

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

April 6, 2022

Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Palm Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 50: 4-9, Luke 19: 28-40. "We Are a Group Project"

Good Friday, April 15, noon

Primary scripture: Psalm 22, John 18: 1-19: 42. "Anointing"

(There will be many scriptures and no sermon during this service. You are invited to have some oil for anointing if you are worshipping with us remotely. A small bit of olive oil works well. It will be provided for people worshipping in the sanctuary.)

Easter, April 17, 10:30 a.m.

Acts 10: 34-43; John 20: 1-8. "Jesus Is Risen, Indeed "

Easter

We need help in decorating for Easter Service. Come help on Saturday, April 16 at 2 pm.

If you wish to bring an Easter Lilly to Honor or remember someone, they can be dropped off at the Church on Friday at the Good Friday service, April 15, at noon, Saturday, April 16, between 2-3 pm, or you may bring it on Easter Sunday by 10:15 am. If you would like the person's name shared with the congregation, please fill out the Easter Lily form found on the sign-in table in the Narthex. You may also email the Church office: office@wesleybakersfield.org,

You may also place an order for an Easter Lily by emailing the church office by Wednesday, April 13, Cost of \$12.

We need flower blossoms Easter morning for the children to place in the cross for the front garden and plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candies for the egg hunt.

♫ A Note from the Pastor

If his life is offered as restitution, he will see his offspring; he will enjoy long life. The Lord's plans will come to fruition through him. After his deep anguish he will see light, and he will be satisfied. Through his knowledge, the righteous one, my servant, will make many righteous, and will bear their guilt. Therefore, I will give him a share with the great, and he will divide the spoil with the strong, in return for exposing his life to death and being numbered with rebels, though he carried the sin of many and pleaded on behalf of those who rebelled.
~ Isaiah 53:10b-12

This issue of The Outlook is slightly early because Holy Week begins this Sunday with Palm/Passion Sunday. Years ago, when people regularly attended daily church services, Palm Sunday was celebrated as a joyous worship, and slowly the mood of the week became darker and darker until the Triduum, from sunset on Holy Thursday through Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and finally ending on Sunday at sunset after the Resurrection. Every emotion known to humans was encountered during those days traveling with Jesus from the Passover meal in the upper room, to Gethsemane, to the cross, the tomb, and finally the discovery of the Risen Lord. Now, with so many people working long hours and thus missing mid-week services, they get the joyful triumph of Palm Sunday followed by the excited and joyful celebration of Easter, without the other emotions of Holy Week. Therefore, Palm Sunday also includes the Passion narrative, so we can feel greater joy on Easter. We will have a Good Friday service at noon on April 15 to supplement the passion narrative we hear on Sunday. Although it is held in daylight, it will simulate a Tenebrae service. Our Easter service will be a joyful worship followed by an egg hunt for the children. This year individuals will supply Easter Lillies. Please be sure to let Terry know if they are dedicated to or in memory of a loved one so notification can be added to the bulletin. Please also consider bringing fresh flowers to church on Easter morning to decorate the flower cross.

We have been studying the book of Acts of the Apostles at our Wednesday evening online class. It has been a good study, and it ends with the class on April 6. Our next study will begin on April 13 with the book Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine. If you would like to join us, you may purchase the book either through Amazon or Cokesbury, or you may ask me to purchase it for you. The study includes a video presentation by the author.

I will be on vacation for two weeks beginning after worship on April 24. I will not be reachable by phone for much of that time, so please contact Pastor Alice Oberg in case of pastoral emergency. Her number is in your directory. I will let her know when I have returned home.

God bless you during this holy time,
Pastor Anne _____



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to Alvesa Chavez in the death of her daughter, Adele Chavez Dorado, on March 22, 2022.

