

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXV, #7

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

April 5, 2023

Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Good Friday, April 7, noon

Hebrews 10:16-25, Matthew 26:14-27:66. Sermon: "Dancing in the Dark"
(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 9, 10:30 a.m.

Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-18. Sermon: "Tombs and Cocoons: Trusting the Dark"

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

Hebrews 11:1-3, John 20: 19-31. Sermon "Coming Out: Leaving Comfortable Places"



♫ A Note from the Pastor

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."
—John 14: 18-21

As I write this I am still preparing for Holy Week. Our Good Friday service will be filled with art created by members young and old. It will be a unique service at noon, April 7. Easter service is at 10:30 and will be followed by a light brunch and an egg hunt that the Sunday school teachers lovingly prepared. Please bring cut flowers from you garden to decorate the cross for our front lawn. If you wish to bring an Easter lily to decorate the sanctuary, you may do so as late as Easter morning. Please also bring any coins for mission you may have been collecting during Lent as well. We will pray God's blessing over all so they can become a blessing in God's creation.

Please remember that Easter is not just a day, it is a season. We will be celebrating with a worship series entitled "Emerge" until Pentecost, and every Sunday of the year was considered a "little Easter" by the early Christian Church. Let us remember and celebrate all that God has done for us every day!

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Easter Lilies

We will be decorating the altar with lilies. If you would like to donate a lily, please bring it to the church office on Good Friday service, April 7, noon, or on Easter Sunday.

Please bring flowers (thin stems) for our flower cross on Easter Sunday.



Easter Refreshments

Please plan to continue our Easter celebration by joining us in after worship fellowship in the Narthex. Yes, this is now the plan instead of our pre worship breakfast. Your additions of fruit, pastries, beverages or anything else you would like to share or donate are welcome. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call, text, or email me. Take care and God bless! My contact information is:
cgarnmpa@aol.com and (661)
699-6625
-Carolyn Ashlock

Prayers

We pray for those in need of healing—body, mind and spirit:

- Children with undiagnosed illnesses
- Tish—good outcome on an ultrasound
- Tom, Linda T's uncle—recovering at home from a recent hospitalization
- Siobhan has a bad cold • Adam Kelly—may his cancer treatment be effective • Charlie, who received a second concussion—complete healing
- Jane—cancer treatment; may her recovery be complete

Travel mercies:

- For Pastor Falamao as she travels to Tonga to be with her mother Celia who is ill.

People who are grieving:

- All the people in Tennessee following another mass school shooting • Rev. Clyde Vaughn (Boulder Creek UMC) following the sudden death of his brother Bill • Children, teachers and families terrorized by yet another school shooting. Lord have mercy. • Friends and family of Ann Silver • Friends and family of Dorris Antongiovani

We pray for other needs:

- All churches and pastors in transition this season • We pray for peace in the world, and lift up the tension between US, Syria and Iran • Un-housed people—may they find shelter and safety • People dealing with health insurance issues • For Pastor Anne's patience for the people who make messes and have destructive behavior around the church campus • All children in foster care, their caregivers, and all involved making decisions for them
- Angelina and her children Serenity and Zechariah • Protection of the church

campus and especially the children at Head Start • Central Valley farmland and orchards covered in flood water

- Peace and calm and understanding at Bakersfield College Senate meetings & that Nick feels affirmed and strengthened
- For the US—to mend the huge rift between political parties & views—prayers for wisdom and kindness on all sides
- US and Russian relations
- Children living with or recovering from abuse or neglect

In gratitude, we remember and praise God for our abundant blessings...

- Lea has found a physical therapist who is helping her healing
- Barbara's sister Carol is finally feeling better! Thanks be to God.
- Wendy, who had a double hip replacement is healing and has been released to drive
- Linda T is able to join prayer group
- Grateful for sunshine and rainbows
- Josephine received a good report from Kaiser & they have a good plan for follow-up care
- That Linda J heard from her brother after a long absence
- Michael is doing very well
- Barbara is thankful for workers who can remove and repair tires quickly and efficiently
- Gratitude for Cindy W. Who headed a team of artists creating palm crosses—and thanks for her team, June, Edee, Alice and Barbara
- Linda and Alvesa who write cards for church members and families
- Eddy's friend Pacheco has found a job and is grateful for our prayers
- Jerry is grateful for the many friends she has in Bakersfield, and they are grateful for her friendship as well. (And we had a tenor voice in choir last week!)
- Nick is grateful the meeting at BC went well.
- The beautiful weather
- Shawn is thankful for the hard work and generosity of Wesley contributing to the Outreach and the discipleship house



Godspeed, Joshua

Many of you know that our choir director, Joshua Forquera, will be leaving us soon and be moving to Southern California. May 14th, Mother's Day, will also be Music Sunday. There will be a reception for Joshua in the Narthex after the service (we are hoping to keep this a surprise to Josh...he is not receiving this *Outlook*).

We will also present a love offering to him at the service to wish him well and show our appreciation for his time with us. If you wish to donate to this love offering there are two ways: you can write a check to the church and leave it in the offering plate (being sure to write Josh's name on the memo line) or see Nick Strobel, Bill Blair, June Braun or myself and give us your donation and we will make sure it gets added to the love offering. Donations should be in by May 7th. Thank you.

--Rob Bewley

Meeting Reminder

Administrative Council will meet
Tuesday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m. via zoom.