

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

office:(661) 871-3030, secretary (661) 872-8741

e-mail: office@wesleybakersfield.org

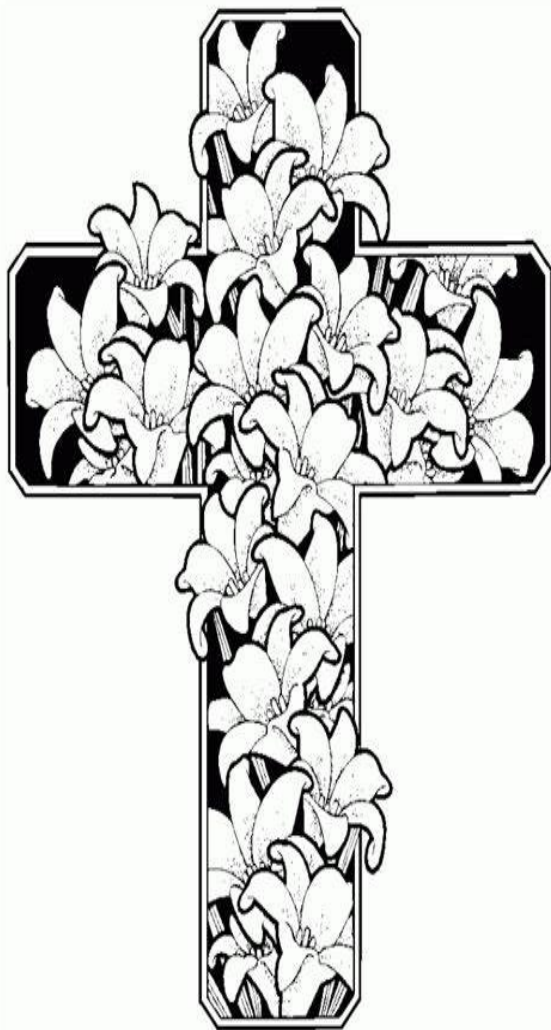
website: wesleybakersfield.org

Facebook: [WesleyUMCBakersfield](https://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCBakersfield)

Vol. LXV, #6

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 22, 2023



Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Sunday, March 26, 10:30 a.m.

Ezekiel 37: 1-14, Psalm 130, John 11:1-45.

Sermon: "Who Could Stand?"

Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21: 1-11,

Sermon: "This Is the Day: In Awe of Grace"

Good Friday, April 7, noon

Primary scripture: 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"

♪ A Note from the Pastor

God said, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth."
~Genesis 9: 12-13

The gift of a rainbow is not merely a beautiful sight; it is also a reminder to feel God's peace, knowing that even in the midst of raging storms, God is here. Thanks be to God! As a good California transplant, I often pray for rain, but I am leaving that request out of my prayers for the time being. Even still, this Spring blustery weather is to be enjoyed. The air is clear and smells good and the cool temperatures will be longed for in a few months time.

As I write this I am also mentally preparing worship for the fifth week in Lent. Easter cannot be far behind. We have number of events coming up for our celebrations. Cindy Wilson is hosting a get-together in The Gathering Place on Thursday, March 30 at 10 a.m. to make palm crosses. All are invited. Sunday school teachers are in the planning stages for an Easter egg hunt for the children. They have plastic eggs and would like donations of individually wrapped candies. You may wish to bring an Easter lily to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to dedicate it in memory of a loved one, please send an email to Terry by Wednesday, April 5, so she can add that information to the church bulletin. Your donations of Easter candy and/or lilies can be brought to church Sunday mornings or Wednesday mornings from 9 am to noon. Please bring candy donations by Palm Sunday so they can be placed in plastic eggs. Lilies can be brought as late as Easter morning. And finally, we will do something slightly different this year. Instead of decorating the Easter cross in the sanctuary, this year the children will decorate it in the Narthex to be taken to the front yard after worship. Please bring cut flowers to the church on Easter morning. Easter will be a wonderful celebration, as always, but will also include two baptisms. How exciting!

