



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

JUNE 2022

Has the Treasurer gone off his rocker?

As Treasurer, I never expected to say, *“Let’s NOT do a Pledge Drive this year”*. But that is exactly what I am saying! Maybe Church Council will fire me. There’s a reason for this seemingly unreasonable suggestion. It’s about doing the right thing at the right time, in the right moment. This “feels right” as I listen to the Holy Spirit whose Power and Presence we celebrate at Pentecost. It’s about timing, listening to God’s Voice, and letting God lead. That’s what we did during many months of COVID, and God blessed us!



Our Fiscal Year runs July 1 to June 30. We normally would do a pledge drive in June. But we have not done a pledge drive for consecutive two years due to COVID. And guess what? Unlike many churches that suffered significant declines in giving, our tithes and offerings increased each year! We have an amazing and generous congregation that listens to the Spirit and steps up to do what is needed for the health and well-being of the church and our people.

I am asking everyone to continue their current level of giving and, if possible, increase their regular giving. Approximately 2/3 of our budget goes to pay our hard-working staff. We need to have funds available to be able to give them a well-deserved raise this year.



If we had carried out “Pledge Drive 2020” it would have been called **“SPIRIT RISING”**, dovetailing with “Hope, Joy & Love Rising”. This year we offer those words as a proclamation for 2022-2023. Let this catchphrase inspire as we continue to take hold and to strengthen groups, outreach and ministry. We are grateful for your faithfulness as we continue the trek to come out of COVID. With inflation up, and the stock market down, I realize that increased giving may be difficult for some, but I am confident that the generous spirit of our members and friends will continue in support of our Church and its missions.

June 5th is Pentecost, so let’s begin this season by pledging to the Spirit, and let the Spirit rise among us and in every corner of our shared ministry. God Bless you and keep you!

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

Welcome June!

Though “May Gray” gives way to “June Gloom”, a sunny Memorial Day didn’t disappoint! Here’s hoping you had a pleasant holiday. I look forward to more sunny days ahead, whether the weather cooperates or not! Great things are happening on all levels---District, Conference and at our church. We kick off the month in worship celebrating PENTECOST on Sunday June 5th. RED is the liturgical color for the DAY OF PENTECOST, so get out your Christmas red, Halloween orange or sunny yellows that flash like “tongues of fire” and come along!

A “fun-filled” calendar that appeared in our District Newsletter had something to look forward to every day in June. It included Fishing Day, Kissing Day, and Hug Your Cat Day! There was Red Rose Day, Yo-Yo Day, and Chocolate Éclair Day too. For people like me, staying the course, there was Eat Your Vegetables Day, Swim a Lap Day, and Yoga Day. And for the enlightened there was World Environment Day, World Oceans Day and Aquarium MONTH! If you have a serious “sweet tooth”, you’ll be happy to know it will be CANDY MONTH all month long. In addition to Flag Day and Father’s Day, I’m looking forward to Annual Conference on June 7, 15, 17 & 18. Conference will meet virtually, and then in-person for the first time since 2019. It will be great to see colleagues again.

38th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference

“Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger”

June 7th & June 15th (online)

June 17 & 18 (online & in person)

We will meet in Costa Mesa. June 16th and 19th are travel days. Joel Anderson will fill the pulpit Sunday, June 19th. We will have one Lay Delegate participate virtually and one on site. Judy Atwood will be engaging from Arroyo Grande and Mary Hawkins will drive south to Costa Mesa with me. Lay Leader, Patti Melsheimer, who previously attended, will be celebrating her 60th wedding anniversary with Dick, family, and friends locally. Mary H. and I are sorry we can’t be in two places at once.

On-line only days include Opening Worship, Plenary Sessions, and a Memorial Worship Service. The in-person days gather Clergy in an Executive Session, Laity for Lunch, along with an additional Plenary Session, Breakout Activities, Group meals like the Clergy Orders Lunch, Retirees Dinner, and Bishop’s Dinner. Worship Services include honoring Retiring Pastors, and a Service for the Commissioning and Ordination of candidates for ministry. There will be events for Young People as well. We will gather at a Hilton Hotel instead of the beautiful Redlands Chapel where we have met for decades. Nevertheless, the Spirit will be alive and well among us!

