



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande AUGUST 2021



from the Pastor



Here's a news update for you beginning at the top!

Our Bishop Grant Hagiya is taking on double duty for a season to provide episcopal oversight for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. The Council of Bishops approved this recommendation from the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops to meet a need created by Robert Hoshibata's retirement scheduled for October 1, 2021.



With joy we welcome Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon to her new position among us as our North District Superintendent and celebrate her recent appointment by our Bishop Grant Hagiya to serve as the Dean of the Cabinet. We offer joyful prayers for both Bishop Hagiya and Superintendent MacKinnon.

It's a liminal time for all of us, at the local church level as well. As we transition toward normal in new ways we remain flexible due to changes in COVID safety regulations from County, State and Conference, even as we move full speed ahead.

You can expect changes in how communion is conducted and how we must "put it all together" for the time being. We are still in flux! The pre-packaged communion cups with attached wafers seemed like a good idea, but with the difficulty of opening them, not so much! We will celebrate bread only eucharist and other options as well.

The Sound Quality in the Sanctuary is so important, and we need volunteers for both services to operate the sound board. We also need volunteers at the video camera. Even if you have never operated a video camera, or you are intimidated by what seems like a thousand knobs on the sound board, it isn't that hard! Please consider it. Training will be provided. Youth operators are welcomed as well.

Meanwhile, your Administrative Committees continue to work hard to sustain the church structure that enables great ministry and programming to go on by tending to buildings, finances and personnel. SPRC meets this week. You will be hearing more regarding staff needs, including Webmaster, Publicity Coordinator, Facilities Assistant and more. Thank you for your prayers for our congregation and your continued generous giving.

With Joy and Gratitude,
Rev. Mary B.



Acting Treasurer's Report

We just completed our fiscal year ending June 30. We survived a year of COVID-19 in good shape. We have a generous and supportive congregation. THANK YOU! Regular tithes and offerings were \$3K above plan and \$4K more than last year, despite not having a pledge drive. This was more than offset by less than budget holiday offerings and less than planned income from facility use leaving with about a \$9K shortfall in total income.

Office expenses were \$5K over budget, due largely to the weekly letters that were sent out when we could not meet in person. The expense of the weekly letter was worth it, as it helped keep us connected as a congregation and encouraged members to send in their regular contributions. Trustees came in \$29 under budget on their \$45,000 budget - Wow that is managing close to budget! Most other expenses were well below budget due to the inability to meet or worship in person, letting us to end the year with a \$17K surplus.

Our Spring pledge drive was cancelled for the second year in a row due to COVID. There was too much uncertainty as to when we would be able to actually worship in person (thankfully we can now do that) and the resources and personnel that would be required. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is developing a staffing plan for the upcoming year. New part-time staff positions are needed as we go forward. Watch for upcoming announcements. Staffing makes up about 2/3 of our budget, so that greatly influences the total budget. Expenses will increase as we restart many of the activities that were suspended during COVID and we continue the worship video. And as you have probably noticed, the cost of everything is going up. For now, please continue to make your regular tithes and offerings. After our budget for the upcoming fiscal year is firmed-up I may need to ask for additional contributions.

Again, thank you to our generous and supportive congregation.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



