

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

October 13, 2021

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

October 17: Hebrews 5: 1-10, Luke 9: 1-6, 10-11; "Purpose & Meaning: Coherence"

October 24: Psalm 34: 1-8, 19-22, John 15: 1-17; "We Do, We Live: Agency"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

The Pumpkins Are Here in all Their Glory

We had a good turnout for making our unloading day successful. Thank you to each and everyone of you who participated in your own special way! You are all a blessing to our church family!!

Our day was so anticipated by our community that we actually started selling pumpkins while we were still unloading! I never turn away a pumpkin sale. LOL. Our hours of operation are Monday-Friday 3 PM-9 PM. Saturday 9 AM-9 PM, and Sunday 12 PM-9PM. We still need help in the patch with decorating the patch, turning, measuring, and selling pumpkins, etc. Sign up sheets for volunteering are located in the church lobby. There are still an abundance of opportunities to help.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and reflections of God's love through the Pumpkin Patch ministry. Call or text me anytime at 699-6625, to find out ways to help or email me at cgarnmpa@aol.com God's love abounds!

—Blessings, Carolyn

Administrative Council

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, October 19, 5:30 p.m. via zoom.



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the Hanson family in the death of Claire Hanson on September 22, 2021. Claire was a member of Wesley from 1958 to 2019. She will be greatly missed.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name throughout the earth!

When I look up at your skies, at what your fingers made—

the moon and the stars that you set firmly in place—

what are human beings that you think about them;

what are human beings that you pay attention to them?

Psalm 8: 1, 3-4

The last time I wrote an article for *The Outlook*, I was preparing for my vacation— now, I'm back! What a wonderful time I had, visiting Mayan ruins in Tulum, swimming with whale sharks in the Gulf of Mexico, swimming in the Grand Cenote in the Mayan Riviera with murciélagos (bats) and tortugas (turtles). My family and I were busy every day, yet I came home well rested. I was restored by the ocean waves and blue skies. Thanks be to God!

But now it is time to get back to work—and there are plenty of opportunities for you to help. Thanks for the help of 85 (!) high school students, we unloaded literally thousands of pumpkins which are anxiously awaiting homes. Sale hours have been reduced from previous years. The patch will open at 3 pm weekdays, 9 am Saturdays, and noon on Sundays. It remains open until 9 pm each night. We would like three volunteers to manage sales in three hour shifts (two each day). Are you able to help? The sign up sheet is in the narthex. Please also consider buying your pumpkins at Wesley for decorating and pie making. All funds raised benefit our general fund.

We had a grand celebration of the ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church last Sunday. The former members of Trinity remain hard at work either at Wesley or another church, and we are grateful and blessed by their presence in the world. We will be celebrating again this coming Sunday as we receive a new member transferring in from another United Methodist congregation. I invite all those whose membership was automatically transferred from Trinity to be part of the welcoming celebration.

Finally, other members of the Lay Leadership/Nominations Committee may have called you and asked to help fill next year's slate of officers. I still have several phone calls still to make, so you may be hearing from me soon. If you already know how you would like to serve your church, please let me know. (My number is in the directory). Our annual church conference will be held on December 1, and all officers and key leaders are invited.

We continue with our worship series based on the book entitled *Leading Causes of Life: Five Fundamentals to Change the Way You Live Your Life*. However, I will not be present October 31 because Nick Strobel, Linda Ramirez, Rev. Alice Oberg and I will be attending Annual Conference in Sacramento. This year's Conference Offering will support DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). If you would like to contribute to the Conference Offering, your check will be accepted at Wesley. Just please be sure to make a note on your check or electronic offering.

Blessings, Pastor Anne

From Missions

Thank you to all who brought clothing, toiletries and household items for the Dream Center. Another thanks to June who made 5 trips to the center to deliver those items during the summer months.

Shawn's Friday food distribution service had leftover potatoes. They went to the Burrito Project. Thanks you, Shawn.

The church is in need of children's and men's coats and sweatshirts for the give away during Pumpkin Patch Days.

Also to anyone and everyone that the butterfly cards are from I would like to thank that person or people that had the cards sent to me I love them a lot and will put them to good use.

