

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* TFWS #2195  
 Prayer/Lord's Prayer  
 Choral Response *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* TFWS #2195

SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:21-30  
 Matthew 20:1-16

HYMN *(please remain seated)* *When We Are Living (Pues Si Vivimos)* verses 1-3 No. 356

SERMON THE GOOD LIFE: Rev. Mary Birgelaitis  
 Generosity

OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission  
 Offertory *Praise to the Holiest in the Height* Gerontius  
 Doxology/Prayer of Dedication Hymnal, No. 94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Praise God, the Source of all our gifts!  
 Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!  
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\*CLOSING HYMN *Lord of All Hopefulness* TFWS #2197

\*BENEDICTION

Generous friends, go and offer generosity to the world.  
**Forgiven friends, go and forgive in compassion and peace.**  
 Loving friends, live in the love of Christ and pass it on!

\*RESPONSE *Go Now in Peace*

***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
 God will go with you each hour of every day.  
 Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
 Know He will guide you in all you do.  
 Go now in love, and show you believe.  
 Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
 God will be there watching from above.  
 Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.***

POSTLUDE With Joyous Praise Chester Nordman

*Music Director: Julia Burns Piano/Keyboard: Dennis Eiler Organist: Brad Bettencourt*

\*Please stand as able.

**Philippians 1:21-30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**Matthew 20:1-16**

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock,

he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So, they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*Today's Liturgist: Cristy Van Hook*

**ALL CHURCH SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TIME** is last Sunday of each month. **TODAY!**

WEEK	ATTENDANCE					STEWARDSHIP
	8:30	10:30	IN-PERSON	VIDEO	TOTAL	
08/27	33	69	102	38	140	\$3,682
09/03	33	66	99	31	130	\$9,248
09/10	32	58	90	27	117	\$7,282
09/17	34	62	96	23	119	\$2,217

**Our Fiscal Year Started July 1 Weekly Offering Needed \$6,038**

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:**

**YTD Received \$66,126 YTD Budgeted \$68,685 Maui Fire Relief \$1,595**

**HOSPITALITY TIME**

**Today's Hosts:**

**ALL CHURCH HOSPITALITY**

Hosts next Sunday, Oct 1

**MISSION TEAM**



## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

**TODAY SUNDAY SEP 24 4:00 PM CH** Free Movie: "Champions" starring Woody Harrelson. Movie & popcorn are **free**, soft drinks and candy are complimentary. Provided by Program Ministry. All are welcome!

<b>Mon</b>	<b>Sep 25</b>	6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--McMillen Room.
<b>Tue</b>	<b>Sep 26</b>	9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH, 10:00 AM Sew n Sews--MMR, No Chair Yoga this week, 1:00 PM Bible Study--CH.
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Sep 27</b>	9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH, 9:00 AM Church Workday, 10:00 AM Mary-Martha-Esther Circle--McMillen Room
<b>Thu</b>	<b>Sep 28</b>	9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH, 10 AM Craft Workshop--MMR, 10:30 AM SPRC--PS, 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal--S.
<b>Sat</b>	<b>Sep 30</b>	<b>First Day of Fall</b> 🍂🍁🌿
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Oct 01</b>	8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service--Sanctuary.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Oct 02</b>	10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service--Sanctuary.

Abbreviation  
Legend  
CH--Criswell Hall  
S--Sanctuary  
K--Kitchen  
L--Library  
Room #123  
MMR--McMillen  
Room #113  
PS--Pastor's  
Study

### TODAY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24

#### Reception of New Members

Today we welcome  
into the membership

of the church

Bob and Mary Jorstad

Michelle Richardson

Scott Trees



**Thursday September 28**  
**Craft Workshop** 10 am-12 pm  
McMillen Room. Today's  
Crafts: **Tile Art & Dish Towel**  
**Stenciling** Led by Mary  
Thronson. All Welcome!



**Saturday October 7, 10:00 AM**  
**Tour of 140 year old Arroyo Grande Cemetery**  
**Led by Jim Gregory.**  
No charge. See article in October newsletter,  
and sign up at Connections.

### SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

**Sunday, October 29--Trunk or Treat!**

**Fri, Sat & Sun, November 3, 4, & 5**  
**UWF Holiday Boutique**

**Sunday, November 12, Harvest Luncheon,**  
More details to come!

**Saturday and Sunday,**  
**November 18 & 19**  
**Mark Hayes**  
**composer**  
**workshop**



**First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande**  
275 N. Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
805 481-2692 fumcag@yahoo.com worshipweekly.com



September 24, 2023

10:30 AM

### SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Grace can never be possessed  
but can only be received afresh again and again."

---Rudolf Bultmann

PRELUDE *In the Presence of Jehovah / Like a River Glorious* Davis/J. Mountain

INTROIT *Great Is the Lord* TFWS #2022

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Seek God and God's guidance,  
**for the way of God is holy.**  
Remember the works of God.  
**For the works of God are mighty.**  
Live by the grace of God.  
**For grace will save us all.**  
Let us worship the Holy One of grace and love.  
**Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* No. 92

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**We are overwhelmed by your amazing love, O God.**  
**Strengthen us to labor faithfully in your vineyard.**  
**Embolden us to love and forgive freely and joyously.**  
**Inspire us with your wisdom and your grace.**  
**In your grace and love, we pray. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Carolyn Russell