



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

AUGUST 2020

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM!

This is NOT a reference to my new 2020 Aegean Blue HONDA FIT. I'm all dressed up with no place to go because we're busy, busy, busy at church continuing tech efforts to connect with you!

Jamie Foster is the one that's REALLY ready to go with on online Bible Study for YOU. He is excited, and I am excited to have as many of you participate as possible.

The study is: **GOD IS GOOD** and it's **Tuesdays at 6pm PDT starting August 4, 2020**. Sessions will be an hour long and will be recorded for playback later at any time.

Jamie will lead this online Adult Study of Genesis and Exodus: Creation, Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, Abraham through Joseph, the Exodus, the Ten Commandments, and the Building of the Tabernacle. You'll gain understanding and new perspectives. What is God telling us through these stories? More details on the Activities Page of our website at www.worshipweekly.com.

ZOOM IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER!!!

Not one opportunity to ZOOM, but two (three for me, love that HONDA)!!

WEDNESDAY EVENING

7:00 p.m.

ALL CHURCH CHAT

August 5, 2020

Don't be sad and lonely, bereft at home for lack of opportunities for an evening out. Enjoy your evening in by coming to a ZOOM church meeting to see friendly faces of people who love you! Yes, your church family is learning to ZOOM to church virtually and we would love to see you there. Last Wednesday there were 30 people from our congregation who successfully arrived on screen. Let us help you get there too. We'll send out the link to our e-mail list so you can come.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, if you drive through the lot at 275 N. Halcyon Road and don't see that fire engine red HONDA Accord, look again! If a bright blue FIT is there, come say "hello". Bless you! ---MBB

275 North Halcyon Road . Arroyo Grande . CA 93420 . (805) 481-2692



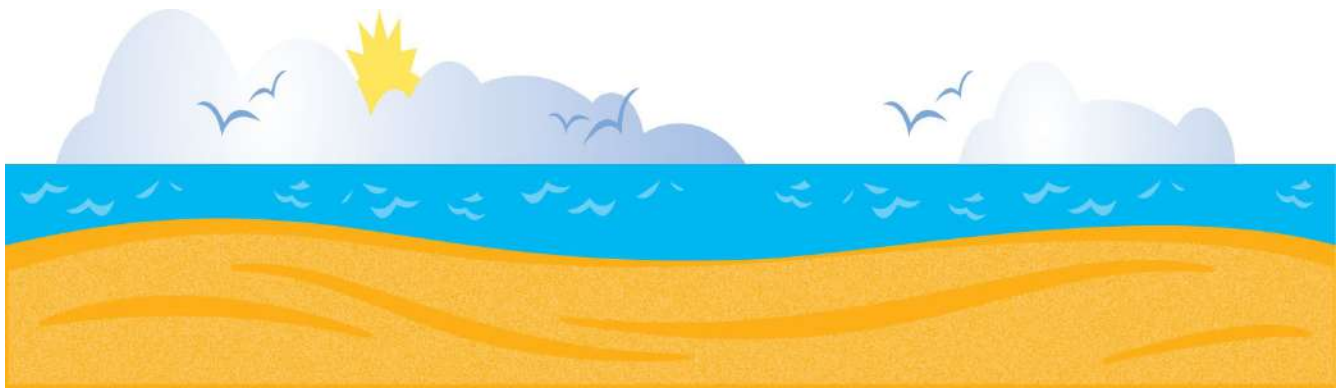
TREASURER'S REPORT

We ended our Fiscal Year June 30. Despite our inability to worship together as a congregation since mid March, our overall Stewardship ended up at 99.9% of plan. Easter offering was above plan though we were not able to worship together for Easter. Tithes and Offerings remained essentially at plan for the last 3 months of the year. Though some gave less, others increased their giving. We have a generous and loving congregation that is doing what it can to sustain us through this difficult time. Thank you.

