



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

# Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande December 2021

## *BLESSINGS FOR ADVENT*

&

## *CHRISTMAS*

2021

Christmas is coming! We are overjoyed to be in our sanctuary worshipping together after the barrenness of last year when we e-mailed videos to faraway worshippers. Come one, come all! Be present with us to celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

An Advent series of sermons has begun and is titled:

### "THE MESSIAH HAS COME"

Advent I	November 28 <sup>th</sup>	Hope Has Come
Advent II	December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Peace Has Come
Advent III	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Joy Has Come
Advent IV	December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Love Has Come

Advent IV we designate as Christmas Sunday to give you who do not "night drive" or will not be in town Christmas Eve a great Christmas Service in your home church. The video of that service will go out before Christmas to you who are on our e-blast list.

## *CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP*

in our sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Lessons & Carols with candle lighting

Join us again on Sunday morning, December 26<sup>th</sup> at  
our regular worship times 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

## The Angel Tree

We have received gift tags from the Department of Social Services for the Angel Tree again this year. The Angel Tree was set up on November 27 during the Hanging of the Greens. The tree is in Criswell Hall. The gift tags from the tree can be picked up before or after Sunday church services. I will begin picking up the gifts on December 5, 2021 after both services. You may also drop your gift at the church office after contacting the church secretary, Frances.



THERE WILL BE DUPLICATE TAGS ON THE TREE:

ONE ORIGINAL TAG IS FOR YOU TO TAKE AND PURCHASE THE GIFT AND RETURN THE TAG WITH THE GIFT. THE DUPLICATE TAG JUST REQUIRES YOUR NAME AND IT IS LEFT ON THE TREE. The duplicate tags are used in case your original tag is lost, and it also helps me to contact persons who may not have returned their gifts. ALL GIFTS MUST BE TURNED INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR LEFT AT THE ANGEL TREE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 21, 2021 BY NOON.

The Angel Tree gifts are for foster children and other needy children in San Luis Obispo County. The children’s names are provided by social workers and eligibility staff from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services. Thank you again for your generous giving spirits to help these children in need. Your gifts do make difference in these children’s lives.

If you have any questions you may contact me. My phone number is in the church directory.

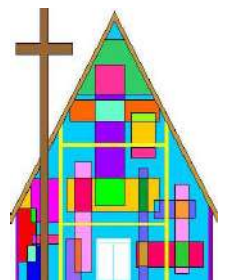
The Lord’s blessing to you all.

*submitted by Jan Treat*

### District Covenant Prayer List

from District Superintendent, Rev. Melissa MacKinnon

*“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)
December 5	Montrose: Crescenta Valley UMC	Pastor Denyse Barnes
December 5	Eastern Sierra Cooperative Parish, Bishop	Pastor Kate Hunter
	First UMC, Big Pine: Community UMC,	“
	Independence: Pioneer Memorial UMC	“
December 12	Retired Clergy	All retired clergy associated with the North District
December 12	North District Office	Pastor Melissa MacKinnon, Pastor Mary, staff & leaders
December 19	Cal-Pac Office	Bishop Hagiya, staff & conference leaders
December 19	Camarillo UMC	Pastor Elbert Kim
December 26	La Cañada UMC	Pastor Karin Ellis
December 26	Pacoima First UMC	Pastor Lydia Waters



## WORSHIP LITURGISTS

### DECEMBER 5

8:30 a.m.——Elwood Hyden  
10:30 a.m. ——Rose Ann Steiner

### DECEMBER 19

8:30 a.m. —Joe Brown  
10:30 a.m.—Priscilla Alquist

### DECEMBER 12

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

### DECEMBER 26

8:30 a.m. —Judy Atwood  
10:30 a.m. —Cristy Van Hook



Here is a special thank you to all the ushers who helped this year with ushering as we returned to worship service first in the parking lot and now in our beautiful Sanctuary. It is with a grateful heart that we acknowledge Del Hollinger as our “Head Usher” for many years. He has asked to step down from these duties but to remain on a substitute list to help as needed.

An usher’s training was held in November which, with Del’s help, we were able to develop an “Usher’s Guide” for second service. Interested church members are encouraged to consider being an usher next year. It is a rewarding activity to be a Steward of the Worship Service. Additional ushers are needed for 2022! (Scheduler: Kerren Brown—phone in church directory).

## Thank you for the Blessing of Service to all our 2021 Ushers

Dorine and David Bolterman  
Christina and Jack Cuddy  
Harry Egan  
Paul Holden  
Del Hollinger  
Wayne Huggins

Robin and Rob Isakson  
Patti and Dick Melsheimer  
Judie Neufeld  
Rose Ann and Jim Steiner  
Judy Woodbridge



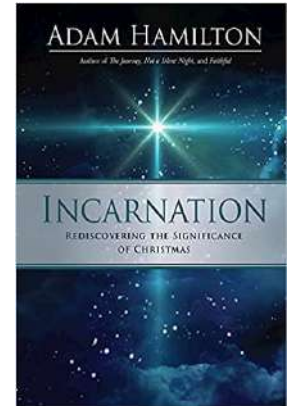
## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our study is of a book titled INCARNATION: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas by Adam Hamilton.

