

HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

JANUARY 2023



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2023



January 1st! We celebrate a New Year and enter a season of Light and Love. Epiphany is ours all the way up to Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. With eight weeks to walk in the Light, we invite you to join in the activities and worship of our community. Let's keep the Christ-Light shining brightly in our hearts all year.

Howard Thurman wrote poetry about lighting candles for Christmas. The candles of Christmas are burning--- peace, hope, joy, love, and the candle of Jesus' Birth. Let's continue to light candles into the New Year:

*Candles of joy, despite all sadness, candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage for fears ever-present, candles of peace for tempest tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens, candles of love to inspire our living.
CANDLES THAT WILL BURN ALL THE YEAR LONG.*

A year and half "beyond lock-down", we are not restoring and reviving ministry anymore, we are thriving and rebuilding together. Let the light of hospitality shine, as we create entry-points for newcomers and continue opportunities to get together face-to-face.

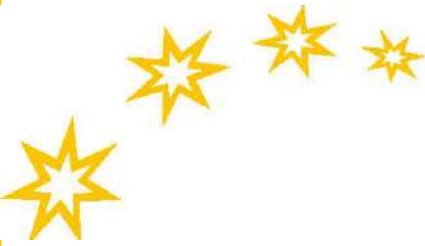
Let 2023 be a year of BEING together, not texting, e-mailing, and trying to run the church from a distance. The power of community is expressed when we are together with other people, working at hands-on projects and activities that have meaning and purpose. Let's give people the experience of unity and the gift of belonging each time we gather. The church isn't meant to run on texts and e-mails that muddy the waters and keep us apart. The church is built on the loving relationships we share, the acceptance we offer, and the affirmation we give to one another when we meet in up close and personal ways. So, help us imagine, re-imagine, and create new ways to do just that!

See you in worship, and if you can't come around and you want to be visited by someone from Membership care, by Judy Atwood or the pastor, Rev. Mary B., let us know.

Prayers & Blessings for the New Year,

Rev. Mary Biegelant's





HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

Welcome to the Season of Light!

Light of the world, we hail thee, flooding the eastern skies;
 Never shall darkness veil thee again from human eyes;
 Too long, alas, withholden, now spread from shore to shore;
 Thy light, so glad and golden, shall set on earth no more.

As we celebrate the New Year, we welcome you to start the year well in worship with us at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. each Sunday with Hospitality Time following both services. We will start the year out right celebrating Jesus, Light of the World on January 1st Epiphany, and then will move on to the Baptism of the Lord on January 8th as we renew our baptismal vows as a congregation in worship.

Speaking of hospitality! The rest of the month we will welcome guests in the pulpit as our pastor, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis takes two of the four weeks of vacation our UM pastors look forward to annually. Here's the schedule:

January 1 st	EPIPHANY Communion at both services
January 8 th	BAPTISM OF THE LORD Renewal of Baptismal Vows
January 15 th	Rev. Mike Eggleston, guest preacher Communion at 8:30 a.m. service as usual
January 22 nd	Rev. Mike Eggleston, guest preacher Communion at 8:30 a.m. service as usual
January 29 th	UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH SUNDAY Rev. Diane Rehfield, guest preacher



It will be a great month of Sundays, and February 19th we will be privileged to host our District Superintendent, Melissa Roux MacKinnon in worship. She will be the preacher of the day. Happy New Year!



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



JANUARY 1

8:30 a.m.-----Sharon Roemer
10:30 a.m.—Nancy St. Laurent

JANUARY 8

8:30 a.m.-----Joseph Brown
10:30 a.m.-----Priscilla Alquist

JANUARY 15

8:30 a.m. -----David Beard
10:30 a.m. ----Barbara Reineke

JANUARY 22

8:30 a.m. -----Ian Beard
10:30 a.m.---Cristy Van Hook

JANUARY 29

8:30 a.m—Mary Thronson
10:30 a.m. -----Judy Leonard

submitted by Jan Treat

Ushers are needed for Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Training is offered for new or returning ushers.

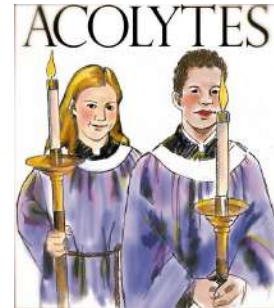


This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church. Call or talk with Kerren Brown at church for more information.

See church directory for contact information.

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 Lorie at Church.

