

The Lenten season has always held special meaning for me. As a child, it was soup suppers, Wednesday evening worship services and family devotions – which I now am treasuring with my own family.

Each year I look forward to the Lenten journey, of taking time to be intentional about my walk to the cross. Each year I try to go deeper in my own reflection, my own understanding of what Christ asks of me and of us as a church.

For me, the hymns are an essential part of my Lenten experience and my focus. I find them coming back into my mind well into the week... The Old Rugged Cross, Take up Thy Cross, Jesus Calls us O'er the Tumult, Take Time to Be Holy...

One of my favorites is really a prayer. I invite you to take time to pray it in your devotional time, and allow God to speak to you a message for your Lenten journey.

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.

As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.

As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy Word.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion-tide,
yea, ever more in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

UMH 269

In faith ~ Pastor Lisa

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Prayer Concerns (from the Sunday Morning Prayer Cards)...

- ✠ Cindy Harris, receiving chemotherapy
- ✠ John Bailey's father with his new medical difficulties and subsequent lifestyle change
- ✠ Berry McEwin, Ron Ramsay's niece, who has begun a 5th round of chemo treatments
- ✠ The Berthod family
- ✠ Sandra Arbogast
- ✠ David Dagle and his mother, Marion
- ✠ Martha Bardossy of the Dorcas Circle, undergoing heart surgery at Mass. General in Boston

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for March is given in loving memory of Heik P. Garabedian by his wife Irene B. Garabedian, daughter and son-in-law Shirley & Robert Demers, 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-granddaughters.

THE TOWER lighting for March is given in loving memory of Dr. C. James Brenneman by his daughter Betsey.

AVAILABLE ALTAR FLOWERS & TOWER LIGHTINGS...

The **TOWER LIGHTING** is available for July and September. If you would like to donate the Tower Lighting in memory of someone, please call Debi in the church office. The cost of the lighting is \$40.

FLOWERS on the altar during Sunday worship is a special gift we offer to God as part of our praise and worship. They are usually dedicated in celebration/memory of a loved one. After church you may take the flowers home or you may leave the flowers to be delivered to a shut-in or member/friend in the hospital. If you are unable to join us in church, arrangements can be made for the flowers to be delivered to you at home after the service. A calendar of available dates and order forms are available in the Welcome Office. The cost for altar flowers is \$50. If you are not able to come to church but would like to dedicate flowers, please call Debi in the office (508-799-4191).

SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY...

In the event of bad weather, please call the church office to hear updates about services and programs 508-799-4191.

2009 OFFERING ENVELOPES... Please stop by the Welcome Office and pick up your offering envelopes. We do not mail the envelopes because of the cost of postage, so we appreciate your picking them up. The boxes are in alphabetical order. All new requests should be submitted on the signup sheet on the table as well. Thank you.

A presentation of “Women of the Gospel” will be offered on Sunday, March 8th, 2:00 p.m. at Epworth UMC. The flyer announcing the program describes this one-person presentation by Linda Gray Kelley as "a dramatic collection of happy and healing stories of women's encounters with Jesus that also offers some fun, foibles and downright wickedness." Coffee and refreshments will follow the performance. Tickets are \$8.00, and are available from Pastor Lisa in the church office.

SPRING CLEANING AT FLORENCE HOUSE . . .

Florence House of Worcester is a transitional living center for teenage mothers. Each year during the month of March Wesley members collect cleaning products to give to the Mom’s in that program. Please consider helping us by bringing in some of your favorite cleaning products and adding them to the silver box marked “Florence House” located below the UMW bulletin board in Brewer Hall.

Thank You, Chris Flagg, UMW

EXTENDED GHANAIAN WORSHIP SERVICE... On Sunday, March 29th after the 10:30 worship there will be an opportunity to continue worship in the Ghanaian tradition with praises, offerings and preaching in Akan and Fante. All are invited to join in this new worship experience.

KOFI AND AMA OFFERING will be taken on Sunday, March 22nd during worship. Join us in this festive way of giving thanks to God!

TAKE THIS BREAD...

We are excited to announce that Wesley UMC is forming a Lay Ministry Communion Team. We are looking for people who are interested in learning more about communion and delivering the sacrament to our homebound members. If you would like to learn more about this ministry opportunity please plan to join us for more information on . . .

Sunday, March 15, 2009
Mary Ellis lounge
immediately following the 10:30 service

If you are unable to attend this meeting and would like more information please contact Earl Flagg @ 508-852-7745 or Pastor Lisa.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Giving thanks for all who participated in our Shrove Tuesday Lenten family celebration, it was a great success! We enjoyed a special pancake supper with all the extra goodies, our traditional pancake race, and hands-on Lenten activities. Each family went home with a special family devotional. It was a joy to share this time with so many families, everyone made a difference and thank you for your help! Special thanks to Ann and Jim Openshaw, Sarah Circle and the Pennino family.

