

The Outlook

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

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Vol. LXIII, #2

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

January 27, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship on Facebook

January 31: Psalm 111, Mark 1:21-28, "Whole Heart Hallelujah"

February 7: Psalm 147, Mark 1:29-39, "We Wait, We Hope, We Stay"

February 14: Psalm 50, Mark 9:2-9, "The One is Shining Forth"

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 or place it in the offering plate, designated "The Outlook".

From the Editor

A reminder that articles for *The Outlook* are due on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. You may e-mail, fax, or turn in your articles to the office. Your cooperation is appreciated. *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 don't 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, Nick Strobel for posting the newsletter on our website, Bonney Friday proofreads and helps with the mailing. Louise Clay, Bob and Martha Covey, and Jerilyn Smith take turns delivering the newsletters to the main post office on Pegasus Drive.

—Terry Gonzales, editor

Wesley's New Mailing Address
P.O. Box 6577
Bakersfield, CA 93386

♫ A Note from the Pastor

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6: 8

If you are like me, your emotions have been on a virtual rollercoaster this month. Like most of the nation, I was frightened, shocked and appalled by the violence of the attack on the US Capital by insurrectionists on January 6. I was relieved and pleased by the peaceful transition of power exactly two weeks later. And I doubt that many of us, no matter our political leanings, remained dry-eyed while hearing Amanda Gorman's moving poem, *The Hill We Climb*, which calls us to seek a better nation. "The norms and notions of what just is / isn't always justice." Wow. We are called every day to make our world a better place, to seek light and justice for all. We have a lot of work to do; a lot of healing. The first step toward healing is loving, and the next step is really listening. Bishop Carcaño warned us of possible attacks on "liberal churches" on January 17, especially those in state capitals. When there were none, she was at first relieved. But while checking social media, she saw the question, "Why target churches?" and she pondered that. She hoped to hear the response "that churches are targeted because we have stood for everything that White Supremacists stand against – racial inclusion, racial equity, religious diversity, immigrant rights, refugee resettlement, restorative justice..." but when no answer was forthcoming, she had to lament that "we the Church have not raised our voice sufficiently to be heard." (Message from the Bishop, January 17, 2021.) I am very glad the church was not violently attacked, but it makes me wonder: have I—have we—raised our voices against racial oppression, white supremacy, restorative justice and all the ills that plague our country? In a conversation I had with Rabbi Jonathan Klein of Bakersfield Temple Beth El, my passions for doing justice include racial justice and immigrant rights. What are yours? Are we the church speaking loudly enough to "get in good trouble?" (a la John Lewis).

As glad as I am that Wesley was not violently targeted, I am sorry to report that we have seen too much vandalism lately. Our wonderfully strong "mail safe" kept our mail from being stolen, but vandals tried so hard to pick the lock that they broke it. Vandals also kicked in a window in one of the doors on the west side of the building. Trustees have fixed the window and have obtained a Post Office box for our mail, but please keep the church property and our Trustees in your prayers. (The PO box number is 6577, and the zip code has changed to 93386).

PLEASE HELP! Marv Davisson has been the chair of Finance Committee for as long as I have been pastor at Wesley and probably longer. He has many other duties and is hoping to give this job up next year. Thus Wesley needs a new Finance Committee chair. The chairperson calls the committee together to meet about once a quarter. He or she needs to be able to read and interpret the reports made by our accountant

and report to the Administrative Council. Marv is willing to train the new volunteer to do the job well. The new chair will not hold office until January 2022, but I want to identify a qualified person as soon as possible so effective training can be completed before the person steps into the job. These are the qualifications: ability to understand the process of making a budget with the committee's help. Discipleship Ministries of the UMC adds these qualifications: "The chair of finance needs a strong understanding of biblical stewardship and management of all that God provides. Basic skill with financial matters is helpful and can be supplemented by skills of others on the committee. Useful skills and experience for this position are the ability to listen to and communicate with people of all ages; skills and interest in financial budgetary matters; a passion for financially supporting the mission of making Christian disciples for the transformation of the world; and the ability to work with individuals and ministry teams." More information is at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/finance-committee2>. If you have these qualifications, please let me know. I ask that we **all** pray for God to lead the person with these qualifications to step forward, and for the Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership to have discernment for selecting the right candidate.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers of Joys and Concerns

O God we pray your healing blessing:

for all affected by COVID, especially Francine and Joe; (they are feeling better)
For Cheryl and Larry Stevenson whole family tested positive and are quite ill
For all who have experienced loss during this pandemic
For others who are ill: Anthony Mitchell is out of the hospital, but continues to need our prayers
For Jack & Shelly
For Linda Tilton
Carolyn Dethlefson—healing for her eye
Barbara D's brother John
David Scott—healing and comfort
Stella Rous' family in Arkansas
Brian Hill awaiting a bone marrow biopsy. May the people who care for him find a way so he is again in remission
On Stella Rous' brother Jack and sister-in-law Katherine. Blessings on the care-giver Shannon. Gratitude that their health has improved some, and that they are able to be placed in the same rehab facility
For Barbara Dethlefson's brother John
For Anthony Mitchell
For Corby's uncle Kevin