AUGUST 1

8:30 a.m.—Joseph Brown
10:30 a.m.—Roger Sperling

AUGUST 8

8:30 a.m.—Lucy Jacob
10:30 a.m.—Priscilla Alquist

AUGUST 29

8:30 a.m.—Sharon Roemer
10:30 a.m.—Roseann Steiner

AUGUST 15

8:30 a.m.—Mary Thronson
10:30 a.m.—Nancy St. Laurent

AUGUST 22

8:30 a.m.—Susan Thronson
10:30 a.m.—Cristy Van Hook

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 August 1—August 29, 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
August 1	Isla Vista: University UMC	Pastor Frank Schaefer
August 1	Granada Hills: Valley Korean UMC	Pastor Jae Duk Lew
August 8	Reseda First UMC	Pastor Christian Jung
August 8	Ridgecrest UMC	Pastor Wesley Elmore
August 15	Santa Clarita Korean Mission	Pastor Sang Hun Park
August 15	Inyokern: Community UMC	Church Leaders, Members & Ministry Partners
August 22	Valencia UMC	Pastor Nicole Reilley & Pastor Michelle Andrews
August 22	Malibu UMC	Pastor Erin Stenberg
August 29	West Hills: Canoga Park First UMC	Pastor Lynn Westover
August 29	Glendale: Grace Korean UMC	Pastor Jin Ho Han

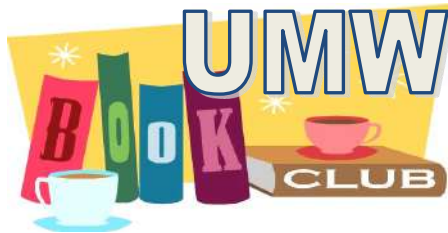


Happy August to everyone from the UMM. We are on Summer Break and look forward to our new program year starting in September. The Cabinet is meeting on Aug 2nd at 10 a.m. in the Library to plan events.

The UMM planning group invites new volunteers to help plan and put on events this coming year. Contact Paul Holden, UMM President or Val McClure, UMM Vice President. Their telephone numbers are in the Church Phone Directory .



submitted by Val McClure



UMW Book Club Starts Up Again

Wednesday, August 18th

Some members of the UMW Book Club met on Friday, July 23rd to select books for future reading. The group has chosen Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate for its August discussion. This book includes the story of five young children who lose their parents in 1936. Consequently they find themselves in the Tennessee Children's Home Society. Then the story switches to present times when Avery, a promising female assistant D.A., has a chance encounter with a stranger. This experience leads her to explore her family's secrets and hidden history.

Book club meetings will be held the third Wednesday of every month at 11 A.M. in the church library. The next meeting is set for August 18th. Patti Melsheimer checked out copies from the library system so no one will have to purchase a book. These library books are now available in the church office.

So, consider joining us for lively discussion and interesting reading material!

submitted by Judy Leonard



“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.”

Here we are in the middle of summer. Are you keeping cool? Did you enjoy our 4th of July picnic? We had a fun time. Thanks to all who helped out, including Dave and Dorine Bolterman crewing the barbecue.

We’ve moved into another phase of this COVID pandemic. Many have received their vaccines. And some haven’t. I hope they will see the need and get vaccinated, as long as they are not facing medical restrictions. We want to be able to all gather together. It is saddening to hear the news media say that we are about to have a pandemic of the unvaccinated. We must cling to HOPE. Hope for a future of a healthy congregation, community and world population.

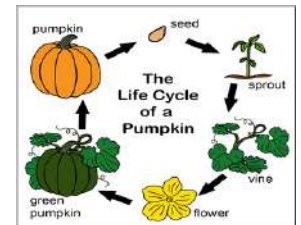
Coming up **August 14th**, from **noon to 2:00 PM**, we are putting on a **Spaghetti Dinner** in Criswell Hall as a fund raiser.



Then afterward we will enjoy playing Bingo. There will be prizes!

A \$20 donation is requested. As we keep tuned in to the progress on the COVID restrictions we will social distance and wear masks, or not, as the conditions dictate. Get your tickets soon as there may be limited space.

Looking ahead into September, the UMW is inviting all women to participate in a **Women’s Retreat**. **September 18th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm**, women of the church will meet at Patti Melsheimer’s home. We will be studying “*The Parable of the Pumpkin*”. A light lunch will be served and our craft will be planting miniature pumpkins.



dates
to
Remember



Starting Thursday, September 9, The Craft Group has scheduled workshops for the Holiday Boutique and will be meeting in the McMillen Room on Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 12 :00 noon. From then on we will meet on Thursdays, September 16, 23, & 30 and October 7, 14, 21, & 28. Join us! We need your help and you can enjoy other crafters’ company. We will teach you! Card making, handkerchief angels, birdseed ornaments, Advent calendars and tea wreaths are a few activities we will be scheduling.

