

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 23, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

March 27, 10:30 a.m.

Psalm 32, Luke 15: 1-3. "We Often Believe We Are the Problem"

April 3, 10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 43: 16-21, John 12: 1-8. "We Are Fragile"

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, 5:30 p.m.

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 "



♪ A Note from the Pastor

“Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Celebrate with me because I’ve found my lost sheep.’” ~ Luke 15: 4-7

Let’s celebrate! I checked the CDC guidelines, and finally the rate of COVID infection in Kern County is considered low! (See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>). It has been more than two years coming, and I feel blessed at the news. We are encouraged to continue to wear masks as a precaution, especially to keep safe those who are more susceptible than others. There is at least one member of our congregation who is unable to take the vaccine due to other health issues. Let us continue to think not only of ourselves, but of others who may have issues we haven’t personally considered. That said, we have cause to celebrate. With an abundance of caution, we have resumed after worship hospitality by serving coffee. It is a small step, and yet something we sorely missed. If we rush home right after worship, we become unable to get to know the newer members of the congregation, so we are glad to be able to enjoy some social time.

Our celebration will continue this Sunday afternoon 3-5 pm as we gather in The Gathering Place to celebrate the years Wesley has enjoyed Jerry Ludeke’s ministry with us. She is one of those people who seems to always stay busy and contribute to the life of many places in Bakersfield. She will move away soon, but the blessing of her friendship will remain with us always. Please come celebrate with her this Sunday from three to five pm. She has been working hard to cull through some wonderful treasures accumulated over the years, and she does not need any gifts! But she will enjoy our company and you will have an opportunity to share a blessing as she travels to a new home in the Bay Area.

As we continue through the season of Lent, we will be reading more of Luke 14 in worship and remembering the celebration of the return of the “Prodigal Son.” It is good to remember, even in this time of introspection, that we are indeed Easter people and have much to celebrate.

Many Blessings, Pastor Anne

Dear friends at Wesley UMC,
Register to join me on April 7 at 9am PDT (noon EDT) for an zoom overview of the ministry of the United Mission to Nepal. This is part of the #StillinMission series organized by Global Ministries. You’ll also get to hear a bit from my mission colleagues serving in Angola, Switzerland and Central African Republic. Even if you can’t make the April 7 event, you can still sign up for your own time at <https://calendly.com/ktparker/mission-updates>. I’m excited to keep connected with you. Thank you for your ongoing prayer and support.

Your sister in service for Christ, Katherine Parker



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the following Wesley families:

Irma Bercherer in the passing of her husband, **William E. (Bill) Bercherer** on February 18, 2022.

Mike and Laura Daillak in the passing of their son, **Brian Hill**, on March 7, 2022. Brian's sister is Lissy Hallam and her husband, Scott Hallam.

Nancy Schwartz in the passing of her husband and retired United Methodist Minister, **Bob Schwartz**, on March 2, 2022.

Easter

Wesley will have an Easter egg hunt this year after worship on Easter, April 17. We need plastic eggs filled with individually wrapped candies. We need flower blossoms Easter morning for the children to place in the cross for the front garden.

Prayers

- Continued prayer for Carolyn and Larry
- Barbara K, — continued healing
- Nephew Sean, facing one month of PT before
- Sister in law Pam—heart procedure on Monday to repair "A-flutter"
- Niece Kimberly, and comfort for sister Susie
- For Brian M—prostate cancer—almost finished with several rounds of Chemo, and now facing radiation treatment
- Linda's lip treatment and healing from her cold
- Brother in law David in Texas has liver cancer
- Continued prayer for Barbara K, who has recovered enough to be released to

another care facility • Friend Cathy needs surgery to remove a lump on her hand. Prayers for healing and a good outcome

We pray for all who grieve:

- Nancy S • Laura, Michael, and Lissy and all friends and family of Brian Hill
- All who loved Lea's cousin Bill

We pray for other needs:

- We pray for peace • Ukrainian people, and especially the children
- All teachers, especially Lisa, who are stressed at the end of the quarter
- For the Academic Senate • Carmen's relationship with her family in the face of stress and contentious conversations
- For Lea: calm and peace in her heart
- Pastor Brian may be able to assist in leading St. Mark's UMC
- Discernment for V. Putin and Russian leaders, especially that they do not use religion as an excuse for the invasion
- Prayers of support for Elizabeth
- We pray for good results from Linda's lip biopsy
- That the CPS paperwork goes easily
- People of Ukraine—we pray for PEACE and for wisdom to prevail. We pray for miracles and hope and wisdom
- All victims of crime
- Travel mercies for David and Sherry & that they have a good visit with Michael

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

- That the changes in scheduling of visits with Lea's grandchildren make for more productive visits
- That good decisions are made regarding the leadership of St. Mark's UMC
- For Bishop Carcaño, the California/Nevada Annual Conference, and all involved in the investigation. May truth, justice and mercy prevail
- May legislatures cease targeting transgender children, and may

educators create and teach curriculum that help all understand healthy sexuality • That the changes in scheduling of visits with Lea's grandchildren make for more productive visits

In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:

- For the life and witness of Brian Hill
- For the life and witness of cousin Bill
- Meghan's birthday • Beginnings and endings • Joe's new second cousin born this week • Laura gives thanks for all the prayers surrounding her and her family
- Groundbreaking for the BC Learning Center in Delano, and prayers that it may be a blessing in that community
- Neighbor Betsy was released from Rehab hospital and for a friend who is caring for her until she is able to return home • The BC Academic Senate meeting came to a successful conclusion to move forward with the plan to receive approval from the State
- Pat W. Home from the rehab hospital where she received good care. May the good care continue with home health nursing and therapies • Josephine is touring her college in LA with her family.
- Michael's eye surgery went very well
- Nancy was able to travel to the bay area to be with family in this time of grief
- Friend Sharon has been delayed cancer free • For the rain • People who send card, especially for comfort and support • For Eddy's care • David and Sherry are grateful for many blessings—their visit in Oregon is (mostly) going very well; the person looking after their dog is giving wonderful care; Laura is looking after their home, the weather has been very good • Blessings of Lonsinger family
- Thanksgiving for the life of Morris Berens who passed away this past week.

Happy April Birthday to.....

1	Dan O'Dell
2	Marvin Barnes Jeanette Wilson
8	Kelly Blain
9	Megan Barnes Lorraine Ross
12	Jack Henderson
18	James Cusator
24	Dolores Shumate
29	Lisa Neath
30	Patrick Bender

Happy Anniversary to....

4	Michael and Jeanne Hurry
27	Patrick and Linda Mitchell