



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande OCTOBER 2021

From Your Pastor

Welcome to AUTUMN WORSHIP

From childhood I brought with me a mind full of dreadful poetry into my adulthood--rhyming couplets, limericks, and such, inadvertently committed to memory like, "**Spring has sprung, fall has fell, summer has come and it's hotter than hell!**" There were other renditions of the same, that made more sense, "**winter has come and it's colder than...**" At least that one had the seasons in order! As a child I didn't like silly things and longed to read and write something of substance, yet now when "Cast-a-net" rolls around oft times I can't think of anything to say! It's a good thing I'm headed out for two weeks off! Let me tell you what's ahead for October, as we launch our Fall activities.

We have oodles of Charge Conference forms to get ready for a ZOOM Conference October 14th. I'll already be gone. I am off from October 13-27th. The pulpit will be filled for two weeks by two of our retired clergy. The week prior, I will be mingling and visiting with you before and after the service as Joe Brown brings the morning message. It's amazing how much easier mingling, visiting and tuning into details is when you're not the one preaching. Here's the month of Sundays for you to see:

- October 3rd – World Communion Sunday – Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, preaching
- 10th – Joe Brown, delivering a message, "It Takes Faith"
- 17th – Rev. Diane Rehfield, retired recently from Atascadero
- 24th – Rev. David Burgeson, just returning from Holy Land trip
- 31st - Rev. Mary Birgelaitis returns to the pulpit on ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

David and Sarah Burgeson will be returning from the Holy Land in the nick of time to be present with you. It will be fun to catch them on the heels of that great adventure.

We are grateful to our October speakers and are glad that you are worshipping with us each week. I hope many of you will feel safe being present in the sanctuary and that others will enjoy the videos of those service.

Blessings to All!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Can you believe it? This is the second year in a row we have not had a Stewardship Drive due to COVID, though I have not heard anyone complain that they would like more Stewardship Drives. Despite not holding a Stewardship Drive, regular tithes and offerings this past Fiscal Year were slightly above the previous year. We have a generous and dedicated congregation! Total income was down a bit this past Fiscal Year due to lower holiday offerings and lack of facility use income.

This year I am asking everyone to continue to give at or slightly above their current level. We need to sustain contributions as we are bringing back our wonderful Bell Choir Director Leonard Lutz, hiring a new webmaster, hiring a new sound technician, hiring a part-time publicity director to let the world know of the wonderful things we do at our church and hiring a replacement for Mike Clark, our excellent Praise Team leader, who is retiring.

Unfortunately, contributions have been trailing what we received last Fiscal Year and what is needed. As of the end of September we are \$15K below what is needed and \$18K below last year at this time. We need EVERYONE to continue their regular tithes and offering. Giving can be done during regular worship services, checks mailed to or dropped off at the office, or e-giving through our website WorshipWeekly.com. On-line e-giving can be a one-time contribution or can be set up for weekly or monthly contributions on whatever date you choose. Gifts can be done directly from your bank account or using your VISA, MasterCard, Discover or American Express card. Setting up regular e-giving makes contributing easy and convenient, especially for those that are frequently out of town.

*Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We are moving forward with the projects. The first is the stove and griddle for the kitchen : They have been ordered and are expected to arrive within eight to ten weeks, maybe by Thanksgiving—we hope!

The second is the parking lot. The dates for this project are October 5th for filling cracks and low spots (a Tuesday) and October 19th for putting on the seal coat (also a Tuesday). While this is being done the parking lot will be closed.

We are working on other smaller projects every week as they come up.

Please stay safe and healthy.

God Bless,
Dave Bolterman, President, Board of Trustees



WORSHIP LITURGISTS



OCTOBER 3

8:30 a.m. — Joseph Brown
 10:30 a.m. — Patti Melsheimer

OCTOBER 10

8:30 a.m. — Sharon Roemer
 10:30 a.m. — Judy Atwood

OCTOBER 31

8:30 a.m. — Judy Atwood
 10:30 a.m. — David Beaman

OCTOBER 17

8:30 a.m. — Mary Thronson
 10:30 a.m. — Rosslyn Clausen

OCTOBER 24

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 October 3—December 26, 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.”*

Great God of Heaven and Earth,
 We lift up to you the rocky ground we are standing on, the ground of uncertainty, the ground of grief, the ground of division, the ground of fear. Give us hearts to make space for you to travel with us over this rocky ground. As we travel with you, may the living water of your presence quench the rocky places, transforming them into spaces of healing, spaces of hope, spaces of wholeness and spaces where more people can thrive in your presence.
 —Reverend Melissa MacKinnon

