

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Cindy Lawler, Pastor

February 25, 2026

Worship on Facebook and In-Person

March 1: Psalm 22:23-31, Mark 8:31-38, "Take UP"

March 8: Psalm 19, John 2:13-22, "Raise UP"

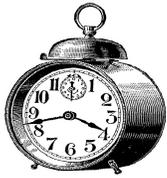
Rev. Cindy Lawler, preaching

There are daffodils blooming in my yard this morning. No, I guess that is not so unusual but these particular flowers have been in bloom for almost two weeks. They came up slowly, and then when the buds appeared they seemed reluctant to open but open they did. They lifted their beautiful yellow faces to the sun and I was quite sure we were not going to have a real winter. It felt like Spring! Then, as you all know, last week it finally snowed. There were several days where our high was around 30 degrees. I feared the blooms were toast. The flowers turned a bit white and transparent and they laid down on the ground. Every year this happens and somehow the flowers survive! This year curiosity got the better of me and I decided to learn how these flowers survive. Guess what I found out? Daffodils survive freezing weather by converting starches in their bulbs into sugars that act as natural antifreeze, preventing cell damage. Nature is providing a great lesson for us. Lets be a bit less starchy and turn a bit sweeter. This way we can survive the stormy weather. Even if it is a scary political environment, or financial issues, or just challenges in dealing with the other people we must deal with on a daily basis. Be a bit less starchy, a bit less set in our ways and a bit sweeter (loving) towards your neighbors and your enemies as well. Then our flowers will stand up tall and beautiful in the Father's Sunlight!

Have a Blessed lent,
Pastor Cindy

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*".



Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 8.

Winter Olympic Sports as denominations

By Johnny Burkhalter on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1377888763660536>

Alpine Skiing: **Mega Church** Pastor wears sneakers, parking teams run like Nascar fast, loud, lights everywhere,

Figure skating: **Liturgical** Robes, Candles, precision, everyone knows exactly when to stand or sit

Ice Hockey: **Pentecostal/Charismatic** Full Contact, high emotion, everyone is shouting or crying or both, altar calls get intense.

Snowboarding: **Campus Ministry** Hillsong, Tattoos denim jackets, ambient pads, coffee is a spiritual gift.

Speed Skating: **Reformed/Calvinist** Disciplined, efficient, no wasted movement, service starts on time, every time.

Cross Country Skiing: **Methodists** Been doing the work forever, never flashy, faithful, always show up

Biathlon: **Apostolic** Deep theology, spiritual warfare, pray hard, lock in, don't miss your shot.

Bobsled: **Church Plant** Core team, small group, high trust, everyone has a role, one weak link and we are all crashing.

Curling: **Presbyterian** order, strategies, someone is defiantly taking notes.

Ski Jumping: **Revivalist/Tent meeting** wild faith, no safety net, if God does not catch us, oh well!

Happy March Birthday to.....

4 Michael Daillak
 7 Bill Blair
 10 Alexia Cavazos
 22 Linda Tilton
 27 Sammye Jelletich
 Patrick Mitchell

Happy Anniversary to....

11 Tom and Gina Saba
 20 David and Sherry Atkins

Deadline

The next deadline to submit articles to the newsletter, *The Outlook*, is Monday, March 9. Thank you for your cooperation.