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
1/1/23	Woodland Hills UMC	Pastor Seung-il Whang
	Westlake Village UMC	Pastor Walter Dilg & Pastor Kristi Smith
1/8/23	Van Nuys UMC	Pastor Sang Ho Yi
	Trinity UMC of Los Osos	Pastor Gilbert Stones
1/15/23	St James UMC	Pastor Malyong Yi
	Santa Clarita Korean Mission	Pastor Sang Hun Park
1/22/23	Santa Barbara First UMC	Pastor Mark Richardson & Pastor Liz Aguilar
	San Luis Obispo UMC	Pastor Mark Sturgess
1/29/23	ReNew UM Mission	Pastor Sam Park
	Palmdale First UMC	Pastor Jim White & Pastor Jon Gentry



**PHOTOS FROM THE
CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA
ON DECEMBER 3rd**

*photos courtesy of Mike Clark
and Sandy Underwood*





United Women in Faith

Castanet UWF December 2022

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

Winding up 2022, we were able to disperse a total of \$2,000, divided between **The Endowment Fund, Homeless Coalition, The Oceano School, and our Children's Center.**

Activities are planned for the coming New Year, including:

Luncheon for all Women

All women are invited to a soup and sandwich luncheon. It will be held in Criswell Hall on Saturday, January 21, 11 a.m. to - 1:00 p.m. and the cost will be \$10 per person.. Please invite all your friends. Programs, groups and Circles will be emphasized.

UWF Sunday

January 29 is **UWF Sunday** with Rev. Diane Rehfield speaking from the pulpit.

Super Chili-Bowl Sunday

Super-Bowl Sunday is on February 12 and we will be selling Chili for Two at \$20. Don't forget, everyone loves to take home chili, corn bread and cookies after church to watch the game!

Let us celebrate the New Year!

submitted by Gerry McGuire



Dates to Remember

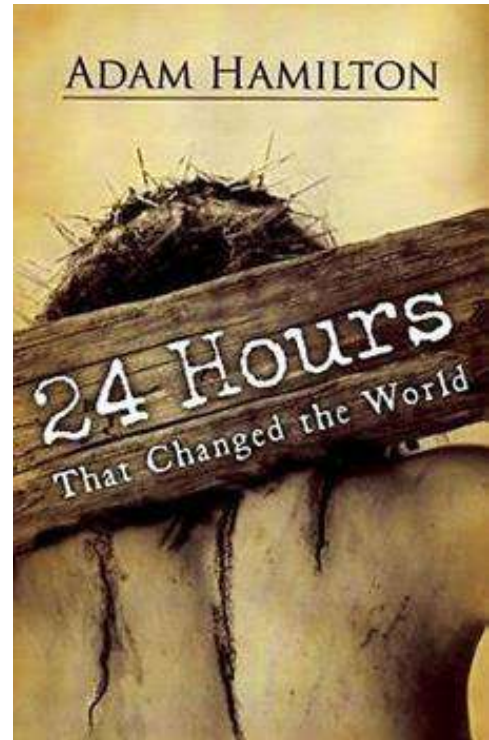
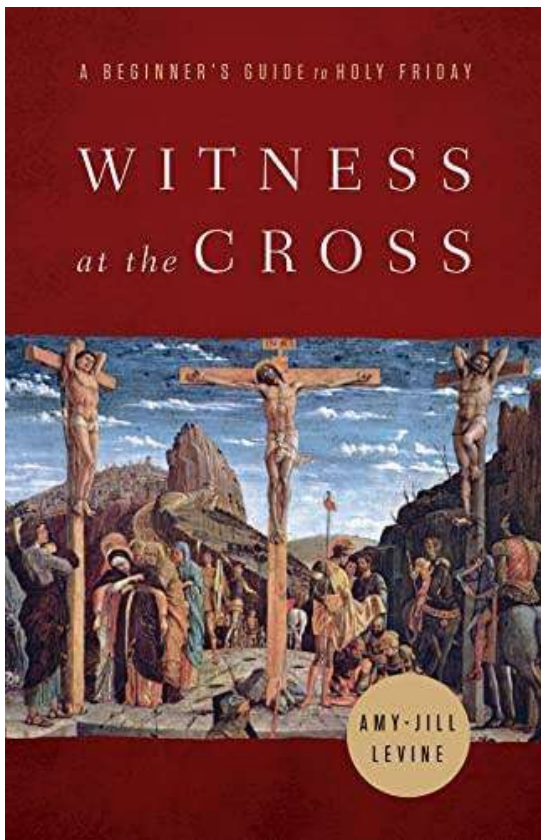
- ✓ Jan. 21 Women's Luncheon
- ✓ Jan. 29 UWF Sunday
- ✓ Feb. 12 Super Chili Bowl Sunday

TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY**NEW SCHEDULE**

Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine will be the first study.

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Dates for this study are Tuesdays Jan. 17, 24, 31 and Feb 7, 14, 21 at 1 pm in Criswell Hall.



24 Hours That Changed the World by Adam Hamilton will be the second study.

Adam Hamilton guides us, step by step, through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life in his popular, heartbreaking, and inspiring book. No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth.

Dates for this study are Tuesdays Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 at 1 pm in Criswell Hall.

