

From the Pastor's Desk

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

- Isaiah 43:19

Dear Wesley Family and Friends,

October is a beautiful month in New England. The leaves begin to change, the air becomes cooler, and we are reminded of the changing seasons of God's creation. It is also a season of harvest—a time to pause, give thanks, and remember that what we have is not simply the result of our own work, **but a gift from God.**

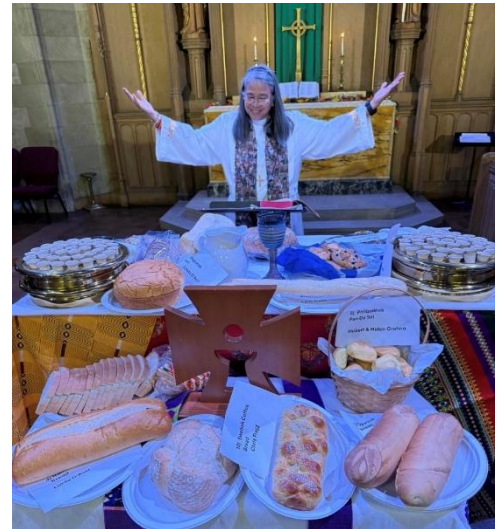
As I enter my second year of serving as your pastor, I find myself especially grateful.

Over this past year, I have learned that Wesley is much more than a building at 114 Main Street. Wesley is a community of people who continue to learn what it means to follow Jesus together.

I have seen this in many ways. I have seen it in the joyful singing of our Ghanaian Choir and in the many traditions that enrich our worship. I have seen it around the tables of our community breakfast and dinners and through the faithful volunteers of the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry. I have seen it when longtime members welcome visitors and when people who are worshipping with us for the first time are made to feel at home.

And I have especially seen it in our children and young people. Our children are not simply the church of tomorrow. **They are part of the church today.** When they come forward, participate in worship, sing, learn, laugh, and sometimes make a little noise, they remind us that the church is a living family.

We are also blessed with many young adults in and around our Wesley community. Some are here regularly, some come when they can, and some are still finding their place. Rather than asking first, "Why aren't they more committed?" perhaps we can ask, **"What kind of church can we become where young people feel that they truly belong?"** This is something I hope we can explore together in the coming year.



I would love to see us create more opportunities for our youth and young adults to gather, build friendships, ask questions about faith, serve others, have fun, and discover the gifts God has given them. My hope is that we can develop a youth ministry that is not simply another program on the church calendar, but a community where our young people know that they are seen, heard, valued, and needed.

We do not have to have everything figured out before we begin. We can begin with a conversation. We can begin with an invitation. We can begin by listening to our young people and asking what they need and what they hope Wesley can become. **There is room for them at God's table.** And there is room for their leadership, their questions, their ideas, their laughter, and their gifts.

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday and continue our Harvest season, we are reminded that around the world Christians gather at the Lord's Table, speaking different languages, coming from different cultures, and bringing different stories, yet sharing the same bread and cup.

The table reminds us that God's love is always bigger than our boundaries.

One of the greatest gifts Wesley can offer our community is **a place where there is room.** Room for the child and the elder. Room for the newcomer and the longtime member. Room for different cultures, languages, traditions, and experiences. Room for those who come with strong faith and those who are still asking questions. Room for those who are carrying joy and room for those who are carrying burdens. And room for a new generation to discover that the church is also their home.

As we celebrate our harvest, may we remember that the greatest harvest is not measured only by what we collect or accomplish. It is also measured by the **love we share, the lives we touch, the people we welcome, and the hope we plant in one another.**

Thank you, Wesley, for allowing me to walk with you during this first year. Thank you for your prayers, your kindness, your patience, your humor, your generosity, and your willingness to keep saying **yes** to God's call.

As we begin another year together, may we continue to grow—not simply larger, but deeper in faith, wider in welcome, and stronger in love.

May our harvest be a harvest of kindness.

May our tables have room for one more.

And may everyone who enters Wesley feel the love of Christ through us.

With gratitude and joy,

Pastor Mizzi

Special Prayers for Our Wesley Family and Friends

Susan Williams, Richard Segersten now at Fairlawn Rehab, Margaret Wilson, Sandra O'Driscoll, Charles Simpson, Dorothy Drajesk (Brent's mother), Kendra, the Entire church, Earl Flagg, Melanie Rohr (Bill Robbins), Ermine (Yvette Walters), Yvonne Cotton (loss of her sister), Cousin Al, who is in a coma, Alice Douglas, Raye Bragg, Dr. Angel Lake (in St. Croix), Richard (Allison Hansen's brother), Steven Zoldak, Janet Terzian, Rosmond Caine (Cordelia's sister), Allison Whisner, Stacey Nichols-Byll and her daughter Mali, Shawanna, Justin Bacon, Xuan Diep, Bishop Tom Bickerton, DS Megan Stowe, Pastor Nizzi, Linda Keister, Shea Pugh, Page, David Patrick, Francis Mosso, Troy & Cathy Potts, Melissa Houlihan, Robert Craft, Libby T., Peter Woodcock, World Peace, Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Remember Our Homebound

Marilyn Baptist, Janice Capen, Joseph Boateng, Pinamang Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Janet DeNapoli, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Karen Garrett, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Charles Kiefer, Betty Paulwan, Elaine Peterson, Deborah Plant, Donald Tremblay, Barbara Vietze, Marion and Jerry Warren, Grace Woode

Family Who has Passed on Before Us

George Plant, Deborah's husband, passed away Monday, September 21st. There was a graveside service for George on Wednesday, September 30th. Card of condolences can be sent to Deborah Plant at Lutheran Rehab & Skilled Care Center, Room 1530A, 26 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01609.

