

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

office:(661) 871-3030, Admin. Asst. 872-8741

e-mail: office@wesleybakersfield.org

website: wesleybakersfield.org

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

Vol. LXV, #3

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 14, 2024

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

February 18:1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15, "Full of Mercy"

Shawn Collins, guest speaker

February 25: Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38, "For the Sake of the Gospel"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Welcome, Doug Carothers!

Many of you know that we now have a new choir director, Douglas Carothers. Doug was born in Lancaster, CA., but grew up in Bakersfield and attended FUMC Bakersfield. While there he took music lessons under the instruction of Linda Barnard and was in the chancel choir under the direction of Mike McQuerrey. He also led a children's chime choir during this time. Doug was choir director at St. Mark's Methodist from 2001-2004 before moving back East for several years, where he achieved a degree in musical composition from the Boston Conservatory and a degree in orchestral conducting from Bard College in upstate New York.

Upon returning to Bakersfield, Doug began work at his father's personal agricultural management company while being very involved in the community. He is currently president of the Bakersfield West Rotary Club and is on the board of the Bakersfield Museum of Art.

Doug wants folks to know he feels welcomed at Wesley and wants to invite everyone out there to give choir a try; no great talent is needed, just a desire to sing the Lord's praises!.....Rob Bewley, SPRC chair



♫ A Note from the Pastor

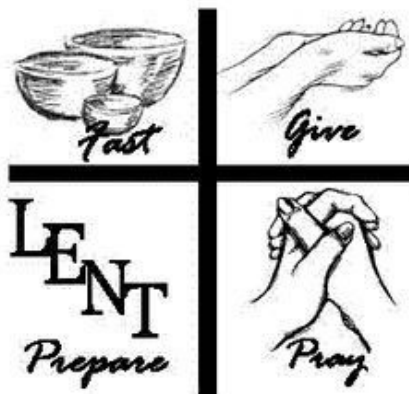
And there was a voice from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.” At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him. ~ Mark 1: 11-13

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, which celebrates the time Jesus spent in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. By the time you have received this edition of The Outlook, we will be well within the first week of Lent, a season we remember every year. When I read the scripture from Mark today, I noticed two things—that Jesus’ wilderness wandering occurred as God’s blessing was still reverberating in his ears, and that the angels took care of him during the whole time. Of course I have read these facts before, but today I found them remarkable because we think of wilderness wandering as a time of temptation and deprivation, but it was also a time of great blessing. God was with Jesus always, and God is always with us, despite our feelings of abandonment.

One of Wesley’s events during Lent is “Coins for Lent.” This is a fun way to collect a special offering for missions. We count our belongings and put a coin of any denomination in the collection. I started mine early because I will be away for the first week in Lent (more on that in a moment) and I discovered that one of those days, we count the candles in our home. I don’t think I can count that high! It is probably fewer than one hundred, so I just put in a dollar bill. The money will be sent to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to be used for relief to Ukraine.

I will be away on vacation from February 15 through the 23rd. Shawn Collins will preach on the first Sunday in Lent, and I will be back for the second. It is 8-days away, but one of them is President’s Day, so it counts as a week. I won’t be taking phone calls, but I will check my text messages in the evenings. I hope to return relaxed and ready for this very busy season.

Many blessings,
Pastor Anne



Prayers

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

• Linda T • Jill • Rev. Jorge Dominguez
• For Danny, Jenifer, and Jenifer's mother Barbara S • For Ron, Aris and Kolton • Bonney F • Ruth S • Susan M
• Brenden • Cleona C. has entered hospice care—prayers for her and for her family • Ruth S—healing so she can go home • Marlene M—a church member with whom we have lost contact information • Anna L—healing for her and comfort for her family
• Paula D to have cancer surgery on Tuesday

We pray for those who are grieving:

Elissa Tomlin on the loss of her father, Nick Piergiovanni

We pray for travel mercies:

• Safe travel for all in this season of heavy storms • For Elisa traveling to Oregon, & may she have a good visit with Michael • Pastor Anne and her family traveling from Boston and Washington DC and for a good reunion

We pray for other needs:

• Peace in our world • We give thanks for the rain, but pray for moderate rain, especially for people on the coast
• Kristyn, who has been interviewing with Bakersfield City Schools • Safety for places where 5-6 feet of snow are expected • For all people impacted by the crisis at the southern border • For all immigrants in terrible need • Prayer for decision makers in government, especially over funding issues • For people without food and shelter here and especially in war-torn places • For a cease-fire in the Middle East and people

trying to find an equitable solution. • For children in school who feel they have to act violently • Linda T asks for prayer for help obtaining a valid California ID so she can get a bank card • People who have suffered loss during the recent storms and mud slides • Timmy M looking for work. Prayers for his confidence • Jonathan and Ariel—relationship difficulties

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

• Tiffany Gonzales received her Master of Science in Education, closed escrow on a house, married David this past Saturday. Praise be to God! • Laura D's sister Liz and her husband Pat have been visiting Laura. The whole family surprised their brother Bill for his birthday. • Rob & Liz had a delightful family visit in the Bay Area. • Grateful for Douglas' help and enthusiasm • Happy birthday to all who are celebrating, esp. Jerry L, Maisy M, and Jill • Monika—her health is greatly improving following her stroke • The hard work of trustees and other volunteers who helped re-install the stained glass in the sanctuary
• Linda T has been receiving help to get a valid and updated California ID. It has been tedious, and the job isn't finished yet, but she is grateful for the help she has received • Linda T created a lovely afghan and presented it as a gift to Pastor Anne

Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, February 20, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.



Dear Wesley Church,

Thank you so much for visiting me with your lovely caroling.

A vicious virus has kept me "in" for some time.

Thanks to everyone for the lovely music.
Love, Sylvia (Corson)

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"*.

Thank You

Thank you for your generosity . Wesley Church collected \$60 for United Methodist Student Sunday and \$200 for Human Relations Day.

Summer Camps 2024

Family Camps

Camp at Koinonia June 9-15

Shasta Family Camp August 3 - 9

Kids & Youth: 3-12 Grade

Toyon Camp, Aptos, CA July 7-13

Camp Lodestar, Wilseyville, CA

July 14-20

Lodestar and Toyon Camps: Early Bird

Savings Extended! Register by March

1st and save \$30

Register at CA-NV Conference:

cnumc.org/camp

jaceypj@calnevumc.org

jessiec@calnevumc.org