



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

MARCH 2021

OUR FAVORITE WORSHIP MUSIC

Sunday March 21
at
11:00 a.m. in the Parking Lot!
You are Invited!

Bring your own chairs. Wear masks.
Socially distance - Families may sit together. Singing allowed.

The Video Worship Team invites you to the parking lot on Sunday, March 21st for a little in-person music. Yes, that's right. There will be a few hymns, some contemporary music and you can sing under your mask! Disposable Song sheets with words will be available in Cowboy Church fashion.

Seating for this gathering will be the parking lot on the Children's Center side of the premises. The stage will be outside the doors leading to the McMillan Room and the Children's Center. Please bring your own chair if possible. We may have some available but if you have a chair you take to concerts in the park or camping bring it along. Seating will be socially-distanced and all will be well as we follow important protocols to keep one another in safety as we meet.

This is our first get-together as we do the work to be ready to move inside.


Our worship team is stretched thin. Guidelines for worship are changing rapidly, from the state, county and the Bishop. We need your help and prayers. Read the weekly letters and check our website for announcements concerning in-Holy Week activities and worship.

Rev. Mary Biegelaitis



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

EASTER AND HOLY WEEK



We are in the midst of yet another unusual Lenten Experience. March begins with some of the uncertainty we have experienced all year long, yet things are beginning to take shape in promising ways. We are ready to begin easing onto the premises and into the sanctuary in weeks ahead.

Be sure to take note of the MUSIC gathering on Sunday, March 21st at 11:00 a.m. listed on the front page and stay tuned for information regarding Holy Week and Easter. We will not be in the sanctuary for Easter, yet videos continue strong and there will be an Ecumenical Good Friday Service either in person at St. Patrick's Catholic Church or virtually. Information will come to you via the weekly letter and/or videos.

Rev. Mary Bingleatis



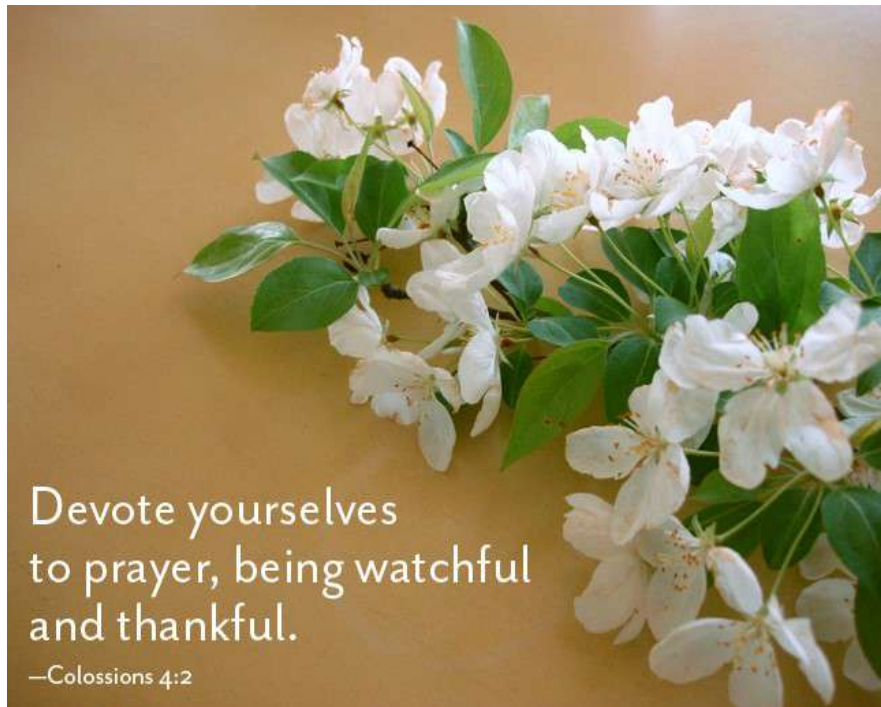
California-Pacific Conference
The United Methodist Church

