

FEBRUARY 2021

John Wesley United Methodist Church

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“The Wesleyan”

FROM PASTOR REBECCA

I know that all of us are anxious for the time when we can worship together in-person inside the sanctuary again. And some of you have asked when that might happen. Please know that I want to be together as much as you do, however, there are reasons we need to be a bit more patient, and wait a little while longer.

- We continue to hear of people in our Falmouth community being tested positive or having COVID – including more and more people in our own church family. Fortunately, they have not exposed anyone here, but I do not want to take the chance of anyone getting it at church.
- The protocols for indoor in-person worship are very strict – sanitizing all surfaces, traffic pattern of one way in and one way out, no singing, masks worn at all times, exiting by rows, and more.
- Part of the worship experience is fellowship – being able to see people and talk to them. However, this is not allowed, everyone must leave right after the service.
- Right now, we have a “Worship Team” pod that has been together, worked together, and stayed safe for ten months now. I don’t want to risk any of them, or myself, getting infected because this could drastically impact what we’re able to do on Sunday mornings.
- As an option, there is a group of people who come to “parking lot church” on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and sit in their cars, watching the livestream. You can roll down your windows, chat, wave to one another, and just be “together” on the property.

And... that is why, in lieu of worship on Sunday, we offer “Open Sanctuary” on Tuesdays from noon – 6:00pm. This way people can come into the sanctuary, hear music, worship in their own way. I know it’s not the same, but it is a more safe and prudent option for us now. Thank you for your patience, and let’s keep praying we can soon be safely together. Pastor Rebeca

WORSHIP

DIANE HUBAN

The Worship Ministry Team is putting together plans for the upcoming Lenten season. Care has been taken to incorporate traditional aspects of our Lenten Worship while keeping us safe and healthy. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will have a livestream service at 7:00 pm that evening, and will share in Holy Communion. For those who would like ashes, Pastor Rebecca will be in the parking lot between noon - 12:30 and 5 – 5:30 pm for a drive-by distribution. She will wear a mask, and will reach out her arm to place the ashes on your forehead or hand, and she will sanitize her hands after each car.

Other plans include livestreaming our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services, having a Holy Week Prayer Walk in the sanctuary, a sunrise service and special music featuring a brass quartet for the livestreamed 9:30am Easter Sunday Service. Also being planned is a church-wide Lenten Study based on *The Chosen*, a prayer vigil and an outside prayer wall on which JM members and the community at large will be encouraged to post their thoughts and prayers. Be on the lookout for the details on all these events as the dates draw near.

We would like to thank Wendy Blomberg for her involvement with the Worship Ministry Team over the past two years. Wendy will be stepping down in March and we wish her well in her new endeavors. We are anxious to expand our ranks and ask that you consider stepping up and joining this most important ministry.

We all look forward to the day when we can worship God together, in person, in our beautiful sanctuary. That day WILL come. In the meantime, if there is anything the WMT can do to help you, please do not hesitate to reach out to Diane Huban or any member of our team: Betty Smith, Mel Trott, Bobye Anderson and Linda and Steve Adams.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

ANNE KELLY KOMER

The 2021 Lenten Study will be something new and different this year! We will be using the television drama, "The Chosen" as the focal point of the study. Pastor Rebecca is excited about offering this as a Lenten study as it will help bring alive the people and the stories of the Gospels in a unique and sensitive way. "The Chosen" is a multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system, this television drama is based on the life of Jesus Christ, and is created, directed and co-written by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. It will work this way:

- Every Friday, from February 19th to March 26th, Pastor Rebecca will send out a link to a new episode which will last anywhere from 35 – 55 minutes. She will include questions to consider as you watch the show. The links and questions will also be available on the website.
- There will be at least two opportunities for you to join a study group for discussion. Jenn and Brian Linton will lead a Zoom group on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm, beginning February 22nd. Here is the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86009287252?pwd=S3ZQSytCK1BwM1h3TTFGNExPRDZXQT09>
Also Betty Smith will lead an in-person study in the Fitzgerald Room beginning Thursday, February 25th. Please watch the program before the group meeting.
- You are also encouraged to form your own groups for discussion – either via Zoom or in your own "pods." If you would like help in forming a group, or if these times do not work for you, please contact Pastor Rebecca.

