



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

JULY 2021

**First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
Sunday School presents**

FIREWORKS of the HEART PARTY!



**Blast off the new Sunday school year with a
welcome back party!**

The star-spangled celebration happens:

Sunday, July 4th, 2021

10:30 AM

First Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Bring a friend and celebrate the Joy of Jesus.

Food, fun, crafts, worship and friendship!

We hope to see you there!

If you would like to help, contact Carolyn Russell

From our Pastor

A Cautionary Concern: Ask Before You Hug!

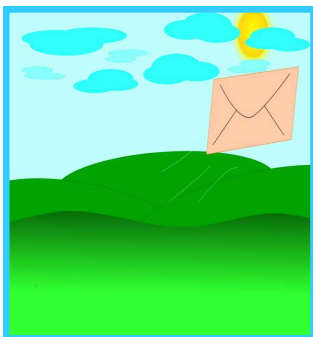
In the 1980's clergy went through training. Then and there it was about protecting people from potential harassment and pastors from being perceived as crossing the line with parishioners.

"Ask before you hug" was the summary snippet I remember from that workshop long ago.

Now I bring it back to you in a new setting and context:

ASK BEFORE YOU HUG

Vaccinations are here, spirits are lighter, and everyone wants to be well. Let's help each other. Because of my role, many contacts and the situation we are coming through, I choose not to hug on Sunday morning because I choose not to risk passing colds and such along to all your friends, and the most vulnerable in my family and our church family. I want to be able to visit them feeling good and safe about what I bring to them and to you. Pastors frequent places visiting the most vulnerable among us. So, please adopt the practice and "ask before you hug", and honor the "No" you might get from many at this time and place in our shared journey. My own sisters waited months to hug their own sons and daughters who live across the country. Hugging 's back, and that's good, but, unless you have no doubt, ask first!



The last weekly letter went out this week. By the way, it was Letter #70. Now that we are letting the weekly letters go, we encourage you to take note of upcoming events here in the Cast-a-net and to pay special attention to the little reminders in our Sunday morning bulletins. We are shifting gears again! We will do our best to keep you well-informed, so you won't miss the details of anything you'd like to be a part of going forward. Worship plans are in-the-making for July and August. See you in church!

Rev. Mary Biegelakis



JULY LITURGISTS



JULY 4

8:30 a.m. — Joseph Brown

10:30 a.m. — David Beaman

JULY 11

8:30 a.m. — Lucy Jacob

10:30 a.m. — Judy Leonard

JULY 18

8:30 a.m. — David Beard

10:30 a.m. — BG Perriguey

JULY 25

8:30 a.m. — Ian Beard

10:30 a.m. — Judy Atwood

SEEKING USHERS

We are in need of additional ushers for both first and second services. This is an important part of our weekly worship service. It is a great way to say “hello” to fellow church members and welcome visitors to our congregation. The schedule can be flexible or routine, based on your availability.

Please contact Kerren Brown (info in church directory)



North District Weekly Covenant Prayer List July 4—July 25, 2021

*“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
July 4, 2021	Santa Barbara: St. Mark UMC	Pastor Cindy Huskey
July 4, 2021	Camarillo Korean UMC	Pastor Sang Yung Lee
July 11, 2021	Santa Maria First UMC	Pastor Bob Isip
July 11, 2021	Los Osos: Trinity UMC	Pastor Gilbert Stones
July 18, 2021	San Luis Obispo UMC	Pastor Mark Sturgess
July 18, 2021	Altadena UMC	Pastor Andre Wilson
July 25, 2021	Oxnard Korean UMC	Pastor Chae Hon Nam
July 25, 2021	Arroyo Grande First UMC	Pastor Mary Birgelaitis



METHODIST MEN (UMM) PULL OFF A FATHER'S DAY BBQ !

