



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

FEBRUARY 2022

YOU ARE INVITED TO A HOUSEWARMING FOR OUR NEW STOVE & OVEN
AND CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS

WITH A
TRADITIONAL SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Pancakes, sausages, eggs, applesauce, King Cake and beverage

TUESDAY, MARCH 1 (FAT TUESDAY)

Festivities include a live reading by Rev. Mary
of one of her favorite childhood stories: The Runaway Pancake.

SEATINGS AT 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM.

Please sign up in advance at the Program Ministry table.

Free will offering taken at the door.

Appropriate Mardi Gras apparel encouraged.



~ submitted by Joel Anderson, Church Council Chair

NOTE: This special Mardi Gras celebration is a joint effort of the Church Council, Trustees, United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Program Ministry and all the other church groups and individuals who have made the purchase and installation of the new stove and oven possible! Bravo to all who have made this major enhancement (and necessity) to the church kitchen a reality!



Fantastic February Events are detailed in the articles from **UMW**, page 5: (Sun. Feb. 6—UMW Sunday & Sun. Feb. 13—Super Bowl Chili) **Program Ministry**, page 8: (Sat. Feb. 19—Estrella Warbird Museum Visit), (Wed. Feb 23— Picnic at Talley Winery), and (Sun. Feb 27— Movie Night “In the Heights” in Criswell Hall)

275 North Halcyon Road . Arroyo Grande . CA 93420 . (805) 481-2692

LAY LEADERSHIP 2022

Greetings Congregation!

After a long Covid-Created hiatus in our work as the Nominating Committee, we are back at it again! We are the group of people that puts in place Team Leadership and Committee Chair-people to guide the work of the church. We were functioning with far too few in this group. Therefore, we have doubled our number and are doubling down to get the task done.

The congregation has been back for in-person worship and hosting online worshippers for 8 months now. Thanks to your dedicated small group leaders, book studies, UMM, and UMW are getting people together. Your Administrative Committees (Church Council, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations and Trustees never shut down! The work of the church goes on!

Leadership is more important than ever as we find our stride again and strengthen our community's worship, friendships, and outreach. So, think about where you'd most like to be involved in making things happen among us. Thank you once again to you all for coming through March 2020 into the present with flying colors!

Your Nominating Committee is:

Judy Atwood, Mary Hawkins, Patti Melsheimer, Roseann Steiner, Lori Ford, Gerry McGuire and Mary Birgelaitis. The Nominating Committee in UM churches is always chaired by the pastor. Don't run when you see us coming! Pick up the phone and say "YES" when we call!

1/27/22

Dear United Methodist Church / Jan Treat,

On behalf of the County of San Luis Obispo, the Department of Social Services, our management and staff and mostly the families and children that we serve; thank you very much for your contribution to our Operation Santa gift drive this year.

Thanks to members of our community like you, we collected and distributed more than 10,000 toys, items of clothing and sundries, as well as dozens of gift cards to children who might otherwise have received nothing for Christmas...

If you need it for your records, our tax ID # for your contribution is: 95-6000939.

L. Christopher Cothard

Marge Castle



Administrative Services Division Manager Operation Santa Team Leader SLO Co. Dept. of Social Services



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



February 6

8:30 a.m.—Susan Thronson

10:30 a.m.—Robin Isakson

February 13

8:30 a.m.—Elwood Hyden

10:30 a.m.—RoseAnn Steiner

February 20

8:30 a.m.—Joseph Brown

10:30 a.m.—Rosslyn Clauson

February 27

8:30 a.m.—Lucy Jacob

10:30 a.m.—Judy Leonard

Ushers are still needed for Worship Service at 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!

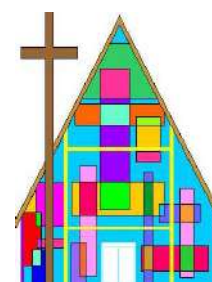
submitted by Kerren Brown



District Covenant Prayer List

from District Superintendent, Rev. Melissa MacKinnon

“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 Week	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
February 6	Pacoima First UMC	Pastor Lydia Waters
February 6	Ojai UMC	Pastor Jaime Nieves
February 13	Northridge UMC	Pastor Joseph Choi
February 13	Moorpark UMC	Pastor Kathleen Puntar
February 20	Knollwood UMC	Pastor Kalesita Tu’ifua
February 20	Grace Korean UMC	Pastor Jin Ho Han
February 27	Glendale First UMC	Pastor Kristopher Tate & Pastor Stephanie Rice
	Frist UMC of San Fernando	Pastor Paul Tangonan



The United Methodist Men enjoyed their breakfast meeting on January 15th. Devon McQuade, associate director for the Five Cities Homeless Coalition, was our speaker and informed us of new homeless housing options that will be coming

to the area in the coming year. The talk and breakfast were well received for the 10 folks in attendance. Nothing is scheduled for February but the UMM will be involved in putting on the Fat Tuesday, March 1st, pancake dinner.

