

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

August 14, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship on Facebook and In-Person

August 18: Proverbs 1: 1-7, John 6: 53-69; "The Science of Awe"

August 25: Psalm 8, Mark 10: 13-16; "Everyday Awe"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Church Directory 2024 - 2025

The new directory is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for any corrections. If you have changes since the last directory, please call Terry at (661) 872-8741 or email at office@wesleybakersfield.org. Thank you.

Refugees, Migrants, & Immigrants: A Global Perspective

Learn about global migration challenges and discover how you can support refugees, migrants, and immigrants in Kern County.

Saturday, September 7 from 4 to 6 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2216 17th St, Bakersfield

\$25 tickets: appetizers, drink, and music by Richard Noel.

An anonymous donor is sponsoring a table for Wesley participants. June Braun will have a sign up sheet at the coffee bar on Sunday.



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the friends of Ruth Shivers who passed away on August 3, 2024. Ruth was a Wesley member since 1997. She will be greatly missed.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight. ~ Isaiah 65:17-18

The worship series that begins this Sunday is called “Awe” and is based on Dacher Keltner’s book *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How it Can Transform Your Life*. The pastor of Los Altos UMC credits a worship series featuring the information in this book with increasing the membership of their large church. Can it do the same for Wesley? That is still to be seen, but please pray for this! I have also signed up for a workshop entitled “Grow Your Church.” The leaders of that workshop said the first step in growing the church is ministry, not marketing. If we ask our neighbors how to pray for them and we do that by praying for them by name, ten percent of those people will come to church. Does anyone want to join me in this project? Much of it is done online, so I may need technical help.

After our Awe series, we will have a stand alone-worship on Lady Wisdom as found in Proverbs. Then we begin a five week series that was co-created by Worship Design Studios and The Church of the Resurrection called “Do Unto Others.” It was designed for congregations to help navigate transcending the hateful parts of our division as we get closer to the November election. I think we are pretty good at that at church, but many of us are in families with vastly different political ideologies. We CAN listen to one another in love, even when we disagree.

Our friend and long-time Wesley member, Ruth Shivers, passed away on Saturday, August 3. Ruth was a woman of deep faith. She had been ill for several years and unable to attend Wesley’s services, but she was a faithful member who will be remembered for not only her faith but also for her feisty sense of humor. There are not current plans for a memorial service, but if that changes, I will let you know. Thank you, Margaret Grant, for letting us know of Ruth’s passing.

I met with our music director, Douglas Carothers on Friday, August 2. Because of his previous plans, choir will resume after Labor Day. Choir will again meet for practice on Wednesday evenings beginning September 11. However, the choir practiced a piece last season, and we hope be able to perform it with just a Sunday morning practice. Thus we will begin our season on September 8.

Beginning in next week, I am moving the morning at Starbucks to Fridays. Everyone is invited! I will meet you at Starbucks on the corner of Oswell and Auburn Streets at 9:30 and will buy your beverage on our first visit together! There is no agenda other than getting to know one another better.

The class for Disciple II will be co-led by Edee Ellenberger and me beginning Wednesday September 4, at 4 pm in The Gathering Place. Our first meeting will include a discussion about whether we are too big to be in one group—so far, 14 people have expressed an interest. I have ordered the books for everyone who had signed up by August 13. If you did not sign up but wish to attend, please purchase your book from Cokesbury. The books are \$45.00 plus tax and shipping, but scholarships are available. (You may instead buy a kindle edition from Amazon, but they do not have the print edition that allows you to keep notes for the class. Perhaps you can make that work using a notebook. It is a less expensive alternative.) If you’re still considering, please speak to anyone who has taken a Disciple class recently, and I believe they will tell you the books and class are worth every penny, and your time will be very well spent.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

We pray for those in need of healing—body, mind and spirit:

pray for other needs:

• Albert • Linda T. • Richard, the Choir Director at Laguna Community UMC • Laura D. to have surgery on August 16 • Susan M • Mike Johnson • Roger Gillette—healing following a successful liver and kidney transplant. He is doing much better and may be discharged from the hospital soon. Please keep him in prayer, and pray for the donor's family. • Bill B—laparoscopic surgery scheduled for Sept. 11 • Mike—a friend who had knee surgery this week—a prayer for healing • Cousin Toby still hospitalized. Continued prayer for healing, and support for his wife Gina • Bill (Barbara's brother in law): that his cancer is controlled and goes into remission • Linda T • John R; and discernment for the family to know how to help • For Steven B—peace in his hands, heart, and mind. He has not wreaked havoc on the church buildings recently. Let's keep him in prayer! • Danny, Jenifer & Barbara • Lea, needing hip replacement surgery, and comfort and patience as she awaits the consult with the surgeon • Balthazar—hip pain • Stella's neighbors: wife is awaiting biopsy results, husband has undiagnosed health problems. Please pray for comfort and good outcomes.

We pray for all who grieve:

• Hershel S and family for the death of his teenage son • Lynn, who is grieving the loss of her sister • Friends and family of Ruth Shivers

We pray for travel mercies:

• All people traveling for vacation • All students heading back to school • Laura and Michael D • James, Guinevere and Tony • Charlie and Jennifer—driving to grad school had car trouble. Pray God's mercy and presence to get Charlie safely to school in Austin and that his transportation needs are met • All people returning (or beginning) school • Vanessa and Travis out of town

We pray for other needs:

• Please always keep your church in prayer!
• For the political climate in the US and elsewhere • For peace • Kyle & the family he has hurt by his addictions • Danny and Jenifer tested + for COVID • Jenifer's mother, Barbara • Jennifer A has an immediate need for housing • All children in foster care • Storms on the East coast • Families going through difficult times • People suffering from intense heat, especially those who have no air-conditioning and those who work outdoors or are unhoused. • Discernment about continuing Wesley's food distribution outdoors or how to move it inside • Linda T • Bonney • Kathleen, Weston and Beverly moving to Southern California from the East coast • Vance and Linda traveling to pick them up at the airport • Linda, Lea, Sage and Brenden traveling to Texas this week • All those affected by raging fires—especially the Gold Mountain Complex fire near Portola, the Borel fire in Kern County, and the Park fire near Chico. We pray for safety for persons, pets and property • For firefighters • For people living in or near fire zones • For those who have lost homes and belongings • Blessing for Bishops in transition—into retired status (Bishop Carcaño) and preparing to move to CA/NV (Bishop Olewine)

In gratitude, we remember and praise God for our abundant blessings...

• For answered prayer • Libby safely delivered a beautiful baby boy. Thanks be to God, Sebastian Tomas Enriquez entered the world on Friday morning weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz. He makes Linda R. "Great" • The love and support Kristyn received from her friends at Wesley as she begins a teaching career in Bakersfield • A beautiful service and opportunity to spread Sherry's dear friend Peggy's ashes. • Penelope, who won an award for "best Junior Guard Instructor" and a patch for swimming a half mile in the Monterey Bay (Santa Cruz)

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• Kristyn and Tiffany, Terry's daughters, assisting each other in setting up their classrooms in Stonecreek Jr. High and Siebert Elementary • Laura D and daughter Lisa are celebrating their love for Brian on what would have been his 51st birthday • The knowledge that giving is receiving • For Tess who said "Yes" so we could have music while Patrick is away • For all the Olympic athletes • The life and witness of Ruth Shivers • Richard (Choir director at Laguna Community UMC) is feeling better. Needs continued prayer for strength. • The return of church friends who have been gone for awhile—welcome home! • For Michael D's kindness • Michayla—who gave birth to a healthy baby boy last week