



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande November 2020



Greetings!

Everyone wants to come back, or at least likes the “idea” of it! With sanitizers in place, temperature taking and “logging in” becoming familiar to staff and workers on the premises, cleaning protocols set to go, what are we waiting for?

We are waiting to finish covering the bases with proper ventilation wherever you might be congregating in order to safeguard your health on the premises. We are waiting for leaders to be ready and in place to shepherd people in and out of the sanctuary, prompt people to stay six feet apart, wear their masks, and make sure we’re meeting the goal to abide by the rules. Beyond safety protocols, we must be ready to sustain what we do going forward the moment we open because we don’t want to invite you in and renege on the promise that you will have a safe and lovely time here when you come. This means the staff has to be ready for double duty. Video production takes more time and energy than a service itself. When we re-open we will be doing both/and additional tasks that the new normal requires. Did you know we have to clean all the pews, wipe down every switchplate, doorknob, microphone, every time we come and go? Sounds like a little thing, but not so much! It all adds up and we must be ready. We are getting there. Pastors have been cautioned to take that last step carefully and prayerfully. The pastor gives the last go ahead.

RIGHT NOW our Bishop and Cabinet approve outside worship with singing. Inside we can’t sing at all, but can provide instrumental music and a shorter service. No pastor will be allowed to go on and on ad infinitum. That’s a big adjustment for clergy! I don’t know any UM congregation in our area re-opening before the end of the year, HOWEVER, let’s be about re-opening small groups and ministries NOW. Criswell is safe with card tables a little more than six feet apart. Let’s help you be face-to-face insofar as possible. It’s time for the most unusual holiday season ever. Give thanks as hope, joy and love continue to rise among us!

--- Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

NOVEMBER EVENTS

ALL SAINTS
DAY



November 1—All Saints’ Day

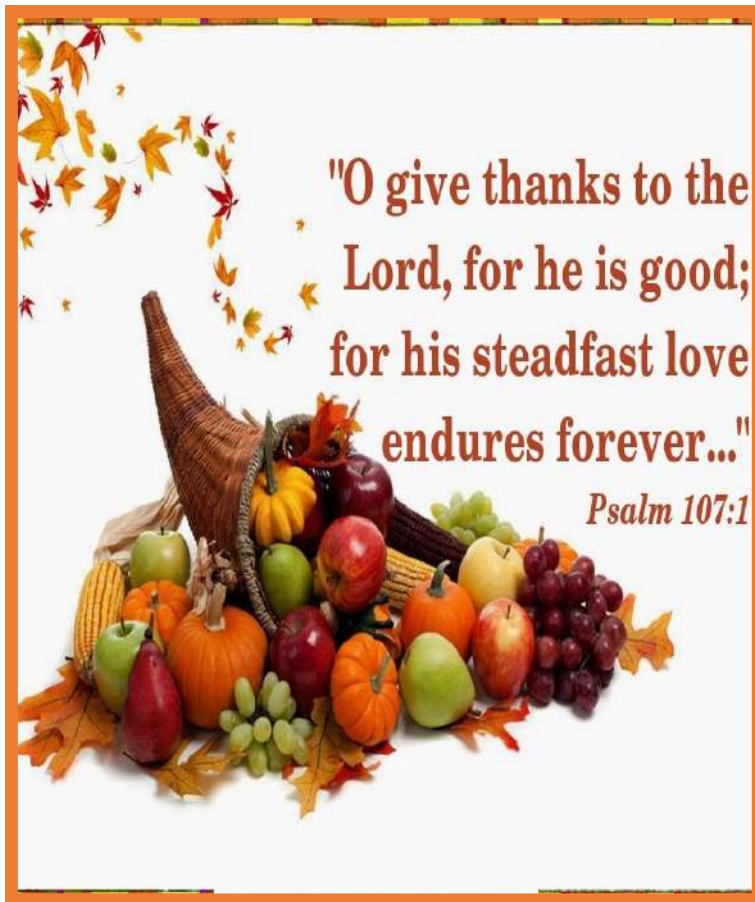


November 11—Veterans’ Day



November 26—Thanksgiving Day

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



TREASURER'S REPORT

A Note from the Treasurer

Please consider your Church when doing your year –End tax planning. You may gain significant tax advantage when required IRA distributions or appreciated stock are donated directly to a charity. Please consult your tax advisor for details.

Donations to our church may be made to the General Fund or one of the Endowment funds. Endowments are gifts that keep on giving, year after year. Thank you.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer



SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER TUESDAYS

between 10:00 a.m. and 1-2:00 Noon

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 often be playing softly at the organ to set the tone for reflection and contemplation.

Sometimes there are only one or two people present and other times more. Nevertheless, the sanctuary is a place of prayer in which you can offer your prayers for friends, family and our world. So, you are invited to come in.

