

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

December 20, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m.

2 Samuel 7:1-11, Psalm 89: 1-4, Luke 1:26-38, "Being Present with Love"

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Isaiah 9: selected verses, Luke 2:1-20, John 1:1-14" "Being Present with Light"

Christmas Eve Celebration will include Scriptures and Carols

First Sunday After Christmas, December 31, 10:30 a.m.

Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40, "Being Present with Assurance"

This service will include the Covenant Renewal.

Baptism of our Lord, January 7, 10:30 a.m.

Genesis 1:1-5, Mark 1:4-11, "Revelation and Wonder: Fully Human, Fully Divine"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching



♪ A Note from the Pastor

***A child is born to us, a son is given to us,
and authority will be on his shoulders.
He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
There will be vast authority and endless peace
for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it
with justice and righteousness now and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.~~Isaiah 9:6-7***

These words of endless peace for David's Kingdom—that is, of course, Judah and Israel, are words of hope yet to be obtained, the Prince of Peace has been born to us, but hatred and violence permeate our world. Now, we are called to be the peacemakers who spread Good News throughout our land, following Jesus, thriving in community and healing the world ¹. That is a huge task that begins with prayer and continues with everything we think, do, or say. I have to admit that I am better at the doing and saying part of that. But when I keep in mind the Prince of Peace, I become more aware of the un-peaceful thoughts and am better prepared to push them aside. I choose a word to focus at the beginning of each year, and my focus this year will be on PEACE.

I don't care for the title of Worship Design Studio's series for Epiphany through Transfiguration Sunday this year. I will be using some of their material as well as some from Discipleship Ministries, and I have named the series "Becoming the People of God." Of course, we already have that as our goal, but it is a journey, a becoming that doesn't end. The season will begin on the morning of New Year's Eve with the Wesleyan Covenant Service, a celebration of our connection to God as well as God's covenant with us. Christmas Blessings, and may God's blessings continue through this blessed season and into the New Year.

Pastor Anne

¹ The mission statement of the California/Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Dream Center Christmas Donations from Wesley

This year Wesley will collect food items for the Dream Center. Please bring individually wrapped snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, trail mix, etc.) as well as emergency food items (soups, tuna, peanut butter, cereal, etc.). We will collect food through December 31. There are baskets in the Narthex for your donations.

Finance Campaign Ongoing

You should have now received your pledge card in the mail for supporting the ministries of Wesley UMC in 2024. Many thanks to all who have prayerfully considered their 2024 giving to Wesley. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please mail it to the church office P.O. Box 6577, 93386. We have received 21 pledges totaling \$85,560.00. Our goal is 30 pledges. Please prayerfully consider a monetary pledge. Thank you and God bless you!

Giving To Wesley

To be included in 2023 Giving Statements, contributions for the 2023 tax year needs to be in the church by December 31st or mailed to the church with a postmark of December 30th or before according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Deadline

The deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is January 8. Thank you for your cooperation.



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to Cleona Cope in the death of her sister, **Dorothy Points Matthews**, on August 26, 2023.

Dorothy was a member of Wesley since 1996. She is also survived by her husband, Jeryl Matthews.

Directory Updates

Dan O'Dell: 2418 NW 56th St. Apt #615, Seattle, WA 98017.

Linda Tilton: lindatilton033@gmail.com

Happy January Birthday to.....

8	Bill Wilson
15	Gia Murillo
28	Lizbeth Hallam

Happy Anniversary to...

3	Marvin & Beth Davisson
21	Bill & Marlene Blair

Prayers

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

- Susan M • Linda T • Ruth S • DS David Niu • Healing for Rob's Aunt Helen, and peace for her husband Don
- For the violence in our cities and world
- Continued prayer for Chase • Sherry and David A both need God's healing
- Danny—difficult chemo meds
- Jenifer—various health conditions
- Bonney F • Falamao S • Cindy L.
- Hyun Jung Choi, a gifted musician in Jerry's church in need of strength and healing • Bob and Martha Covey ill with flu and bronchitis • Maxine who was life flighted from Montana to S. Dakota after a recent chemo treatment for cancer

Other needs:

- Students facing final exams; may they study well and have safe celebrations
- For Bill and Marlene, as they work to get necessary home repair accomplished
- For peace in the world, especially in Ukraine, Russia, and the Middle East
- We pray for discernment for every decision maker in Gaza and in Israel
- For God's comfort for the families of hostages shot in error & killed by Israel's soldiers

Prayers of thanks and gratitude:

- Margaret Grant shared information on Ruth's rehab. hospital
- Lissy had an MRI that had clear results
- For moments of God's grace that bring peace
- For grandchildren
- For birthday celebrations: Sarah Strobel, Josephine Dethlefson, Mia Tomlin
- Linda T's phone contact with her mother
- Linda T is grateful for the gifts from June
- J.J. who is now teaching at continuation school
- Michael A who began his new

job without anxiety • Ahumada family

- The good work of the finance committee
- Linda R's visit with Danny and Jenifer
- The work of Trustees, especially Marv, Mike and Nick who stopped a leak
- Joseph secured a full time position, raise, and his very first week off with pay
- Barbara's specially care of Stella and Anne
- Barbara was blessed by James & Josephine putting up her Christmas lights while she was away
- Barbara received a very thoughtful gift from her sister-in-law, Pam
- Stella's surgery went very well.
- Stella's lack of heat in the house was easily fixed.
- For bonding in Christian community
- Anne's surgery went well
- All the carolers—and special gratitude for Barbara's work organizing it all

