

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXIV, #10

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

May 24, 2023

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

May 28; Pentecost. Acts 2: 1-21, John 7: 37-39. "The Places God's Spirit Will Send Us"

June 4; Trinity Sunday. Psalm 8, Matthew 28:16-20. "Go, Therefore"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Congratulations Class of 2023!

Jr. High School:

Toni Dethlefsen is graduating from Downtown School 8th Grade and will be attending BHS. He is interested in interior design and robotics. Parents are James and Guinevere Dethlefsen. Grandmother is Barbara Dethlefsen.

University:

Krista Cusator: UC Santa Barbara, with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. Parents are James and Laura Cusator. Grandmother is Margaret Grant.

Terry Gonzales: California Baptist University, Riverside, with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (Alpha Sigma Lambda). Her husband is Jonathan and children are J.T., Tiffany, Kristyn, Allison, and Mandi.

Kelly Strobel: Oregon State University, with a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology. Future plans are still in development but they will include moving to Portland metro area to find a job and eventually going to graduate school to get a Master's. Her parents are Nick and Lisa Strobel.



♪ A Note from the Pastor

***Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness. ~Isaiah 43: 19 (Theme for ACS)***

Summertime is almost upon us, and thus, so is the Annual Conference Session (ACS). As you may know, the clergy and lay representatives from each church meet on an annual basis to hear reports on the ministry in the Conference, to plan ministry for the coming year, and to do Christian Conferencing together. Our conference covers Northern California and Northern Nevada. A partial map of the area is available here: <https://www.cnumc.org/district-offices>, but the areas to the north, east, and south have been truncated from this map. Bakersfield is almost the southernmost city in the Conference, but two churches in the Kern Circuit are south of Bakersfield; Tehachapi and New Cuyama. The northern edge of the Conference stretches to the northern borders of both states. Needless to say, there is a great diversity in these places. Mountains, valleys, cities, farmland, and deserts create a vast diversity of lifestyles and opinions. We must come together to discuss and discern God's call for us in this time and each place. Of course, worship is a central element of our gatherings, and at each of the worship services an offering is taken. This year the three offerings will be for Ministerial education fund (at Ordination service), necessitous grant fund (at Memorial service), and for Native American Ministries (at Sunday's worship service.) If you wish to make a contribution to any or all of these funds through Wesley, please mark you check or offering envelope clearly.

This year we will meet from June 15-18 in Sacramento. That causes a bit of a conundrum regarding worship in Bakersfield Wesley UMC because Alice and I attend as clergy, Linda R. and Bill attend as lay representatives, and Nick and Lisa will be attending their daughter Kelly's college graduation at the same time. Bishop Dyck and the ACS team encourage all churches to live-stream the ACS worship service, which you may do so from home. It will be available at [cnumc.org](https://www.cnumc.org). I hope you will be able to gather together at church to view as community but because several key members of our tech team will be in Sacramento, we are not yet ready to promise that the service will be streamed at Wesley. I am reluctant to close the sanctuary doors any Sunday, (I have memories of pandemic) but at this moment, that is a possibility. Please stay tuned as we discern possibilities.

One of the main tasks this year will be to hear reports on the request of six churches in our Conference seeking disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. This will definitely be a time of grieving. One of the churches is in Kern County. Weldon is a small church in the mountains, and has felt separated from United Methodism for some time. My prayer is that once this season of turmoil is over, God's healing blessing will be with disaffiliating churches as well as the whole United Methodist denomination. But one of the exciting moments for me is when the Bishop and District Superintendent David Niu announces appointments, and I am officially called to serve Wesley in the coming year.

~continued on the following page~

There will be more news about ACS in the coming weeks, and when completed, you will receive a report back from your Lay Representatives and me.

In more local news—and you know more about this than I since I attended the United Women in Faith retreat last Sunday—I believe the church's sound system problems have been solved. Thanks be to God! And thanks, too, to Bill Blair for his faithful work on this.

Blessings—and please stay hydrated!
Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

• Timmy M. • Linda T. • Louise & Steve D. as she suffers from health issues and he cares for her • Eddy's friend Bob needs prayer for healing • People with health problems in need of a diagnosis • Bonney F. • David A (he is better, but still in need of prayer) • 13 day old, Jacob, recovering from heart surgery and for his parents

For all who are grieving:

• Rev. Kristie Olah and her family on the passing of her husband Robert (Bob) Olah

Travel mercies:

• For Tiffany and Madeline • Nick and Lisa S

We pray for other needs:

• Prayers of protection of the church buildings, campus, and property • For peace in Ukraine • For Mr. Putin's discernment of what is right & to stop flexing his military muscle • Bishop Carcaño, C/N Annual Conference & Western Jurisdiction • Migrants at the borders • All children in foster care

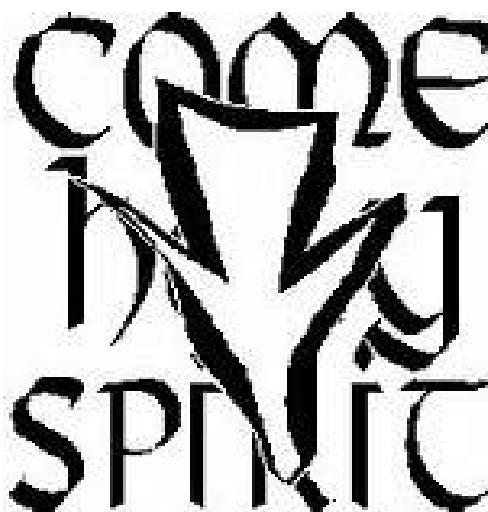
• For lost things • New management at care facilities: May they make good decisions • All persons affected by gun violence • People moving, especially Dan O • All people involved in the West trial • Delores

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

• For the blessing of loving family and friends • Sage S—honored as student of the month for outstanding achievement in April. • Jerry S's cataract surgery went well • Hearing from old friends—Jane Hanley • Thanks for Josh's work with us • The generosity of the people of Wesley • For the Texan representative who is a voice of reason standing up for the separation of church and state in Texas schools. • For finding lost things • For the care Bonney is receiving from health care worker, and especially from her daughter Diana • Linda T is grateful for weight loss, to be able to see her feet which she has not been able to do in years, and for receiving gifts for Mother's Day. • Nancy S "miracle" relief from Back pain • Children succeeding in school • Leslie for calm and confidence to pass the 100 question U.S. Citizenship exam

Peace With Justice Sunday
June 4

Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally. Wesley Church will have offering envelopes in Sunday's bulletin, June 4 . Checks may be made payable to Wesley Church, designated *Peace With Justice Sunday* or give online. Thank you.



Deadline for next Outlook is June 5.

Happy June Birthday to.....

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 4 | Linda Mitchell |
| 6 | Allison Gonzales |
| | Nancy Jacobus |
| 12 | Sylvia Corson |
| 14 | Gail Scarazzo |
| 15 | David Hanley |
| 16 | J.T. Gonzales |
| 17 | Tiffany Gonzales |
| 19 | Kacey Pipkin |
| 20 | Krista Cusator |
| 21 | June Braun |
| | Stan Moore |
| 23 | Carolyn Lonsinger |
| 24 | David Rous |
| 25 | Doug Anglin |
| 29 | Doris Robertson |

Happy Anniversary to....

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 10 | Roy and Gail Scarazzo |
| 20 | James and Laura Cusator |
| 25 | Donnel and Rose Lester |