Overall we ended the Fiscal Year with a modest surplus. This was helped by the Annual Conference temporarily reducing our Apportionments and Pension Contributions. It is not clear how much longer they will continue this benefit. The savings however were largely offset by an increase in our printing and mailing expenses for our weekly Pastor's Letter. There was a decrease in staffing costs due to the elimination of some positions that are not required when we are not meeting while other staff are voluntarily forgoing salary. Our Choir Director, Julie, has stepped up to the plate to help us as videographer and editor. You can find a link to our innovative weekly video worship services on our website worshipweekly.com and on YouTube. We are looking for contributions to help us purchase a new computer and video editing software. The system we are using is old and inadequate.

We are not doing an annual Pledge Drive until there is more certainty as to when and how we can again meet together safely. I am asking everyone to continue to give what they have been giving these past few months. This should be sufficient to sustain us as we go forward, until we can meet again in person.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer



*FROM YOUR LAY LEADER**Patti Melsheimer*

As I looked at my calendar recently, I realized that Dick and I and several others from our church had planned to be in Germany right now! We were scheduled to go with the District Superintendent, Jim Powell and his wife Stephanie, and Methodists from all over the Southern California area on a trip to Oberammergau, Germany to see the Passion Play. This is a play that has been presented by the townspeople of this small village every ten years since 1634! The reason for such an endeavor – to commemorate “the plague” that struck this town and most of Europe in 1632.

As related in the book, *“The Passion Play, Living the Story of Christ’s Last Days”*, Europe had just endured the brutal Thirty Years War. One of the outcomes of the war was disease, especially one that was labeled “the plague”, probably the bubonic plague. It was very contagious and spread quickly, carried as people traveled home after the war. The disease had flu-like symptoms.

The town of Oberammergau decided to close its borders to all to prevent the spread. Anyone entering the village without permission would be locked up and quarantined for a period of time. But one man, who had been away fighting the war, was missing his family so much that he snuck back into town even though he “had a nagging headache and fever” as the story goes. His wife and children unknowingly contracted the disease and as they interacted with the people in the village they spread the disease. Eventually all his family died and the town realized their safeguards had failed.

By the summer of 1633 eight-four villagers of Oberammergau had died of the plague. The people of the town turned to God and held a prayer gathering before a crucifix (that still stands in the sanctuary of the parish church today). They asked God to spare them and their prayers were answered. No more deaths attributed to the plague occurred in Oberammergau! As part of their prayers the people made a vow to God that they would perform a passion play every ten years and so a tradition was born that has continued until now.

I can’t help but wonder what will be the result of the “plague” we are now enduring – Will people turn to God? Will we be more thoughtful of others?

The SLO County Food Bank newsletter recently had this statement:

“Think about the story you want to tell many years down the line when someone asks you, ‘What did you do during the Great Pandemic of 2020?’ then live that wonderful story today. These are defining times for us all. How people respond in this moment can be the story of a beautiful opportunity captured, a missed opportunity, or a stain. Continue to choose the beautiful opportunity!”

Stay well. Wear a mask. Wash your hands a ridiculous number of times every day, and then wash them again! Maintain your distance from those outside your household. If you feel ill or believe you’ve been exposed, get tested and self-isolate. Call a friend, read a book, play a game, go for a walk, say a prayer!



UMM IS NOT ALL FELLOWSHIP

The United Methodist Men have a long history in our church as a group that gathers together men in Christian fellowship. The emphasis on Christian beliefs and practices has been the keynote of the organization. The cabinet has always contained a chaplain to lead in prayer and read religious stories. This position has been filled well by Kent Unsworth over the past few years.

In addition to fellowship there is another side to the organization. For over 30 years the men have sponsored breakfast meetings and trips of general interest to the members. In the last few years, the group has sponsored trips to Vandenberg AFB, the Getty Museum, Hearst Castle, the sea lions at San Simeon, Camp San Luis, Hunter Leggett Army Base, Arroyo Grande Police Station, and the Melsheimer manufacturing plant.

Another side of the organization is raising money for other Church groups. Over the past 30 years the group has raised thousands of dollars for groups in our church that do not have an operating budget or are in need of special funds. Each year the UMM Cabinet disburses the balance of the UMM account to these needy organizations. The money comes from pancake breakfasts, BBQ's, taco buffets, and other fundraising events.

In the past few years, the group has opened up its activities to women of the Church and has had good participation in many events.