We began on Tuesday, Nov 30 and continue December 7, 14, 21.

Since we only had one session in 2020 before the pandemic began, we are making a new start in the reading of this interesting book we had started then

Please join us Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall for the study of this book by one of the group's favorite authors. We still have books available.



we

*submitted by Judy Atwood*



## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

### The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

“Finding Faith in the Story of The Grinch”

We don't know why the Grinch hated Christmas. We just know he did! In this new Advent Study, author Matt Rawle explores faith themes in the Christmas classic, “*How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*” including how the Grinch's heart grew three sizes.

Join Patti Melsheimer for an Advent Study on Wednesdays beginning Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 6 p.m. in Criswell Hall with a light dinner and then share our understanding of this Advent study. Books are still available.

In the meantime, try to find a copy of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and read it in preparation for the study! Please let Patti know if you plan to attend so that we will have enough study books.

*submitted by Patti Melsheimer*



### ***Did You Know??***

Did you know there is a wooden open Bible on a stand in the atrium garden on the right (South) side of the sanctuary? Do you know how we got that Bible?? If you go into the garden area you will see a small plaque that tells the story. It reads *“In 1986 Lew Hammond asked Al Harvey if he would carve a replica of the Bible for the South Atrium of the Church.... After several weeks Al had it carved. It is displayed today as a beautiful addition to our church.”*

Lew Hammond was an active member of our church for many years as were Al and Madge Harvey. Al lived to be 102, and regularly attended church until his last few years. Madge was a talented artist, and several of us have her paintings.

These days, Joe Brown, who is also a woodworker, oils the wooden Bible regularly to maintain its beauty.

*submitted by Patti Melsheimer*



The Halloween pancake breakfast was a success. Everyone who attended was able to enjoy each other's company. The event added a welcomed \$200 to the UMM's bank account. So, thank you to all of you who attended.

Our next event we be held on Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. The UMM will be getting together at Coco's for breakfast and to hear a guest speaker that will be announced in the next Cast-A-Net.

Happy Holidays!



*submitted by Paul Holden*

### MEMORIAL SERVICE for WESTON ANDERSON

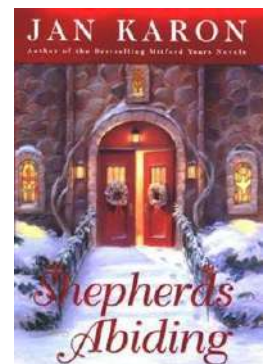
Our church family is invited to the Memorial Service for Weston Anderson to be held Saturday, December 4 at 2:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, with a reception to follow at Shell-ebriation House, 369 McCarthy Avenue, Oceano.



December 17<sup>th</sup> UMW Book Club Meeting Selection:

### Shepherds Abiding

On December 17<sup>th</sup> the UMW Book Club members will discuss Shepherds Abiding, a novel by Jan Karon. Many of us have read the Mitford series books that portray the lives of a minister and the people he shepherds in his small town of Mitford. This book takes place around Christmas when Father Tim is contemplating what gift he can give his wife. Although he doesn't consider himself to be good working with his hands, he decides to surprise her by refurbishing an old nativity scene for her. Father Tim also touches the lives of other townspeople as he gives the best Christmas gift of all: the gift of his heart.



This nostalgic story is sure to lift everyone's spirits. Come join us on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. in the church library for a lively discussion. Patti Melsheimer has library copies of Shepherds Abiding that you can pick up from her.

*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."

We did a spectacular job on the Holiday Boutique thanks to the untiring work of many. We thank all who put in many hours crafting items, pricing, baking, and displaying the multitude of wonderful items we had for sale. Most of all, we are grateful for you, our holiday shoppers, who made this a financial success. The Boutique made over \$4,600 for the UMW. These funds will be distributed to a variety of charitable groups and organizations.

Give yourselves a pat on the back, Ladies! We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.

With the Holiday Boutique a success and now a happy memory, we turn to the season of Advent.



The UMW is presenting a showing of our congregations' crèche collections. Anyone having a special crèche or crèches, who would like to share with us is invited to contact us so we can set aside a Sunday during Advent for you to share. Contact Mary Hawkins or Gerry McGuire for information or to choose a Sunday.

We will be starting, Sunday November 28, with a display of crèches in Criswell Hall after first and second services. We will wear our masks and social distance. Coffee and cookies will be served out in front of the Hall.

There are lots of activities to participate in during the holidays, so join us as we celebrate the Birth of Christ together.