~ Valerie Jansson

THANK YOU THANK YOU... to all of those people who donated to Carty Cupboard's Mitten Tree! We received so many handmade and new items that we had the wonderful hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for our clients from December through February. It really made a difference to those in need during this especially cold winter.

~ Dot and Nancy

MARCH 1ST TO APRIL 30TH 2009 THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE IS HERE!

Please remember that even one can or box of food will make a difference in this challenge. The more food and money we collect, the more money Mr. Feinstein will donate to us. Just think how many people we could help if everyone that comes to Church brought in one can or box of food! Thank You for thinking of those in need when you shop.

~ Nancy Spencer

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Watch for these Spring Events:

Spring Cleanup Day

Spring Flower Sale

2nd Annual Trip To Wright's Farm

2nd Annual UMM Night at the Worcester Tornadoes

REMINDER... DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Saturday night, March 7th, before you go to bed be sure to turn your clocks ahead. You don't want to be early for church on Sunday... *do you?*



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The **UMW STEERING COMMITTEE** will meet in the John Wesley Room on Saturday, March 7 at 9:15 a.m. to discuss programming and fund raising. This is a very important meeting; UMW officers and Circle Leaders are asked to attend. Thank you.

The **UMW COMBINED CIRCLE MEETING AND PROGRAM** will be held on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. We will assemble in East Hall for the dessert provided by Sarah Circle. Then we will have the pleasure of viewing "Holy Hurdles," an original program written by Chloe Sundberg, our Program Coordinator. The meeting is open to all women of Wesley Church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND HOLD THE DATE! The UMW annual pre-Easter bake sale will be held on Sunday morning April 5. Circle Leaders are asked to remind members of their group of this event. Our bake sales were very successful last year. Proceeds will be donated to UMW missions.

6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Date: March 22, 2009 12 Noon

Membership and Evangelism committee is planning a luncheon for fellowship. This will be an all church event and is asking for everybody's participation. On **March 1, 8, and March 15** there will be people at a signup table after services. We are looking for families or groups of families to provide a cultural dish. Membership & Evangelism will provide the chaffing pan liners for hot dishes (either large or small size) to be filled by a family or group of families. The signup is to establish the menu. Speak to us at the table or around the church. M&E are looking for volunteers to help with kitchen duty and set up. **Please stop by our table to see how you can participate.**

Thank You

Gary & Renelle Picard, Co-Chairpersons, M & E Committee
508-885-1301

STANDUP FOR KIDS

*** IMPORTANT UPDATE ***

The Shaw's supermarket program that supports ***StandUp for Kids** has changed the way we are credited for your purchases.

Beginning March 1st we will no longer be required to collect and submit receipts. Anyone wishing to support the ***StandUp for Kids** program should go to www.albertsons.com/cp/Shaws to register their Shaw's Rewards card in the Community Rewards program. All you will need is:

- * Your current Rewards card number (located on the back of your Rewards card)
- * The telephone number that was used when you first received your Rewards card
- * The **StandUp for Kids** non-profit Shaw's I.D. number (**49001019030**)
<http://www.albertsons.com/cp/Shaws>

If you'd prefer, I would be happy to register your card for you, please call me at 508-852-7745.

*Thank you for your support,
Chris Flagg*

* **StandUp for Kids** is an all Volunteer organization dedicated to the search and rescue of Homeless and At Risk Youth in Worcester.

MALARIA!

Thank you to Wesley United Methodist Men for donating \$200 for the purchase of mosquito nets. Malaria is a leading cause of death of children in Africa, killing nearly one million children each year. Every day 3,000 children die from the disease. Crucial to the drive against malaria has been the development of an inexpensive, long-lasting insecticidal net. When inhabitants of a village use them over their beds, malaria rates usually drop sharply.

The April Tanzania mission team will be a big part of starting a net purchase and distribution program in the village of Yulansoni. We will purchase nets in country at \$5 each wholesale and distribute them through Pastor William Makali and the Full Dimension Ministry. We praise God for this latest donation which will be added to others we have received for the purchase of treated nets.

After the Wesley team returns home Full Dimension Ministry will continue to run the malaria prevention program.

MARCH MADNESS HAS COME TO WESLEY!



The youth of our church have challenged the adults to a basketball game in Brewer Hall on a Friday night in March (Date TBD) and we need **YOU** to help make this event a success. Not only do we need adults willing to play we will need a time clock keeper/score keeper, individuals willing to help run a snack bar, referees, and an audience to cheer! Please come to a short (15 minutes) informational meeting in the Formal Parlor after church this Sunday, March 8th immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service to find out how you can become involved. We look forward to seeing you there!

