

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

July 12, 2023

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

July 16: Genesis 25: 19-34, Matthew 13: 13: 1-9, 18-23, "Seeds in the Dirt."

July 23: Genesis 28: 10-19a, Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43, "Shine Like the Sun."

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Congratulations!

Charles Rous graduated with honors from the University of California Santa Barbara. He received a BA degree in history and English. Parents are David and Jennifer Rous. Grandparents are Glenn and Cathy Parker and Stella Rous.

Memorial Service

Marian Troyer's memorial service will be held Saturday, July 22 at 11 am with a luncheon following and will be held at First United Methodist Church, 4800 Stockdale Highway, Bakersfield.

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.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

“A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it... Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”
~Matthew 13: 3b, 4 and 8

We are continuing our worship theme of “The Path of the Disciple” but this week marks the change in the sub-text to “Imagining a New Reality.” We are dreaming of God’s beloved Kingdom (or Kin-dom) while living in the reality of this world as it is. As always, we are called to be Kin-dom builders. Our success is measured in the fruit we bear. What are you as an individual working on that’s bearing fruit? What is our community doing together that is bearing fruit? I believe that together we are kin-dom building, but is there something more we can do?

I am disturbed by the news that Bakersfield Burrito Project had another break-in last weekend. From what I have heard, that is the sixth time this year! I am not sure where their storage facility is, but it is very disheartening when damage and theft are a recurring situation. It is made even more painful when a ministry run by volunteers tries to do good in our neighborhood and has to continually replace supplies and equipment. Please keep this wonderful ministry in your prayers. That said, the fencing around the church will be completed soon and I am hoping it will keep all our buildings safer. We continue to seek donations to help pay for the fence, and we also have the opportunity to make donations to the Bakersfield Burrito Project through our church. Please clearly mark any special donations.

Jennifer Armantrout has requested that Wesley reestablish the mission project called “Prayers and Squares.” She used to be part of a larger Prayers and Squares group, but since Louise Clay’s passing, Jennifer is the last one supporting this ministry at Wesley. It is a lovely project creating lap-size quilts for people in need of prayer, comfort and support. Instead of machine quilting, the layers of fabric are bound together with a tie. Once the quilt is almost complete, it is brought to church to be tied. Congregants are encouraged to take a moment during the worship service to tie a knot on the quilt while offering a prayer for the recipient. More information is available here: <https://www.prayerquilt.org/>. Jennifer is an extremely talented seamstress, but if this is to be a real mission of the church, other quilters will be welcome. Are you or someone you know interested in this project? Please let me know.

As always, I remind you—the weather is HOT, so please stay hydrated.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

- Bonney F—had additional surgery—prayers for healing, pain relief, and encouragement
- Brenden—recovering from concussion
- June B—relief from shoulder pain
- Linda T—cellulitis • Lea—abdominal pain • Sage—many medical test: discernment of his medical team
- Bertha C—foot pain, healing from surgery • Berniece—Donna B's mother
- Cindy C—multiple ailments

We pray for all who grieve:

- The family and friends of Lois (Linda T's roommate)

We pray for other needs:

- For broken relationships—Linda and her roommate Delores • for the residence at the Orchards • for the RNA's who work overtime because they are short staffed at the Orchards • For peace in Ukraine
- For the Ukrainian children kidnapped and taken to Russia; may the guilty be held accountable • For the staff at The Orchards sub-acute care facility • For all churches and pastors experiencing transition this month, especially Laguna Woods UMC and Bakersfield First UMC
- For Kelly S seeking employment (See update in prayers of gratitude, below)
- For peace in Ukraine • For the Ukrainian children kidnapped and their families • Janin refugee camp—peace in Israel/Palestine • Sarah T—Vanessa's birth mother. I am grateful for her gift of Vanessa's life, and lift her up for prayer every year on Vanessa's birthday. I do not know what her needs are, but I trust that God does.

- Stella • For the US—posterity of our nation • Mirabel & her daughter • People looking for work, especially Randy and Liz

Prayers of Gratitude:

- Linda T has been approved for Physical and occupational therapies
- Meghan (Anne's niece) has been promoted to judge (in Washington DC)
- Joshua—Laura D's grandson begins a new job July 3 • For Dina—an encourager • For the Threshold Choir and their ministry • For Stella
- Melinda released to a halfway house, and blessings on her transition • For Brenden who has done so well keeping still in order to heal • For answered prayer: Kelly S is gainfully employed
- Birthdays this week: Bob C., Vanessa S, Trevor T, Alexa D, Rose G and Lisa S. • Josh—new job going well
- Jerry is hosting the Mt. Tamalpais UMC's women's group in her home on Thursday • Chavez family—wonderful family who care for one another and also do mission in community and across the world • Linda T was able to stand—therapy has started • Linda R grateful her schedule has eased a bit and she is able to return to prayer group
- Jerry is leading Mt. Tamalpais UMC's bell choir July 9,—first performance in 20 years—may they make a joyful noise unto God and have fun!

Next Outlook deadline is July 24th.