North District Weekly Covenant Prayer List March 7 -- 28, 2021

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)
March 7, 2021	Palmdale First UMC	Pastor Jim White & Pastor Jon Gentry
March 7, 2021	Granada Hills: Knollwood UMC	Pastor Kalesita Tu'ifua
March 14, 2021	Montrose: Crescenta Valley UMC	Pastor Paul Tangonan
	Eastern Sierra Cooperative Parish:	
March 14, 2021	Bishop First UMC, Big Pine: Community UMC, Independence: Pioneer Memorial UMC	Pastor Anna Crews Camphouse & Pastor David Camphouse
March 21, 2021	South Pasadena: Chinese Mission	Pastor Timothy Ting
March 28, 2021	North District Office	Pastor Jim Powell, Pastor Mary Dennis, staff and leaders
March 28, 2021	Cal-Pac Conference	Bishop Hagiya, staff and conference leaders
March 28, 2021	Camarillo UMC	Pastor Elbert Kim



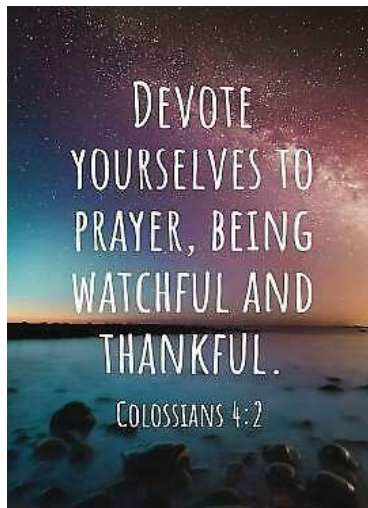
**TUESDAY IS
PRAYER TIME
IN THE
SANCTUARY**

You are invited come into the sanctuary on Tuesdays between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon to offer prayers for friends, family and our world.

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 pray in your familiar church environment.



**SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER
TUESDAYS**
Between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon



A simple sign in, a signed waiver on hand, a quick temperature check is all it takes to enter. 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.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE
OUTREACH MNISTRY TIME AGAIN

We are collecting food again for the Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry . You are invited to bring staples to the church on **March 14th** as you come to the **UMW St. Patrick's Day Drive Through**. That day is set aside for the Baked Potato Fundraiser in conjunction with the Food Drive Through and Drop Off (information about the fundraiser in the UMW report on the next page)

If you are unable to come that day and want to donate food for others, you may bring it to the Church office the week of **March 15th to 18th** between 9 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. You can ask for a pick up if that is easier for you. Cash donations may be made to the Five Cities Christian Women.



Mark your calendar now and plan to participate in both of these opportunities. We will greet you at the Drive Thru, collect your staple food donations and send you off with a great baked potato with toppings.

**I WAS HUNGRY AND
YOU GAVE ME FOOD**



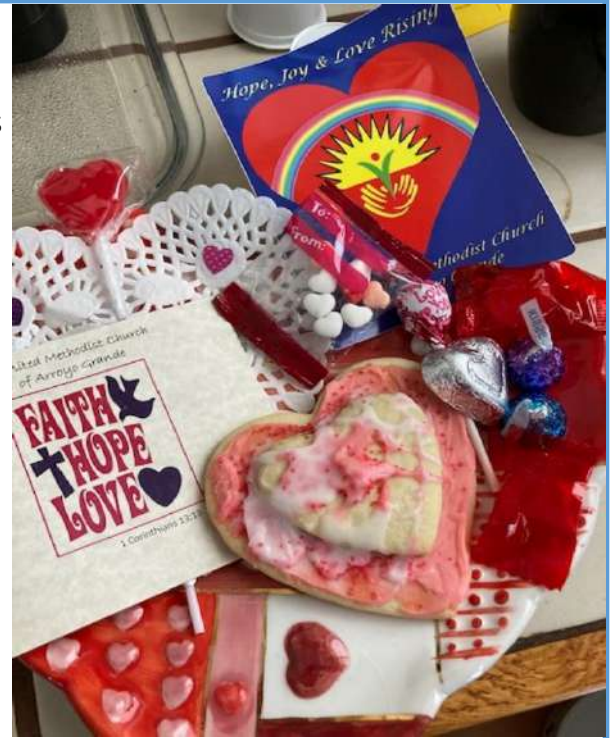
**Let's Help
Stock the
Pantry
With Food!**





“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.”

