

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 9, 2022

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

March 13: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Luke 13:31-35;  
"So Much Is Out of Our Control."

March 20: Psalm 63: 1-8, Isaiah 55: 1-9, Luke 13:1-9;  
"Lots of Things Can Be Medicine."  
Anne Schlesinger, preaching

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## *UMCOR Sunday March 27*

Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. You may mail a check to Wesley, designated UMCOR or give online. Thank you.

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## *Let's Celebrate!*

Jerry Ludeke, an active Wesley member since 1964, is "retiring" to the Bay Area to live closer to one of her sons. She will be missed! But let's get to celebrate her ministry here and for all the blessings she has given this community. Jerry has strongly requested that there be "no gifts." However, there will be an opportunity for you to write a message for Jerry to keep and read - a memory, a quality you appreciate, a hope for her new life. All who know and wish to honor Jerry are invited. Hosted by David and Sherry Atkins (their phone numbers are listed in the directory).

Where: Wesley United Methodist Church, The Gathering Place

When: Sunday, March 27, 3-5 pm

Please: NO GIFTS!

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”***

***~Matthew 2:18***

There is so much suffering in the world these days. Someone told me we must be ushering in the “end times.” I struggle with that concept. When the Bible talks of end times, I believe it is referring to the end of an era, not the destruction of the planet. If this planet is destroyed, I believe it will be because of the foolishness and pride of humanity. God is the Creator, not the destroyer. Let us pray without ceasing for peace.

If you do wish to contribute to support Ukraine in their current crisis, you may do so by making a contribution to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Advance # 982450. You can make your contribution through Wesley. As you may know, UMCOR Sunday (formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing) is celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday in Lent. That is March 27 this year. Contributions made on UMCOR Sunday pay all the administrative costs for the agency. In that way, 100% of all contributions made for relief and other humanitarian efforts go to fund those efforts.

The 2020 General Conference has been postponed for the fourth time. Because of limited access to COVID vaccines in Africa and other parts of the world, VISAs to enter the United States are difficult to impossible for some delegates to obtain. Therefore the Commission planning the conference has decided that the items to present to General Conference will need to wait until the regularly scheduled conference to convene in 2024. The item of most concern to most of us is the real possibility of a split in the denomination. Although the various plans will not be voted on until the 2024 Conference, the more conservative groups, led by the Wesley Covenant Association and the Good News Movement have decided not to wait and plan to split from the United Methodist Church as of May 1 of this year and start a new denomination called the Global Methodist Church. The impact of that split is not yet known.

Another change is that the group known as The United Methodist Woman has decided to change its name to United Women in Faith. These are words from their announcement: “March is Women's History Month and the month of our founding in 1869. March is the perfect time for us to honor our history by stepping boldly in to our future. This is an exhilarating time as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action and impact. We are women of passion and power united by God's love in our mission to uplift women, children and youth. Let's stand together to continue to put love into action.”

Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

## *Prayers*

### **We pray for those in need of healing:**

• Brian H. and his family • Lissy and Scott who have COVID • Adele and the whole Chavez family • Continued prayer for Bob and Nancy, Carolyn and Larry • John R was hospitalized for monitoring; he has been released. Prayers that the medical personnel discover the cause of his illness • Lisa Harding's relative with a brain tumor. Prayers for the whole family • Barbara K • Betsy, who fell and broke her hip • All people with 'brain fog' following COVID dx. • A woman with breast cancer struggling with a lot of stress • Continued prayer for Carolyn and Larry • Continued prayer for Rafael, though he is feeling somewhat better • Lisa S. • Barbara K. • Linda T. • Pat W • Shawn (Sunshine's friend) in critical condition in ICU following an auto accident—Thanks be to God she has responded to a stimulus. • Cancer patients: Natalie, Danny, Adele, Kimberly, and Rita's friend Jerry—healing and comfort • Lea's cousin Bill who has COVID, pneumonia and cancer • Gary had surgery on Friday, and prayers for relief of stress for his Mother, Cleona • Lea's uncle Sammy • Mary Lou's sister

**We pray for all who grieve:** • Jerry and Carolyn • Nancy S. for comfort following Bob's passing • Loss of life in Ukraine • The parents of the young brothers missing and presumed dead from California City

**We pray for other needs:** • For Vladimir Putin—God's guidance and a softening of his heart • For all who are suffering in Ukraine, Russia and surrounding nations. • For Bishop

Eduard Khegay, who presides over our UMC Conferences and Churches in Ukraine and Russia, and the churches taking in refugees • That Lea's household can have calm conversations about living arrangements. • All children in Foster care. • For Steve who was laid off after 30 years of working for a company • All people looking for work, including Joe, Michael, Ron • May the California licensing bureau send documentation to the Oregon bureau • We pray for peace • For all who are suffering in Ukraine, Russia and surrounding nations. May voices of truth not to be silenced • All children in foster care • Travel mercies: Louise, Sunshine, Anne • For Talbot school of theology in Kyiv, Ukraine. May God protect it • For healing of broken relationships • A rescued dog that needs a good home • Small business owners struggling & in need of solutions • Violence • Dan O discernment as he seeks for a good situation

**We pray for God's guidance, blessing, and discernment:** • For Bakersfield College's Academic Senate navigating through recent conflicts • Discernment for the people caring for Jack in the nursing home. • Peace and wisdom for the leaders in Europe. • Peace and safety and protection for Shelly and all caregivers in difficult situations • Peace and wisdom for the leaders in Europe—may God's hand be in the decision making in Russia, Ukraine and NATO • We pray for the innocent people suffering in Ukraine and Russia.

**In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:** • Sunshine has finally

tested negative and can return to work  
 • Lea to have a Zoom meeting with her grandsons on Wednesday • Thanks for the rain • Thanks for the Spirit's "nudging" to get things done. • Gratitude for the help finding Cleona, who has moved • Terry had her booster shot and is grateful she is feeling well. • Gratitude for the Bakersfield Californian, and most especially for Valerie Schlutz. • For the life and witness of Rev. Bob Schwartz • For the rain we had this week. • The wonderful video visit with Lea's grandsons. • The blessing of Patrick's music at Wednesday's service • For people outside of church who read our prayer list and continue the prayer • A good meeting with BC diversity committee chair that may lead to solutions of divisiveness • Thanks for God's grace • Happy birthday to Ruth S  
 • Thanks for circles of friendship  
 • Thankful that Lisa is feeling better  
 • Thanks for the lessons of history that put today's troubles in perspective

### *Meeting Reminder*

The Administrative Council will meet  
 Tuesday, March 15 at 5:30 p.m. through  
 Zoom

### ***Happy March Birthday to.....***

4	Michael Daillak
22	Linda Tilton
27	Sammye Jelletich
	Patrick Mitchell

### ***Happy Anniversary to....***

11	Tom and Gina Saba
20	David and Sherry Atkins