The UMM of Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church pulled off a remarkable BBQ, thanks to the dedication and hard work of a number of men. The Pit Crew included David Bolterman, Mike Johnson, Dick Melsheimer and Bob Underwood. The Kitchen Crew included Val McClure, Paul Holden, and Jim Alquist. Secretary Bob McGuire handled all ticket sales including pre-sales and reported an income of \$800 from sales. Something new this year was the "Combo Plate" which included both chicken and beef. It seemed to be well received from the participants. Another plus was the furnishing of the cake dessert by the UMW. The arrangements were made through Gerry McGuire and Mary Hawkins.

The purpose of the fund raiser is to have money on hand to help many of the Church organizations that do not have a regular budget. As an example the UMM gave \$400 to the Pre-School call for finances.

Funds also help to pay for the expenses of many of the Adventure Trips, Speaker Meetings and other related activities of the UMM. The fellowship of the UMM is of the highest priority with the men's group. President is Paul Holden, Vice President is Val McClure, Secretary is Bob McGuire and Chaplin is Kent Unsworth.

submitted by Val McClure

Shown here on duty for Father's Day are Mike Johnson, Dave Bolterman, Paul Holden and Bob Underwood.

Photos by Val McClure





“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.”

By the time you get this newsletter the 4th of July will be here. Gee, not only will we be celebrating the independence of our country, but also our independence from the restrictions of the COVID Quarantine experience. It is definitely exhilarating to be on this side of the Pandemic. Some of us have a bit of a time making the transition from no masks to “sometimes”. Check the instructions upon entering establishments. Then there is social distancing and hugging (is it okay if someone has not

been vaccinated?) Can we invite people over to our home? Now we need to start cleaning the house if you took a rest from that. It is just being in a different mode of operation. Actually, we need to learn how to get out and join the world again. Our Church is the place to start of course, we have Sunday Services and then there are so many activities scheduled by UMW, UMM, and the Program Ministry.

Don't forget about the UMW circle and group meetings. Be involved in your church and make it part of your life.

We have come up with some amazing events to put on your calendar and to look forward to:

July 4th — Picnic in the Courtyard with hot dogs, salads and apple pie!

August 14th — Bingo and Spaghetti Dinner.

September 25— 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Women's Retreat at Patti Melsheimer's Home. We will be studying "The Parable of The Pumpkin. Our craft will be planting in miniature pumpkins.



October — Craft workshops for Boutique, Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 12 :00 noon. Card making, handkerchief angels, birdseed ornaments, Advent Calendars and Tea wreaths are a few activities we will be scheduling.

November 5th & 6th— Holiday Boutique.

November 28, December 5, 12, 19 Crèche Display for Advent. Let us know if you have a special crèche or crèche collection you would be willing to display.

The Craft Group will be starting up very soon. Continue to make things at home while you are waiting. Things we can use are ladies handkerchiefs, metal outline cookie cutters, new batting and stuffing or donations to purchase these items.



submitted by Gerry McGuire



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hello, folks,

This is my first time writing for the newsletter so please bear with me!

My name is Dave Bolterman and I am your current President of the Board of Trustees of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. These last fourteen months have been stressful. The Trustee Team has been working hard to keep up with the COVID Guidelines, and we did accomplish the goals!

The Team also got repairs and upgrades done. Just to list a few: sanitation stations, air purifiers, new heater in Criswell Hall, drainage system for the Preschool along with a storage shed for their outside equipment.

The Team has a list of proposed projects for the next fiscal year. Number One is for new ranges in the kitchen!

Please do not hesitate to bring up other suggestions for consideration for the future.

Thanks, Dave Bolterman



THE CHURCH'S TRIM RECEIVED A FACELIFT!

Your Board of Trustees voted to have all of the Church's faded blue trim and gutters repainted a darker blue to match the roof of the walkway between the office and the front doors. Repairs to the trim were also made.

Diamond Finish and Paint did a very professional job at an affordable price for us. They even threw in extras such as painting the wood trim around the Children's Center signs and repainting the handicapped parking curbs.

submitted by Paul Holden



PROGRAM MINISTRY

As the worldwide pandemic slows its pace, allowing us to return to a “normal” life, let’s remember to thank God!