Our Lenten worship series "Learning to Live Inside-Out" continues through Palm/Passion Sunday. We will have a Good Friday service at noon on April 7. (I still have two canvasses left if you would like to contribute to the Good Friday art installation. Please call me soon if you wish to participate, because I will need to plan the two remaining art pieces if I do not hear from you this week.) Beginning with Easter Sunday, we will return to the Worship Design Studio suggestions with a series entitled "Emerge: a Metamorphosis Moment." This is what Worship Design Studio says about the series: "The butterfly has long been a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus, as well as our own resurrection as we emerge from the power of fear and death. In this series, we will consider the process of metamorphosis as a guide to examine our own transformations from cocoons and tombs to the unfurled beauty of all God calls us to be."

Many Blessings,
Pastor Anne

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

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 Wednesday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to noon, or at the Good Friday service, April 7, noon, or on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to donate a lily in memory or in honor of someone, please contact Terry by Wednesday, April 5, to have their name printed in the bulletin. Her contact information is (661) 872-8741 or office@wesleybakersfield.org.

Easter Is Coming!

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:

- Marlene B— had successful surgery for broken arm; continued healing
- Barbara D's sister Carol /with bronchitis—prayers that her new medication works • Linda J. • Linda T.
- Susan M—relief from foot pain

- Bill—Eddy's friend—recovering from surgery • Rose G—has a very bad cold. She needs healing in order to take the planned trip to visit her grandchildren
- Jim L—knee surgery on Tuesday
- Dan O—COVID + • Rita—flu for the 3rd time! • Andrew C is quite ill with COVID. We pray for his healing and protection for Katelyn, Alexia and Allison. • Linda T and her mother Linda J need healing in their relationship with Linda's sister. • Wendy, who has had a double hip replacement, and Archie who is caring for her while she heals • June's cousin Marilyn having surgery • Chase's health issues

We pray for those who are grieving:

- The family and friends of Erik Larson
- Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer for the loss of her mother, Paula Leslie. And thanks be to God for her life and witness of 104 years.

Travel mercies:

- Kristyn and family • Rose and Arnie

We pray for other needs:

- Children living with or recovering from abuse or neglect • All involved at Mesa Verde and other detention centers, especially the four strikers transferred to El Paso and their families—wisdom and mercy to repair a broken system • Water management to prevent floods and droughts • For the many changes in the leadership at Bakersfield College; for the people moving and all who are adjusting to the change • The earthquake in Ecuador and Peru
- Peace in the world, especially healing the relationship between Ukraine and Russia • All children in foster care, their caregivers, and all involved making decisions for them • All people across the country/world facing water

emergencies, evacuations, and other water-related problems. • All churches and pastors in transition this season. • For our country & special prayers for politicians denying history and “cancel culture.”

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

• Thursday's Taize service was a blessing • Pastor Falamao wants to thank Wesley for our prayers—she was recommended unanimously for ordination in June • Downtown school's Robotic team received “School's teaching award,” the blessing of dedicated teachers. • Joe's increased hours at work • Legal custody hearing was successful • Happy birthday Michael D and Linda T! • Laura's sister returned to California for a lovely visit • Cassidy returned safely from Alaska following her grandmother's funeral, and Rob is grateful he was able to attend remotely thanks to technology • Haley successfully delivered her baby—Theodore Ryan—mother and baby are doing well • Anne's granddaughters in Felton—they have had huge rain accumulations, but no real damage—thanks be to God! • Nick gives thanks for Lisa. She listens when he returns frustrated following a contentious meeting • Sherry is very pleased that her granddaughter Samantha has been accepted at all three grad schools she applied to. Prayers of thanks and prayers of discernment now that she has to make a choice. • David and Sherry: Happy 58th wedding anniversary • Vickie is getting the care she needs • Melinda's early release date

Happy April Birthday to.....

1	Dan O'Dell
2	Marvin Barnes Jeanette Wilson
8	Kelly Blain
9	Megan Barnes Lorraine Ross
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

Newsletter Deadlines

Upcoming deadlines for *The Outlook* are April 3 and April 17. Thank you for your cooperation.