

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXIV, #3

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 9, 2022

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

February 13: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6: 17-26; Message: "The First Fruits"

February 20: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6: 27-38; Message: "Raised in Glory"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Renew Your Subscription

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 Missionary, Katherine Parker

Dear friends at Wesley UMC,

2/6/22

I returned to Nepal last March after a year of working remotely from California. A difficult Delta wave in Nepal led to massive shutdowns from April to August but I was able to get vaccinated (Verocell from China). I started in the role as Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Advisor in 2019. This past year that has involved lots of online training and coaching, but I resumed field visits last November. Highlights have included support of several projects including Ending Violence for Equality, ProACT (mental health) and CLIMATE (adaptation and mitigation). Also in November I was asked to join the leadership team of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN), so the last few months have been a whirlwind of coming up to speed on new responsibilities.

Your faithfulness in financial and prayer support is what enables me to be present in Nepal and ties our church together in connections around the world.

Your sister in service for Christ,
Katherine



♪ A Note from the Pastor

God isn't a God of disorder but of peace. Like in all the churches of God's people, the women should be quiet during the meeting. They are not allowed to talk. Instead, they need to get under control, just as the Law says. If they want to learn something, they should ask their husbands at home. It is disgraceful for a woman to talk during the meeting. —1 Corinthians 14: 33-35

Our worship series Love Never Ends continues with readings from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. I am usually a gospel preacher with a little wandering into the other lectionary scriptures, but I have been quite blessed following this Epistle more closely. I hope it has been a blessing for others as well. However, as I mentioned in last Sunday's sermon, the lectionary skipped the entire fourteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians. The chapter begins with more verses about love and spiritual gifts, and then Paul speaks quite a bit about the importance of the gift of prophesy, countering what seems to be the Corinthians preference for the spiritual gift of tongues. But then Paul says women should not speak in church. The verse from the Common English Bible (quoted above) says "during the meeting," which seems a little more palatable for women preachers, but what exactly can Paul mean? He certainly revered women in ministry, as demonstrated earlier in this letter with his reference to Chloe,(1 Corinthians 1) and there are many other examples throughout the Epistles including Euodia and Syntyche, (Philippians 4:2) Prisca, (Romans 16:3, 1 Corinthians 16:19 and 2 Timothy 4:19) Mary, (Romans 16: 16) and more, who function as coworkers in the church. The New Interpreter's Bible (NIB) suggests that this passage was later added by an editor to bring the letter into conformity with the practices regarding women in the time of the editor, not the time of Paul. The NIB states, "Whereas Paul wrote his specific letters to unique churches in different settings, someone sometime later collected them and assumed that what Paul wrote to one community might be of value for other communities. In the process of bringing the letter collection together, someone edited the correspondence; the degree of alteration is unknowable to us. The results of the editing can easiest be seen in 2 Corinthians, where some scholars find fragments of as many as five letters... Here in 1 Corinthians we are probably faced with a later insertion of a text whose posture is at odds not only with relationships with women in other churches but also with what Paul has said about women earlier." (J. Paul Sampley. "1 Corinthians 14: 34-36: Commentary." The New Interpreter's Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes. Vol. X. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002) pp. 968-969. This evidence is certainly not proof, but I feel secure in saying that Paul welcomed both male and female leadership in the Church. I have heard yet another argument against thinking that Paul was not against female leadership, but this, too, cannot be proven. That argument states that culture in Corinth during the first century kept women isolated. Men met in the marketplace while women stayed home for purity sake. Since churches were segregated by

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gender, it was the only place that women could share news and chat with one another. Paul was admonishing women not to chat idly in church. I am less impressed by that argument, but it may have some merit. Whatever the case, I am pleased to be stressing the themes of love and Spiritual gifts this season.

Many blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for those in need of healing:

- Mark—suffering from a long-term case of COVID
- Danny—his cancer is in remission, but needs continued prayer
- Adele—with cancer
- Kimberly—w/ cancer; pray also for Sue and Steve, Kimberly's parents, for peace and comfort
- Jan—with stage 4 cancer
- Ronnie—blockage
- Corby facing shoulder surgery
- Alice O—relief from pain
- Lea—bad cold
- Adele
- Natalie
- Larry and Carolyn L.
- Sherry & Linda both took falls
- Linda T
- Linda J
- Melinda
- Sharon—for comfort, perseverance and healing
- Charlie and his wife Tara who cares for him
- Lisa B and Marion T.
- Brian H. keeps a positive attitude through many chemo trials. The latest made him feel better right away. Please pray for continued healing.

We pray for people grieving:

- Rayburn, whose mother passed this week & whole Simpson family
- People still longing for Gay Lynne's memorial service
- Anne Scott

Other prayer concerns:

- The European crisis—especially the people of the Ukraine.
- For people looking for work, especially Kelly, Sarah, Ron and Jenifer
- For people facing bad winter storms, and especially those who

- are unhoused.
- Wildfire in Big Sur (not fully contained)
- Prayers for the Tech team trying to re-establish online worship

- For Mark's well-being
- For Rose—discernment regarding medical decisions for her daughter Daniella
- For all the people dealing with storms across this nation, especially for people without heat or stuck in their cars in impassable road conditions
- For immigrants seeking asylum; especially Satesh, Becky, and Mirabel.

In gratitude, we remember and pray for our abundant blessings...

- Josephine D was accepted into FIDM School of Design in LA
- Matthew and Lana have recovered from COVID, and are able to return to work
- Linda T's has recovered from COVID. (She needs continued prayer for her health, however)
- That ICE and GEO have been held accountable for their mistreatment of those incarcerated by not keeping them safe from known COVID infections
- Alderson Prison's situation has improved
- Very good speakers at the Bishop's Gathering of the Orders
- Rita arrived home safely, and the trip to take her to the airport was uncomplicated
- Leona and Katie have recovered from COVID
- Jenifer was accepted for employment that meets her

current needs. • Our grandchildren are a blessing • We are thankful for the ministries of Bakersfield Burrito Project, the Dream Center and UMCOR • Matthew tested negative for COVID and is able to return to work • Eddy's generous help—he works hard to help many people in the community, and this week Anne has been added to the list • Linda is sore from her fall, but she wasn't seriously hurt • Corby's surgery was successful—please pray for his continued recovery • For the High School students who are working to find a way to present a middle view of news events that will bring people together rather than pull them apart. • T Mobile payments have been received, and Trustees are able to allow the workers to resume work on the installation project. • For Jerry L's birthday • For Evan and Jerilyn's help in solving the sound issue and (hopefully) the Facebook issue

COMING UP!

Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022