Prayer Date	Church/Ministry	Pastor
October 3	Pasadena: First UMC	Pastor Amy Aitken & Pastor Greg Norton
October 3	Ventura: College Campus Ministries	Pastor Erin McPhee & Pastor Matt McPhee
October 10	Santa Paula: El Buen Pastor UMC	Pastor Lupita Alonso-Redono
October 10	Tarzana: St. Paul’s UMC	Pastor Vernon Kemp
October 17	Westlake Village UMC	Pastor Walt Dilg & Pastor Rachel Tabutol
October 17	Santa Clarita UMC	Pastor Mary Scifres & Pastor Kristi Smith
October 24	So Pasadena: Pacific Korean Mission	Pastor Paul Dowon Lee
October 24	Van Nuys UMC	Pastor Joy Ahn & Pastor Bo Yong Lee
October 31	Ventura First UMC	Pastor Erin McPhee & Pastor Matt McPhee
October 31	Fillmore: Bardsdale UMC	Pastor Bethany Carpenter

HARVEST MEAL...OCTOBER 24th



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Plans are underway for our Harvest Meal for this year. We have missed that kind of sharing of the mission and ministries we have contributed to over the past year. Our plans are to gather after the second service to share a meal and time of sharing. Depending on the precautions of the time, we will plan to meet in the courtyard. The meal will be provided. We will have a signup sheet in the narthex soon so that we know how many are planning to attend. **Advance registrations are required.** There will be a container for donations to cover the cost of the meal. If you would like to help with the preparations, please contact Judy Atwood or Robin and Rob Isakson. We are looking forward to this time together with you!



TRUNK OR TREAT...OCTOBER 31... HALLOWEEN

It is time for **ALL** of us, young and old, to have a little fun. Program Ministries is sponsoring "Trunk or Treat" in our parking lot on Sunday afternoon October 31 from 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. In order to succeed, we need volunteers who are willing to provide a TRUNK AND TREAT HALLOWEEN for our children and youth so that they can have fun in a safe place.

We are asking you to join in the fun by bringing your trunk and treats to help our children celebrate.

So, look for a sheet to sign up on in the narthex soon. Then, remember to invite all your kids and grandkids to come and check us out. There is no telling what they might find!

Program Ministry

Hikes, cooking classes, birthday celebrations, board games and showing movies!!!

It's all coming together!

The Birthday Gala luncheon is scheduled for October 13th. We need a minimum of 20 people to hold this event. Please sign up soon. October 20th is a cooking class by Marjorie Ott at 1 p.m.

Fifteen people maximum. Sign up is necessary and there is a small charge.

Please stop by the Program Ministry table in the narthex and watch our screen for all activities!

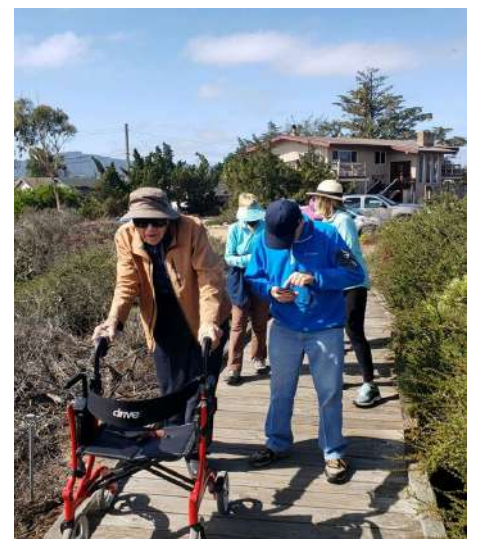
We will of course practice social distancing! Look forward to seeing you!

submitted by Sandy Underwood

WALKS IN THE ELFIN FOREST AND PISMO PRESERVE



Photos courtesy of Lucy Jacob and Sandy Underwood





The United Methodist Men are headed on a field trip and you are invited!

There will be room for 14 of us as we head to the **Piedras Blancas Lighthouse** for a tour and then onto the Main Street Grill in Cambria for lunch.

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, October 16th** in the Church parking lot for **8:15 a.m.** departure in a Ride-On van. **Cost will be \$10 for the tour ticket and lunch will be on you.** The sign up sheet is in the Narthex and still has some openings.



submitted by Paul Holden

UMM "Ghoulishly Good" Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, October 31st from 9:30-12:30



- Tickets go on sale after church on Sunday Oct. 10.
- Costs are Adults \$10 and Children under 12 \$5.
- Breakfast will be held in the courtyard with safe social distancing.

