

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

June 26, 2024

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

June 30: 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15, Mark 5: 21-43; "In Need and in Abundance"
Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

July 7: 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10, Mark 6: 1-13; "In Weakness and in Strength"
Rev. Alice Oberg, preaching

Annual Conference 2024

Nick Strobel has posted his report from the ACS 2024 on the church's website (www.wesleybakersfield.org) and there is a link to it on the church's homepage. If you would like a copy, please give Terry a call, (661) 872-8741. Thank you.

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.

From the Church Office

The office will be closed on July 4 for the Independence Holiday. The next deadline for *The Outlook* is July 8. Thank you for your cooperation.



♪ A Note from the Pastor

As soon as they came to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the heads of families made freewill offerings for the house of God, to erect it on its site.

~ Ezra 2: 68

“Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.” I told them that the hand of my God had been gracious upon me and also the words that the king had spoken to me. Then they said, “Let us start building!” So they committed themselves to the common good.

~ Nehemiah 2: 17b-18

I am very excited our CONFIRM class went so well. It would have been much more fun with a larger class, but our one and only student learned enough and has decided to confirm the vows made for him at baptism. (We had a young adult who attended two of the sessions, and I hoped he would transfer his membership, but I have been unable to contact him to see if he is indeed interested.) We will welcome Sage Simpson into full membership on Sunday, June 30! It is a big deal, and I hope you will all come to celebrate with him this Sunday. We will have ice cream as a treat.

As I mentioned in the last edition of The Outlook, Wesley UMC has experienced a plague of vandalism during June. Trustees were at their wits end to discourage this behavior, but the perpetrator seemed to be relentless. The good news is that we know the main culprit's name, and we have been able to pray for him, which seemed to help. Please keep Steven in your prayers—pray for peace in his hands and his heart and for God to heal his anger, and please also pray for protection of your church. The bad news is that the vandalism has cost the church thousands of dollars. The trustees have determined the need for more fencing and some other security devices. You will soon receive a letter from the co-chairs of the Board of Trustees and me asking for a special financial contribution from everyone. (One of the Trustee co-chairs is away so is unable to sign the letter, but he contributed to its content, so please accept the letter without his signature.) Most of us wish that fencing was not required, but the cost, both financial and emotional for the staff and Trustees, makes it a necessity. Please look for the letter in the mail and prayerfully consider your ability to help.

We are again planning our fall line-up of studies. We had two very active, very successful Disciple I classes this year. Disciple is an in-depth study that requires commitment to Bible reading and consists of four separate studies. There are four sheets in the Narthex giving brief explanations of each of the studies. We are determining the degree of interest and whether we will have only in-person studies or if we can create a hybrid with a Zoom option. Please consider your interest and either indicate it on one of the interest sheets in the Narthex, or call the office or my cell phone (the number is in the directory) to let me know.

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Please check the birthday and anniversary lists that appears in The Outlook monthly. If your special day is not on the list, please let the office know.

I will attend Ashram in Boulder Creek June 30 (after worship) until July 5. I will return to Bakersfield sometime during the weekend of July 6-7. Have a safe and happy Independence Day. But please be careful, wear a hat, and stay hydrated!

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:

- Jim P. • Bonney F. • Linda T. • Ruth S.
- Danny, Jenifer, Barbara and Ronnie
- Eddy • Craig Strobel • Bill B.

—inconclusive test results are leading to more testing • Barbara's brother-in-law, Bill who needs strength, courage and discernment about what to do following his diagnosis, and peace for Barbara's sister, Carol • Susan M—knee replacement surgery: Prayers for peace, healing and comfort • June B—relief from Pain, and a good response to treatment • Gail S • Craig S

We pray for all who grieve:

- Shinya Goto (DS of Los Rios District) following the death of his father

We pray for travel mercies:

- David, Jennifer and Charlie R traveling by bicycle to the coast • Lea traveling home of the East Coast • Terry's daughter Kristyn and family

We pray for other needs:

- Gwen and Mike • Steven B.—the man who has been doing so much damage to this church and to our neighbors. May God heal his brokenness and give him peace in his mind, heart and hands.
- Sherry's grandchildren, Matthew, Hannah, and Elizabeth are on a mission trip in Japan, near where there was a recent earthquake. Pray God's blessing on all • David and June B preparing to move • All people suffering from heat, especially those without housing and people without air conditioning
- Discernment for Justices serving in the Supreme Court • For all pastors in new appointments: may the congregations be kind and welcome the change that brings a different set of gifts and graces In gratitude, we remember and praise God for our abundant blessings...
- Laura's good news from the surgeon—she can be treated with medication • Liz's sister Anne—all cancer was removed • Rob's Brother-in-law Brian—surgery was successful, needs continued healing



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• Thanks for Marv D's hard work and the work of all the Trustees keeping the property safe and intact • Jo D.'s graduation was a joyful occasion
• Barbara D's generous help for those who are healing • David B's care of June
• Birthday blessings for Anne's brother Robert, and blessings as he clears out the house he's lived in 40+ years as he prepares to put it on the market and move • Terry's daughter Alison has announced her engagement and plans to marry in May next year

Congratulations!



Charlie Rous will begin the Graduate Program at the University of Texas at Austin on a Merit Scholarship. He will major in Public Policy. His parents are David and Jennifer Rous and grandmother is Stella Rous.

*My Grace is sufficient for thee:
for My Strength is made Perfect in
WEAKNESS.*

 *Most gladly therefore will* 

I rather *Glory* in my INFIRMITIES, that the

Power of Christ
may rest upon me.

 *Therefore I Take Pleasure* 

in INFIRMITIES, in REPROACHES,
in NECESSITIES,
in PERSECUTIONS, in DISTRESSES

For Christ's Sake:
for when I am WEAK,
then am I Strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Happy July Birthday to.....

2 Austin Cusator
7 Marlene Blair
8 Lisa Strobel
24 Kelly Strobel
28 Sarah Balzer
29 Barbara Knowlton
31 Donna Adams

Happy Anniversary to...

1 Doug and Carolyn Anglin
18 Dell and Marcia Whitten
26 Bob and Martha Covey