There are no membership fees for those participating in the UMM program. It is open to all men in the Church.

As in the total church program, the men's group has been severely curtailed by the current pandemic virus. But they are looking forward to a grand re-opening with a "Welcome Home BBQ", whenever the Church gets back in operation. Until that day – consider joining the UMM, an organization worthy of your participation.

*submitted by Val McClure
Vice-Chairman*



UMM ready to depart on one of their past bus trips



“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.”

Prior to the Pandemic, the UMW was planning to a Quilt Show! Well, as great hearts and minds come together, where there’s a will, there’s a way. Under current restrictions? Yes! What about a drive-by quilt show? Maybe the first, but then again there have been outdoor quilt shows done before. It’s something to think about. Let me know your thoughts?

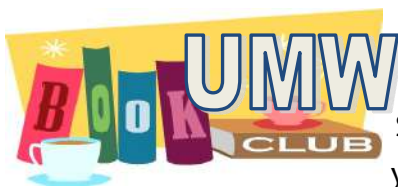
The news media constantly gives us updates on this number or that number. So, important, and yet, just numbers. Statistics abound. And yet, attach names and faces to the numbers, and we are touched and often overwhelmed. Prior to the pandemic there was already so much to think about. And it’s always been the mission and purpose of the UMW to keep important social and justice issues before the church, so that together we can have a great impact and make a positive difference in the world.

“To know God and experience freedoms as whole persons through Jesus Christ”. That’s our stated purposes and we strive to live toward that end. Yes! We need to protect the rights of all people, regardless of race, color, gender, and address the ways people are discriminated against, including wearing a mask.

With the Shutdown, we can’t see beyond the four walls (figuratively speaking) of our house. Of course there is the TV, which has now gained a bigger importance in our lives, not just as entertainment, but to keep us in the know.

**“Hear our prayer oh Lord.
Protect our rights, freedoms and our health.
How Great Thou Art, How Great Thou Art!”
Amen.**

submitted by Gerry McGuire



UMW August Book Club Selection: [The Honey Bus](#)

Since we won’t be meeting together anytime soon, Patti and I decided to offer you a book for your individual reading pleasure. In January I had ordered a kit of [The Honey Bus](#) selected by the San Luis Obispo Library System as their book of the year. It just arrived last week! This book will intrigue you with its wisdom about family difficulties and information about the art of beekeeping practiced by the author’s grandfather along the Big Sur Coast.

[The Honey Bus](#) by Meredith May is a memoir of a young woman who was literally saved by working with her grandfather and bees. You will learn as much about bees as you will about the power of love and forgiveness.

If you are interested, pick up a copy of the book in the church office. Please knock on the church office door before entering. Frances will sign out a book to you; you just need to return it to the church office by August 17th so I can return it as part of a kit. Enjoy!

submitted by Judy Leonard



PROGRAM MINISTRY

Wash your hands; use hand sanitizer, wear a face mask; social distancing is 6 feet apart.
We now know these guidelines by heart!

Using my sense of humor...

My hands are chapped, I have 5 different face masks, and my hand sanitizer has an orange fragrance.
I try to maintain social distancing and wear my mask but Bailey isn't going for it.

I miss you all and, once we are safe to venture out,
we will have plenty of fun things planned.

submitted by Sandy Underwood



Carolyn Russell reminds students that if you would like a weekly Sunday School lesson, go to Google Classroom. You use a Chrome browser and search for Google Classroom.

You can join our classroom with this code:

Google Classroom Code **fwvs5fk**

Hello!

I hope you are all being careful and healthy. I know we miss our church and Sunday school. Thankfully, we can learn from many different ways in our modern times, like the internet. We can read our Bibles.

Ms. Russell and Ms. Odom

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

From our Chair Yoga Instructor, Niccola Nelson –

“Let everyone know that I now have over 25 Chair Yoga Videos on my website! I also have been “live streaming” a class every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:45 until 8:30 a.m. I would love for you and your friends to join us! Let me know and I can give you information on how to practice “virtually” with me!

Until then, Namaste and I hope you are all doing well!