~ submitted by Paul Holden



UMW February Book Selection: The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

The UMW Book Club will meet on Friday, February 18th at 10:30 A.M. in the Church Library. This month we will experience life in France during the early years of World War II by reading The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah.

In this story two sisters who are separated by circumstances and ideals are able to carry on the "women's war" through resisting the Germans in different ways. One sister remains in her German-occupied house in order to survive while the other joins the French Resistance to fight the Nazis. The novel reveals the resiliency of the human spirit and the enduring bonds binding the two sisters together.

We encourage returning and new book club members to attend the February 18th meeting. Library copies of The Nightingale will be available in the Church Office in early February. See Patti Melsheimer if you have any questions.

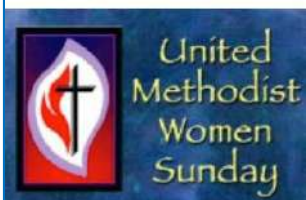


~ submitted by Judy Leonard





“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 global ministries of the church.”



Sunday, February 6, the Women of the Church will participate in the service as part of the annual UMW Sunday. We will have Rev. Diane Rehfield as guest Preacher.

We will also be recognizing Don and Helen Gugeler for their years of active and loyal service to our Church and choir, as they move to Templeton to live with their daughter and her family. If you would like to bring a card for Don and Helen, there will be a basket in the Narthex on that Sunday to collect cards.

Our popular Super Bowl Sunday Chili Sale will take place on February 13th. Ticket sales have already started.

For \$15 you can pick up enough chili (your choice of vegetarian, turkey, beef, or no beans) for two people, 2 corn muffins and cookies. You will be able to drive up and pick up after second service.

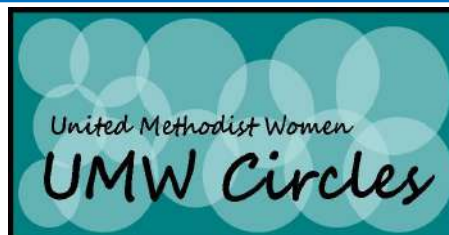


You may have heard the new stoves are here and installed. We are going to dedicate them with a Fat Tuesday (Shrove) Pancake dinner with pancakes (naturally), sausage, eggs, applesauce and King Cake. More information about the event is on the front page. We will have two seatings, at 5:00 and 6:00 pm. The double seating is to keep us socially distanced. Donations will be accepted.

Prayers for your Health.

Respectively submitted,

Gerry McGuire



JOY Circle

JOY Circle is starting up again with a scheduled meeting on February 1 at 7:00 PM in Criswell Hall.

Sew ‘n’ Sews

Starting this month (February) the Sew n Sews meet each Tuesday at 10 AM in the McMillan Room.

Mary-Martha-Esther (MME) Circle

MME meets regularly in the McMillan Room at 10:00 AM on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The photo below was taken on January 26, 2022.



Front: Eva, Margaret. Middle: Judy, Don. Back: Leona, Mary, Marcela, Shirley, Helen, Mary, Gerry, Bob.



- February 6 — UMW Sunday - 1st and 2nd service
- February 13—Super Bowl Chili Sunday – 11:30– 12:30 pm
- March 1 — Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner – 5:00 and 6:00 pm

CHURCH BANNERS

~ Patti Melsheimer

Have you noticed the banners that are hanging on the walls of our sanctuary and wondered who puts them up and why they sometimes change? Did you see the three wise men hanging in the chancel area behind the choir loft during Epiphany?

Most of these works of art have been made by our own church members. Irene Kliesch is the person responsible for the hanging and displaying of the banners with some assistance from Dennis Eiler. She changes the banners to coordinate the liturgical calendar. There are also several that are used for special occasions such as weddings or memorial services.

Most of the current banners have been made by Irene and Sandy Underwood. Presently the "Wise Men" hanging in the chancel were made by Sandy and the side banners were made by Irene.

They get some of their ideas for the banners from catalogues or quilting patterns or visiting other churches. Others are created and designed by them. Irene tells me that most are a combination of machine stitching and hand stitching. Sometimes brocade or other embellishments are glued on. Many designs start out as small pictures and have to be enlarged several times to get the right size.

