

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXVI, #9

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

May 14, 2025

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

May 18: Acts 11: 1-18, John 13: 31-35. "Freedom to Love"

May 25: Revelation 21: 1-10, 22: 1-5, John 5: 1-9. "Freedom to Heal"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Charge Conference

There will be a special charge conference on Zoom on Tuesday, May 20 at 5:30 pm to approve the new pastor's salary package. The monthly Administrative Council meeting will follow.

Attention Wesley Graduates!

If you are graduating from Jr. High, High School, or College/University, please email Terry at office@wesleybakersfield.org by Monday, May 26th. Announcements will be published in *The Outlook*. Please include the school graduating from, future plans, and any awards.

Thank You

Thank you for your generosity. \$335 was collected for UMCOR Sunday. \$163 was collected for Native American Ministries.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

Easter Season Continues

As you know, every Sunday we celebrate the Risen Christ, so we “churchy folks” consider every Sunday a little Easter. And as I mentioned last month, Easter is a way of seeing the world—it is an outlook of hope, no matter what chaos is going on in the world. The weeks between Easter Sunday and Pentecost are called the Easter season, so we will celebrate The Cup of Freedom until June 8.

Music at Wesley

This Sunday is extra special because we are celebrating music! The Chancel choir takes a hiatus every year during the summer months, so we celebrate our love of music before the break begins. Please be sure not to miss music Sunday in person or online. That said, I would like to find several people to volunteer to lead the hymns in June while Nick is away. Of course, Patrick will play each on the piano, but leading hymns is especially important for people who worship with us online. The volunteers may be asked to help out in July as well, but I am not certain of that because one of Pastor Cindy’s daughters is very talented, and she may be willing to help out. Please let me know if you can help in June. The more volunteers we have, the less pressure on any single person.

Special Offerings

Our “Coins for Lent” offering was sorted and counted by the wonderful Ernestine Torres and those heavy rolls of coins were lugged to the bank and deposited by wonderful Terry Gonzales. The total collected for that project was \$179.58. Thank you to all!

The Trustees are asking the congregation to consider making either a donation or a loan to help cover the gap between the insurance payment and the cost of the new HVAC system. Wesley has received several generous donations, but there still remains a shortfall, so your prayerful consideration is requested.

While you are praying about gifts to the church, we have one more need you might consider. The missions committee has realized a need to ask for on-going donations to the food ministry. All the labor for that ministry comes from volunteers, and we receive food from the CapK Food Bank. Fresh fruits and vegetables as well as frozen meats are available for a very low price—I believe it is 19 cents per pound. But there are many people in our community who suffer from food insecurity, so we would like to make sure we have the funds to provide healthy food for neighbors in need, so please prayerfully consider this giving opportunity as well.

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Charge Conference

There will be a special charge conference on Zoom on May 20 at 5:30 pm to approve the new pastor's salary package. All church constituents may attend, all members have voice and vote. Those who are part of Administrative Council will receive an invitation. All others who would like an invitation, please request one from me—I was asked to provide a link, but I want to avoid sending the link out “into the universe” to avoid possible bad actors joining in. The regular Administrative Council meeting will follow.

Trustees at work

Our Trustees continue to stay up-to-date maintaining the church buildings and campus. They have located and solved several other waters leaks since the major one was fixed last month. The sanctuary was without air conditioning last Sunday, but the new system is being installed as I write this, so we will be cool all summer. Thank you, Trustees for all your hard work.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

Prayer of healing and comfort:

- Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar and Lea
- Siobhan • Nancy J • Linda T & her mother, Linda J • Bonney F • Bill • Anna L • Wayne • Shawna— healing and discernment for herself and her medical team • Margaret—(Steve M's niece)
- Pastor Cindy L • Kathy A • Linda R
- The Pacheco family • Sherry—relief of stress • Prayers of peaceful transition for Carl Aamodt and his wife Sarah. After a horrible ski accident in February, he has decided to begin hospice care, to be free from the pain.

We pray for those who are grieving:

- For Gary Schlintz and for all the friends and family of Rev. Victoria Schlintz. May she rest in peace after more than two decades suffering from ALS.

We ask God's blessing for other needs:

- All students and teachers at the end of the term, especially Charlie as he studies for finals and prepares for summer study in Africa
- All congregations, pastors and their families affected by appointment changes
- For President Trump-May he lead the country well
- For John R—discernment
- All care givers, especially Lawana
- We pray for a way for John R to obtain insurance coverage he needs to obtain necessary medication
- Stella asks for prayers to help her overcome her tendency to procrastinate.
- We pray for all children in foster care
- We pray for churches experiencing turmoil: The Table, Laguna Country UMC and others
- Danny and Jenifer have squirrels in their house that need to find other logings
- Peace in the world—especially to relive the horrible suffering in Gaza

• We pray for Pope Leo XIV, that he leads with mercy, compassion and discernment • We pray for people to show mercy, respect and treat all people with dignity • For Cindy L's daughter Opal who begins a brand new job • We pray many blessing for the newlyweds Allison and Andrew • for Tiffany as she was hired at Bakersfield College for a summer job • Tiffany's husband David as he begins a teaching position at trade school

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

• For beautiful music at BC's outdoor concert • Sherry is grateful for Wayne's continued progress, and she gives thanks for all our prayers • For wonderful friends and the joy of times to be together • New HVAC system being installed this week—and safety for the workers. • Welcome Baby Amity—the Bewley's first grandchild, born May 8. Congratulations to her parents, Cassidy and Ian • For the way DS Luis Garcia has helped the leadership in Laguna Country UMC • We are grateful the Conclave has elected a Pope to lead our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church • Siobhan has recovered enough to resume treatments, which is good news, but the great news her most recent MRI can no longer detect the cancer. Thanks be to God! • blessings of new life in the birth of Lincoln Thomas Faulk, Nick Strobel's great-nephew. Grandparents are Todd and Emily.

Looking Ahead at Wesley

June 1: Rev. Alice Oberg presides

June 8: Pastor Anne presides
Pentecost Acts 2: 1-21, John 14: 8-17, 25-27. "Filled with God's Spirit"

June 15: Bill Blair presides

June 22: Bill Blair presides

June 29: Rev. Eric Brown presides while many Wesley leaders are at Annual Conference. Please welcome him warmly.

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is Monday, May 26. Thank you.