

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)

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Anne Schlesinger, Pastor

September 13, 2023

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

September 17: Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18: 21-35; "The Table of Peace."

September 24: Philippians 1: 21-30, Matthew 20: 1-16; "The Table of Grace."

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. 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.

We will continue to pass out "goodie bags" with coloring pages, stickers and candy in them and have the Adopt a Pumpkin Tree again this year. 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.

—Blessings, Carolyn

♪ A Note from the Pastor

There's a season for everything

and a time for every matter under the heavens:

a time for giving birth and a time for dying,

a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was planted,

a time for killing and a time for healing,

a time for tearing down and a time for building up,

a time for crying and a time for laughing,

a time for mourning and a time for dancing... —Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

The season of pumpkins is fast approaching! Hopefully there is more information in this newsletter about ways you can help, but just in case, please mark your calendars on October 8 for the arrival of this year's truckload of pumpkins. There are many ways to help with both the fundraising effort as well as a way we reach out to our neighbors. High school students will help on unloading day, and we will need to feed them. Look for the "pumpkin tree" in the narthex that will give opportunities to contribute to that luncheon, and keep in mind our annual coat giveaway and bake sale.

This morning I am a little giddy because I just listened to a podcast starring—me! Actually, I was the first person interviewed by Ian Tash, a young, post-graduate theology student at CSUB. He is interested in helping people in Bakersfield find a faith community that helps them grow deeper in faith. He was surprised by how many churches exist in Bakersfield, and he would like to help seekers find a place that fits them. When he heard about a female pastor leading a church congregation, he was intrigued and called me for an interview. If you would like to hear it, you can find it here: TellingItTash.substack.com. (You don't need to subscribe to his newsletter. Just press "No thanks," and you will be taken to the interview.)

In other news, we have had a lot of interest in the Disciple I Bible study, but no one has signed up for Disciples II, III, or IV. It looks like we might be forming two groups to accommodate the people who can meet on Wednesday and those who cannot. Edee Ellenberger, who will do wonders leading the study, has been in the courtroom every day for weeks because she is serving on a jury. We plan to get together sometime this week to make the final arrangements. If you did enter your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, please know that either Edee or I will contact you soon to let you know more details. As we have said in church, the cost of the books might seem a bit high until you consider how deep a study this is and how many months this book will help you on your journey. (I found at least one on Cokesbury for \$17.00 plus tax and shipping, but some are more expensive.) That said, no one will be refused for lack of funds. The church will order the books, and the total cost will be divided among the participants so the price each person pays will be equitable. They are workbooks, so everyone will need their own copy.

The fence and gates are up. We are still getting used to them, so please make sure you keep my cell phone number handy if you're meeting me at church so I can come unlock the gate and let you in. The number is in the church directory. Speaking of the directory, a new one will be available soon. You were all invited to check the draft that was posted in the narthex for several weeks, so hopefully everyone's information will be up to date.

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Our District Office has sent us the date for our annual Church Charge Conference: Sunday, December 10 after worship. That means it is time for our Lay Leadership/Nominations Committee to begin working on our committee lists for next year. Please prayerfully consider how you can best serve God through your church. Let me know—the pastor always heads that committee. Blessings—and please enjoy the cooler weather!
Pastor Anne

BYOC

Bring Your Own Craft (BYOC)
Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2023
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, personal water, & a prepackaged snack for the Snack Basket.
Coffee & Tea will be provided.
Organizer: June Braun
RSVP to church office by Thursday, September 21, & note workspace needed for your craft (whole table, half table, or quarter table)

KWESI

(Kern Welcoming & Extending Solidarity to Immigrants)

The congregation’s response to meet the needs of 10 men from Mauritania has been generous and kind. Monetary and food donations provided multiple meals. Lonnie made arrangements to bring food to teach the Mauritanian men how to prepare a meal. Shawn and Corey and Lonnie’s father joined in the fellowship. This was especially amazing because of the language barrier!
“I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matt. 25:35 CEB

