

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 22, 2023

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

February 26: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32, and Matthew 4: 1-11. "If You Fall Down"

March 5: Genesis 12 1-4a, Psalm 121, and John 3:1-17. "Go From Your Country"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

From Administrative Council

Administrative Council decided that after almost three years, Wesley church will change its policy so that face masks are optional in worship. If you feel safe without a face mask, you are welcome in the sanctuary. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. If you wish to sit at least six feet away from others (masked or unmasked) for precaution, that is fine as well. Please know that COVID is not over, and we do not want to risk anyone's health. Please, if you are sick, please stay home and worship with us on line, and please stay safe! (Our music director may still require the choir to mask.)

Renew Your Subscription

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 (P.O. Box 6577, Bakersfield 93386) or place it in the offering plate, designated *"The Outlook"*.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving.

—Matthew 4: 1-2

What are you starving for? If you are like me, it isn't because we have gone without food for forty days—or even forty hours! But we all hunger for something at least some of the time. Lent is a good time to contemplate what feeds us emotionally as well as spiritually. As I mentioned in the last edition of The Outlook, we begin a new worship series in Lent from Discipleship Ministries that first helps us look inward and then asks us to reflect on what we do with our soul's yearnings to affect the world around us. Discipleship Ministries included "Coins for Lent" calendars, which you received in the last Outlook. I have since taken a closer look at each day's assignment, and I realized we may have questions. For example, Ash Wednesday's assignment is to give a coin for every lamp. Does that mean just the desk, floor and table lamps, or does it include overhead lighting? I leave that type question up to you. Counting the lamps in our home is a great way to count some of the blessings we enjoy and perhaps don't consider often, and placing a coin (any denomination) in a can or jar to give to mission is an added blessing as well as a way to praise God. You will note that the Sundays, which are not considered days of Lent, suggest prayers of gratitude. I hope those of you who decide to participate in this process will feel blessed. The money will be used in memory of Louise Clay's long dedication to mission.

Our Wednesday Bible study resumes on March 1. Led by Bill Blair, we will study a book called *Everyday Contemplative: The Way of Prayerful Living* by L. Roger Owens. It is available in paperback and in an electronic version. Disciple IV continues on Thursday afternoons.

We have a new member's class that just started. If you are interested in joining, please let me know. I am also interested in beginning a confirmation class. We have a number of youth of the right age (junior or senior high), but some of them have not returned since the COVID shutdown. Please let me know of interest and availability, and I will be happy to get this started.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

For those in need of healing of body, mind or spirit:

• Lisa undergoing testing for non-dementia memory issues • Linda Tilton's migraines and pain in her back and right hip • Veronica and her partner—COVID + • Ian and Cassidy remain COVID + will be able to return to work next week • Armando—healing • Haley—health concerns related to her pregnancy. She is out of the hospital, but needs continued prayer • Rev. David Thompson following surgery • Lonnie following serious car accident; and gratitude for the work of first responders • John R • Stella's brother Jack • Danny—autoimmune diagnosis • Stella—peace of mind regarding necessary eye surgery • Terry G. (Hives) • Michael D—healing following successful eye surgery

We pray for those who are grieving:

• The Clay and Strobel family • The family and friends of Larry Lonsinger • The family and friends of Louise Clay • The family and friends of Candy (long-time friend of the Dethlefsen family) • DS David Niu on the loss of his brother-in-law • The people of Michigan following yet another school shooting • For Stella R., her brother Jack and his step-daughter following the death of Jack's wife • The family and friends of Lou Daniel, especially her friend Hazel, and gratitude for Lou's life

Travel mercies:

• Dan O and family

We pray for other needs:

• The people of Turkey and Syria • Children in Foster care, and all children healing from abuse and neglect • Danny and Jenifer's discernment about moving to Seattle • Prayers for a smooth transition into residential memory care & for his wife, Rev. Debra B who grieves this change • For Maria, for discernment and help with addiction • For President Jimmy Carter, entering hospice care

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

• Linda is grateful for a good trip to Anaheim to see her family • Laura and Michael D's 26th anniversary this week • Laura's sister will return to celebrate Michael's birthday next month • James' and Guinevere's anniversary • The blessing of a good visit with Josephine, and the blessing of having a granddaughter who enjoys spending time with her grandmother • Stella is grateful for Medicare coverage • Stella is grateful for daily delivery of the Bakersfield Californian • Gratitude for competent therapists • Dan O and Corey J. Fixed a leak in the water main at the parsonage • Ian B. has returned to work following COVID—Cassidy is working from home. • For the life, witness, and love of Catherine Grano • For the blessings of the service celebrating the life of Louise Clay. It was a heart-warming witness of intergeneration family love • For Barbara D's ability to host friends.

In The Military

Please keep those serving in the military
in your prayers.

Michael Ahumada - Army
Chris Armantrout - US Navy
Nathan Ashlock - US Marines
Nick Buckridge - Army National Guard
Mark Andrew Caldwell - US Marines
Alex Campbell - Navy
Josh Caughran - Navy
Megan Darling - Army Reserves
Bradley Delacruz - Army
Jerome Garey - Air Force
Dan Hanel - US Air Force
Greg Hanel - US Air Force
Josephine Imperial - Marines
Anthony Mitchell jr. - US Air Force
Kenneth Oberg - Navy
Rebecca Oberg - Air Force
Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp
Tiela Roland - US Air Force
Spring Walden - US Air Force
Joel Watson - Navy
Josephine Wells-Ashley - US Marines
Laura Yoon - US Navy
David Yoon - US Navy

The pillar candle on the altar is to
remind us of our prayers for them

The following memorial donations
were made to Wesley Church:
\$400 in memory of Louise Clay