

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

~ UMH 269

For the past 5 weeks we have been traveling the Lenten road, walking in the footsteps of Christ. This coming Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem to the shouts of “Hosanna!” The crowd cheers Him as their messiah, with great hope and expectation.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week...the beginning of the end of Jesus’ life and ministry on earth. The shouts of “Hosanna” will turn to “Crucify Him!” and we will be faced with the grim reality of the cross and the sacrifice Christ made to free us from the bonds of sin and death.

This is an important week in the life of disciples...It would be tempting to come to church only on the Sundays of Holy Week...to go from “Hosanna” to “He is Risen!” without recalling the betrayal and suffering of Thursday and Friday. And yet, to fully understand the depth of Christ’s love for us, we must walk the whole way with Him.

We invite you to join us for special times of worship during Holy Week. Maundy Thursday we will gather in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. for a service of Tenebrae and Communion, and Good Friday we will gather at noon for prayer at the foot of the Cross, as we hear again the Passion of our Lord.

If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to read the scriptures for each day in your own devotional time. May we have the courage to walk this road together, that we might celebrate with great joy the promise of resurrection on Easter morning.

In faith,
Pastor Lisa

Join us for Easter worship:

6:00 a.m. at Institute Park, 8:30 a.m. Chapel, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAYER FOR...

- ✠ Donna Hirtle's mother and brother after recent emergency hospitalizations for both of them.
- ✠ Josephine Sarfo who is back in the hospital.
- ✠ Mark Muncy's friend, Robert, to heal after chemo.
- ✠ Elaine Russell Dunn, recovering at home.
- ✠ Barbara French, for strength, courage and good health.
- ✠ Susan Ramsay, home from the hospital.
- ✠ Polly Boyns' mother, home from the hospital.
- ✠ Sandra Arbogast undergoing chemotherapy.
- ✠ The Berthod family and their ongoing health concerns.
- ✠ Violet Ansah following eye surgery.
- ✠ Ray and Sue Blouin's daughter, expecting a baby in a few weeks.
- ✠ Delores Weaver who was in a car accident in Springfield.
- ✠ For a friend of Anne, on the one year anniversary of her death.
- ✠ Deb Harmon's brother who is sick.
- ✠ For sons and daughters without work, and for all who are looking for jobs.
- ✠ For the families of the Interfaith Hospitality Network
- ✠ For a family to find faith, hope, love, peace and joy in their home.
- ✠ For a friend in danger of slipping back into addiction.

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ Sympathy to the family of Ken Arslan, who died Sunday night.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for April is given in loving memory of Doris L. Tremblay by Tammy, Tracy, Allison, David, Nancy and families.

THE TOWER lighting for April is given in loving memory of Margaret A. (Swan) Fuller by David, Kathy, Nancy, and grandchildren.

The **SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH** altar flowers are given in honor and celebration of the marriage of Jeffrey Burrows to Elizabeth Desilets on April 4th by Anne and Clark Burrows.

The **EASTER GARDEN** dedication list will be published in the April 15th Herald and in the Sunday News on Easter Sunday. Watch the Wesley website for pictures of the Easter Garden and the dedication list as well.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S BAKE SALE— SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

COOKIES - BREADS – PIES - CAKES

Support the UMW in this Mission fundraiser and enjoy “home-made” baked goods for your Easter Celebration. Funds are to support the following UMW Mission Projects: Wesley Camperships, Florence House, Cottage Hill Academy (Protestant Youth Center). Baked goods will be for sale after the 8:30 and 10:30 services on Palm Sunday.

FILL THE TANZANIA SUITCASE

Wesley members of the Tanzania mission team will have one of their checked bags filled with supplies for preschool children and their teachers. You can donate items such as pencils, erasers, chalk, pencil sharpeners, blackboard erasers, crayons, pencil boxes, 6” rulers, small soaps for hand washing, etc. A BIG suitcase is set up in Brewer Hall and will be there until April 19th so just drop your supplies in the open suitcase and we'll carry it to Tanzania for you. Thanks!!

