



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

APRIL 2020

STAY HOME – SAVE LIVES – AND PRAY!

“*Staying home from church*” is a virtue right now! YES, it is!!! Thank you for sticking close to home, going out only when necessary and for being willing to ask for help when you need it. You are amazing people, loved and cherished by God, and during this most “*Unusual April*” you are called to reverence your own life and the lives of others by taking on disciplines that safeguard your life and theirs. Thank you, thank you, thank you! It’s so important that we ALL do this together.

Remember, we are closed “*temporarily*”. We WILL BE worshipping together again and in contact with one another beyond the internet, e-mail, telephone and such. Meanwhile God makes a way for us to honor the present need and to honor the relationships we share. Blest be the tie that binds!

Our callers are enjoying being in touch with you and hearing both what you have to say and what your needs are. Your staff has made a video that will be available on the website and YouTube. The link will come to you in an e-letter during Holy Week to help you observe Good Friday through scripture and song. Another video will come your way for Easter. Remember, it’s always “*THE THIRD DAY*” for Easter People. We live by faith and hope. As we celebrate the resurrection, Christ goes before us!

We sent you a prayer card in our last letter and have created a link both on FACEBOOK page and website to receive PRAYER REQUESTS. Check it out, or simply call the office, the secretary or pastor if that’s easier. Keep your prayer requests coming. Maybe we need a ZOOM prayer group! We are sprinting up the learning curve as we can. Giving must go on, so we have created an opportunity for E-Giving that you will see on our website, worshipweekly.com, and you can always mail in to the office what you usually put in the plate. All our offerings are especially important in this interim between now and God-only-knows when.

Don’t hesitate to call me personally. I HAVE been busy, but it’s getting better and I’m making phone calls to members as I can. So, please reach out if you want to talk, and if I can’t “*pick up*”, I will call as soon as I can. Let me know how you are and how we might help make this time better for you. Pray without ceasing. God’s Blessings be yours.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mary B.

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The following is a message to our newly-formed United Methodist Youth Fellowship group from Pam Garza, UMYF leader.

Dear Youth Members,

I pray you and your family are well.

The rules you made at our first meeting can apply very well at home:

1. Love Jesus and be kind.
2. Take care of our church (home).
3. Help clean up.

Our youth love to sing, and hope to share a song soon at a church service. They are practicing the words to *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*".

We know these difficult times will end and our God will not forsake us.

We praise God that our country, with God's help, thrives and works together through these trying times.

Let's count the many blessing we have!

Youth, I challenge you to write them down each day, to share as we text each other.



**Your continued support is needed.
Donations may now be made on-line**

As the old Chinese saying goes: *"We are living in interesting times"*. We continue to worship God, but are not able to gather together for worship. We don't know how long this will continue, but it appears it may be for months. In the words of Ecclesiastes *"No one knows what is coming"* (Ecclesiastes 10:14b).

Even though we are not gathering in the sanctuary, the expenses of operating our Church continue. Our bills still come due. We are paying our staff, and want to continue to do so. Many of our staff are putting in extra hours as we adjust to this new situation. Our income for use of space in our facility for the pre-school and other groups has dropped to zero. This makes us even more dependent on your continued generous gifts to keep our Church and its ministries going through this difficult period. I urge you to continue your regular tithes and offerings. For some this may not be possible due to a loss of income and we understand. I encourage those who can afford it to try to put in a little extra. We have already received one generous special donation to help us out. Checks may be mailed or dropped off at the Church. Jackie Llewellyn and Jamie Foster have set up an electronic giving option through our web site. Please go to our worshipweekly.com website and click on the GIVEnow tab towards the top.

Electronic giving is a convenient, easy way to support our church. By giving electronically, you can give anywhere or anytime from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can donate to one of our special project funds or set up recurring payments so that your weekly tithe continues, even when you are on vacation. You can also make one-time gifts. Gifts may be through your credit card or transferred directly from your bank account. There is a small fee for this service. You may pay the cost of the fee or it will be deducted from your gift amount.

