

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

September 25, 2024

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

September 29: Romans 12: 4-8, Luke 6: 31-36. "Blue and Red Make Purple: Kindness"

October 6: Isaiah 11: 6-9, Matthew 9: 32-38. "The Polarization Within: Compassion"

October 6 is also World Communion Sunday

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching



The Pumpkins Are Coming 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

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2: 46-47

We begin a new worship series this Sunday, designed by The Church of the Resurrection in collaboration with Worship Design Studio. Marcia McFee describes the series, Do Unto Others, as follows:

“I want to always be answering the needs of the moment. And there is no more important time to be talking about ‘doing unto others’ in ways that foster kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love in the world than right now. With divisiveness—and anxiety about that divisiveness—at an all-time high, how does our faith equip us to survive, and perhaps even thrive spiritually, in this moment? ... I realized we don’t have all the answers to make us feel in control of our situations. But what we DO have are the teachings of Jesus—also someone who lived in turbulent times—to help us know what matters most. He invited us to focus on what a world would be like if we treated others in incredibly generous ways... because we know what it feels like to receive that kind of love.”

I chose this period leading up to our national elections to focus on Do(ing) Unto Others. From my perspective, I believe our congregation is very open to differing points of view. However, I have spoken with people who find it difficult to talk to those they love about politics and religion—topics that deeply matter to us all. My hope is that this series will help each of us truly listen to perspectives that differ from our own. This has become increasingly challenging in a time when social media is shaped by our "likes" and unbiased reporting is hard to find.

I imagine everyone reading this is already aware that the pumpkins will be arriving soon for our fall celebration. This is our biggest fundraiser, especially important now that we’ve lost the rental income from the Head Start preschool, which moved out of our education building. One family has traditionally taken on the bulk of the work, but Carolyn has been quite ill and has even been hospitalized this month. Please stay tuned for updates from her on where she needs assistance. Of course, we need “all hands on deck” when the pumpkins arrive on October 13 after worship. Carolyn has suggested you bring a change of clothes to help set up the patch, but I’ll go a step further and say I won’t mind at all if you show up in jeans and a t-shirt for worship that day! God knows we do all things for God’s glory, and I believe God will be pleased if we raise money to support ministry in Bakersfield.

Lastly, please note that I’ve made a minor change to the prayer list below. Previously, I included prayers for travel mercies shared in the prayer group and in worship. However, I’ve reconsidered this, as many of the travelers have already reached their destinations or returned home by the time the newsletter is published. So, I will now include requests for travel mercies I’ve heard this week, even though we haven’t yet lifted them up in church.

Blessings, and please pray for peace.
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:

- June B. has begun a new treatment regimen. May she feel God's healing blessing
- Monica
- Jenifer and her mother Barbara — patience & understanding
- Lea—relief of pain
- Danny—health issues & pain
- Balthazar—relief of pain
- Tish- good medical care
- Carolyn A
- Beth's sister Peg
- Beth's brother Ron
- Bill; relief of pain and an accurate diagnosis; peace for Marlene
- Sage—for strength
- Carolyn A
- Barbara; for the medical team to determine an accurate diagnosis
- Judy and her daughter Julie—both need healing
- Chase and his family facing a difficult diagnosis
- Nancy J
- Linda T
- Bonney F
- 4-month old baby Emily in Stanford for cancer treatment. Prayers for her healing and her parent's peace of mind.

We pray for travel mercies:

- Please pray for Sherry's granddaughter traveling to Europe alone for the first time

We pray for other needs:

- Peace, especially in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan. May peace prevail
- Safety for firefighters
- Fire victims
- For the US political process—prayers for peace, non-violence, and words of truth
- For the staff at the Orchards
- For the 101 year old resident who fell
- For Lea and her attorney as they work together
- We lift up Toby's family
- Victims of violence
- The gun problem in the US

- Peace—may a peaceful solution be found in the leadership in Lebanon, Israel, Sudan and
- Rain to extinguish so many fires in the west

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

- The hard work of Trustees
- The life and witness of Gail Richardson
- The life and witness of Bill Kelly
- The life and witness of Orelie Clark
- Barbara gives thanks that her eyes are fine, but asks for prayers to find out the cause of her headaches
- Thanks for Laura D who helped Barbara get the appointment she needed
- Choir
- Sunshine's purchase of a piece of property
- We give thanks for the life and witness of Berniece Bell, and we pray comfort for her family
- For the wonderful weather
- For wildlife
- For answered prayer
- We give thanks for the life and witness of Carol Owens, and we pray comfort for her family
- Sherry and David had a very good trip, especially for seeing how Michael is thriving
- For Richard, Choir director in Laguna Country UMC. He is feeling better and has returned to church following a 3-month absence
- For JayJay's help.

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.

World Communion
Sunday October 6, 2024

Gifts to World Communion Sunday fund graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarship, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs. Offering envelopes will be available October 6. You may mail a check to Wesley, designated World Communion Sunday or give online. Thank you.

Thank You For Supporting
KWESI Fundraiser

KWESI (Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants) raised \$6000 to support detainees in the two Kern County Ice Detention Facilities. The money will be used for detainees to make phone calls to their family members as well as to their attorneys who are representing them in immigration court. Wesley had great representation at the fundraiser.

- June Braun

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 October Birthday to.....

5	Katelynn Cavazos
16	Emma Neath
	Tess Cusator
22	Aubree Chavez
23	Anne Schlesinger
26	David Atkins
27	Shyann Nelson
28	Tom Saba