EASTER EGG HUNT ~ Saturday, April 11th at 10:00 a.m. in Brewer Hall

Join us for donuts, crafts, an Easter movie and the famous hunt for eggs as we prepare our hearts for Easter! This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join in the fun and experience Wesley UMC. Please bring one dozen, pre-filled plastic Easter eggs for each child you bring. You may also want to bring your child's Easter Basket for hunting. Eggs may be dropped off in advance at the church office, or brought with you that morning. If you have questions, talk to Pastor Lisa or Betsy Pennino from Sarah Circle.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The following information reflects the preliminary status of the 2009 pledges, plate offerings and total expenses year-to-date through the period ending 3/31/09:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pledges	79,752.16	86,250.00	-6,497.84
Plate	4,238.31	3,500.00	738.31
Total Received	83,990.47	89,750.00	-5,759.53
Total Expenses	175,474.25	176,350.00	-875.75

Final numbers will be available for the Finance Committee meeting on April 8, 2009.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Friday, April 3...“Family Holy Week Remembrance!” 6:00-7:30 PM...

This is a special time to help prepare us for Holy Week. We will keep our tradition of making prayer pretzels and decorating eggs, and more! This time of remembering and celebrating our Lord will bring new meaning to our Easter Sunday celebration! A great faith-sharing moment to bring all your family members and friends! Come and enjoy supper with us too!

Palm Sunday, April 5... All children and youth are invited to celebrate with us -

Come and be part of the Palm Procession during the 10:30 AM church service. The Sunday school teachers will bring the children down to East Hall at 10:25 AM. Parents and friends are welcome to join us!

Easter Sunday, April 12... No 9:30 AM Children’s Sunday School Classes will be held.

Our Children’s program at 10:50 AM, Wagner Hall will be held.

DATE CHANGE!! DATE CHANGE!! DATE CHANGE!!

“CAMPE.D.G.E.”

Experience & Discover GOD Everywhere!

NEW DATE: August 2-5 Vacation Bible Camp 2009! Camp Edge is a faith-filled, action-packed, experience that teaches kids their strength and might come from God! Come enjoy our traditional evening program, 6:00 – 8: 15 PM, with supper served at 5:30 PM. We are excited to be in ministry with our friends from First Baptist Church, and Park Congregational Church once again, making this our fifth year together! Surely hope you will join us for this amazing time... please mark your calendar and save the date – Sunday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 5!



The Lord is my strength and my might. Psalm 118:14a ~ Valerie Jansson

WESLEY CHURCH YARD SALE & SILENT AUCTION



SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009 ~ BREWER HALL ~ 9 AM TO 2 PM

Donations can be brought in from 9 am to 8 pm on 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. Come and have lunch too!

CELEBRATE PASS ON THE GIFT MONTH ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

4:00 p.m. Farm Tour; 5:00 p.m. Potluck ~ Donations Welcome

Heifer International Learning Center, Overlook Farm

216 Wachusett Street, Rutland, MA 01543

Join the Heifer family at Overlook Farm for an evening of camaraderie, food, and fun. Catch the after dinner feature “12 Stones” premiering across the country at chosen locations. This is a deeply moving video with breathtaking cinematography which captures the remarkable transformation of a community of women in Nepal. The evening will be filled with music and will wrap up with “Guess that Animal” trivia game and door prizes. *We greatly appreciate your support and hope you’ll join us in our celebration of “Passing the Gift.”*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ~ CIRCLES

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at the home of Chris Flagg at 11 Idalla Ave, Worcester on Thursday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm. Sue Proulx is the co-hostess and Bea Daby will lead devotions. For directions call Chris at 508-852-7745 or Margaret at 508-892-4485.

SARAH CIRCLE will be collecting useful items and goodies to fill large baskets for the People in Peril and Homeless Veterans’ Shelters. You are invited to leave any of the following in the purple bag you’ll find in the church pantry:

- soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, lotion, deodorant, chap stick
- First Aid supplies
- Chocolate, oranges, dried fruit, cereal bars, small bags of cookies or crackers, or other snacks which have some food value
- Packets of hot chocolate, small juice containers
- Socks, hats, washcloths, pens, Post-its, Scotch tape
- Whatever else you think a person at a shelter would appreciate.

The items will be delivered on Easter Sunday. Questions? Call Betsy Pennino at 508-829-7131.

ICE STORM/ YARD CLEANUP...