—Louise Clay

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for comfort and healing:

• Natalie (Surgery was successful! But she needs continued healing) • Freda Hamilton • For Kimberly's healing. Brain tumors were removed and she is feeling much better. Prayers for good results and that all tumors are gone • Susan M. • Carol, Barbara D's sister. She had heart successful surgery, but there were complications and she suffered with pain. Although she is feeling better, she needs continued healing • Peggy in Oregon—needs help with comfort and support • Samantha has weekly treatments on her vagus nerve that are quite painful. Prayers of comfort and support • Alex C. with COVID • Janet (Rob's mother) in the ER to have an MRI. May the doctors find out what is wrong and successfully treat it. • Linda T • Linda J • Shyann • Marlene M • John R • For Carolyn L. (as caregiver) and for

Larry, who is ill • Louise's nieces Kim and Carolyn • Lissy • Sherry • Michael • Kristyn and her family • Brian • people affected by smoke • protection for John

Prayers for encouragement and

support: • the Lonsingers, • Aaron

• Ana • Liz • Michael • John and Pam • Wesley Church

Prayers for those who grieve:

• The Wells/West family and all who loved Evelyn • For Rose L.'s cousin Susanne whose son recently died of COVID • For Rose's son Aaron who broke up with his long-time girlfriend • For Gabriella grieving the loss of her aunt

Prayers for people and places with

other needs: • Prayers for rain • For all children in foster care • Prayers for a good outcome for Sharon and Jennifer & Jennifer's son • For June's son Josh—on sabbatical to finish the book he's writing. May he meet all deadlines • For high school and college students who do not have visions of a bright future and have lost confidence in the world around them and possibilities to make things better • For all world governments to have wisdom to make good decisions for the world's future • For firefighters and health care workers • For all people affected by the smoke, the fires, floods and other acts of nature. • Prayers for stamina and wisdom for Nick—for all the stresses at work • Prayers for successful pumpkin unloading and for a successful and fun time in the Patch all season. Hoping the pumpkins arrive on time and all our backs remain strong and that we have many volunteers. • Prayers for Eddy that he preach a good message at the Unitarian church today • God's blessing on the Santos family and their

new home in Oildale • For healing of divisions following the contentious school board meeting. May people become reconciled to having vaccinations, wearing masks, and the need for protection for LGBT students

Travel mercies for: • David and Sherry • For June B and her family traveling for a reunion • For Laura and Michael • For Liz and her family as they celebrate her sister's 60th birthday.

Prayers of praise and gratitude

• For David and Sherry's visit • For Jerry's hospitality • For the life and witness of Evelyn Wells • Gratitude for all who stepped up to help with Evelyn's memorial and the luncheon afterward. • For Cleona Cope and the love she has for all of us • Reconnection with friends • For a WONDERFUL vacation, for family, and for God's beautiful creation • Barbara was able to speak with her brother John and wish him happy birthday. He had a good visit with family • Blue skies and cooler temperatures • Thankfulness for prayer group • Kudos for Barbara D. who did a great job leading prayer group while pastor Anne was away • For Pastor Anne's and David Schlesinger's 40th wedding anniversary • Gratitude that Carolyn (Louise's niece) is now cancer free • Gratitude for Jerry's work and Sherry's ability to assist. Jerry is so good to everyone, especially the Atkins family. It felt so good to do a kindness in return. • Grandma's day with grandchildren at the mall. • Savannah's birthday (15 years old!) • For the work of the trustees • Thanks that Michael had just a runny nose and not COVID • Thanks for birdsong—especially mockingbirds • Thanks answered prayers that Carol is feeling better • Gratitude that Natalie

was able to join prayer group and that her MD declared her cancer free!

• James' biopsy came back negative. • Thankful for small blessings that bring joy. • Thanks for the rain • For the wonder music last Sunday, especially the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir • The Atkins are grateful for a wonderful time in Bakersfield, especially for Jerry's hospitality • For Josh F, and for the choir • Thanks for cooler weather • Thanks for all the work done to prepare for the Pumpkin Patch—especially for Dan who was in the patch several days to set up posts, lights and supervise fencing. • For the 100 years of life of Claire Hanson • Lissy's successful surgery • Laura seeing Brian and him getting stronger • the fire crews that helped save the big trees • All the behind-the-scenes workers at church • Flu shots • Stella's reconciliation with her brother and his peace