

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

November 27, 2024

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

First Sunday of Advent

December 1: Romans 8: 18-25, Luke 2: 1-3 and Luke 3: 1-6.

"Rome: A Place of Longing (HOPE)"

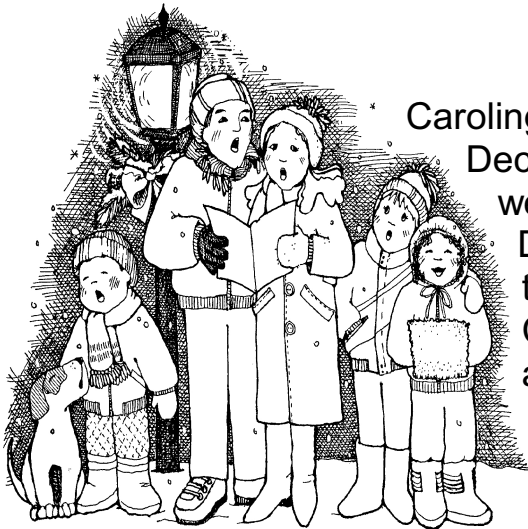
Second Sunday of Advent

December 8: Romans 12: 9-18, Luke 1: 5-17, 68-79.

"Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting (Peace)"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Caroling



Caroling on the east side will be Sunday, December 8, following the potluck; the west side will meet at Rosewood, December 16 at 2 pm. All are invited to join voices to help share the Christmas spirit with those unable to attend worship. If you like Christmas carols please come.

♫ A Note from the Pastor

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Happy Thanksgiving!

By the time you receive this, Thanksgiving Day may have passed, but every day is an opportunity to give thanks to our awesome God. I am deeply grateful for the many hands that helped prepare and decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Your efforts made our space beautiful and welcoming.

I also want to thank everyone who stayed after service last Sunday to move furniture so that our carpets and tile floors could be professionally cleaned. As always, this project was coordinated by our wonderful Trustees. Thank you to each of you, and thanks be to God for your servant hearts!

Advent is upon us, and with it, a new worship series: "On the Way to Bethlehem." Our journey begins in an unexpected place—Rome. While we often associate Advent with Bethlehem, it was the decree from Caesar Augustus that set Mary and Joseph on their journey. Marcia McFee of Worship Design Studio reminds us that the journey itself often holds just as much meaning as the destination. She writes:

"This Advent season, we will pay attention not just to the destination of Christmas, but also to the places where events occurred that led to a starry night on which a child was born who would change the world. And we will ponder our own milestones—the progress and the potholes 'on the way.'"

As we journey together, I will also draw from Rev. Rob Fuquay's book *On the Way to Bethlehem* to guide and enrich our exploration.

As you will read elsewhere in *The Outlook*, this season, we are collecting items for the Dream Center and Jamieson Center. The Dream Center in downtown Bakersfield provides vital support for teens in foster care and young adults transitioning out of the foster system. Through life skills training—such as writing resumes, opening bank accounts, and managing finances—the Center equips young people for independence. It also offers clothing, food, and necessities, including diapers for teen parents. Wesley has been a proud supporter of this impactful program for years.

Exciting news!

Wesley has been approved for a grant from the Central Valley District Union to purchase updated equipment to enhance our worship broadcasts and sound system. This upgrade will improve outreach and help our homebound members stay connected to our church community. Thanks be to God for this wonderful blessing and for the support of our CV District Union!

~ continued on the following page ~

May this season of peace bring abundant blessings to you and yours. In Christ's love,

Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

We pray for healing, for ourselves and others:

• For Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar, Barbara, and Lea • Ana L who fell and is suffering pain • Bob C • Linda T: wisdom, discernment and comfort • Kira—fell and received a serious & painful leg injury • For Barbara's brother in law Bill, recover from painful treatment • For Anne's cough • Jenifer's mother Barbara has declining health, entered into hospice care • Kimberly McAfee & family • Cindy Curtis • Amy Berry • Emaleigh

We pray for other needs:

• For travel mercies for everyone traveling this holiday season • Peace, comfort and respite for all caregivers • Peace in the world • Reconciliation and cooperation • Stress in Linda's household • Safety (and thanks) for all firefighters • For support of Wesley's food distribution • People out of work, including Jeffrey and Scott, both laid off • May we all be open to God's guidance • Prayer for all children in the world, especially in light of a fire in a hospital in India that left 10 newborns dead • For US allies that are struggling with the results of the US elections • Linda T asks for prayers regarding the "decluttering" event at The Orchards

• For wisdom, restraint, and cooperation in the US during leadership transition

We pray in gratitude for our blessings:

• Praise for Toni's fun birthday celebration. Barbara is grateful him in her life. • Barbara's brother-in-law Bill had a successful procedure. Please pray for continued healing • Linda celebrates her granddaughter Libby's 27th birthday and is very grateful for her life. • Being in a supportive community • Sage & Brenden have recovered enough to return to school and for all the popcorn sold in this church, Sage attended a condors game • For rain • Prayer of thanks for the gentleman at Stella's sister's rehab center who answered the call, checked on Tish, and let Stella know Tish was doing okay • For the "Starbuck's group" • Laura had a lovely time in Texas visiting with old friends • Brenden's hearing test came out well • Danny's surgery was successful. Prayers for continued healing • Linda T is able to move her leg on her own • Thanks for David Atkins who is doing a wonderful job Pastoring in retirement in Laguna community UMC • for Joel Wilson's 33rd birthday

Missions

from Alice Oberg

There is a hymn with the title, *What Gift Can We Bring*. We (Stella, Barbara and Alice), with an okay from Pastor Anne, are asking you to bring gifts during this season of giving for the Dream Center such as socks, hygiene products, individually wrapped snacks, and much more. With a twist on an old tradition there is an Advent Tree in the Narthex where the small items you bring can be hung on the tree, or placed in the boxes beneath the tree. You will find the Dream Center Wish List posted in the Narthex for other items.

from Stella Rous

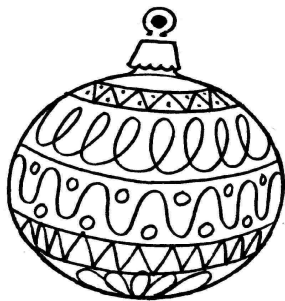
Sock Tree

Please help decorate the "sock tree" in the Narthex with new socks for the young children in protective custody at the Jamison Children's Center and the youth at the Dream Center who have aged out of foster care.

Our Wesley children and youth will collect your donations.

The tree will be up through the Advent and Christmas seasons.

In this time of giving, please be generous.



Deadline

The December deadlines to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, are Monday, December 9 and Friday, December 20. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy December Birthday to..

4	Alice Oberg
6	Pam Hall
10	Sarah Strobel
13	James Dethlefson
16	Mike Hurry
18	Bertha Chavez
30	Jennifer Armantrout

Happy Anniversary to....

15	Chris and Cindy Curtis
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