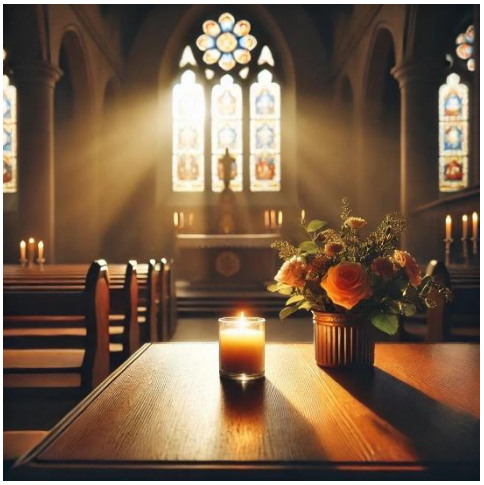
THE WESLEY HERALD

November 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



November is a month that invites us to remember, give thanks, and celebrate the many ways God is at work in our lives and in our church community. As we move through this season, may we find opportunities to deepen our faith, strengthen our relationships, and share God's love with those around us.

Remembering Our Saints

On Sunday, November 1, we will celebrate All Saints' Day. During worship, we will light candles in loving memory of members of our Wesley church family who have died: Lois Langer Taylor, Shirley Amlaw, Richard Nevers, Alice Boateng, David Samanen, Joan Hirst, Margaret Wissell, and George Plant.

As we remember these beloved members of our community, we give thanks for their lives, their faith, and the ways they touched our hearts. Grief reminds us of the love we shared, and our faith reminds us that we are held in God's love. As each candle is lit, may we find comfort in God's presence, honor the memories of our loved ones, and hold on to the hope we have in Jesus Christ. May their lives continue to inspire us to love God and one another more deeply.

Celebrating the Light We Share

On Sunday, November 8, we will celebrate International Sunday with the theme *"Let Your Light Shine,"* inspired by Matthew 5:14–16. Our congregation is blessed with people from many countries, cultures, and backgrounds, each bringing unique gifts, talents, experiences, and traditions. These differences are not barriers to our fellowship; they are sources of strength that enrich our church and help us share the love of Christ with our wider community.

During lunch in Brewer Hall, we will also hang five flags representing countries not yet represented on our walls. This is a meaningful way to recognize the diverse backgrounds of our church family and celebrate the many places and cultures that help shape who we are. Every flag tells a story, and every person brings gifts that can help our church grow in faith, love, and understanding.

As we worship and share lunch together, may we remember that God has given each of us something valuable to offer. Wesley is a place where we can discover, develop, and use our God-given gifts. When we welcome one another, learn from one another, and make room for everyone to participate, we become a brighter witness to God's love. We do not have to be alike to belong together. In Christ, our diversity becomes a blessing, our fellowship grows stronger, and our shared light shines more brightly.

Worshiping and Serving Together

On Sunday, November 15, Wesley will host a joint worship service with our Worcester-area United Methodist Church siblings from Epworth, Quinsigamond, and Covenant St. Andrews. We will gather for worship, share lunch, and hold our joint Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe.

This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our relationships, celebrate our shared ministry, and remember that we are part of a larger United Methodist family. It will also be Rev. Megan's final Church Conference with us as our District Superintendent. We are grateful for her leadership, encouragement, and ministry among us. I hope we will take this opportunity to express our appreciation and celebrate the connections we share as United Methodist congregations serving our communities together.

Growing Together in Faith: Intergenerational Worship

On Sunday, November 29, we will celebrate our Fifth Sunday Intergenerational Worship, when our children and youth help lead worship. These special Sundays remind us that children and young people are not simply the future of our church; they are an important part of our church family today. Their voices, ideas, energy, and gifts enrich our worship and help all of us grow in faith.

As we encourage our children and youth to participate and lead, we affirm that everyone has gifts to share, regardless of age or experience. Our role as a church family is to nurture their faith, encourage their leadership, and provide opportunities for them to discover and use their God-given gifts. The goal is not perfection but participation, growth, and the joy of serving God together.

