

# 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. LXIV, #24

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

December 21, 2022



***Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.***

Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-20, Sermon: "Sacred Being"; Theme: Emmanuel  
Christmas Eve Celebration will include Scriptures and Carols.

***Christmas, December 25, 10:30 a.m.***

Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14, Sermon: "Surprisingly Sacred"; Theme: Messiah

***Epiphany Sunday, January 1, 10:30 a.m.***

Isaiah 63: 7-9; Matthew 2:13-23, Sermon: "Sacred Doing"; Theme: Action  
This service will include the Covenant Renewal.

***Baptism of our Lord, January 8, 10:30 a.m.***

Isaiah 60: 1-6; Matthew 2: 1-12. Sermon: "Flip the Switch" — Epiphany  
Anne Schlesinger, preaching

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! ~2 Corinthians 5: 17***

I just finished reading Bishop Dyck's Christmas letter. (You can see it in its entirety here:

<https://www.cnumc.org/newsdetails/christmas-message-from-bishop-sally-dyck-1718898>

1). It was a wonderful letter that began with a link to a youtube presentation of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope giving us an astounding view of the Cartwheel Galaxy some 500 million light years away. I hope you get a chance to view it as well as read the Bishop's letter. She used this incredible video to point to one of the wonders and mysteries of our faith in our God. She wrote in part, "The Creator of the stars of night... is the same God that sent Jesus into the world out of a profound love for humankind... so that we may know God and God's love. The humble nativity with a common manger, shepherds, and peasant parents was the setting of God becoming flesh and dwelling with us. [The] God who creates galaxies [is] the God who loves each one of us intimately and unconditionally!" The profound mystery of the incarnation is God's greatest gift to the world and all creation beyond. And Paul reminds us that we who are in Christ, as Christ is in us, are part of that vast mystery. What a marvelous mystery.

We again worship and celebrate our connection to God with the Covenant Renewal Service in the Wesleyan Tradition on New Year's Day. As I said in the last issue of *The Outlook*, following that we will work to energize our spirits during the cold and dark time of winter.

Christmas Blessings, and may God's blessings continue through the New Year.  
Pastor Anne

---

## Prayers

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

• Ronnie—his surgery was successful and he is home; prayers for continued healing • Susan M—foot pain • All people with Upper Respiratory Infections, especially Carolyn A, Stella, Brenden, Sherry • Rita with heart murmur • Tish—multiple health concerns; prayers that the diagnostic procedure finds the source of her illness so it can be properly treated

• Jeanie Z. (Fibromyalgia) and her daughter Jill (scleroderma) • Fred C. • Rob B.—out patient surgery • Richard—choir director in Laguna Country UMC—has pneumonia • Candy who has a heart condition—may her medical team make good decisions for her care • Ann and Brian W. —Ann's surgery was successful. May her healing be complete. Brian still awaiting test results to know how to proceed with his cancer treatment. • David & Diane K.

- Carolyn A—heart procedure on Thursday • Bonney F—fractured elbow; will have OP surgery on Wednesday
- All people with cancer, including Danny, Brian, Pastor Linda (in Sacramento)

**Travel mercies:**

- All who are traveling during holiday season, especially Jerry and Kevin L, Sarah and Kelly S, Louise C, Terry's family

**Those who grieve**

- Ernestine T. grieving the death of her husband • The family and friends of Jack Henderson

**We pray for other needs:**

- All children in Foster Care • Continued prayers for baby Luca, and his parents, Kirsten and Brandon. Luca is another miracle baby, born many weeks prematurely, but blessed by God to thrive. • Ukrainian people, especially those in Kyiv and places being bombed.
- Prayers for Presidents Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- Pearl Harbor victims and survivors
- Ryan—family tension
- Joseph—having difficulty registering for Spring semester at CSUB • Joe has been interviewing for a job that seems perfect for him. Prayers that he gets the job and it's as good as it seems • People at the border • Stella's brother Jack
- Monika released from nursing home—pray that she is able to care for herself at home • Peace
- People in NC still without electricity
- All people suffering from severe weather • Prayers of protection from the active volcanoes in Hawai'i • Prayers for availability of cold medications
- Discernment for the Kern Community College Chancellor and trustees that

they make the best decision for hiring CFO • Linda R about to receive another COVID booster. May it be effective and not cause her discomfort.

**In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:**

- Saleshe has been released as he awaits decisions about his eligibility for asylum • What a wonderful church Wesley is! We raised \$245 to help BBP after their food was stolen • Answered prayers—Eddy feeling better • Laura D's wonderful time with her siblings at Solano Beach • Three granddaughters celebrating birthdays on Dec 10: Josephine (Barbara's), Sarah (Louise's) and Mia (Anne's). We are grateful for the joy they have given each of us • Vance & Linda's daughter Kathleen competing in a marathon + the blessings of her athletic prowess.
- Rain • For the church member contacting the people we pray for who are serving in the military to let them know they're remembered.
- Lea's X-rays show that she is healing well. Prayers for patience and complete healing • David A is feeling much better
- Luca continues to grow and improve
- Vicki's successful move into Selma Lutheran home. May she be happy there • Anne's brother Robert has recovered from COVID

The following memorial donations were made to Wesley Church:  
\$25.25 in memory of Freda Hamilton  
\$25.25 in memory of Jack Henderson

## Finance Campaign Ongoing

You should have now received your pledge card in the mail for supporting the ministries of Wesley UMC in 2023. Many thanks to all who have prayerfully considered their 2023 giving to Wesley. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please send it to the church office P.O. Box 6577, 93386. We have received 24 pledges totaling \$93,926.00. Our goal is 30 pledges. Please prayerfully consider a monetary pledge. Thank you and God bless you!

---

## Giving To Wesley

To be included in 2022 Giving Statements, contributions for the 2022 tax year needs to be in the church by December 31<sup>st</sup> or mailed to the church with a postmark of December 31<sup>st</sup> or before according to the Internal Revenue Service.

---

## Thank You

Thank you so much to Pastor Anne, Nick Strobel, and Barbara D. for coming to my room to sing Christmas songs to me. I really appreciate it and enjoyed it.

Thank you for all the greeting cards and stickers that I have received. I have been really blessed with all of them. I have enough at the moment. Take care and God bless you all and have a Merry Christmas and a happy new year 2023.  
-Linda Tilton

### *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
---	------------------------

