

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXIV, #15

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

August 10, 2022

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

August 14: Isaiah 5: 1-7, Luke 12: 49-56; "Yielding Wild Grapes"

August 21: Amos 7: 7-17, Luke 13: 10-17; message: "What Do You See?"

August 28: Amos 8: 1-12, Luke 14: 1, 7-14; message: "Living in a Bitter Day"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

♪ A Note from the Pastor

***There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens:
a time for giving birth and a time for dying,
a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted,
a time for killing and a time for healing,
a time for tearing down and a time for building up... Ecclesiastes 3:1-3***

Changing seasons is often exciting. Although summer will continue for more than a month, we are gearing up for fall. School starts next Wednesday for many children and soon after for college students. Worship remains in the summer season focusing on Hebrew prophets until Labor Day weekend, but choir practice begins this week, with choir performances to begin in September. The Sunday school program for children will resume on September 11. I am looking forward to some cooler temperatures, but we all know that as soon as cooler temperatures arrive, the pumpkins will follow soon after! This is an exciting time of year.

The Wednesday evening bible study group has decided that the current day and time are perfect for the Disciple IV Bible Study. If you have already taken Disciple I and would like to take Disciple IV, you are welcome to join us. If you haven't taken Disciple I, please tell me when you are available to study together. I want to encourage everyone to take this wonderful in-depth study. I will meet at church so we may have a hybrid study—there is at least one out-of-town person who wants to participate, so we will provide a Zoom link for anyone unable to meet in person. Please let me know your availability as soon as possible. Please also let me know how many books to order!

~continued on the following page~

They are available in print and electronic versions, but of course if you want an e-version, you must order your own so it loads to your device. Unfortunately, no one has stepped up to lead Disciple Bible Study in Spanish, and I am not nearly fluent enough to lead that, so we cannot offer it at this time.

As I mentioned earlier, our “Prophet Margins” worship series continues through August, but I am especially excited for our worship on August 21 when Rabbi Johnathan Klein will join us. In addition to his leadership of Temple Beth El here in Bakersfield, Rabbi Jonathan runs a non-profit organization that has a triple focus—care for creation, animal rights, and social justice issues. He wants to share some aspects of that nonprofit with us, but he has also agreed to chant the reading from Amos. Our Annual Conference (and the conference committee I serve on) encourages us all to establish relationships with people and congregations of other faith traditions, and I think this is a perfect step forward. I hope you all will do your best to worship with us that Sunday.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne



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Prayers

We lift up the names of people in need of healing:

• Bertha C. • Natalie • All who suffer from COVID, including Nick's brother and two of Terry's children and Pastor Gabriela • Janet B—and comfort for her family as she enters hospice care • The organist at Jerry's church who cut her hand severely—may she have full recovery • 2 children & their foster Mom suffering from what may be food poisoning • Chase—with a rare form of cancer • Ronnie in need of heart surgery

Travel mercies for all who are traveling this season, including:

• David, Sherry, Cameron and Samantha • Lissy • Lea • Louise and Lisa • Marv and Beth • Barbara • Balthazar—driving cattle for the first time for work

All who grieve, especially:

• Laura, Lissy and Joey who got together to celebrate Brian's birthday, the first one since his death • Theresa and her family on the passing of her father Bob

We pray for other needs:

• We pray for the protection of the separation of Church and State • For next season's elections—may they be fair and open • For all people affected by the flooding in Kentucky • All who are affected by extreme heat conditions, especially in places unprepared for this weather • For Michael and his new job • For Tiffany facing exams • For Virginia CPS—may they have the wherewithal to get the job done • For Linda • Teachers working hard to

prepare for the new school year

• People and all of creation suffering from floods and fires—comfort and perseverance for those who have lost homes • All people with housing insecurities, including Bianca • The Bewley family • John R, and for discernment for his family to know how to help him • Ukraine • Violence in Gaza • Please add Luz Adam's daughter Josephine Imperial to your prayer list of people serving in the US Marines.

In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:

• Jerry gives thanks for the peaceful protests that occur weekly in Mill Valley • Lea is home • Danny's PET scan shows that the tumors are not growing. Continue prayers for healing • Eddy's tour and visit with Jerry • Nick and Lisa's visit with family and seeing the sights in the northwest • Jerry's home sale was completed on August 1, and she is delighted that the home she enjoyed for many years will be home to teachers at BC • Melinda has been suffering with poison oak, but she is finally on the mend • Linda R gives thanks for her new (used) car that is affordable • Prison ministry that has been performing Shakespeare • For all who use their gifts to live out their faith • Summer fruit • The work and ministry of The Threshold choir • Cooler temperatures this past week—and the rain in Fresno! We pray for rain here • Answered prayer: Lea feeling better following a sinus infection, and Anne feeling better after a day with very itchy eyes. • The news from the VA social worker who is getting Lea's grandchildren ready to move. There is no

date yet, so please continue prayers for patience for all involved. • We celebrate with Ukraine that the first ship with grain left port safely. • The Gonzales children all gathered to celebrate Jonathan's birthday • We give thanks for air-conditioning • Laura is grateful for hand-written correspondence between her parents that she is now reading. She can almost hear their voices.

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
Mark Andrew Caldwell - US Marines
Alex Campbell - Navy
Josh Caughran - Navy
Megan Darling - Army Reserves
Bradley Delacruz - Army
Jerome Garey - Air Force
Rebecca Garey - Air Force
Dan Hanel - US Air Force
Greg Hanel - US Air Force
Josephine Imperial - Marines
Anthony Mitchell jr. - Army
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