

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXV, #2

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

January 24, 2024

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

01/28/24; Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 and Mark 1: 21-28. "Prophesy and Discernment"

02/4/24: Isaiah 40: 21-31 , Mark 1: 29-39. "With Wings Like Eagles"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching



Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 2024, 4:15 p.m., Wesley Sanctuary

Meditation: "There Your Heart Will Be"

Scriptures: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17;

Psalm 51: 1-7 and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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.

🎵 A Note from the Pastor

Jesus returned from the Jordan River full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. There he was tempted for forty days by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and afterward Jesus was starving. ~Luke 4: 1-2

I was an adult when I learned that Mardi Gras meant “Fat Tuesday.” I thought it was just the name for a rowdy party held in New Orleans. (You can probably tell I did not take French in school!) Mardi Gras is called that because people feast on the day before Lent begins to get rid of all the rich foods they have in their houses so they can follow the tradition of fasting during the forty days of Lent that begins on Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday is celebrated on February 14, and this year our service will begin at 4:15 pm. The time was chosen to accommodate the Disciple Class that finishes their study at 4 pm and choir that gathers at 6:15. It is also a good time for folks who hesitate to drive after dark, because the sun will set at 5:37 that day, so it should be light until about 6 p.m. So please mark your calendars for the service. It will be a traditional service with the imposition of ashes.

In United Methodist tradition, Lent may be observed by fasting or by adopting a new discipline that helps you feel closer to God. That was how Wesley’s mid-day prayer group got started, but here we are almost four years later continuing to meet five days per week to pray together. Our disciplines can last a lot longer than 40 days! Perhaps you would like to take on a new ministry, like visiting people to pray with them. Last year, Discipleship Ministries of the UMC created a Lenten calendar that suggested monetary donations each day, based upon how blessed we are by abundance. For example, you would set aside a coin (any denomination) for every can of soup you have in your house. At the end of the 40-days, there is enough for a good donation to a very good cause. Discipleship Ministries has created another such calendar, and I invite you to join in this collection! This year we will support United Methodist Committee on Relief. I would like to earmark our contribution for relief to Ukraine, but I am open to your suggestions.

I will be away the first Sunday in Lent. My brother Robert has invited me to celebrate his granddaughter’s birthday in Hawaii, and he is paying my way! That is an offer I could not refuse. But I will be gone just over one week. Exact dates to follow in the next Outlook—since Robert is buying my ticket to suit his schedule, I do not yet have exact dates and times.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

A \$500 memorial donation was made to Wesley Church in memory of Leon and Radine Banks.



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 and Nick Strobel for posting the newsletter on our website. Bob and Martha Covey and Jerilyn Smith who occasionally deliver the newsletter to the post office.

—Terry Gonzales, editor

From Linda Tilton

Praise the Lord for June Braun because she got me a new longer and faster charger cord, that my legs and feet were measured for my compression socks, and for the following people because they are all so good to me: Jerry Ludeke, David and Sherry Atkins, Mike and Laura Daillak and my Wesley Church family. God bless you.

Happy February Birthday to.....

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 2 | Scott Pipkin |
| 3 | Corey Johnson |
| | 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 |

Prayers

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

• Linda T • Jill—healing and peace of mind
• Danny & Jenifer—healing and peace
• John S: healing, and strength and support for Donna • Nick and Lisa • Connie M who suffered a major stroke and is now in the care of her son and daughter-in-law. Healing for Connie and blessing of comfort and peace for her caregivers • Ronnie • Lea • Sage • John S—Donna is grateful for our prayers. He is now out of ICU and in a step-down unit, but he remains in need of healing prayers. • Barbara P. • Persia Isabel—newborn who is very ill; peace and comfort for her family • for Philip may he be free of pain following hip surgery • healing for Susan McQuerrey following surgery to correct foot problems

We pray for other needs:

• Peace in our world • Protection for people suffering from extreme weather—especially those unhoused, and older people who have lost power and thus heat • People and wildlife in danger of avalanche • Discernment in US Government • Ukraine • That Danny receives good advice from his oncologist • Michael A—strength and courage during power outage • Ron S without power
• Prayers for all who suffer from extreme weather conditions, especially those who are unhoused and those in ice storms
• Discernment for Rita • US government, and for peace and wisdom for all of us from now and through the election seasons • May kindness and compassion bring us to a place where we can meet, even through our differences • Portia is looking for work • We lift up all those served at the food distribution and the BBQ • Linda receives palliative care for pain management

We pray for travel mercies:

• Cousin Rita's upcoming visit • All Clergy & staff traveling to the Bishop's Gathering of Spiritual Leaders • Michael A • Joe traveling to Long Beach

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

• Thanks & blessings for caregivers • Linda is getting help obtaining a bank card • Linda has been measured for compression stockings that should help her • Ruth S is feeling stronger and may get to return home soon • Ronnie had successful surgery and is doing better • Concert Friday night attended by several church members. It was great music, great company • Tiffany and family closing on a house • Linda received the cough drops she needed • Travis feeling better (he had a bad cold) • Terry's joy in newest granddaughter Noelle. She is doing very well—at 10 weeks old, she weighs 5 pounds! • for the life of Katherine Flippo, a wonderful loving elementary teacher • for the life, witness and music of Michael McQuerrey. He sings in heaven now, but is not forgotten here.

