



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

JUNE 2021

MESSAGE FROM REV. MARY BIRGELAITIS

SPIRIT RISING

My spirit's rising, how about yours? It's great to be resuming in-person worship once again. We look forward to greeting you in the sanctuary each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. with check-in fifteen minutes prior. We'll keep you posted as requirements lighten and we let go of some current restrictions we now live with.

After another letter or two, those weekly epistles will come to an end and news, announcements and information will make their way to you via this Cast-a-net, an occasional e-blast and (glory hallelujah) IN PERSON! We hope you'll stay tuned, because we want you to know what's coming, so you can enjoy your favorite activities as we re-open everything. Starting up in-person means shifting gears and we pledge to do that as smoothly as possible.

The pulpit is home to me, and being folksy from my office was not, so I am thrilled to be donning a robe and stepping back into my comfort zone. Thank you for your patience as I've tried to be the casual chit-chat storyteller that I'm not! This is far better for my morale and yours, I hope. We can re-enter together! I haven't preached anything I'd call "a real sermon" in 14 months. So, let's get to it!

I'm choosing an over-arching theme, "SPIRIT RISING", as we greet this happy new chapter in the life of our church, and I will work my way back into the lectionary in the month of June. The lections include great passages on Jesus rising, and spirits soaring as disciples realize the hope that they too will rise like Him. Other lections remind us that whoever does the will of God is family to Jesus. There are great readings including "If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation" and the story of the Mustard Seed, along with Jesus Calming the Storm and disciples persevering through it all. We'll celebrate Father's Day and end the month as the spirits of witnesses rise at the healing of Jairus' daughter in their midst. Come and enjoy worship with us on the premises or continue to connect with the new video format we'll be sending shortly AFTER Sunday each week and before the next Sunday.

Peace be with you!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis





2021-2022 ELT Scholarship Recipients Pursue Their Dreams

Since the creation of the ELT Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund over 30 years ago, more than 50 students have been recipients of the ELT scholarship. Many students have received the scholarship more than once. This year each student will receive a \$750 scholarship check as a repeat recipient.

At this time the ELT Scholarship Committee is pleased to present the two recipients of the 2021-2022 ELT Scholarship: Chloe Keith and Collin Odom. Both of these young people, who have been involved in our church, have been focused on their special interests and have chosen college majors related to them.

Chloe Keith will be attending the University of Montana Western in the Natural Horsemanship Bachelor Degree program in the fall. Not only Chloe but her horse, Legend, had to be admitted! Chloe, who has been riding horses since she was four years old, will concentrate on equine psychology. She has extensive experience dealing with horses and riders at the Clark Ranch and leading trail rides and training horses at the Alisal Ranch. Chloe stated her future goals: "After graduation, I would like to own and operate a rescue and rehabilitation ranch for abused and neglected horses. Within this program I would pair horses with people that have gone through trauma, veterans with PTSD or people with disabilities." We believe that she is on the right path for meeting those goals.

Collin Odom will return to Temple University in Pennsylvania this fall. He plans to complete his Bachelors Degree in Performance Music with a concentration in bassoon this fall. Then he will begin his graduate studies in a university that has a good reputation for music majors. In his application Collin stated, "Training as a musician in the age of Covid has been a struggle because one must find inspiration in themselves rather than their colleagues. An experience I've cherished over this last year is creating music with my roommates. Creating music was a shared passion between us, and we found joy in learning instruments for our jam sessions." Whatever direction his life takes, we know he will be successful.

We wish both Chloe and Collin a successful, productive 2021-2022 school year.

The ELT Scholarship Committee

Judy Leonard, Chair

Nancy Gerrish Judy Heiney Gene Heiney BG Perriguy Jan Treat

submitted by Judy Leonard



EVERETT LEE TAYLOR MEMORIALSCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 1990-2021



| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Elizabeth Alquist | University of California, Berkeley | Matt Kuhns | Chapman College |
| David Anderson | University of California, Riverside | Charles Lang | University of California, Los Angeles |
| Carina Avila | Pace University | Beth Mahoney | Cal Poly State University |
| David Avila | Cal Lutheran University | Jed Moore | Cuesta College |
| Chelsea Bailey | Sonoma State University Brandman University | Collin Odom | Cuesta College Temple University |
| Christina Bailey | Long Beach State University | Ryan Odom | Cuesta College |
| Ryan Bailey | University of California, San Diego | Adrian Paredes | Cuesta College |
| Kelley Ballagh | Alan Hancock College | Rebecca Reineke | Cal Poly State University |
| Nick Ballagh | University of the Pacific | Jenifer Richison | University of the Pacific Southwestern Methodist University |
| Ben Baughman | University of California, Santa Cruz | Caitlin Riley | University of California, Santa Cruz |
| Nicole Baughman | University of California, Los Angeles | Sheila Riley | Cuesta College |
| Jeremy Burns | Alan Hancock College | Ross Roemer | University of California, Santa Barbara |
| Jennifer Cross | University of California, Santa Barbara | Ryan Roemer | Stanford University |
| Kristen Davis | University of California, Santa Cruz | Christina Rohla | Cal Poly State University |
| Tyler Davis | Cal Poly State University Chico State University | Matthew Rohla | Chico State University |
| Sharon Duffin | Fresno State University | Carolyn Russell | Brandman University |
| Tracy Foster | University of the Pacific | Isabella Russell | Channel Islands State University |
| Trevor Foster | Cal Poly State University | Chad Smithback | Sonoma State University |
| Amy Gerris | Indiana University UCLA, School of Law | Mara Spalding | Cal Poly State University |
| Courtney Hall | New York University | Megan Stephenson | Cal Poly State University |
| Patrick Harvey | Cuesta College Point Loma Nazarene University | Susan Thronson | Brandman University |
| Jordan Henderson | Cuesta College University of California, Davis | Jeff Treat | Cornell University |
| Ashley Herber | University of the Pacific | Amanda Trecartin | Cal Poly State University |
| Caitlin Herber | Azusa Pacific University Cal Poly State University Brandman University | Jennifer Trecartin | University of California, Davis |
| Alan Kackmeister | University of California, Berkeley | Cassandra Williams | Cal Poly State University |
| Chloe Keith | Cuesta College University of Montana Western | Jessica Williams | Cal Poly State University |
| | | Jenny Wineberg | Cuesta College |
| | | Julie Wise | Cuesta College |
| | | Tammy Wise | Cuesta College |





FATHERS DAY, JUNE 20th * 11 AM to 12:30 PM * ANNUAL UMM BBQ!



A Chicken & Tri-Tip Combo, BBQ Beans, Garlic Bread, Cole Slaw plus Dessert by the UMM will be served from a table in the parking lot for drive-through customers. You can also pick up by going to the Church Patio Kitchen window. The cost for this delicious meal will be \$12.00 for adults and \$7.00 for kids age 10 and under.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE for purchase after worship service on June 6th and June 13th.

YOU MAY ALSO ORDER TICKETS BY PHONE OR EMAIL. You will find Bob McGuire's phone number and email address in your copy of the Church phone directory. You can order meals by phone or email with Bob. He will be set up in the parking lot on Fathers Day to collect tickets and checks made out to UMM.

Please order or buy your tickets in advance so we will have a solid number for buying supplies.

There will be a very limited number of meals available for sale in day of the event. So, don't delay to pre-order today!

The United Methodist Men are delighted to welcome everyone back to Church with a Joyous BBQ.

HALLELUJAH!!

OTHER UMM NEWS:

A PANCAKE BREAKFAST is being planned for Halloween Sunday, October 31st. Pumpkin Pancakes anyone? Details in the October Castanet.



ADVENTURE TRIPS. A number of new places to go are being considered. They include the Piedra Blanca Lighthouse and the Paso Robles Airport Museum. If you have a suggestion for an Adventure Trip, contact Paul Holden.

submitted by Val McClure

RECYCLE YOUR PERSONAL COMPUTER INK

CARTRIDGES WITH AGUMCC

Please bring in your ink cartridges for the staff to recycle.

Do you have a computer at work or home? AGUMCC staff can earn \$1 for every used cartridge you bring in.

The money is used to buy various supplies for the office and classroom. The container for the ink cartridges is located at the Children's Center Office

Thank you, Maddy Quaglino, AGUMCC Director



“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



May 8th was a lovely day in the Courtyard for the UMW Friendship Tea honoring Mothers Day. *photo by Roger Sperling*

It seems like things all of a sudden are just changing! Last month we were having a Tea in the courtyard in honor of Mothers Day. We were outside, masked, and social distancing. Didn't we have a grand time, seeing friends we hadn't seen in person for a long time! It just felt good to get out, and in the beautiful sunshine. And this morning (Sunday) we were able to go to church inside, masked and social distancing, but inside our beautiful church.

This reminded me of a devotion in the May 18th issue of The Upper Room, an article by Kadine Christie, that spoke to me. “With Gods help, I (we) can live in joy every day.” Isaiah 40:27-31 says, “Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Anxious to move ahead after over a year of restrained activity, the UMW is planning activities for all of us. Circles are coming alive again, with the **Mary, Martha, Esther Circle** having already met in May. They meet every 4th Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the McMillen Room. The **Joy Circle** is meeting this month. Check with your circle leaders as to time and place. The **Sew and Sews** are meeting every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the McMillen Room. The **Book Club** met the last Friday of the month of May at Patti Melsheimer's home, so check with Patti to get on board for June. The **Craft Group** will be starting up very

soon. Continue to make things at home while you are waiting. Things we can use are ladies' handkerchiefs, metal outline cookie cutters, new batting and stuffing, or donations to purchase these items. We have come up with some amazing events to put on your calendar to look forward to:

June 20th Father's Day - Assist the UMM with dessert for their BBQ.

