

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

January 10, 2024

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

January 14: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, John 1: 43-51. "Listening and Believing"

January 21: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10, Mark 1: 14-20. "Call and Response"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

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## *Human Relations Special Sunday, January 14*

"This Sunday occurs during Epiphany, the season of manifesting God's light to the world. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations." (Par. 264.1, *The Book of Discipline* 2004) Wesley Church will have offering envelopes available in this Sunday's bulletin or you may donate online. Thank you.

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## *Missions: Christmas Donations from Wesley*

Thank you for the snack and emergency food donations for the Dream Center. These items make a meaningful difference for Kern's current and former foster youth. Also, thank you for donations of hygiene supplies, socks, t-shirts, and underwear for both the Dream Center and KWESI. Your generosity has brought love and comfort to those in need in our community.



## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***Don't you know that all who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life.***  
- Romans 6: 3-4

Happy New Year!

We, too can walk in newness of life, Paul reminds us. That's not just in each new year, it is in each new day. We have several new things happening at church this month. Douglas Carothers has joined our music team. His first Sunday working with us will be January 21 because of prior commitments this coming Sunday, but he has already worshipped with us twice. He was raised in the United Methodist Church, so knows a great deal about our hymnal, and I am excited because he will assist me in picking hymns that go with the Sunday theme. Choir will begin rehearsals Wednesday evenings and will resume singing God's praises in worship soon after. Welcome Doug! Also new this month is a Certified Lay Ministry (CLM) project led by Shawn Collins. He has a plan for bringing new people to church in need of God's healing blessing, and one of his first steps is to invite our neighbors to church for a free barbecue on Saturday, January 20 at 2 pm. Please join us if you are able. Our neighbors want to meet us, and we want to meet them! This is a wonderful community outreach to greet new people.

Please also consider joining "BYOC" (Bring Your Own Craft) on January 17. This is an informal gathering of people who like to get to know one another better over a bit of handwork. If you don't have an ongoing craft project, come anyway! In the past few sessions people have brought more than enough supplies to share. There is more information in this edition of *The Outlook*.

Each year the Bishop calls pastor's together for a gathering—in former years, the gathering was called "The Gathering of the Orders," referring to the Order of Elders, the order of Deacons, etc. Recently the name has been changed to "The Gathering of Spiritual Leaders" to welcome all who lead churches, including lay ministers. This year's gathering will be in Livermore. I will be away January 22-26.

Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

## ***Bring Your Own Craft (BYOC)***

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Time: 9:30-11:30 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.

Lunch follows at Wake Up Cafe, 2665 Fashion Plaza

Organizer: June Braun

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## ***Finance Campaign Ongoing***

You should have now received your pledge card in the mail for supporting the ministries of Wesley UMC in 2024. Many thanks to all who have prayerfully considered their 2024 giving to Wesley. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please mail it to the church office P.O. Box 6577, 93386. We have received 21 pledges totaling \$85,560. Our goal is 30 pledges. Please prayerfully consider a monetary pledge. Thank you and God bless you!

## ***Meeting***

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, January 16 at 5:30 p.m. via zoom.

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## ***Deadline***

The deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is January 22. Thank you for your cooperation.

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## ***Prayers***

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

- Danny and Jenifer • Ruth S • Bonney F
- Susan M • Paul W and comfort for his wife Julie • Rev. Linda Kelly • Rob & Liz—COVID diagnoses upset their well laid plans, but they have been blessed by many acts of love • Lipford family—healing for Jim and support for his wife Marlene • Martha and Bob C
- Linda T • Lisa and Nick S
- Stella—doing very well after hip surgery, but prayer for continued healing
  - healing for Elizabeth Rous from the flu and wants to be back at work
  - rapid recovery for Donnel Lester from COVID
  - for so many who feel all alone in difficult times

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

- We pray for peace in the world and wisdom for all decision makers • Difficult family relations • For all who live in dangerous situations due to war, storms, natural disasters • All who are lonely on holidays • For the people of Japan following tragic plane crash and multiple earthquakes • For God's

guidance to all who elect leaders this year • We pray that now Wayne LaPierre has resigned from the NRA, that their new leadership might allow laws that may help us protect our children while they protect their rights

**We pray for travel mercies:**

- So many people traveling... may they be safe and patient

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

- Jerry L had a very close call, but was not hit by a car. She lifts a prayer of gratitude • John L passed away this time of year—gratitude for his life and witness • Jerry is grateful for her niece and nephew's visit together • Gratitude for Louise C's life and witness • Traditions handed down through families, and their continuation through grandchildren • Lissy and Josh's visit with Laura • Although Linda T was unable to visit with her Mom over the holidays, she is grateful for being able to see pictures on Facebook and she felt the Lord's touch when she was not feeling well one evening • Danny and Jenifer are grateful for the blessings of a family wedding • Anne is grateful for the help of a stranger who stopped, parked his car, and walked her home after her fall • For rain • Dan M. Is home and recovering well • Sylvia Corson is doing well • Anne's cataract surgery went well—gratitude for Vanessa's care for me • Jose's new job • Linda T has been receiving many gifts and blessing and she is grateful • Alice, Luz, and Jim and the work they did here on Saturday • For caregivers

*Speak, Lord,  
your servant is listening.  
1 Samuel 3:9*

