

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

August 23, 2023

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

August 27: Romans 12: 1-8, Matthew 16: 13-20; "Who Do You Say?"

September 3: Romans 12: 9-21, Matthew 16: 21-28; "Who Am I?"

September 10: Romans 13: 8-14, Matthew 18: 15-20; "The Table of Love"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

The Pumpkins Are Coming Sunday, October 8, 2023

On Sunday, October 8, 2023, 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 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. 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. God's love abounds!

—Blessings, Carolyn

♪ A Note from the Pastor

Later, Jesus himself appeared again to his disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. This is how it happened: [Seven] disciples were together. Simon Peter told them, "I'm going fishing." ... They set out in a boat, but throughout the night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore... Jesus called to them, "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" They answered him, "No." He said, "Cast your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

—John 21, selected verses

There are many eating, feeding and celebrating stories in the Bible. Fellowship over a meal has always been important. The one quoted above is one of my favorites because, as he often does, Jesus provides the meal miraculously, and yet... we are left to wonder. How can casting our nets on the other side of the same boat affect the outcome? Our next worship series will be from The Worship Design Studios called "Come to the Table," beginning on September 10 and culminating on World Communion Sunday, October 1. We will share communion with Jesus each of those four weeks. Of course, we will also celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of September, so we will be following John Wesley's instruction to partake as often as we can. For the next two weeks, we will continue following Discipleship Ministries suggestions and consider Jesus' question to his disciples, "Who do you say that I am," followed by considering who we are, as we answer God's call to discipleship.

We return to our Wednesday evening Bible study this week. Led by Bill Blair, we will read and consider Rebekah Simon-Peter's book *Forging a New Path: Moving the Church Forward in a Post-Pandemic World*. We all know that church has changed a great deal in the past three and a half years. How will we move into a future filled with hope? If you would like an invitation to our meetings on Zoom, please let me know. Also on tap for the fall is a Disciple I class led by Edee Ellenberger. If you are interested, please add your name and availability on the sign-up sheet at church. We won't know the day or time of the meeting until we get feedback on everyone's availability.

I am sure I am not alone in celebrating the end—or is it just a pause?—of triple-digit temperatures for this year. I enjoyed the rain, so unusual in Bakersfield this time of year. Although the rain was heavy enough to cause flooding damage to Highway 58 near Mojave, I have not learned of any serious outcomes in Bakersfield. As always, difficult weather, whether storms or heat or cold, affect people without adequate shelter, so please keep those friends in your prayers.

On that note, I would like us all to lift up prayers for our neighbors in New Cuyama. I learned recently that there are "water wars" there causing a lot of problems for the residents, businesses and churches in all of Cuyama Valley. New Cuyama UMC is part of the Kern Circuit we are in. What I learned is that Cuyama Valley is one of the most overdrafted water basins in California, resulting in long term damage to the entire valley. According to the report I read, "Two billion-dollar carrot growers who are the two largest water pumpers in Cuyama Valley, Grimmway and Bolthouse, are suing every homeowner and landowner in the valley for water rights. Homeowners, ranchers,

farmers, businesses and even [the] school district are facing a lawsuit that has forced every individual to hire lawyers and fight for the basic right to use water, a simple human need.” The small, rural community is facing difficulty standing up to two big corporations, and they have voted on a carrot boycott. I have alerted the District and Conference offices about the situation and I will share any plans put in place to help these communities. Please keep them in your prayers, and pray God sends discernment for all involved.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

We pray for those in need of healing—body, mind and spirit:

- Bonney F. —additional surgery scheduled August 30—prayers for healing, pain relief, and encouragement
- Lea—gratitude that one test is completed, but more need to be completed; prayers that the pain is controlled and that she can tolerate the medications
- Sherry: broken pelvis. She needs to remain in rehab until she is able to walk
- Alvesa C.—broken foot
- Linda T—cellulitis
- Maria—follow up testing after bad results of her mammogram
- Danny beginning chemotherapy

We pray for all who grieve:

- For the friends, family of Bishop Melvin Talbert who died August 3
- For all who lost family and friends in the wildfire on Maui, and for the loss of homes and other property

We pray for other needs:

- For all children in foster care
- For John R
- Peace in the world, especially in Russia, Ukraine, and the Middle East
- For all who are suffering weather related emergencies
- For all in the path of Hurricane Hilary
- Cuyama Valley and

- the fight over water rights
- New beginnings for students, teachers, administrators
- US political process
- That Wesley will find a competent choir director

Prayers of Gratitude:

- For the wonder and beauty of the Caribbean Ocean
- For vacation with family
- For Molly S., Wesley’s new child care attendant
- Jenifer successfully completed her “on-boarding” for a new job and will soon be paid commensurate with her knowledge and training
- For Portia’s safe arrival and Linda T’s peace of mind
- For Terry’s youngest grandchildren’s birthdays: Madeline and Scotlyn both turned 2 this week
- Linda T’s needed medication was approved and that her mom is living in a group home
- Rob’s angiogram had good results

*Next Outlook deadline is
Monday, September 11, 2023.*

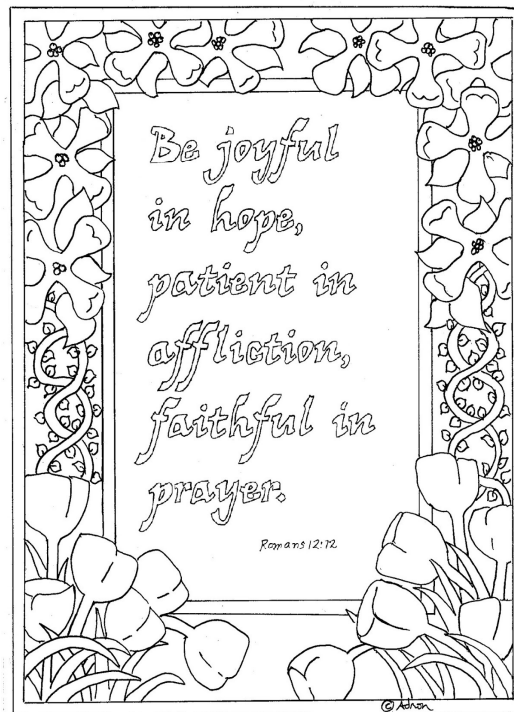
Church Directory 2023

The new directory is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for any corrections. If you have changes since the last directory, please call Terry at (661) 872-8741 or email at office@wesleybakersfield.org. Thank you.

Job Position at Wesley

The SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) is attempting to find a Choir Director as soon as possible. If you, or someone you know is interested in applying for the position you may do so by e-mailing me a letter of interest and resume at robertbewley@att.net.

—Rob Bewley, SPRC Chair



Happy September Birthday to.....

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 10 | Donnel Lester |
| 15 | Stacy Graupmann |
| 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 |

