

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

January 22, 2024

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

January 26: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-10, Luke 4:14-21, "Fill My Plans with Purpose"

February 2: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Luke 4:21-30. "Fill My Wounds with Healing"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching



Each year at this time, we request each of you to renew your subscription to the church's newsletter, "*The Outlook*". It is now time, and for \$15 you can renew for a full year. Mail in your check (P.O. Box 6577, Bakersfield 93386) or place it in the offering plate, designated "*The Outlook*".

A reminder that articles for *The Outlook* are due on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. You may e-mail or call in your articles to the office. *The Outlook* is published and mailed on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. It is not first class so you may not receive the newsletter the next day. It is mailed as a non-profit periodical. If you do not receive the newsletter by the end of the week and have access to the internet you can view it on the church's website: wesleybakersfield.org. Extra newsletters are also in the literature rack in the lobby.

Our thanks to the following people who help with the newsletter: Pastor Anne who proofreads and Nick Strobel for posting the newsletter on our website. Bob and Martha Covey and Jerilyn Smith who occasionally deliver the newsletter to the post office.

–Terry Gonzales, editor

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church Family,

BYOC is Returning!

Wesley's craft group, aptly named Bring Your Own Craft (BYOC), will resume after a several month hiatus on **February 6**. This group gathers to paint, sew, knit, crochet, quilt—or engage in any other handcraft you choose—while enjoying the fellowship of community. Some of us work on personal projects, while others craft items to support mission projects close to our hearts.

Edee Ellenberger and I chose the start date based on our schedules, but we'll take time at our first meeting to discuss whether this day works well for everyone. To take advantage of better lighting, we'll meet in the former Head Start office in the education building. (For those in the Disciple Bible class, it's the same room.) We look forward to creating together again!

Weekend Ashram in Bakersfield

Rob and Liz Bewley have been working tirelessly to bring the Ashram experience to Bakersfield! Many of you know them as active leaders of the Redwood Christian Ashram, a week-long event held annually in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Rob explains, "We can bring a taste of that experience here, but we can't bring the redwood trees!"

This special event will take place at **First United Methodist Church on Stockdale Highway:**

- **February 7:** 5–9 PM
- **February 8:** 8 AM–6 PM

Programs are available for **all ages**, and registration closes **February 1**. For more information, check the details in the Church Narthex or contact Rob and Liz directly. Their phone number is in the church directory.

News from Wesley Trustees

At the Charge Conference on January 20, Wesley approved a land lease agreement with Dish Network. This partnership will allow them to use the cell tower on our property and provide Wesley with much-needed income. If you have any questions about this agreement, please speak with one of the church Trustees.

Unfortunately, the Trustees also reported recent vandalism. While stealing copper, thieves damaged the sanctuary air conditioner. A claim has been submitted to our insurance company, and the Trustees are exploring ways to prevent further incidents. Trustees may need to obtain a loan to secure the area.

During these discussions, someone asked a profound question: "How can we serve the Lord with our buildings in the future?" It's a question for all of us to ponder: How can I serve God today?

Blessings, **Pastor Anne**

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

We pray for healing, for ourselves and others:

- We lift up all who are suffering in southern California due to the extensive damage caused by fires. We pray for full containment and for peace and comfort for those who have suffered loss. Teach us, O God, how we can help in the healing of the suffering • Lea, Balthasar, Danny, & Jenifer—for pain relief and renewed health • Comfort for Jenifer and family—her mother Barbara died on Tuesday • Nancy J—healing
- Linda T—healing, and peace and comfort for those with whom she shares a room • Amanda—comfort
- Michael at UCLA—healing and prayers and prayers for his wife Janice
- Michael in Sacramento—healing and prayers for his wife Gwen • Dairy workers and all who are dealing with issues of the bird flu • Marlene and Bill
- Linda R's whole household: Joseph, Lea, Linda, Brenden and Sage • Healing for all in our conference who are carrying heavy burdens • Rev. Kim Montenegro • Rev. Robin Matthews-Johnson • Judy • Comfort and support for Stella • For Ollie—a beloved pet

Prayers for God's presence in our world:

- We pray for Mr. Trump. May he lead this country forward with justice, compassion, and integrity. • Peace
- Linda R—peace and healing in her home • Laguna Community UMC discovered a gas leak at their church. Please pray for safety as the problem is

addressed. • Protection for our church campus from destructive people and forces • Relief for firefighters and hope for people who have suffered loss from the fires. • People hurt by church politics and drama • Patience for Linda & Lea waiting for a new court date and good decision • Discernment and leadership of the new administration

Prayers of Gratitude and Praise:

- Barbara D as she was able to give comfort and shelter to Rebecca who is displaced by the fire • For the 10 volunteers at Friday's food distribution who were able to feed the hungry
- Gratitude for Taga—a worker in The Orchards. Gratitude that his surgery was successful, and gratitude for his generosity as he helped Linda pay for some items she wanted. • Celebration of Terry's daughter-in-law Jossy's birthday
- Rob—successful surgery • The Atkins family had a wonderful family trip
- God's abundant grace • Anne is honored to have been invited to be on the leadership team for a 5-day Academy for Spiritual Direction in 2026
- Rita Strobel's 91 birthday • for Cindy Wilson's lovely visit with family last week in Santa Maria

Recent donations have been made to The Dream Center, including more than 12 bags of items such as socks, backpacks, hygiene kits, non-perishable food items, and new undergarments. The Jamison Center was already at capacity for donations, so the Dream Center benefitted from all.

*thank
you*

The GBHEM Scholarship

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) scholarship application portal is open for United Methodist students seeking scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study at colleges, universities and seminaries in the United States. Potential scholarships awarded range from \$500 to \$1,200, on average.

In 2024, GBHEM awarded more than 2,100 scholarships, valued at nearly \$3.7 million, to undergraduate and graduate students at 509 U.S. schools. This financial aid helped students of all backgrounds pursue their dreams and education to serve as the next generation of leaders.

The Scholarships Office administers more than 70 scholarship programs with one general application. Students may submit one application per year, which will be screened for the appropriate scholarship program.

Scholarship programs are divided into three categories:

General Scholarships

HBCU Scholarships

Ministry as a Career Scholarships

The deadline to complete the application is Monday, March 31, 2025. Email umscholar@gbhem.org for more information.

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is February 10.

Happy February Birthday to.....

2	Scott Pipkin
3	Corey Johnson Jerry Ludeke
4	Laura Cusator Gina Saba
9	Kathy Harris
11	Jean Shumate
12	Caroline Rous
16	Brendan Bewley
17	Anthony Fariss Mandi Gonzales
21	Jane Custer

Happy Anniversary to....

6	Jonathan and Terry Gonzales
8	Mike and Laura Daillak
26	Kelly and Kathy Blain