Friday and Saturday, 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.

submitted by Gerry McGuire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hello, again,

Just to let you know, the Trustees are trying to plan our budget for this next year.

With the cost of things going up and their availability, it makes it difficult to see forward. We will prioritize items as they come up.

We are working on two projects at this time, those being the new kitchen ranges and the parking lot. Hopefully by the end of August these two items will be completed.

We are slowly coming back to normal—that being one step at a time!
Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding.

God Bless.

*submitted by Dave Bolterman
President, Board of Trustees*

Leadership Positions from COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

For clarity's sake, I want you to know that the year for Elected Leadership is January-December, the calendar year, not the July-June year Finance uses as a fiscal year. The Leadership Year was changed by the COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS, chaired by the Pastor, when I arrived. I did this because I find it works better always, and especially in transition years.

Pastoral appointments are annual and coincide with our fiscal year. When there is a change, we create chaos unintentionally if all the leadership changes at the same time that a new pastor comes. It is better if leaders have been in place for six months or more.

No, I do not have immediate plans to retire. I write this because I always try to set churches up so that when transitions come they are as seamless as possible. Planning can happen right along so that churches don't "lose" that exit year and entry year to meaningful progress. When pastors DO change, you don't want to lose ground saying "Oh, our pastor is leaving" or stall saying "We'll wait until the new pastor comes". Mistake! You are the church. We live in the present, and we must do the most we can each and every day!

Leadership terms are 3 years, renewed annually. We are not counting the COVID year. So, leaders sit tight and if there ARE changes, don't expect to see shifting unless you request it for personal reasons, until January 2022!!! —MBB



COLLIN ODOM



CHLOE KEITH

2021-2022 ELT SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

On Sunday, July 25th, Judy Leonard, ELT Scholarship Chair, presented the 2021-2022 scholarship recipients, Chloe Keith and Collin Odom, who shared backgrounds during both worship services. Chloe will be attending the University of Montana Western as a horse husbandry major. Collin will be returning to Temple University to complete his Bachelors Degree in Performance Music. They each will receive \$750 ELT Scholarships.

submitted by Judy Leonard

PROGRAM MINISTRY

Program Ministry will have its first 2021 meeting on August 4th. The committee is excited to begin planning for activities. Below is a peek at what we are planning for the Fall and Winter! Come see us at the information booth in the Narthex.

Birthday Gala

Fall Cooking Class

Melodrama

Christmas Extravaganza

Tea Trolley Atascadero

Movies Night in the Sanctuary

submitted by Sandy Underwood

*FROM YOUR LAY LEADER**Patti Melsheimer*

Today I am writing my last article for the Castanet as your Lay Leader. After three and one-half years I have reached my term-limit for being the Lay Leader for our congregation. It has been a wonderful experience. I have learned so much – about how our church operates, as well as how the District and Conference operate. I have had the privilege of attending Annual Conference three times. I have gotten to know many people – at both the various Conference levels as well as in our own church!

As part of the function of Lay Leader I have attended many meetings of nearly all the various committees of our church, especially Church Council, Finance and Staff Parish Relations! I have also enjoyed and learned so much from meeting with our wonderful pastor, Mary Birgelaitis, on a regular basis. I have tried to be a connector between the members of our church who attend either the first or second service. If you have not visited the service that you don't normally attend, try it sometime!

My time BP (Before the Pandemic) was spent helping plan and participating in various activities of our church; much of my DP (During the Pandemic) time was spent deciphering the instructions of the CDC, the local SLO county and City pandemic authorities and our United Methodist leaders' directives and working out how to implement those instructions to make sure that the members of our congregation stayed healthy but also stayed connected. And now I have gotten to spend a little bit of AP (After Pandemic) time helping bring us all safely back together again. What an experience it has been!

