

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. LXV, #3

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 8, 2023

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

February 12: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Matthew 5: 21-37. Sermon: "Walk This Way"
February 19: 2 Peter 1: 16-21; Matthew 17: 1-9. Sermon: "Get Up and Don't Be Afraid"
Anne Schlesinger, preaching



Ash Wednesday Service February 22, 2023 5:30 p.m., Wesley Sanctuary

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.
Message: "The Fast We Choose"

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty days prior to Easter Day. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance and remembrance of the final weeks of the life of Jesus and his sacrifice. The name Ash Wednesday comes from the tradition of marking the forehead of people with ashes to symbolize mourning and repentance. Join us in the sanctuary for worship, including the traditional imposition of ashes.

The Outlook

Each year at this time, we request each of you to renew your subscription to the church's newsletter, "*The Outlook*". It is now time, and for \$15 you can renew for a full year. Mail in your check or place it in the offering plate, designated "*The Outlook*".

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

~Joel 2: 12-13

The Bible talks a lot about sin and repentance; hiding from God and finding our way back. Many post-modern people shy away from such talk. Perhaps they perceive anyone who speaks of sin as being judgmental. However, it seems obvious that this world is far from perfect. Perhaps less obvious is that judgment can be a good thing. It is wrong for people to be judgmental, most especially without complete knowledge of all evidence, but judgment includes this meaning: “the ability to judge, make a decision, or form an opinion objectively, authoritatively, and wisely, especially in matters affecting action; good sense; discretion,” (from <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/judgment>). It is good to judge our own behavior and our own hearts wisely, and that is one of the reasons we celebrate the 40 days of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. I will be using Discipleship Ministries’ series, “Learning to Live Inside-Out” for Lent. Here is their synopsis of the season. “Lent is a bi-directional season. Or at least it should be. That isn’t how we usually experience the season, however. Too often, we see the Lenten journey simply as a journey inward. While that is a great start or an important component to a powerful Lenten experience, it can’t be the whole story. Examining your soul is more than just looking inward; it is also considering the state of your soul as it walks about in the world. This isn’t new. Historically, the church has talked about the spiritual disciplines in two directions. Like the great commandment, these two sides of the same coin cannot ultimately be separated. That is why this series is about doing both – looking inward and moving outward. We are learning to live inside out.”

During Lent you are invited to a voluntary project to raise money for missions in memory of our long-time mission coordinator, Louise Clay. You will see a calendar in this newsletter to let you know how many coins to put in a jar each day. If you don’t have a jar available, I will bring several to church on Sunday and you may take one home. Please bring your jar with the coins to church on Easter Sunday and we can celebrate together the work we are able to do in the world.

In other news, our church has been experiencing big messes and some vandalism and at least one case of breaking and entering. (A table was stolen from one of the Sunday school classrooms. I give thanks for the Head Start director for discovering the break-in.) Please pray for God’s protection around the church and the strength of the trustees and other volunteers clearing up the messes.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We lift up the names of people in need of healing-body, mind and spirit:

- All recovering from acts of violence, especially the many mass shootings in the past few weeks.
- The mental state of those who turn to violence
- All people with mental health issues
- Young people who are struggling with poor social skills and have difficulty making real friends
- Miles—in KMC NICU—needed blood transfusion. Pray also for his parents, Savannah and Alan, and his great-grandmother, Ernestine.
- Rita G—flu
- Rider—healing following eye surgery
- Susan M—foot pain, healing following surgery
- Martha C—injured & bruised following a fall
- Sherry A.—back pain
- Danny awaiting test results
- Carolyn A
- Ian and Cassidy tested Covid+
- Linda T—healing and peace
- Rev. Becky G and her husband Paul—he has kidney failure and is beginning dialysis at home which requires a lot of equipment and change and planning
- Cathy (friend of Stella's) and her son Tim. Both are ill
- Candy—Barbara D's family friend in ICU—peace, comfort and healing
- Armando—health concerns
- Stacy—several health concerns

We pray for those who are grieving:

- The families, friends and coworkers of the victims of the shooting in Half Moon Bay, Tulare, Monterey Park, Benedict Canyon...Lord have mercy
- Especially the family and friends of Tyre
- The family of Sammy Bridgeman—we give thanks for his life and witness

We pray for other needs:

- An end to violence
- Peace in Ukraine and elsewhere
- For foster children and all children affected by the trauma of abuse and neglect; pray also for the guardians of those children who deal with the behavior that stems from it.
- People in Florida following the changes in the educational system there
- Pets and chickens versus predators—coyotes and hawks —may all thrive
- All people living in dangerous weather situations—may all find shelter and warmth
- We pray for equitable health care for all.
- Ease of tensions between US and PRC (China)

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

- With Jerry we are grateful for the sunshine and enjoyment of God's creation
- Anne is grateful for the healing presence of Bishop Sally Dyck and the gathering at the wonderful State Park Asilomar.
- Joy of Marlene and Bill Blair's 56th wedding anniversary
- We give thanks for birthdays: Jerry L and Maisy M.
- Jerry thanks God for the establishment of love, friendship and companionship
- Luca out of the NICU after 72 days

Memorial Service

A memorial service for Larry Lonsinger will be held Monday, February 13, 2023 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 4500 Buena Vista Rd., 12 p.m.

Thank You

An additional \$250 was collected for Human Relations Day offering. A total of \$365 was sent to the Conference. Thank you for your generosity.

Scholarships Available for United Methodist Students!

Every year, UMHEF awards more than \$2 million in scholarships to Methodist students hoping to attend a UM-related college, university, or seminary.

Applications are now open for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Every year, UMHEF awards \$2+ million to students planning to attend one of the 100+ UM-related colleges, universities, and seminaries across the country. Don't let finances get in the way of achieving your dreams of a quality education!

Apply by March 1 at
<https://umhef.org/apply>
For more information please visit
www.umhef.org

Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 p.m. via zoom.

The following memorial donations were made to Wesley Church:
\$50 in memory of Freda Hamilton
\$50 in memory of Jack Henderson
\$262 in memory of Louise Clay