

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 28, 2024

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

March 3: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25, John 2: 13-22; "I Will Raise It Up"

March 10: Numbers 21: 4-9, John 3: 14-21; "Loving the Light"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Special Sunday Offering

UMCOR Sunday celebration is March 10, 2024. This offering is collected on the fourth Sunday in Lent and provides major support for immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace (*UM Communications*) and the gifts lay the foundation of all United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all gifts designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. You may mail a check to Wesley, designated UMCOR or give online. Thank you.



Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 10.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

You return people to dust, saying, “Go back, humans,” because in your perspective a thousand years are like yesterday past, like a short period during the night watch.
—Psalm 90: 3-4

Leap Year!

I am just back from vacation, and the date February 29 reminded me of a star-gazing event we attended at the resort where my family was staying. It was a beautiful, clear evening, and the astronomer who was teaching us reminded us that the earth's trip around the sun is not precisely 365 days. We already knew that, of course, but it reminded me that we would celebrate “Leap Day” this week. Human calculations are not Kairos time, God's gift of opportunities and seasons. And that reminded me of a new season in my life—I have reached the age of mandatory retirement in the United Methodist Church. But how did that come so fast? Or, as I have seen several times in a meme, “Isn't it strange to be the same age as old people?” It hardly seems possible to me that almost 18 years have passed since my first appointment. In the California/Nevada Conference it is now a type of Kairos time—appointment season. I have requested that the cabinet allow me to stay here to serve Bakersfield Wesley, but clergy appointments are complicated, and I will not have a definite answer for some time. Regardless of the cabinet's decision, I will enter retirement status in June, but what that means for me as far as my ministry goes has yet to be determined. (Ordained ministry is for life, but that means only that I have the rest of my life to serve God. It does not tell me what God is calling me to do in this season of my life.) So please keep me, your church, and the cabinet in your prayers,

On Sunday I shared news of the “Coins for Lent” project at Children's Time, telling them that counting the items in my home and donating a coin for each in the count was a reminder of God's blessing. And the reminder of my blessings helps me eager to share blessings with others. This year Wesley will send the money we collect to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to bless Ukraine. But after worship I was told that counting those coins from all the church members who participate doesn't feel like a blessing to the Missions Committee. But please don't stop counting your blessings! There are a couple of solutions. To aid in the counting, I have purchased a coin counter to give to the church, or you may count your blessings and roll your own coins, or you may count your blessings and send in cash or a check for the amount you determine appropriate. That said, please be sure to mark your giving “Coins for Lent.”

On a similar note, there is news on the “Sack Hunger” challenge that collected food for people with food insecurity. The people of California-Nevada churches donated 31,908.1 pounds of food during Super Bowl Challenge, 172.8 pounds from Bakersfield Wesley. (Unfortunately, I filled out the form incorrectly, and my name rather than Wesley appears on the list. I am attempting to correct that, but the food gets to be distributed locally.) The Kansas City Chiefs may have won the Super Bowl, but churches in CA/NV and CA/PAC collected more food!

Blessings, Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

• Danny, Jenifer, and Jenifer's mother Barbara • Linda T • Jill • Cleona C • Ronnie • Patrick B • Stephen, Anne's niece's friend hospitalized with acute pancreatitis and awaiting surgery • Anna • healing for Valerie • Nick's mom, Rita, fighting bronchitis

For all who are grieving:

• Tracy Jones and family for the loss of her 20 year old son • Elissa Tomlin for the loss of her father Nick

Travel mercies:

• Anne traveling on vacation to Hawaii. Brother Robert, sister-in-law Amanda and their son and his family are traveling from Boston. Robert's daughter and her fiancé traveling from Washington DC

We pray for other needs:

• Prayers of love for all. Let everyone feel loved. • for Bill and Marlene Blair's daughter's condo caught on fire, it is currently unlivable and for their grandson who is in rehab • An end to suffering in war-torn places • That Timmy finds employment soon • Peace • Linda T. will be able to move soon and find a place that is accommodating and less noisy

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

• The magnificent beauty of Hawaii



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to Marlene Lipford in the death of her husband, **James Lipford**,

on January 25, 2024. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 16, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3700 Union Ave., at 11 a.m.

The Outlook

Each year at this time, we request each of you to renew your subscription to the church's newsletter, "*The Outlook*". It is now time, and for \$15 you can renew for a full year. Mail in your check or place it in the offering plate, designated "*The Outlook*".

Happy March Birthday to.....

4	Michael Daillak
7	Bill Blair
22	Linda Tilton
27	Sammye Jelletich
	Patrick Mitchell

Happy Anniversary to....

11	Tom and Gina Saba
20	David and Sherry Atkins

In The Military

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers.

Michael Ahumada - Army
Chris Armantrout - Navy
Nathan Ashlock - Marines
Nick Buckridge - Army National Guard
Mark Andrew Caldwell - Marines
Alex Campbell - Navy
Josh Caughran - Navy
Megan Darling - Army Reserves
Bradley Delacruz - Army
Jerome Garey - Air Force
Dan Hanel - Air Force
Greg Hanel - Air Force
Kaylyn Dane-Kulland - National Guard
Josephine Imperial - Marines
Anthony Mitchell jr. - Air Force
Kenneth Oberg - Navy
Rebecca Oberg - Air Force
Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp
Tiela Roland - Air Force
Carsten Strobel. - Army
Spring Walden - Air Force
Joel Watson - Navy
Josephine Wells-Ashley - Marines
Laura Yoon - Navy
David Yoon - Navy

The pillar candle on the altar is to remind us of our prayers for them

Create in me a clean
heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit
within me.

Psalm 51:10

