

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 24, 2021



Worship on Facebook Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Palm Sunday, March 28, 10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Matthew 9: 1-8;
Sermon: "Holy, Wholly"

Good Friday, April 2, 5:30 p.m.

Primary scripture: Matthew 10: 1-8
(There will be many scriptures and no sermon during this service. You are invited to have some oil for anointing for this worship. A small bit of olive oil works well.)

Easter, April 4, 10:30 a.m.

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11, John 20: 11-18;
Sermon: "Christ is Risen!"

Easter

♫ A Note from the Pastor

When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God. —Leviticus 19:33-34

I am appalled at the racism that continues to run rampant in this country. As many of you know, our after worship study is focused on how to become anti-racist. We believe it is not enough to not be racist ourselves, we must also combat racism in all its forms wherever we encounter it. Many of us have been on a spectrum of awareness, from surprised by some systemic forms of racism to very aware of the mistreatment of people based solely on their skin color or by the culture in which they were raised. During the past several weeks the news media has included many stories of racism and xenophobia perpetrated on our Asian-American brothers and sisters.

Many people who do not consider themselves racist and who would never even consider perpetrating any violence against a person based on race can be surprised that they harbor certain attitudes that stem from racist training and colonialist thought throughout our lives. I remember a book that my Dad read to me when I was a little child called *Magic for Mary M* by Charlotte Baker. It was about a little girl growing up in Texas during an oil boom and the adventures she had when several small children were left at her grandmother's boarding house. I loved that book! But I did not know what happened to it after I grew up and left home. I looked for it in libraries and used book stores, but it wasn't until the rise of the internet that I was able to find it. When I re-read the book, I found out it was filled with dialogue that offensively portrayed the family's African American cook. I had to stop reading *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett to my little girl because of the racist language. How many slurs and putdowns of so called "others" help shape us when we are too young to understand them?

A number of years ago I served a multi-cultural church. A number of cultural norms of one group surprised and, in some cases upset, the other group. It took a lot of hard work for these faithful Christians to be able to work together because much of our cultural awareness is below the surface. We all must be ready to do this hard work. Bishop Carcaño sent a letter outlining ways we can work to combat the hatred of Asian Americans. Let us consider ways we can act together to make a difference by supporting the work of Asian American and Pacific Islander congregations in California and beyond. The Bishop's suggestions are on the next page.

May God bless us all,
Pastor Anne

Declaring publicly that we stand with the Asian-American community – put it on your church's signboard, in your bulletins, newsletters, in a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

• **Reaching out to our Asian-American neighbors and extending support to them** – put on your mask and go knock on the door of your neighbor and say you wanted to make sure they were safe.

• **Offering to accompany Asian-American elderly and women on the streets of our communities** – say to them “I am concerned about your safety may I walk with you”.

• **Engaging with Asian-American community organizations to learn what we can do to express our solidarity** – call the organizations and say you want to know how to be supportive of the Asian-American community and invite them to speak to a zoom gathering of your church.

• **Praying without ceasing for Asian-American families** – at every worship service, every meeting, as we arise in the morning and as we end our day, with special care to teach our children to pray with us.

Prayers of Joys and Concerns

God there are many people and places in need of your healing blessing. We lift up these names for healing of body, mind, and spirit.

- Sue Flanagan • Katelynn Patterson
- Vivian Moore • Brian Hill • Natalie
- John • Carol • Jack • Sylvia
- Craig Strobel • Ryan • Burt
- Bonnie • Janie Flores • Caroline D
- Jerry Smith and Carolyn Ashlock
- Natalie • Linda • Freda • Cindy
- Bonnie and Bert
- For “long haulers”—people who have had COVID and have an especially long recovery • We pray for more much-needed rain.
- All people incarcerated: may the justice system work for all
- For all care-givers, paid professionals and unpaid family members, especially those trying to help uncooperative people
- For all people grieving, especially men who are struggling

- For the many people at our nation's border, especially children with no parents with them
- Sherry and all care givers
- Asian Americans—comfort for those who are fearful
- All persons put down by racism
- We pray for all racists—may God heal them of their broken thoughts & ideas
- Places recovering from storms, especially people in places without potable water and people with destroyed homes
- Recovery from natural disasters
- Prayers for the Administration—our president, Vice President and all government officials
- People stressed from working long hours
- Students facing exams—may they study hard and do well
- Safe travel for the Strobel girls
- All people who are working toward sobriety, and for those who struggle to

maintain it

God, we give thanks for the numerous blessings in our lives, including:

- For the PBS film that highlights the Mr. Rogers volunteer award.
- That Lukas tested negative for COVID
- The celebration the Rous children had in celebration of John's birthday
- Rain
- For Tiffany and Allison who both passed their CBEST
- Nick's Mom had her second vaccine with no adverse reaction
- For the technology that is helping us stay connected
- For the opportunity to meet baby Zev
- For reconciliations • For healing
- For good test results
- For good weather
- For vaccinations
- Jerry's good test results
- Samantha's new job
- The ability to safely have lunch with relatives
- Eddy's book of reflections and beautiful photography
- For Victoria's song
- Barbara's sister was able to visit with family
- All volunteers working for good in the world
- Wesley's new youth group and the garden they are working on
- Positive celebrations
- For considerate people
- Richard Rohr's meditations, devotions, and prayers
- For family traditions that bring joy
- For joy in the midst of difficult times
- For Wifi earbuds
- For Linda R's patience with the tech crew
- Carolyn's healing
- For the ability to visit with vaccinated friends

Happy April Birthday to.....

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|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Dan O'Dell |
| 2 | Marvin Barnes
Jeanette Wilson |
| 8 | Kelly Blain |
| 9 | Megan Barnes
Lorraine Ross |
| 12 | Jack Henderson |
| 16 | David Schlesinger |
| 18 | James Cusator
Richard Mingus |
| 20 | Carolyn Dethlefson
Eric Shumate |
| 24 | Dolores Shumate |
| 29 | Lisa Neath |
| 30 | Patrick Bender |

Happy Anniversary to....

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|----|----------------------------|
| 4 | Michael and Jeanne Hurry |
| 27 | Patrick and Linda Mitchell |