

# The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

August 24, 2022

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

August 28: Amos 8: 1-12, Luke 14: 1, 7-14, Message: "Living in a Bitter Day"  
(Our last worship in the Series "Prophet Margins.")

September 4: Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33, Message: "Counting the Cost"  
(Our first worship in the series, "Having Words with Jesus.")  
Anne Schlesinger, preaching

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## The Pumpkins Are Coming Sunday, October 9, 2022

On Sunday, October 9, 2022, the pumpkins are scheduled to arrive at noon. But, we need help even before they come. One of the major additions that we added early on to increase our sales was adding lights so that we could be open at night. We have been blessed by Dan the Man taking charge of this project. In the past, several of you have helped him put them up. He will be working on this the last part of September and could really use your help. More info will follow, but if you will be able to help, please let me know.

We will then need your help to unload pumpkins and set up the patch. We have again reached out to the local high schools to offer community service hours for the student's help with unloading. We will request that everyone wear masks and will have plenty of hand sanitizer available. 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.

Our hours of operation will be Monday-Friday 3 PM-9 PM. Saturday 9 AM-9 PM, and Sunday 12 Noon-9 PM.

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](mailto:cgarnmpa@aol.com). God's love abounds!

—Blessings, Carolyn

## ♪ A Note from the Pastor

***If you live according to my rules, keep my commands, and do them, I will give you rain at the proper time, the land will produce its yield, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit.*** —Leviticus 26: 3-4

As I write this, the temperature is in the mid-nineties and expected to be triple digits this afternoon. But dusk is coming earlier, so I know a change in seasons is soon to follow. I hope the proper time for rain comes soon in California while Kentucky and Texas get a well-needed break from flooding! The children, teachers and other staff are back in school, and we at church are gearing up for fall—can the pumpkins be far away?

Speaking of pumpkins, thousands of them are arriving at Wesley's doorstep on October 9. You will be hearing from Carolyn soon to find out how we can all help together. We shortened the hours last year, and that seemed to work fine, so there will be two shifts most days—3 pm to 6 and 6 pm to 9. Saturdays and Sundays will be longer, and you will have more opportunities to help on weekends. COVID remains a problem, so we will not have fun day, so we will have baked goods available everyday for the three-week "pumpkin season." We will also have the coat give-away on the fence as we did last year. We attracted neighborhood attention and kudos for that. The coats are more noticeable on the fence than given away one day in The Gathering Place. As always, there will be many opportunities to help.

I have heard of only one person interested in the Disciple I Bible Study, and we need five to eight people to form a small group. No one told me of an interest in a Disciple study in Spanish. I have six people interested in Disciple IV, so we will get ready to begin in mid-September. I would like to have a "hybrid" study that meets in The Gathering Place and simultaneously on Zoom. That way, people who are healthy and prefer more person-to-person interaction can gather together, and people who don't want to travel (or who have tested positive for COVID, but feel well enough to study and do not want to spread the virus) can meet remotely. I am planning now for Thursday afternoons either 3:30 to 5:00 or 4:00 to 5:30. If you would like to join us, please let me know which one of these meets your schedule.

We will continue an on-line bible study on Wednesday evening that does not require such a big commitment. We are finishing up our current book this week and will be seeking a new book soon—as of this writing, no decision has been made regarding what we will study next. Do you have an idea? Do you want to join? We also have an after-worship meeting. Lately it has been less of a study and more of a Wesleyan Class meeting. We gather together to ask, "how is it with your soul," and other questions from the Wesleyan tradition. That format will continue until we find another book to study. The children will return to Sunday school classes on September 11, and choir has already begun meeting together to prepare for our first anthem in September. Our choir director, Josh Forquera, already is making plans for a Christmas Eve musical. So you can understand why I am thinking of changing seasons while we are still in August.

The trustees have been hard at work keeping the buildings safe and running well. Their most recent success is the repair of the swamp cooler that cools the narthex. It has been quite warm in there for the past few weeks, but it has now been repaired so childcare during worship and fellowship time after worship will be much more pleasant. Blessings,  
Pastor Anne

# Prayers

## **We lift up the names of people in need of healing: :**

• All people with Covid, including JT and Tiffany, Dr. Jill Biden, Jeffrey F., Freda H., Jillian S., Martha & Bob C. and several members of the telecom team working on the cell tower. • “Good thoughts” for a newborn airlifted to Stanford. Family specifically requests no worry—and Sunshine reports the baby is miraculously better! • Maria • Susan M • Leon • Jannie • Art L • Continued healing for Zach S • Travis • Kristen • Elizabeth • A person who contracted polio in NYC • Monika • Caroline R • Eddy’s friend Gerry and her son Michael

## **All who grieve:**

• Bewley family • Louise’s niece & nephew • The family of Ari Kraemer (Anne’s niece)

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

• All students struggling to return to in-person learning after a long time away • People struggling with mental health issues • People struggling with substance abuse issues • Blessing on those teaching for God • Balthazar and his step daughter—discernment for the direction of their new business • Prayers for families with unique family dynamics • Juan Orelas • Lea’s grandchildren—they are coming to Bakersfield soon, but prayers are needed for peace and patience while arrangements are still “in the air.” That the meeting goes well on Monday • John R & for family’s discernment to be truly helpful • Linda T • Prayers for all teachers and students, including Joseph, returning to CSUB this week

• Teachers with large class sizes and challenging students • The situations in Taiwan and Ukraine. We pray for peace • We pray for rain and cooling temperatures • May the Holy Spirit’s presence be throughout this country and guide us all to think and act rationally, lovingly and justly • We pray for friends we haven’t seen in a while, including Cindy C. and Al S. • Billie Jo Rice

## **In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:**

• The different ways for students to receive instruction and the resources to help students in many situations. • Nick and Lisa’s anniversary—so glad they found each other • The tech team making worship available to the homebound • For Liz and her gift to the church mission • Ana M and all the help she gave while Barbara was away • Happy birthday to Carolyn A • Barbara gives thanks for the blessing of healing this summer • The gift of family , especially for Ian and Cassidy’s visit & help • Michael D’s work to settle Brian’s estate • The support the Bewley’s received from family and friends • The DHS has arrived at a date Linda and Lea may pick up Lea’s grandson’s from VA. Continued prayers for the boy’s health and transition • Terry and David’s good vacation and Michael’s new job • Barbara K’s birthday • John R’s improvement • Wesley’s volunteers at Friday’s food distribution • All of nature’s blessings.

***Happy September Birthday to.....***

5	Daniel Balzer-Hernandez
8	Rhylee Mae Miller
10	Donnel Lester
11	Anna Murillo
15	Stacy Graupmann Lisa Graupmann
16	Carmen Hernandez
17	Evan Neath
20	Jack Saba
22	Bonney Friday
27	Laura Daillak
29	Marlene Moore
30	Ana Lester

***Happy Anniversary to....***

2	Scott and Lizbeth Hallam
9	Marvin and Marilyn Barnes
23	David and Jennifer Rous