Visit my website and read the Yummy Yogini Blog at : www.niccolayoga.com

(Niccola's email address is niccolapiccola@hotmail.com if you would like to contact her directly.)

submitted by Patti Melsheimer



A message from Maddy Quaglino, Director of AGUMCC.

Many of you have been wondering what has been happening since the school closed March 18, 2020. The staff was on the premises through April 10, 2020, and all teachers were laid off.

Since April, Mary Thronson and I have attended meetings to learn about the new regulations created by the COVID 19 outbreak in our communities.

Together, we have completed a Plan of Action Application to Re-Open the Children Center through the California-Pacific Annual Conference and the Business Readiness to Re-Open Self Certification through the County of San Luis Obispo. All information used to develop Re-Opening Plans came from the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Community Care Licensing Department (CCLD) for the COVID 19 pandemic. With new guidelines and procedures in place, we have developed staff training and parent Orientation Information Packets. It is our goal that staff and families be well-informed, confident in our readiness to re-open and that we put everyone's safety first.

We have updated our school's technology, signing-up to use Childpilot which is an All-In-One cloud-based childcare management system. It will help us perform day-to-day administrative tasks more efficiently, enhance parent communication, provide online tuition payments and touch-free daily attendance tracking. Each classroom will have new ipads to use with the Childpilot software, to manage children's portfolios, and to offer hands on research and learning opportunities for the children.

We have spent many hours adding fresh paint to all classrooms, shelving, and benches. We have cleaned materials, tossed out old materials, and added black out curtains and valances where needed. The church Trustees have been busy building storage in the courtyard for use by the Children's Center.

I would like to give a special THANK YOU to Mary, Susan, and Bob Thronson, Bob Underwood, Joe Brown, Jim Alquist, Dave Bolterman, Dick Melsheimer, Stacy Inman, Pastor Mary, and Kassie Quaglino for the many hours of work they have offered the Children's Center. With everyone's help we have prepared and planned to create a safe environment for everyone when school is once again opened. We hope it will be very soon.