SAVE THE DATE...

WESLEY CHURCH YARD SALE
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009
BREWER HALL ~ 9 AM—2 PM

Donations can be brought in Thursday, April 16th and Friday, April 17th. No large items please — Items one person can carry. If you would like to help, please call Dot Ellis at 508-829-2384.

2009 NEW ENGLAND ASSEMBLY OF THE LAITY (NEAL)

The 56th gathering of the New England Assembly of the Laity (NEAL) will be held July 31, Aug 1 & 2, 2009 at The Marist House in Framingham, MA. The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Curtis Brown, Director of Congregational Development for the New England Conference. The theme, “Stretch Out Your Hands – Love, Invitation, Service” will focus on the journey of Christian faith as a journey of “radical hospitality.” It all begins with God stretching out hands of love and welcome to all through Jesus Christ. In turn, we are to extend this same hospitality to others by stretching out our hands in love, invitation and service. This is done throughout this exciting spiritual weekend by small group discussions, music, singing, worship, prayer and fellowship.

Registration forms and information are available on the bulletin board in Brewer Hall or at NEAL’s website – www.assemblyofthelaity.com. This year, a book and gift table featuring many UMM and UMC items, and books from Cokesbury and The Upper Room will be available for purchase with proceeds going to the NEAL Scholarship Fund. For more information or for a registration form to be mailed to you, contact Kathi Peterson, 2009 Chairperson (860) 928-2530 or David Howe, Registrar (860) 875-9828.

WESLEY'S EASTER GARDEN...

Don't forget to place your order for Easter flowers and dedicate them to a loved one and/or friend. They will decorate the altar on Easter Sunday then they can decorate your home or the home of shut-in or a family member or friend that is in the hospital. Order forms can be found in the Welcome Office here at Wesley, on the website (www.wesleychurchworchester.org) and they will also be in the next Herald. The cost of flowers are \$10 each and the assortment this year are Lilies, Tulips, and Hyacinths.

HOPE FOR HOUSING... Before you run out to the grocery store for milk or your next week's groceries, please be sure to pick up a food card at Wesley and help prevent homelessness in the process. Hope for Housing will purchase food cards in bulk from four local supermarkets which will be sold at Wesley in Brewer Hall each Sunday. The supermarkets in turn, will donate 5% of all sales to the Hope for Housing Central Massachusetts Program to assist families at risk of homelessness.

Food cards are available in various amounts of \$10-\$100 to be used for your grocery shopping at Big Y, Shaw's, Stop'n'Shop and/or Hannaford's and what you don't use remains on the card for future use. So, by using food cards for our various grocery needs we can make a significant difference and it doesn't cost us anything!

"This is the fast that pleases me...sharing your bread with the hungry and sheltering the homeless poor." Isaiah 58:6-7



PLAY-LEARN PRESCHOOL, LLC

114 MAIN STREET
WORCESTER, MA 01608
508-752-5520

Where Caring Comes Naturally!

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2009-2010

Children 2.9—5 years old accepted.

Morning program with extended hours offered with a two day, three day and five day options.

An 18 year partnership that has supported children through their developmental years.

An environment that encourages independence and builds self esteem.

Emphasis placed on character building, friendship and an awareness of others.

Owners: Miss Toni and Miss Judy

Please call for information and parent recommendations.



ATTENTION WESLEY MYF ALUMNI

Plans are underway for an Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) Reunion at the end of March! The event began with a group of 1980s alums connecting on Facebook and sharing the idea via email.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For details, email Rachel at RHMAY@charter.net



WORCESTER AREA MISSION SOCIETY, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

A COMMUNITY BRIEFING ON WORCESTER'S FORECLOSURE CRISIS

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 from 3:45—5:30 p.m.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

111 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA 01609

Worcester's neighborhoods are stronger and more stable than they were two decades ago thanks to the efforts of residents and neighborhood groups, community development corporations, colleges, public officials, bankers and business leaders, philanthropic foundations and religious institutions. The foreclosure crisis threatens to unravel this progress, however, and require the urgent attention of all who care about the city's future. This briefing will describe recent developments in federal and state policy, provide a snapshot of challenges faced by Worcester and detailed local efforts to respond to the problem that are proving to be effective.