Come Holy Spirit, Come!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis





**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



JUNE 5

8:30 a.m.—Joseph Brown

10:30 a.m.—Judy Atwood

JUNE 12

8:30 a.m.—Sharon Roemer

10:30 a.m.—B.G. Perriguey

JUNE 19

8:30 a.m.—Lucy Jacob

10:30 a.m.—Priscilla Alquist

JUNE 26

8:30 a.m.—Elwood Hyden

10:30 a.m.—Robin Isakson

submitted by Jan Treat

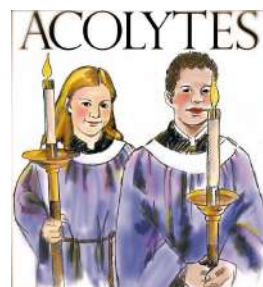
USHERS



Ushers are still needed for Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Training is offered for new or returning ushers. This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church. Call or talk with Kerren Brown at church for more information. See church directory for contact information. Your church needs you!

submitted by Kerren Brown

Hey, all you kids ages 8 to 18!



If you would like to serve your Church as an Acolyte, call Lorie Ford or see me at Church.

District Covenant Prayer List

from DS Rev. Melissa Mackinnon

Prayer Week

Church/Ministry

Clergy Leader(s)

June 5

Santa Clarita UMC

Pastor Mary Scifres & Pastor Kristi Smith

June 5

Community UMC of Pearblossom

Pastor Glenn Hoskins

June 12

St. Paul's UMC of Tarzana

Pastor Vernon Kemp

June 12

Valley Korean UMC

Pastor Jae Duk Lew

June 19

Burbank First UMC

Pastor Sam B. Kim

June 19

Christ UMC of Santa Maria

Pastor Leandro Marcos Jr.

June 26

Holliston UMC

Pastor Young Chung

June 26

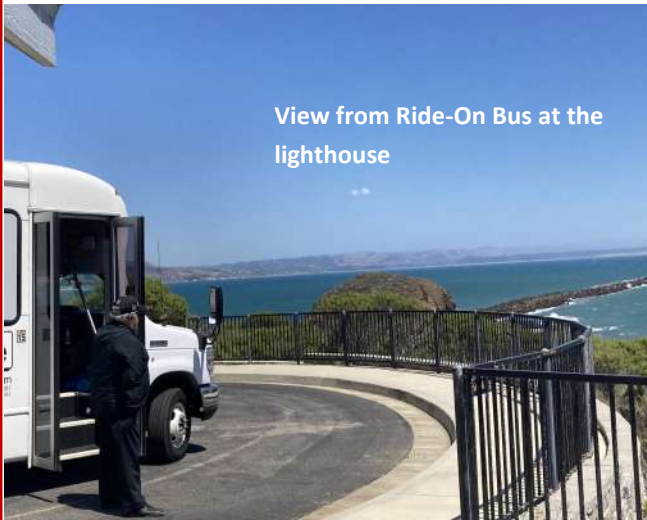
Altadena UMC

Pastor Jerry Andre Wilson



*submitted by Paul Holden,
President*

On a blustery, windy day in May, six visitors from our church went by Ride-On van to the Point San Luis Lighthouse. We left the church at 12:30 pm for the 1:00 pm tour. Here are some photos from the outing.



Bob and Gerry visit the lighthouse keeper's living quarters.

