

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Vol. LXV, #5

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 13, 2024

Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Sunday, March 17, 10:30 a.m.

Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

Sermon: "Whoever Serves"

Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 a.m.

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Mark 11:1-11 and

Mark 14:1-15: 47

Sermon: "Hosanna, Indeed"

Good Friday, March 29, noon

Primary scripture: Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22,
John 19:1-42

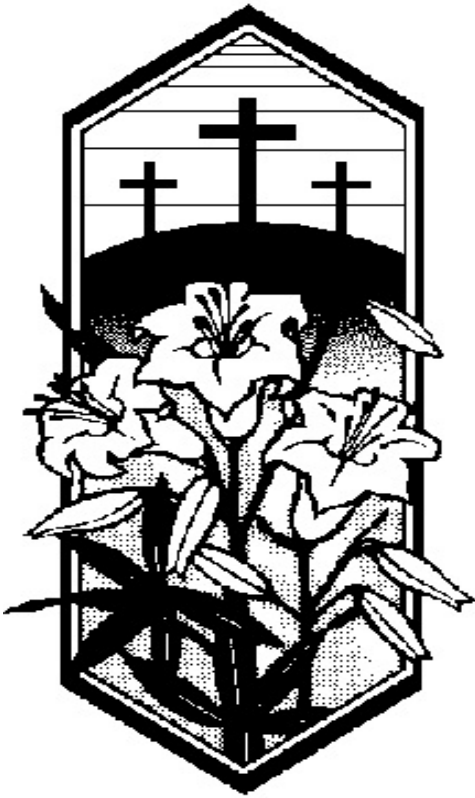
Sermon: "Hail, King of the Jews"

(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, March 31, 10:30 a.m.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, John 20: 1-18

Sermon: "Don't Hold Onto Me"



🎵 A Note from the Pastor

You were made rich through [Christ] in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 1 Corinthians 1: 5-8

There is one dedicated pre-teen in our church who has accepted the challenge to take confirmation class. I need others to join him! I mentioned in worship that I have purchased material that is intended to help young people confirm the promises made at their baptism. According to the teaching materials, confirmation is more than a decision, "it is the beginning of a conversation about what it means to be a Christian, live out your faith, your commitment, and God's call." It is a journey meant to be made in community. In order to be successful, each young person will need a mentor. That person must be committed to journey alongside the youth, but need not be a "perfect Christian," just someone who will learn with them. Right now, the plan is to meet right after church, perhaps at church or at a place comfortable for the youth. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are a young person between the ages of 12 and 30 who wants to learn more about faith development or if you know someone who fits that description, or if you are willing to mentor such a person. Ideally, this should be a group of 8-12 individuals, adults and youth, but if there are more people interested, we can form two groups. There are books for confirmands and mentors. The church will provide the material, but I need to know how much to order.

A few months ago Douglas Carothers began leading our choir. He is eager to lead and encourage us. He has purchased music that is perfect for a small choir, but I know he would be pleased to help the choir grow. You need not be a professional-quality singer, you need only want to praise God! Choir meets Wednesdays at 6:15 and Sunday mornings before church. That said, we have planned Music Sunday for May 5. You may participate in that, with your voice or any other instrument, but please let Doug know. You can contact him at douglas@whatsdougdoing.com.

As announced in church, I have reached the age of mandatory retirement, but the Bishop and the cabinet have agreed to reappointment me to Wesley one more year. There will be a retirement celebration at Annual Conference this year. I don't yet know which day, but our Conference meets in Sacramento June 7-10. Anyone interested can attend as a guest.

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, March 27 from 9 a.m. to noon, or at the Good Friday service, March 29, noon, or on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to donate a lily in memory or in honor of someone, please contact Terry by Wednesday, March 27, to have their name printed in the bulletin. Her contact information is (661) 872-8741 or office@wesleybakersfield.org.

Bring Your Own Craft & Beverage (BYOC & B)

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024

Time: 9:30-11:30 AM

Place: The Gathering Place at Wesley

Who: Everyone

Event: **We will be making palm**

crosses for Palm Sunday. Thank you Cindy Wilson for teaching us how to do this. Bring your favorite craft to work on while we visit after we finish the palm crosses. If you are not "crafty," please come anyway.

Bring your own beverage.

Lunch follows at Honey I'm Home, 3807 Auburn St.

Organizer: June Braun

Meeting

Administrative Council will meet

Tuesday, March 19, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the Cope family in the death of **Cleona Cope**, on February 29, 2024. Cleona

was a member of Wesley Church since 1961. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 22, 10 a.m. at Hillcrest Chapel.

Directory Update

Dan O'Dell

2418 NW 56th St. #513

Seattle, WA 98107

The Outlook Deadline

The next newsletter deadline is March 25. Thank you for your cooperation.

Prayers

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

- Linda T • Jill—relief from pain
- Dawn W—healing from sinus infection
- Roy S—healing • Sherry—pain unrelieved by medication • Danny and Jenifer & Jenifer's mother Barbara
- Beth's brother Ron • Patrick B • Bill B
- Vance • Gary • Baby Persia—infant with multiple health problems will be hospitalized at least a year. Support for her family with three other children
- Stan—undiagnosed pain in foot and leg • Ronnie • Roy S. • For the many people suffering colds right now,

including David S, Eddy L, Lissie (may it improve quickly so her surgery is not cancelled) • For Anna L • John S • Colton • Rita S recovering from hip surgery after a fall on Saturday, that her sons will be able to find a good rehab facility • Linda R—relief from pain

For those who are grieving:

• Family & friends of Cleona Cope • Rev. Robin Matthews-Johnson on the death of her father • Geri's son and her friends • Friends and family of Dylan

Travel mercies: • Doug C.

We pray for other needs:

• Peace—in our country and in the world
• An end to suffering, especially in war-torn places • Stella and her family—wisdom and healing • All children in Foster care, and especially those in Jamison Center looking for a stable home • Linda T—help with paperwork • Good test results for Sage • Wildfires in Texas • Storms in the Sierra's • People in leadership; may they grow in wisdom, persistence and determination to do the right thing • Brenden trying out for football—may he have fun and stay safe • Linda T wants to move to a new care facility • For the safe counting of cast ballots • Children in foster care

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

• Aris' cancer numbers are much improved • Tess Shaw, pianist at CSUB, has shared her phone number when we're in need of a substitute • Douglas C & his ministry to Wesley • Bakersfield Symphony—and for Gail thinking of Pastor Anne to join her • Thanks to Jerry L, who located Marlene M, a church member with whom we had lost contact

• The power of prayer • We are grateful for Nick's scientific knowledge • Gary had very good results from his medical procedure • Barbara's sister was blessed with a premature great-grandchild, but the baby is doing well and is now home • Lily Hong passed her ordination interview and will be ordained in Cal-Pac conference on June 24 • Ronnie is improving but needs continued prayer. He will be in a rehab hospital several more months.

