

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, #2

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

January 25, 2023

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

January 29: Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12. Sermon: "Make My Day"

February 5: Psalm 112:1-9; Matthew 5:13-20. Sermon: "Little Altars Everywhere"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching



From the Editor

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 reminder that articles for *The Outlook* are due on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. You may e-mail or call in your articles to the office. *The Outlook* is published and mailed on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. It is not first class so you may not receive the newsletter the next day. It is mailed as a non-profit periodical. If you do not receive the newsletter by the end of the week and have access to the internet you can view it on the church's website: wesleybakersfield.org. Extra newsletters are also in the literature rack in the lobby.

Our thanks to the following people who help with the newsletter: Pastor Anne who proofreads, Nick Strobel for posting the newsletter on our website, Bob and Martha Covey, and Jerilyn Smith who occasionally deliver the newsletter to the main post office on Pegasus Drive.

—Terry Gonzales, editor



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to Carolyn Lonsinger in the death of her husband, **Larry Lonsinger**, on January 18, 2023. Larry was a member of Wesley since 1980. He will be greatly missed.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

“Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’
~ Matthew 25: 37-40

At our Administrative Council meeting last week, Shawn Collins talked a little about a discipling program he has begun, and two of the men he has discipled so far have become regular attenders of Wesley. What a blessing! Part of the program Shawn has developed includes providing safe housing for some of the people in the program. He asked if we had any used dressers or chests of drawers and blankets. If you have any of these items and can spare them, please bring them to church on a Sunday morning, or call the office to make an appointment to drop them off.

Many of you know I am out of town this week. I left Bakersfield after worship last Sunday and drove to my daughter's house so we could celebrate Christmas a month late! But it has been good to visit with her and my son-in-law, Trevor and my three granddaughters. Today I am working from their house, and I will leave after lunch for the Bishop's Gathering of Spiritual Leaders (formerly known as the Bishop's Gathering of the Orders). In the past it has been a great gathering with times to worship, pray, learn from speakers, and simply share with colleagues. But this year we are gathering at Asilomar in Pacific Grove (hence the trip to my daughter's—I am not far away) so in any personal time, I will have a chance to pray by the beautiful Monterey Bay. I am always replenished by the ocean! I will be back in Bakersfield sometime on Thursday—perhaps late evening. Pastor Alice will be attending the Gathering as well, so if you need pastoral care, just call my cell phone. The number is in the church directory. I will have my phone silenced in worship and in workshops, but you may leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Church Leadership Training is this Friday evening and Saturday morning on ZOOM. This training is required for all pastors leading a church and new committee chairs. It is recommended for other committee chairs and members. If you are interested and want to sign up, or just want to know more about it, here is the link: <https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/2023ChurchLeadersTraining>. Even if you just want to worship with us, you are welcome.

Many blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

• John R • Lea's friend Linda in Sacramento • Susan M., recovering from surgery • Pastor Cindy L • Carolyn A • Joseph F. pain following a tooth extraction • Linda F—biopsy. Pray for good results • Barbara S air-lifted to hospital

We pray for those who are grieving:

• Especially Lisa S. & her brother Matt as they work in settling Louise's estate • The Lonsinger family

We pray for travel mercies:

• Stella, visiting her sister • Pastors traveling to the Bishop's gathering, including Pastors Alice and Anne

We pray for other needs:

• Stella—discernment & patience
• Safety and healing for all affected by terrible storms across all section of US and beyond • All who are without power • All who have lost homes • All who have big messes to clear up • Prayers for all who work for power companies restoring power • Prayer of blessing for the Gonzales family • Although Anne is grateful that Governor Newsom is making steps to dismantle death row in prisons, we lift up victims families feeling betrayed • Ares needs to gain more weight • Prayers for Ukraine & Presidents Zelenskyy and Putin • Peace • Refugee crises—may their be a sensible and just solution • 118th Congress—may they do good work for the people • Crisis in Brazil • All children in Foster care, especially those not responding to treatment to help them

get along with others in the world

• Eddy: family issues • 'Ofa T and her family: She in Tonga as her father Saia faces end of life issues • Dr. Kamil E. & family, mourning the death of his father and for difficulties caring for his mother • Continued prayer for John R.
• Children who have suffered from neglect or abuse and the caregivers who help them recover • We pray for peace • We pray for the Ukrainian people • Stella's house needs major plumbing work; her cats just had expensive vet visits

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

• Tiffany G. began student teaching this week • Jerry L. Is grateful for all the thoughtful things people do for each other, including the acts of strangers • Jerry gives thanks that her community has not been terribly affected by storms & she's been able to enjoy active wildlife enjoying the wet weather • Luca is gaining weight and continuing healthy development • Jerry S. had a successful heart procedure • We pray for all the families coming to the food distribution, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be in ministry in Bakersfield
• Thankful for last week's playlist—it is working lifting spirits • Stella and others are grateful for the midday prayer group • Jerry is grateful for long friendships and the ability to stay in touch with their families across years and miles • Anne's belated celebration of Christmas and two December birthdays • Brian's first treatment of his cancer was successful, and continued gratitude that the cancer has not spread.

Memorial Service

A memorial service for Louise Clay will be held Friday, February 17, 2023 at Wesley Church, 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Wesley United Methodist Church of Bakersfield or to the United Methodist Committee on Relief or to the Miriam Jamison Children's Center of Bakersfield.

Thank You

\$140 was collected for Human Relations Day. Thank you for your generosity.

* * * * *

Dear Christmas Carolers,
Thank you Barbara, Stella, Rob, Rose and Anastasia for coming out in the cold to sing. This is a very belated thank you, but a very heartfelt appreciation for your music. Happy New Year! Love,
Sylvia Corson

* * * * *

Thank you for the donations for KWESI (Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants). Three large suitcases on wheels to deliver educational and medical supplies to Guatemala were donated. A duffle bag and five backpacks for men being released from ICE detention were donated. Needs have been met at this time and the drive is over.

-June Braun

Happy February Birthday to.....

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Dominic Hernandez |
| 2 | Scott Pipkin |
| 3 | Jerry Ludeke |
| 4 | Laura Cusator |
| | Gina Saba |
| 9 | Kathy Harris |
| 11 | Jean Shumate |
| 12 | Caroline Rous |
| 16 | Brendan Bewley |
| 17 | Anthony Fariss |
| | Mandi Gonzales |
| 21 | Jane Custer |
| 26 | Rose Gonzales |
| 28 | Ruth Shivers |

Happy Anniversary to....

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 6 | Jonathan and Terry Gonzales |
| 8 | Mike and Laura Daillak |
| 26 | Kelly and Kathy Blain |