

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

office:(661) 871-3030

e-mail: office@wesleybakersfield.org

website: wesleybakersfield.org

Facebook: [WesleyUMCBakersfield](https://www.facebook.com/WesleyUMCBakersfield)

Vol. LXIV, #19

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

October 12, 2022

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

October 16: 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5, Luke 18: 1-8, Message: "Itching Ears"

October 23: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, Luke 18: 9-14, Message: "Poured Out"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

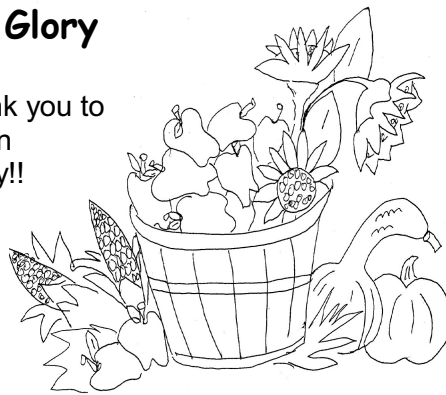
The Pumpkins Are Here In All Their Glory

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

We had a record turnout of 128 high schoolers from 9 different schools who helped our unloading day be successful. Thank you Lisa, for making that happen and thank you, Josh, for taking the lead of the unloading brigade in the truck. Thank you Jerilyn and Evan for taking the lead in getting everyone nourishment. Thank you Dan and your crew

for "lighting up the patch." Thank you Jerry and crew for helping our delivery driver negotiate the traffic and parking lot safely and leading the forklift brigade. Thank you pumpkin poop packing brigade and all those who made donations. Thank you to Pastor Anne for drawing our coloring pages. Thank you Terry and crew for all you do behind the scenes to help me. It truly does take a village to be successful and Wesley is the best!

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 is still an abundance of opportunities to help. Donations of individually wrapped bake sale items will be greatly appreciated all season.



♪ A Note from the Pastor

***If I could fly on the wings of dawn,
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—
even there your hand would guide me;
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!—Psalm 139: 9-10***

I chose the above scripture because it touched someone deeply today, and I know it was God's doing, not mine. It is a good reminder that God uses us often, sometimes even when we are unaware of it. God uses our hands to help others, our words to give comfort or prayer, our voices to lift in praise, and many many other ways. Thank you, God!

In the news, the pumpkins are here! Wondering where you might purchase a pumpkin for decorating or cooking or baking? I know just the place! Of course, the Pumpkin Patch is so much more than a shopping venue. It is a place for prayer, a place to supply coats to those who need them, a place where money is raised for the church general fund... again, so much more. Please keep the Patch in your prayers. Many people have already put in an enormous effort, led, of course by the illustrious Pumpkin Lady, Carolyn Ashlock and her entire family. But many others have worked very hard beginning weeks ago, preparing and setting up. Fencing has arrived, light posts erected, and new lights purchased and put up. Sunday the pumpkins arrived, and many volunteers spent hours lifting and unloading literally thousands of beautiful pumpkins off the truck, placing them carefully in the yard. Students representing eight local high schools volunteered and helped enormously. These students were recruited and fed by church volunteers, who also sorted stickers and coloring pages and bagged "pumpkin poop" and...well, more than I know about, I am sure. I am very proud of this church and the willingness of the people to pitch in. That said, I am sure that if you ask her, Carolyn has much more that can be done with your skill set. Thank you all!

Looming in the near future is our annual Charge Conference. Again, there is a lot of work that goes into the preparation by many volunteers, and Terry's desk is piled high with reports and tasks and agendas every day, and she takes care of all manner of items with style. Thank you, Terry! That said, please plan to attend the charge conference meeting that celebrates the ministry done here this past year and plans the ministry for the coming year. The in-person meeting is at 5 pm on October 31, amid of the last sales in the Pumpkin Patch. (DS David Niu has been forewarned!)

Our new Bible study on Thursday has a wonderful group studying deeply. If you have an interest in joining us, please do so right away because soon we will have covered so much it will be nearly to impossible to catch up. All the Disciple studies require a great deal of commitment.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

- All people with COVID, including Carol, Bill, Wendy, Justin
- Caroline—and discernment for her medical team as they try new treatments
- Lou—healing and encouragement, patience for the long healing process
- Tish—help with her health concerns
- Rhonda R's husband and their family
- Linda T • Julie—healing, courage and strength • Barry • Belinda R. • People with arthritis • Lee

All who grieve:

- including the families of the many people who died in the recent hurricanes and other natural disasters • Billy Jo Rice and family
- Family and friends of Freda Hamilton

We pray for other needs:

- For rain • All people displaced from floods, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes or war. May we have discernment about accepting refugees • We pray for children in new situations adjusting to changes • Strength for Stella • For Italy and the newly elected government
- Ukraine • Upcoming pumpkin patch (lights stolen?) • For world leaders. We pray for Vladimir Putin and for an end to nuclear threats • For sense and sensibility to prevail regarding the upcoming elections. • All children in foster care • Guidance for the Supreme Court as they face many important decisions • Satesh • Michael
- Pray for politicians to stand up for what they will work for rather than negative campaigning • Discernment for leaders regarding climate change • Suffering children • Pumpkin Patch

In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:

- For Nick's award dinner and speech
- For seeing old friends • For a lovely visit to the coast and a wedding in the redwoods • Rabbi Jonathan Klein's opinion piece • Nick's opinion piece
- Nick's award ceremony—we are so blessed he is a part of this church family
- Grateful for time with family and time at the beach • Disciple IV study • Jerry is grateful for the lovely trip to Bakersfield and seeing many friends • Blessing on Anne and David's wedding anniversary (October 3, 1981) • Anne's new glasses
- Luis has found some stability • The blessing of Laura's trip • The blessing of all who worked to set up the patch yesterday • Tish does not have cancer...but continued prayers for a diagnosis • Juanita and Abby
- For the life, witness, and beautiful smile of Freda Hamilton



The Wesley family expresses their sympathy to the Hamilton family in the death of **Freda Hamilton** on

October 3, 2022. Freda was a member of Wesley since 1987. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at Wesley Church, 10 a.m.

Nursery Care Provider Position Opening

In late November there will be a job opening here at Wesley for the position of Nursery Care Provider. The job entails 2 hours a week every Sunday with payment at the rate of \$15.00 per hour. Previous experience working with pre-school aged children is preferred. If you or someone you know is interested in the position please contact Pastor Anne (Pastor@wesleybakersfield.org) or Rob Bewley (robertbewley@att.net).

Coffee Bar

I want to thank everyone who signed up for the coffee bar for September and October. I have a new sign up sheet on the coffee counter for November through January. Again thank you for all your help it was very much appreciated.
-Ernestine Torres

Directory Update

Jerilyn Smith and Evan Waits
551 Willow Drive, 93308

Meeting

The Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, October 18, 5:30 p.m. via zoom.

Thank You

Thank you to Jean Shumate for the purchase of the American flag that hangs on our flagpole. The flag and flagpole are in memory of her father, Howard Shumate.

Thank you to Wesley members for your donation of \$47.00 to World Wide Communion Sunday.

Wesley Charge Conference

Monday, October 31, 2022
Wesley Church
5:00 p.m.