

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

May 25, 2022

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

May 29: Acts 16:16-34, John 17:20-26; "Disturbing the City: Good Trouble"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

June 5: Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-27

Alice Oberg preaching



Congratulations Class of 2022!

Jr. High School:

John Isaac Curtis: Stern Middle School where he plays the cello in the school orchestra. He will attend East Bakersfield High School and auditioned for their school orchestra. His parents are John and Carmen Curtis. His grandparents are Chris and Cindy Curtis.

High School:

Josephine Dethlefson: Bakersfield High School. She will attend the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles. Parents are James and Gwendolyn Dethlefson and grandmother is Barbara Dethlefson.

University:

Shannan Oliver: California State University, Long Beach, with a Master's Degree in Social Work. Her parents are Bill and Marlene Blair.

Thank You

Thank you for the cookies that you donated for Bob Schwartz's memorial service. There were so many varieties of deliciousness! They were greatly appreciated by the memorial reception organizers at FUMC.

-June Braun

♪ A Note from the Pastor

"I (Paul) received a tradition from the Lord, which I also handed on to you: on the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this to remember me.' He did the same thing with the cup, after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Every time you drink it, do this to remember me.'"

~ 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

My grandfather used to call Memorial Day "Decoration Day" because it was a day people decorated the graves of people who had been killed while serving in the American military. It is a somber, reflective day that should also be filled with gratitude for the sacrifice all service members have made for our country. It is not considered a religious holiday because people of many faiths (or no faith) have served protecting American freedoms. Even so, it is important that we all extend our gratitude to all who serve, and especially to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

That said, I began thinking of memorials we do celebrate in church, and the first that came to my mind was, "Do this in remembrance of me." We should always remember Christ's sacrifice, and at the beginning of each month we tell the history of our faith as it began with creation, to Abraham and the prophets and then through Jesus of Nazareth's life and ministry, his death and resurrection, and through the myriad blessings we continue to receive today from our Triune God. I was connected to you all when I took Holy Communion in Paris on May first. I will be connected to you when I preside over communion in Oakhurst the first Sunday of June (June 5.) Rev. Alice Oberg will preside at Wesley as I have been asked to assist at the retreat of the Central Valley United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women). Through Holy Communion we are connected not only to all Christians living today, but also to the people of faith who came before and to people who will come to faith in the future. Thanks be to God!

Also happening on June 5 is the celebration of Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Following Pentecost comes "Ordinary Time" or Kingdomtide that extends until Christ the King Sunday, the week before Advent. This long season begins with Trinity Sunday (again I will be away—this time to Annual Conference, and Bill Blair will preside.) Beginning June 19 our worship series will be a non-lectionary series entitled "Prophesies and Pottery: A Journey with Jeremiah." This is how Worship Design Studio describes it: "Heartache, displacement, violence, helplessness, and homesickness are part of the ongoing human story. Our faith story invites us to deal openly and honestly with these things, helping us to remember the presence of God and the hope of a better future. We will journey with the prophet Jeremiah during a time of exile in this worship series and encounter the familiar imagery of God as the Potter who can reshape and remake us, making us vessels of living water ready for a brighter tomorrow." We will use the gospel lessons from the lectionary during this six-week series. We will continue to worship in the sanctuary because the equipment needed to project our service online cannot easily be moved to The Gathering Place, but I hope you feel welcome to worship in a casual, summer style.

I expect Bakersfield's weather to turn very hot this week, so I remind you, please stay hydrated!

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Happy June Birthday to.....

4	Linda Mitchell
6	Allison Gonzales Nancy Jacobus
12	Sylvia Corson
14	Gail Scarazzo
15	David Hanley
16	J.T. Gonzales
17	Tiffany Gonzales
19	Kacey Pipkin
20	Louise Clay Krista Cusator
21	June Braun Stan Moore
23	Carolyn Lonsinger
24	David Rous
25	Doug Anglin
29	Doris Robertson

Happy Anniversary to....