Thank you to all who came to the UMW Valentine’s Day Drive Thru! It was a great opportunity to connect with others and to drive by our place of worship. Thank you also to all those who baked cookies and scones, made cards, shopped, packaged and passed out the goody bags.



Dear Wonderful UMW,

Thank you again for another special drive through. What a sweet sweet way you share with our Congregation.

The cookies and scones, candy, Faith, Hope & Love Valentines Day card The package you shared with us ... So very nice! God Bless You.

Love in Christ, Connie and Mike Clark

The beautiful photo and note from Connie and Mike were received by email at the Church office.



March is the month for St. Patrick’s Day!



Sunday, March 14
10 a.m. to noon
Drive thru church parking lot

BAKED POTATO FUNDRAISER

With all the fixings, including chili, cheese, sour cream and chives, the cost is \$7.00 each, with advance order.

You can pick them up hot between 10 a.m. and noon on **Sunday, March 14** as you drive through the church parking lot. Please place

advance orders by March 9 with the Church office or on Tuesdays at Prayer Time, 10 a.m. to noon, with either Mary Hawkins or Judy Atwood.



UMW will be combining the Baked Potato Fundraiser with a food drop off for the 5Cities Christian Women Food Pantry. Check out the details on the previous page for more information.



You can purchase a baked potato lunch and donate food for someone else to have meals!



“Be devoted to one another in brotherly (sisterly) love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:10.

Wear your masks and social distance.

submitted by Gerry McGuire



From the editor: The January 3rd message to her students from Carolyn Russell, our Sunday School Teacher, tells of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34 about the problem of worry. This is a message for all of us.

Hello,

Sometimes we worry. Life is full of reasons to worry. There may be people in your life who are ill. There may not be much money. You may have trouble understanding something in school. This list can go on and on.

Jesus' words in today's Bible passage speak to the problem of worry. The passage is found in Matthew 6:25-34. The crowd of people were gathered to listen to Jesus. Jesus talked about the riches here on earth, and that they would not last forever. Jesus talked about the riches that all would find in heaven. Jesus pointed out that the birds were always provided for. They always had food. Who takes care of them? God. Do birds worry? No. God takes care of them. God also takes care of us. We must rely on God in our times of need and know that God will help us.



What do these words mean for your own life? You might worry about things in your own family. When your worries become great, sometimes you need to think of all the big people in your life who are looking out for you. Jesus let us know that God is always looking out for us, even when we think he is not. Even when things feel weird or scary, God is here. We give our worries to him and do our part to help one another.

Soon you will be going back to school! How exciting. Remember that God will be with you. We must follow the rules by wearing masks and keeping our distance still. This is doing our part. God will be with us. Happy learning to you! God is always there for us.

Love,
Ms. Russell



ELT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FALL, 2021



Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications are available on-line (www.worshipweekly.com) and in the church office beginning in March. The purpose of this scholarship is to help deserving United Methodist students enrolled in accredited universities, college, 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. Graduating high school seniors must include letters of recommendation as well as a high school transcript with their completed applications. Returning college students will need to provide a college transcript but are not required to submit letters of recommendation. Students may apply for this scholarship more than once as long as they have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work.

The completed application with required attachments must be turned in to the church office by May 15th. Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship recipients will be announced in early June. Scholarship checks will be given to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2021 college classes.

