

# The Outlook

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

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

July 14, 2021

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

**July 18:** Samuel 7:1-14, Mark 6:1-13, "Sharing the New Creation"

**July 25:** Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6: 14-29, "God's Economy"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, Preaching

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## *Looking for help!*

Wesley is looking for help! Please consider one of these ministry opportunities:

Accept the position of Finance chair in 2022 (please contact Anne Schlesinger)

Join the Tech team (please contact Linda Ramirez)

We are looking to hire: a choir director (please contact Rob Bewley).

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## *Our Sympathy*

The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to:

Barbara Dethlefson and her son, James Dethlefson, in the death of their daughter/sister, Carolyn Dethlefson, on June 26, 2021. Carolyn was a member of Wesley since 1984. A memorial service was held at Wesley Church on July 10, 2021. She will be greatly missed.

Nancy Jacobus, Roxann Jacobus, Carrie Jacobus, daughter-in-law, Trish (Rapple) Jacobus in the death of their mother, Ruth Jacobus, on July 8, 2021. Ruth was a member of Wesley since 1959. She will be greatly missed.



## ♫ A Note from the Pastor

***The Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" Cain said, "I don't know. Am I my brother's guardian?" The Lord said, "What did you do? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. Genesis 4: 9-10***

We continue to have hybrid worship, and more people seem to be showing up in the sanctuary to worship in person. I find that encouraging, and yet I haven't completely figured out the post-COVID new normal. I had hoped we would wear masks at least while singing, but it has been so very hot that mask wearing is difficult. I will continue to wear my mask as often as possible, and I suggest that for all vaccinated people, but those still unvaccinated should be masked for their safety as well as others. That said, there will be no judgement for the choices we have made.

As I mentioned in worship last Sunday, I attended a meeting last Thursday called "Active Shooter Training for Religious Institutions." A rather grim subject that hopefully will never be necessary in Wesley. The presenter was part of Homeland Security, and they are willing to do assessments for free for all religious institutions to point out ways of keeping people safe. As I said, I believe Wesley is very safe, but it is good to be aware and cautious. The places most often targeted are Mosques and Synagogues, so I want to keep such places in our prayers and I would like us to be a place of support should violence occur in the places our brothers and sisters worship. We are indeed our sibling's guardians.

The Growing Young Cohort is coming to an end at Wesley. We have one more webinar on July 24. Because of COVID, we have not had a lot of outreach in schools and other places young people frequent, but I hope we can all keep that in mind now and in the future. Focus on young families is good for the whole church. Please keep this in your prayers. I have said more than once that making disciples in more than growing the church. Making disciples is about transforming the world, leading us all toward God's kingdom.

Our Tuesday morning Bible study group is no longer meeting, so I would like to start a new group. I propose a Wednesday evening class—perhaps at 5:30—to meet in The Gathering Place. I would like to start the first week in August with a class on the *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, by Amy-Jill Levine. It is a 6-week study, and I will be away on vacation beginning September 14, so beginning the first week of August will mean we will not have to break and re-start. Please let me know if you're interested but the time doesn't work for you. We will be flexible to try to include all who are interested! We can have a hybrid meeting both in-person and on Zoom if you're interested.

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We have had a small but mighty youth group who created a wonderful garden. They worked very hard and we have had some delicious produce. However, the 100+ degree days have made the garden a bit bedraggled, and one of our faithful members will be on an extended vacation, and another cannot meet on a weekday afternoon. It has also been way too hot to work in a garden in the afternoon. Therefore, youth group is on hiatus for the time being. I am considering meeting at church at another time. If you have youth who are interested, please let me know their availability. Would Sunday after church work better? A different weekday at a different time? We have had fun—but games will be more fun with a larger group. Our most faithful youth members are Cheyann and Carter, so we have to pick a time they are available. Please let me know. Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 12.

Blessings, Pastor Anne

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## *Joys and Concerns*

### **Lord, we pray for comfort and healing for:**

- Fred C—relief from pain • Shawna D.
- Peter C and for his family
- Barbara and Basil
- Carolyn A. & Jerry S • Don H
- Bob: open heart surgery
- Ashley and Micah following an auto accident • Linda R.
- Lorraine C • Susan M • Linda T
- Eddy L • People in Missouri—rise in COVID cases
- For Barbara's brother John
- For Amelia Josephine — 5 year old with undiagnosed pain.
- For Blas—successful surgery and comfort during his recovery
- For Alvesa C

### **We pray for peace in our world**

#### **We pray blessings on:**

- Sarah T
- Linda's sister Lawana—blessings on her recent marriage
- Katelynn and family
- People without air conditioners and

people who work outdoors

- Foster parents, especially Miss Cathy
- The Rous family
- People in the path of the tropical storm
- Pastors in transition
- World leaders: may they hear God's call & have peace in their hearts
- Sharon, her daughter and grandson—experiencing a difficult situation
- Michael—anxiety, feelings of crisis

### **We pray travel mercies for all people traveling this week, including:**

- The Ludeke family & Friends on a backpacking adventure
- Laura's family
- The Atkins family—especially safety from fires near their route
- For Eddy

### **We pray peace and comfort for all who grieve, especially**

- The Dethlefson family • Linda T
- The Jacobus family
- Those who lost family in Stillwater Florida & those whose loved ones are

missing

**We pray blessings on all who celebrate their birthdays this week, especially**

- Vanessa • Trevor • Bob • Alexa • Cathy
- Lisa

**We pray**

- For all who are challenged by the hot weather—we pray for relief and for rain
  - For firefighters
  - For parents and others to have open minds as we pass on traditions to our children and grandchildren
  - For the victims, survivors, rescue workers and all involved in the high-rise collapse in Florida
  - That the Santos family may find affordable housing
  - For comfort for the survivors of sexual crimes following the release of a sex offender on technical grounds.
- We pray for redemption of the perpetrator, too
- For cooler temperatures across the nation
  - For Stella and her family
  - For children in Foster care
  - For the Ashram event happening in the coming week.
  - Comfort for Rose for her court date next week
  - For all the animals fearful of because of fireworks

**We give thanks, O God, for the countless blessings for which we are thankful, including:**

- The wonderful connections made at Bakersfield College
- The life and witness of Ruth Jacobus
- A wonderful vacation
- Technology that keeps us connected
- The gifts of nature
- The blessing Barbara felt at hearing

John's voice

- Jerry's visit with her sons
- For Delores' successful move
- For good friends
- For the memories shared and love experienced in families
- The life of Carolyn D—especially her beautiful voice
- For the support of family and friends
- For the Strobel family's lovely vacation
- For Kelly and Sarah's move to new apartments