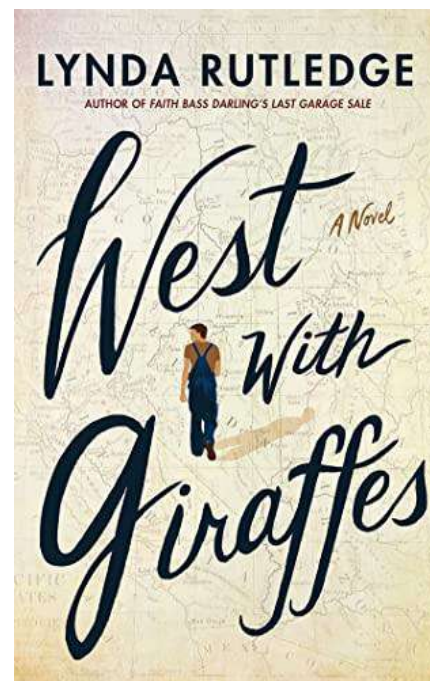
If you are interested in participating in either of these studies, let Judy Atwood know so you can get a book when they arrive.

submitted by Judy Atwood



JANUARY UWF BOOK CLUB SELECTION: WEST WITH GIRAFFES

On January 20, 2023 the UWF Book Club will discuss an intriguing adventure story of the journey of two giraffes, a disillusioned young man, a crusty old man with a past, a female photographer, and threatening characters along the route from New York to the San Diego Zoo. In the historical fiction, West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge, the 1938 story begins with two giraffes who survive a hurricane as they were being transported across the Atlantic Ocean. By chance, young Woody Nickel becomes the driver of the special truck transporting the giraffes across the country. No one could predict the adventures along the way and how the animals would change the people who grew to love them.



We will discuss West With Giraffes on Friday, January 20th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. See Judy Leonard if you would like to borrow a copy of the book.

submitted by Judy Leonard

ALL CHURCH SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

ALL CHURCH HOSPITALITY SUNDAY IS THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Everyone is invited to bring snacks for Hospitality after both church service on those Sundays. Healthy snacks are encouraged.

Items can be dropped off in the kitchen and labeled HOSPITALITY in advance.

Snacks can include cookies, berries, grapes, cheese, veggie trays, salami trays, pastries, fruit, etc.



Bring a decorated cake if you have a special event to celebrate that month, such as a birthday or anniversary. Of course, you are always welcome to bring goodies ANY Sunday of the month. No sign ups are necessary.

*submitted by Joel Anderson
Chair, Church Council*

PROGRAM MINISTRY

PREPARING FOR LIFE CRISES, A SERIES OF THREE PROGRAMS, IS BEING PRESENTED BY MEMBERSHIP CARE AND PROGRAM MINISTRY.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE DATES OF THE THREE MEETINGS AND WHAT WILL BE COVERED AT EACH GATHERING.

#1 Thursday, January 19, 1-2:30 CH "Preparing for Life's Crises" --Levels of Care

#2 Thursday, January 26, 1-2:30 CH "Preparing for Life's Crises" --Wills, Trusts, and Fiduciary

#3 Thursday, Feb 2, 1-2:30 CH "Preparing for Life's Crises" --Funeral Planning

More details are provided in the article from Sandy and Kerren on page 11.

**Be certain to sign up for these programs at the Program Ministry station In the Narthex.

MORE ACTIVITIES

UWF Women's Luncheon is on Saturday, January 21, from 11 AM to 1 PM in Criswell Hall

Movie "Tickets to Paradise" will be shown on Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 PM

Quilt Classes resume in Criswell Hall on Monday, January 23 at 6:00 PM

Docent-led Walk in Oso Flaco will be on January 27 (no dogs) at 12:30 for 1:00. Sign up at Program Ministry station. There is a fee of \$10

FUTURE EVENTS

Avila Dog Walk will be held on Monday February 13 at 10:00 AM

Mardi Gras Celebration is scheduled for (Shrove) Tuesday February 21, 6:00 - 8:30 PM



News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: December 2022

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

Reflection this month comes from Katie Petterson. Katie is a Deaconess/Church and Community Worker who directs Eastbrook Mission Barn, New Castle, PA. "I celebrate God's faithfulness in my ministry as I am able to roll with the changes that come my way through each thing I do throughout the day." Here is her reflection on one day:

"As I ventured out for my day, a Friday, my car was packed with newsletters to drop off at a volunteer's home, tools and supplies to repair a porch with four volunteers, and in the trunk a change of clothes and shoes, as well as presentation material. I was dressed in my heavy snow pants and winter coat to help the volunteers repair the porch. From there I left for a lunchtime presentation, changing clothes at a friend's home on the way, then returned to the porch worksite afterwards as the volunteers reloaded my car with tools, since they had just finished. Then I took them to lunch and ventured on to deliver the newsletters for another volunteer to prepare for mailing. Several aspects of ministry all in one day of missions!