Prayer list

We lift up the names of people in need of healing:

• Bill Wilson—admitted to the hospital • All people suffering from depression • All our friends and family members who have cancer, including Louise's niece Kim—comfort and healing • For Sue with bronchitis
We pray for all who grieve:
• Jim and Luz A. on the loss of his nephew • Britney on the death of her partner • Alvesa and the whole Chavez family following Adele's passing • Paula Parks and other family members following the death of her sister in law • Analee whose cousin died in an automobile accident • Michael (Jerry's relative) whose longtime girlfriend died suddenly in Greece

We pray for other needs:

• For Jerry and Nick as they prepare to lead a memorial service for Jack Hernandez • For Najalay and her mother Melissa as they navigate letting go of childhood and accessing the sometimes harsh realities of adulthood. • Ben who just graduated from college struggling with anxiety and depression • Peace in Ukraine • Relief for the rental population at the mercy of some oppressive systems, especially when rental agents and/or landlords are guilty of breaking laws • For Jerry and the work that remains ahead as she prepares to move • May the runners in town be careful and safe • We prayed for God's presence in the preparation of the celebration of Jack Hernandez's life at BC. • For Vanessa and Travis struggling to create a comfortable home • For Sarah struggling in her first year of teaching—needing more support from school administration • For all involved

with the frightening incident at Mojave Community college. There was a lock down, police involvement and an arrest, but according to the news, there was not an active shooter. Still, staff and students and all their families were understandably frightened. May peace prevail • Fechin (pronounced: Fenton) whose beloved wife has early onset dementia, prayers of support • Peace in Ukraine • May Jerry have safe travels and God's blessing in new beginnings • Please continue to pray for Bishop Carcaño

We pray for God's guidance, blessing, and discernment:

• Peace talks

Travel mercies for

• Linda's niece Linda • Scott L • Sherry and David A • Anne S

In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:

• Charlie invited his grandmother Stella for a lunch date • Linda T celebrated her birthday • Pam's procedure went well—prayers for continued healing • The Virginia CPS process is proceeding—continued prayers for the process and for the boys in Foster care • Thanks for the support, understanding, commitment and help of family and other community • Gratitude for connection between Melinda and her family—may she receive the help she needs to complete her sentence • Gratitude that Cindy got to visit with Bill in hospital • Sherry and David are grateful for a wonderful visit with son Michael and the respectful, kind and loving man he has become • Barbara's sister's birthday—we give

thanks for a wonderful sister • The 11 attorneys who met in the hearing and all agreed Lea's grandsons should be placed with her.

• The "Call to Wholeness" retreat in Los Altos was wonderful and renewing

From Our Members

Stanley Moore is now living in an assisted living care home, St Catherine's in southwest Bakersfield. His health is improving, and cards or phone calls would be appreciated. 10214 Pinnacle Ridge Drive Bakersfield, 93311. The phone number of St Catherine's is 661-665-9405.

Thank you to my church family for the pretty flowers and the bag of cards and stickers etc.... They are all very much appreciated!!!! I wish a bunch that I was still able to go to church and the potlucks etc.... I miss all of it so much. May God bless you all so much!!!!
Linda Tilton

What a blessing it is to be part of the Circle of Love which is the Wesley family. The joy, the fun, the fellowship of the Sunday afternoon celebration will stay in my heart as I settle in to life at The Redwoods in Mill Valley and begin to form new circles. The 58 or so years at Wesley are where I have experienced true Christian love and sharing in community, and that experience and the faith it engenders will always be at the deepest part of my being.

My most heartfelt thanks go to David and Sherry for planning and hosting such a loving event, and to all you

entertainers with your personalized performances, and to all you helpers in the kitchen and in the decorators (down to the Dewar's chews!), and to all of you dear friends of several generations who made it the great memory it is for me.

God has blessed me greatly and my heart truly is overflowing.

Peace, joy, and love be with us all.
Jerry Ludeke

The following memorial donations were made to Wesley Church:
\$200 in memory of Leon and Radine Banks
\$25 in memory of Gay Lynne Natho
\$250 in memory of David Scott

~continued on the following column~