

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 8, 2023

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

March 12: Exodus 17:1-7, John 4: 4-15. "Give Me Water"

March 19: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13; John 9:1-41. "In the Presence"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 12.

EASTER IS COMING! The church is making plans.

In past years we have celebrated this high holiday with a pre-worship breakfast together. That ended in 2020 because of the pandemic. We are much healthier now, but many of the people who have worked so hard to make that type celebration possible have either passed away or moved away or gotten enough older that there is less joy in such a large commitment. But there still are people who would love to gather together to celebrate this important holiday with food—we are, after all, Methodists! Carolyn Ashlock has contacted several people who have agreed to help out so we could do this if there is interest. We would serve a hot dish—perhaps an egg casserole—fruit, pastries and beverages and anything else people care to prepare at home and bring for a nine a.m. potluck. Is there interest in such a gathering? It will not be a reservation only event, everyone will be welcome, but we need to know if there is interest. Please let Carolyn know if you are interested in pre-worship breakfast fellowship Easter morning. If so, how many people will attend with you? Are you willing to contribute to the cost of eggs or will you bring fruit or another food item? Are you willing to help with the set up and/or cleanup afterward? Please call or email Carolyn with your RSVP. Her contact information is: cgarnmpa@aol.com and (661) 699-6625.

Ashram Summer Camp

Looking for a fun, spiritual family experience this summer? Redwood Christian Ashram is an interdenominational, intergenerational family camp taking place from July 3 through July 7 in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains. There will be inspirational speakers as well as children and youth programs with plenty of free time to enjoy the magnificent Redwoods. Discounts available for children, youth, and first time attenders. Early bird registration ends March 31. For more information see redwoodchristianashram.org or talk to Rob or Liz Bewley.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

God created humanity in God's own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them. —***Genesis 1: 27***

For many years I have been convinced that being created in God's image means that we are called to be co-creators with God. What that means for each individual may vary greatly. Perhaps your personal creative ability is through music, or auto mechanics or in woodworking or photography or cooking or baking. I like to draw and paint and knit. Those are my creative pursuits, and I find them both therapeutic and prayerful. But unlike God, I cannot create merely out of chaos. I need pencils or paint and paper or canvas or yarn and needles. I know there are many creative people at Wesley UMC. But I don't know each and every one of your creative endeavors. Right now I am looking for visual artists to participate in a creative project for Good Friday. I have purchased seven canvases, and I would like seven people to volunteer to create something visual to display something that suggests one of the last seven words of Christ. I don't want the words themselves written out, I would like them visually represented. Several people have already volunteered to create images. Each artist has free rein to create that the word or phrase means to her or him. Traditionally called "the seven words," what Christ said as he suffered on the cross are really sentences. If you are interested in contributing to this, please call me or see me after worship. I will provide the canvas and will let you know which words are available and which have already been taken by another volunteer. They are listed here:

1. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
2. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
3. "Today you shall be with me in paradise."
4. "Woman, here is your son" and "Here is your mother." (Taken)
5. "I thirst." (Taken)
6. "It is finished" (Taken)
7. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

I look forward to seeing all your expressive work which will be displayed in the sanctuary on Good Friday. Perhaps next year we can display it through the whole season of Lent.

In other news, Terry Gonzales and I have committed to office hours one day per week. Of course, we are in the office at other times, but the schedule is sporadic. Beginning this week either Terry or I or both of us will be in the office on Wednesday mornings from 9 am to noon. If you need to reach me, my cell phone number is listed in the directory. You may call or text me, but if I don't immediately answer, please leave me a message. I will get back to you as soon as I can. Terry's home phone number is also in the directory, but she is also putting it on the weekly worship bulletin and in *The Outlook*. Please respect that neither of us works 24/7. Terry works Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and has Saturdays and Sundays off, and I have Mondays off.

Our Wednesday Bible study resumed on March 1 on Zoom with a book called *Everyday Contemplative: The Way of Prayerful Living* by L. Roger Owens. You may still join this lively discussion if you wish. Just let me know and I will send you the Zoom link. March 19 is UMCOR Sunday. There will be an opportunity to help support the many

missions of recovery and restoration through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). The money collected that Sunday supports 100% of the costs to administer the program, so every dollar we contribute for the rest of the year can go to humanitarian efforts in this country and throughout the world.