The Finance Committee agreed to provide an online giving option as we are not able to give in-person each week. We chose Vanco to provide this processing service for us. They have 30 years of experience, good customer service and will fully integrate with our current church management software.

You will also want to check the website regularly for updated information in the life of our Church. Prayer requests may now be submitted through the website.

Grace and Peace,

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer



Vandenberg Tour Filled

No more sign-ups for the UMM Vandenberg Adventure Trip can be taken as the 20 lucky people will fill the bus to **capacity**. The only dark cloud on the horizon is if the Vandenberg AFB will not take visitors because of the flu virus. Those that are signed up will receive a letter from the UMM giving the details of the trip and if there is a cancellation. Standby – UMM will keep in touch.



The Coffee N' Art Show and the AGUM Children Center's Art Show, scheduled for April 19th, has been cancelled.

The show planners look forward to rescheduling next year.

submitted by Val McClure



Think of April as a month of Prayer and Progress!

If suddenly, this very minute, you were back to your normal routine, what will you wish you had done with this unusual “*time on your hands*”? DO IT!!! Now that the pieces have settled into place just a tiny bit and we know that we are “*sheltering at home*” all day or whenever we are not at work, pray all the more for our world, for our country, for our church, for your friends and family. This can be a rich time of prayer and communion with God.

Don't let the opportunity slip away with worry or binge-watching the news. This will stress you out and do you in! Set a time limit to your news viewing. Keep a routine. Add extra prayer time, time in the backyard, taking a walk or calling a friend “on schedule”. Routines are good for us. They help us make sense of life and our own lives. Jump start a good habit. You are not too stressed to do it. Walk, read, and practice great nutrition. (No gooey donuts please.) Clean a closet, straighten a file drawer, sort some photos, write a letter or call a friend. Use this time well, and God will bless you in it! And time used well will distract you from stress and worry. Mark my words. This CAN BE a gift from God. Let it be!—Rev. Mary B.



“The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

It's April 2020, Easter is upon us and the birds are out there building nests as spring comes into full bloom. Who would have thought that we'd be confined to our homes in the act of trying to avoid a world pandemic, let alone a national one?

Community has now become our immediate home and garden. With our churches, schools and community activities and businesses closed it's hard to see ahead to the future. But many of us have turned to the internet for comradery and keeping family and friendly ties strong. We are strong women and will survive.

That being said, the future activities of our UMW are put on hold. With God's help and guidance, we will be together again soon celebrating our faith. In the meantime, reach out to your fellow circle, group and committee members and see how they are doing. We all need to continue to hear a friendly voice on the telephone or a special greeting in a text or email. The flowers will continue to bloom and the birds will sing. Stick your head outside every now and then and marvel at God's creation.

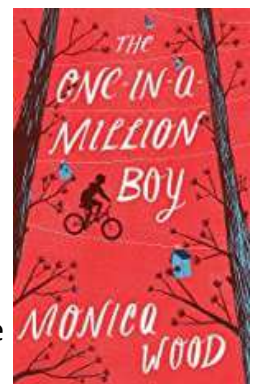
We remember Day of Giving March 23,2020. Let us honor our foremothers by giving to the Legacy Fund to ensure United Methodist Women can continue serving women, children and youth around the world for the next 150 years. You can give online at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/150

submitted by Gerry McGuire



We'll Try Again! April UMW Book Club Communication

Since we canceled our March Book Club meeting and will not be meeting in April, we are postponing our discussion until further notice. However, now is a good time to read what we have been wanting to read! If any of you have not yet read The One in a Million Boy by Monica Wood, this is your opportunity! This novel focuses on the relationship between a young boy and a 104-year-old woman. It also shows how we may not always appreciate the special people in our lives – and how it's never too late to change. We will be in touch to let you know when our book club reschedules.



submitted by Judy Leonard

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR, JULIE BURNS

Hello Church Family,

Wow, the world has changed so much in the last two weeks. We all are experiencing such different realities right now. The one thing that hasn't changed is the love we have for each other and the love that Christ Jesus has for us. When it gets hard, always remember that.