Alice Boateng's funeral arrangements are being held this month. The arrangements are as follows: The viewing is being held on Friday, October 23, 2026 from 4 pm – 7pm at Callahan Fay & Caswell Funeral Home, 61 Myrtle Street, Worcester, MA 01608. The funeral service is Saturday, October 24th from 8 am – 10:30 am here at Wesley Church. Her Final Funeral Rite is Saturday, October 24th at Wesley Church from 7 pm – 1 am. There is a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, October 25th during worship at Wesley Church, beginning at 10 am.



If you have a prayer request, please complete a card in the pew and place it in the collection plate, or you can email the church office (office@wesleyworc.org).

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

Worship Attendance: Sept 6 – 90 Sept 13 – 96 Sept 20 – 108 Sept 27 - 87

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window in October is given in loving memory of John Hansen by his family.

The Tower lighting in October is given in honor and celebration of my sister, Buelah's birthday on October 6th by Nizzi Digan.

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.

Keeping You Connected!

November Herald will be in the October 4th bulletin. Please email your article to Debi no later than no later than Monday, October 26th. Thank you. (office@wesleyworc.org)

ONECALL TELLALL... Don't sit and wonder on a Sunday morning if church is going to be cancelled. Instead, receive a phone call and find out immediately! Whether it be a 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.

Harvest 2026 – Kofi & Ama Results

Kofi & Ama	\$ 1,224.55
Sunday	\$ 370.00 ** WINNER**
Monday	\$ 20.55
Tuesday	\$ 186.00
Wednesday	\$ 200.00
Thursday	\$ 212.00
Friday	\$ 140.00
Saturday	\$ 96.00

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)



My God Moment

By Earl Flagg

Back in May of 1967, my family took a trip to visit my father's sister who lived in Mineola, Long Island, New York. It was Memorial Day weekend.

On Sunday morning, around 9:30, we were sitting outside enjoying the beautiful, sunny, warm weather. My mother suddenly said, "That's funny. Aunt Bess's watch stopped, and I wound it this morning."

About an hour later, my mother noticed that the watch had started running again. Just as she said this, the telephone rang inside my father's sister's house.

My father's sister called to my mother, "Frank is on the phone," so my mother went inside to answer the call.

After a few minutes, my mother came back outside and said, "Aunt Bess died about an hour ago."

My Aunt Bess and my mother were very close. Aunt Bess never had children, and my mother was her only niece. Aunt Bess had been a patient at Worcester State Hospital. She was very debilitated mentally and had been restrained in her bed. Later, I learned that she had died from infected bedsores.

For me, that was my God Moment. I realized that although Aunt Bess was very ill and confined to her bed, when her earthly life ended, somehow, she reached beyond her circumstances and sent my mother a message of love.

She had no way of knowing where my mother was. Yet at the very time of her death, my mother's attention was drawn to Aunt Bess through the watch stopping and then starting again, followed by the telephone call confirming her death.

I cannot explain exactly what happened that morning. But I believe it was a reminder that **love reaches beyond what we can see or understand.**

My God Moment was realizing that even amid Aunt Bess's suffering, God's love was present, and somehow, in that moment, a final message of love found its way to my mother.

Sometimes God speaks to us in ways we cannot explain.

Sometimes all we can do is receive the moment, hold it in our hearts, and give thanks.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is our long-standing tradition to sing the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” (UMH 102) as we come to the close of our annual Harvest festival. It is not surprising that we choose to sing this text on such an occasion, for according to Michael Hawn it “contains one of the most exuberant doxological messages in hymnic history.”¹ What you may not realize is that this expression of deep gratitude and thanksgiving was also in its time a strong reaffirmation of Christian faith in the face of death and human suffering.

Martin Rinckhart, who wrote the hymn text, was a Lutheran pastor in Eilenburg, Saxony during the Thirty Years’ War (1618–1648), when the city was an overcrowded refuge for fugitives and suffered from famine and an outbreak of the plague. At the height of the plague in the city in 1637, Rinckhart was the only pastor, and is reported to have officiated for the burials of almost 4500 persons (including his wife) during that year. Despite the horrendous suffering Rinckhart had witnessed and personally experienced from war, disease, and famine, he wrote this faith-affirming text of gratitude for God’s sustenance through his trials. It is believed that the first two stanzas were written to be sung as a table grace, even in the face of what was likely a very meager meal. (The original title of the hymn was “Tisch-Gebetlein,” or a “little prayer before the meal.”²). The doxological third stanza is a paraphrase of the text of the *Gloria Patri* (see UMH 70).

Christian worship and Christian faith allow for the expression of the full range of human emotions. As we continue to live through challenging times in our society and in our world, it is fitting for us to voice our laments in prayer, worship, and song, and even to rail against the injustice and suffering we see all around us. Nevertheless, it is also good to be reminded that even (and maybe especially) in the midst of difficult circumstances we can also continue to offer our praise and thanks to God for God’s accompanying presence and for the hope in which we live as followers of the Resurrected Christ.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O’Driscoll

¹ Michael Hawn, “Hymns for a Pandemic: A Brief Historical Introduction,”

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/articles/hymns-pandemic-brief-historical-introduction>. Accessed September 26, 2026

² Greg Scheer, “Now Thank We All Our God: Notes,” https://hymnary.org/text/now_thank_we_all_our_god. Accessed September 26, 2026.

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Lay Spiritual Director, Music Committee Chair, and Worship Committee Chair	Debbie O'Driscoll	Wesley UMC Prayer Circle	Led by Pastor Nizzi & Cordelia Ferdinand