submitted by Maddy Quaglino

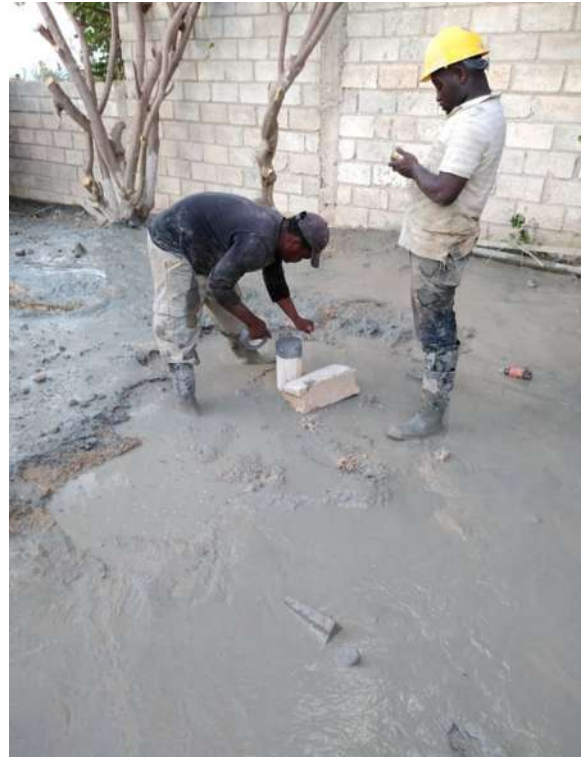


PHOTOGRAPIC JOURNEY OF THE WELL PUMP INSTALLATION IN HAITI

DRILLING THE WELL



FINISHING THE WELL



THE PUMP HAS BEEN INSTALLED



FILLING THE WATER JUGS



News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: August 2020

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

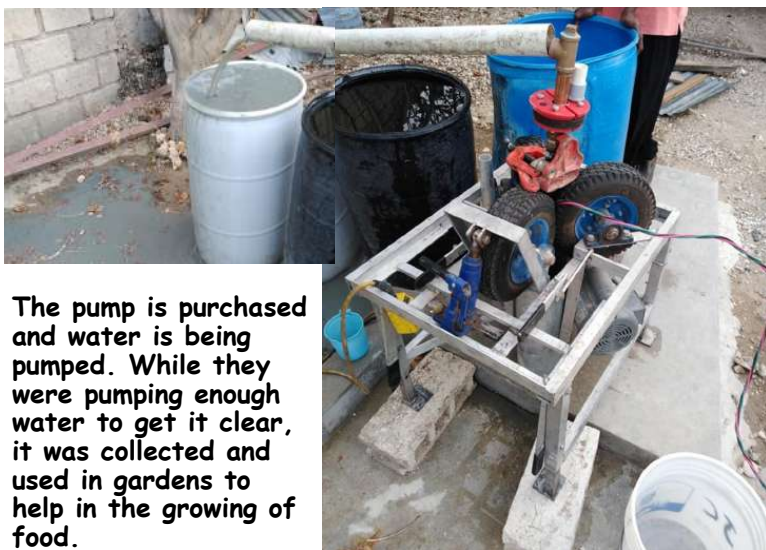
1. God's Steadfast Love...in Action
2. God's Love in Action in Arroyo Grande
3. Special Giving Totals for 2020

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

Because we are part of a connectional church we are able to learn the needs of others around the world and be in ministry with them in sharing God's love in their communities. This is the way our congregation has been able to bless a community in Haiti in sharing God's love.

Back in January, when there was a bit more sanity in our lives, we learned that their congregation had a goal to help their community have a safe water source. Working together they were able to drill a well and reach water. The issue was, how to get it pumped out and available for the 2,400 locals plus several hundred others who come from outlying areas to get water for their family needs.

This is where First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande connected with their essential needs, secured generous donations to provide for the purchase of a pump to get the water to the surface to be available for necessities. A big thank you to those of you who made this possible!



The pump is purchased and water is being pumped. While they were pumping enough water to get it clear, it was collected and used in gardens to help in the growing of food.

We can reflect on how blessed are we to have easy access to the water we need for food, bathing, gardens, etc. And, how many times a day we can turn on a faucet, knowing that we will be rewarded with safe and secure water.

2. GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION IN ARROYO GRANDE

Last month we put out a challenge to share God's Love in Action with our own preschool. I hope you have been thinking of creative ways to help raise funds for our preschool teachers to use for needed supplies for each child as they share God's Love in Action with the children who participate in their program. We are working on creative ways for you to do this. So watch your weekly letters for that information. Also, Joel, our acting treasurer, suggests you may do it the way you do your regular giving and mark it for school supplies for the preschool.

3. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2020

Your second mile giving will be caught up when we have the information.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						<p>1</p>  <p>Tina Moore Birthday</p>	
<p>2 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>Priscilla Alquist Birthday</p>  <p>Jacqueline Ridge Birthday</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>William Bauske Birthday</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Rosslyn Clauson Birthday</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Fern Farmer Birthday</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Patty Williams Birthday</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Nancy St. Laurent Birthday</p> 	
<p>9 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Gerry McGuire Birthday</p>  <p>Frank Ridge Birthday</p> 	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>John MacKeen Birthday</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Bill Gerrish Birthday</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bob Underwood Birthday</p> 	
<p>16 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Nancy Gerrish Birthday</p>  <p>Betty Stephens Birthday</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Nancy Burns Birthday</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Dorine Bolterman Birthday</p> 	
<p>23 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>Joe Brown Birthday</p>  <p>Frank Williams Birthday</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Cristy Van Hook Birthday</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Niki Raetz Birthday</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>Sharon Roemer Birthday</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Charles Burns Birthday</p>  <p>Peter Paredes Birthday</p> 	<p>29</p>	
<p>30 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>Cecile Huggins Birthday</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>Wyatt Russell Birthday</p> 						



Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net
Find us on Facebook at: United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

E-mail: revmaryb@fumcag.org

Missionary (retired): Judy Atwood

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

Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya

District Superintendent:

Rev. James Powell

AG UM Children's Center

Director: Madrigal Quagliano

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Office: (805) 481-2223



Layout Editor: Frances Robertson

Proofing Team: Rev. Mary Birgelaitis,

Priscilla Alquist, Judy Atwood,

David Beaman, Judy Leonard,

Patti Melsheimer.