Father's Day! 🍷



July 4th - Picnic in the Courtyard, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and Apple Pie.

August 14th - Bingo and Spaghetti Dinner.



September 25th - Women's Retreat at Patti Melsheimer's home.

October—Craft workshops for Boutique, Thursdays 9-12 noon. Card making, handkerchief angels, birdseed ornaments, Advent calendars and tea wreaths are but a few activities we will be scheduling.



November 5th and 6th - Holiday Boutique.

November 28th, December 5th, 12th, 19th - Crèche Display for Advent. Let us know if you have a special crèche or crèche collection you would be willing to display.

submitted by Gerry McGuire



From the editor: The May 23rd message to her students from Carolyn Russell, our Sunday School Teacher, is about The Book of Acts which tells of the beginning of the Christian church. This is a message for all of us.

The Lord's power was with them, and a large number came to believe and turned to the Lord. Acts 11:21

Hello,

Do you sometimes share with others? The Book of Acts tells about the beginning of the Christian church. In today's story, we read how the early church shared what it had with one another. The Bible tells us that there were no needs among them. As a result, the early church grew quickly and flourished. Soon the church in Jerusalem was sending people out to start new communities of faith throughout the known world. One of those who was sent out was Barnabas, who as we learned in an earlier lesson, was known for his generosity. He sold a field and gave the proceeds to the apostles. These details give us a picture of what life was like for the first Christians and how the first church worked.

Our own church works to share with our community. We help people have food and clothing and places to live. People from our church gather to pray for the

community, as well. People visit others who are sick and offer support and help to those who may have had something terrible happen to their lives, like a fire in their homes. Churches in our community work together, too, doing some of these things together. Our church is connected to churches in communities all over California, all over the west states, all over the north and south and east states, too. Our church is connected to churches all over the United States. They are connected to churches all over the world, too! Our church sends money and goods to help people across the world. Our church web is doing God's work all around the world.

How can you help? Start by helping one another. Share what you have with others. That is the best place to start. It always starts with one person sharing with another.

Ms. Russell and Ms. Odom are working together to plan a time for Sunday school to gather again. We have to be careful and be safe. Soon we will have a gathering time for us to continue to learn about Jesus and our church.

Love,
Ms. Russell



North District Weekly Covenant Prayer List June 6 - 27, 2021

from District Superintendent, Rev. James Powell

*“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) |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---|
| June 6, 2021 | Glendale: First German UMC | Pastor Kurt Poland |
| June 6, 2021 | Santa Barbara First UMC | Pastor Mark Richardson & Pastor Alan Strout |
| June 13, 2021 | Santa Maria: Bethel Korean Mission | Pastor Kisung Nam |
| June 13, 2021 | Los Angeles: Immanuel UMC | Pastor Sangman Shin |
| June 20 2021 | Sherman Oaks UMC | Pastor Garth Gilliam |
| June 20 2021 | Ojai UMC | Pastor Jaime Nieves |
| June 27, 2021 | Santa Maria: Christ UMC | Pastor Marc Marcos |
| June 27, 2021 | North Hollywood First UMC | Pastor Steve Peralta |

OUTDOOR SUNDAY (MASKED) SING-ALONG WITH THE WORSHIP TEAM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DENNIS EILER AND BRAD BETTENCOURT




Sing-along



FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Patti Melsheimer

The Book of James

Have you read the Book of James? Tucked in between Hebrews and 1st Peter, it is one of the shortest books in the New Testament. But it is packed full of descriptions of how to live your life on a daily basis! I was drawn to it because James 2:14-18 is the biblical text to be used for emphasis in the upcoming United Methodist Women's Assembly.

James reminds me of the Old Testament book of Proverbs. Its focus is generally on "practical action in the life of faith." In Chuck Swindoll's study guide, "God's Masterwork", he describes the book of James as "filled with direct commands to pursue a life of holiness...Christians evidence their faith by walking in certain ways and not others. For James, a faith that does not produce real life change is a faith that is worthless."

Although the identity of the author is not known for sure, most scholars believe that James was the half-brother of Jesus. It is thought that he wrote the letter between AD 45-48. Paul called James one of the pillars of the church.

Here are a few of my favorite quotes for the book of James:

James 1:19 – "My dearest brothers and sisters, take this to heart: Be quick to listen, but slow to speak. And be slow to become angry, for human anger is never a legitimate tool to promote God's righteous purpose."

James 2:14 – "My dear brothers and sisters, what good is it if someone claims to have faith but demonstrates no good works to prove it? How could this kind of faith save anyone?"

