

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, #17

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

September 14, 2022

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

September 18: 1 Timothy 2: 1-7, Luke 16: 1-13, Message: "Debts Are Tossed"

Anne Schlesinger, preaching

September 25: 1 Timothy 6: 6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Alice Oberg, preaching

The Pumpkins Are Coming Sunday, October 9, 2022

On Sunday, October 9, 2022, the pumpkins are scheduled to arrive at noon. We will then need your help to unload pumpkins and set up the patch. We have again reached out the 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.

We will not be having a Community Fun Day this year, but will continue too pass out "goodie bags" with coloring pages, stickers and candy in them. Last year, after quite a few children asked us about crayons and telling us that they didn't have any at home. My heart sank. I just couldn't imagine not having a crayon at home as I remember vividly that big shoebox full of crayons, broken, missing wrappers and having no points, that was always there for us kids growing up. Anyway, this year we would like to provide the small packages of 3-4 crayons with the goodie bags as well. We will be having the Adopt a Pumpkin Tree again this year. So, the cash donations will also go toward buying crayons as well. The tree will have pumpkins to adopt for items needed for unloading day as well as our goodie bags.

Another successful adventure from last year was having bakery items for sale at checkout. The community remembers that we have awesome bakers at Wesley. Having cookies, cupcakes, brownies, Rice Krispie treats at checkout was a huge success. So, we will again be accepting your donations of such throughout the days of our sale to help contribute to our 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.

Our hours of operation will be Monday-Friday 3 PM-9 PM. Saturday 9 AM-9 PM, and Sunday 12 Noon-9 PM. We will need your help to staff the patch during these times. Please find the sign up sheets in the lobby to find the available time slots that work for you. If you are not joining us in person, you can call or text me and I will be happy to assign times for you.

♪ A Note from the Pastor

"I've kept my heart pure for no good reason; I've washed my hands to stay innocent for nothing. I'm weighed down all day long. I'm punished every morning. But when I tried to understand these things, it just seemed like hard work until I entered God's sanctuary and understood..."
-Psalm 73: 13b-14, 16-17a

Our September worship series continues as we "Have Words With Jesus." Which is better—to hear words of comfort and love and promise in scripture, or to hear words calling us to repent or rethink or dig deeper for understanding? They certainly both have their place, and our faith grows with both. But struggling with scripture is a good thing because it helps us better understand the our own quest for the divine.

The big news, of course, is the upcoming arrival of the pumpkins, which is scheduled for immediately after worship on October 9. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for both pumpkin unloading day and help at the sales tables. The "Pumpkin Lady," a.k.a. Carolyn Ashlock, will set up a pumpkin tree to give many opportunities for assisting in this important fundraiser. We need coats of all sizes, new or used in good condition, but we need mostly children's coats. Like last year, we will forgo fun day in response to COVID, but we will have a bake sale that extends all three weeks. There are plenty of ways to help, and I hope everyone joins in.

I am excited about our upcoming Disciple IV study. After comparing some pretty complicated schedules (we are busy people!) we decided to have a hybrid study, meeting in-person in my office and also via zoom on Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. We will begin on September 29. If all who are considering participating do decide to join us, we will move the in-person location to The Gathering Place. Right now we have five confirmed students and three others who are interested. It is not too late to join in. Please let me know of your interest.

In other news, our annual Charge Conference returns this year on October 31. Our District Superintendent, Rev. David Niu, will be here to meet with me at 4 pm, to meet with Staff Parish Relations Committee at 4:30 pm, and with all from the church who are interested at 5 pm. Many of you know that this is our yearly business meeting to celebrate the past year of ministry and to plan for a successful year ahead. If you are on the Nominations and Lay Leadership committee, please expect to hear from me in the next few days to set up a meeting to nominate next year's committees and officers. Even if you are not on that committee, please let one of us know how your church can use your gifts and talents. (I chair that committee, but it also includes Stella Rous, Carolyn Ashlock, Beth Davisson, Kim Perales, Nick Strobel and Linda Ramirez. Jerry Ludeke officially serves on the committee, but I am going to ask her if she wants to withdraw because she has moved away and is very active in her new church.)

I will be away for several days next week as I am presiding at a wedding in a redwood grove in Los Gatos, CA. The rehearsal is at 9:30 on Friday morning, so I will leave town early Thursday morning in order to arrive in time for Thursday's on-line midday prayer group at noon. I will also have prayer group on Friday after the rehearsal, but I don't believe I will be able to lead prayer group on Saturday. Perhaps someone else will lead that day?

Blessings, Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

• All people with COVID, including Brendan B and the children in his classroom who spread it, for Brandon C, Pastor Cindy L • Rob B.—healing from foot surgery • Brian W. • Barbara's sister-in-law Pam—cataract surgery • Healing for Ann (Linda's relative) • Ronnie's postponed heart surgery • Monika • Freda H. • Jillian S • Dan O • Continued prayers for Sergio's healing • Louise's niece Amanda and her daughter Aurora • For Luis—healing following surgery that repaired a detached retina • Pastor Cindy L awaiting hip replacement; we pray also for her ministry • Jeffrey with a sore throat—possible strep • Tish—painful foot—prayers for relief and to find the source of the pain • Sully—a young man with health issues

Travel mercies: • Louise's sister and brother in law, Sue and Steve, plus comfort, strength and peace for the whole family • John R • Kristyn and Scotlyn • Jerry Ludeke

All who grieve: • Peace and comfort for Sharon's family • Peace and comfort for Queen Elizabeth II's family and all who mourn her passing • Bill grieving the loss of a close friend to suicide

We pray for other needs: • For Armando and family • For all who suffer from heat • All who suffer from flooding • Sarah and Emily's upcoming move • For discernment in UMCs —we lift up the churches in Porterville and a member who is confused and worried • Mississippi, especially for Jackson, a city without water • Flooding in Pakistan and Afghanistan • Prayers for Lisa T and

her son • Protection for people without shelter • We pray for all fire fighters • All students struggling to return to in-person learning after a long time away • Protection for people without shelter • We pray for all fire fighters • For a successful Sunday school year • For Rose and all caregivers • Stella asks for prayer to have and maintain a positive attitude • Relief from heat, floods, fires and all disasters—safety for humans and animals • Cindy W's daughter in last days of pregnancy • Prayers of remembrance of all who lost their lives on 9/11/01, and for first responders • for the kitchen staff at The Orchards Post Acute that they may get residents orders and trays correct.

In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:

• Lea's grandchildren have arrived after much hard work and anticipation. Welcome Sage and Brenden! They have started school and are enjoying it & making friends • The Strobel family's recent celebration and get-together • Liz's air-conditioning and her car have both been repaired • Stella's good visit with her sister. She is thankful to be home. Her neighbor gives thanks for the power of prayer • For the letter from African Bishops supporting the UMC and disassociating from the African Initiative that seeks to harm the denomination • Liz B is happy with her job, and we give thanks for her passion • Rob's new scooter arrived, and he was able to assemble it • We pray thanks for the people of this church who contribute thoughtful articles and comments to the local newspaper. They take the time to stay tuned in and create

~continued on the following page~

For U.S. Postoffice purposes only:

a tone of reconciliation. • Thanks for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II • Betsy's return home after an 8-month recovery in rehab following a fall • Laura gives thanks for Wesley's good work in the community • 9/5 marks the 1st anniversary for Andrew and Katelynn! • Application for CSUB Drug and Alcohol Studies has been submitted.

Church Directory 2022

The new directory is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for any corrections (near drinking fountain) or if you have had changes since the last directory please email or call the church office and leave a message. Thank you.