*submitted by Gerry McGuire*





## Program Ministry



Stop by the Program Ministry table to sign up for any of the following:

1. Dec. 2 at 1:00 p.m. at Melsheimer's home—Christmas yummys by Marjorie Ott.
2. Dec. 10 at 1:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall—Christmas Floral Arranging by Brad Bettencourt.
3. Dec. 11 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary—CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA Sing a long.
4. Dec. 15 from 1:00-2:30 iPhone iPad Workshop. No charge for this workshop. Joe Brown, instructor

Some events are limited to number of people. If paying in cash please put in an envelope. If paying by check please write in note section of check what event(s) you are paying for with the check.!

*submitted by Sandy Underwood*



Photos of big kids & little kids & fur babies enjoying Trunk or Treat





# News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

## MISSION TEAM: December 2021

Judy Atwood

### MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

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

We asked and you responded...THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH. We challenged you to provide for our children and the preschool children and any others who came our way to have a fun, exciting TRUNK OR TREAT in our parking lot. It was a great way to provide outreach to the community.

We had 14 vehicles lined up with fun goodies for those who came. We also had a game section where the children could win prizes.

Not only did the kids come dressed in their Halloween costumes, but those who had come with decorated vehicles. We even had some fur babies ("pets") join us for the wonderful afternoon in delightful weather.

Photos from Trunk Or Treat

More Trunk or Treat photos are on the left.

Photos courtesy of  
Cristy Van Hook



#### JOIN GOD'S MISSION OF REDEMPTION

You may make a year-end gift to Global Ministries and UMCOR today which will help empower the work of faithful United Methodist missionaries, bolster global health, support disaster response and development efforts and further evangelism and church revitalization. Give online at [umcmmission.org/GiveLove](https://umcmmission.org/GiveLove).

#### CONTINUED MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOOD DRIVE

Our fall food drive for the 5 Cities Christian Women's Pantry was well received. You responded with food that has been delivered to the pantry in time for Thanksgiving. You were also generous with your cash donations which provide opportunity for them to purchase needed items to help those who are food insecure in our community.

#### PENNIES FOR TURKEYS

Thanks for helping us join with the Pre School in providing pennies for Turkeys. Your response was gratefully received. We were able support their outreach to the community.

#### PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

By the time you receive this we will have provided our last meal for this year at People's Kitchen. Hopefully by the time we serve again in 2022, we may be able to serve people inside on site. There is something to be said about being able to break bread around the tables together.

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.



*Many hands made much possible!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December</h1> 			<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM Program Committee—L</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>4:00 PM AGUMCC Monthly Staff Mtg—MMR</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study—CH</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>9:30 AM UMW</p> <p>Steering Committee—L</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Christmas Floral Arranging by Brad—CH</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA SING A LONG 2:00-4:00 PM Sanctuary</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class by Gerry—CH</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study—CH</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>1:00 PM iPhone iPad Workshop—CH</p> <p>6:00 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:30 AM UMW Book Club—L</p> <p>1:00 PM UAGUMCC Monthly Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> 
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>		<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study—CH</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>  <p>Christmas Eve</p>	 <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>First Sunday after Christmas Day</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> 	<p><b>2022</b></p>



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[www.facebook.com/fumcag](http://www.facebook.com/fumcag)

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**Lay Leader:** Patti Melsheimer  
**Office Administrator:**  
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**Website Manager:** Jamie Foster  
**Choir Director:** Julie Burns  
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**Choral Pianist:** Dennis Eiler  
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**PLEASE NOTE:**

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



## Christmas Poinsettias

Our poinsettias will be distributed early in December to our Shut-ins. This is one of our many traditions of this church! Two dozen poinsettia plants were purchased from California Fresh with a gracious discount for this Ministry. This activity is sponsored by the MEMBERSHIP CARE COMMITTEE and delivered by caring church members wanting to participate in this Ministry.

There are Christmas cards sent along with the flowers signed "With Blessings and Joy from the entire Church Membership".

*submitted by Kerren Brown*



- Judy Heiney.....12/01
- David Beaman.....12/03
- Gary Thompson.....12/05
- Stephen Wise.....12/05
- Adeline Bottorff.....12/08
- Jamie Foster.....12/09
- Eva McClure.....12/09
- William Russell.....12/09
- Michael Clark.....12/10
- Nancy Sperling.....12/10
- Deborah Lewis.....12/13
- Susan Thronson.....12/13
- Karen Brown.....12/16
- Julie Burns.....12/16
- David Beard.....12/17
- Kent Unsworth.....12/20
- Cyndee Rohla.....12/24
- Joseph Leonard.....12/27
- Harry Egan.....12/30



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

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DECEMBER



## • IN THIS • ISSUE

### COVER STORY:

*Rev. Mary Birgelaitis December Update*

- Angel Tree, N. District Prayer List.....2
- Serving as Liturgists & Ushers.....3
- Tuesday and Wednesday Bible Studies.....4
- Did You Know? .....5
- UMM, UMWs, W. Anderson Memorial.....6
- UMW.....7
- Program Ministry, Trunk/Treat photos.....8
- Mission Team News.....9
- Calendar.....10
- Birthdays, Christmas Poinsetti.....11
- Peace on Earth.....12

Children's Center Chronicle insert