Thank you all so much for this privilege.

Patti Melsheimer

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: August 2021

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

Catching up with the church in Haiti on the island of La Gonave, I have found this month that they have really been busy, even in the midst of governmental unrest and fear of what that might bring to their country.

They have begun instruction with their sewing class with the help of the machines we were able to help them purchase.



They are also in the process of developing a cooking class to help students with another discipline through which they can gain skills to support themselves. Enickson, the pastor, is excited to be sharing this dream of helping young people learn ways that they can support themselves as they move forward in life. Thanks for being a part of the solution so that their dreams of helping young church members can be realized.



What they are doing is their way of doing what we have done through our congregation with our scholarship program for our youth as they have gone on to further their education. Pray with them for the success of these new programs.

LOCAL MINISTRY

Before the pandemic, the Church Council offered the Mission Team the opportunity of raising funds for mission by purchasing shirts, caps, and sweatshirts with our church logo. You will find order blanks in the narthex or ask Judy Atwood. The profits from this project will be used for local ministry in our community.

LOVE IN ACTION IN ALASKA

Because of your generous support, we had a large shipment of layette items for moms and their new babies in the Nome area. THANKS!

LOVE OUR PRESCHOOL

From Maddy and her staff, THANKS for the great response for supplies (in kind or cash). You may still participate in this local mission.

NEEDS INCLUDE: glue sticks, glue, washable markers, fat crayons, assorted color construction paper, bubbles (gallon size), and reams of paper.

*So, my challenge to myself
and others who wish to join me,
continue to be who you are and be willing to take time to
help make a change in the life of others.*



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

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 10th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>2 10 AM UMM Cabinet Meeting-L</p>	<p>3</p> <p>830 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10 AM Program Ministry-L</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>6 AGUMCC Spirit Day</p> <p>3:30 PM AGUMCC closed</p> <p>4 PM AGUMCC Staff Mtg—MMR</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 11th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>830 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 UMW Steering Committee-L</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 UMW Bingo and Spaghetti Dinner 12 noon to 2 PM—CH,K</p>
<p>15 12th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>830 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Book Club—L</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>20 AGUMCC Board Meeting—MMR</p> <p>1:00 PM-Open</p> <p>2:00 PM-Closed</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 13th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>830 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Mary-Martha-Esther Circle—MMR</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 14th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>830 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>				

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

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

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: 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

Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya

District Superintendent:

Rev. Melissa Roux McKinnon

AG UM Children's Center

Director: Madrigal Quaglino
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.

A Note Regarding our Birthday Listing, from the Editor:

You may notice that the birthday names are not in the little calendar boxes this month. Kind of sad to see them go! I started putting them on the (empty) calendar in July 2020 when, as you all know, we had no indoor church meetings, groups, activities or worship services to offer during those pandemic days. Now in August 2021 we do have services and activities starting to be back in place, and a huge birthday list (27 folks!) who are celebrating birthdays this month. Please check out the August birthdays in the next column! ~FR



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
 Carol Gary.....8/19

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 gladly add your birth date to our monthly birthday list!



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 .

Orders can be made, as in the past, from the Grand Bouquet which we can do upon your request. Or orders can be placed with Brad Bettencourt (long-time florist himself who actually owned a flower shop for years) who has created lovely arrangements with Trader Joe's flowers used in our worship services.

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

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



2021

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Children's Center Chronicle



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

**IT'S TIME TO HELP REFILL THE SHELVES FOR
THE 5CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FOOD PANTRY!**

**IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR CANNED AND
PACKAGED FOOD STAPLES, HERE ARE SOME
SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

**Regular sized boxed cereals, peanut butter, shelf-stable
milk, surplus garden vegetables and fruits, brown paper
bags (not plastic) for distributing the food.**



Food can be brought to the Church Office
Mondays-Thursdays from 9 AM to 1 PM
Church members who help out at the pantry
will take the items to the Pantry location.

THANK YOU TO ALL!