

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXIV, #14

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

July 26, 2023

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

July 30: Genesis 29: 15-28, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, "Hidden and Mixed In"

William Blair, preaching

August 6: Genesis 32: 22-31; Matthew 14: 13-21, "Wrestling With Our Hunger"

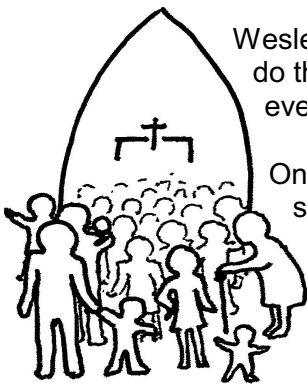
Rev. Alice Oberg, preaching

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. 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

Did You Know?



Wesley Church keeps track of an individual's Sunday attendance. We do this because we report our average attendance to our Conference every year.

On Sunday morning please check your name off on the attendance sheet in the church lobby. Administrative Assistant, Terry, enters each person's attendance in the church software. This is also a good place to write a change of address and/or phone number. There is space for visitors too. Thank you.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

“Abram traveled, making and breaking camp, from the arid southern plain to Bethel and to the sacred place there, where he had first pitched his tent between Bethel and Ai, 4 that is, to the place at which he had earlier built the altar. There he worshipped in the Lord’s name.” ***~~Genesis 13: 3-4***

Abram travelled from an arid southern plain to Bethel, the name Jacob gave, which means, “The House of the Lord.” Yesterday I traveled from the arid desert of Bakersfield to Felton, California, in Santa Cruz County, and I assure you that God is in this place, too! I am working from Felton today (Monday) and tomorrow, and I will continue to work a little bit while on vacation (hopefully about two days worth of work in the two-week span.) On Wednesday I will travel with five other members of my family to Playa del Carmen, near Cancun, Mexico. If everything goes as planned, I will be able to join the Facebook congregation both Sundays I am away, and I will continue reading the chapter book, *“The Secret Garden”* to the children on Tuesdays. I will be in a different time zone, so the timing may be off, but I did not want to leave a two-week break in the middle of a chapter book. Please know that if you need pastoral care while I am away, Rev. Alice Oberg is available. Her contact information is in the church directory.

The fence is almost complete around the buildings, but we were reminded on Sunday why the structure is necessary. A representative from the alarm company came to the narthex, and I was momentarily confused because I knew I had disabled the alarm as soon as I entered the sanctuary building. But someone had thrown a rock through the nursery window in the education building, setting off the alarm in that building. That section of the property is not protected by the wrought-iron fence. As planned, I preached on Jesus’ parable of the weeds among the wheat, and Lisa Strobel remarked that this incident reminds us all we must continue to pray for those who are destructive. Sometimes we may feel that they are “lost causes” or even “enemies,” but God is not yet finished working with any of us. Please keep your church in prayer and pray for those who would do it harm.

Wesley is seeking two additional staff members. Our wonderful child care worker has ended her employment with Wesley and is headed out to new adventures, so we are looking for someone to provide nursery care on Sunday mornings during worship. We are also seeking a choir director to lead choir practice and to lead the singing in worship. If you would like to be considered for one of these positions or if you know of someone else who is qualified, please contact Rob Bewley, Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair.

Each week in the summer I remind you all to stay hydrated, but this season we have a reminder of just how hot it is in Bakersfield. As mentioned above, the fence is still just almost finished, even though initial estimates were for completion in late June. There were a number of delays, but the most recent delay is the stuff that jokes are made from. “How hot is it?” you may ask. It is so hot that when electrostatic paint is sprayed toward fencing, it dries in the air before it hits its target and will not adhere. Hopefully the temperatures will moderate soon so the fencing can be completed! Until then I must repeat, 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 • June B—bicep eruption • Lea D • Melanie's Aunt Beth • Sage • Ashley C—for a successful pregnancy and delivery • Andrea W—continued prayers for healing • Pastor Falamao (Tehachapi Valley UMC) surgery on Thursday

We pray for all who grieve:

• Cindy Curtis, her brother Toby, and all family and friends who mourn the passing of Cindy's sister-in-law, Juanita • Lisa B. and family as they celebrate the life of Marian T.

Traveling mercies for all those traveling this summer, especially:

• Vance • Nick and Lisa and family • Anne and family • Laura and Michael Daillak, Sherry and David Atkins, and the family and friends traveling together • Jerry, Scott and Patty

We pray for other needs:

• For peace in Ukraine • For all children in foster care • For yet another mass shooting in the US. Prayers for God to surround the families and friends of those who were shot, prayers to change the heart and mind of the perpetrator, and prayers that we do not become so calloused by violence that we stop seeking a solution • For SPRC's work finding people to fill two open positions • All suffering from intense heat • For John R

Prayers of Gratitude:

• Receiving a lovely note from Nancy Schwartz. She is doing well. • Answered prayer: Steven's surgery went well and he is home from the hospital • Laguna Country United Methodist Church's new pastor is just what the congregation needs • Ashram went really well • Eddy's good work in community • Linda's son Balthazar successfully completed an exam that will lead him to a promotion in the fire department • For Sage's new glasses • For all the dedicated and hard working volunteers at this month's food distribution. We fed 400 individuals from 40 families • Lea's medication seems to be working. Continued prayers for healing • Janine Schafer's birthday and the flowers she sent to us to add to the beauty of this sanctuary • Mike and Jim working in the heat this week to fix Wesley's broken sprinklers • Linda Tilton was given baked potatoes at her residence facility.

Next Outlook deadline is Aug 7

A Reminder

Please be sure to lock your car and not leave valuables inside. Do not crack your car windows! We know it is hot but cracking your windows invites theft.

Please make sure doors lock (click) as you exit any church buildings. If you are the last one to leave a church building set alarm and lock doors.

Happy August Birthday to.....

3	Cleona Cope
6	Cindy Wilson
9	Jerry Smith
10	Carolyn Ashlock
12	Kristyn Gonzales
14	Ashley McCaslin
15	Jeanne Allen
18	Beth Davisson
21	Parker Rous
22	John S. Rous
25	Marilynn Barnes
	Terry Gonzales
30	Berkeley Hanley
31	Rose Lester

Happy Anniversary to ...

5	Jerry Smith and Carolyn Ashlock
12	Nick and Lisa Strobel
13	Bob and Lisa Neath
20	Bill and Cindy Wilson
24	Scott and Kacey Pipkin

If we have missed your special day, please let Terry know at (661) 872-8741 or office@wesleybakersfield.org. Thank you.

Happy Belated Birthday to Marlene Blair, July 24.

