

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

April 9, 2025



Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.

Psalm 118 1-2, 19-29, Luke 22: 14 - 23:56.
"Open the Gates"

Good Friday, April 18, noon

Primary scripture: Psalm 22, John 19:23-30.

"Be Not Far from Me"

(You are invited to have some oil for anointing if you are worshiping with us remotely. A small bit of olive oil works well. It will be provided for people worshiping in the sanctuary.)

Easter, April 20, 10:30 a.m.

Acts 10: 34-43, John 20: 1-18.

"Freedom to Move Forward"

🎵 A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

It's almost Holy Week

We continue with our Lenten Playlist this coming Sunday. The one remaining recommended song is "You Will Be Found" from Dear Evan Hansen. We will be celebrating Palm Sunday and then will turn to Christ's Passion. Our readings are long this week, so there will be only a short homily. The Bible tells the whole story.

This newsletter might arrive too late for some of you to join, but Cindy Wilson is gathering palms and will teach us (once again) how to make palm crosses this Thursday at 9:30 to distribute at worship on Sunday.

"Coins for Lent" continues through Holy Week. Additional copies of the calendar are available at church. We will collect your donations for KWESI the Sunday after Easter.

Good Friday Service is scheduled for noon on April 18.

Easter Sunday

Easter is the highest holiday on the Christian calendar and the beginning of the Easter season—seven weeks that lead to Pentecost. Please come Easter Sunday and invite your family and friends to join the celebration. We will celebrate the baptism of four beautiful children that day. Please help us all celebrate this day of all days in community. We will begin with worship and continue with an "extended coffee bar" afterward. We are inviting people to bring sweet or savory items to share. This will not be a sit-down meal, so "finger foods" are best.

Trustees at work

Marv Davisson is earning his halo working overtime for the church! There is a water leak under the education building. He worked with a plumber to locate the source of the leak, and the repairs will be done April 11. The Trustees have turned the water off in the campus except for Sundays so water is not wasted. Also in the works are repairs or replacement of the air conditioner for the sanctuary. Trustees have been hard at work trying to find a company who deals with equipment large enough to cool that space. I am so grateful for beautiful weather in the meantime.

Technical problems

Our tech team works very hard to provide a quality experience for those who join worship online. We have up to date equipment, but unfortunately we have been unable to live stream on Facebook for the last two weeks. It doesn't seem to be an internal problem, but rather something within the Facebook platform. We hope to have this problem resolved as soon as possible.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

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

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is April 21. Thank you.

Meeting

Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, April 22, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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 16 from 9 a.m. to noon, or at the Good Friday service, April 18, 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 16, to have their name printed in the Easter bulletin. Her contact information is (661) 872-8741 or office@wesleybakersfield.org. Thank you.



Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

Prayer of healing and comfort:

- Relief from pain for Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar and Lea
- Siobhan, receiving continued chemotherapy treatments
- Nancy J • Linda T—foot pain • Bonney F continued prayer, and for the additional diagnosis of breast cancer
- Jerry L—relief from cough—she wants to feel better before an upcoming trip
- Healing for Harlan • Anna L
- Nancy J—in addition to healing, she needs prayers to find suitable care when she leaves the nursing facility—hopefully home-care, discernment for a good decision
- Wayne continues to need much prayer for healing, for relief of extreme pain, and for a solution to his feeding tube problem. May he receive some nourishment
- For Wayne's caregiver Richard whose health problems are worsening
- Peace for Sherry
- Healing for Ana L and Shyann N
- Healing for John R and discernment for his family about how to be helpful
- Peace and healing for Eddy's Aunt Margaret and cousins Barbara and Julie after hearing a difficult diagnosis
- Renee and her whole family. May she fully recover from a painful eye injury.
- Margaret—(Steve Manson's niece) hospitalized—needs healing prayer

We pray for those who are grieving:

- Madison (Anne's granddaughter) had to put her beloved horse down

We ask God's blessing for other

needs:

- All pastors and churches affected by appointment changes
- For a fix to our broken immigration system

that does not include deportation without due process or any means contrary to the US Constitution • Peace and comfort or all loved ones whose friends and family have “disappeared” without justice or compassion • All suffering from the earthquake that struck Myanmar and Thailand • Travel mercies for Vance and Linda and their daughter Kat • We ask for God to give discernment to Benjamin Netanyahu who is causing massive starvation in Gaza. We pray for those suffering and for an end to the blockade of food & water • We pray for all Peacemakers: may they never give up • Blessing for Danny and Jenifer’s move • Prayers for Brenden and his ability to make better decisions

And God, we praise you for your abundant blessings. We especially give you thanks for:

• Wayne, Sherry’s brother had extreme discomfort following his cancer treatment. But his friend and caretaker Richard discovered the cause of his pain was an incorrectly installed feeding tube. We are grateful for the care Wayne is receiving from Richard
• Linda T received the wheel chair she has been awaiting • Siteri M’s willingness to help Nancy J find home care • Barbara D’s wonderful weekend in Solvang with family • The work of the church in the world • Rob’s niece Stephanie was suffering from serious postpartum complications, but she is doing better and has been able to return home • Danny and Jenifer have been able to get a new-to-them, more reliable car • The work of the Trustees, especially Marv and the on-going work of fixing an underground water leak and repairing the air conditioner for the sanctuary • The child care center and

preschool that has opened at Laguna Country UMC • Barbara’s sister Carol’s birthday and the good news that Carol’s husband Bill’s health is improving
• Pastor Cindy L’s visit and meeting some Wesley members in care facilities
• Balthazar’s injection for pain relief went well • In response to the vote in Wisconsin and for Senator Cory Booker’s speech, we pray that God’s will be done. • Barbara’s eyes are improving
• Linda’s cough is improving • Praise for grandchildren, especially those who step up to help • Anne is grateful to purchase another bit of land to extend Sunshine & Trevor’s property to a full acre so there is plenty of room for her and husband David • Praise for Jeanette’s 32nd birthday!