Monday Night Bible Study: The Monday Night Bible Study will continue with our Lectionary Study until Lent begins when we will join in the church wide study "The Chosen" starting on February 22nd. All are welcome to join any time to get the week's Zoom and Lectionary links, email Jenn Linton at jennifer.v.linton@gmail.com. Call 508-548-2792 with questions.

"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES
CHURCH

Youth Group:

Our Youth Groups have been going great for the past few months! Both groups are now meeting inside from 4:00-5:00. Middle school (5th-8th grade) meets on Thursday afternoons and High school (9th-12th grade) meets on Sunday afternoons. Each meeting we get the chance to grow closer to each other and to God and learn more about the Bible!



Middle School Curriculum:

We recently started a new Middle School Curriculum called LIVE! For the first few weeks, we learned all about the creation story. For the month of February, we are going to be learning about who God really is. There will be a lesson on God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All middle schoolers are welcome to join at any point!



High School Curriculum:

The High School Youth Group also started a new curriculum called LIVE! For the first few weeks, we learned more about Friends and Family, and how to form a deeper connection with one another. For the month of February, we are going to have some discussions on relationships and dating. All high schoolers are welcome to join at any point!

WoW Bible Club:

WoW Bible Club has had great meetings for the past few months, and now has a new meeting day and time! **We meet on Sunday mornings from 11:00-11:45 am.** Our families have enjoyed getting to come to the church to learn more about God as a family.



WoW Bible Club Curriculum:

WoW Bible Club also started a new curriculum! For our first month, we learned about how God created everything, including humans, because he loves us! In February, we are going to look at more stories in the Old Testament that show that God has a plan for us!

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES
CHURCH

Upcoming Events:

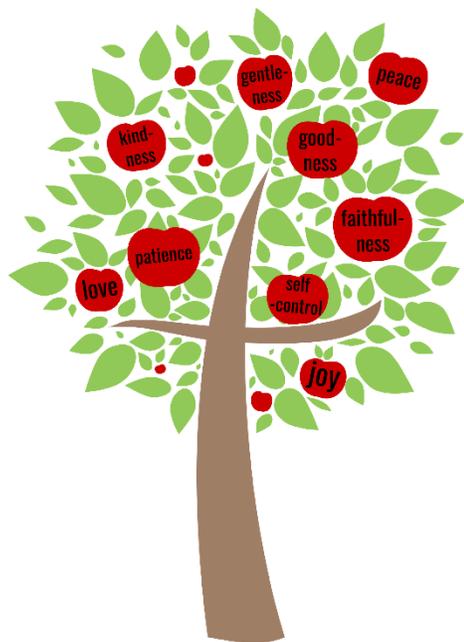
Family Event – Valentine's Day Cards for Seniors



With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, we want to show the seniors at our church how much we love them! On Sunday, February 7, we will be making Valentine's Day cards in our Fellowship Hall! These cards will be mailed to the seniors in our church to show them that they are loved, even when we are apart!

Although this will be during our regular Bible Club time, 11:00-11:45 am, this is an event for families of all ages and everyone is welcome! Of course, masks and social distancing will be required. Each family will be given their own table to make cards that will be adequately spaced apart! I hope that you will be able to join us for some crafty fun!

Middle School Winter Retreat (Friday, February 12 – Saturday, February 13) Fruits of the Spirit



All 5th-8th grade students are invited to join us for our annual Winter Retreat! While normally we would go to a retreat center in New Hampshire, this year we are going to have a one-night sleep-over at the church! The cost of this weekend is \$30/student and it includes all the meals, activities and a t-shirt! More information can be found on the website or by contacting Hannah Duclos at 850-445-4842.

High School Winter Retreat (Friday, February 19 – Sunday, February 21) Fruits of the Spirit

All 9th-12th grade students are invited to join us for our annual Winter Retreat! While normally we would go to a retreat center in New Hampshire, this year we are going to have a two-night sleep-over at the church! The cost of this weekend is \$30/student and it includes all the meals, activities and a t-shirt! More information can be found on the website or by contacting Hannah Duclos at 850-445-4842.

JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRIES CHURCH

Recap: MLK Day of Service



On January 18th our youth groups participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. This year, due to COVID-19, we worked on various projects around the church. We cleaned the chapel and sanctuary pews, wiped blinds, pulled weeds, picked up trash and more! We started our service day with donuts and ended with some pizza. Our group worked so quickly that we even had time to play a few games of Gaga Ball! Thank you to all of our youth who helped and to all the adults who helped as well!

MUSIC MINISTRY

LINDA BROUDER

"Welcome to the 2021 Music Ministry! We are in the process of many updates here. Our most exciting news is the gift of a brand-new Steinway Piano for our Sanctuary. We are grateful for this generous gift that has already uplifted the sound of our music here at JWUMC. Also, we are giving the Handbell collection a "spa day" and getting the bells tuned up and ready to play for Lent, Easter and our year of music. They are at Malmark Company getting tuned, polished and repaired. Thanks to Steve and Linda Adams for coordinating the shipping and receiving of this wonderful asset to our church. We are sincerely grateful for the support of the Worship Committee and the rest of the church for continuing to generously maintain this program.

Choir and Bells! We are coming back to rehearse together! Bells begin Wednesday, January 27th at 6:00 pm. Choir will begin Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm. We continue wearing masks and socially distancing until the time at which we can all be safe to sing again without these constructs. The choir misses singing for you, with each other, and for the glory of our Lord each Sunday. We will be rehearsing for Lent and Easter, with the hopes that as the state opens up, so may we return to some normalcy.

Thank you all again for your continued generosity and support for our music ministry, even in the most challenging times. Remember, "He who sings, prays twice".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members: Louis and Sally Souza and Phyllis Hunt became members of John Wesley in January. We will celebrate our new members once we are able to worship together.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the support you have given us these last few months. We cannot thank you enough for your prayers, cards, calls, meals and goodies. Every gift comes with tons of love. Your love enables me to pass love forward.

There are days when everything seems too difficult. Gods blessing through your kindness makes things possible. You are working toward "heaven on earth".

Love,
Marilyn & George

Opportunities for Prayer Our Wednesday prayer group is meeting both in person and via Zoom. We meet at 11:00 am for 30 – 45 minutes, and share joys, concerns and prayers. It is a special time as sisters and brothers in Christ as we lift prayers for those who are hurting, for the future of our church, for the issues in our country, for things we are thankful for, and whatever is on our mind. If you would like the Zoom link, please let Pastor Rebecca know.

To help us be better grounded in prayer, and to discern who God might be calling us to minister to, we are offering a weekly Prayer Walk, to pray for ways in which JWUMC can fulfill our call to Love God, Love Other and Serve the World, and to pray for our neighbors and institutions around us. Please meet at the church on Saturday mornings at 9:00am, and the walk will last 30 – 45 minutes. You can walk with others – masked and socially distanced, or by yourself. If you have questions, please contact Johanna Sambade at johannasambade@gmail.com or text her at 774-313-7367. She is also working on a telephone ministry, making calls to some members of our congregation, so if you are interested, please let her know.

Fast-Starting a Career of Consequence: Our own Fred Sievert (Leader of our Finance Ministry Team) has written his third book which is very timely, especially given the number of people who will soon enter or re-enter the workplace following the COVID-19 pandemic. The book is titled, *Fast-Starting a Career of Consequence* and the sub-title is, *Practical Christ-centered Advice for Entering or Re-entering the Workforce*. He shares Biblical and practical ways to combine your faith and career. The book is available for pre-order on Amazon.com but probably won't be delivered for 3 or 4 months. However, if you're interested in ordering copies as graduation gifts, it can be ordered right now from Fred's website, <http://www.storiesofgodsgrace.com>

Open Sanctuary: The sanctuary is now open Tuesdays from noon – 6:00pm. Please feel free to stop by, relax, reflect, pray or just be with God in his house.

Confidential Prayer Chain: Please send all confidential prayer requests to Karen Camp at kcampkcc@hotmail.com or call at 508-737-1636. If you would like to add someone to the Church prayer list, please contact Ruth at 508-548-3050 or jwumcfalmouth@comcast.net.

