

The Outlook

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

office:(661) 871-3030

e-mail: office@wesleybakersfield.org

website: wesleybakersfield.org

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

Vol. LXIII, #3

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 10, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship on Facebook

February 14: Psalm 50, Mark 9:2-9, "The One is Shining Forth"

February 21: Psalm 25:1-10, Matthew 8:1-4, "Treasure"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching



February 17, 2021 1:30 p.m., live on Facebook

Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 11:28-30, "Shattered"

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days prior to Easter Day. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance and remembrance of the final weeks of the life of Jesus and his sacrifice. The name Ash Wednesday comes from the tradition of marking the forehead of people with ashes to symbolize mourning and repentance. Join us live at 1:30 p.m. on Facebook ([you may view the service afterwards as well](#)).

Renew Your Subscription

Each year at this time, we request each of you to renew your subscription to the church's newsletter, "*The Outlook*". It is now time, and for \$15 you can renew for a full year. Mail in your check, designated "*The Outlook*", P.O. Box 6577, Bakersfield, 93386.

My apologies, I failed to mention two ladies in the last edition of *The Outlook*. Thank you to Barbara Dethlefsen and Louise Clay who help me proofread *The Outlook*. Your help is appreciated.

-Terry Gonzales, editor

Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, February 16, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

♫ A Note from the Pastor

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. Luke 4: 1-2

This year during Lent our focus will be on healing. I am using a book by Walter T. Wilson called *Healing in the Gospel of Matthew: Reflections on Method and Ministry*, and thus focusing on Matthew's Gospel rather than exactly following the lectionary. We will be talking about brokenness, and, of course, healing from brokenness. The main metaphor is shards of beach glass. Our first service in Lent will be, as always, an Ash Wednesday service. Because we still cannot meet in person, the service will be on Facebook. It will be live at 1:30, but will be available any time after that. We have been warned not to send out ashes to the congregation because some people will mistakenly add water to them which creates a caustic substance that can cause burns. To avoid that, we will be focusing on the elements: earth, fire, water and air. To fully participate, you will need some dirt or sand, a candle and a match or lighter and a small container of water. I hope this season will indeed be a season of healing and restoration for us all.

We need some volunteers! I would like suggestions for someone who can chair the Finance committee next year. The person will be trained to read the finance reports created by the treasurer and report to the monthly Administrative Council. I would like to have a volunteer sooner rather than later so training will be complete before January 2022. We also have a wonderful tech team, but we need four more people to complete the roster. We have volunteers of all ages from twenty-something to retired persons. I would love to have some teen volunteers, so if you or anyone you know (any age) can volunteer about two hours per month, please let me know. Rev. Alice Oberg has joined the Creative Design team. They set up the altar area to reflect the theme of our worship series. Thank you Pastor Alice.

Will you be receiving a stimulus check you don't need? After the last round of checks were sent out, some people generously donated them to families in need. There are people in our ministry area who are in great need, and the church roof over the narthex needs replacing. The government issues checks to stimulate the economy, and if you can do that, please do. But if you are not in need, please consider making a donation to your church.

Blessings, Pastor Anne

Prayers of Joys and Concerns

O God we pray your healing blessing:

- For Carmen Curtis' sister Isabel with COVID (and gratitude that she is feeling better)
- For Brian Hill: Myeloma—he had another bone marrow biopsy and has recovered from that.— May the medical team find a way to ease his pain and bring the cancer back into remission. May they have good options for a good outcome. Perhaps he is a good candidate for a clinical trial

- For Shyann Nelson who has a serious infection from H. Polori bacteria
- For Stella Rous who is feeling ill after her second COVID vaccine,
- For Rob's brother in law Wayne & for his wife who is caring for him following a procedure.
- For Rose's son Aaron
- Susan McQuerrey: peace and release from pain
- Lars Carver: we are thankful he is cancer free, but he needs continued prayer for healing
- Barbara's brother John & wisdom for the medical staff to help him feel more comfortable, for her conversation with him and that he has gained a little weight
- Stella's brother Jack, his wife Katherine, and their care-giver Shelly
- For Brian Hill—biopsy results say the cancer is active. Prayers that he gets into a trial and has good results. Pray for relief from pain
- For Matt with COVID

O God, there are many other people who need your blessing:

- For all who are homeless, hungry and alone
- May those who are not housed have protection from the cold
- For Elizabeth Rous' dental work
- For students, teachers and parents dealing with on-line education
- Lorena as she navigates the confusing process of obtaining a green card
- For our country's leaders: may they have courage and a sense of working together for unified goals. May they have mercy, wisdom, love and compassion and learn to give (compromise)
- Prayers for all teachers
- For children in foster care, especially runaways
- Prayers for Vanessa's good health
- Prayers for God to help Michael make good decisions

O God we pray comfort for all who grieve today:

- For all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic
- For friends and family of Stella's long-time neighbor, Kathy Antongiovanni

O God, there are many other places that need your blessing:

- Continued prayers for the US—may our leaders and citizens open their hearts with love to move forward. May our leaders have wisdom and courage, and may people who are planning violence have a change of heart. May we all value kindness
- For the Santa Cruz mountains— many have lost power for 6 days and far mudslides due to storms. Last summer's fires destroyed the underbrush that protects the land from mudslides.
- For the ICE facilities that are built like prisons
- For a fair and equitable distribution of the COVID vaccine. For David Rous and all business owners affected by the pandemic and continue to try to keep their employees.
- We pray for rain that is not overwhelming
- For the BC Equity Committee as they continue the hard work they're doing
- Help us ALL listen to God's guidance and be part of building equity
- Protection for Wesley Campus, including the people at Head Start

O God we are grateful and praise you for:

- Lissy Hallan as we celebrate her birthday this week.

- Michael Daillak's daughter's family is doing well after recovering from COVID
- The passion of Zoe Lofgren, a Congresswoman who is working to make fair and just immigration reform.
- That the residents of Pacifica Senior Living will finally receive the vaccine next week. Gratitude that the delay was finally resolved.
- For the hummingbird who healed after a cat caught him, for yesterday's weather
- Thanks for **all** care-givers-in homes, in hospitals in nursing homes-especially Shelly and Jeanie
- For Sunday school students and teachers
- Thank God for the houses that are keeping people warm in Oregon and elsewhere where there is snow
- We are grateful for the vaccine, we are grateful for newspapers
- Gratitude for Linda Tilton's progress in therapy
- Laura's wonderful conversation with daughter Lissy, for Scott's work with a CPA firm
- Thanks for the blessing of children
- For all of Stella's children
- A group of neighbors who share responsibility for the neighborhood
- Chase's good test result— it is possible his cancer has been arrested.
- For people whose faith is expanding
- For the work trying to reunite children with their parents after 10+ months of separation—may God bless that effort
- John White's understanding of people with special needs
- Give thanks for Lisa Strobel's patience, consistence and care teaching remotely
- Gratitude for a "pay it forward" blanket received this week
- Gratitude for healing that has happened: Bob and Martha Covey are doing well
- Thanks for Nick Strobel who helps with computer problems
- Thanks for all Trustees—Dan re-keyed the mailbox
- Blessing for Ian and Cassidy who have just become engaged!
- Praise for the COVID vaccine and praise for all the workers
- Thanks for the BC webinar on SAAG—nursing students & safety
- For the blessing of music and flowers
- Happy birthday Jerry Ludeke