*FROM YOUR LAY LEADER**Patti Melsheimer*

Gratitude

“Gratitude changes everything. A grateful heart makes all things new. I give thanks in all things knowing my good comes from You. I am grateful for each new day of life. I am grateful that I can sing. I am grateful for friends and family, for every living thing. I am grateful for the kiss of the wind on my cheek, for the sunlight on my face. I am grateful to know how it feels to be loved and for God’s amazing grace. I give thanks. I am changed. I give thanks.” This is a favorite anthem our choir has sung several times!

But the question today is “**What are we grateful for during COVID-19?**”

In many places around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic means perpetually living under the gun. When we walk out of our doors, we can’t let our guard down. Even grocery shopping can feel fraught with danger. Moreover, many people fear for their jobs and future. This has also been a period of intense political conflict in the United States and of fires up and down the West Coast. Seeing threats everywhere triggers stress and anxiety. Threatening or just mundane pandemic conditions do not make fertile ground for gratitude. But giving thanks is a tool we can use in both of these circumstances. When we give thanks for everyday things, we make them visible again. When we’re able to do that, numerous studies suggest, we give our happiness a little boost and train our brains to see the good, amid so much bad.

It’s easy to feel grateful when life is good, says Robert Emmons, a leading expert on gratitude. But when disaster strikes, gratitude is especially worth the effort. A decade’s worth of research on gratitude has shown me that when life is going well, gratitude allows us to celebrate and magnify the goodness. But what about when life goes badly? My response is that not only will a grateful attitude help, it is *essential*. It is precisely under crisis conditions that we have the most to gain by a grateful perspective on life. In the face of demoralization, gratitude has power to re-energize. In the face of brokenness, gratitude has power to heal. In the face of despair, gratitude has power to bring hope. In other words, gratitude can help us cope with hard times.

It is vital to make a distinction between *feeling* grateful and *being* grateful. We don’t have total control over emotions. We cannot easily will ourselves to feel grateful. Being grateful is a choice, a prevailing attitude that endures and is relatively immune to the gains and losses that flow in and out of our lives. When disaster strikes, gratitude provides perspective from which we can view life in its entirety and not be overwhelmed by temporary circumstances. Yes, perspective is hard to achieve—but my research says it is worth the effort. Crisis can make us more grateful, but research says gratitude also helps us cope with crisis. Consciously cultivating an attitude of gratitude builds up a psychological immune system that can cushion us when we fall.

Excerpted from a Greater Good essay, “Why Gratitude is Good” by Robert Emmons.





METHODIST MEN PLANNING GREAT FUTURE

The United Methodist Men’s group is alive and well and some great future events. Still in the making are the pancake breakfasts, breakfast meetings with speakers, BBQ,s and adventure trips .

Like all church members, the UMM’s group is eager to see our beloved Church re-open and to fellowship together.

All men in the church are part of UMM. There are no fees to participate and monthly activities are

listed in the church bulletin and the Castanet. Monies raised by the group are distributed at the end of the year to Church organizations are not part of the regular church budget.

UMM officers are: Paul Holden, Chairman; Val McClure, Vice Chairman; Bud Johnson, Treasurer; Bob McGuire, Secretary; Kent Unsworth, chaplain.

*Submitted by Val McClure,
Vice Chairman*



Barbara’s Grape Harvest quilt



Anne’s Nutcracker quilt



Gerry’s Cabin in the Stars quilt



Shirley’s
Patriotic
Quilt



Mary’s
Aquatic
Win-
dows
Quilt



“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.”

Our UMW Outdoor Quilt Show on Sunday, October 18th was an overwhelming success. We all enjoyed putting it on, the quilts were beautiful and many in our congregation came out to view the quilts, and were able to greet each other in a socially acceptable experience.

Thank you to all the wonderful helpers that so diligently worked in just four hours to hang 67 beautiful quilts. Special thanks go to the Alquists, Werlings, Hawkins, Thronsons, Holdens, Sandy Underwood, Gerry McGuire, Susan Thronson, Barbara Reineke, and Judy Atwood.

Those attending the show were invited to vote their choices for the prize winning quilts. Most favorite was a tie between Sandy Underwood’s “Grape Clusters” and Gerry McGuire’s “Symphony”. Most

Fun was Mary Thronson’s “Aquatic Windows”. Most Favorite Vintage Quilt was Helen Gugeler’s “1930’s Dresden Plate”. Best Holiday Quilt was Anne Holden’s “Nutcracker”. Margaret Coombs tied with herself for Most Colorful with her quilts “Pineapple” and “Flower Fantasia”.

We also were successful in fundraising with our boutique sale and silent auction along with your generous donations.