Livestream: Watch Sunday Services live at 9:30 am or at any time on Facebook, YouTube or our Website. Our worship services can also be seen on FCTV (13) at the following times: Mondays at 3 pm, Wednesdays at 6 pm, Sundays at 10 am (previous week's service).

OUTREACH/MISSIONS

JULIE IMMELT WHELDEN

Falmouth Service Center: They are NOT accepting food currently. If you would like to make a monetary donation you may send them to: **Mail:** The Falmouth Service Center P.O. Box 208 Falmouth, MA 02541 or **Drop Off:** Falmouth Service Center 611 Gifford Street Falmouth, MA 02540

Dress a Live Doll/Teen Angel: Thank you to all who contributed the Salvation Army Mission. We were able to complete purchases for all 10 children and 5 teenagers. We also supplied some other gifts, wrapping paper, tape and ribbons.

I Support the Girls: Julie was able to deliver 26 new bras, 83 lightly used bras, and new socks and underwear along with new menstrual products this past December. Our donations were delivered to Provision Ministry who will distribute them to the City of Worcester & Lowell. We want to thank you all for your donations. Look for information soon on whether we will still collect these items on an ongoing basis.

FUNDRAISING 2021

ALINE WARD

How can you help?

Did you know there are books, DVD's, Attic Treasures goodies, Puzzles (our fastest sellers) in the Fellowship Hall available for purchase at unbelievable prices? Come in and check it out...inventory changes frequently.

Does your front door need some livening up? Also in the Fellowship Hall are Valentine and springtime wreaths crafted by our in-house "elves". Come check them out. Don't see what you're looking for, show us a picture and we'll make it for you. Call Aline Ward for details.

Bob McIntire's beautiful note cards are still available. His original watercolors were turned into these beautiful cards with an image of John Wesley Church and a beach service.



Packages contain 5 cards for \$10.

Swing by the church and pick up a few.

Share a note with someone you miss!

We are still looking for birch branches, all sizes of driftwood, mason jars, holiday decorations, Extra Jumbo pinecones, puzzles, puzzles, & more puzzles. Puzzles sell in a day!

We are going into 2021 with an optimistic attitude, we will pray November will allow us to go back to our normal in-house Christmas Fair so if you knit, crochet, sew, do woodworking, crafting, won't you consider making items during this time of the pandemic.

Are you a painter? Might you consider painting something for the Silent Auction. The church has new canvas boards if that would help you get motivated.

We are accepting gently used clothing, items for Attic Treasures, jewelry, items for the Hardware Store, gently used kids toys and finally items for our Silent Auction.

If you have any questions regarding donations or fair opportunities, please email me at aw7050@comcast.net or 508-444-6038. Blessings, Aline Ward

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY BESSINGS

God's blessings to our family members celebrating birthdays in February:

7 – Fred Sievert, 8 – Marion Warburton, 11 – John Mincieli, 12 – Donald Smith, 14 – Larry Ward,
19 Andy Dahl, 21 – Jan Dahl, 27 – Tim Cline

Let us celebrate life among our church family. It's a great thing to have a birthday, a gift from God. Please give your birthday information by recording it on the calendar on the Fellowship bulletin board.



Sandy Stosz gathering in Nature's Bounty – quahogs from Great Pond!

Nature's Bounty

Nature's bounty is everywhere,
In the sea, on land, in the air.

Take time to enjoy sunny days;
Give thanks to God with prayer and praise.

Hear the sound as a cool, fresh breeze
Stirs branches in evergreen trees.

Observe the full moon high above,
Symbol of God's unending love.

Watch squirrels scurrying around
Searching for acorns on the ground.

Breathe in the cold air, fresh and clear,
Know the presence of God is near.

Relax beside the ocean blue...
Time for inner peace to renew.

All of Nature's wonders are free.
They are God's gifts to you and me.

Joy Stosz
January 18, 2021

John Wesley United Methodist Church, 270 Gifford Street, Falmouth, MA 02540
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Rev. Rebecca Mincieli, Pastor

Staff: Hannah Duclos, Director of Children & Youth Ministries | Ruth Moulton, Office Administrator
Linda Brouder, Director of Music Ministries | Mirela Chisbora, Pianist/Organist
George Cary, Treasurer | John Loewen, Sexton