

The Outlook

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

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 12, 2025

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

March 16: Psalm 27, Luke 13:31-35.

"Conceal Me"—Playlist: "Head Above Water" by Avril Lavigne

March 23: Psalm 63:1-8, Luke 13: 1-9. "Luke 13: 1-9."

"My Soul Clings"—Playlist: "Light of Home" by U2

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Meeting Reminder

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m. through Zoom.

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is March 24. Thank you.

Create in me a clean
heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit
within me.

Psalm 51:10

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

More news about the pastoral change

Good News! After consultation with the cabinet, Bishop Olewine now plans to appoint Cindy Lawler as your new pastor beginning July 1. I have known Cindy many years, and I respect her and her faith journey. I know she will lead this wonderful church with integrity and great faith. I feel confident that you will love her. She has led many churches in our conference, and has varied and rich pastoral experience, most recently St. Mark's United Methodist Church here in Bakersfield. She has been on medical leave, so this will be her first appointment in two years. Please welcome her warmly when she joins you here after annual conference. In the meantime, she and I both appreciate your prayers during this time of transition.

Lent is here!

As you know, Lent is underway as we prepare ourselves for a closer walk with God. Our worship series, which began last week, is called "Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist." Each week Discipleship Ministries suggests a musical accompaniment to our contemplative time. I will include their suggestions here in *The Outlook* and on each worship bulletin. As I have noted, the music is contemporary popular music and not available as hymns, so it is best listened to at home during our personal devotions. Coins for Lent continues: Participation is voluntary, but I find it a good reminder of how blessed I am when I daily count the blessings the calendar suggests. The calendar was included in the last edition of *The Outlook*, and additional copies are available at church.

Air Conditioner repair/replacement

Wesley's Trustees are hard at work determining the best solutions for the sanctuary's cooling system. It is complicated, because repair is more cost effective than replacement, but materials and parts have changed, so Trustees, as always, have their work cut out for them. I am always grateful for the hard work they do!

Don't forget this week's Pot Luck luncheon is planned for after worship on March 16. Let us all work together to make this a success. If we share the burden, we will be able to meet more regularly.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

Prayer of healing and comfort:

• Linda T • Nancy J • Siobhan, Corby, Liz and Rob • Bonney F • Sherry's asks continued prayers for her brother Wayne. His new treatment protocol combines chemo and radiation therapies at the same time. This may cause more discomfort, but may also reduce the length of time for treatment • Barbara's sister Carol and her husband both need prayer. Carol has an ear infection, and Bill continues to suffer complications from his prostate surgery. He is in pain and is facing further treatment • David A, feeling "under the weather" • Relief from pain for Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar and Lea. Lea's scheduled Dr.'s appointment was cancelled due to Dr's illness. May she get some answers, relief and real help • Anne's bone density scan results were not good—prayers for patience while awaiting specialist's instructions

We pray for those who are grieving:

• The friends, family and church grieving the loss of Rev. Linda Dew Hiersoux.

We ask God's blessing for other needs:

• So many people out of work • May each of us who are troubled by the political climate find ways to be a positive influence during the chaos and discern the best ways to help. • Terry found a toddler wandering the street alone. She stayed with the child until the sheriff's deputy arrived, but asks for prayers for the child's safety • The people of Ukraine, especially President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy • Wisdom, strength & courage for US allies feeling betrayed or confused • We pray for President Trump, chosen cabinet and advisors—may their hearts be strangely warmed • Linda & family's travel to Valencia • May each of us be blessed with Christian hearts and minds as we hear news that upsets us • All people who are fearful or face uncertainty—may God bless them with comfort, no matter the outcome they face. May justice and compassion prevail. • Relief and calm for Stella • Safety for the people, including first responders of Australia in the wake of strong cyclone • Prayers for all caregivers. May they find respite. • Prayers for all children in foster care • People in war zones • Peace in the world, a just end to war in Palestine and Ukraine • for Ukraine that the country will have God's protection

And God, we praise you for your abundant blessings. We especially give you thanks for:

• Nancy J's good attitude and continued progress—we celebrate with her for her "graduation" from a wheel chair to a walker. She is very grateful for Wesley members continued prayers • A recent financial blessing in Linda's family • Happy birthday to Meghan Droste (Anne's niece) • Happy birthday to Michael Daillak • Barbara is grateful for today's technology that is use for benefit • Congratulations to Brenden who has completed some difficult work • We're grateful for the prayer group • Grateful for recent rain—and possibly more this coming week. • Grateful for fraud detection in banks before bad things

happen • Grateful for Nick's nimble reaction that saved the projector from damage in the BC planetarium • Stella is thankful as the family has gathered to remember with love and celebrate John's 86th 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

John Wesley's Manifesto

1. *Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people*
2. *Help everyone to have a job*
3. *Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage*
4. *Offer the best possible education*
5. *Help everyone to feel they can make a difference*
6. *Promote tolerance*
7. *Promote equal treatment for women*
8. *Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism*
9. *End all forms of slavery*
10. *Avoid getting into wars*
11. *Share the love of God with everyone*
12. *Care for the environment*