It was a great event. Hopefully we will find more activities that are COVID acceptable in the future. We thank God that we are a healthy congregation.

submitted by Gerry McGuire

Note from the editor: Please enjoy the quilt photos which are thanks to Priscilla Alquist, Gerry McGuire and Susan Thronson.



Boutique & Silent Auction

QUILTS EVERYWHERE!



Bob and “Hapi” view quilts





We GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR DONATION OF PVC materials.

THE TABLE DIVIDERS ALLOWED more CHILDREN TO use TABLES IN our CLASSROOM.



Arroyo Grande

United Methodist Children's Center

Thank You to Arroyo Grande True Value Garden Center





From the Editor: This week's message to her students from Carolyn Russell, our Sunday School Teacher, is a lesson about God's forgiveness and love. A message for all of us.

This week's lesson is about Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Esau. It is about bad behavior and God still loving them. Even when we experience God's grace, bad behavior often has consequences we can't anticipate.

Wouldn't it be sad to never get a second chance? God always loves us. God gives us many chances to change our behavior. God forgives us. God

wants us to forgive, as well. God has a plan for you, just as God had a plan for Rebekah and Isaac's children, Jacob and Esau. Always remember, God loves everyone.

There are plans for kids to go back to school. Please be patient during this time. Your teachers and school staff are working hard to make it happen. We all need to be safe. Remember that God is with us. We have to do our part to follow directions and keep everyone safe. Keep wearing your masks, washing your hands and keeping distance between people to make sure the virus doesn't spread. We will hopefully see you soon.

Love,
Ms. Russell

North District Covenant Prayer List
from District Superintendent, Rev. James Powell

"Pray for the continued mission of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Prayer Date	Church/Ministry	Pastor(s)
November 1	Arroyo Grande First UMC	Pastor Mary Birgelaitis
November 1	Isla Vista: University UMC	Pastor Frank Schaefer
November 8	Reseda First UMW	Pastor Tonya Harris
November 15	Ridgecrest UMC	Pastor Wesley Elmore
November 15	Santa Clarita Korean Mission	Pastor Sang Hun Park
November 22	Inyokern: Community UMC	Church Leaders, Members & Ministry Partners
November 22	Valencia UMC	Pastor Nicole Reilley & Pastor Michelle Andrews
November 29	Malibu UMC	Pastor Erin Stenberg
November 29	West Hills: Canoga Park First UMC	Pastor Lynn Westover



The Angel Tree

We will be receiving gift tags from the Department of Social Services for the Angel Tree again this year. The Angel Tree will be set up on Tuesday, November 24th, in the narthex at Prayer Time from 10:00 am to noon. The tags can be picked up on Tuesdays from 10:00 am to noon and returned on Tuesdays during Prayer Time. You may also drop your gifts at the church office after contacting the church secretary, Frances Robertson.

There will be duplicate tags; one, the original, is for you to take and purchase a gift and return attached to the gift. Please sign your name on the duplicate tag and leave it on the tree. The duplicate tag is used in case your original tag is lost, and it also helps me to contact persons who may have not returned their gift.

The Angel Tree gifts are for foster children and other children in need in San Luis Obispo County. The children's names are provided by Social Workers and Eligibility Staff from the SLO Dept. of Social Services.



Thank you all again for your generous giving spirit to help these children in need, especially at Christmas! Your gifts do make a difference in these children's lives.

If you have questions you may contact me; my phone number is in the church directory.

The Lord's Blessings to you all.

submitted by Jan Treat



PROGRAM MINISTRY

Greetings church family,

I hope you had a chance to social distance attend the UMW quilt show!

It was truly awesome to see many church family members!

Bailey and I are camping still. I'm sewing and in the studio making Christmas gifts.

Stay well and safe!

Hugs, Sandy

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: November 2020
 Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. God's Steadfast Love...in Action
2. God's Love in Action in Arroyo Grande

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

On April 6, 2019 a fire partially destroyed United Methodist Hartzell High School. The school, located at Old Mutare Mission, not far from Africa University, has alumni in many different parts of the world. The Hartzell Old Student Association set their sights on restocking the library, which lost an estimated 40,000 books. The school librarian since 1984, said millions of dollars' worth of books went up in flames in a matter of minutes. The Association started a "Buy a Book" crowdfunding campaign to raise money for the purchase of fiction and nonfiction books, textbooks and computers.

To donate to the campaign, visit the group's Go Fund Me Page. (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/hartzell-high-school-buy-a-book/share>.)

Many objectives were to raise money to buy textbooks and ensure the that school has adequate books and learning materials and to also equip the library with six desktop computers to access the internet. The headmaster at Hartzell High School said the shortage of books has caused many challenges for students. The shortage of books was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic protocols, which discouraged students from sharing books.

2. GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION IN ARROYO GRANDE

You did it...a successful food drive through on Sunday, October 25th!

We had two vehicle loads of food to take over to the 5Cities Christian Women's Pantry on Monday morning. Thanks to Rob Isakson and Josh Isakson for helping to make this happen. Also thanks to Robin Isakson, Rob Isakson and Gerry McGuire for being greeters. Twenty-five families dropped off items and/or \$ to support the hungry people! See Photos by Rob Isakson.

Shirley & Glen's car

Helped by Robin and Gerry



Roger inside his Car



Robin & Lorie


















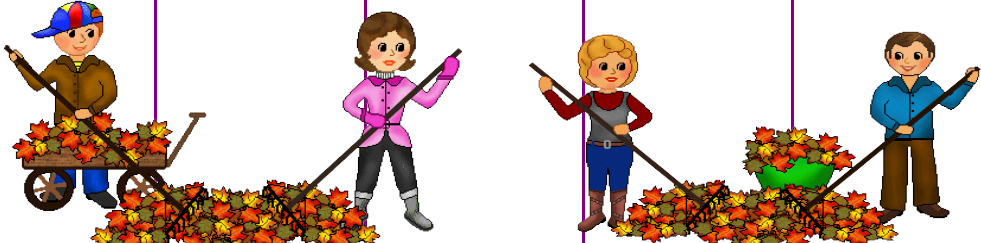
Judy, Leona & Gerry



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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November

<p>1</p> <p>22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Joy Collins Birthday</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Bill Cross Birthday</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Judy Woodbridge Birthday</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Bonnie Swafford Birthday</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</p>	<p>16</p> <p>RoseMary MacKeen Birthday</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Carol Ferrari Birthday</p> 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Lynn Foster Birthday</p> <p>Helen Gugeler Birthday</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY</p>  <p>Marcia Sommermeyer Birthday</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Christina Cuddy Birthday</p>  <p>Victoria Harrington Birthday</p> <p>Adrian Paredes Birthday</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Jessica Williams Birthday</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>David Burgeson Birthday</p>  <p>Mike Albertson Birthday</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Larry Wiemers Birthday</p> 
<p>29</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>  <p>Del Hollinger Birthday</p>	<p>30</p>					



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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

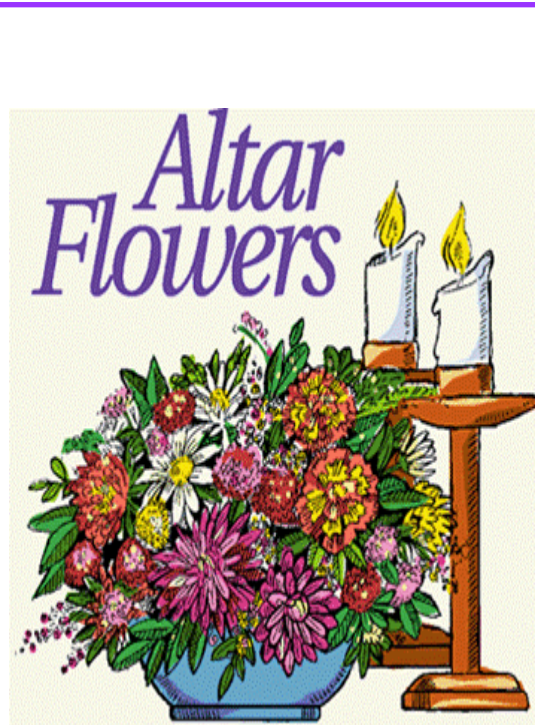
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PLEASE NOTE:

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



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR VIDEO WORSHIP?

Order flowers to honor or remember someone special. Your floral tribute will be placed 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.

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 to be used in the video.

Contact the office if you would like to do this.



- Joy Collins.....11/02
- Bill Cross.....11/05
- Judy Woodbridge.....11/09
- Bonnie Swafford.....11/13
- RoseMary MacKeen.....11/16
- Carol Ferrari.....11/18
- Lynn Foster.....11/21
- Helen Gugeler.....11/21
- Marcia Sommermeyer.....11/22
- Christina Cuddy.....11/23
- Victoria Harrington.....11/23
- Adrian Paredes.....11/23
- Jessica Williams.....11/25
- Mike Albertson.....11/26
- David Burgeson.....11/26
- Larry Wiemers.....11/28
- Del Hollinger.....11/29



Have we missed **your** birthday? If so, it is not listed on our data base. Please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birthdate 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

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www.facebook.com/fumcag



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Children's Center Chronicle insert



November 1, 2020 Daylight Saving Time Ends

When local daylight savings reaches Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, at **2:00 am**, clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour to Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020, **1:00 am**, local standard time instead.