

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

May 12, 2021

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

Worship series from Easter through Pentecost Sunday: "Dare to Dance"

May 16 (Ascension Sunday):

Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Luke 24:44-53,
"Gone Up With a Shout: Clap Your Hands"

May 23 (Pentecost Sunday):

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Acts 2 (Selected verses), John 15:26-16:4b-15.
"Spirit Poured Out: Dare to Dance Again"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Dream Center

The Dream Center is open. This center assists current and former foster youth up to age 25 with successful transitioning to adulthood. This center is one of Wesley's mission projects. Donations of new or gently used items make meaningful differences for Kern's youth.

WISH LIST:

Hygiene Supplies: individual shampoos, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, combs/hair brushes and personal care items for women.

Food Items: Individually wrapped snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, trail mix), bottled beverages and reusable water bottle containers. Food items for snack bags.

Clothing: t-shirts (M,L,XL), Young women's underwear, Men's belts, Men's boxers, Men's and Women's clothing (all sizes - casual and dress).

Monetary Donations: Provide Emergency food, Rental deposit assistance, Used refrigerator or stove for first apartment.

Ingredients for cooking classes, lunch and cake for monthly birthday celebrations.

All items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings.

Thank you,

-Wesley Mission Committee

♫ A Note from the Pastor

[Jesus said] But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ~ John 16: 5-7

This week we celebrate the Ascension. Ascension Thursday, sometimes known as “Holy Thursday” is the 40th day of Easter (39 days after Easter Sunday). We will mark it on Sunday, but John Wesley thought it important to celebrate in church—one out of only three weekdays to be celebrated in a church service. The other two are Good Friday and Christmas, but we at Wesley Bakersfield have mid-week services on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Christmas Eve.

According to John’s Gospel, the Risen Christ spent quite a bit of time physically being with the disciples during those 40 days between that first Easter morning and the day of his ascension. My guess is those disciples expected him to stay with them for the rest of their lives. But Jesus said he would send the world the Spirit of Truth to teach them (and us!) about truth even when the time came that the disciples were scattered and could no longer meet together. But we have assurance that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus will be with us.

May 23 is Pentecost, the day we fully celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. If you come to worship in person that day, please wear red. I will be on vacation the day after Pentecost until June 8. I will not be leaving town, but my youngest granddaughter will be spending two weeks with me so we will be taking day trips and won’t be around much. She would like to experience youth group, so I will not cancel that even though I will be officially on vacation.

In the last issue of *The Outlook*, I asked for two volunteers to complete the tech team roster, a person to chair the finance committee in 2022, and a Spanish interpreter. I have received one answer—I have someone who would like to share the job of Spanish interpreter, so I invite someone to step up and help with that job. And now I also need someone who will assist me at our youth group gathering on Friday afternoons during July. (We meet at the parsonage.) Cindy Lawler, pastor at St. Mark’s UMC is assisting through May, but she is having surgery the first week of June, so she will be on disability leave for two months. Safe Gathering (formerly called Safe Sanctuary) guidelines say that there must be at least two adults present when meeting with young people. I will continue to lead the youth group, and I have volunteers to help me through June, but I need volunteers in July. When one joins the church, one promises to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. I am asking members to fulfill these promises. Please! I need your help. Which of these jobs is God calling you help with? Please pray on it.

Pastor Anne

Prayers of Joys and Concerns

We ask your healing blessing for all who are struggling in body, mind, relationships, and spirit, especially:

- Carolyn D. • David R. • Barbara's brother John • Travis S
- for our troubled planet and nation,
- Natalie—continued prayers (child following heart surgery)
- Natalie—an adult with breast cancer
- Ruth J—and for God's presence to be with all who care for her during her procedure
- All people who have COVID
- Stella's family, especially Jack (and Stella!)
- Sherry • Donna Sander's mother
- Daniella and her mother Rose who cares for her
- Margaret's sister Frances
- Baby in Stanford with a head injury
- Linda T. • Carol • Bob and Pat W.
- Bob and Nancy S • George B

We ask for discernment for people making tough decisions, especially:

- For Larry and Carolyn Lonsinger & comfort & support
- Politicians making decisions about refugees and asylum seekers—all immigrants
- Barbara D's brother John
- That the US carry out God's purposes, especially helping people in deep poverty
- Debbie making decisions about her family
- For patience and wisdom at BC's Academic Senate's meeting & that Nick will lead well
- For Ryan to remain patient and calm as he awaits the decisions of others
- For all people making decisions about the COVID vaccine

- Oncologists making decisions about procedures for ill persons
- Regarding John's housing situation

We ask for comfort for:

- Children (and others) at the border
- India and other places in the world facing huge challenges—may they feel God's love & power
- All people with worries and reactions to the COVID vaccine
- John M and family
- Verne and family at the loss of his sister Alene
- For Mary Droste
- For people around the world unable to have traditional rituals that help them heal as they mourn the passing of loved ones
- Caroline R—isolated because she was exposed to COVID
- People who have not had the vaccine
- For Kelly and her two boys

We pray for Mother's Day:

- For those without a good relationship with their mothers
- For mothers who are unable to be with their children
- For women who long to be mothers
- For women who have lost children
- Thanks for all the "ladies who mother the church"

We pray in gratitude for our numerous blessings, especially for:

- Beautiful spring weather, including a bit of rain!
- For the strides made to help people with disabilities

~continued on the next page~

- Support from friends and family—esp. Margaret Grant and Robert Droste
- For service dogs and Canines helping in police departments
- Vanessa's continued healing
- Laura able to meet with family 1st time in more than a year
- Rob. B able to hug his mother for the first time in a long time
- Trustees & all their work—this week for turning on swamp coolers. But Trustees work on many many maintenance, repair and other issues. Thank you!!!!
- The beauty of the world in all its diversity
- People working in vaccine clinic and providers of the vaccine
- For the bank fraud department who save people from fraudulent transactions
- Maribel's son—he was missing, but now he has been found.
- Brian's ability to drive again
- Laura's sister Liz on her 70th birthday
- Madison Tomlin's 25th birthday
- Brendan's job offer!!! • June did not need an eye procedure
- For the life and witness of Lois Carp
- The ability to have outings with friends

Attention Wesley Graduates!

If you are graduating from Jr. High, High School, or College/University, please email Terry at office@wesleybakersfield.org by Friday, May 21st. Announcements will be published in *The Outlook*. Please include the school graduating from, future plans, and any awards. Thank you.

Thank You

Thank you for your generosity. Wesley Church collected \$380 for UMCOR Sunday last month.

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Joy and happiness goes out to the person who gave Pastor Anne the yellow envelope full of cards and stickers. I'm enjoying all of them and very thankful for all of them too.

Prayers of joy and happiness to Darlene and worker here at the Orchards Post Acute she too gave me a lot of stickers and cards etc.. and I'm enjoying them all too very much.

God bless you all
Linda Tilton ♥