

# The Outlook

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

office:(661) 871-3030

e-mail: [office@wesleybakersfield.org](mailto:office@wesleybakersfield.org)

website: [wesleybakersfield.org](http://wesleybakersfield.org)

Facebook: [WesleyUMCBakersfield](https://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCBakersfield)

Vol. LXII, #17

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

December 23, 2020



Worship Services on Facebook  
Anne Schlesinger, preaching

***Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, December 24, 6 pm.***  
Christmas Eve Celebration will include Scriptures and Carols.  
The focus will be "Hope is Born".

***Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m.***  
Isaiah 61:10-62, Luke 2:15-40,  
"Hope for Salvation"

***Sunday, January 3, 10:30 a.m.***  
Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12,  
"Star Shine"

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1: 15***

What a year this has been! We may all have a much quieter Christmas than we are used to this year. No caroling for the “shut-ins,” no parties, not even worship in the sanctuary. If we allow it, the lack of traditional celebrations may seem bitter. We have all suffered. It is difficult to be celebratory in a time of isolation, but the news of our savior among us is always Good News. So, while the celebrations may be much quieter and subdued, I pray they will be joyous, for knowing Christ is our most blessed gift. Imagine how the Holy Family must have celebrated that event! There were no carolers or parties or trees with colored lights. There was fear of what lay ahead, no doubt, but the pure joy of the birth proclaimed by angels must have overwhelmed the fear of giving birth in a stable. The light still shines in the darkness, and the darkness still cannot overcome it!



This season we have not relied as much on the Worship Design Studio material because their design for this season was built around a beautiful poem written anonymously in a German concentration camp during WWII. Although it is a poem of trust in our God of unconditional love, Wesley's worship team thought it did not reflect the hope and joy of Advent. The series from Discipleship Ministries (the UMC worship plan) also did not seem appropriate because its focus was on “Company is Coming,” which seemed inappropriate during quarantine. Instead we have used the hymn “Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” guide our way this season. Our Christmas Eve service will follow a traditional “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” from the *UM Book of Worship*, ending with Silent Night. Normally, we pass the light of Christ as we sing that. That is one more thing made impossible by COVID, but our worship presentation will show pictures of members holding candles as it displays the hymn's lyrics. I would love to have pictures from every family! So, if you have not yet done so, please send me a picture of yourself by December 23. A candle and/or Christmas decorations are optional. You may text or email a digital picture, or you may send a photo through the US mail. If you cannot take a “selfie” and would like me to come to your home to take your picture, please let me know. My cell phone number and my address are in the church directory. That said, we have also been blessed with some Bell Choir recordings led by David Atkins, a former pastor at Wesley and until recently, a frequent member of our congregation. Sherry Atkins and another former member, Laura Daillak, are members of a bell choir in a UMC in Laguna Woods, and they have agreed to share their musical talents with us this season.

May God bless you all with health and safety in this season of joy!

Pastor Anne

## Finance Campaign Ongoing

Many thanks to all who have prayerfully considered their 2021 giving to Wesley. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please send it to the church office 1314 Oswell St., 93306 or you may go online at church's homepage at [www.wesleybakersfield.org](http://www.wesleybakersfield.org) and click on the "Online Pledge Form" link in the "Quick Links" section below the church's phone number. We have received 23 pledges totaling \$84,260.

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### Giving To Wesley

To be included in 2020 Giving Statements, contributions for the 2020 tax year needs to be in the church by December 31<sup>st</sup> (you may leave it in the mailbox) or needs to have been mailed to the church with a postmark of December 31<sup>st</sup> or before according to the Internal Revenue Service.

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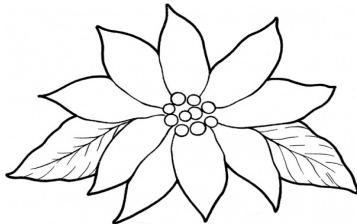
### From Our Members

*Dear Terry and Anne,*

*Hoping this finds you well and safe. I cannot express how much I miss going to church and seeing the Wesley family and friends in person. I realized it has been 8 months since we have taken holy communion. I wish there was some to fix all this.*

*In Christian love,  
Cindy Wilson*

*I'm looking forward to attending church again soon - I miss you all.  
Ruth Jacobus*



*Dear United Methodist Friends,*

*The combination of the pandemic and John's current mobility issues have limited our contact with our friends at Wesley. We miss being a part of the church community.*

*The pandemic has been a challenge for the church, and we appreciate your efforts to carry on the church's ministry under difficult circumstances.*

*We offer our prayer to all at Wesley for Christmas joy, hope, and peace. With vaccines on the horizon, we look forward to better days ahead. And possibly, even finding a way to worship with you again.*

*Shalom,  
John and Sylvia Corson*

## **Prayers of Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of Healing for:**

#### **People with COVID:**

Martha and Bob Covey (Update: They are improving and they appreciate our prayers)

Linda Tilton

Bill Rous and the 2 families caring for him

John and Diane Ackland

Scott (Laura Daillak's son-in-law)—hospitalized and on O2—prayer that he can recover at home (Update: he is home; still receiving oxygen)

#### **For Others who need healing:**

Jerry Smith passed out and fell, breaking a rib. Pray for release from pain.