UMM FATHER'S DAY ALL CHURCH TRI TIP & CHICKEN BARBECUE Sunday, June 19, 11:30—1:00 PM

Adults, \$15 Children under 12, \$5

Tickets available in Criswell Hall after Services

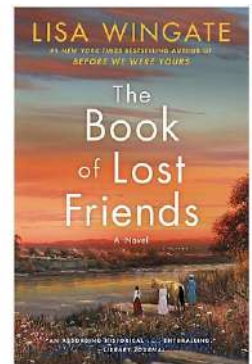


UMW Book Club Continues Discussion of The Book of Lost Friends

The UMW Book Club members will discuss The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate on Friday, June 17th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. It was originally going to be the May book selection, but the meeting had to be cancelled. So we will discuss it at the June meeting.

The June 17th meeting will be the last one until the end of summer. Come join us if you can. Copies of the book are available through the library system or online.

Questions? See Patti Melsheimer.



Submitted by Judy Leonard



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education in order to inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

Our UWF is made up of circles and groups. In addition to our purpose of fellowship, we gather for activities to help others in meaningful ways. Joy Circle just completed putting together thank



you kits for first responders. (See article on page 8) Mary Martha Esther Circle is collecting and making items to be sent to

Nome, Alaska (baby blankets and small quilts). This is a reminder for people who have items for the Nome project to please turn them in at this time. Next, the Circle will be collecting items for local schools in need.

And, of course, the Sew and Sews meet every week working on items for the annual Boutique which benefits the local community as well as World Mission projects. We'd love to have your help wherever you would like to participate.

In May we all enjoyed our Mothers' Day Tea. Julie and Dennis entertained us while we feasted on tasty finger sandwiches and sipped tea. Thank you to all who participated and helped.

Versatile Criswell Hall is transformed for Mothers' Day Tea



photo by Gerry

Looking to the future, we are planning **Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo on July 16**. Tickets will go on sale June 26 for \$15. That includes Dinner, a Bingo card and prizes.

August is the time for our **Old Fashioned All Church Picnic**. Lots of food, games, contests and prizes are being planned by the UWF and UMM. We have Elm Street Park reserved for Saturday, August 13, so set the date aside right now. Don't forget! Tickets will be only \$10 per person! Such a deal!

Dates to Remember

- July 16—Dinner/Bingo
- August 13—All Church Picnic
- September 10—Women's Retreat at Melsheimers'
- October 1 —Birthday Gala

submitted by Gerry McGuire

Program Ministry

Program Ministry invites you to participate in these scheduled events!

Check the Program Ministry information in the Narthex to sign up for these opportunities:

June 6, 2022 Quilt Classes offered by Gerry McGuire begin again at 6:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall. Cost is \$5 per class which meets every Monday June 6— August 1 (except July 4).

June 15, 2022, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. Lucy Jacob will host a **walk, meeting at the Pismo Nature Center** at 555 Pier Avenue, Oceano. Tour the Nature Center, followed by a walk on the Guiton trail (handicapped accessible). Trail is 1.5 miles but not necessary to walk entire route. FREE

June 26, 2022, Sunday, 4:00 p.m. is the monthly movie; this month featuring the “**Monument Men**” starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, Cate Blanchett and John Goodman. This war film presents the task of finding and saving pieces of art and other culturally important items before Nazis destroy or steal them during World War II. Popcorn and other movie treats are offered, and you may choose your own seat. Snacks for free or donations.



Sunday, July 3, 2022, 2:00 p.m. meet at church for visit to “Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary”. Cost is \$10 per person. Greener Pastures is located on 5 acres in Arroyo Grande; Once animals are rehabilitated they are shared with others in order to teach kindness.

Sunday, July 31, 4:00 p.m. Movie Night, “The Winning Team” Mike Clark’s father appears in this movie with Ronald Reagan, Doris Day and Gordon Clark. This movie is set in 1908. A newly-wed wants to buy a farm, and yearns to play baseball. This movie is 1.5 hours so we will also show Red Skelton Show (1 hour)



ALSO COMING

- * A second Fraud Alert lecture by Mechanics Bank in July or August.
- * A morning at the Avila Dog Beach.
- * PCPA Solvang or Melodrama event?
- * More surprises !

submitted by Sandy Underwood

Staff-Parish Relations Committee Hosts Hospitality Time Honoring Church Staff Members Sunday May 22nd



Mary Hawkins and Joe Brown presented certificates of appreciation to staff members and volunteers. Shown above are: Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, Julie Burns, Maddie Quaglino, Carolyn Russell, Frances Robertson, Dennis Eiler, Brad Bettencourt, Judy Atwood.

