

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

November 22, 2023

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

November 26: Christ the King Sunday:

Ephesians 1: 15-23; John 6: 5-23. "After Giving Thanks"

December 3: First Sunday in Advent:

Isaiah 66: 1-9; Mark 13: 24-37. "Being Present with Hope."

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

United Methodist Student Day November 26

United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. Gifts on United Methodist Student Day support U.M. scholarships and the U.M. Student Loan Fund. Offering envelopes will be available in this Sunday's bulletin or make a donation online. Thank you.

Pledge Sunday Celebration December 3

We began our stewardship campaign this month. During worship until pledge Sunday on December 3, we have a witness to what church stewardship means to a family in our congregation. On December 3 we will celebrate with special treats in the lobby after worship. Regardless of your ability to pledge, let us celebrate together!

Dream Center Christmas Donations from Wesley

This year Wesley will collect food items for the Dream Center. Please bring individually wrapped snacks (granola bars, fruit snacks, trail mix, etc.) as well as emergency food items (soups, tuna, peanut butter, cereal, etc.). We will collect food through December 31. There are baskets in the Narthex for your donations.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

[David] said I love you, Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer.

My God is my rock—I take refuge in him!

He's my shield, my salvation's strength, my place of safety.

Because he is praiseworthy,

I cried out to the Lord, and I was saved from my enemies. ~ Psalm 18:1-3

I hope others were as blessed as I have been by the theme of gratitude and thanksgiving we have been exploring in worship this season. It is truly a good thing to think of our blessings and be grateful. We have one more Sunday in the series, but the season of thanks is never over! However, we will soon feel even more gratitude as we enter the Advent season and look forward to Christ's rebirth in our hearts. Our worship series this Advent season will be based on material for Worship Design Studio. The title "The Gift of Being Present" is a reminder to all of us that sometimes the most important gift doesn't come from a store. Here is how their website describes it. "Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried— often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is "the Holy Living One is with you." Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most." Join us in person or on-line for this celebration.

In other news, December will include more than Advent anticipation. On December 3 we will celebrate our stewardship campaign—which will only be successful if we hear from everyone. The Finance Committee will provide after worship treats. On December 10 our District Superintendent will join us for our yearly Charge Conference which celebrates Wesley's ministry, past and future. Please try to fill the sanctuary that day as evidence of our vital and welcoming congregation. The meeting will follow after worship. On December 13 the BYOC will meet. (There is more information about that in this newsletter.) The talents of those who have shown up are awesome. Paper crafts, card-making, crocheting, knitting, and even a little plant pruning have been impressive. Come and join with or without a craft for fellowship. (I will be absent this month because I am having cataract removal surgery that day.)

Many blessings in this joyous season.

Pastor Anne _____

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling will happen on December 3, 10, and 17 at 2 p.m. We will carol to a different part of town each Sunday. More information forthcoming.

Prayers

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

- Susan M—release of pain, healing and comfort
- Odet—release of pain
- Donna—healing from COVID
- Linda T—release of pain, healing and patience
- Danny—painful cancer treatment, difficulty finding healthy food that tastes good (affected by medication)
- Jack
- Tish
- John
- Liz
- Jenifer
- Ronnie
- Stella—peace and comfort
- Tish—healing and comfort
- Jack—healing and peace of mind
- Dan M—will have a long recovery period and needs continued prayer. He is making progress, but he and those who care for him need comfort and patience
- Lea—peace of mind
- Louie (who works in the kitchen at The Orchards) healing and patience
- Andy—healing and peace of mind
- Blanca—healing

For those who are grieving:

- Sherril and daughter Leah Rose
- Chavez family
- The North Georgia Conference of the UMC following yesterday's disaffiliation of 261 churches

For other needs:

- People suffering injustice
- Stella—comfort and peace
- Rita—worry about dear friend's illness
- Peace
- People—especially children—in Gaza
- Ukraine
- Israel

For travel mercies:

- All who are traveling for Thanksgiving holiday
- All traveling for Alvesa's memorial service
- Shawn returning from Lay ministering training

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

• Michael A's new counseling job

• Jerry L who gives good advice and supports Sherry's children

• Anne's cataract surgery has been approved and scheduled

• The joy of Matthew's baptism today (Bill and Marlene's grandson)

• Monday choir practice at St. Phillip's Church

• Monika cooking for herself

• Eddy's care for family and friends

• Veterans who served this country

• The dedication of Disciple Study group—the church lost power & room was pitch black. Each member pulled out their phone and kept on working!

• Barbara's youngest grandson Tony—celebrating his birthday. He brings joy to the family

• The gathering of crafters at church

• Music

• Thankful that Bill and Cindy Wilson weren't injured in the hit and run accident that likely totaled their car



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the Chavez family in the death of **Alvesa Chavez** on November 13, 2023. Alvesa was a long-time member of Trinity UMC before becoming a member of Wesley in 2020. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held at Wesley on Monday, November 27, 10:30 a.m.

The following memorial donations were made to Wesley Church in memory of Marian Troyer:
\$2500 Stained glass window repair
\$2500 UMCOR, Haiti relief

Bring Your Own Craft (BYOC)

Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Time: 9:30-11:00 AM

Place: The Gathering Place at Wesley

Who: Everyone

Event: Bring your favorite craft to work on while we visit. If you are not "crafty," please come anyway. Also, bring your favorite mug and personal water.

Coffee & Tea will be provided.

Organizer: June Braun

Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, November 28, 5:30 p.m. via zoom.

Deadline

The December deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, are December 4 and 18. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy December Birthday to....

4	Alice Oberg
6	Pam Hall
10	Sarah Strobel
13	James Dethlefson
16	Mike Hurry
30	Jennifer Armantrout

Happy Anniversary to....

15	Chris and Cindy Curtis
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