Other contributors:

Varied Teams / Committees

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Still Prayin' in the Sanctuary of God's Grace

You are cordially invited to DROP IN! TUESDAYS

(anytime between 10:00 a.m. -12:00 Noon)

Sometimes there are only one or two all morning and sometimes several more. Nevertheless, the sanctuary is preserved as a place of prayer where you are remembered, the church is remembered and you can offer your prayers for friends, family and our world. So, come ahead!

A simple sign in, a signed waiver on hand, a quick temperature check is all it takes to claim a spot in the pews to pray. Judy Atwood or Mary Hawkins will be there to meet you and usher you in. Brad Bettencourt will be playing softly at the organ or a lovely pre-recorded set of music provided by Dennis Eiler will set the tone for your reflection and contemplation.

So, consider coming. God will bless your time in this Sanctuary of Love.

FLOWERS!**Always a good idea!!!**

Order them for yourself! Or if you're too allergic to have them in the house, or your feline friend or canine eats them, don't worry... honor or remember someone else with a floral tribute or memorial that we will place on the altar as we record our mini-worship service on Sunday, and then if you can't swing by we will get those beautiful flowers to you. Let us know if you would like to order. We can order as usual from the GRAND BOUQUET like we always do when we gather in person, or Brad Bettencourt (long-time florist himself who actually owned a flower shop for years) will arrange some pretty Trader Joe's flowers that we pick up on your behalf. Let us know if this is up your alley even "from a distance". Maybe everything will come up roses after all!

~ MBB



Tina Moore.....8/01
 Priscilla Alquist.....8/02
 Jacqueline Ridge.....8/02
 William Bauske.....8/03
 Rosslyn Clauson.....8/04
 Fern Farmer.....8/06
 Patty Williams.....8/07
 Nancy St. Laurent.....8/08
 Gerry McGuire.....8/10
 Frank Ridge.....8/10
 John MacKeen.....8/12
 Bill Gerrish.....8/13
 Robert Underwood.....8/15
 Nancy Gerrish.....8/17
 Betty Stephens.....8/17
 Nancy Burns.....8/20
 Dorine Bolterman.....8/22
 Joseph Brown.....8/23
 Frank Williams.....8/23
 Cristy Van Hook.....8/24
 Niki Raetz.....8/26
 Sharon Roemer.....8/27
 Charles Burns.....8/28
 Peter Paredes.....8/28
 Cecile Huggins.....8/30
 Wyatt Russell.....8/31



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!

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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

August



• IN THIS • ISSUE

COVER STORY:

ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOM

Treasurer's Report.....	2
"From Your Lay Leader".....	3
United Methodist Men.....	4
United Methodist Women & Book Club.....	5
Program Ministry, Sunday School, Chair Yoga.....	6
AGUM Children's Center Update.....	7
Haiti Well Pump Installation.....	8
Mission Team News.....	9
Calendar.....	10
Prayer Time, Flowers, Birthdays.....	11
5CCW Pantry Information.....	12

Thank You to all who have been bringing boxes of breakfast cereals and macaroni & cheese to the church office for The Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry. Your donations are greatly appreciated. We have been having between 30-40 participants each day at the Food Pantry in Grover Beach. We will still need the above items but if you would like to bring something different, rice and dried beans are always welcomed. You can bring these items to the church office, which is usually open between 9 AM and 2 PM Monday—Thursday. They will be delivered to the Pantry by church members who volunteer at the Pantry.



And if you have an **overabundance of items in your garden** or if your **fruit trees are weighed down**, those items can also be brought to the church office. If you are not able pick the fruit yourself, you can call the San Luis Obispo Food Coalition and they will send the "Gleaners" to pick it for you and deliver it to the Pantry.

Please contact the GleanSLO Program Coordinator, Emily Wilson, at ewilson@slofoodbank.org or (905) 235-1180 to arrange a glean.

submitted by Patti Melsheimer