

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

March 27, 2024

## **Worship on Facebook and In-Person**

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

*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.)

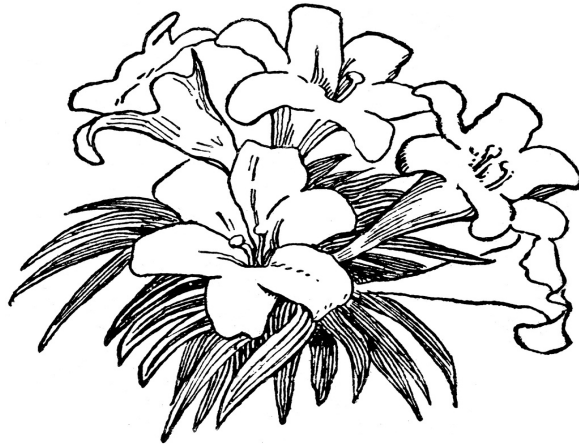
*Easter, March 31, 10:30 a.m.*

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

Sermon: "Don't Hold Onto Me"

*Sunday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.*

Acts 4: 32-35, John 20: 29-31; "My Lord, and My God"



## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.***

***~1 John 2: 1-2***

He is Risen, Indeed!

As I write this, Easter is still five days away, and we have yet to commemorate Good Friday. I hope you are looking forward to Easter as much as I am! I was talking to someone on Sunday after our Palm/Passion Sunday worship. She told me she thinks people who skip from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem right to the celebration of Easter without hearing and thus sharing in the pain, both physical and emotional, of Holy Week, miss out on the full joy of Christ's resurrection. I agree. That is why I most always plan Palm Sunday with the Passion story and include such a long scripture. I am very grateful to Shawn's and Doug's participation in the reading, and to Doug for taking the time to create the script to share.

Most of you know about the one word I have "buried" for Lent. (Here's a hint—the Latin version of the word starts and begins with "A." The Hebrew version begins and ends with "H.") I was thinking about that this morning and looking forward to Easter so I could say and sing that word to my heart's content. At first I thought I was being really silly. My internal argument went something like this: "You're looking forward to that? Christ is raised and you're looking forward to saying a particular word?" I quickly stopped berating myself when I realized Christ is alive in my heart and mind and soul, and that "buried" word expresses my joy on the subject. Let us celebrate our risen Lord!

There are seven Sundays from Easter to Pentecost which the lectionary considers Easter Season. We will celebrate this season with a new worship series called "How Shall We Live?" It centers around John's Gospel and the epistle 1 John. If Christ is risen indeed, as we claim, what difference is His presence making in our lives? As we observe the brokenness of the world, Discipleship Ministries suggests that some might be tempted to say, "Christ is Risen. So what?" I am more inclined to instead ask, "So what do we do about it? Let's make a difference together."

Easter Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

## *Easter Refreshments*

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Join us in continued rejoicing after our Easter service as we fellowship with each other during our " extended " coffee hour. Please feel free to bring an appetizer, pastry, fruit, or dessert to share. May Easter Blessings abound. -- Carolyn

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## *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 Good Friday service, March 29, noon, or on Easter Sunday.

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## *Ashram Family Camp*

It's not too early to think about summer vacation. The Redwood Christian Ashram is an interdenominational, intergenerational camp located in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains. It begins on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> and ends on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. A great faith experience for individuals as well as families: there is programming for adults, children, and youth as well as plenty of free time and activities. The Bewleys, Sabas, Edee Ellenberger, and Donna Sanders from our congregation have all been to Ashram and feel blessed by it. There is a \$100 discount for new campers and further scholarships are available. For more information, visit [redwoodchristianashram.org](http://redwoodchristianashram.org) or contact one of the above mentioned folks.

## *Happy April Birthday to.....*

- |    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1  | Dan O'Dell                       |
| 2  | Marvin Barnes<br>Jeanette Wilson |
| 8  | Kelly Blain                      |
| 9  | Megan Barnes<br>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 |

## *The Outlook Deadline*

The next newsletter deadline is April 8.

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



## Prayers

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

healing for Nancy Jacobus' friend who was injured in an accident, broke arms and needing heart surgery • Linda T  
• Jill—pain relief and peace of mind as she faces a PET scan • Linda R  
• Barbara's great-nephew Alex  
• Lissie—recovering from surgery  
• Ruth S • Danny, Jenifer and Barbara  
• Kathleen—peace of mind • Ronnie  
• Danny, Jenifer and Jenifer's mother Barbara • Bob C

### **For those who are grieving:**

• Friends and family of Cleona Cope  
• Friends and family of Dave Danforth—member of First UMC & friend to many

### **Travel mercies:**

• Dethlefson family • Doug C

### **We pray for other needs:**

• Peace—in our country and in the world  
• An end to suffering, especially in war-torn places • Linda T hopes for placement in another care facility  
• Peace! In our country and in our world, especially Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and Russia • Linda R—meeting a new primary care MD • Pray for Shawn, who is preaching before the Bishop and whole cabinet on April 4.

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

• Linda T gives thanks for the help she is receiving from Linda R. • Sherry's pain is improving, but still has no diagnosis—needs continued prayer  
• Eddy is feeling better but would like continued prayer—he worshipped with

us online last week—a first for him!  
• Linda T's birthday celebration—Her Mom, sister, and brother in law visited, and the Hospice team brought her a lovely birthday cake. • Sherry and David A. celebrated their 59th anniversary  
• Eddy is feeling better; continues to need antibiotics Jill has received permission to return home for treatment

