

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Monday	Dec. 19	Nothing currently scheduled
Tuesday	Dec. 20	No Senior Exercise or Sew n Sews Chair Yoga 11:00 AM CH Advent Study 1:00 PM CH Hand Bell Practice 5:00 PM HR
Wednesday	Dec. 21	Nothing currently scheduled
Thursday	Dec. 22	Choir Practice 6:30 PM S
Friday	Dec. 23	Nothing currently scheduled
Saturday	Dec. 24	CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE AT 7:00 PM
Sunday	Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM



UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY SUNDAY DEC. 18 Craft Making Sponsored by the Sunday School after church during Hospitality Time in Criswell Hall.



Sun. Dec. 25 and Sun. Jan. 1 are *ALL CHURCH HOSPITALITY DAYS* after the 10:30 service. Bring your extra Christmas cookies, fruitcakes and other goodies to share.

10:30 AM SERVICE DEC 18 GUEST MUSIC GROUP

"Cross Traffic" provides special Christmas music during the 10:30 service today.

We also have our monthly handbell Sunday, at both services, with a Christmas medley from our handbell ringers directed by Leonard Lutz.

DECEMBER 24 7:00 PM

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

A worship service for the entire family. Join us to sing carols, tell the original Christmas story and worship by candlelight.



DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM ONLY



Abbreviation Legend: * Please sign up in advance at the welcome desk in the Narthex.
CH = Criswell Hall HR = Hand Bell Room #115 PS = Pastor's Study
MMR = McMillen Room #113 L = Library Room #123 S = Sanctuary



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 N. Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



December 18, 2022

10:30 AM

ADVENT IV

PRELUDE

What Child is This

arr. Dan Coates

SPECIAL MUSIC

God Rest Ye Merry/Glad Tidings
Cross Traffic

Phillip Kern/Mark Hayes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In days of sorrow and in days of joy,
the dear Christ enters in.

In community and in solitude,
the dear Christ enters in.

In our worship, work and play,
the dear Christ enters in.

Let us worship Christ who has called us here.

*OPENING HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1-3)

No. 230

WELCOME

PUPPET PLAY

OPENING PRAYER

**Emmanuel, be with us in this time of worship,
in this season and in the year ahead.**

**Be present in our thinking and our dreaming,
in our words and our actions.**

**Be with us in our joys and our sorrows,
and remind us that we are not alone.**

Emmanuel, you are with us always. Amen.

BELL ANTHEM MEDLEY *I Saw Three Ships/The First Noel/Westminster Carol*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Carolyn Russell

SPECIAL MUSIC *Love Came Gently* Speck/Duren/Zaloudik
Cross Traffic

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer *Love Came Down at Christmas* (verses 1 & 2) No. 242
Prayers of the People
Choral Response *Love Came Down at Christmas* (verse 3) No. 242

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25

CHORAL ANTHEM

Night of the Father's Love Pepper Choplin

SERMON

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
THE GIFTS CHRIST BRINGS:
"Assurance and Fulfilment"

OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission
Offertory *The Holly and the Ivy* Traditional/arr. Cindy Berry
Doxology Melody from Hymnal, No. 95

***Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,
whose Daystar shines for us on high,
whose Spirit brings into our sight
the love to which our world draws nigh.***

*CLOSING HYMN *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* No. 240

*BENEDICTION

Love has come.
Be open to its transforming power.
Be prepared to embrace it with a full heart.
Be ready to receive God's Love anew.

*RESPONSE *Joy to the World* Pentatonix
Cross Traffic

POSTLUDE *Today in Bethlehem* Rick Parks

* Please stand as able.

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Today's Scripture

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph,

being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son and he named him Jesus.

Today's Liturgist: Cristy Van Hook

HOSPITALITY

**Today hosted by
STAFF-PARISH
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE
Dec. 25 & Jan 1
hosted by All
Church Hospitality
Time--Bring your
extra Christmas
goodies!**

ATTENDANCE						STEWARDSHIP
WEEK	8:30	10:30	IN-PERSON	VIDEO	TOTAL	
11/20	38	56	94	34	128	\$2,664
11/27	34	44	78	45	123	\$7,961
12/04	36	40	76	29	105	\$27,106
12/11	38	50	88	25	113	\$4,864
Weekly offering needed: \$6,160						
Fiscal year to date			Needed \$147,840		Received \$138,450	
Christmas Budgeted			\$5,100		Received \$1,914 that is:	
7 Sparrows, 3 Cats, 6 Dogs, 4 Roosters, 2 Pigs, 10 Sheep, 1 Donkey and 1 Cow.						