

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

January 11, 2023

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

January 15: Psalm 40: 1-11; John 1: 29-42. Sermon: "Soothe a Savage"

January 22: Isaiah 9: 1-4; Matthew 4: 12-23. Sermon: "Lighten Up"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

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## *Human Relations Special Sunday, January 15*

"This Sunday occurs during Epiphany, the season of manifesting God's light to the world. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations." (Par. 264.1, *The Book of Discipline* 2004) Wesley Church will have offering envelopes available in this Sunday's bulletin.

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## *Wesley Mission Opportunity*

### DONATIONS NEEDED:

Large suitcases on wheels to deliver educational and medical supplies to Guatemala.

Backpacks for men being released from ICE detention.

Items can be dropped off at/beside a table in the Narthex labeled KWESI (Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants) Contact person: June Braun.

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The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to Nick and Lisa Strobel and family in the death of Lisa's mother, **Louise Clay**, on December 25, 2022. Louise was a member of Wesley since 2003. She will be greatly missed.

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***We always carry Jesus' death around in our bodies so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies. We who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus' sake so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies that are dying. So death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.*** ~ 2 Corinthians 4: 10-12

Happy New Year!

I hope you were all blessed during this holiday season. There certainly were some difficulties mixed in with the blessings; the worst for our church and church family was the sudden, untimely, and unexpected passing of our beloved member, Louise Clay. As important she was—and will remain—to many of us, I pray that we will be able to feel blessed knowing she was surrounded by the love of family, she did not suffer long, and that she has left a great Christian witness in her family and in her church. Although we will no longer see her, she is with Jesus. Please pray for her family in this tender time.

The much needed rain we have lately received is a blessing, but it, too has caused some suffering. People who are unhoused have been looking for a dry place to sleep and shelter, but that has put some stress on church facilities. The yard has needed much clean-up, graffiti has been left on walls and doors and sidewalks, and some damage has been done to the buildings, either accidentally or through vandalism. Please keep aware and report any damage you see to me or to any one of our dedicated trustees.

We finally have a full roster for our tech team! Hooray, and thanks be to God! Thank you to all our volunteers and especially to Linda Ramirez who has not only filled in when the tech team is understaffed, but she has also trained all tech team members with skill and patience. Linda, you're appreciated more than I can express.

One of the new members of our tech team has asked about becoming a member of Wesley. He and I will be meeting to talk about what it means to be a member of the church; what the benefits are and what membership requires. I have heard church membership versus church attending without membership compared to married couples versus loving couples living together without marriage. There is commitment in all cases, but the commitment of marriage and membership are blessed by family and by God and thus usually are taken more seriously.

All who are interested in the class are welcome, no matter if you're seeking membership, or you are already a member and want to remember why you joined the church, or whether you're just curious and want to know more about the membership vows of the United Methodist Church. We will meet in my office on Friday afternoons at 3:30 pm beginning January 13. If the class gets bigger we will find another comfortable place to meet.

We began a new worship series called Spiritual Affective Disorder last Sunday. Each week until Lent we will talk about how an ordinary, every day event—like getting out of bed, or even just awakening and opening our eyes—can become a contemplative

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practice that can deepen our connection to God. Last Sunday's practice was reciting this prayer every day this week:

"Waking God, I give you thanks for the chance to start fresh every day. Open my eyes to the light of possibilities, even when the day ahead holds difficulties. Be with me, near me, beside me. Amen."

We will have a new "ordinary practice" each week, and I hope to be able to add them to the website (with Nick's help, of course—thank you Nick!) So those who cannot make every service in person can still participate.

Many blessings,  
Pastor Anne

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## *Prayers*

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

- All people with COVID, including Linda T., Lissie, Carolyn, Larry, and Lisa L, and many people in China, Marilyn and Hal; plus their discernment in making difficult decisions • Carolyn L has the flu, and she is primary care-giver to Larry. Prayers for her recovery and his safety
- Kristen: hip surgery • Annette • Tish
- Stella—peace of mind • Sage
- Susan M: Foot surgery; hope for relief of pain • Carolyn A • Jane • All people suffering from COVID including Carolyn, Larry, and Lisa Lonsinger, • Jerry S—surgery delayed because his surgeon is ill • Pastor Linda at The Table UMC in Sacramento • Barbara D's niece Barbara • Joshua F. • Corey
- Ardyce—broken hip
- Linda B (Lea's Friend) back and neck surgery

### **Travel mercies:**

- Young people traveling back to school after the holidays

### **Those who grieve:**

- The Clay and Strobel family • The

Cremer family • Ernestine T. grieving the death of her husband • The family and friends of Jack Henderson • Anne's friend Mary Ellen who's husband Richard died the Monday before Christmas

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

- An end to COVID infections, an end to the whole pandemic
- Immigrants—human beings—"dumped" in strange cities, out on the streets—and prayers for the politicians who are responsible
- People of Ukraine; may they stay strong and safe • May the Russians, especially Mr. Putin, have a softening of heart and pull back • Peace in our world
- All people suffering from extreme weather conditions • Anne's friends Cathy & Kevin's house was flooded
- People at the border; especially those seeking asylum • Stella is asking for prayers for motivation and patience
- US government—Congress struggling to work together • People struggling with intense storms • Discipleship House
- For Timmy • For our Country

**In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:**

• Although Linda T has tested positive for COVID, she is a-symptomatic. We pray for healing while giving thanks that she feels well • Rain! • David and Sherry both have tested negative to COVID (David recovered, Sherry never got it) • Michael is doing very well; his job is going well, and he has found a new apartment. • Cindy L's surgery went well and she is recovering at home • Laura's sister arrived safely in Florida; prayers for Laura who misses her • Lea got her cast off and no longer needs a wheel chair • Bonney Friday's surgery was successful. Prayers for full recovery • Joe had a good job interview; prayers that he gets the job • We have a new nursery care provider at church. Rosio S began work of Jan. 8 • Brenden feeling better • Michael A is succeeding in what he knows he was called to do • Joseph got the job he hoped for • Lea is doing well on the knee scooter Rob lent her • Jerry L. rejoices in hearing from old friends • Blessings received by people who have avoided destruction of intense storms—Jerry L and Sunshine T

***Meeting***

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, January 17 at 5:30 p.m. via zoom.