

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

May 28, 2025

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

June 1: Rev. Alice Oberg, preaching

June 8: Acts 2: 1-21, John 14: 8-17, 25-27, "Come, Holy Spirit."

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

## Farewell to Pastor Anne

Anne's last day in the pulpit will be on June 8, 2025. We will be honoring and celebrating her in a special service at 10:30 a.m. and at a good old fashioned United Methodist potluck following the service. Please join us in worship and fellowship on that day.

## Congratulations Class of 2025!

### Jr. High:

**Mandi Gonzales:** Compton Jr. High. Mandi will attend East Bakersfield High School. Her parents are Jonathan and Terry Gonzales.

### University:

**Allison Gonzales Martinez:** University of LaVerne with a Masters in School Psychology with a PPS credential. Her parents are Jonathan and Terry Gonzales and her husband is Andrew Martinez.

**Caroline Rous:** California State University, Long Beach with a Bachelors in Psychology. She is employed at Autism Behavior Consultants as a Behavior Interventionist. Her parents are David and Jenifer Rous and grandmother is Stella Rous.

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.***  
~ 1 Thessalonians 1: 2-5

This will be my last letter to The Outlook! I continue to be your pastor until July 1, but I saved up some vacation time in order to pack up all my stuff (Oh, there is so much!) and get my poor cat settled in our new home before I desert her to serve you at Annual Conference. I will be attending a required transition workshop this week and will be back to celebrate Pentecost with you on June 8. That's when my vacation starts, but I will very likely show up to worship with you on June 15—after all, I need to worship somewhere!

I cannot express how deeply indebted I am to all of you for your love, your faith, and your faithfulness. We have been through a lot together! In the middle of my tenure here, we faced the COVID emergency and had to figure out how to worship online! We have worked together, sometimes struggling, but most often thriving. I am very proud of the work you do in this city called Bakersfield! I often brag on the Trustees—they work hard, and their work is often obvious! But you are a wondrous community and I have been blessed by you all. Thank you. It has been an honor to serve God along side you.

*The United Methodist Book of Worship* says, “Like every human family, our church family is formed and reformed over time: as members are born, as they die, as members are adopted into our family, and as they leave our congregation for a new home in a different place.”<sup>1</sup> Saying goodbye is difficult. But we are all entering a new season, and as some wise person once said, “Every ending is also a new beginning.” I am leaving you in very capable hands. One of the rules of transition in our denomination is that the pastor who is leaving must make room for the pastor who is coming in, so the congregation knows in the hearts that the new person is truly their pastor. That means I cannot be in contact with you for a full year. That seems harsh to some people, but it creates a clean break that is beneficial to all. I give you my love, my thanks and my utmost respect. Pastor Cindy will bless you, and I have been incredibly blessed by you.

Shalom,  
Pastor Anne

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<sup>1</sup> *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. (Nashville, The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992) p. 590.

## Nursery Coordinator Opening

Molly Saba, our Nursery Coordinator, has recently stepped down from the position. We thank her for over a year and a half of dedicated service. This creates an immediate opening for this position. If you or someone you know may be interested in working in the nursery, please contact Rob Bewley (661-549-8739) or Bill Blair (805-794-7725) for more information.

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## Prayers

### Prayer of healing and comfort:

- Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar and Lea
- Siobhan • Nancy J • For those who are grieving: Linda T. and her sister Lawana, on the death of their mother
- Bonney F • Bill • Healing for Gina, who has a stomach flu • Healing for Serafina's cousin Margaret • Cindy W
- Pastor Cindy • Cindy C will have surgery next week: healing, comfort, and peace

### We ask God's blessing for other needs:

- Peace in the world, especially in Gaza and Ukraine • Discernment for all political leaders • Safe travels for Charlie as he flies to Washington DC and on to Senegal, Africa for summer studies.

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

- Gratitude for mild spring weather
- Thanksgiving for Stella's granddaughter Caroline who graduated from Cal State University, Long Beach on Tuesday.
- Linda R is grateful for the end of the school year

### *Happy June Birthday to.....*

4	Linda Mitchell
6	Douglas Carothers Allison Gonzales Martinez Nancy Jacobus
12	Sylvia Corson
14	Gail Scarazzo
15	David Hanley
16	J.T. Gonzales
17	Tiffany Gonzales
19	Kacey Pipkin
20	Krista Cusator
21	June Braun Stan Moore
24	David Rous
25	Doug Anglin
29	Doris Robertson

### *Happy Anniversary to....*

10	Roy and Gail Scarazzo
20	James and Laura Cusator
25	Donnel and Rose Lester