Prayers

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

- Bonney F. • Sherry A’s continued healing
- Jerry S, and for Carolyn as she cares for him • Susan M • Ruth S • Bertha C • Linda’s niece Kathleen who works at the school where the shooting was this month. She and others were rattled by the lockdown.
- Cindy L. • Jenny • Nancy J • Alicia: healing and discernment • Linda • Alvesa C • Linda T
- Barbara S—Linda R’s daughter-in law’s mother • Danny—pain from chemo therapy
- Jerry S. and Carolyn A. who cares for him
- Ryan V. • Lea D. • Dan M. • Marlene B.

We pray for those who are grieving:

- For Danny and the family and friends of Danny’s boss, Lisa Brown who died of breast cancer at the age of 44, leaving a family that includes two young children
- Nick and Lisa & family for their loss of Nick’s uncle • The families and friends of the victims of the mass shooting in Florida
- Family and Friends of Steven Daly • Stella on the passing of her sister Sylvia, and especially for Sylvia’s husband Tom who took care of her through her long illness.
- Jerry lifts up her nieces and nephew following the death of their mother Barbara

We pray for other needs:

- For our broken immigration system
- For the US political process, and healing for the resentment people have for each other • Continued prayers for Hawaii’s recovery • For a choir director and for Wesley’s tech team • For Linda T—and her meeting on Wednesday. May she be successful finding a better long term care

living facility • The Jelletich family who had a scary ordeal last month. Sammye was found safe—thanks be to God! • Ruth S in need of someone to help with housework • All children in foster care • Peace in Ukraine and Russia • For a choir director for Wesley • For the people of Morocco

We pray for travel mercies:

• For Jesse as he drives alone from Maryland to begin his freshman year at UC Santa Cruz

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

• For the healing that has been done in Glen M's body—he is cancer free! • Stella gives praise for the life of her sister Sylvia • Linda's meeting went well; continued prayer for a long-term care facility that meets her needs. • Nick is grateful for the family gathering to remember and celebrate his Uncle Steve's life • Joe F's # work hours have increased • Jerry is grateful for Eddy's visit and his friendship • Barbara D. Is enjoying the family reunion • Jenifer's new job is going very well. It's different and she loves it. • For Laura and Mike's visit to Bakersfield, and gratitude for their safe trip home • For Jerry's fantastic week with family • Sherry is home and doing much better. She is thankful for God's healing blessing and for our prayers • Michael A has passed the test for Oregon's licensing board with flying colors! • Lea's lost wallet was found and recovered • Anne's friend Paul's recovery and his new dialysis treatment—he is feeling fine! • Terry had a blessed birthday celebration, and we're all blessed by her being in our lives. • For the Trustees and all they do around the church • Eddy and his work • Madeline started pre-school and had a good time • Joe got a new job • Cindy C. is very proud of her son Alex for his work with students "above and beyond" • Jerry gives thanks for the life and witness of her sister-in-law Barbara who died at age 90. • Cameron was home from college 4 days—Sherry got to see him for the first time in a year • Linda R & family had a good trip to So. California & got to see

Danny • Lea had a successful MRI and is cancer free • Brenden received a good medical report • Barbara had a very good visit with her sister and her family

Congratulations Graduates!

Elizabeth Radmilovich graduated Summa Cum Laude from The Master's University with a degree in kinesiology. She is now attending graduate school at The Masters University to receive a masters degree in Biblical Counseling. Her parents are Tom and Kristyn Radmilovich. Grandparents are David and Sherry Atkins.

Samantha Guzman graduated Summa Cum Laude from Cal State Fullerton University with a degree in history. She is now attending graduate school at CSFU to receive a Masters of Science degree in Higher Education. Her parents are Rafael and Elisa Guzman. Grandparents are David and Sherry Atkins.