For Linda Tilton—that she may have increased mobility
For Linda Tilton's mother Linda Jones—for strength and healing
For Sheila, a CNA at The Orchards who has back pain
For Jill Hanley and family in the death of her mother, Wanda Jean Garner, on November 21, 2020 due to a stroke

O God, there are many other people who need your blessing:

Many people need discernment about the COVID vaccines, especially nursing mothers
Pray for discernment & change of heart for people who raid mailboxes. May they find better resources
Continued prayer for our country, especially during this transition that is not as peaceful as we'd like. May we all seek peace and love rather than revenge.
Safety for all buildings in capital cities everywhere.
For all people to learn to value objective reality instead of lies and rumors. May God guide us to be open to understanding and agree to basic facts
For Stella & her son John Rous: for guidance and discernment
We pray for Kelly to have a successful job interview.
For the teachers and students during final's week
Prayers for Ryan's safety, and that the person who is mistreating him will have a change of heart
For all who are homeless, hungry and alone.
For all who grieve today
For the family and friends of Judy Simmons who dies of COVID on 1/19
For the family of John Akland
For all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic

O God, there are many other places that need your blessing:

For our church vandalized last week (the broken window has been replaced thanks to the Trustees. The wonderful mail safe has been vandalized.
Pray for safety for all houses of worship this week due to threats from white supremacy groups
Wisdom for the incoming administration and all elected officials. May they all be instruments of peace
May all members of Congress show wisdom, kindness and follow rules for everyone's safety
Peace on Wednesday and safety for all law enforcement, including Jonathan Gonzales
Peace in Washington DC
We pray for all government leaders—National, State, County and City. May they have wisdom and discernment
We pray Cabinet members will be approved without much delay so work can get started
We pray for a new Finance chair at Wesley who can be trained before next year.
We pray for the end of discrimination in our country
For our country and it's leaders
For all who live in conflict around the world
For travel safety for Elizabeth, the Atkins granddaughter who is on an 8-day soccer tour. May she be protected from the virus.

Prayers for peace and safety
For the leaders of this church community
For the equitable distribution of the COVID vaccine throughout the world

O God we are grateful for:

Hearing from old friends
The vaccine program—and we pray for good management to make availability easier
and available across the globe
The luxury of patience as we wait for the vaccine
For hands that have kept us fed: in fields, in stores, etc.
For the wisdom of Bill Thomas
For the members of Congress who had the courage to vote their conscience
Pastor Anne got to see Carolyn, who she has been missing
Prayer group where we see smiling faces
Shawn Collin's passion for ministry
Good teachers
For the life of Wendell Kenny who lived 102 years. Peace and comfort for his family
For all care-givers and hospital personnel
Sherry Atkin's medical tests came back with good results
Several people have received the first dose of the COVID vaccine & are grateful
For peace in DC during the Inauguration. May peace continue.
RAIN!
Thanks for the life and witness of Hank Aaron
Thanks that Josephine, who was scratched in the eye by her cat, did not receive a bad
injury.
Rita Strobel's 87th birthday. She was able to be blessed by a visit from her
granddaughters
The US's renewed membership in World Health Org. & Paris Peace Accord
Fewer colds and flu now that we are following good health procedures.
For the life and witness of John Ackland, and gratitude that family reconciliation took
place before his passing
For Rose Lester's poetry
For music
Grateful that BC's semester is off to a good start
Nick is grateful for the strength and ability to do hard yard work
Michael Daillak's daughter's whole family had COVID, but they didn't tell him until they
had recovered. Gratitude for healing. For Amanda Gorman's poetry

In The Military

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers.

Chris Armantrout - US Navy
Nathan Ashlock - US Marines
Nick Buckridge - Army National Guard
Alex Campbell - Navy
Josh Caughran - Navy
Megan Darling - Army Reserves
Bradley Delacruz - Army
Kurt Droste - US Marines
Rebek'ah Fore - Navy
Jerome Garey - Air Force
Rebecca Garey - Air Force
Dan Hanel - US Air Force
Greg Hanel - US Air Force
Colin Harrigan - US Marine Corp
Kenneth Oberg - Navy
Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp
Tiela Roland - US Air Force
Spring Walden - US Air Force
Joel Watson - Navy
Josephine Wells-Ashley - US Marines
Shon Willis - US Army
Laura Yoon - US Navy
David Yoon - US Navy

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

Happy February Birthday to...

1	Dominic Hernandez
2	Scott Pipkin
3	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 Hanley
26	Rose Gonzales
28	Ruth Shivers

Happy Anniversary to....

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