May Wesley continue to be a church where every generation belongs, every voice matters, and every person has an opportunity to shine Christ's light. When children, youth, and adults worship and serve side by side, we strengthen our church family and pass on a living faith to the next generation.

Giving Thanks Through Our Lives

As we approach Thanksgiving, may gratitude become more than something we express in words. May it be reflected in how we live: through kindness, generosity, compassion, hospitality, and care for our neighbors.

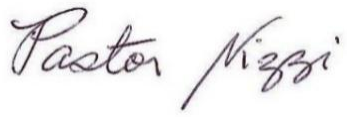
I am grateful for the many ways you contribute to the life and ministry of Wesley. Through our worship, music, prayer, Carty Cupboard food pantry, community outreach, and acts of kindness, we continue to live out our calling to serve our community with faith and love. Whether you lead worship, volunteer, pray, give, sing, welcome visitors, care for children, or quietly support someone in need, your presence and service matter.

Thank you for helping make Wesley a welcoming place where people can feel safe, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed. Every act of kindness matters, every gift has a purpose, and every person has a place in God's family.

My prayer this November is that we will continue to grow together in faith, remember those who have gone before us with gratitude, celebrate the gifts and cultures that enrich our congregation, encourage our children and youth, and strengthen our relationships with our wider United Methodist family. May everyone who encounters Wesley experience a glimpse of God's abundant love through us.

May God bless you and your loved ones with peace, joy, and grateful hearts throughout this November season. And may we continue to let our light shine, so that others may see our good works and give glory to our Triune God.

With gratitude and blessings,

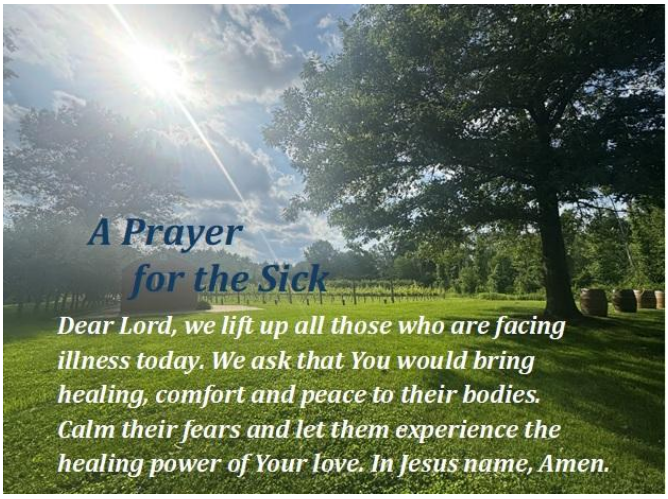


Special Prayers for Our Wesley Family and Friends

Christiana Amoah now at Fairlawn Rehab,
Allison McManus (granddaughter of Sandy McManus) diagnosed with leukemia,
Susan Williams in Life Care Center (Rm 116B) in Auburn, Richard Segersten now at Fairlawn Rehab,
Margaret Wilson, 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, and Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Remember Our Homebound

Deborah Plant now at home at 11 Whitney Street, Apt B, Worcester,
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, Sandra O'Driscoll, Betty Paulwan, Elaine Peterson,
Donald Tremblay, Barbara Vietze, Marion and Jerry Warren, Grace Woode





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: Oct 4 – 117 Oct 11 – 111 Oct 18 – 105 Oct 25 - 170

Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose window in November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr. by Beth-Anne Duxbury, Brian Pitts, and Craig and Tina Duxbury.

The Tower lighting in November is given in Thanks for Wesley Church 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.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, November 8, 2026 – International Luncheon

Sunday, November 15, 2026 – Luncheon & Church Conference

Sunday, November 22, 2026 – UWF Bake/Craft/Plant Sale

Keeping You Connected!

Thanksgiving Baskets… Bobby D'Acri has received donations to be able to give out Thanksgiving baskets this year. The ONLY item he needs is stuffing… 100 bags of stuffing mix. There will be a basket in Brewer Hall for anyone who'd like to donate a bag(s) of stuffing mix for families. Thank you for your support and generosity to help families in need enjoy a home cooked Thanksgiving meal.