UMW Book Club Meets on October 15th

The UMW Book Club will meet at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, October 15th to discuss

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, a novel by Lisa See.



In this fast-moving story set in 19th century China, an elderly lady and her companion discover the true meaning of friendship. Since women were not allowed to communicate with each other, they used a secret language written on fans and embroidered on cloth. Their friendship persisted despite difficult times and misunderstandings.

Everyone is welcome to join our group as we discuss this interesting novel. Copies of the book are available to be checked out of the church office. We hope to see you in the church library on Friday, October 15th at 10:30 A.M.

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."



As we usher in Autumn and the fall leaves, it seems like we're getting a little braver. It feels so good to get out a little more.



Our Women's Retreat gave 20 of us an opportunity to reconnect after what seemed like a really long time. Patti and Dick Melsheimer so graciously invited us into their beautiful home.

The morning started with Nicola Nelson leading us in Chair Yoga. Sure felt good to stretch those muscles! Then Mary Thronson and Shirley Wilmot taught us about "The Parable of the Pumpkin" (see photo below). Lunch was enjoyed outside, both on the Melsheimers' patio and by their waterfall. After lunch we gathered around craft tables and planted succulents on top of mini pumpkins.

This full day was then summarized with a message by Pastor Mary Birgelaitis and we left with our lights shining. A big thank you to all who participated and helped with a lovely day.



Newly energized, we will proceed with our Craft Thursdays at ten AM. Each week we will be doing one to two new crafts. Come and help us out. All materials are here. We meet in the McMillan Room. You do not need experience; we are happy to teach if needed. We just need helping hands.

Crafts planned include Advent Calendars, Card Making, Angels, Village Houses, Wooden Thread Spool decorations, and Tea Bag Wreaths.



With the **November 5 and 6 Holiday Boutique** fast approaching we need your help, and donations of finished quilts, sewn gifts, Christmas ornaments, knitted and crochet items, plants, baked goods, candy, jewelry, and vintage items.

We will also need help in setting up and on the days of the Sale. Let someone on the UMW Board know if you can commit to help us out. This is our major UMW Fund raiser of the year. The funds raised allow us to help support many local groups in need, including our own Pre-school.

article and photo by Gerry McGuire



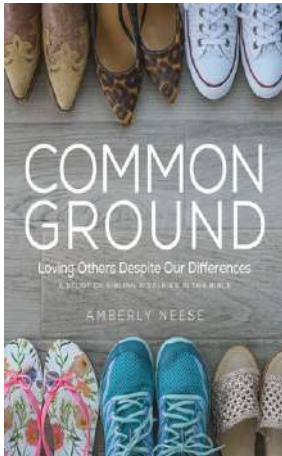
The Annual UMW Church Holiday Boutique November 5 & 6, 2021

Invite all your friends, family, neighbors, business acquaintances.
Don't leave anyone out!

There will be a fantastic array of holiday gifts, ornaments & decorations,
a beautiful variety of handmade items, plants, baked goods & vintage items.



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY IS BEGINNING -- AGAIN!!



Plans are in place to begin our Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study again with safe distancing in Criswell Hall at 1 pm.

Our beginning study will be COMMON GROUND: Loving Others Despite Our Differences by Amberly Neese.

The dates for this study are October 26, November 2, 9, and 16.

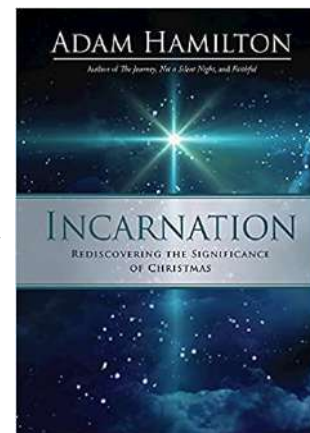
Conflict has always been part of our lives, but these days, disagreements seem ramped up. Whatever the discord may be, it feels as if we are constantly having to choose sides. The study shows us that the Scriptures hold the key to living at peace despite our differences, showing us that its possible to find common ground with everyone—despite our differences.

Our second study will be on November 30, December 7, 14, 21.

We will begin again INCARNATION: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas by Adam Hamilton.

We had only done one session before the pandemic, so will begin again. This study explores the Child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Adam will reflect on the significance of the Christ Child for our lives and world.

Contact Judy Atwood if you are interested in joining this group.



News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: September 2021

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

It is exciting to know that despite hardship the church in Haiti is continuing to forge ahead with their goal of helping their young people receive the training promised them.

