

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

May 10, 2023

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

May 14: Exodus 16 (selected verses), Matthew 10: 5-14;

"Let Go: Leaving Behind What We Don't Need"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

May 21: Acts 2: 1-21, John 7: 37-39; "The Places God's Spirit Will Send"

Bill Blair, guest speaker

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## Attention Wesley Graduates!

If you are graduating from Jr. High, High School, or College/University, please email Terry at [office@wesleybakersfield.org](mailto:office@wesleybakersfield.org) by Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Announcements will be published in *The Outlook*. Please include the school graduating from, future plans, and any awards. Thank you.

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## 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

***Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord... Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.*** —Acts 9: 28, 31

As many of you know, Bishop Minerva Carcaño has been on administrative leave since early March of 2022. She was suspended from her duties because of several complaints against her. The process in all cases like this is highly confidential, and neither I nor any of my colleagues, nor even Bishop Dyck who is presiding over our Conference in the meanwhile have any details about the charges. But we learned on May 4 that the Committee on Investigation in the Western Jurisdiction has been unable to find a just resolution and has identified five chargeable offenses. Thus they have scheduled a trial under the rules of The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. I do not have a date or any more details, but I will keep you informed as I learn more. The Western Jurisdiction is asking that we all keep Bishop Carcaño, the complainants, the California-Nevada Annual Conference and the Western Jurisdiction in our prayers. This is the link to the news release: <https://www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/release-update-on-the-suspension-of-bishop-minerva-carca-os-upon-committee-workcompletion-17415384>. In this season of disaffiliation, please keep the whole denomination in prayer.

This is both good and bad news. I will start with the bad news: Wesley has been the victim of a number of incidents of vandalism, and the truck that delivers the food to the church for our food distribution has need of a very expensive repair. The good news is that the generosity of Wesley members has been overwhelming. I am so proud of this congregation! Thank you. There is still an opportunity to contribute to the truck repair if you so wish. Just please be clear to make a clear notation on any extra donation you might care to make so it is properly distributed.

We continue our “Emerge” worship series through the Easter season until Pentecost is upon us on May 28. The week before that (May 21) I will preside at communion at the United Woman in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) retreat in Oakhurst. Bill Blair, our faithful Lay Servant, will preach at Wesley that day. The retreat begins on Friday, but I cannot attend until late Saturday because I need to attend our annual District Conference on Saturday morning. This Sunday we will celebrate Mother’s Day and the musical excellence with which Josh Forquera has blessed us the past two years. He is to be graduated from CSUB on May 19 and will be moving to southern California for new adventures. We wish him every blessing in his future.

Our Wednesday evening study group begins a new study this week using The Holy Spirit in the Wesleyan Heritage by Mack B. Stokes. Those who have requested a copy of the book from me have received it, but books are available from Amazon. If you wish to join our discussion with or without the book, please contact me and I will send you the Zoom link.

Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

## Prayers

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

- Susan M—healing from foot surgery; relief of pain • Ucedrah—healing
- 3 stabbing victims at US Davis—and for their families and friends, other students and staff • Jerry S—cataract surgery on Tuesday • Linda T—may she have relief from the reactions she has been having from new medication
- Liz—relief from a bad cold • Timmy M.
- Julie who is 9 months pregnant needs prayers for protection for herself and her baby during the birth process • Brenden needs peace and healing in his spirit
- Rev. Vathenak Heang pastor in Clovis and a friend of Anne's needs prayer for healing • Healing for Louie and Caesar, staff at The Orchard's Post-Acute
- Carolyn A — recovery from surgery
- Jerry S (Carolyn's husband) healing from surgery • Jeannie for exploratory surgery

### **Travel mercies:**

- Sherry and David traveling to Oregon. Prayers for a good visit with their son, and that Sherry's back pain doesn't flare up. • For Kathleen and Weston

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

- People in need of food and shelter
- Prayers for Ukraine and for a softening of President Putin's heart • For Rev. Kristie Olah and her husband Bob as he enters hospice care—God's peace during this tender time • Prayers for people facing extreme weather conditions • For lost things • Continued prayer for Ryan recently released after a long prison term. He is in need of employment and lodging • Prayer for all children to have peace, protection, loving homes and opportunities for

growth

- Tiffany completing her final assignment
- For an end to gun violence and for leadership in addressing the plague of gun violence • Prayers of protection of the church buildings and campus
- Linda J needs a phone repair—it's very important because she and her daughter feel isolated and they live in different care facilities • Peace in the world, especially in Ukraine. • That Linda T's mother can get a working phone so they can talk everyday. It is important for them both

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

- Gratitude for the wonderful weather on Saturday. May we all care for creation
- Happy 2nd birthday to Travis, and 27th birthday to Madison — Anne's grandchildren
- Happy 6th birthday to Genevieve — Terry's granddaughter • Gratitude for the healing in Linda's family—Sage is feeling better, Lea's surgery was successful, but Lea needs continued prayer for pain relief • Samantha has been awarded the opportunity to give a speech at her graduation from Cal State Fullerton • For family and friends
- Elizabeth (Sherry and David's granddaughter graduated college Summa Cum Laude this week • Lea had the remaining stitches out and is able to shower • Nick's deep cut is healing
- Carolyn's surgery went well. She is out of the hospital—continued prayers for complete healing • That Linda R's grandchildren have been accepted on her Kaiser health insurance • Sherry and David had a good visit with their son David and have returned home safely
- Thanksgiving that Nick's term as

Senate President at BC has ended  
• Thanksgiving for the way Cal Sate celebrates the accomplishments of their staff and students —celebration of migrant students graduation and achievements and recognition of staff dedication • Gratitude for children in our lives—the joys and even the difficulties they bring • Jenifer's internship is moving into a paid position. She and Danny may be able to relocate to help care for her ailing mother. • Tony D. Is part of a robotics's team that traveled with other middle school students and did well. Although they did not win top honors to take them to the finals, they have had a wonderful opportunity to travel and learn. • Gratitude for the gift of faith

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## **Missions**

Kern Welcoming & Extending Solidarity to Immigrants (KWESI) supports immigrants detained in the two immigrant detention facilities in Kern County by adding funds to individuals' commissary accounts. KWESI also provides support to immigrants upon release by providing phones and assisting with travel arrangements to destinations. Administrative Council received a request to support KWESI with an on-going financial donation. Administrative Council approved a monthly donation of \$20 through the end of this year with an option to reconsider continuing the support next year. Individuals in the congregation may provide additional funds by writing KWESI on the memo line of a check to Wesley or by designating KWESI in online Wesley donations.

## **Thank You**

Thank you for your generosity. Wesley Church collected \$72 for Native American Ministries on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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## **Meeting**

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, May15, 5:30 p.m. via zoom.