It’s going to be a slow start for Program Ministry events. While ideas are plentiful, we must remain diligent in caring for ourselves.

A walk will be planned in July and a game day! Look for more details at the welcome table in the Narthex.

submitted by Sandy Underwood



CHAIR YOGA IS BACK!!

Our chair yoga class will resume on Tuesday, July 6th, from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. in Criswell Hall. Niccola Nelson will continue to be our instructor. We look forward to seeing all our former classmates back. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join in. New members are welcomed. This class is sponsored by our United Methodist Women. The donation is \$5 per session. As a reminder, this is CHAIR yoga. You don’t need to get down on the floor. All exercises are done in your chair.

For more information, read Niccola’s website at: www.niccolayoga.com.

submitted by Patti Melsheimer



*FROM YOUR LAY LEADER**Patti Melsheimer*

We have just returned from a visit to the Southeastern United States – Georgia, Louisiana, and North Carolina. We spent two days visiting the World War II museum in New Orleans. I highly recommend it to everyone. It is a modern (built in 2000) museum with so much information and so well presented.

After New Orleans we traveled to Atlanta, Georgia. Even with COVID restrictions, we were able to visit several sites relating to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Being old enough to have lived through the years of civil protests lead by Dr. King it was very meaningful. We visited Dr. King's birthplace and home, the Ebenezer Baptist Church where Dr. King and his father were co-pastors and the Martin Luther King memorial where he and his wife Coretta Scott King are buried. We then went to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. What a fantastic museum. It is "dedicated to the achievements of both the civil rights movement in the United States and the broader worldwide human rights movement." It brought back so many memories of that time. One whole wall is devoted to quotes from Dr. King's speeches and writings.

Here are some quotes from Dr. King that may help as we again experience a time of civil unrest.

"The time is always right to do what is right."

"My friends, I must say to you that we have not made a single gain in civil rights without determined legal and nonviolent pressure.

Lamentably, it is an historical fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily. Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but, as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups tend to be more immoral than individuals."

(Letter from the Birmingham Jail)

"I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

"He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it."

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.'

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: July 2021

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

Mission in Haiti on the island of La Gonaave is in the process of starting a sewing ministry to help young persons develop a trade that they can use to support themselves. These are young people who cannot afford to go on to higher education and need a way to support themselves.

The church has made the purchase of the first of sewing machines to start the training of the first students and did so with the funds sent by our church. Enickson, the pastor, is excited to be sharing this dream and the results of this gift from our congregation, as who show our love in action.

Photo of the machines in place in Haiti for the Sewing Ministry.



Pray with them for the success of this new program. Again thanks for your at least 15 students.



LOCAL MINISTRY

Before the pandemic, the Church Council offered the Mission Team the opportunity to raise funds for Missions by selling church T Shirts, Sweatshirts and Ball Caps. You will find order blanks for these items in the narthex or ask Judy Atwood. Included are possibilities:

Short sleeve T Shirt \$20 S-5XL

Long Sleeve T Shirt \$25 S-5XL

Sweatshirts \$30 S-XL

Women's V-Neck Short Sleeve T Shirt
\$25 S-4XL

Children's Short Sleeve T Shirt \$20 S-XL

Children's Long Sleeve T Shirt \$25 S-XL

Ball Caps (NEW) \$20

The profits from this project will be used for local ministry in our community.

LOVE IN ACTION IN ALASKA

One more call for items before I close up boxes and get them on the way. Thanks for your generous support.



LOVE OUR PRESCHOOL

Supplies (in kind or cash) to help our teachers, as requested by Maddy, INCLUDE: glue sticks, glue, washable markers, fat crayons, assorted color construction paper, bubbles (gallon size), and reams of paper.

Thank you for supporting our PRESCHOOL.