Certificates of appreciation were also given to team members not in photos: Jamie Foster, Kellie Stein, Kent Unsworth, Joel Anderson.



Leonard Lutz



Mike and Connie Clark



At their recent meeting, JOY CIRCLE members put together Thank You Kits for First Responders



photos courtesy of Patti Melsheimer



We are gathering SOAP and SOCKS to bring to the Annual Conference! The North District has been asked to contribute 2500 bars of individually wrapped soap (any brand) and 2500 pairs of socks (brand new, men's size 10 in black or white) as our share of a mission project. Items are to be sent to the AC with your delegates and pastors. You may bring them and put them in the basket in the narthex!



Thank you to those who have participated in the Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study this year. It was good to be back together and have others join us this year. We have completed our last session for the spring and will take a break, beginning again in the fall. Pray about joining the study group, and having a good time learning together and stretching our minds and our faith.

All are welcome!

submitted by Judy Atwood

Nancy Pabst, a long-time volunteer and member of our church, was laid to rest on May 27. She was involved in many volunteer organizations and never said no when she saw a need. Her niece wanted people to know that depression had played a part in both the death of her father, who was Nancy's brother, and in Nancy's death. She wanted to honor her aunt by encouraging people to get help early if they felt depressed. Nancy will be missed by the many people she helped and the many people who volunteered with her.

submitted by Mary Whitson

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: June 2022

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

Reflection from Lester Dornon, Global Missionary from the US serving in Nepal, Tansen Hospital

"Last month I was privileged to visit the New Life Psychiatric Rehab Center for a prayer service for the new building. I met a man there named K. He had been kept chained up by his family and was brought into the hospital with deep wounds on his wrists from being kept in bonds. The bones were visible, and there was so much infection that one of the orthopedic doctors was sure that his hands would need to be amputated.

P.N., who is the force behind this center and also the head of the Pastoral Care/Social Services department at the hospital, didn't want to see this amputation happen. He prayed—and he believed that God could do anything—including the full healing of K. and it happened.

Yes, he has some scars to remind him of what he went through, but he has full use of his hands and he is able to remember that God was the one who healed him.

I continue to be humbled by our Nepali Christian colleagues. Even though they always ask us to speak at gatherings, lead Bible studies or teach them, I am constantly thinking that it should be the other way around. I have so much to learn from them.

UMCOR RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

Donors to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) are providing food, water, medicine, shelter and transportation to Ukrainians and other refugees

fleeing Russian invaders inside their country and to those seeking refuge in neighboring countries.

UMCOR funds are assisting local community shelters in Zaporizhzhia in Southeastern Ukraine and in Mukachevo and Uzhhorod in Western Ukraine. The United Methodist Ukraine-Moldova Annual Conference is drawing on UMCOR in its support of the basic human needs of people on the move. Shelters exist in cities including Kyiv, Lviv, Kamyantsia and Uzhhorod.

Initial UMCOR operational grants are assisting the efforts of United Methodists in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania to welcome and care for the refugees, many of whom are women and children, leaving Ukraine. In addition, a grant to the Human Rights League in Bratislava is providing emergency legal assistance to refugees in Slovakia, primarily through services at the train stations as they arrive.

The United Methodist Church in Estonia will use an UMCOR grant to refit a camp site to house and provide emergency services to 40 refugees.

As of March 30, an estimated 22,000 refugees from Ukraine had made their way into Estonia.

Two camps related to The United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic are also being equipped with an UMCOR grant to house refugees.