Many of us have distinct memories of the cold and darkness which began on December 11th. Do you need branches hauled to your front curb, sticks raked up, tree limbs cut with a chain saw? Or, can you donate your time and energy to do this work, so that payments for your efforts go to help Wesley's budget? If you are in either of these categories, please email Betsy and Bruce Pennino at bpennino.ce@charter.net, or call them at 508-829-7131.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON 2009

What a success, again! Renelle & I want to thank the many people who donated food and time to make this annual event one of the most important fellowship ministries we do. From the Ghanaian Choir who set up the tables on Saturday, the volunteers who kept the food in the kitchen running and the people who remained after to clean up and break down the tables and chairs. It is such a great feeling to see everyone enjoying each other's company and food at the same time. Six years in a row. Thank you everyone for your help and assistance. We look forward to 2010.

Gary & Renelle Picard, M & E Co-Chairs

"MINI-HARVESTS" ARE COMING TO WESLEY!

The Ghanaian Association is excited to announce that we will be celebrating 3 "Mini-Harvests" in preparation for our main Harvest on November 8.

Mini-Harvests are planned by various groups in the church and are much smaller in scope than our main Harvest. Each Mini-Harvest will take place during worship and will add about 15 minutes to our time. The first one will be led by our children on Sunday, April 26th during the 10:30 worship. The children will be creating special items to be offered that day. Watch for more details in the upcoming Herald. It promises to be a day you won't want to miss!

BASKETBALL REMATCH!

Our first Youth vs. Adult basketball game was a huge success! It was a very tightly played game, with good refereeing and no reported injuries! Pastor Vicki returned to her coaching days, and led the youth to victory ~ winning by one point in the last 10 seconds of the game! You can see pictures on the bulletin board in Brewer Hall.

It was such a great time, we want to do it again...and the adults want a second chance! So...mark your calendar for Friday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. for Basketball Rematch! Come and cheer your favorite team or player, and just enjoy a fun night of fellowship.

Special thanks to Isaac Berko for the idea and to Melissa Butler for making it all happen.

NEW YOUTH WEBSITE...

Can't find your youth schedule? Need easy access to that permission slip? Want to contact your youth leaders? Interested in more events going on in the community? Wondering what we'll be doing in Sunday School this week? Look no further! Wesley Youth Group now has a website for all your needs. Visit and find the youth schedule, with events updated, permission slips, information about other opportunities, an e-mail for the youth workers and more! Go there ... it's totally awesome.

The address is <http://sites.google.com/site/worcesterwesleyumcyouth/>

BAGS... BAGS... BAGS!! CARTY CUPBOARD IS IN NEED OF BAGS!!!

We need big shopping bags, paper and plastic, for the clothes that are offered by the United Methodist Women. We need regular size plastic bags for bread and pastries that are donated by local stores for our clients. Last but not least, we need Price Chopper reusable bags, we use these for our clients regular food distribution.

~ Thank You for thinking of us when you are shopping.

CARTY CUPBOARD IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS!!!

Would you like to help those in need?

Do you have some free time Wednesday afternoons or Friday Mornings? Can you lift a grocery bag? *Then Carty Cupboard is the place for you!*

OR

Do you have a large vehicle or van and can you lift heavy boxes? Do you have one day a week free once a month to do a pick-up at the Worcester County Food Bank located on Rte 9 in Shrewsbury? *Then Carty Cupboard is the place for you!*

The People who volunteer at Carty Cupboard are a kind, giving, great bunch of folks to work with. If you would like to volunteer you will have the added benefit of meeting new people or just getting to see good friends more often, as well as having the satisfaction of knowing that you are taking an active role in the fight against hunger. Please call Nancy Spencer @ 508-886-6376 to help. *Thank You!!!*

SAVE THE DATE FOR A... BEAN SUPPER ON SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH

Girl Scout Troop 30838 is hosting a Bean Supper on Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 5-7 p.m. to earn money for their trip to Europe in the Summer of 2010. We will be serving baked beans, hot dogs, baked mac 'n cheese, coleslaw, corn muffins, drinks and desserts. A free-will offering will be accepted. *All is welcome!*

UNITED METHODIST MEN

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH, 9:00AM-1:00PM.

