

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

June 12, 2024

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

June 16: Psalm 20, Mark 4:26-34; "All-Powerful to Save"

June 23: 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13, Mark 4: 35-41; "In Sorrow and in Rejoicing"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

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## ***Coffee Bar***

Thank you to the volunteers who host the coffee bar on Sunday mornings. There is a volunteer sheet on the coffee bar if you would like to host an upcoming Sunday.

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## ***Thank You***

Thank you for your generosity. Wesley Church collected \$95 for Peace With Justice Sunday on May 26.

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## ***Meeting Reminder***

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, June 18, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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## ***Newsletter Deadline***

The next deadline for The Outlook is June 24. Thank you for your cooperation.

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.***

***~ Colossians 3: 13***

Many of you know that several of us have been attending the 176th session of the California/Nevada Annual Conference. More on that later. While we were away, the church experienced some very destructive vandalism for the second week in a row. The first week all the damage was done in the education building. The kitchen on the side the Head Start preschool has been renting was broken into and vandalized, the Sunday school room was broken into, items were stolen, and at least one window was broken. The following week (this past Sunday) the education building and the Gathering Place were vandalized. More damage was done on the roof of the Narthex. When Shawn Collins, that day's preacher, arrived, the perpetrator was still there, and he was caught on film. I believe that the Sheriff's department may have caught him. However, as I write this I am still on the train on the way home from Sacramento, so all the news I have had about this has been through text messages. I will find out more later this week. What I want to add to this distressing news is the joy that no one was injured. Please pray for those people who have so much anger in their hearts that they turn to senseless vandalism and violence. Praise God that no one was injured, and pray that God can fill the hearts of those who live with such anger and calm them with peace that passes our understanding.

Annual Conference was filled with news from the most recent General Conference (GC2020). An item about the regionalization of certain regulations will need ratification from 2/3 of every Annual Conference in order to be put into the Book of Discipline. However, there wasn't enough time between the end of GC2020 and our conference session for us to be able to deal with that matter this year, so it will be on our agenda next June.

An Annual Conference highlight for me has always been the "Fixing of Appointments." The District Superintendent reads the church names in her or his district, and then the Bishop names the pastor who is appointed to that church. The pastor stands and waits for all the other church and pastor names to be read, and then the whole conference stands and sings and the lays hands on the appointed pastors while the Bishop prays for both. It is a spirit filled moment that is awesome and occurs five times during conference; once for each of the districts.

One other highlight for me this year was being congratulated by many clergy colleagues on my retirement. As I have said before, the Book of Discipline requires that pastors retire at the conference following their 72nd birthday. I was not looking forward to this day! But I was greeted and congratulated by so many friends that I am finally warming a bit to the idea. I was invited to a retired clergy luncheon, and a video was shown of a

*~continued on the next page~*

retirement interview, and finally there was a lovely ceremony thanking this year's retirees for 400+ (combined) years of service and we each were given a medallion and a certificate. As you know, I will be staying one more year to serve Bakersfield Wesley, but perhaps I can slow down a bit next year and see what God has in store for me then. I will not share the news of this year's legislation in this newsletter, but Bill Blair, one of Wesley's Lay Representatives to conference will prepare a report, and I expect your other Lay Rep, Nick Strobel, will post much of the news on the website. As I always do this time of year, I remind you all to please stay hydrated.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Anne

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## ***Prayers***

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

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

• Bill B • Linda T • Ruth S • Bonney F  
• Danny, Jenifer, Barbara & Rita • Cathy & Mike • Jim Pugh—he is doing much better and has left the hospital for a rehab facility. He needs continued prayer for full recovery. • June B. • Jill  
• Ruth S • Bonney F • Cathy & Mike  
• Ronnie—readmitted to hospital  
• Chase

**We pray for those who are grieving:**

• The family of Kevin Costello • Family and friends of Ronda P who died unexpectedly • Shinya Goto, at the bedside of his dying father (in Japan)

**We pray for other needs:**

• That all who serve on juries have discernment and make good decisions  
• Peace • Jennifer A • All churches and pastors in transition

**We pray for travel mercies:**

• Lisa & Nick S • Rita and Lea

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

• Baby Persia, who was expected to be hospitalized for a full year, became strong enough to go home in only 5-months. She will need close attending and continued prayers for herself and her family, especially her grandmother Susanne who will tend her while her parents work. • Jim Pugh's good progress. • Scotlyn visiting her grandma Terry • Ronnie is home after 100 days in a care facility! His son finished the ADA construction needed for his safe return  
• 14 year old Penny began a job as childcare assistant at Boulder Creek UMC • Nina, a woman we prayed for with postpartum complications is now safely at home with her new baby Micah

## ***In The Military***

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers.

Michael Ahumada - Army  
Chris Armantrout - Navy  
Nathan Ashlock - Marines  
Nick Buckridge - Army National Guard  
Mark Andrew Caldwell - Marines  
Alex Campbell - Navy  
Josh Caughran - Navy  
Megan Darling - Army Reserves  
Bradley Delacruz - Army  
Jerome Garey - Air Force  
Dan Hanel - Air Force  
Greg Hanel - Air Force  
Kaylyn Dane-Kulland - National Guard  
Josephine Imperial - Marines  
Anthony Mitchell jr. - Air Force  
Kenneth Oberg - Navy  
Rebecca Oberg - Air Force  
Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp  
Tiela Roland - Air Force  
Carsten Strobel. - Army  
Spring Walden - Air Force  
Joel Watson - Navy  
Josephine Wells-Ashley - Marines  
Laura Yoon - Navy  
David Yoon - Navy

The pillar candle on the altar is to remind us of our prayers for them

## ***Congratulations Class of 2024!***

### **High School:**

Taylor Filkins - Bakersfield Christian High School. Taylor will attend Clemson University In South Carolina. Her parents are Teri and Darren Filkins. Grandparents are Dr. Mylon and Patricia Filkins.

### **University:**

Andrea (Annie) Filkins- Grinnell College in Iowa; continuing her education in the Masters Program at Iowa State University - College of Agriculture; will be working in the Field of Agriculture in Columbus, Nebraska. Her parents are Teri and Darren Filkins. Grandparents are Dr. Mylon and Patricia Filkins.