10	Roy and Gail Scarazzo
20	James and Laura Cusator
25	Donnel and Rose Lester
30	Dan and Anna Murillo

Prayers of the People

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

• For Ronnie, suffering seizures of unknown origin • For Michael with COVID • For Sarah's roommate Emily with COVID, and protection for Sarah • Gail S recovering from a stroke • Jim L—healing of foot injury • Libby—continued healing • Anna awaiting surgery—postponed because she tested + for COVID on the morning of procedure was scheduled. She must wait an additional 2 weeks. • Barbara K—hip has healed, but she needs continued prayer to be able to walk • Jim A with the flu • Kim-radiation has helped shrink tumors, but Drs found 4 more

• Virginia—twisted ankle
• Bruce T—hospice care—peace and comfort & may God's presence comfort the family • Sylvia A; healing following surgery • Nancy S—release from pain • We pray healing for gunmen and all who turn to violence • Linda R: syncope episode& guidance for her medical team to discern & treat the problem • Balthazar with COVID • For Scott—COVID +, and that Jerry & Patty now need to be in isolation

For people grieving:

• Alvesa Chavez and Dorado family; all who grieve Adele's passing • Nancy Schwartz
• For all who suffered losses and fear at the shooting at Laguna Woods Presbyterian church • For all who suffered losses and fear at the shooting in the shopping center in Buffalo • May God's comfort surround all attending two celebrations of life/memorial services this weekend

We pray for travel mercies:

• For all who travel to and from Brian's memorial service • For all who travel to and from Bob S's memorial service
• For all who travel to and from Janet's birthday celebration • For Jerry and family traveling to an anniversary celebration • For Kevin and Amy traveling from Costa Rica
• For Linda and Vance traveling home & Joe's travel to pick them up • Kelly S

We pray for other needs:

• US economy, esp. honest, not greedy, corporations • Strength and determination for Melinda, incarcerated in federal prison
• Lonsinger family—thanks for stamina and strength; continued prayer • Lea & grandsons are frustrated at how long it is taking for the boys to come home. May Lea remain calm and peaceful as she and Linda take CPR & First aid training • Jack, Catherine and Shelly—God's mercy in solving health and relationship difficulties
• Tilton family issues • Fires in Colorado—concern for high winds. May the fire be contained and those evacuated be able to safely return home • Ukraine refugees • Ukrainian soldiers who are now

Russian POWs • For the people who set fire to the property behind this church—& gratitude that the church was not harmed • Vandalism to the organ at Laura's church in Laguna Woods • For the election training for Linda and others who will work at the polls • Lea's son Andy and Ryan; both incarcerated. May they feel God's presence, protection, and guidance • Joe's upcoming interview, and motivation to complete his college application • For Brian's celebration of life • For Pastor Bob's celebration of life • For understanding and healing of all hatred and prejudices • Children who suffer at the hands of adults who need parenting training, and prayers for all those who work with them • Prayers that President Putin will gain insight regarding the damage for which he's responsible

In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:

• For the gathering, celebrating the life of Gay Lynne Natho • For Ryan, who will be released from prison next January. He needs continued prayers to adjust to the changes that have happened during his 15 years of incarceration. • Happy birthday to Barbara D and Nick S • Joe's car issues have been resolved • Rose's surgery went well, continued prayers for healing • Michael received his internship license number; he can start his practice • Anne is grateful for a wonderful trip • 1800 students at BC's commencement ceremony, including Maria who struggled with many issues but persevered and achieved. May each student have good discernment for continued education or employment • Lovely lemon trees • For Barbara D's faithfulness and hard work • Cindy W's retirement banquet • For the Trustees hard work • For humor in the time of difficulty • For the UMC at Mt. Tamalpais & their welcome of Jerry • Kelly's visit • Janet Bewley's 98th birthday • A good (potluck) celebration at the chancellor's home • For the opportunity at the food distribution to serve 397 hungry individuals & gratitude for the many hands that made the work go smoothly • Saturday's beautiful weather

Change of Address:

Bob and Pat Williams
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