

# The Outlook

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

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

November 13, 2024

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

November 17: 1 Samuel 1:4-20, Mark 13: 1-8. "Do Not Be Alarmed"  
November 24: Revelation 1: 4b-8, John 18: 33-37. "To Testify to the Truth"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

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## *United Methodist Student Day* *November 24*

United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. Gifts on United Methodist Student Day support U.M. scholarships and the U.M. Student Loan Fund. Offering envelopes will be available on November 24 or you may make a donation online. Thank you.

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## *Where have all the pumpkins gone...?*

I'm sure you have noticed by now the drastic change in our front yard. Yes, it's true. The Pumpkin Patch has closed for another season and what a season it was. We were blessed by our community outreach and support. We had many return visitors daily who shared their gratitude for our presence, stories of previous visits, and their joy of the current visits. Some came looking for our fun day and bounce house from previous years...and of course, many for our home baked goodies. Priceless experiences.

Thank you to each and everyone of my personal and church family members for everything you did to help make the Pumpkin Patch such a special success.

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***“Have faith in God! I assure you that whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea’—and doesn’t waver but believes that what is said will really happen—it will happen. Therefore I say to you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you will receive it, and it will be so for you.” ~ Mark 11:22-24***

Thank you to everyone who attended the Charge Conference on November 4. It was a meaningful and productive evening, and I’m grateful for your presence. Our District Superintendent, Mary Maaga, had the pleasure of meeting many of you for the first time. We accomplished quite a bit together, including updates on Wesley’s membership report. Special thanks go to Barbara Dethlefsen, Ernestine Torres, Terry Gonzales, and Marlene Blair for their diligent work in reaching out to inactive members. Their efforts ensured that our membership reflects those who actively support our church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Other key accomplishments from the evening included the approval of the 2025 Pastoral Compensation report, the nominations report, and a celebration of the ministry we’ve carried out this past year.

One significant highlight was DS Mary’s announcement of a new mission priority for the entire Central Valley. Her research shows that young people, ages 13 to 30, are facing poor health outcomes due to factors such as depression, isolation, loneliness, and addiction. DS Mary believes that the United Methodist Church is uniquely equipped to address these challenges, thanks to our emphasis on prevenient grace.

As you may recall, we, as Methodists, highlight three aspects of God’s grace: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace. Prevenient grace is the grace that goes before us, preparing us for faith. It is God’s presence at work in every person, even before they are aware of it. This means that the young people experiencing these struggles are already being touched by God’s grace. Our role is to connect with them, to offer community and support.

In the past, our “Growing Young” program made strides in welcoming people of all ages, especially young families. Unfortunately, like so many other initiatives, it was disrupted by the pandemic. Now is the time to refocus our efforts. This begins with prayer. I am asking each of you to dedicate time in prayer for this mission. Additionally, I encourage you to reach out to the young people you know and ask how we, as a church, can provide a sense of community for them. While we do have an online presence on Facebook, we know that it is no longer the platform of choice for younger generations. How can we effectively reach and support young people in the 21st century? Let’s seek new ways—not to build up our numbers, but to build a community that offers safety, belonging, and faith.

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Lastly, you will soon receive a stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail. Please take time to prayerfully consider your response. We all have our prayer work cut out for us, but in all things, let us be thankful.

Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

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## *Prayers*

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

### **We pray for healing, for ourselves and others:**

- For Danny, Balthazar, Lea and Barbara. Jenifer who received a new, scary diagnosis. May she follow medical advice and take care of herself. Her mother Barbara fell and broke her arm and is unable to fly home until her arm heals. Lea injured her toe
- Peace and comfort for Linda R. who takes care of so many people
- For all caregivers
- Tish—healing following surgery and discernment for continued care
- For Chase and his family—comfort in his last days, especially for his two young children
- Margaret G.
- Strength for Carolyn
- For Rev. Robin Matthews Johnson and Rev. Kim Montenegro
- Barbara's eye pressure to normalize
- Brenden and Sage with bronchitis
- Vanessa, Travis and David—colds and stomach upsets

### **We pray for those who are grieving:**

- Linda T's roommate Jill passed away. We pray for Linda and for Jill's daughter, Kathryn
- For Barbara's niece Susan, whose mother passed away. May God's peace and strength be with the family
- Comfort for the Elsworth family following the passing of

Rob's Uncle Don • We pray comfort for Penelope on the loss of a beloved pet

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

- Comfort for Stella that she can have good contact with her sister recovering from surgery
- Peace in the world—especially in the Middle East, in Sudan, in Ukraine and Russia
- Jerry's heart aches for Lebanon and prays God's mercy for all who suffer. Also, she prays for discernment about how we can all help, beyond our prayers.
- For peace in US during and following this election cycle
- Prayers that all candidates who win govern with wisdom and kindness
- For Linda T and her mother whose health no longer allows her to leave her nursing home. Linda worries she will never again be able to see her mother.
- Travel mercies for Barbara's family traveling to Oxnard for Toni's 16th birthday. Prayers that he has fun, and comfort for all
- Travel mercies for Eddy
- Barbara is seeking approval from her insurance company for an eye procedure. May everyone involved do what needs to be done to get this done.
- For firefighters and victims of fires. The So. California fires spreading due to windy conditions. Special prayers of protection for Rob's Sister in law Cathy who lives in Camarillo
- Prayers that the fire burning in Bakersfield recycling center be put out—it is creating difficulty

in air quality because of burning plastics. • For all caregivers. • May we have the wisdom to learn how we can help bring peace in the world • We pray for David Atkins as he takes on the responsibility of leading a church in retirement. Prayers that church members step up and help whenever possible. • Wisdom and forward action • For Joe, and for all people who have been laid off, or unemployed, or underemployed. • Linda T's Wi-Fi to be repaired, for people being upset with her, that she may receive the help she needs

## *Meeting Reminder*

The Administrative Council will meet  
Tuesday, Nov 19, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

### **We pray in gratitude for our blessings**

• Praise for the life and witness of Don Elsworth • Healing in Sherry's body—prayers for continued healing • Jerry gives thanks for the ministries of Wesley, especially the noon prayer group. • For birthday celebrations: Anne S, David A., Cindy L., Penny T. (15) Toni D (16) • For Carolyn A and her whole family especially for their hard work in the Pumpkin Patch • For the successful Pumpkin Patch • For all the volunteers who worked from the arrival of the pumpkins through the cleanup of the patch. • Sherry had a lovely lunch with Laura and Elisa. She thanks God for the blessing that when our children grow up they become our close friends • For all the work of the Trustees • Laura's sister Liz is cancer free! • Anne's cough is improving • Grateful for the blessings of prayer group and of community • Linda T celebrates her father's and mother's birthdays and parents' anniversary, all in November