

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

October 9, 2024

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

October 13: Ephesians 4: 1-6, Mark 10: 17-31.

"Listen More, Speak Less: Humility"

October 20: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-26, Mark 10: 35-45.

"Living Together on Uncommon Ground: Respect"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

The Pumpkins Are Coming This Sunday, October 13, 2024

On Sunday, October 13, 2024, the pumpkins are scheduled to arrive at noon. We will then need your help to unload pumpkins and set up the patch. The truck will most likely arrive while we are in church or shortly thereafter, so please plan to bring "pumpkin unloading clothes" to change into if needed. We will have hot dogs, chips, dessert, and water to keep up your energy. We will also need help setting up, decorating, or selling during the rest of the day as we will be selling pumpkins until 9 PM. In the past, we have even sold pumpkins during unloading.

Adopt a Pumpkin Tree will be making its way to the lobby. The tree has pumpkins to adopt for items needed for unloading day as well as our goodie bags. Select a pumpkin and record your choice on the sign in sheet on the adjacent table. Please bring hot dogs, chips, fruit, and desserts on or before Oct 13th.

Community Fun Day has returned and will be Saturday, October 26 from noon until 4 pm. The community remembers that we have awesome bakers at Wesley and look forward to our bake sale. So if you bring cookies, cupcakes, brownies, Rice Krispie treats, the bake sale will be a huge success. Again, the coat give away was a huge success. We attracted more business by hanging the coats on the fence and were able to bless many needy folks last year. Please clean out your closets, shop the thrift stores, or make cash donations and we'll buy them for you.

-Blessings, Carolyn

♪ A Note from the Pastor

“Bring the whole tenth-part to the storage house so there might be food in my house. Please test me in this, says the Lord of heavenly forces. See whether I do not open all the windows of the heavens for you and empty out a blessing until there is enough.”
--Malachi 3:10

In this busy season, is there anything on our minds other than pumpkins? Perhaps, but the excitement of the pumpkin fundraiser will soon be upon us! The pumpkins arrive this Sunday, and we need all hands on deck. Thankfully, over a hundred high school seniors will be earning community service hours by helping to unload the truck. However, we still have plenty of lighter tasks that could use your help—setting up decorations in the patch, packing "Pumpkin Poop" (our lovingly named cheese balls), preparing lunch for those hardworking teens, and more. The Pumpkin Patch also sells baked goods daily, and we welcome donations of individually wrapped treats, which are always a big hit.

As always, we are hosting a coat giveaway in the Patch, so any donations of gently-used coats, jackets, scarves, or other warm clothing are greatly appreciated. Carolyn is managing the sign-up sheet for shifts for minding the patch—usually three-hour slots, but if you can only spare an hour or share a shift with a friend, that works too! Don't forget to pick up a yard sign to advertise the Pumpkin Patch in your neighborhood. There are so many ways to get involved, so please join us in making Wesley's Pumpkin Patch a success over the next few weeks!

In other news, we are preparing for our annual Church Conference with the District Superintendent on November 4. This is an important time when we celebrate last year's ministry and plan for the year ahead. Our Nominations Committee will be reaching out to fill leadership positions for 2025, so I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can serve. We are all called to ministry, and there's no better way to answer that call than through your church.

Looking ahead, our finance team will soon begin a stewardship campaign. Scripture calls us to tithe—giving the first ten percent of our harvest to God. You may wonder, how do we calculate that? Should we tithe on our gross or net income? Does our giving to other ministries count toward it? And what about the time we contribute? My advice: Pray on it. God desires cheerful givers, so seek a balance that feels both generous and sustainable for your family. Find joy in your giving, and let it be an expression of gratitude.

Lastly, our worship series, Do Unto Others, has been well received. It's a timely reminder that relationships matter more than being right. Many United Methodist Churches in our Conference are also using this Worship Design Studio series to promote kindness and discourage division. As election season approaches, some will be disappointed and others relieved, but our work to bridge divides and offer grace must continue. Let's keep kindness at the forefront, remembering to listen thoughtfully and work for unity. May God's peace be with you all, and may we continue to pray for peace in our world.

Blessings, Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

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

• Linda T • Bonney F • 4-month old baby Emily is home from Stanford following chemo. She requires much pain medication, but she is beginning to smile again. • Jerry L.—but she is grateful for the care she received from her family, from the insurance company, from the ambulance, and from the hospital. She is home now • Carolyn A • Pastor Cindy L. • Rose G • Ron S. Needs surgery • Baby Persia, back in hospital • For people with chronic pain: Balthazar, Danny, Jenifer, Lea, Barbara • Rev. Robin Matthews-Johnson • Jessica and Elaine—comfort and care • Rose—healing and a diagnosis • BJ & Mary • Jill • Myra • Healing from the pain in Laguna Country UMC—after a time of loss, the church was beginning again to grow, but now the conference is calling for an immediate pastoral change (UCC pastor, complex issue) • Prayers for the newspaper carriers who have lost their positions

We pray for safety, for ourselves and others:

• For places facing floods, fires hurricanes and other destruction, including Florida, Mexico, South Carolina, Georgia, Budapest and elsewhere • For places torn by violence and war and threats of war • For travel mercies for DS Mary Maaga as she begins travel to 65 churches for charge conferences between now and December 15 • For the US political process—prayers for peace, non-violence, and words of truth • From

the “toxic plume” arising from the chemical fire in Georgia • For people with hurtful family dynamics • Travel mercies for Samantha as she returns from Italy

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

• Linda T is grateful for her new mattress, for hardy houseplants, and she has also won a CD. She is awaiting a new chair, and is grateful. • Happy birthday to Laura D. • For Vicky Healy, filling in at Fresno Wesley as their Pastor received Chemo • Linda R gives thanks that our insurance company has sent an additional payment for the AC replacement • Carolyn back in choir! • Laura received a good report following her procedure • For Anne’s lovely visit in Felton • For the work of the Trustees • Barbara is grateful for the astute care of the radiologist tech who saved her an extra trip and extra co-pay • Samantha had a wonderful trip in Italy, and the wedding she attended was lovely. • Jill is grateful that housekeeping at The Orchards found and returned her lost phone. • We are SO GRATEFUL to see Bonney back in the sanctuary!

Charge Conference

This year’s Charge Conference is scheduled for Monday, November 4 at 4:30 (SPRC) & 5 for general meeting. Please make plans to attend.

Custodian Wanted

Rose Gonzales, our church custodian for the last 10 years, has resigned due to health concerns. I'm sure you join me in thanking Rose for her many years of service to Wesley; both as custodian and before that for several years in the nursery. As a result of Rose stepping down, our church will be in need of custodial service come November.

Anyone interested in this part time position can contact me by text at 661 549 8739 or email me at robertbewley@att.net. Thank you.

--Rob Bewley SPRC chair.

Meeting Reminder

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, October 15, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Harland Christian Camp Upcoming Retreats:

Fall Quilt Retreat - October 18-21, 2024
Winter Quilt Retreat (NEW!) - December 2-5, 2024
Youth Winter Camps - January 31-March 2, 2025
Man Camp - March 7-9, 2025
Young Adult Camp - March 21-24, 2025

Call 559-337-2349, text 559-372-2843,
or email info@hartlandcamp.com.