*So, my challenge to myself
and others who wish to join me:
Continue to be who are you and be willing to
take time 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.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
Abbreviation Legend S—Sanctuary CH—Criswell Hall MMR—McMillen Room #113 K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123 HR—Handbell Room #115 PS— Pastor’s Study PL—Parking Lot						1 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH	2 Collin Odom Birthday	3 Mary Whitson Birthday
4 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Sunday School Party  11:30 AM Picnic in Courtyard	5	6 830 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH Bud Johnson Birthday	7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH	8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH Michael Rohla Birthday	9	10 Jim Kelly Birthday		
11 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Larry Baughman Birthday Bernie Hawkins Birthday	12	13 830 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH Lexie Harrigan Birthday	14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH Dick Melsheimer Birthday	15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH Valerie Beard Birthday Faye Cuddy Birthday Enrique Quintana Birthday	16	17		
18 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	19 Joel Anderson Birthday	20 830 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 2 PM Endowment-PS Christine Ridley Birthday Nancie Thompson Birthday	21 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH	22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH	23 11:00 AM UMW Book Club-L David Bolterman Birthday	24		
25 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	26	27 830 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH	28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Mary-Martha-Esther Circle—MMR	29 830 AM Senior Exercise—CH	30	31		

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

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

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Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis
E-mail: mbirgelaitis@gmail.com
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
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
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District Superintendent:
Rev. Melissa McKinnon

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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 WORSHIP?

You are invited to order flowers to honor or remember someone special. Your floral tribute will be placed on the altar for the worship services on Sunday and recorded for the video made for that week. After the services you can pick up the arrangement or we will get those beautiful flowers to you. The cost remains at \$25 .

We can order as usual from the Grand Bouquet as we do upon request, or from Brad Bettencourt (long-time florist himself who actually owned a flower shop for years) who will arrange some pretty Trader Joe's flowers to be used in four worship services.

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



- Collin Odom.....07/02
- Mary Whitson.....07/03
- Bud Johnson.....07/06
- Michael Rohla.....07/08
- Jim Kelly.....07/10
- Larry Baughman.....07/11
- Bernie Hawkins.....07/11
- Lexie Harrigan.....07/13
- Dick Melsheimer.....07/14
- Valerie Beard.....07/15
- Faye Cuddy.....07/15
- Enrique Quintana.....07/15
- Joel Anderson.....07/19
- Christine Ridley.....07/20
- Nancie Thompson.....07/20
- David Bolterman.....7/23

Have we missed your birthday? If so, it is not listed in our data base. Please contact the church office and we will gladly 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

July

2021



IN THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY:

Sunday School

Fireworks of the Heart Party!

From Our Pastor.....	2
Liturgists, Ushers, Clergy Prayers.....	3
United Methodist Men.....	4
United Methodist Women.....	5
Board of Trustees	6
Program Ministry, UMW Chair Yoga.....	7
From Your Lay Leader.....	8
Mission Team News	9
Calendar.....	10
Altar Flowers, Birthdays.....	11
UMW Book Club.....	12

Children's Center Chronicle

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

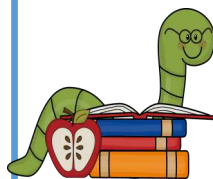
Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag



UMW BOOK CLUB
TO START UP
AGAIN SOON

The UMW Book Club is going to gather together on Friday, July 23rd, at 11 A.M. in the church library. We know that former members have been eager to meet in person. This group is open to all Interested readers! We welcome you and your ideas about books to read and discuss together.

We will continue to look for books that can either be checked out of the library or purchased at a reasonable cost (used books). In the past we have read memoirs, historical fiction, and novels. At this time Judy Leonard has started compiling a list of possible books and authors. Patti Melsheimer has been great about leading the book discussions and getting the books we decide we want to read.



So please join our small group on July 23rd to plan our book reading schedule. We encourage readers to bring ideas of any books they think the group might be interested in.

submitted by Judy Leonard