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.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Abbreviation Legend</p> <p>CH—Criswell Hall S—Sanctuary K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123 MMR—McMillen Room #113 PL—Parking Lot PS—Pastor’s Study HR—Handbell Room #115</p>			<p>1 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Program Ministry—L</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>3 4:00 PM AGUMCC Staff Meeting—MMR</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>6 ELT Scholarship Committee—L</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p><i>Annual Conference</i></p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Trustees Monthly Meeting—CH</p> <p>10:30 PM SPRC-PS</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 First Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>13 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>14 8:30 Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p> <i>Flag Day</i></p> <p><i>Annual Conference</i></p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM UWF Steering—L</p> <p><i>Annual Conference</i></p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>17 10:30 AM UMW/UWF Book Club—L</p> <p>AGUMCC Monthly Board Mtg—MMR Open—1 PM Closed—2 PM</p> <p><i>Annual Conference</i></p>	<p>18 <i>Annual Conference</i></p>
<p>19 Second Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>9:30-12:45 UMM All Church Father’s Day Barbecue</p>	<p>20 9 AM-10 AM AGUMCC Practice-S</p> <p>10:00 AM UMM Cabinet Wrap-Up-L</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>21 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9 AM-10 AM AGUMCC Practice-S</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>6:30 PM JOY Circle</p> <p> <i>First Day of Summer</i> JUNE 21</p>	<p>22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9 AM-10 AM AGUMCC Practice-S</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Mary Martha Esther—L</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9 AM-10 AM AGUMCC Practice-S</p> <p>10 AM-1:30 PM AGUMCC—CH, K</p> <p>11:30 AM-AGUMCC PROMOTION PROGRAM-S</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Third Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>4:00-6:00 PM-Movie Night “Monument Men”—CH</p>	<p>27 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p> <i>Have an awesome Summer!</i></p>	



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
Children’s Education Director:
 Carolyn Russell

Choir Director: Julie Burns
Praise Team Director: Mike Clark
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Handbell Choir Director.:
 Leonard Lutz

Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya
District Superintendent
 Rev. Melissa Roux McKinnon
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.

WHEN IS THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER?

Farmers’ Almanac tells us that the first day of summer arrives with the solstice on **Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5:14 a.m. EDT.** For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, Earth is tilting mostly toward the Sun. As seen from Earth, the Sun is directly overhead at noon 23.5 degrees north of the equator, at an imaginary line encircling the globe known as the Tropic of Cancer, named for the constellation Cancer the Crab, its northernmost point. The solstice happens for everyone, everywhere on Earth. The term “solstice” comes from the Latin words *sol* (sun) and *sistere* (to stand still). At the solstice, the angle between the Sun’s rays and the plane of the Earth’s equator (called declination) appears to stand still.

Fun Fact: Be sure to look at your noontime shadow around the time of the solstice. It will be your shortest noontime shadow of the year!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?

There are dates available for Sunday morning flower dedications in upcoming months. Contact the church office.

Your floral tribute will be placed on the altar for both services on Sunday and recorded in the video for that week. After the services you can pick up the arrangement or we will get it to you.



Please note that due to the higher cost of fresh flowers, the new cost for altar flowers is \$30.

Orders can be made from the Grand Bouquet which we will do upon your request. Orders can also be placed to have Brad Bettencourt create an arrangement using Trader Joe’s flowers for the arrangement.

Please contact Frances in the Church Office. She is the liaison with both Grand Bouquet and Brad Bettencourt.



Mike Reinecke	06/04
Jim Steiner	06/05
Ray Douglas	06/07
Sadie Krovious	06/08
Bill Weitkamp	06/11
Lili Bauske	06/14
Janice Moore	06/15
Dennis Eiler	06/16
Evelyn Green	06/16
George Stewart	06/17
Pauline Castillo	06/18
Connie Clark	06/19
Gloria Johnson	06/19
BG Perriguy	06/20
Sandy Underwood	06/23
Victoria Paredes	06/24
Bobbi Merris	06/28

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

June
2022

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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Children's Center Chronicle



**Please join us
Pentecost Sunday,
June 5,
for a brief
presentation
on the finances
of our church
following each service.**