James 5:9 – "Since each of you are part of God's family, never complain or grumble about each other so that judgment will not come on you."

Chuck Swindoll's study guide continues, "More than any other book in the New Testament, James places the spotlight on the necessity for believers to act in accordance with our faith. How well do your actions mirror the faith that you proclaim? This is a question that we all struggle to answer... As you read the letter from James, focus on those areas that he mentioned: your actions during trials, your treatment of those less fortunate, the way you speak and relate to others... Allow James to encourage you to do good, according to the faith you proclaim." (Although I do not agree with many of Swindoll's beliefs, I think this is a good analysis of the book of James.)

I would love to hear what you think of the book of James!



News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: June 2021

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

We provide the opportunity for mission and ministry and your response is appreciated. Again, we are ready to provide an opportunity for you to get *your gear*. By that I mean an opportunity to select items for you and your family that share the logo for our congregation.

Before the pandemic, the church council offered the Mission Team the raising of funds for mission. You will find order blanks in the narthex or ask Judy Atwood. Included are possibilities for:

- Short sleeve T Shirt \$20 S-5XL
- Long Sleeve T Shirt \$25 S-5XL
- Sweatshirts \$30 S-XL
- Women's V-Neck Short Sleeve T Shirt \$25 S-4XL
- Children's Short Sleeve T Shirt \$20 S-XL
- Children's Long Sleeve T Shirt \$25 S-XL
- Ball Caps (NEW) \$20



The Bauske family models the logo shirts.

The profits from this project will be used for local ministry here in our community.

LOVE IN ACTION IN ALASKA

We have received some response for the challenge of providing items to send to the Layette Ministry in Nome, Alaska. The Shawl Ministry was generous in sharing several shawls for the new babies and mamas. We also received some new clothing and a stuffed giraffe. I have heard there are some other items in the workings so we should be able to send all of these items along the way to Nome before too long. Thanks for all that we have received and those items coming.

As always, I want to say thank you, to the congregation, for being a blessing to our community as well to others of God's people around the world.

So, my challenge to myself and others who wish to join me, continue to be who are you and be willing to take time to help make a change for someone else?



**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 |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|  | | <h1>June</h1> | | |  | |
| <p>The 3 R's of Summer... Read, Relax, & Renew</p>  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Mike Reinecke Birthday  | 5  Jim Steiner Birthday |
| 6 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service | 7  Ray Douglas Birthday | 8 Sadie Krovious Birthday  | 9 | 10 | 11 Bill Weitkamp Birthday  | 12 |
| 13 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service | 14 Liliana Bauske Birthday  | 15 Janice Moore Birthday  | 16  Dennis Eiler Birthday Evelyn Green Birthday  | 17  George Stewart Birthday | 18 Pauline Castillo Birthday  | 19 Connie Clark Birthday  Gloria Johnson Birthday  |
| 20 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service UMM Fathers Day BBQ 11-12:30 BG Perriguey Birthday  | 21 | 22 | 23  Sandy Underwood Birthday | 24 Victoria Paredes Birthday  | 25 | 26 |
| 27 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service | 28  Bobbi Merris Birthday | 29 | 30 |  | | |

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

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Lay Leader: Patti Melsheimer
Office Administrator:
 Frances Robertson
Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Choir Director: Julie Burns
Praise Team Director: Mike Clark
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
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PLEASE NOTE:

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?



ALTAR flowers

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 any videos that might be 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.

We can order as usual from the GRAND BOUQUET as we do upon request, or Brad Bettencourt (long-time florist himself who actually owned a flower shop for years) will arrange some pretty Trader Joe's flowers to be used in for our worship services.

Please contact Frances in the Church Office who is the liaison with the Worship Team to make these plans.



| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Mike Reinecke | 06/04 |
| Jim Steiner | 06/05 |
| Ray Douglas | 06/07 |
| Sadie Krovious | 06/08 |
| Bill Weitkamp | 06/11 |
| Liliana 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 |

PROGRAM MINISTRY

Hello Church Family,
 With church services now occurring in the sanctuary, I'm hopeful to begin a few Program Ministry events very soon! Here are two photos of the most recent camping trips.



*submitted by
 Sandy Underwood*

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
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June

2021

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag



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Children's Center Chronicle



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

**IT'S TIME TO HELP REFILL THE SHELVES FOR
THE 5CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FOOD PANTRY!**

**IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR CANNED AND
PACKAGED FOOD STAPLES, HERE ARE SOME
SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

**Regular sized boxed cereals, peanut butter, shelf-stable
milk, surplus garden vegetables and fruits, brown paper
bags (not plastic) for distributing the food.**



Food can be brought to the Church Office
Mondays-Thursdays from 9 AM to 1 PM.
Church members who help out at the pantry
will take the items to the Pantry location.