

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

April 23, 2025

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

April 27: Acts 5: 27-32, John 20: 19-31. "Freedom to Sing"

May 4: Acts 9: 1-6, 7-20, John 21: 1-19. "Freedom to Follow"

May 11: Acts 9: 36-43, John 10: 22-30. "Freedom to Rise Again"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Native American Ministries Sunday Offering, May 4

The Native American Ministries Sunday offering develops and strengthens annual conference Native American ministries, equips Native American rural and urban congregations, ministries, and communities and educates Native American seminarians. Offering envelopes will be available. Checks may be made payable to Wesley Church, designated *Native American Ministries* or give online. 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.

KWESI

(Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants)

Nine volunteers wrote spring greeting cards to 160 men in ICE detention on April 10. Thank you for participating and sending encouraging words to those who anxiously await their fate. Thank you for donating stamps and envelopes so that a stamped, blank envelope could be included inside each card for the men's correspondence with family, friends, and attorneys. Wesley participants included Rose Garcia, Vickie Gilley (Rose's sister) Barbara Dethlefsen, and June Braun. The next card writing event will be in August.

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

Easter Sunday: Christ is Risen Indeed!

What a wonderful celebration we shared! Joy abounded as we met new friends, welcomed familiar faces, and rejoiced together in community. We also celebrated the baptism of four beautiful children—what a blessing! I hope the day brought you as much joy as it did me.

But let us remember: Easter is not just a single day. It's even more than a season—it's a way of seeing the world. Easter is an outlook. Let us strive to be Easter people all year long!

A special thank you to our children for their hard work decorating the flower cross—it was more beautiful than ever! And thank you to all the adults who brought flowers from your gardens to contribute to this meaningful tradition.

Worship Series: The Cup of Freedom

Our Easter season worship series, The Cup of Freedom, was created by the Worship Design Studio. It began on Easter Sunday and will carry us through to Pentecost Sunday, June 8. We hope it continues to nourish your spirit during this sacred season.

“Coins for Lent”

Our “Coins for Lent” collection officially ended on Holy Saturday. Because Easter Sunday was so full, we did not take up the offering during the service. If you participated in this meaningful project, please bring your donation to church this Sunday. All donations will support KWESI. Many thanks to Ernestine Torres, who has graciously offered to sort and roll the coins. If you prefer to donate with a check or cash, please clearly mark your envelope or notate on your check so it can be applied correctly.

Trustees at work

Our Trustees have been hard at work caring for our building. Plumbers resolved the water leak without needing to dig up the concrete sidewalk—thankfully! The fence repair is now complete. Grates have also been installed to protect our stained-glass windows. Once the new air conditioning unit is installed, it too will be protected by grates. That project is underway. You will find a letter from the Trustees enclosed in this newsletter asking for your support of this project.

Technical Troubles—Solved!

Thanks to the diligence of our tech team, our live-streaming issues have been resolved. We are once again connected with our beloved online community!

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

Prayer of healing and comfort:

- Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar and Lea
- Siobhan • Nancy J • Linda T
- Bonney F • Anna L • Wayne
- Margaret—(Steve M's niece)
- Pastor Cindy L • Kathy A • Wayne
- Karen's sister Mari

We ask God's blessing for other needs:

- All pastors and churches affected by appointment changes • For President Trump-May he lead the country well
- For John R—discernment • For George • Peace in Wayne's home
- Peace in the world • End to gun violence • For those who suffered last week in Tallahassee FL • safety for all who travel this week • Housing for all who need it • Stella

And God, we praise you for your abundant blessings. We especially give you thanks for:

- The church's plumbing problem was resolved • Some really beautiful weather
- For music, especially the blessing of hearing wonderful music live • Gestures of kindness • For the work June and Eddy and others do to give comfort and companionship to people detained by ICE • Barbara's good news from the retina specialist • All people who do mission and service work in the world
- For the joy of Easter and the added blessing of four baptized children
- Birthdays: Beverly's, David's and Travis' • Linda's pool repair • Healing in Barbara's eyes • The earthquake in San Diego caused no major damage
- Ian and Cassidy's visit • God's presence • Harlan's successful surgery and testimony • God's presence

Happy May Birthday to...

7	Charles Rous
10	Anita Stewart
11	Barbara Dethlefsen
13	Nick Strobel
14	David Braun Molly Saba
17	Louis Chavez Stella Rous
18	Lorraine Chavez Marcia Whitten
19	Carolyn Anglin
20	Belva Bradshaw
22	Marisol Chavez
23	Pat Filkins
28	Sherry Atkins
30	Michael Atkins

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is May 12
Thank you.

Greetings, Wesley Church!

Grace and peace to all of you. We are now beginning the replacement of the Sanctuary AC and we want to give you an update and ask for your help in funding the replacement. In mid-January the guts of the 30-ton AC unit installed in 2002 were stolen for the copper. Many thousands of dollars of damage for just a few hundred dollars (at most) of copper!

Last year we had a similar incident with theft of the copper parts of The Gathering Place AC units. We have installed fencing around the buildings and four security cameras, all without having to dip into our operational funds thanks to the generosity of several church members. For the Sanctuary AC, our property insurance will pay up to a total of \$49,463 toward its replacement after factoring in depreciation and our \$5000 deductible.

We have had many AC companies come out to look at our system. Some do not do commercial installations and some others could do the installation only several months later. We have accepted the bid from Elite Air Service to replace our air handling system for \$63,120. The new system uses a new refrigerant and direct drive fan system that will require the replacement of the heating system as well as the AC.

The removal of the old equipment should happen sometime this week and the installation of the new equipment should happen in the next couple of weeks—hopefully before the weather jumps to summer temperatures!

With the insurance covering up to \$49,463 of the cost, we need to raise another \$13,657 to cover the cost of the Sanctuary AC replacement. We are asking you for donations or short-term loans. Please prayerfully consider helping us keep the Sanctuary comfortable for the excellent worship we all love!

For donations, you can write a check to Wesley UMC Bakersfield with “Sanctuary AC” in the memo field. If you’d prefer a loan instead, please contact one of us.

With great thanks and warm wishes for a cool Sanctuary,

Nick Strobel and Marv Davisson, Trustees co-chairs