So, if you would like to be considered for an ELT Scholarship, please submit a completed application by May 15th.

submitted by Judy Leonard



FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Patti Melsheimer

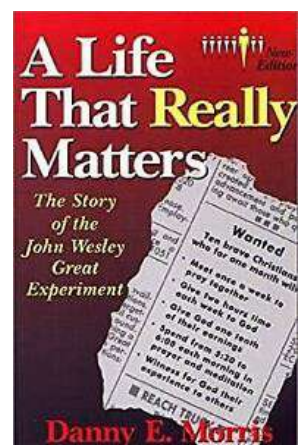
“A Life That Really Matters”

As I mentioned last month, I have been cleaning bookshelves and discovering many “treasures” that I didn’t know were still around! I have just discovered a book entitled, “A Life That Really Matters” by Methodist Pastor Danny E. Morris. It was written, I believe, in 1968! That seems to be a very long time ago! It is still quite relevant today. It is the story of a new Methodist church, the John Wesley United Methodist Church in Tallahassee, Florida. Danny Morris was their founding pastor. They began in 1960 with a charter membership of 144. When the book was written the membership had grown to 440!

In 1965 Sam Teague, the teacher of the Young Adult Sunday School class, was struggling with how to challenge the young adults so that they could “have a life that really matters.” With inspiration from God, he began writing a program, which he titled, “The Ten Brave Christians”. The program, which he sometimes called “The Great Experiment”, was patterned after John Wesley’s early Methodist Societies. Morris relates that “225 years ago John Wesley discovered the genius of small groups meeting together regularly to pray, to study the Scriptures, and to witness. John Wesley found that a spiritual discipline helped prepare people to experience God’s presence.”

The program developed by Teague and a colleague was titled, “The John Wesley Great Experiment!”. Teague wrote - Wanted: Ten Brave Christians who for one month

- Will meet once each week to pray together
- Will give two hours time each week to our church (self-surrender).
- Will give God 1/10 of earnings during this month (self sacrifice).
- Will spend 5:30 – 6:00 each morning in prayer and meditation (self-control)
- Will witness for God their experience to others.



He presented the program to his class and waited for a response. For most it took a lot of thinking and pondering before decisions were made. “They began to think seriously about this concept that perhaps the purpose of life is not necessarily to be happy, but to build a life that matters. They began to ask the question, “How do I build such a life?” Needless to say the Great Experiment was a success. As time went on, more and more joined in the program. The church grew and has done much good in the community and the lives of many were changed.

I wonder how this program would work in today’s world. Would we be able to perform these disciplines? What would happen to our church and our world if we tried such a program?

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: March 2021
Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

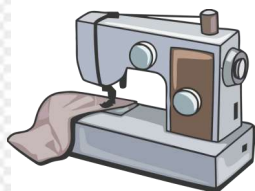
As we begin our Lenten journey, there are some people who give up something that is a "favorite" and a challenge to give up. I choose to add a discipline that is a challenge in a different way.

This year, I am challenging myself and others to help out with a new ministry in Haiti. Remember when we helped buy a pump for a new well for a community in need of safe water? The church and community were appreciative of our support.

A dream of Enickson, who is the pastor of that same small church, is hoping to begin a Sewing Ministry for students who have no funds to be able to further their education at a college or university. The idea is to provide a Sewing Ministry to teach students a skill that can be a marketing tool for them in order to support themselves as they go forward in life. He is hoping for these students to find success.

They have a goal to begin with 15 students as the funds are raised to start the program. To raise the funds for each student, it will take \$238.

A class of 15 students would be a total of \$3,570. This is certainly cheaper than it would be to help 15 students to gain a skill here in Arroyo Grande. Costs: Sewing Machine 150.00, Table 50.00, Scissors 5.00, Metric Ruler 12.00, Material 15.00, and Thread 6.00.



If you are interested in participating in this challenge let me know and we can help make that happen. Checks can be sent to the Church marked Sewing Ministry.

A second challenge, I am making is to support UMCOR as they respond to the disasters across the country with the weather events. We are blessed to live in a mild climate and want to help in many areas which are not anymore prepared than we are here on the central coast. We would like to help them.