Register: Please send an email message to wamsucc@bigplanet.com by March 20. Write "foreclosure briefing" on the subject line and include your name and organizational affiliation in a short message. There is no cost for the event. For more information, contact the Rev. Robert Bachelder, Minister and President, at 508-832-3937 or by email at minister@wamsucc.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

For several years the Ash Wednesday worship service at Wesley has included the opportunity for worshipers to receive the ceremonial imposition of ashes on the forehead as a symbol of our mortality and a reminder of our need for repentance and renewal. This year in addition to the imposition of ashes worshipers were also offered a small piece of “sackcloth”, which in our time refers to coarsely woven fabric such as burlap made from fibers of hemp, cotton or flax. In Biblical times such cloth was most commonly made from goat or camel hair.

The English word *sack* actually is derived from the Hebrew *saq*, which in turn relates to Latin *saccus* and Greek *sakkos*, all referring to bags made from dark-colored material of goat or camel hair. This material thus became known as *sackcloth*, and was used to make not only bags but also clothing as well. Eventually the term *sackcloth* also came to designate the clothing itself. Although it is speculated that in some prehistoric time such garments were the usual form of clothing, by the time of the Israelites in the Old Testament the wearing of sackcloth was for religious purposes only. Since such clothing was rough, unsightly, and uncomfortable, it was worn as a sign variously of mourning, submission or repentance. There are many Old Testament references to sackcloth. It was worn not only by ordinary people during times of affliction or mourning, but was regularly worn by prophets. The use of sackcloth also is mentioned in Apocryphal literature and the New Testament as a sign of distress and repentance.

In the first centuries of Christianity sackcloth (or hair-cloth as it was sometimes known) was worn by both ascetics and ordinary lay people as an aid to resisting temptation. In the Middle Ages not only did members of religious orders commonly wear such garments, but sackcloth was also used symbolically in worship. At the time of Augustine it is reported that baptismal candidates stood barefoot on sackcloth at one point during the service. Penitents would wear it on Ash Wednesday and a banner of sackcloth was carried in procession at the service of reconciliation on Maundy Thursday. During penitential seasons the altar also was sometimes covered with this material.

In our time sackcloth is something that is not commonly encountered in our every day lives, but we can still relate to the human need for symbolic expressions of repentance and mourning.

Submitted by, Deborah A. O'Driscoll

2009 HERALD SCHEDULE

Below are the next couple of Herald mailing dates along with the deadline dates for each mailing.

Please note that the deadline date is Monday at 9:00 AM unless otherwise specified.

Article Deadline Date	Herald Mailing Date
Wed., March 16	Wed., March 18
Wed., March 30	Wed., April 1

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:
office@wesleychurchworcester.org



Please join us from
9:30-11:00 a.m.

MARCH 13TH

Personality

This is a two week topic where we explore our personality types; we have done it in the past and it is very interesting and eye-opening!

MARCH 27TH

Personality, Part 2



Christy & Jeffrey Gibbs
Your Wesley Family REALTORS®
(508) 886-6100

Our Agency is Committed to Providing...
Full Time Buyer & Seller Representation
Prompt Communication
A Team Approach
Comprehensive Marketing Strategy
High Level of Energy and Enthusiasm
RESULTS

Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County
www.GibbsRealtyInc.com

ALBERT N. CECCHINI
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Business - Individual Taxes
Electronic Filing

Accounting & Cost Accounting

Consulting Services

Notary Public

67 Millbrook Street - Suite 216
Worcester, MA 01606-2835

508-797-0077

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastors

Vicki Woods and Lisa Bruget-Cass

Director of Music Ministries

Brett Maguire

Director of Children's Choirs

Leslie McBrayer

Ghanaian Choir Master

Charles Ato Brown

Music Assistant

Deborah O'Driscoll

Sunday School Superintendent

Valerie Jansson

Building Superintendent

Phil Johnson

Business Administrator

Lorna Mattus-Merrill

Church Secretary

Debi Ritacco

Custodians

Mark & Carol Flionis and Gerard Piscitelli

Assistant Custodian

Steve Boyns

Administrative Council

Scott & Mary Beth Dziewietin

Board of Trustees

Harry Spencer III

Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

Nancy Spencer

Education Work Area

Ann Openshaw

Finance & Stewardship

Michael Edmunds

Ghanaian Association

Joseph Wilson

Lay Members Annual Conference

Mary Beth Dziewietin and Johnelle Demery

Medical Ministry

Ron Ramsay

Membership & Evangelism

Gary & Renelle Picard

Memorial Gifts

Carolyn Bellil

Mission Coordinator

Jerry Warren

Music & Worship

Tim & Leslie McBrayer

Staff-Parish Relations

Janet M. Maguire

Youth Group

Phil & Emily Smith

Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

WESLEY HERALD
MARCH 5, 2009

Church Phone: 508-799-4191
Fax: 508-799-3725
E-Mail: office@wesleychurchworcester.org
Web page: www.wesleychurchworcester.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WORCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 236