International Sunday is on November 8th at Wesley UMC. If the country of your origin flag/banner is not hanging at Brewer Hall, please let Evette Walters know. We will have a flag hanging on November 8th. For potluck lunch, please contact Linda D'Acri and Stephanie Smyth.

Church Conference… We will be hosting Church Conferences with other WAUM churches on Sunday, November 15th. Following worship, we will have lunch together then hold Church Conference. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us.

UWF Bake Sale… We welcome anyone to make something for the Bake Sale. If you plan on baking, please reach out to Linda D'Acri (508-450-0331 or ljdfamx@gmail.com).

Pie Orders… Linda D'Acri will begin taking orders for pies for Thanksgiving. Be sure to get your order in and payment is expected at the time of ordering. Watch for a table in Brewer Hall to sign up.

Community Dinner… Join us on Saturday, November 28th from 4 pm to 6 pm for our Community Dinner. We will be having a full Thanksgiving meal… *Turkey with all the trimmings*!

December Herald will be in the December 6th bulletin. Please email your article to Debi no later than no later than Monday, November 30th. Thank you. (office@wesleyworc.org)

ONECALL TELLALL… Don't sit and wonder on a Sunday morning of a storm 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 on the table in Brewer Hall by the offices.

This is just another way for us to help keep you informed of what is going on at your church.

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 Different Kind of God Moment by Betsy Pennino

Usually, we think of God Moments as kind acts we have done for others—or kindnesses we have received. Sometimes God has us participating in another person's God Moment. This might happen when information is given at just the right time or something kind is done just when it is needed.

Often, we are unaware of being an instrument of God's help for another person, but can you think of a time when you brought unexpected reassurance or help to someone else?

An example is the young milkmaid's telling Dr. Edward Jenner that people who got cowpox never contracted smallpox. Cowpox caused a mild infection while smallpox at that time (the 1790's) was fatal for 10% to 20% of the worldwide population. Dr. Jenner had the inspiration to take samples of cowpox sores and inject them into an 8-year-old boy. (Britain had no child protection laws then.) After the boy recovered from cowpox, Jenner injected him with samples from smallpox scabs, and smallpox did not develop. Thus, the concept of immunity was added to medical knowledge. Jenner tested the procedure on other children (Including his own son) and none of them developed smallpox.

What inspired the young milkmaid to inform the doctor/surgeon about cowpox? What helped the doctor put together pieces from his years of observations and develop a technique which saved millions of lives?

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DID YOU KNOW?

In the Protestant tradition as we observe All Saints' Day, we usually don't think much about the canonized saints of the historic church. However, the Te Deum window (the large stained-glass window above the altar) illustrating the text of the *Te Deum Laudamus,* an ancient hymn of praise and thanksgiving, depicts not only familiar Biblical figures such as prophets and the apostles, but also portrays many of the traditional saints of the historic church. Their images represent the "noble army of martyrs" and the "holy Church throughout all the world" mentioned in the hymn. These saints are depicted very specifically and can be recognized by their *attributes*—symbolic objects which help to identify them. Among those included in this window are:

St. George: 3rd C martyr immortalized in the legend of St. George and the Dragon, depicted in armor with a spear and a shield inscribed with a cross

St. Cecilia: 2nd C martyr who is patron saint of musicians and church music, for it is reported that she sang to God as she was dying, depicted with a symbolic organ

St. Agnes: 3rd C martyr of the church, usually depicted with a lamb, as her name resembles the Latin word for lamb, *agnus*

St. Joan of Arc (1412-1431) wearing armor and carrying a sword, she claimed divine guidance as she led the French army to several victories and was eventually burned at the stake

St. Augustine of Canterbury: 6th C Benedictine monk, a founder of the English Church and first archbishop of Canterbury, depicted with a baptismal font

Four of the saints are the original "Doctors of the Church", recognized for their contributions to theology/doctrine:

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430): with a heart pierced with arrows, referring to his treatise on the Trinity; other famous writings include *Confessions* and *City of God*