When the Mission Team met, we talked about how this congregation could continue to support this ministry. Because of the history of our congregation, being in mission with others, we are able to do just that. We are in the process of making a gift on your behalf to their congregation so that they can purchase the stove needed for the cooking class. They are also in need of a month's salary support for two teachers for the cooking and sewing classes themselves. We will be forwarding \$1,000.00. This will cover the stove and two salaries with a little extra for supplies. You will make a difference in the lives of young people and their congregation.

This congregation in Haiti has been worshipping outside under the trees since the earthquake. They are still fearful of the aftershocks and their roof was damaged during the earthquake. I doubt that they know yet how they will be able to repair the roof or where they will find funds to do so.

We can hold this congregation in our prayers as they strive to live out their ministry. Thanks for being a part of the solution to help fulfill the dreams of this congregation in Haiti.

UMCOR MINISTRY

Your gifts totaling \$904 to UMCOR following the disasters are a blessing to those who receive the assistance.

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

When we served at the People's Kitchen recently, you the ministry of our congregation was appreciated. We provided meals for 4 people. Hopefully people may be able to eat on site the next time we go.

FOOD DRIVE

Talking about food reminded me that we are planning a food drive to collect food for 5Cities Christian Women Pantry later in October. Look for details on the back page of the newsletter.

My challenge to myself and others who wish to join in is to continue to be who you are and to 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.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1</p> <p>AGUMCC Spirit Day</p> <p>3:30 PM AGUMCC closed</p> <p>4 PM AGUMCC Staff Meeting—MMR</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>19th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Parking Lot Work</p> <p>8::30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>No Yoga Today</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p> <p>11 AM—Finance</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>20th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p>12</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>1:00 PM Church Council—CH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10-11:30 AM Birthday Gala Set Up—CH</p> <p>10 AM Trustees monthly Mtg—MMR</p> <p>11:30-2 PM Program Birthday Gala—CH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p> <p>Charge Conference / UMC Santa Maria hosts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:30 AM UMW Book Club—L</p> <p>AGUMCC Board Meeting—MMR</p> <p>1:00 PM-Open</p> <p>2:00 PM-Closed</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 AM UMM meets in church parking lot for FIELD TRIP to Piedras Blancas Lighthouse</p>
<p>17</p> <p>21st Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Parking Lot Work</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>2:00 PM Endowment Committee-PS</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>11:30 Fall Harvest Meal—CH, CTY</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew-n-Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1:00—2:30 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 AM Trustees Work Day—CH plus</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Mary-Martha-Esther—MMR</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM UMW Boutique Craft Group—MMR</p> <p>1:00 PM Program Ministry—Floral with Brad—CH</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

31
 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
 8:30 AM Contemporary Service
 10:30 AM Traditional Service
 9:30 AM-1 PM UMM Pancakes—CH, CTY
 3:00-5 PM Halloween Trunk and Treat—PL, CH



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
 CTY—Courtyard

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

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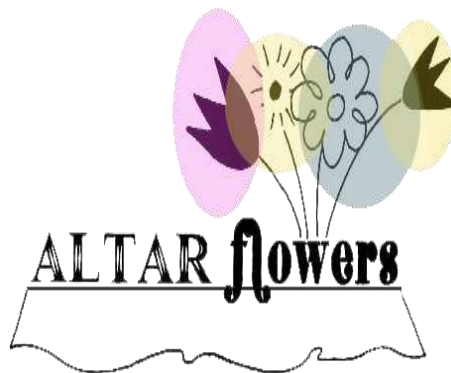
Patti Melsheimer.

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 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.



Jenna Moore.....10/01

Kerren Brown.....10/02

Val McClure.....10/04

Daisy Paredes.....10/05

Roger Sperling.....10/05

Lorie Ford.....10/13

Ian Beard.....10/16

Diane Laughlin.....10/17

Rose Ann Steiner.....10/22

Lila Anderson.....10/29

Rebeca Avila.....10/29

Mary Hawkins.....10/31



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!

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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2021



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Children's Center Chronicle



FOOD DRIVE FOR 5CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S PANTRY

We want to provide several opportunities for our Fall Food Drive. We want to gather food to assist our local pantry help those in our area who are food challenged.

As we move into year end at Thanksgiving and Christmas we appreciate your help in this ministry of bringing joy to others by providing food to people in need.

You can bring items when we gather for the HARVEST MEAL on October 24, or to the TRUNK OR TREAT event on October 31, and even on Sunday—November 7th.

We will have containers in the narthex each of those Sundays.

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

