

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

August 9, 2023

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

August 13: Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28; Matthew 14: 22-33, "What Are You Seeking?"

August 20: Genesis 45: 1-15; Matthew 15: 10-28, "Is It Fair?"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

## Church Directory 2023

The new directory is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for any corrections. If you have changes since the last directory, please call Terry at (661) 872-8741 or email at ([office@wesleybakersfield.org](mailto:office@wesleybakersfield.org)). Thank you.

## Two Job Position Openings at Wesley

As many of you know, our Choir Director, Josh Forquera, will be moving to Southern California and not returning this fall. The SPRC ( Staff Parish Relations Committee) will be attempting to find a replacement for Josh as soon as possible. If you, or someone you know is interested in applying for the position you may do so by e-mailing me a letter of interest and resume at [robertbewley@att.net](mailto:robertbewley@att.net). Recently, our Nursery Care Provider, Rosio Soto, decided to step down from her duties at Wesley. Again, if you or anyone you know is interested in the Nursery Provider position, please send a letter of intent and resume to the same e-mail address. Thanks.

--Rob Bewley, SPRC Chair

*I can do* ALL THINGS  
*through Christ*  
*who* STRENGTHENS *me.*  
—Phillippians 4:13



## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***“Jacob got up during the night, took his two wives, his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed the Jabbok River’s shallow water. He took them and everything that belonged to him, and he helped them cross the river.”***

***~Genesis 32:22-23***

We have been hearing a lot from the book of Genesis lately as we journey through our discipleship series. Genesis is a book filled with wonderful stories, like the one above about the younger of Isaac’s sons setting out as Jacob and returning home as Israel. Rev. Alice spoke eloquently about that last Sunday. Our travels can transform us in many ways. In the last Outlook I was looking forward to my family vacation, and today I am in the midst of it. Just as Abram and his grandson Israel were transformed, so have I been, although a lot less dramatically. But I have been so blessed here; by family, by relaxation, and mostly by the goodness and beauty of God’s wonderful creation. To quote from Genesis once again: “God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good,” (Genesis 1:31).

I am reading a lot on vacation, and one of my current books is *Beating Guns: Hope for People Who Are Weary of Violence*. It was written by Shane Claiborne, an Evangelical Christian pastor who has worked for years as an activist trying to end violence in his Philadelphia neighborhood, and Michael Martin, a pastor in the Mennonite tradition who has begun to turn guns into garden tools. (They will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war~ Micah 4:3). It is very interesting and I highly recommend it, but so far it has been talking mostly about America’s obsession with guns. I am just getting to the part about what people of faith can do to help our nation become less violent. I hope there is something we can do to help our country become a nation of peace.

Before I left for vacation I posted an article on the bulletin board either from the Conference Center or from the Western Jurisdiction, I don’t remember which, about Bishop Carcaño’s upcoming trial. It was planned for August 21-25, but I learned this week that the venue has been moved to the North Central Jurisdiction, and the trial will begin on September 19. Please continue to keep this matter and all involved in your prayers.

Monday and Tuesday, August 14 and 15 is a Worship Design Studio webinar sponsored by our conference. I have signed up to attend, and it is open to all, but I am not sure if registration is still open or not. Nevertheless, I will receive a video of each session, so if anyone would like to view it, please let me know.

God bless you, and as always I remind you, please stay hydrated.

Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

## ***Prayers***

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

- Bonney F—continued prayers for healing
- That the noise will be reduced at Linda T's residence
- for Lea's health and healing
- June's friend, Jane, who had surgery on 8/2
- Linda T. will hear from her daughter soon who traveled to North Carolina with her four cats

### **We pray for other needs:**

- For peace in Ukraine and Russia
- An end to violence
- For all children in foster care
- For SPRC's work finding people to fill two open positions
- All suffering from intense heat
- For Bishop Carcaño, the complainants, and all involved in the jurisdictional trial. Pray for transparency, justice and healing

### **We pray for gratitude:**

- For June Braun that her arm is better

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## ***Coffee Bar***

Thank you to the volunteers who host the coffee bar on Sunday mornings. There is a volunteer sheet on the coffee bar if you would like to host an upcoming Sunday.

## ***In The Military***

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers.

Michael Ahumada - Army  
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  
Dan Hanel - US Air Force  
Greg Hanel - US Air Force  
Josephine Imperial - Marines  
Anthony Mitchell jr. - US Air Force  
Kenneth Oberg - Navy  
Rebecca Oberg - Air Force  
Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp  
Tiela Roland - US Air Force  
Spring Walden - US Air Force  
Joel Watson - Navy  
Josephine Wells-Ashley - US Marines  
Laura Yoon - US Navy  
David Yoon - US Navy

The pillar candle on the altar is to remind us of our prayers for them

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