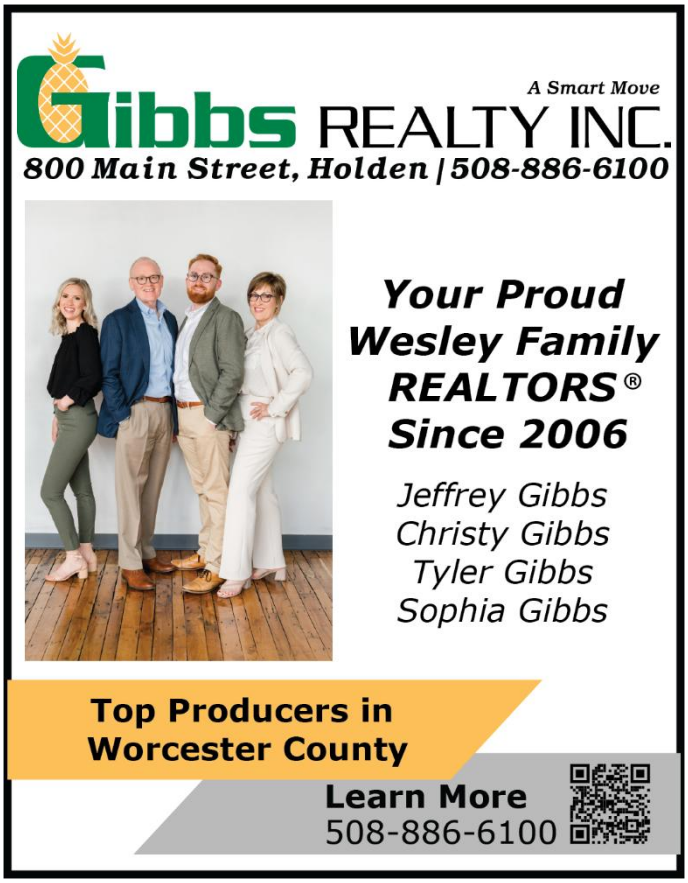
St. Jerome (c.345-c.19) priest and scholar who is credited with producing the Vulgate, a 4th C translation of the Bible into Latin, depicted with a pen and open book,

St. Ambrose (c.339-397): Bishop of Milan who played an important role in the conversion of St. Augustine of Hippo, depicted with an open book and staff,

St. Gregory the Great (c.540-604) served as Pope from 690, in a bishop's robe with a dove on his shoulder, also with a book

As our worship service on All Saints' Sunday reminds us of the saints who have lived among us as well as those still in our midst in our congregation, so the depiction of these traditional saints in the stained glass of our sanctuary reminds us of our connections to the universal church through time and space. As we gather for worship each week may we always remember that we are connected to the "holy church throughout all the world" and to all those who have been baptized and called to live in Christ across the centuries.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O'Driscoll



WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan
Organist	Eun Hee Park
Chancel Choir Director	Eun Hee Park
Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham
Director of Children's Ministries	Rhianna Burke
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson
Custodians	April Dylewicz
	Gerard Piscitelli
Head Usher	David Dagle
Communion Steward	Linda D'Acri
	Quinn Caddell
	Sharon Walters
Wesley Tech Team	Mark Muncey
Sunday Security	Adam Flagg
Church Council Chair	Brent Drajesk
Co-Lay Leaders	Gifty Bentum-Asante
	Joseph Fletcher
Lay Spiritual Director, Music Committee Chair, and Worship Committee Chair	Debbie O'Driscoll

Board of Trustees Chair	Gary Robinson
Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Chris Flagg
	Linda D'Acri
Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
	Ivy Hammond
Youth Bible Study	Joseph Fletcher
Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	Peter Hansen
Financial Secretary	Earl Flagg
Church Auditor	Cynthia Fletcher
Ghanaian Association	Paul Hayfron
Hospitality Chair	Linda D'Acri
	Vivian Assie
Medical Ministry	Ron Ramsay
Mission Coordinators	Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy
	Donna Hirtle
Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Chris Flagg
	Janet Amoako
United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Barbara Ingrassia, Sandra McManus, Cordelia Ferdinand
Wesley UMC Prayer Circle	Led by Pastor Nizzi & Cordelia Ferdinand