

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 26, 2025

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

March 2: 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:4, Luke 9:28-44. "Astounded By His Glory"

March 9: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16, Luke 4: 1-13. "Rescue Me"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching



Ash Wednesday Service

March 5, 2025, 5 p.m., Wesley Sanctuary

Meditation: "Sustain In Me"

Scriptures: Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days prior to Easter Day. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance and remembrance of the final weeks of the life of Jesus and his sacrifice. The name Ash Wednesday comes from the tradition of marking the forehead of people with ashes to symbolize mourning and repentance. Join us in the sanctuary for worship, including the traditional imposition of ashes.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

Pastoral Change

Bill Blair read an announcement in church on February 16 that Bishop Olewine and cabinet intend to appoint me to Boulder Creek United Methodist Church as of July 1, 2025. It is a part time appointment that I am taking in retirement. Our District Superintendent Mary Maaga has been in consultation with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) to determine the right fit for the next pastor. Please keep your church, the cabinet and the Bishop in your prayers during this transition. I would appreciate your prayers as well.

News for Lent

Ash Wednesday Service: As you know, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. I planned to have a service at noon. However, in discussion with Administration Council, we decided together that the Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary at 5 pm. That will allow most people to make it home before it is dark, and it allows most employed people to attend the whole service.

Midday Prayer during Lent: There will be a minor change to the Midday Prayer schedule during Lent. I signed up for a noon time Lenten Study sponsored by our Conference and a group called The Friends of Wadi Foquin. The study meets from noon to 1 pm on Thursdays, so I asked the midday prayer group if they would like to meet for prayer at a different time during that period, and they decided they will join the Thursday Lenten study instead. The study meets on March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 24, so we will skip noon prayer on those days. If you wish to join this online study to help us better understand what is happening between Palestine and Israel, you may register here: <https://www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/18904477>.

Coins for Lent: Susan McQuerrey, our Committee on Missions chairperson, has decided that money raised by those of us who participate in the Coins for Lent project will go to KWESI in support of local immigrants. You will find a calendar that helps us count our own blessings as well as share some of those blessings with others. Participation is voluntary.

New fence and Garden Project

As mentioned in the previous Outlook, a new wrought iron fence will be installed soon on Wesley's campus that becomes an opportunity for a protected garden space. Rose Lester has donated a raised bed. We need a volunteer to make decisions of what to plant and where. Who would like to be in charge? Who would like to help with the project? My guess is that Sunday school children would love to be involved in the planting and harvesting. Please let me know.

A Pot Luck luncheon is planned for after worship on March 16. I am not the only one who misses regular pot lucks! Let us all work together to make this a success.

Blessings, Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

Prayer of healing and comfort:

- Nancy J—healing • Linda T. • Bonney F
- Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar for pain relief
- Sherry's brother Wayne received a difficult diagnosis • Rev. Tom Hillman had a serious infection following successful surgery. He hopes to be released from rehab center next week, but he remains unable to walk
- Siobhan, Corby, Liz & Rob—healing and comfort as she begins chemo therapy, but there is also some very good news. She has earned tenure, so her job is secure and she has had good test results. • Lea—relief of pain. Lea has recently been diagnosed with bursitis in both hips. • Andy—who had surgery on Monday, and peace for his sister Sam. She worries because of his other diagnoses. • Sherry's brother Wayne needs many prayers for healing because he faces difficult procedures. But he has been given hope and help by an old college buddy who is coming to help him through all the treatment “as long as it takes.” May they both be blessed on this journey. • Healing for Pope Francis

Prayers for other needs:

- Continued prayers for our president and the nation. • Peace • People of Gaza • Strength and courage in dark times • For all children in foster care, and for their families • Blessings on people who are joining in protest—may they be non-violent and not cause damage • For Robin Wells, whose son Eric died Feb. 5 while incarcerated in

Hawaii • Safety for church property

- Pray for Palestinians and Ukrainians and successful solutions to end conflicts
- For tens of thousands of federal employees who have recently been fired. Prayers also for the many Americans who will be affected by those losses. • We pray for President Trump's cabinet and the unofficial advisor. May their hearts be softened by the people's reactions to their actions
- We pray for opportunities to learn to make a difference in the world and have our voices heard • Laguna Community UMC has discovered thefts that have been occurring and pray for a resolution that will not cost the church thousand of dollars. • We pray for the Strobel's next door neighbor Rizelda and her family as they grieve the death of her father. Their grief is compounded by the recent loss of her brother and daughter

Prayers of Gratitude and Praise:

- Gratitude for the work of the Trustees
- Wesley Trustees • Anne celebrates that her former mentor, Mike Harrell will be appointed as Great Northern District Superintendent. This is yet another step Bishop Olewine has taken to help healing the conference.
- We are thankful for Jerry Ludeke's wisdom • Terry is grateful for the wonderful family celebration of Mandi's birthday. • For Lyle and Harland's successful surgeries • Travis is feeling better • Linda T is celebrating physical accomplishments as well as learning new ways to be creative • for Brendan's birthday!

Redwood Christian Ashram

As you may have read in the previous Outlook, the first ever Central Valley Christian Ashram was held in early February with Wesley Church well represented. I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to join us at the Redwood Christian Ashram this summer. It will be held at the Redwood Christian Camp located in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains (yes, Redwood trees are included in this retreat). The retreat begins Sunday afternoon, June 30th and ends at lunch time July 4th. Information cards with more details will be in the Narthex. Register by going online at redwoodchristianashram.org/summer25 Early bird discounted registration ends March 31st. Hope to see you there!
--Rob Bewley

KWESI

(Kern Welcoming and Extending
Solidarity to Immigrants)

Five of eight people who wrote Valentine's Day cards to nearly 150 men in ICE detention were from Wesley. Thank you for participating and sending encouraging words to those who anxiously await their fate. Participants included Edee Ellenberger, Susan McQuerrey, Rose Garcia, Vickie Gilley (Rose's sister) and June Braun.

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is March 10. Thank you.

Happy March Birthday to....

4	Michael Daillak
7	Bill Blair
10	Alexia Cavazos
22	Linda Tilton
27	Sammye Jelletich Patrick Mitchell

Happy Anniversary to....

11	Tom and Gina Saba
20	David and Sherry Atkins

*Don't forget to set your
clocks forward one hour
on Sunday, March 9.*