That's what "blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape" is all about!"
Thank you, Katie!

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE:

I don't know about you, but it seems to me that the year 2022 flew by very fast. That means we need to think about what mission activities we want to be sure to remember that are worth continuing. Then we make our list of the ideas we might explore as possibilities to add to our program.

As we do this reflection, let us set aside each day a time of prayer to inspire us as seek out new ideas

Let us find ways to offer healing through mission, charity, and advocacy so that we act as the healing hand of Christ.

Let us be moved to love by practicing Christian hospitality through mission projects within and outside of our congregation that address unique needs of those lost, mistreated or forgotten within our community.

Let us be moved to share our faith when we invite and welcome others into our projects.

Let us be moved to serve in such a way that others are curious about what we are doing and want to join in the service.

Let us be moved to build by helping to transform the world community by community.

Let us remember that for this to happen we need study and worship as a way of reaffirming our faith, keeping the focus on getting nearer to God and recognizing the grace given to us to share with those with whom we come in contact so that we all move closer to God and what we as a congregation can do to improve the world.



My challenge to myself and others who wish to join me, is to 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.**

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Epiphany Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>2  NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 5 PM Bell Practice—HR</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>5 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 5 PM Bell Practice—HR 6:30 PM—Choir Practice—S</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Baptism of the Lord 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 5 PM Bell Practice—HR 7:00 PM Board of Trustees--MMR</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH</p>	<p>12 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM UMC Clergy Cluster--MMR 5 PM Bell Practice—HR 6:30 PM—Choir Practice—S</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>1:00 PM Gary Thompson Memorial</p>
<p>15 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>16  MLK HOLIDAY</p>	<p>17 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 11 AM Chair Yoga—CH 1 PM Bible Study--CH 5 PM Bell Practice—HR</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm—L 1:00 PM Program Ministry Life Crises #1 of Series--CH</p>	<p>19 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:30 AM SPRC Meeting—CH 1:00 Preparing for Life's Crises #1 of Series--CH 2:00 PM Church Council--MMR 4:30 PM AGUMCC Board Mtg—MMR</p>	<p>20 10:30 AM Book Club--L 2:00 PM UWF Luncheon Set up--CH</p>	<p>21 Women's Luncheon 11 am-1 pm--CH</p>
<p>22 Third Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 4:00 PM Movie—CH "Tickets to Paradise"</p>	<p>23 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>24 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 1 PM Bible Study CH 5 PM Bell Practice—HR</p>	<p>25 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm—L 10 AM Mary—Martha Esther Circle--MMR</p>	<p>26 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 1:00 PM Program Ministry Life Crises #2 of Series--CH 5 PM Bell Practice—HR 6:30 PM—Choir Practice—S</p>	<p>27 12:30 for 1:00 Docent Walk Oso Flaco (No Dogs) \$10 fee Sign Up Program Ministry</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany United Women of Faith Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>30 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>31 9 AM Sr Exercise—CH 11 AM Chair Yoga—CH 1:00 PM Bible Study—CH 5 PM Bell Practice—HR</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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>			

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

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PLEASE NOTE:

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

PROGRAM MINISTRIES AND MEMBERSHIP CARE

FORUM IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023

Membership Care and Program Ministry are partnering to provide our congregation a lecture series "Preparing for Life's Crises" When crises happen it's comforting to know you are prepared. Sign up at the Program Ministry table for any or all of the following lectures offered by a professional in their field. There will be handouts for you to take home. This is not a promotion for any of the agencies providing information.

Levels of Care – January 19, 2023 at 1 – 2:30 pm. What's the difference between **palliative care** and **hospice**? What is **POLST** and how or if I need **Home Health**?

Wills, Trusts (is there a difference) and Fiduciary. January 26, 2023, 1-2:30 Fiduciary is a person who holds a legal or ethical relationship of trust with one or more other parties. Typically, a fiduciary prudently takes care of money or other assets for another person.

Funeral Planning – February 2, 2023, 1 - 2:30 pm. What are the options for myself or a deceased loved one?

Please sign up for any or all of the lectures at the Program Ministry table.

submitted by Sandy Underwood



Alex Paredes..1/04
 Norm Henderson...01/07
 Marjorie Ott... 1/08
 Carolyn Russell...01/15
 Nancy Baughman...01/17
 Elwood Hyden...01/17
 Jim Alquist...01/20
 Judy Leonard...01/22
 Violet Bauske...01/25
 Lynn Stewart...01/27
 Jordan Henderson...01/29
 Eileen Odom...01/29
 Mary Thronson...01/29



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

Have we missed your birthday? If so, it is not listed in our data base. Please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birthday to our monthly birthday list!



Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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www.facebook.com/fumcag

January



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