

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Cindy Lawler, Pastor

December 23, 2025

## Worship on Facebook and In-Person

Rev. Cindy Lawler, preaching

*Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.*

Luke 2:1-19, "The Babe"

*First Sunday After Christmas, December 28, 10:30 a.m.*

Matthew 2:1-12, "This, This?!?"

*Epiphany of the Lord, January 4, 10:30 a.m.*

Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-6, "Seeing the Light"

*Baptism of the Lord, January 11, 10:30 a.m.*

Matthew 3:13-17, Isaiah 42:1-9, "Power of Presence"

## Your Holy Family

We are often tempted to put the Holy Family up on an unreachable pedestal, precisely because of its membership: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. But then as we read Sacred Scripture and use a little imagination, we begin to realize the many similarities between the Holy Family and our own families. When God became incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ, God chose to be born into a human family. And like all families of this world, it was a family of sleepless nights, fear of the future, frustration and helplessness, and fragile hopes and dreams.



The picture perfect family does not exist any more today than it did in the time of Jesus. But a good, healthy and loving family (like the Holy Family) is very possible if each member is willing to work at it. And like the Holy Family, we have to live the same kind of faith and love in our families that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived.

May your Holiday time with family be truly blessed with harmony and love.

Merry Christmas and welcome, Baby Jesus!

--Pastor Cindy

## *Stewardship*

A friend of mine, a respected pastor, was once asked what the two greatest needs in the church were today. "The first," he said, "is preaching, the second — money." He knew that preaching sets forth the word of God, but money enables the work of God. Without both, God's Kingdom won't be furthered much.

To put it another way, the places we make our most serious financial investments, where we spend and give our money, are the places where our real self, our inner self, really is. Where we put our money will be where we are most interested, most teachable, most responsive, most open! To deal with a person in terms of what he does with his money is to deal with most people where they really live.

Financial giving can be an avenue to spiritual growth in a unique way. It can be so if we put ourselves and our money on the line for the Lord's work — because as Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." **Please, remember to turn in your stewardship pledge cards. If you have already done so, Bless you and your gifts!**

—Pastor Cindy

## *KWESI*

Thank you for donations of time, cards, money, and postage stamps for writing to people in ICE detention. Feedback from immigrants include comments such as, "Receiving letters is the best moments I have in detention." "I really appreciate the time you took to write this letter. You made my day happy." "I was so glad when I received your card; those words and your prayers are healing medicine." On December 10, six Wesley volunteers wrote 21 letters to detainees in California City. Ten were written in Spanish, thanks to Susan McQuerrey for providing the samples for us to use. There is interest in writing cards and letters for Valentine's Day. -June Braun

### *Happy January Birthday to....*

8 Bill Wilson  
11 Andrew Cavazos  
16 Allison Cavazos  
28 Lizbeth Hallam

### *Happy Anniversary to...*

3 Marvin & Beth Davisson  
21 Bill & Marlene Blair