

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

April 24, 2024

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

April 28: 1 John 4: 7-21, John 15: 1-8; "We Bear Fruit"

May 5: Music Sunday! 1 John 5: 1-6, John 15: 9-17; "We Love One Another"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Attention Wesley Graduates!

If you are graduating from Jr. High, High School, or College/University, please email Terry at office@wesleybakersfield.org by Monday, May 20th. Announcements will be published in *The Outlook*. Please include the school graduating from, future plans, and any awards. Thank you.

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.

Thank You

Thank you for your generosity. \$300 was collected for UMCOR Sunday and \$100 was collected for Native American Ministries.



♪ A Note from the Pastor

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1: 26-27

The big news, at least in my life, is that General Conference 2020 begins just a little over three hours from the moment I am writing this! Conference was delayed over four years, first by the pandemic and then by myriad other problems. The delegates meet daily, except for Sunday, from April 23 through May 4. There are 1,099 petitions before the conference this year. According to our two "first delegates," Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan and Conference Lay Leader Micheal Pope, the most important legislation the delegates have been working on for the last five years are "Three R's." The Removal of any language that harms and divides the people of the United Methodist Church, especially around racism and gender or human sexuality issues. The second "R" is the Revision of the Social Principles. The third "R" is Regionalization, a creating a pathway for the church to go forward together into the future. Nick Strobel has graciously posted a link to watch the proceedings on Wesley's homepage. Please pray for the successful work of this conference and for the discernment of all the delegates.

Doug Carothers has been working hard to put together a fine program for worship on "Music Sunday," May 5. The choir will have two anthems, and there will be several special pieces from talented musicians within the congregation. Please do your best to attend. Although all participants use their talents to praise God, these talented performers deserve an appreciative human audience!

Two Sunday's ago I promised to share one or two creation justice tips in every edition of The Outlook to help us become more faithful stewards of God's creation. Plastic has become so ubiquitous in the world that we even breathe it into our bodies. I quote anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." I have signed up for a monthly newsletter from our friends at Creation Justice Ministries. Here are a few tips from their April newsletter: "Treat your family to alternatives to the usual single-use plastic items in your home. Consider bamboo toothbrushes, shampoo bars, aluminum water bottles, reusable silicone baggies, for example. Or visit a refill store. Move away from "throw-away." Personally, I buy a number of household products from a company called Grove. They sell earth-friendly products without plastic packaging. Their paper products are made from bamboo rather than trees. If you allow me to help you sign you up with them, we can save money together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

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

- Jim Pugh following a motorcycle accident & peace and comfort for Pastor Karen as well as blessings for the medical team, including Jim's anesthesiologist. Jim had successful surgery and is improving, but will need much prayer for continued healing
- Rita S • Ruth S— continued prayer for strength and healing • Danny, Jenifer, Barbara & Ronnie • Linda's neighbors: Sherry and John Sherry fell and broke her nose • Sage • Rich, who is undergoing medical treatments
- Linda T—healing and peace of mind
- The person in The Orchards who has COVID 19 • Baby Persia

We pray for those who are grieving:

- Continued prayer for Janice and her family • Friends and family (including church family) of Rev. Doug Williams
- Melanie and family, on the death of her mother

We pray travel mercies:

- For Danny and Jenifer coming to Bakersfield • For Michael A traveling to Washington

We pray for other needs:

- Linda T for patience regarding a meeting to determine where she might move. May she find a good placement
- All children in foster care • An end to fighting in the Middle East and in Ukraine, and discernment for all in leadership to bring justice and a lasting peace • John R. For safety and well-being • Stella—peace of mind

- The delegates and all involved in the work of General Conference—may they be blessed, and thoughtful, and filled with God's spirit. • We lift up the decision makers in our government—locally, in the State, and in the federal government • We pray for peace

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

- We are grateful for God's healing mercies—Beth D's brother-in-law Selmer has been released from the hospital. • Beautiful spring weather
- Toni D's performance in BHS's production of Chicago • Jerry has much gratitude for a trip to Indiana to view the eclipse. She spent quality time with her first cousin Linda as well as visiting the Indiana U campus where she, her sister, and both their parents attended. It was a wonderful trip • Denise's surgery went well • Dottie Stratton took leadership of the Discipleship class
- Berniece Bell is home from the hospital and feeling much better • Barbara is pleased her granddaughter Jo wants to spend time with her grandmother and is traveling East with her this summer.
- The wonderful music professionals at Wesley • John's 80th birthday (Linda's neighbor) • Ronnie's health is improving
- Sage is feeling better • Barbara is grateful for the 53 years she had with her beloved husband Ron • For Barbara D's hard work in TGP this week • For Laura D's friendship, and the many ways she shows it • For David Atkins' musical talent and the ways he helps in his church • For the hard work to pass the Ukraine Aid package. May it be used to make peace

Happy May Birthday to...

- 7 Charles Rous
- 10 Anita Stewart
- 11 Barbara Dethlefson
- 13 Nick Strobel
- 14 David Braun
Molly Saba
- 15 Corky Blain
- 17 Stella Rous
- 18 Marcia Whitten
- 19 Carolyn Anglin
- 20 Belva Bradshaw
- 22 Margaret Grant
- 23 Pat Filkins
- 28 Sherry Atkins
- 30 Michael Atkins



Bring Your Own Craft & Beverage (BYOC & B)

Date: Thursday, May 30, 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.

Bring your own beverage.

Lunch follows at Spencer's Cafe, 3401 Mall View Road

Organizer: June Braun