As you leave the sanctuary next Sunday, look up at the two banners hanging over the center doors. Those are intended to complement the stained glass window. They were made by Sandy and hung by her husband Bob. That must have been a big ladder!



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

This prayer is printed in our UMC Book of Worship for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The length and nature of it makes it too unwieldy for use in worship. It is more easily read than recited and so we offer it to you in written form:

We remember the conviction of Martin Luther King, Jr., that **“freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”** Therefore, let us pray for courage and determination by those who are oppressed.

We remember Martin’s warning that **“a negative peace which is the absence of tension”** is less than **“a positive peace which is the presence of justice.”** Therefore, let us pray that those who work for peace in our world may cry out first for justice...

We remember Martin’s insight that **“injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”** Therefore, let us pray that we may see nothing in isolation but may know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven...

We remember Martin’s lament that **“the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the Church’s silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are.”** therefore, let us pray that neither this congregation nor any congregation of Christ’s people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is God’s call to us...

We remember Martin’s **“hope that dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty.”** Therefore, in faith, let us commend ourselves and our work for justice to the goodness of almighty God.

QUOTATIONS from Letter from the Birmingham City Jail by Martin Luther King Jr.
Litany by W. B. McClain and L. H. Stookey, USA 20th Cent.

~ MBB

[African American](#) Heritage Month is observed for the month of **February every year**. People celebrate African American Heritage Month and throughout the year to reflect on more than 400 years of American African history and heritage that have shaped the American culture as we know it today.

Program Ministry

February 19th 1-3pm we will visit the **Paso Robles Estrella Warbird Museum** with a docent led tour. \$11 per person. Car pool from the church promptly at 12:00 noon.

February 23rd we will picnic at **Talley Winery**; bring your own picnic lunch. There are many picnic tables and chairs. We will carpool from church parking lot at 11am.

February 27th from 4-6pm in Criswell Hall is our second “movie” event. This movie is entitled “**In the Heights**”, a 2021 stage musical by Hudes and [Lin-Manuel Miranda](#) (you know the Hamilton guy). It’s a musical story told outside the 181st Street subway stop in New York City; a magnetic bodega owner is dreaming about a better life. Sign up to ensure your spot; theater type snacks for sale.

March 5th from 1-3pm Wine and Design from Orcutt will host an acrylic painting workshop **Seashell on the Beach**. Registration on line only; no refunds. Follow the link to sign up and use Event Code (**pARTy**) (case-sensitive) to purchase your seats. (e-mail/text Sandy for help).

<https://www.wineanddesign.com/calendar/orcutt-ca/event/first-united-methodist-church-of-ag>

Dodger Baseball season starts the end of March. If you are interested, sign up. Your cost will be the ticket and transportation. Once we know how many people are interested, Program Ministry will schedule a game date and transportation. Questions call 1-805-890-7874.

Suggested Movie List: Disney’s Jungle Cruise (PG-13), The Art of Racing in the Rain (PG), Best Exotic Mari-gold Hotel (PG-13), Breakfast at Tiffany’s (G), The Chronicles of Narnia (PG), Sister Acts (PG).

Attention War Movie Buffs: There are war related movies and documentaries. Let Program Ministries know your preference or come look at our list of suggestions.

Fictional war movies: The Monuments Men, The Patriot, They Shall Not Grow Old, The Last Full Measure, Hacksaw Ridge, The Green Berets, Saving Private Ryan, American Sniper, The Hurt Locker, Black Hawk Down.

Documentaries about War: WWII in Color, Road to Victory, Greatest Events of WWII in Color, WWII in HD, Medal of Honor, Camp Confidential (America’s Secret Nazis), Mosul, Sand Castle, Sniper Legacy, Five Came Back, Sniper Ghost Shooter, The Liberator, Age of Tanks, the Devil Next Door.

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: February 2022
Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

OUR WORK THROUGH UMCOR...United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable. We provide relief, response and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own. UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

UMCOR is well known around the world. Our Bishop sent a message to us as a call to prayer and support for Tonga.

"Many of us have been following the volcanic eruption near Tonga, and instead of worrying about a tsunami affecting our shorelines, our hearts and prayers are going out to the people of Tonga and the island itself.

We have so many clergy and laity who have relatives from Tonga, and reports have been slow as to the damages to the island and its people. For sure, the concentration of ash and resulting tsunamis have negatively affected the island.

Please join me in your regular prayers for our Tongan siblings and for the physical island itself. We ask God to move us to send relief in the form of donations as well as these prayers. May the island of Tonga know that we hold them in our daily prayers.

