

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

office:(661) 871-3030, Admin. Asst. 872-8741

e-mail: [office@wesleybakersfield.org](mailto:office@wesleybakersfield.org)

website: [wesleybakersfield.org](http://wesleybakersfield.org)

Facebook: [WesleyUMCBakersfield](https://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCBakersfield)

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

February 12, 2024

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

February 16: Jeremiah 17: 5-10, Luke 6: 17-26. "Fill My Future with Vision"

February 23: Genesis 45: 3-11, 15, Luke 6: 27-38. "Fill My Cup with Grace"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

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## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

Dear Church family,

### Weekend Ashram

Fourteen Wesley members or constituents attended the weekend Ashram last Friday and Saturday, joining 24 faithful people from Bakersfield First UMC and beyond! It was a very rich experience of learning, praising, and enrichment. This gathering was an extension of the Redwood Christian Ashram, which meets in the summer for a five-day retreat in Boulder Creek, nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains. If you'd like to experience this powerful time away, you can find more details here: <https://www.redwoodchristianashram.org/summer25>

### New fence and Garden Project

Unfortunately, Wesley's air-conditioning units continue to be a target for thieves, as has been the case with many churches and other properties. To address this, Wesley's Trustees have decided to install a wrought iron fence near the office to better protect our facilities. While this is an unexpected expense, one of our members had a wonderful idea—why not turn this space into a blessing? By installing a drip irrigation system, we can create a small garden where children can plant and nurture flowers or vegetables, and people of all ages can find a quiet space for prayer.

If you'd like to use the garden for prayer, access will be available during office hours or by arrangement with me or one of the Trustees. Children, would you like to be part of this special project? I promise to purchase a small bench once the garden is complete!

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## **Lent begins on March 5!**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our 40-day journey to Easter. While this is often a time for introspection, it is also a meaningful opportunity to draw closer to God.

Because our choir practices on Wednesdays, I will offer a brief Ash Wednesday service, including the imposition of ashes, at **noon**. Additionally, I will be available to offer ashes before our **4:00 PM discipleship class** and again after choir practice around **7:15 PM** for those who wish to receive them.

Our **Lenten worship series** this year, titled Steadfast Love, comes from UMC Discipleship Ministries. A special YouTube playlist has been created to accompany this series, which I will share with you on the first Sunday of Lent so you can engage with it at home.

## **Support for a friend of Wesley UMC**

Many of you may remember Anthony Mitchell. We pray weekly for his son who serves in the US Air Force. Tragically, Anthony's father and brother lost their lives last month in the **Eaton Fire**. If you feel called to support him during this difficult time, Anthony has set up a GoFundMe to help with funeral expenses. You can find his page by searching **Anthony Mitchell –Bakersfield** on GoFundMe.

Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

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## **Newsletter, *The Outlook***

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 (P.O. Box 6577, Bakersfield 93386) or place it in the offering plate, designated "*The Outlook*".

## **Deadline**

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is February 24.

## **Meeting Reminder**

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, February 18 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

## **Thank You**

\$145 was collected last month for Human Relations Day offering. Thank you for your generosity.

## Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

### **Prayer of healing and comfort:**

- Nancy J—healing • Linda T. • Pastor Lim & the Korean church he leads in Laguna Community UMC. He needs healing as he begins chemo treatments
- Linda R & family—Balthazar, Danny, Jenifer and Lea. Lea is disappointed that a surgeon cannot help with her back pain. Pray for relief of arthritic pain
- Ana L's friend John facing open heart surgery • Siobhan, Corby, Liz and Rob
- Healing blessing for Linda T's roommate at her Dr.'s appointment
- Lyle, facing heart surgery
- Victims of plane crashes; healing for survivors, and peace and comfort for families of those who did not survive.
- Keith, post-surgical complications
- Toni • Linda R who has not been able to completely heal from her cough and cold • Bonney F • Linda Furtado with RSV • Barbara's eyes • Eddy's sister Vicky • Rev. Tom Hillman • Sherry's brother Wayne received a difficult diagnosis • Rhonda and Brian R, Brian has lung, kidney, and heart failure

### **Prayers for God's presence in our world:**

- Continued prayers for our president and the nation. • Peace
- Rev. Linda Dew-Hiersoux and family. Pastor Linda's mother passed away this week. • 2 missing children from Hanford have been found, but they need continued prayer because of the death of their mother • All children without shelter, protection, food & other necessities • Liz F struggling with an old

- car—discernment for what should happen next • Help that we call lean into the truth and not be distracted • That we all focus on self-care • Angel in ICE detention has been deported—prayers for his safety, and prayers for his wife and 4 young children here in the US
- Kara, dealing with her mom's illness and medical problems • Blessing and discernment for congress • Jennifer (Stella's niece) who works for the EPA and all who are fearful of losing their jobs • For President Trump and all elected officials—may all have discernment to know and act on what is right • People of Gaza
- Siobhan who is dealing with medical issues while she has not yet earned tenure. May her job be safe.
- Strength and courage in dark times
- For all children in foster care, and for their families • That this weekend's Ashram be a blessing to all involved
- Blessings on people who are joining in protest—may they be non-violent and not cause damage • For Robin Wells, whose son Eric died Feb. 5 in Hawaii while incarcerated • Safety for church property

### **Prayers of Gratitude and Praise:**

- David Atkins' ability to connect with a Rabbi he met on a bus • Thankful for Wesley's care for each other and the community • Gratitude for the work of the Trustees • Gratitude that Patrick is better and back at church • Linda T was able to sit up on the edge of her bed for the first time in years. She also had received advice on how to turn herself over. • Beautiful weather • Stella's beautiful amaryllis • Maisy's birthday

• A mother's love so treasured, she is missed even 28 years later • Joy of faith • Supportive community • Allison and Andrew closed on their house • Terry and Jonathan's 37th wedding anniversary • For gentle rain • Thanks for Jerry who has lived well and supported so many • So very grateful for family and friends who support us

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**KWESI**  
**(Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants)**

is committed to serving immigrants in Kern county who are targets of ICE deportations as well as those who are detained in the two ICE detention facilities (Mesa Verde in Bakersfield and Golden State Annex in McFarland). Wesley has supported these efforts through donations of money, clothing, toiletries, backpacks, food, card writing, and prayers. Members of Wesley can continue this support by becoming informed about the ICE sweeps and spreading information about immigrants' rights when they are confronted by ICE agents or Border Patrol. Here are some resources that you can explore via websites or on Instagram:

- Rapid Response Network of Kern County
- California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Kern Welcoming Immigrants

June Braun and Eddy Laine will have "KNOW YOUR RIGHTS" cards. Take the cards and share them with people who might know of someone who needs this information. --June Braun



