

The Outlook

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

office:(661) 871-3030, Admin. Asst. 872-8741

e-mail: office@wesleybakersfield.org

website: wesleybakersfield.org

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

Vol. LXIV, #21

Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

November 8, 2023

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

November 12: Psalm 100, Matthew 25: 1-13; "Enter the Gates"

November 19: Philippians 4: 4-13, Matthew 25: 14-30; "In Everything"

Rev. Anne Schlesinger, preaching

Where have all the pumpkins gone...?

I'm sure you have noticed by now the drastic change in our front yard. Yes, it's true. The Pumpkin Patch has closed for another season and what a season it was. We were blessed by our community outreach and support. We had many return visitors daily who shared their gratitude for our presence, stories of previous visits, and their joy of the current visits. Some came looking for our fun day, petting zoo, and bounce house from previous years...and of course, many for our home baked goodies. Priceless experiences.

Thank you to each and everyone of my personal and church family members for everything you did to help make the Pumpkin Patch such a special success.



A Note from the Pastor

**It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, Most High;
to proclaim your loyal love in the morning,
your faithfulness at nighttime
with the ten-stringed harp,
with the melody of the lyre. ~ Psalm 92: 1-3**

As we remember each time we share in the Lord's Table, it is right and good to give God our thanks and praise every day. During this month we will have a special emphasis on thankfulness. The three-week worship series that begins Sunday, November 12 is called "Our Grateful Praise" and is all about gratitude. Topping my list of things for which I am grateful at this moment are gratitude for the wonderful congregation at Wesley, my health, and the wonderful weather I have been enjoying lately. For what are you grateful today?

Traditionally for most churches, November is the month for setting budgets, and Wesley is no exception. Finance Committee is meeting this Friday to discuss our yearly stewardship campaign, so please expect to hear more about that this month. There is no way anyone can put a price on the benefits of a church community, but the Bible tells us God calls for a tithe—giving God the first ten percent. That is an impossibility for some people, but it is attainable for those who want to get there. It means making a commitment you can keep, no matter how small, and planning to increase the percentage every year. Years ago, someone asked me, "Does a tithe mean giving ten percent of gross salary, or net? And does it include all charitable giving, or just what we give to church?" My answer was—and is—that giving comes from the heart. You decide what is possible, and then spend some time in prayer. Your final decision is between you and God. Ultimately, stewardship is really an act of gratitude.

Pumpkin season has come and gone, except for a number of left-over gourds that are still available for anyone who would like to use them for holiday decorations. We may not have a final fundraising figure for awhile because of a number of expenses, but by and large the event was a successful fundraiser and a successful community outreach. I am grateful for the wonderful volunteers who set up the patch, unloaded pumpkins from the truck, supplied bake sale items and other treats, and worked the patch daily. There were others who supplied hot dogs, chips, drinks and condiments for unloading day and for the crew. Finally, there were more volunteers working hard on clean up day. As always, Carolyn Ashlock's family was front and center, inflating blow-up decorations as well as tending money and daily sales. But let us not forget to thank Terry who pretty much stayed in the background but made copies of coloring pages, made bank deposits, and works mightily behind the scenes. Thank you, one and all!

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

Prayers

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

- Bonney F—continued healing, but thanks be to God, she is finally home!
- Linda T—healing, comfort, and peace
- Alvesa C • Mary Lou—healing • Andy & Lea • Susan • Jill • Sage • Alyssa's father in ICU—prayers for healing and comfort • Travis S • For Carolyn A • Rev. Brandon Austin (Pastor at Davis UMC)
- Dan M. in ICU

We pray for other needs:

- PEACE!!! • For God's hand to be in the process of finding a permanent choir director • For Ryan—that God will guide him in God's way, and that Ryan will discern God's will in his life • For wisdom for leaders of all nations: that God's will may be understood by people brokering peace • For peace in the world • End of fighting in Middle East • End of fighting in Ukraine • For a peaceful meeting at Sherry's church—two fellowships in conflict; may they find an equitable and loving solution • Safety for Rabbi Klein in Israel • Children in counseling • Poverty so severe that people eat from McDonald's trash

For those who are grieving:

- All the people of Lewiston, ME • Jack and Eileen P. on the death of their son
- Gwen—grieving the loss of independence a driver's license affords. In gratitude, we remember and praise

In gratitude, we remember and praise God for our abundant blessings:

- For grandchildren—especially for Josephine asking to spend time with Barbara • Michael's visit, especially his good relationship with his sisters • That

the House has elected a speaker—may the chaos end and governing begin

- Katelynn and baby Junie are both doing well.
- Grateful for all the workers in the Pumpkin Patch • New babies in the Strobel family—Maddie Aura born November 1 to niece Rebekah, and a new baby expected to be born soon to niece Teila • Melinda has gained freedom following incarceration— pray that God will guide her future • For Sage's and Brenden's success in school

Bring Your Own Craft (BYOC)

Date: Wednesday, November 15

Time: 9:30-11:00 AM

Place: The Gathering Place at Wesley

Who: Everyone

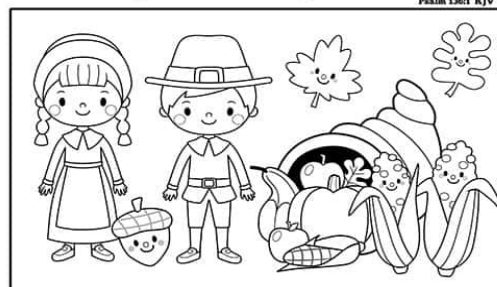
Event: Bring your favorite craft to work on while we visit. If you are not "crafty," please come anyway. Also, bring your favorite mug and personal water.

Coffee & Tea will be provided.

Organizer: June Braun

**"Give thanks unto the Lord
for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever"**

Psalms 136:1 KJV



www.BibleStoryPrintables.com

Happy Birthday to...

Linda Ramirez, November 30

In The Military

Please keep those serving in the military in your prayers.

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

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

KWESI

(Kern Welcoming & Extending Solidarity to Immigrants)

Here is an update on the men from Mauritania. Six men went to Los Angeles and one man went to Denver. The remaining three are still in Bakersfield. Two of the men are riding the city bus to the adult school for English classes. The other man is illiterate and he picks up cans for recycling. They are becoming more independent in selecting foods and preparing meals. For men being released from ICE detention, there is an ongoing need for the following: size large men's underwear & t-shirts, socks, carryon luggage and backpacks. Thank you for your prayers and support. June Braun