

# The Outlook

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

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Vol. LXIII, #24

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

December 22, 2021



**Worship on Facebook and In-Person**  
**Anne Schlesinger, preaching**

*Christmas Eve Service, Friday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.*

Isaiah 9: 2-7, Luke 2: 1-20. Sermon: "The Inn." Theme: Messiah  
Christmas Eve Celebration will include Scriptures and Carols.

*Sunday, December 26, 10:30 a.m.*

*Covenant Service in the Wesleyan Tradition*

Colossians 3: 12-17, Luke 2: 41-52. Sermon: "Dwelling." Theme: Abiding.

*Sunday, January 2, 10:30 a.m.*

Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2: 1-12. Sermon: "Gifts for a King." Theme: Magi

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## Finance Campaign Ongoing

Many thanks to all who have prayerfully considered their 2022 giving to Wesley. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please send it to the church office P.O. Box 6577, 93386 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 \$85,680.

## ♫ A Note from the Pastor

***For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.***  
**Isaiah 9:6**

Although we will hear this verse as part of our reading in worship on Christmas Eve, I felt compelled to use it here today as we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Savior. I heard these words sung from The Messiah on one of my Christmas CDs, and they fill my heart. I hope they bless you, too.

I must share the sad news that Gay Lynne Natho died unexpectedly last week.

On a brighter note, I am elated that two people stepped up as volunteers last Sunday. Louis Chavez will be filling one of the open positions in our tech team, and Luz Adams will be filling one of the open positions as Sunday school teacher. That means that half the slots were filled in one week. Hallelujah! (Many thanks, Louis and Luz!) These tasks are vital to our ministry. As we learned in the Growing Young Cohort, supporting young families is key to growing and supporting the whole church, young and formerly young, and Christian education is an important part of that. And we have reached new people in need of community through our online presence. These are both extremely important ministries, so I ask you all to prayerfully consider one of these ministries to support. Please contact Rob Bewley if you are interested in teaching Sunday school. I believe those already in the rotation are trained teachers, and perhaps the newest member might be considered an “assistant” until fully trained. The tech team is ably trained by Linda Ramirez, and there are always at least two people serving at the tech table.

May God bless us all during this sacred season and in the whole of the new year. Please continue praying for peace and an end to this COVID virus!

Pastor Anne



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the Natho family in the death of Gay Lynne on December 14, 2021. Gay Lynne was an active member of Wesley since 2007. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022, 1 p.m. at Wesley Church.

## Prayers

### **We pray for those in need of healing:**

- Shyann—release of pain, and prayers also for her mother Ana • Rose's friends Linda and Isaiah with health concerns • Friends who are seeking relief from infertility
- Continued prayer for Nancy S—relief from back pain and kidney stones
- Linda T. with cellulitis • Brian—waiting for a COVID retest before his team is ready to continue with a needed bone marrow biopsy • Linda R's lip; comfort and healing and may the medication be less painful • Continued healing for June and Barbara • The "lady at the pool" for relief of back pain • Adele D and especially for the doctors seeking effective treatment options • For David S (former member) and his wife Anne, who is his caregiver • For Evan, with depression • For all who suffer from the continued spread of COVID

### **We pray for those who are grieving:**

- For the Lonsinger family. Larry's 95 year old brother Harold died in a fire
- For all of us who love and were blessed by Gay Lynne Natho, but especially Ashley, Emily and Gia • For Kelly S who is grieving the breakup with her long-term boyfriend • Donna S's friend Susan, whose husband died • For Barbara D and her sister-in-law. Barbara's brother John died Sunday after a long illness.

**We pray for:** • Schools, teachers and children: may they be released from fear of violence and COVID • People looking for work, especially Joe and Jenifer • Initiative and confidence for Joe to do the work needed to find a job • A safe living environment for Michael A • Nick's patience as he works with AT&T and

their lack of progress • Improved finances for Danny and Jenifer • Our children's ministry—may the children return to church • The suffering of people following natural disasters—recent volcano eruptions, tornadoes, other storms • Stella's brother Jack, his wife Catherine, and her daughter Shelly. May they find peace and a stable living environment • All children in care of the Juvenile court system • Lea's sister Melinda who is adjusting to a transfer to "Camp Cupcake." • Jason, sentenced to prison—healing for people he hurt, and healing of his own brokenness. • A cat named Scruples in need of veterinary care. May his owner be able to catch him to take him in for help • Michael A searching for a safe and affordable living situation • Robert, in the midst of a stressful situation (divorce) looking for affordable housing • The rise in COVID cases. May people make good decisions about meeting friends and family during the holidays • For schools facing declining enrollment • Safety from COVID and violence for all students and teachers • Siobhan, who was stuck in Tehachapi due to the closure of highway 58. May all take care in inclement weather • Stella's friend Rose facing a difficult divorce

### **We pray for travel mercies for all who are traveling this season, especially:**

- Young people traveling home from college • All our children including both of Sherry's daughters • Laura • Josh • Michael

**In gratitude, we remember and pray for our abundant blessings...** • For answered prayer—for infant childcare

for Barbara D's great-granddaughter

- For Lea's progress in obtaining guardianship of grandsons. (Please continue the prayers. Things are moving forward.)
- For the rain • Natalie is feeling better—please keep praying. Her MRI results are good, but she faces surgery in January and continued chemotherapy
- For the creativity and skills of the Trustees, especially Dan, Mike and Marv as they seek solutions for the rain runoff on church buildings
- For Terry's grandchildren & their visit
- Nick is grateful for prayers of support—his big writing project is completed... now on to the next thing
- For children struggling to control their anger and be better focussed in school
- For MANY birthdays: Miriam, Sarah, Josephine, James, Kristen—and the joy our children and grandchildren add to our lives
- Tish's MRI had good results—cancer is in remission
- For wonderful friends
- For Michael's good attitude even in the midst of stress
- For all volunteers who work to help others, especially caring adults who help children facing rough situations
- For this week's rain
- Ivana Heang, a pastor who just received her local pastor's license. May her wisdom and passion grow even stronger.
- Teachers (especially Lisa) looking forward to winter break
- Blessings of Dan O'Dell's creativity and persistence in finding a way to install an effective system of downspouts on the church buildings.
- For the life and witness of Gay Lynne Natho, and the blessings she brought to many lives, including Revs. Karen S-P, Pam F. And Anne S.
- Spiritual directors, especially Becky Goodwin
- That Carmen's sister was found, and she is okay.

### ***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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### **Giving To Wesley**

To be included in 2021 Giving Statements, contributions for the 2021 tax year needs to be in the church by December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.