Music hasn't changed either. It still has the power to move us in so many ways. It can move us to soar like eagles and try something new. It can make us cry like babies when we are touched so deeply. It can make us want to break out and dance and sing Praise from the highest mountain tops.

Let the music move you in positive directions. If you are feeling stressed, put on some Mozart and be swept away into another world. Mozart not your thing? How about a little boogie-woogie music or an old Gospel song? There's so much available to us on YouTube, even the TV has many music stations, and there are so many various other resources.

Remember, this will not last forever and one day soon we will all be back together, sharing God's love together in the same room and singing the old and new hymns we love so much. God bless you all during this difficult time.

submitted by Julie Burns



Julie Burns sent us this Bible Easter Trivia Answers on page 8

Bible Easter Trivia



Name _____ Correct Answers _____

1. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during His Triumphal Entry, what was He riding on?

- A. Horse
- B. Camel
- C. Donkey
- D. Chariot

2. How many times did Peter deny Christ?

- A. Two times
- B. Three times
- C. One time
- D. Four times

3. What was the name of the high priest's servant who had his ear cut off by the disciple Peter?

- A. Malchus
- B. Alexander
- C. Matthew
- D. Rufus

4. What was the Jewish feast being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?

- A. Pentecost
- B. Passover
- C. Firstfruits
- D. Unleavened Bread

5. What did the soldiers offer Jesus to drink while on the cross?

- A. Fruit juice
- B. Water
- C. Vinegar
- D. Wine

6. For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Christ?

- A. 10
- B. 20
- C. 30
- D. 40

7. Who carried the cross for Christ?

- A. Simeon
- B. Simon Peter
- C. Simon of Cyrene
- D. Thomas

8. What color was the robe that the Romans placed upon Jesus?

- A. Purple
- B. Green
- C. Yellow
- D. Brown

9. In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried?

- A. Sheep skin
- B. Linen clothes
- C. Golden robes
- D. Goat skin

10. Who rolled away the tomb stone?

- A. Soldiers
- B. God
- C. Jesus
- D. Angel

11. What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial?

- A. Tito
- B. Nicodemus
- C. Jonathan
- D. Joseph

12. For how long did Jesus remain after his resurrection before he ascended into heaven?

- A. 7 days
- B. 14 days
- C. 40 days
- D. 49 days

Program Ministry

Photos are from the recent Program Ministry tour to Sensorio Paso Robles Field of Light by Bruce Munro.

This is a 15 acre walk-through artwork. Field of Light is a sculptural composition that covers Sensorio's rolling hills with an array of over 58,000 stemmed spheres lit by fiber-optics, gently illuminating the landscape in subtle blooms of morphing color.



ANSWERS TO BIBLE EASTER TRIVIA

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. C. DONKEY |  | 2. B. THREE TIMES |
| 3. A. MALCHUS | | 4. B. PASSOVER |
| 5. C. VINEGAR | | 6. C. 30 |
| 7. C. SIMON OF CYRENE | | 8. A. PURPLE |
| 9. B. LINEN CLOTHES | | 10. D. ANGEL |
| 11. D. JOSEPH | | 12. C. 40 DAYS |

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: April 2020
Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. [God's Steadfast Love...in Action](#)
2. [Sanctuary Cleaning](#)
3. [Covenant Missionary](#)
4. [Special Giving Totals for 2020](#)

1. GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

The United Methodist Church is God's steadfast love in action in many ways, particularly right now as the church reaches out to those in need. We can do that because of UMCOR. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the body in the church that makes sure when there is a need that the funds directed towards that need get there. What this mean as we respond to a crisis/disaster with a special gift, all the funds that we send for that response can be used in the way we directed them because the overhead costs are covered through UMCOR. We were due to take that special offering this past month. Due to the health crisis and our not sharing worship in person, we didn't do that. HOWEVER, as you continue to support our regular budgeted expenses, you may also send an offering marked for UMCOR.