Again checks can be sent to the church marked for UMCOR.

So, my challenge to myself, and others who wish to join me, is what challenges are you and I willing to take to help make a change for someone else?



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

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	 <p>Carina Avila Birthday</p>	3	4	5	6
<p>7 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</p>  <p>Lucy Jacob Birthday</p>	8	9	 <p>Christine Clark Birthday</p>	 <p>Carolyn Eaton Anderson Birthday</p>	12	 <p>Set clocks ahead one hour Sunday, March 14th at 2:00 AM</p>
<p>14 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>UMW Baked Potato Drive Thru & Food Pantry Drop Off 10am-Noon</p>	 <p>Art Gary Birthday</p>	16	 <p>Happy Saint Patrick's Day</p>	18	19	 <p>Toni Harvey Birthday</p>
<p>21 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>28 PASSION/PALM SUNDAY</p> 	<p>29 Monday of Holy Week</p>	<p>30 Tuesday of Holy Week</p>  <p>Chuck Ashton Birthday</p>	<p>31 Wednesday of Holy Week</p>	<p>Ecumenical Good Friday/ St. Patrick's</p> <p>APRIL 1 HOLY THURSDAY</p>	<p>APRIL 2 GOOD FRIDAY</p>	<p>APRIL 3 HOLY SATURDAY</p>

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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E-mail: mbirgelaitis@gmail.com

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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

Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz

Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya

District Superintendent:

Rev. James Powell

AG UM Children's Center

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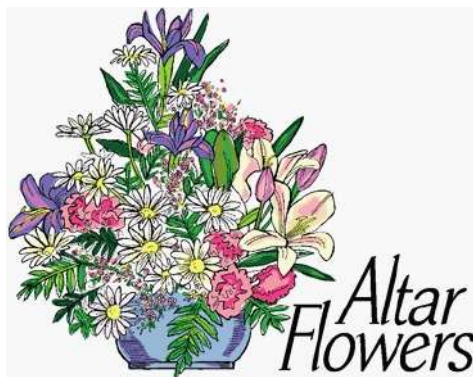
Other contributors:

Varied Teams / Committees

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?



You are invited to 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, if you can't swing by to pick them up, 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.

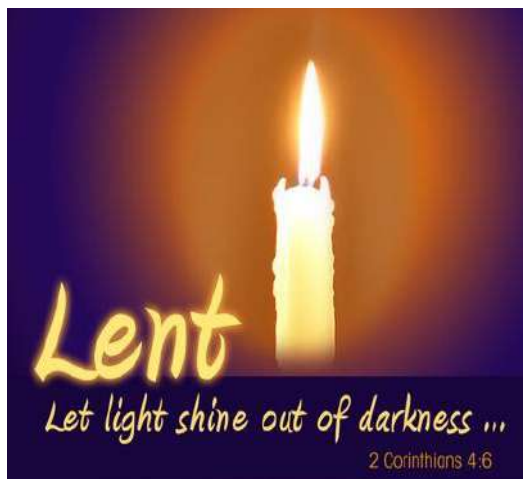
Please contact Frances in the Church Office who is the liaison with the Worship Team to make these plans.



Carina Avila	03/02
Lucy Jacob	03/07
Christy Clarke	03/10
Carolyn E. Anderson	03/11
Art Gary	03/15
Toni Harvey	03/20
Chuck Ashton	03/30



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

March
2021

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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

• IN THIS • ISSUE

COVER STORY:

Message from Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Holy Week & Easter, Covenant Prayers.....	2
Prayer Time.....	3
Lenten Food Drive.....	4
United Methodist Women.....	5
Sunday School,	6
ELT Scholarships.....	7
From Your Lay Leader.....	8
Mission Team News.....	9
Calendar.....	10
Altar Flowers, Birthdays.....	11
The Season of Lent.....	12



The Season of Lent