

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”

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Vol. LXVI, #6

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 26, 2025

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

March 30: Psalm 32, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32.

“Steadfast Love”— Playlist: “Rainbow” by Kacey Musgraves

April 6: Psalm 126, John 12: 1-8.

“Fill Me With Laughter”— Playlist: “Cover Me in Sunshine”
by P!NK and Willow Sage Hart

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Special Sunday Offering

UMCOR Sunday celebration is March 30, 2025. This offering is collected on the fourth Sunday in Lent and provides major support for immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace (*UM Communications*) and the gifts lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR’s basic expenses are covered. There will be offering envelopes available in this Sunday’s bulletins or you may mail a check to Wesley, designated UMCOR or give online. Thank you.



♪ A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

News from our District Superintendent, Mary Maaga

DS Mary Maaga informed us last week that 20 out of 61 churches in the Central Valley are experiencing pastoral changes this year. That is one third! Pastoral change is not bad—it is good to listen to a variety of voices in Bible study and in sermons, because we all are growing or trying to grow in faith. But it is also disruptive for laity and clergy alike. DS Mary is asking that we keep all those in transition in prayer.

We are getting closer in our journey toward Easter

Have you been able to keep up with the “Lenten Playlist?” Have you found it enjoyable? I have because I am listening to music that is very different from the genres I usually pick. This worship series will continue until Easter.

Coins for Lent continues: We have decided that this year’s collection will go to KWESI—Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants, a local mission Wesley supports. The calendar was included in the last edition of The Outlook, and additional copies are available at church.

Good Friday Service is scheduled for noon on April 18.

We have all been invited

First Congregational church is hosting a gathering called Building Bridges: A Conversation on Gender, Spirituality and Leadership on April 3 from 6-7:45 pm. Building Bridges in an ecumenical group that involves several local churches. This gathering is intended to be a panel discussion and engaging conversation on the intersection of gender and leadership. Panelists include members from First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, along with other community organizations.

DS Mary Maaga’s First Saturday Webinar April 5: 8-9am on Zoom

These are very interesting discussions on God’s call. April’s theme is “Lazarus Come Out, Do Not Weep, Arise: How is God Calling Us Now?” Here is the link (It is already on Wesley’s web page) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89564237736>; Meeting ID: 895 6423 7736

Blessings, Pastor Anne

KWESI Spring Card Writing 2025

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 1:30 PM

First Congregational Church, 5 Real Road, Bakersfield 93309

Parking lot-off Stockdale Highway beside white chapel

*Bring: pen and postage stamps (first class)

Note: Greeting cards will be provided

Contact Person: June Braun (661) 205-4587

*Postage to mail cards will be provided. If you are able to donate some stamps, we can put a blank, stamped envelope inside the card for the detainee’s use.

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

Prayer of healing and comfort:

• Relief from pain for Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar and Lea • May Balthazar find rest and the ability to pace himself. He had 6-24 hour shifts in a row at the fire station. • Linda T—peace, calm and comfort • Wayne—intense cancer treatment in addition to other medical problems • Siobhan—2nd round of chemo; healing and comfort, and peace for her husband Corby • Nancy J—experiencing intense stomach upset, plus prayers for discernment Stella—relief from stress • Bonney F • Prayers for Rev. Victoria Schlintz and her husband Jerry. Victoria has suffered with ALS for decades, but has now entered hospice care Linda T's friend Michael—healing

We pray for those who are grieving:

• Siteri Maravou (Certified Lay Minister in Mt. View CA) & her family. Siteri has traveled to Fiji to bring her husband's ashes to the island where he grew up.

We ask God's blessing for other needs:

• People in war zones • That Nick's students study for their exams • Peace with justice in Palestine and Israel • Peace with justice in Ukraine and Russia • For unhoused people in Bakersfield • For David running an orphanage in Kenya. May he receive the help he needs, and may Matthew have discernment to find ways to help. • We pray for an end to human trafficking, and we pray healing for victims • Prayers for people without faith; may we be able to spread God's love and good news

• Protection for the people facing dangerous storms in the South • For the people in the LA area facing heavy rain following so soon after devastating fires • The many people out of work • People in war zones—we pray for progress in peace talks around the world • We pray for all who have lost their jobs since the new administration has taken over—most without cause, and some rehired days later—all whose lives have been disrupted by the chaos • We pray for those who are in fear • We pray for the rule of law, not power and money • We pray for our democracy • Safety for children in foster care • People seeking documentation • Churches and pastors in transition. There are 20 out of 61 churches in the Central Valley • Churches and pastors in transition. There are 20 out of 61 churches in the Central Valley facing pastoral changes this year. Pray for all involved. • For David who works at an orphanage in Kenya—for food, strength in the face of hardship, peace, clarity and serenity

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

• The technology and innovation that help doctors • The work of Barbara, Rose, Marlene and Ernie, who did a lovely job of setting up for the potluck. And the many hands that helped with the cleanup. • Rev. Robin Matthews-Johnson, who was said to have inoperable cancer, is finally responding to treatment and doing better!

In The Military

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers.

Chris Armantrout - Navy
Nathan Ashlock - Marines
Nick Buckridge - Army National Guard
Mark Andrew Caldwell - Marines
Alex Campbell - Navy
Josh Caughran - Navy
Megan Dexter - Army Reserves
Bradley Delacruz - Army
Jerome Garey - Air Force
Dan Hanel - Air Force
Greg Hanel - Air Force
Kaylyn Dane-Kulland - National Guard
Anthony Mitchell jr. - Air Force
Kenneth Oberg - Navy
Rebecca Oberg - Air Force
Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp
Carsten Strobel. - Army
Spring Walden - Air Force
Joel Watson - Navy
Josephine Wells-Ashley - Marines
Laura Yoon - Navy
David Yoon - Navy

The pillar candle on the altar is to remind us of our prayers for them

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is April 7. Thank you.

Happy April Birthday to.....

1	Dan O'Dell
2	Marvin Barnes Jeanette Wilson
8	Kelly Blain
9	Megan Barnes Lorraine Ross
19	Travis Santos
24	Dolores Shumate
29	Lisa Neath
30	Patrick Bender

Happy Anniversary to....

4	Michael and Jeanne Hurry
27	Patrick and Linda Mitchell