I remain interested in beginning a confirmation class for junior and senior high school students. Please let me know of your interest and availability, and I will be happy to get this started.

We continue to observe Lent in worship, so Holy Week and Easter must be following soon. You will hear this news again as these dates get closer, but I hope you will mark your calendars for these events. Holy Week begins with Palm and Passion Sunday on April 2. Traditional palm crosses will be lovingly made and provided by Cindy Wilson. Our Good Friday service will be at noon on April 7. Easter is April 9, with worship at 10:30 and followed by an Easter egg hunt for the children and refreshments for the adults and children. We are planning two baptisms on Easter Sunday—thanks be to God!

Blessings, Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

- Josephine D: healing, and may her family remain calm and supportive
- Children experiencing undiagnosed health problems
- Judy: comfort and guidance and God's healing blessing
- Doris: recovery following surgery
- Maria—recovery and healing from addictions
- Jill Z—scleroderma
- Jeannie Z—fibromyalgia
- Linda T
- Rory—4 year old with meningitis
- Marlene B—broken arm
- (Friend of Rob's)—Bill in a psychiatric hospital—that they can find answers to this unexpected episode—and prayers of comfort for his wife Darla
- Wendy who had double hip replacement. Surgery went well, but continued prayers for healing.
- Matt M.—cancer surgery
- Brian—5 weeks of daily radiation therapy
- Al—healing of wound and Congestive Heart Failure
- Cindy Lawler—surgery today
- Susan M—continued foot pain
- Lisa is under going testing for non dementia memory issues plus migraines and pain in her back and right hip she is also being sent

to a pain management doctor.

We pray for those who are grieving:

- Continued prayers for Stella's brother Jack following the death of his wife Catherine
- Family and friends of Abel Arellano
- The Williams family on the unexpected loss of Cassidy's grandmother

Travel mercies:

- All who are traveling in this stormy weather, especially June and David B
- Dan O'Dell
- Pastors traveling to Sacramento to meet with Board of Ordained Ministries

We pray for other needs:

- Continued prayers for Rev. Debra B and her husband Steve V.
- A shortage of blood thinner medication at The Orchards Post Acute Care Facility
- All children in Foster care and discernment in the court when children are reunited following foster care
- May the US Congress develop respect and a spirit of dignity and cooperation
- We pray for an end to racism and

anti-semitism • We pray for an end to deplorable conditions in ICE facilities and mending of a broken immigration system • People without shelter • Pastor Falamao Samate—that she remain calm and thoughtful as she faces the Board of Ordained Ministries for her interview • Tiffany is student teaching and caring for family and has a big assignment due this month. Prayers for focus. • Strength for folks seeking justice and gratitude for their work • Lynn— may God help her forgive someone who has hurt her and set boundaries so the relationship can mend and be healthy • Pacheco-seeking work

In gratitude, we remember and praise God for our abundant blessings...

- Answered prayer • Snow—and Michael's uplifted spirit following cross-country skiing • For the variety of birds in creation • The welcome visit of Kristyn and Scotlyn • Rob and Liz's good visit to the Bay Area for their great nephew's second birthday and the news that he will become a big brother.
- Shelly arranged for Jack to attend Catherine's funeral. Thanks for her patience when it is not always easy.
- Linda T is very grateful for God's many blessings in her life, including her friendship with June and her special lunch, and the book she is reading.
- We celebrate with June that her friend from Cameroon won asylum • Gratitude for good information from a parenting class • Good inspiration for prayer
- Healing—Sherry's back is much better
- Friendship—Sherry is grateful for Laura's friendship • Judy—her cancer treatment is working • Strange and beautiful weather • Read Across America program-for the adults who volunteer and the children who benefit

Happy March Birthday to.....

4	Michael Daillak
22	Linda Tilton
27	Sammye Jelletich
	Patrick Mitchell

Happy Anniversary to....

11	Tom and Gina Saba
20	David and Sherry Atkins