Come one, come all, many hands make light work! Coffee and Donuts will be provided! Bring work gloves, rakes, shovels and brooms for outside work. Dust rags will be provided for inside work. Join us as we prepare the church for Holy Week and Easter.

UMM AND SARAH CIRCLE OF UMW are collecting used Cell Phones. The cell phones are being donated to Males Advocating Change (MAC) who are collecting them for the Rape Crisis Center of Central Massachusetts (RCCCM); Women seeking assistance from the center will be provided with a cell phone for use in emergencies. These can be dropped off at the church office.

The **SECOND ANNUAL TRIP TO WRIGHT'S FARM** has been scheduled for Sunday, May 17th leaving Wesley at 12 Noon with a reservation for 1:00pm dinner. This year's trip will be an auto caravan to eliminate the cost of a bus and driver. The cost is again \$15 per person including tax & tip (\$10. for children ages 3-10). payable when you sign up. Sign ups will be taken in Brewer Hall on Sunday mornings beginning on March 29th (no sales on Easter Sunday); at the time of sign up, you will be asked if you can be a driver or if you will want to ride with someone.

The **SECOND ANNUAL WESLEY NIGHT AT THE TORNADOES** has been scheduled for 7:05 pm on Friday, June 19th (the Tornadoes vs. the Quebec Capitales Game). Once again the price of tickets is a low, low \$5 per person These tickets will also be sold in Brewer Hall on Sunday mornings beginning on March 29th (no sales on Easter Sunday).

CONGRATULATIONS to **Tom Ingrassia**, who was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Pakachoag Community Music School. Located at Pakachoag Church, in Auburn, and celebrating its 26th year, PCMS is dedicated to providing the highest quality music instruction and performance opportunities to students (infants to the elderly) throughout Greater Worcester. Tom's specific charge on the PCMS Board will be publicity and promotion. Tom also serves on the Board of Directors of the Worcester Cultural Coalition and the Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Anyone interested in learning more about these wonderful cultural organizations is encouraged to talk with Tom.

*A Very Fancy Tea Party
for fancy ladies of every age.*

Saturday, May 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

hosted by the United Methodist Women of
Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main St. Worcester, MA

tickets \$5.00 each

*reserved seating available for groups of 6 or more
please call Chris Flagg @ 508-852-7745 to reserve

Join us for tea and some very Fancy desserts.

Enjoy a Very Fancy Floral Design demonstration
by Heidi Of **Elegant Gigs** in Worcester.
Learn more about your favorite flowers.

All Things Fancy, encouraged!

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the traditions of Good Friday is meditation and reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ. The Seven Last “Words” are actually phrases spoken by Jesus as he was dying on the cross. All of the statements come from the gospel accounts of the crucifixion. However, there is no single account of the crucifixion that contains all seven of the sayings. In fact, only one of the quotations is found in more than one gospel. There is, however, a traditional ordering of the sayings based on a compilation of the story of the crucifixion as related in the four canonical gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The seven passages in the traditional order are as follows:

1. Father forgive them, for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).
2. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).
3. Woman, behold your son: behold your mother (John 19:26-27).
4. Eli Eli lama sabachthani?—“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34).
5. I thirst (John 19:28).
6. It is finished (John 19:30).
7. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit (Luke 23:46).

In part the tradition of a service based on the words of Christ on the cross traces back to 4th Century Jerusalem, where each year the events of Jesus’ life were commemorated by devotional services at what were believed to be the original sites of their occurrence. These services included a three hour devotion on Good Friday. While some of these observances (including celebration of Palm Sunday) of the ancient Jerusalem church found their way into the worship traditions of Christianity in general, the tradition of the “Three Hours Devotion” was lost until it was revived in the 17th century by Jesuits in Peru and subsequently adopted by Roman Catholics as well as various Protestant denominations. The collection of sayings has been set to music by many composers, and the texts themselves are the basis for reflection by many Christians, not only on Good Friday, but throughout Lent and Holy Week.

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., April 13	Wed., April 15
Wed., April 27	Wed., April 29

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



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

APRIL 3RD

Discipline

APRIL 17TH

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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

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WESLEY HERALD
APRIL 1, 2009

