

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. LXIX, #1

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

January 12, 2022

Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Sunday, January 16, 10:30 a.m.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11; message: "Varieties of Gifts" (Human Relations Day)

Sunday, January 23, 10:30 a.m.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21; message: "You Are the Body"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Human Relations Special Sunday, January 16

"This Sunday occurs during Epiphany, the season of manifesting God's light to the world. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations." (Par. 264.1, *The Book of Discipline* 2004) You may mail a check to Wesley, designated Human Relations Sunday or give online. Thank you.

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 and click on the "Online Pledge Form" link in the "Quick Links" section below the church's phone number. We have received 26 pledges totaling \$97,820.



♫ A Note from the Pastor

From this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. 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! All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
2 Corinthians 5:16-18

Happy New Year!

What a blessed season just ended! I am very thankful and feel excited to see what God has planned for the new creation that is 2022. Christmas Eve was wonderful, with the sanctuary full of blessings as well as full of people! The chancel steps were full of children. Let us pray together that they will come back and bring friends with them. Christmastide ended on Epiphany, January 6 and was immediately followed by baptism—both the baptism of Allison Cavazos, and the annual time of remembering our own baptism on the occasion of remembering Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. Following that are seven more weeks of "Ordinary Time," described thus because we use ordinal numbers to count the Sundays after Epiphany. The season of Sundays following the Epiphany vary in number from year to year because of the change in the date of Easter. The date of Easter is dependent on the lunar calendar and will be celebrated on April 17, 2022. The last Sunday before Lent begins is Transfiguration Sunday, and Ash Wednesday this year is March 2nd.

We begin our new worship series, "Love Never Ends," next week with a focus on Paul's writing to the church of Corinth. Before we get to the famous love verses from 1 Corinthians 13, we will be looking at how God gifts each of us to be part of the Body of Christ. As always, we do our best to keep each other well and safe by meeting in the sanctuary while masked, and joining community online if we are feeling ill. Please, if you are not feeling well, please let me know so we can keep you in prayer.

We previously announced that we would celebrate the life of Gay Lynne Natho on January 8, but the Memorial service had to be postponed. We do not yet have a date, but I believe the delayed celebration will happen in the spring. Please continue to praise God for Gay Lynne's wonderful witness of faith and for the goodness of her generous heart which was a blessing to many of us in this community.

I would like to thank all who stepped in to lead the church this year. Serving on committees helps develop and enrich our discipleship. Gay Lynne was a member of Wesley's Board of Trustees, and the Board was especially blessed by her legal expertise. The *Book of Discipline* requires at least one-third of the Trustees to be female. Therefore we needed at least one woman to agree to join the Trustees to be close to meeting that requirement. Not only did Stella Rous agree to re-join Trustees for three more years, but Marlene Blair also stepped up to take a seat on the Board. We welcome both these extraordinary voices to join the team! They will be voted in at our next Administrative Council meeting.

God Bless you all,

Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for those in need of healing:

We pray for those in need of healing: • Linda T • Jack and Catherine • Natalie • Nina and Al S. • Bob and Nancy S • Larry and Carolyn L. • Marion T. • Jedidiah, Cindy C's 6 year old great-nephew who severely broke his leg. That doctors have good discernment to treat the growing bone, and that God is present in this boy's long healing process • Linda R as she is repeating the painful treatment on her lips • Nick's aunt and 2 cousins who have a non-COVID respiratory ailment • Verne, who has many health problems. May he find the help he needs • Marion T • Kelly S • Alice O—relief from pain • Robin—a pedestrian hit by a car. He is unable to sleep or rest; MRI discovered he has an enlarged spleen, unrelated to the accident. All people with COVID—the spread of the virus is real!—especially for: - Balthazar - Penny's friend Olin - Jenny and Brian - Nick's niece and her family - Jack's extended family in Arkansas—family with 3 year old twins - Friends of Jerry's family in Costa Rica

We pray for those who are grieving:

• For Barbara D and Pam B on the death of John • For the Strobel family on the loss of Nick's Uncle John • For the Rowland family on the loss of William Rowland (Anne's cousin)... especially his brother George. They were very close. • John who lost his wife Wendy to ovarian cancer

We pray for: • Melinda, in isolation to keep all safe from COVID • An end to the whole COVID pandemic: Pray that this virus run out before the Greek alphabet does! • UMC came to a settlement with Boy Scouts of

America—pray for all the victims • A baby Sunshine delivered who is refusing to "latch." We pray the parents stay calm until baby learns this new way of getting nourishment. • Unvaccinated people • People looking for work, especially Joe and Jenifer and Ron. • Incarcerated people, especially in places that don't give good protection from COVID • For the victims of the fire in Colorado • For all people who struggled through the holidays (which can be an extra difficult time.) • For Stella's sister Sylvia • God's guidance, wisdom and discernment regarding the possibility of Building Inclusive Community. • For AT&T and T-Mobile to honor their contracts • Nick looking for MD with open appointments to maintain his good health • All new church starts—may they experience health and growth and spread the love of Jesus to all God's children • David & Sherry have changed health insurance & ask for discernment in finding new doctor(s)

We have been in prayer for travel mercies for all people traveling,

especially • Nick and Lisa • Young people traveling home from college, especially Sarah and Kelly as they drive back to Oregon • Elizabeth, returning from a visit with a friend who lives in Las Vegas • Anne driving to Felton • Jerry L as she returns home

In gratitude, we remember and pray for our abundant blessings...

• For Louis C who has volunteered to serve on the tech team • For Luz Adams who has volunteered to serve as a Sunday school teacher • For the life of John Barrett, Barbara's brother, and the lovely memorial service. Barbara is very

grateful she was able to attend the service because of live streaming • For the life and witness of Nick's uncle John • For the life of Anne's cousin William • Jack receiving much needed psychiatric care • Linda T was able to sit up on her own for the first time in a long time. • For last Sunday's message about Mary. • Linda's sister-in-law is adjusting to her new environment • Rose's visit with her attorney went well • Stella's care for her friends and neighbors • For time with family over the holidays, especially - Linda's granddaughter had a wonderful family reunion - The blessing of Barbara's son James singing next to her on Christmas Eve - Good visits with Sarah and Kelly - A great weekend for Barbara's sister - That Rob's family get-together was very special - Travis' first Christmas was special, and the blessing of him attending church with his parents • For recent birthdays: - David and Sherry's granddaughter Elizabeth's birthday - Sunshine's birthday - Vance's birthday • That holidays that can be celebrated in many ways, especially for Jenifer's family • Sunshine received approval for a mortgage to purchase the building housing her business • For the faithful and kind friendship that Scott Grant shares with John • For rain, and for the snow pack in the Sierras • For the time we are able to spend together in prayer • June's healing • Linda's cellulitis has cleared up • That Penny and Trevor tested negative for COVID after exposure to the virus • For Bill Blair, especially for his creativity and helpfulness at problem solving • That Chales is feeling better • For Natalie's successful surgery • Brian's health has improved so he may continue antibody treatment • Lisa B and Marion T are both feeling better • That the process of caring for Lea's grandsons is

progressing • For the wonderful care Rosemary gives her daughter with dementia