Wetton's brother, Donnie and sister, Pam, Raye Bragg, Marion & Jerry Warren, Richard (Allison Hansen's brother), Alice Douglas, Sandra O'Driscoll, 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, Bishop Tom Bickerton, DS Megan Stowe, Pastor Nizzi, Stacey Nichols-Byll and her daughter Mali, Shawanna, Justin Bacon, Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Janice Capen, Janet DeNapoli, Xuan Diep, Barbara Fletcher, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Charles Kiefer, Troy Potts, Shea Pugh, 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.

Prayers for Joseph Boateng, Lisa Nimoh, Irene Antwi, Emmanuel, Michael, Isaac, and Vida Boateng (auntie) on the passing of Alice Boateng on June 20, 2026. There will be a One Week Celebration on Saturday, July 18th from 12 noon to 12 am at 617 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA. A funeral for Alice will be held in October with more information to come.

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

Worship Attendance

June 7 – 92 June 14 – 143 June 21 – 100 June 28 - 103

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window lighting for July is given in loving memory of Bill Woodring by Blair, Karl, John, and Mary Jett Woodring.

The Tower lighting is given in loving memory of David Samanen, Mable & Luther Marsh, and Evelyn & Martin Samanen by Carol, Steve, and Jeff Samanen.

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.

Keeping You Connected!

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.

Volunteers Needed

Thank you to those who have stepped up to volunteer! We are still in need of one or two people to help check people out. This is taking their payments, and recording their order. This position can be shared between 2 people, where you would alternate evenings.

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. 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 (rrh6253@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 July 13th.

God Moment

If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or email it to me. The story can be anonymous or signed, and all are invited to participate. Betsy (betspenn35@hotmail.com)



A God Moment by Betsy Pennino

The weeks between Memorial Day and July 4th are a good time to remember one of the great coincidences-which-was-more-than-just-a-coincidence: our 2nd President John Adams and 3rd President Thomas Jefferson died on the same day which was the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence! Adams had been a major promoter of winning freedom from England and had written the Massachusetts State Constitution which influenced the U.S. Constitution. Jefferson had written the Declaration of Independence. Both were Ambassadors to France and won French support during the Revolutionary War and its aftermath when there were no laws in place about paying war debts and collecting money through taxes.

Each was near death but wanted to live until the 50th anniversary of their grand experiment: it was unheard of in the 1700's that citizens could elect their leaders and government representatives and that people would have equal rights before the law. It took generations for the country to live up to the hopeful vision set forth in the Constitution.

On the morning of July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson was near death at Monticello and asked, "is it the 4th yet?" John Adams also hovered near death in his Quincy, MA home. When he died, his last words were, "Thomas Jefferson survives." Jefferson had actually died 5 hours before that, but the fastest news could move then was on horseback. Five years later, the 5th American President, James Monroe, also died on July 4th.

This Saturday is the 200th anniversary of that night.

Enrich Your Life Host an International Student

Host Families provide a bed and meals and a loving home. The benefits to hosting are many. A Host Family can be a single parent, a retired couple, someone with or without children, or a same-sex couple. All have been successful as a Host Family.

Students are from: Spain, Brazil, Germany, Denmark and the Czech Republic.
Perfect matches are made between the host family and the student with common interests.

Here are two possible students:

Carlota - Spain - grade 10 - Requests to come to the Northeast
Interests: Basketball, Skiing, Snowboarding, Tennis, Cooking and Running.
Likes to spend time with family and friends.
Enjoys helping others.
Positive attitude toward learning.

Vojtech - Czech Republic - Grade 12
Host Family in US was committed but the family has pulled out due to medical reasons.
He lives in a small historical town.
Interests: Skiing, Snowboarding, Orienteering, Bike Riding, Computers, Fitness, Running,
Fishing, Swimming
He states: "My Host Family can expect me to be respectful, helpful, and willing to share my culture."
Passionate about Math, Physics, and Space.
Is Independent, Quiet, and Adaptable.

Make a Friendship for a Lifetime.
Help Make Their Dreams of Coming to the US Come True.

If you can help find a family that will host a student, our agency will send you \$250.00 as a referral fee to thank you. Please feel free to send this along to others.

For more information on Hosting - Contact:
Pat Darby - Area Coordinator
Northwest Services PEACE Program, Inc.
email: patarby6@yahoo.com phone: 978-632-8270
visit our website: <http://www.nw-services.com>

DID YOU KNOW?

You may have noticed that the song *God Is Forgiveness*, the Assurance of Pardon that is sung each week after the time of silent confession following the opening prayer is attributed to the Taizé community. In fact, many songs from the Taizé community are included in both our 1989 *United Methodist Hymnal* as well as in *The Faith We Sing*, and we not infrequently sing these chants in our worship services. Taizé chants were also featured prominently in our Ash Wednesday service this year.

Have you ever wondered what the Taizé community is? The answer is that it is an ecumenical lay community named after the village in which it is located in Burgundy, France. The community was founded during World War II by Roger Schutz, a Swiss Protestant offering refuge to Jews and others trying to escape from the Nazis. Its ministry of reconciliation began after the liberation of France when the house also began to welcome German prisoners-of-war. Today the community consists of over one hundred brothers of various Protestant as well as Catholic and Orthodox backgrounds from more than thirty countries. Taizé has become a significant place of pilgrimage for young people from all over the world who seek to share in its hospitality and its liturgy. (The New England Annual Conference in recent years has sponsored several pilgrimages to Taizé with a focus on participation by youth and young adults.)

Taizé is committed to the reconciliation of the Catholic and Protestant traditions through an emphasis on renewal of the devotional life. In our divided world the Taizé Community serves as a living visible sign of reconciliation between not only divided Christians but also separated peoples in general. The worship of Taizé is based on traditional elements of Christian worship and includes Psalms and other scripture readings, silence, prayer and chant-like songs. It is these simple songs that have become internationally known and accepted by many denominations. Taizé chants characteristically are easy to learn and simple to sing, and through repetition allow all members of the worshiping community to participate in the sung prayer.

Gordon Giles in the book *O Come Emmanuel* (Paraclete Press, 2006) notes “Each time we participate in a Taizé chant, we are involving ourselves in a stationary time with God, waiting for God and waiting with God. When we emerge from such an experience, we find that while time appears to have stood still, held in check by mutual melody, we ourselves have made a little journey towards God, accompanied by the Holy Spirit.”

In the United Methodist tradition, we incorporate into our worship music that derives from various times and places. Our hymnody is richly diverse and allows us to experience the common bonds of Christian worship that connects across centuries, nationalities, and cultures.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O’Driscoll

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Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham	Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
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	Gerard Piscitelli	Ghanaian Association	Cynthia Fletcher
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Sunday Security	Adam Flagg		Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy
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	Joseph Fletcher	United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Janet Amoako
Lay Spiritual Director, Music Committee Chair, and Worship Committee Chair	Debbie O'Driscoll		Barbara Ingrassia,
		Wesley UMC Prayer Circle	Sandra McManus, Cordelia Ferdinand
			Led by Pastor Nizzi & Cordelia Ferdinand