

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

October 23, 2024

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

October 27: 1 John 3: 11-24, Matthew 22: 34-40. "Malice Toward None: Love"

November 3: Revelation 21: 1-6a, John 11: 32-44. "Saints of God"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

We are having a party! Saturday, October 26, 12 to 4 p.m.

free lemonade and popcorn, face painting, crafts, bake sale, bounce house,
and of course **PUMPKINS!**
Coat Distribution

Love to Bake? We need donations for the Bake Sale during Family Fun Day: brownies, cookies, cupcakes, candy, pies, cakes, marshmallow treats.

The Pumpkin Patch is in full swing! It's not too late, you can still help. Shifts are in 3 hour increments: 3 - 6 pm, 6 - 9pm, Saturdays mornings 9a - 12p. If you would like to help, please sign up in the lobby or Carolyn, 699-6625.

What an exciting time for the Wonder of Wesley in our neighborhood. You can help in many ways. Be sure to wear your Wesley t-shirt.

For more details, contact Carolyn Ashlock at 699-6625 or cgarnmpa@aol.com.



♪ A Note from the Pastor

“Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Don’t suppress the Spirit.” ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 (CEB)

Pumpkin season is in full swing, and we’ve been asking for a lot of help in the Pumpkin Patch. There’s still plenty to do, but thanks to Carolyn and her family’s tireless efforts, the event is already a great success. You may know this is Wesley’s largest fundraiser, but it’s also a wonderful way to reach out to the community. Our neighbors look forward to connecting with us, and it’s essential to have a welcoming presence. With that in mind, I have one more request: This Saturday is **Family Fun Day in the Pumpkin Patch**, and we’d love to see you there. Kids can enjoy games and crafts, and the bake sale will be a big draw. If you’re a baker, consider contributing small loaves of pumpkin bread, cookies, brownies, or another family favorite. Please remember to wrap items in single servings.

Additionally, we’re collecting coats, jackets, sweatshirts, and sweaters in all sizes for our neighbors. If you have clean, gently used items to donate, it would be a great help in keeping others warm. And of course, if you haven’t yet picked up your pumpkin or decorative gourd, I know just the place to find some beauties!

Almost immediately after we wrap up the Pumpkin Patch, we’ll gather for our **annual Charge Conference** on Monday, November 4, in the sanctuary. This year’s meeting is open to all members—an all-church conference! I encourage you to attend. Have you had the chance to meet our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Mary Maaga? She will preside and has promised to make the meeting as engaging as possible. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will meet at 4:30 pm, with the full church gathering at 5 pm. We’ll celebrate Wesley’s ministry in 2024, plan for the coming year, and elect our officers. It’s a great opportunity to learn more about your church and hear from our Lay Servants and retired Clergy. I hope to see you there!

As we enter the season of thanksgiving, I invite you to reflect: **For what are you especially grateful?** Many of us think first of our families, homes, and the gift of faith. I personally am grateful for our church community and for the privilege of participating in a free election process, even with the abundance of political ads! Don’t forget to vote, and as you do, may you do so prayerfully and humbly, considering how your choices might help build God’s kingdom on earth.

Many blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for our friends and family serving in the military

We pray for healing, for ourselves and others:

- Susanne (Jonathan's aunt, baby Persia grandmother)—healing
- Barbara's niece Susan and Susan's mother—comfort and pain management
- Jim Pugh—the wonderful healing, but continued benefits through physical therapy
- Bonney F—continued healing and the joy because she is able to come to church in person
- Ron—surgery cancelled. Pray for healing
- Barbara D—eye pressure way too high. Pray for confidence in the prescribed treatment, peace and good decisions
- Baby Emily
- Linda T
- Jill
- Bill B.
- Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar, Lea and Barbara
- Tish—for healing and discernment for her future care as she fell and for all those involved in their decisions on her behalf
- Linda T's roommate and her daughter during transition
- Bill B.
- Danny, Jenifer, Balthazar, Lea and Barbara
- Cindy W
- Laura's sister Liz, awaiting test results
- Tish—to get the help and care she needs
- People who are experiencing memory lapses

We pray for safety, for ourselves and others:

- Success and safety in the Pumpkin Patch, today and thru the season—especially for Carolyn
- For Florida and all places hit by Hurricane Milton

We pray for the spiritual capacity for kindness, for ourselves and others.

We pray for other needs:

- For peace in the world, calm heads, good leadership
- Continued prayer for Laguna Country UMC as they transition to new leadership. Laity has had to take over many leadership roles. Pray for their strength. Please also pray for discernment for Bishop Dottie Escobeto-Frank and DS Luis Garcia as they make appointment decisions
- Donna's daughter Rachel is interviewing for a job—she has been called back for a second interview; pray it goes well.
- For the work of CV District Committee on Ordained Ministry
- Prayers for Tiffany's husband David who is facing a test as part of a job interview
- For stress in the Ramirez household
- for the life and witness of Helen Kurth and prayers for the Strobel's sister-in-law and her daughter, Melinda, and Nick's brother, Brett, as they grieve their loss of a wonderful mother.

We pray in gratitude for our blessings:

- For Terry—the work she does, and her presence in our lives
- Laura is grateful to still be part of Wesley, even though she no longer lives in Bakersfield
- Joy—a member of Laura's church—as she celebrates her 100th birthday
- Brenden's birthday
- Wonderful weather, cooler temperatures
- Linda is grateful for Debbie N's help
- Michael spread his mother's ashes with a lovely tribute
- For the many wonderful, young volunteers helping with pumpkins
- Thanks for the organized and efficient help from Lisa Strobel
- Thanks for the children and grandchildren who bless us

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- Stella attended her husband John's high school reunion—it was delightful
 - for Linda T's dad would of been 78 on Nov 10, her mom will be 77 on Nov 17, they would of been married 50 years on Nov. 13.
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Charge Conference

Wesley's annual Charge Conference is happening Monday, November 4, at 5 p.m. with our District Superintendent, Magaa, leading our celebration. Our yearly Charge Conference celebrates Wesley's ministry, past and future. Please try to fill the sanctuary that day as evidence of our vital and welcoming congregation.

Coffee Bar

Thank you to the volunteers who host the coffee bar on Sunday mornings. There is a volunteer sheet on the coffee bar if you would like to host an upcoming Sunday.

Happy November Birthday to...

9	Susan McQuerrey
11	Bob Neath
14	Joel Wilson
17	Matthew Torres
18	Audrey Cavazos Liz Fariss
20	Louis Chavez III
22	Scott Hallam
23	Jerilyn Smith
30	Rob Bewley Linda Ramirez

A \$50 memorial donation was made to Wesley Church in memory of Ruth Shivers.