

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

April 19, 2023

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

April 23: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41, Luke 24: 28-49. "Open Into the Light"

April 30: Acts 2: 42-47, John 11: 38-44. "Unwrap: Waking Up"

May 7: 1 Peter 2: 2-10, Matthew 16: 13-20; "Unfold: Claiming New Possibilities"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Native American Ministries Sunday Offering, April 23

The Native American Ministries Sunday offering develops and strengthens annual conference Native American ministries, equips Native American rural and urban congregations, ministries, and communities and educates Native American seminarians. Wesley will have offering envelopes available this Sunday. Checks may be made payable to Wesley Church, designated *Native American Ministries* or give online. Thank you.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Saul's servants said to him, "Look, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. If our master just says the word, your servants will search for someone who knows how to play the lyre. The musician can play whenever the evil spirit from God is affecting you, and then you'll feel better." Saul said to his servants, "Find me a good musician and bring him to me." That is how David came to Saul and entered his service... Whenever the evil spirit from God affected Saul, David would take the lyre and play it. Then Saul would relax and feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him alone."
~~1 Samuel 16, selected verses

My roommate in seminary is a musical therapist who told me this chapter in 1 Samuel is Biblical proof of the therapeutic benefits of music. Wesley is blessed with musical talent,

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from our professional musicians to congregation members who are just plain talented! You may know that our choir director, Josh Forquera, is graduating CSUB and moving south to pursue other goals, but before he leaves Wesley will be celebrating music Sunday on May 14. That said, I want to invite any and all of you who would like to participate in that celebration to contact both Josh and myself so we can coordinate the program. Do you want to play a musical instrument? Share a song either on you own or share with the choir? Please let us know. I promise, our congregation loves good music and is a very appreciative audience. Not only that, but the music we offer is a praise to God and a sharing of the gifts with which God has blessed us. Those who got the chance to enjoy the work of the artists who contributed to the Good Friday felt God's blessings.

Our coins for Lent contributions totaled \$221.95. I give thanks to all of you who counted your blessings during that season and gave pocket change for those blessings. I also give thanks to Ernestine Torres who counted and rolled all those coins. It was a huge undertaking! Of course, our office administrative assistant, Terry Gonzales had to carry that heavy load to the bank for deposit. Thank you all for your hard work and generosity.

Speaking of hard work and generosity, I give thanks to the many, many people who donated time, energy and food to our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. I may have thanked the team that made the palm crosses, but if not—please let me do so now. Thank you! Thanks to Carolyn Ashlock who herded us to create an after worship brunch. I give special thanks to David Braun and Kathy Chavez for providing food for David Schlesinger—chopped chicken liver and bread pudding are treats he doesn't get from me. Thank you! The Sunday school teachers coordinated the Easter egg hunt, with a whole host of people in the background who provided plastic eggs and candy. It was a wonderful celebration, and I thank you, one and all. I also give thanks for the privilege of baptizing two young men who have already become a vital part of our congregation. Let us continue to worship our Risen Savior. Thanks be to God!

I will be away attending a seminar in West Sacramento next Tuesday and Wednesday (April 25 and 26.) If you need to reach me, please call my cell phone. The number is in the directory. If I am attending a meeting, please leave a message will get back to you as soon as I am able.

Many blessings,
Pastor Anne

Godspeed, Joshua

Many of you know that our choir director, Joshua Forquera, will be leaving us soon and be moving to Southern California. May 14th, Mother's Day, will also be Music Sunday. There will be a reception for Joshua in the Narthex after the service (we are hoping to keep this a surprise to Josh...he is not receiving this *Outlook*).

We will also present a love offering to him at the service to wish him well and show our appreciation for his time with us. If you wish to donate to this love offering there are two ways: you can write a check to the church and leave it in the offering plate (being sure to write Josh's name on the memo line) or see Nick Strobel, Bill Blair, June Braun or myself and give us your donation and we will make sure it gets added to the love offering. Donations should be in by May 7th. Thank you.

--Rob Bewley

From the church office

In May, the office will be open 9 a.m. to noon on the following days:

Monday, May 1
Wednesday, May 10
Wednesday, May 17
Wednesday, May 24
Thursday, June 1

Pastor Anne will be in the office on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

The deadline dates for *The Outlook* are May 8 and 22. Thank you.

Prayers

We pray for those in need of healing—body, mind and spirit:

- Linda R's daughter-in-law Jenifer with an autoimmune disease • And Jenifer's mother Barbara has kidney issues
- Rob's friend Bill has been released from the hospital and is doing better, but needs prayer for continued healing
- Mark is suffering from 2nd degree burns over much of his body.
- Gisele has been diagnosed with leukemia and is beginning chemo
- Kyle has a problem with addiction
- Sunshine is feeling stressed about all that is going on in her life
- Mike—cancer treatment, and his wife Sam said she can use prayer, too
- Vance following an auto accident (He is getting better; continued prayer and gratitude) • Lea to have surgery on Monday • Linda T's foot pain
- Sage—healing from fever • Children with undiagnosed illnesses • Anne S (former Wesley member, not Pastor Anne) will have 12 weeks of chemo soon, perhaps beginning May 1. Pray for comfort and a good outcome.
- Linda R's cousin Rita has had three strokes in the last 2 weeks
- Lea's injury • Alvesa had an injury following a fall • Shawn's dad

We pray for those who are grieving:

- The Antongiovanni family
- The people of Louisville, Ky, and Dadeville, AL and all affected by violence, especially mass shootings.

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Travel mercies:

- Jerry's son, daughter in law, and her brother all traveling (separately) to Spain

We pray for other needs:

- That those in power can awaken to courageous action to end mass shootings. The problem might be alleviated by helping people deal with anger issues, but we need God's help
- Ryan is being released from a long prison term soon. He needs to be covered in prayer to make a good life for himself—to find a job and a safe place to live.
- For the controversy at Bakersfield College—healing and justice and the best result for students and staff.
- Children in the foster care system and the adults making decisions for them.
- Jerry's cousin's husband Ed is in his final days —she asks for a peaceful passing

In gratitude, we remember and praise God for our abundant blessings...

- Gratitude that Linda R's nephew Joe's new job is going well.
- So grateful for the mid-week studies held in our church
- Terry's daughter offered a teaching position in Bakersfield.
- Terry is grateful for the blessing of a wonderful Easter celebration with family
- Rob is grateful for the lovely time at Easter—they finally got to celebrate "East-mas" with family
- Brian has completed his radiation therapy and is doing well, but needs continued prayer for healing
- Linda T is very grateful for receiving a box of books by her favorite author
- Grateful for skilled workers who use their training well
- The baptisms on Easter
- For Marv's ability to donate 20 gallons of blood at Houchin blood bank
- Praise God for all the hard workers at Wesley who donate their work, energy, and other donations to help others

Happy May Birthday to...

7	Charles Rous
10	Anita Stewart
11	Barbara Dethlefsen
13	Nick Strobel
14	David Braun
	Molly Saba
15	Corky Blain
17	Stella Rous
18	Marcia Whitten
19	Carolyn Anglin
20	Belva Bradshaw
22	Margaret Grant
23	Pat Filkins
28	Sherry Atkins
30	Michael Atkins