You may participate in this special offering by making a donation by marking your check or and envelope with Tongan Relief."

THANKS, FROM 5 CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOOD PANTRY

Like natural disasters, human disasters need our response. Respond is what you did during 2021 for our local food pantry. We received a letter thanking us very much for our donations to the Five Cities Christian Women Food Pantry in 2021, which was a total of \$1,497.98.

The congregation also helped our preschool with their outreach program of raising pennies for turkeys. This totaled \$892.00. We were told that the coins weighed over 50lbs! The preschool also thanks you for supporting their mission project to help others in our community who are nutritionally challenged.



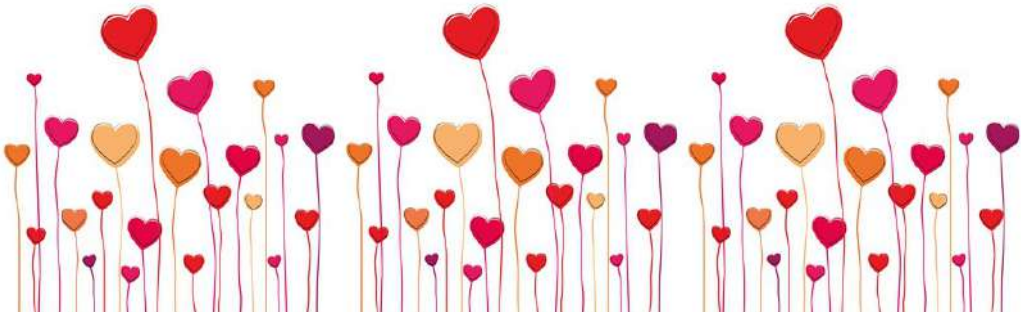
Plans for 2022, will include a food drive in the near future. Watch for more information as to date and how it will be tied into one of our other church programs.

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.**

FEBRUARY

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</p> <p>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>1 PM Bible Study-CH</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM Program Ministry—L</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3:30 PM AGUMCC Closed</p> <p>4:30 PM AGUMCC Monthly Staff Meeting—MMR</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>5th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>UMW SUNDAY</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>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>9</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM Trustees Monthly Mts-CH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>6th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>11:30 Super Chili Bowl—Pick Up</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>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>1 PM Bible Study-CH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM UMW Steering Committee—L</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 AM UMW Book Club—L</p> <p>1:00 PM AGUMCC Board MTS—MMR</p> <p>1:00 PM Open, 2:00 PM Closed</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Program Ministry -Estrella Warbird Museum Visit leave church at 12 noon</p>
<p>20</p> <p>7th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRESIDENT’S DAY HOLIDAY</p>  <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>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>1PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM MME—MMR</p> <p>11:00 Program Min. Talley Vineyards Picnic-lv at 11 AM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>1:00 PM Church Council—CH</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Transfiguration Sunday</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>4-6 PM Program Ministry Movie-CH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?



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 recorded for the video 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 .

Orders can be made, as in the past, from the Grand Bouquet which we can do upon your request. Or orders can be placed with Brad Bettencourt (long-time florist himself who actually owned a flower shop for years) who has created lovely arrangements with Trader Joe’s flowers used in our worship services.

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



Margaret Coombs	02/01
Devin Paredes	02/02
Robert McGuire	02/03
Barbara Reineke	02/03
Isabella Russell	02/03
Guy Oakes	02/04
Betty Ashton	02/05
Mark Moore	02/06
Betty Johnson	02/07
Wayne Huggins	02/08
Irene Kliesch	02/19
Leonard Lutz	02/23
Michelle Paredes	02/25
Chloe Keith	02/28



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 birth date to our monthly birthday list!

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

2022

The month of
February



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ISSUE

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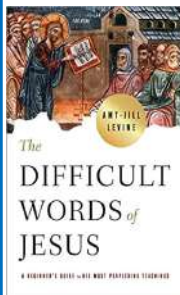
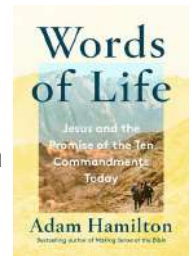
Children's Center Chronicle

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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

Bible Study and Lenten Study Classes

Bible Study on Tuesday afternoons resumed on January 18, with six sessions by Adam Hamilton, Words of Life. He brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history—the Ten Commandments. The group meets at 1:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall with social distancing.



The Lenten Study, by Amy-Jill Levin, The Difficult Words of Jesus, will begin on March 1. This is also a six session class and will be at the same time and location. Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. The author gives enlightenment on how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

Study books are available.

~ submitted by Judy Atwood