Compelled by Christ. As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Committee on Relief assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need.

As other crises occur as well as our health care crisis UMCOR will be there and be in ministry on our behalf. You can check out what UMCOR is doing on our behalf by going to umcmmission.org\UMCOR or www.facebook.com\UMCOR.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN locally continues to be in ministry here in our own neighborhood. The process is a little

different right now in that people are still being fed, but are being given a sack meal to pick up and move on so that they can stay a safe distance. God's steadfast love continues to be shown.

2. SANCTUARY CLEANING

Spring cleaning time has been changed until we are able to resume services in person. We then will appreciate any who are willing and able to join in the cleaning/readying of the sanctuary for worship. If you feel like you can participate in this opportunity when the time comes, please contact me and I will begin a list of those to be contacted at that time. Many hands will make the process go quickly.

3. COVENANT MISSIONARY

We have heard from John Elmore in Chile where he is safely sheltering in place with his wife and her parents. They are praying for us and ask our prayers for them.

4. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2020

People's Kitchen Misc.	\$ 113.00
People's Kitchen Food	63.00
UMCOR-Human Relations Sun.	201.00
UMCOR-Puerto Rico	100.00
ONE MONTH TOTAL	<u>\$477.00</u>

Your second mile giving will be caught up soon.

Many hands made much possible!



A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION:
DON'T ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOUR FOOTSTEPS IF
YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO MOVE YOUR FEET.

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  April Fool's Day	2	3	4
5  Palm Sunday	6 MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK	7 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	8 WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	9  Holy Thursday	10  Good Friday	11  Holy Saturday
12  Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	<p>Abbreviation Legend</p> <p>CH—Criswell Hall HR—Handbell Room #115 K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123 MMR—McMillen Room #113 PL—Parking Lot PS—Pastor's Study S—Sanctuary</p>	



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Lay Leader: Patti Melsheimer
Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson
Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Choir Director: Julie Burns
Praise Team Director: Mike Clark
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Multi-Media: Duncan Leonard
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya
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PLEASE NOTE:

Layout Editor reserves the right to cut and edit articles to meet space limitations.



Children's Sunday School

God Bless Carolyn Russell! She instantly created a Google Classroom for our Sunday School Children. I haven't had time to "go to class", but I have seen a dozen or more offerings from Carolyn to our kids with lessons, projects, craft ideas and other "fun stuff" to keep them going, growing and adjusting to the present circumstances along with the rest of us. Pray for our families even as you pray for the world, the church and yourselves! There are extra stressors for all of us and lost income, more time together and worry about the future making living together in closer quarters while continuing to "Love One Another" a huge spiritual tasks. Pray, pray, pray for our people, for marriages, for parents, for children --- for one and all. And say a prayer of THANKS to God for the wonderful kindness everyone is offering to one another in Jesus' Name! Amen. ---
 Rev. MBB

P.S. Special thanks to Pam Garza as well. You have seen her message to our youth.



Jack Cuddy	04/01
Janine Moore	04/01
Paul Holden	04/04
Patti Melsheimer	04/06
Laurie Moore	04/06
Pam Bauske	04/07
Grant Cuddy	04/08
Shirley Werling	04/08
Don Gugeler	04/11
Jack Moore	04/15
Ryan Odom	04/24



Have we missed **your** birthday? If so, it is not listed in our data base. Please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birth date to our monthly birthday list!



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag

April

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ELT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DEADLINE COMING SOON

We have scholarships to award to graduating seniors and current college students! Students may apply for this scholarship more than once provided they have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work.



Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications are now available on-line (www.worshipweekly.com) and in the church office. The purpose of this scholarship is to help deserving United Methodist students enrolled in accredited universities, community colleges, and technical schools defray the cost of their education.

Only students who are or have been active participants in the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church may apply. The completed application with required attachments must be turned in to the church office by May 15th. Scholarship recipients will be introduced to the congregation in early June. Scholarship checks will be sent to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2020 college classes.

So, don't delay – turn your application in by the 15th of May!

submitted by Judy Leonard