

The Outlook

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

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Vol. LXV, #9

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

May 8, 2024

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

May 12: 1 John 5: 9-13, John 17: 6-19. "We Share Christ"
Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

May 19: Acts 2: 1-21, John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15
Rev. Alice Oberg, preaching

Attention Wesley Graduates!

If you are graduating from Jr. High, High School, or College/University, please email Terry at office@wesleybakersfield.org by Monday, May 20th. Announcements will be published in *The Outlook*. Please include the school graduating from, future plans, and any awards. 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.



♪ A Note from the Pastor

I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. —John 15: 15b-17

Let's be friends! You have probably all heard much news of the United Methodist General Conference that was held in Charlotte, NC April 23 through May 3. As I wrote about in our last newsletter, the first delegates from our Annual Conference (that is, the first elected clergy delegate and the first elected lay delegate) were mainly interested in "the three R's," removal of harmful language, revision of the Social Principles, and regionalization. These three items were passed, and the first two go into effect immediately and will appear in the next editions of *The Book of Discipline* and *The Social Principles*. The third item, regionalization, must be voted upon and receive a 2/3 majority vote in annual conferences across the denomination. This is expected to pass but is now in the hands of each annual conference to ratify. Also in the news that directly affects the Western Jurisdiction is that two of the current active bishops will be retiring this year. There will not be new bishops elected this year because of shrinking budgets, but bishops from other jurisdictions will replace our own Bishop Carcaño and Mountain Sky's Bishop Oliveto in September. The Inter-jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy will meet with active bishops to discuss transfers, and the Western Jurisdiction Conference, which occurs in July, will announce the Bishop assignments. If you are interested in more news about the historic conference, please see <https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/> or <https://www.umc.org/>. Also, the Central Valley District will welcome a new District Superintendent in July as well. Rev. Dr. Mary Maaga will be installed as CV DS—the date, time and venue to be announced. DS David Niu will transfer to the Los Rios District.

The Central Valley District will have the annual district conference this Saturday, May 11 on Zoom. These meetings are usually informative and celebratory. First, all districts of our conference meet together for conference news and later separate for more local news. Annual Conference Session meets in Sacramento June 7-10. Bill Blair, Nick Strobel, Pastor Alice Oberg and I will attend as delegates, and I believe Shawn Collins will be there from our church to be certified as a Lay Minister. His ministry will continue in Bakersfield.

I hope you enjoyed Music Sunday as much as I did. What talent we have at Wesley! Choir performances will be on hiatus until the fall. I will meet with Douglas Carothers in early August to set a date for rehearsals to resume. Please consider joining the choir. We have fun as we glorify God.

I will be away on the weekend of May 18 and 19 to be part of the 150th anniversary of ministry in Boulder Creek, California. I was a member there for more than 20 years, and the people there encouraged me to go to seminary. Pastor Alice Oberg will preach.

Grace and Peace,
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:

• Continued prayer for Jim, Pastor Karen, and the medical team • Linda's roommate Jill, for comfort and discernment • Baby Persia • Nancy Jacobus • Bonney Friday • Corby's mother Denice—needs full year of chemo • Danny, Jenifer, Barbara and Ronnie • Tish • Lea • Bill Blair

We pray for travel mercies:

• The Bewley family • Cousin Rita • The Ramirez-Dibble family • Vance and Joe

We pray for those who grieve:

• Jerilyn Smith had to have her beloved pet euthanized

We pray for other needs:

• Good decisions from The Supreme Court • The work of General Conference • For protesters working for peace and schools and others seeking peace as well. May both sides be peaceful. • The tension at Linda T's care facility • Tornado victims • The work of Rev. Dennis Hutson and his work reimagining hope for Allensworth • Val, a local woman who is unhoused • Linda, who was disappointed at Tuesday's meeting. Getting a new placement is taking longer than she anticipated • PEACE! • Lisa's cousin Kim has entered hospice care. Prayers for peace and comfort for the family • Striking students and for

school authorities, May peace prevail
• May students prepare well for upcoming final exams, and stress relief for all teachers

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

• Carla, who received a teaching assignment that begins in August
• Stella's environmental justice work
• New babies: Selen and Raphael
• Confirmation class • General Conference elected Emily Allen as agenda chair (a member of CA/NV Conference) • General Conference accepted regionalization for US
• For the life and witness of Rev. Cecil Williams • Aid packages to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. May they bring peace • Linda's niece Kathleen's new baby is home! • So many May birthdays!
• The work of General Conference, and the witness of Dr. Jeffrey Kuan • Tiela had her baby—mother and baby are both well • Sarah and Kelly—the joy of girls turning into responsible adult women • The blessings of grandchildren



Bring Your Own Craft & Beverage (BYOC & B)

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2024

Time: 9:30-11:30 AM

Place: The Gathering Place at Wesley

Who: Everyone

Event: Bring your favorite craft to work on while we visit. If you are not "crafty," please come anyway.

Bring your own beverage.

Lunch follows at Spencer's Cafe, 3401 Mall View Road

Organizer: June Braun

Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, May 28, 5:30 p.m. via zoom.

Deadline

The next deadline for *The Outlook* is Monday, May 20.



*Happy 100th Birthday
to Anita Stewart
May 10, 2024*