

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

September 28, 2022

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

October 2: 2 Timothy 1: 1-14, Luke 17: 5-10, Message: "Rekindle the Gift."
(World Communion Sunday)

October 9: 2 Timothy 2: 8-15, Luke 16:19-31, Message: "Present Yourself to God."
(Pumpkins arrive)

Anne Schlesinger, 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. 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 to pass out "goodie bags" with coloring pages, stickers, crayons, and candy in them.

The Adopt a Pumpkin Tree has made 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. 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.

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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 on the bulletin board 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.

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

♫ A Note from the Pastor

There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues[a] to another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another. All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person.
~ 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

The biggest news for our church this time of year is always regarding the Pumpkin Patch, but you will get most of that news from our famous Pumpkin Lady, Carolyn Ashlock. Please see her article in this newsletter.

Our worship in October begins with World Communion Sunday on October 2. Here is a snippet of what UMC.org says about this special date: "Holy Communion joins us in Christian unity. This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another. On World Communion Sunday - United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This universal and inclusive connection is the foundation of the special offering for World Communion Sunday. Your donations support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals and transforming communities. In 2021, World Communion Sunday offerings awarded 242 scholarships and grants. Your generosity continues to provide scholarships, grants, mentoring and training for leadership development. The needs exceed what we can fund and your gifts can further growth and success." The worship series "Having Words With Jesus" continues through the month.

Wesley is preparing for our annual Charge Conference with District Superintendent David Niu on October 31. I warned him things may be a little chaotic because the Pumpkin Patch may be busy on Halloween, but he responded that these signs of life will

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be fun. Our leadership report will be a part of that meeting, so the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee members will soon be tasked with calling church members and constituents to determine where each of you may be able to use your talents. I hope each of you will put your gifts to work to benefit your church. One of the great things about United Methodist polity is that laity are empowered to be leaders in the church, and your membership vows include your promise to serve your church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. There are many ways to serve, so please pray about how God is calling you to support Wesley.

Bishop Sally Dyck sent an announcement regarding her service as interim Bishop of our Conference. Last March she agreed to serve here for 60 days, but that has been extended several times because Bishop Carcaño's suspension remains in effect until the case is settled. However, Bishop Dyck's leadership of our Conference will end no later than December 31, 2022. We will know more who will lead us following the Jurisdictional Conference November 2-5. I will post Bishop Dyck's letter in the Narthex. If you would like more information, please visit

<https://westernjurisdictionumc.org/wj-events/western-jurisdictional-conference/>.

Blessings,

Pastor Anne

Prayers

We lift up the names of people in need of healing: • All people with COVID • Sergio • Barry B • Linda M. • Matthew • Caroline • Rob B.

Travel mercies:

• Tiffany and family • John R • Shannon Oliver

All who grieve, including:

• Jan • David (Tiffany's boyfriend) & family • Shannon Oliver

We pray for other needs:

• For rain • We also pray for water-drenched areas • We pray for all fire fighters • We pray blessings on the marriage of Maisy and Ross whose wedding was 9/24 • For Linda R to find peace, patience and kindness in her heart • For Ryan • For the Thompson family—for caregivers • For Ukraine—we pray for peace • We pray

for Satesh • For all people detained in ICE facilities in Bakersfield and McFarland

In gratitude, we give thanks for our many blessings:

• The relief of cooler temperatures • For Tom and all care-givers • For the removal of a wild animal (possum) from Linda's property • Jeffrey's 16th birthday • Answered prayer. Bill W feeling better after a trip to the ER • For Nick for receiving the Jack Hernandez Phronesis award from BC • September's food distribution fed 374 individuals from 74 households • Penny's swim meet and the support she and her teammates receive from their families • Samantha's dinner with Kevin Costner • Cindy and Bill's new grandchild, Virginia, Henry and baby are doing well and all are proud.

World Communion *Sunday October 2, 2022*

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. You may mail a check to Wesley, designated World Communion Sunday or give online. Thank you.

Happy October Birthday to.....

8	Jeb Blain
16	Emma Neath
	Tess Cusator
23	Anne Schlesinger
24	Dan Murillo
26	David Atkins
27	Shyann Nelson
28	Tom Saba

In The Military

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers.

Michael Ahumada - Army
Chris Armantrout - US Navy
Nathan Ashlock - US Marines
Nick Buckridge - Army National Guard
Mark Andrew Caldwell - US Marines
Alex Campbell - Navy
Josh Caughran - Navy
Megan Darling - Army Reserves
Bradley Delacruz - Army
Jerome Garey - Air Force
Rebecca Garey - Air Force
Dan Hanel - US Air Force
Greg Hanel - US Air Force
Josephine Imperial - Marines
Anthony Mitchell jr. - US Air Force
Kenneth Oberg - Navy
Ellis Redmond - Marine Corp
Tiela Roland - US Air Force
Spring Walden - US Air Force
Joel Watson - Navy
Josephine Wells-Ashley - US Marines
Laura Yoon - US Navy
David Yoon - US Navy

The pillar candle on the altar is to remind us of our prayers for them