Ruth Jacobus (pain in her leg)—for healing, comfort, and uplifting of her spirit.

May the MDs find a diagnosis and treatment.

Jonathan Gonzales: Prayers for pain relief

For a Foster child with strep throat & protection for the other children in the home

Louie Imm in heart hospital

Becky Whitson who has Valley Fever and had a stroke: prayers for peace and comfort

Darcy O'Dell who had surgery to remove her thyroid. Prayers for a good recovery

Barbara's brother John—his spirits are up, needs continued healing

Maryanne Beuchler: healing and comfort

Donald Hall

For one of Lisa's students whose whole family have COVID. The parents are so sick that Lisa's student has to care for all the other siblings.

For a beloved pet: Sherry and David's dog Max is in a lot of pain. He is at the vet.

Cameron, who was in a bicycle accident. He has lots of Road Rash and a possible broken wrist. But also gratitude: his helmet saved his life.

### **Prayers of Peace, Comfort, and God's Presence:**

For the families of people who died:

Donnie Galang, musician at the Laguna Woods UMC

Larry Moore

The Wade family

For Tom, taking care of his wife Sylvia who has dementia. May he make good decisions about her care

For all care givers, especially those caring for people with dementia

For all children in foster care

For college students facing final exams

For Becky Baté, still unable to receive the medical care she needs.

That people make good decisions about the COVID vaccine

for successful administration of it and fair and equitable distribution

Prayers for a peaceful transition of the Administration

For Stella's neighbors: victims of an attempted home invasion—thankful they were not harmed; prayers for all people who are vulnerable.

Protection for Lissy and Nathan  
Protection for all health care workers  
Protection for Alex who has been exposed to COVID at school in Arizona. He had hoped to come home for Christmas  
For the people of Fiji following a category 5 Cyclone

**Prayers of Gratitude:**

Thankful for all frontline workers, including Pastor Anne's daughter Sunshine  
For wonderful children/grandchildren who had birthdays this week (all on the 10th!)

Sarah Strobel  
Mia Tomlin  
Josephine Dethlefsen  
Aya Omaki

And for other birthdays:

12/13 Kristyn Atkins and James Dethlefsen  
12/13 Kevin Ludeke  
12/15: Josh Braun  
12/22 Sunshine Tomlin (Pastor's daughter)

Gratitude that Lissy's COVID test was negative

Ian Bewley's hard work: he passed his final student teaching exam and is on his way!

Gratitude for all this caring for sick family members (and prayers for their safety)

For baby Justin's weight gain: he is up to 11 pounds! (and for Edee Ellenberger's good care of precious babies)

For Caroline Rous who has decided to attend Cal State East Bay

For the ability to work out alternatives & create safe holiday plans

Gratitude for care givers

That Lissy, Nathan and Josh have not caught COVID from Scott

A detainee in Mesa Verde has knitted some beautiful hats that will be donated to our next coat give-away.

Michelle, for whom we have been praying, does not have cancer. Her diagnosis is treatable.

Thankful for the work of scientists

Kevin Ludeke's hand is healing following surgery

Thankful for laughter

Kristyn Gonzales' graduation with a degree in Psychology from California Baptist University, and prayers that she find a good post-graduate program

Hooray for Rain!

For two inmates at Mule Creek State Prison who are working on reform. They have created beautiful beaded items and sent them out as gifts.

Prayer also for their safety and all incarcerated persons. They are all children of God.

For the life of Becky Whitson who died Dec. 18, and grateful she is no longer suffering. She was an important part of Bakersfield College's history.

Gratitude that Scott's health is improving. Lissy gives thanks for all our prayers.

For another birthday: Griffin is 22!

Lisa gives thanks for the 2-week break from Zoom sessions.

Grateful for the opportunity to prayer together daily.



## In The Military

Please keep them in your prayers.

Chris Armantrout - US Navy  
 Nathan Ashlock - US Marines  
 Nick Buckridge - Army National Guard  
 Alex Campbell - Navy  
 Josh Caughran - Navy  
 Megan Darling - Army Reserves  
 Bradley Delacruz - Army  
 Kurt Droste - US Marines  
 Rebek'ah Fore - Navy  
 Jerome Garey - Air Force  
 Rebecca Garey - Air Force  
 Dan Hanel - US Air Force  
 Greg Hanel - US Air Force  
 Colin Harrigan - US Marine Corp  
 Kenneth Oberg - Navy  
 Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp  
 Tiela Roland - US Air Force  
 Joel Watson - Navy  
 Josephine Wells-Ashley - US Marines  
 Shon Willis - US Army  
 Spring Winters - US Air Force  
 Laura Yoon - US Navy  
 David Yoon - US Navy

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

## *Happy January Birthday to.....*

2	Dorothy Matthews
8	Bill Wilson
11	Juan Robison
15	Gia Murillo
28	Lizbeth Hallam

## *Happy Anniversary to...*

3	Marvin & Beth Davisson
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