



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande SEPTEMBER 2022

You are cordially invited
to join the membership of
First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande,
and to meet on
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11th

at

9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.
after 1st Service or after 2nd Service

in the pastor's office adjacent to the sanctuary
in order to consider that possibility.

In baptism we become a part of the Body of Christ. Christianity is a communal faith, and Christian worship is communal too. We may find solace, comfort and calm in prayer with God alone, but Christian worship is meant to bring us together before God. God comes to us announcing love, forgiveness and grace and inviting us to become people of The Way, walking in the footsteps of Christ.

Pastors are perplexed when people say **"I am a Christian but I don't need the church."** **"My faith is private."** That's an oxymoron! It doesn't make sense. To be a Christian is to be linked with God and others in community.

Given the communal nature of the Church, church membership is a natural step for Christian disciples. We commit to a community of believers with whom we work, grow and serve. We are not meant to live in isolation, and the church is a great place to know others face-to-face.

Whether you have already decided church membership is a "yes" or you are just thinking about it, come with your questions and register your interest. We would like to take in new members on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022 at whichever service you attend. If you are interested and cannot come on September 11th, please call the pastor or let the church secretary know of your interest at 805 481-2692.



Rev. Mary Bingham

Program Ministry

In an effort to help the Program Ministry Team streamline our process, please enter only one name on each line of the sign-up sheets. This will ensure we purchase enough tickets, provide enough food and provide transportation if needed to or for an event.

Also, please pay for your tickets to an event that has a charge at the time you sign up. If you pay by check, please write in the NOTES section what event you are paying for; if paying by cash, please use the envelope at the Program Ministry desk and place all payments in the wooden box.

Program Ministry invites you to participate in these scheduled events.

Thursday, September 1 in McMillen Room is Boutique Crafting from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, hosted by Gerry McGuire.

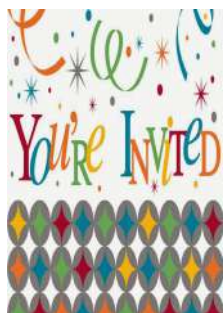


Wednesday, September 14 we will depart from the church at 5:30 pm carpooling to PCPA's "Native Garden" in Solvang. We will picnic at the PCPA patio area; bring your own picnic dinner.



Saturday, September 17 we will be hosting a "Barn Dance in Criswell Hall accompanied by a "Chili Dinner" complete with cornbread and salad.

Sunday, September 25 at 4:00 pm "RISE", a basketball story based on the real life story about the family that produced the first trio of brothers to become NBA champions in the history of the league.



Saturday, October 1, 100th Birthdays and Gala Luncheon from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Program Ministry and United Women of Faith are co-sponsoring a **100th Birthday and Gala luncheon** to celebrate birthdays for folks 90 years and older, **especially honoring Peg Gallop and Guy Oates who are turning 100!** Come for lunch, games, cake and ice cream. You must RSVP by September 24 to Nancy Gerrish (contact information in church directory).



The October events are already posted on the Program Ministry table; come visit us!
If you have movie suggestions or any other suggestions let us know.



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



SEPTEMBER 4

8:30 a.m.—Joseph Brown
10:30 a.m.—Rosslyn Clauson

SEPTEMBER 11

8:30 a.m.—Sharon Roemer
10:30 a.m.—Patti Melsheimer

SEPTEMBER 18

8:30 a.m.—Ian Beard
10:30 a.m.—Nancy St. Laurent

SEPTEMBER 25

8:30 a.m.—David Beard
10:30 a.m.—Cristy Van Hook

submitted by Jan Treat

Ushers are needed for Worship Services

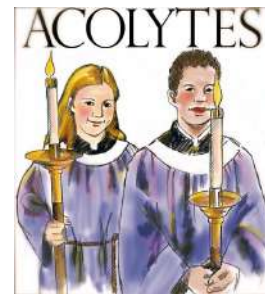


at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Training is offered for new or returning ushers. This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church.

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.

District Covenant Prayer List

from DS Rev. Melissa Mackinnon

Prayer Week	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
September 4 September 4	Community UMC of Inyokern North Oxnard UMC/Garden Church	Church Leaders Pastors Erin & Matt McPhee
September 11 September 11	Pioneer Memorial UMC Big Pine Community UMC	Pastor Kate Hunter Pastor Kate Hunter
September 18 September 18	Woodland Hills UMC Westlake Village	Pastor Seung-il Whang Pastor Walter Dilg & Pastor Kristi Smith
September 25 September 25	Van Nuys UMC Trinity UMC of Los Osos	Pastor Sang Ho Yi Pastor Gilbert Stones

Imagine My Joy!

I invited the congregation to list favorite hymns for me as Julia Burns and I get to work with new energy and enthusiasm with regard to worship. I am so glad to welcome her into her new role as DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, expanding the gifts she already offers us with new areas of responsibility.

My joy is two-fold at the moment. I am thrilled to be working in this way even more intentionally and intensely with Julia, and I am so grateful for your response to my simple request to list your favorite hymns. I wanted to share what came in from the first eight people who responded and to invite you anytime at all to submit your list to Julia and me so that your “favorites” are on our radar as we plan together. My first request produced 33 beloved hymns, one special song for each year of Jesus’ life! You can add to our list and I hope you will. Take a look at the list below .



- | | |
|---|--|
| America the Beautiful (No. 696) | Trust in the Lord |
| Blessed Assurance (No. 369) | Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (No. 402) |
| The Church’s One Foundation (No. 545) | Jesus Shall Reign (No. 157) |
| I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath (No. 60) | A Mighty Fortress is Our God (No. 110) |
| To God Be the Glory (No. 98) | What a Friend We Have in Jesus (No. 526) |
| God of Grace & God of Glory (No. 577) | Soon & Very Soon (No. 706) |
| Help Us Accept Each Other (No. 560) | The Old Rugged Cross (No. 504) |
| Are Ye Able (No. 530) | Here I Am, Lord (No. 593) |
| Lift Every Voice and Sing (No. 519) | Wonderful Words of Life (No. 600) |
| There’s Within My Heart a Melody (No.380) | Trust & Obey (No. 467) |
| Softly & Tenderly, Jesus is Calling (No. 348) | |
| Spirit Song (No. 347) | Communion: |
| How Great Thou Art (No. 77) | ** Let Us Break Bread Together (No. 618) |
| May the Good Lord Bless & Keep You | |
| Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (No. 400) | Christmas: |
| Precious Lord, Take My Hand (No. 474) | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (No. 240) |
| Standing on the Promises (No. 374) | There’s a Song in the Air (No. 249) |
| Be Thou My Vision (No. 451) | |
| It is Well with My Soul (No. 377) | |

Rev. Mary Bingleair's



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seek 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.

Due to the current upswing in Covid outbreaks we found it prudent to cancel the Church Picnic and, also the Women's Retreat at Patti Melsheimer's house. But being the women we are, the steering committee decided to have a virtual Retreat.

"Faith in Action"- A virtual Women's Retreat.

Keep a look out in your mail for instructions on how you can participate. All women will be able to participate, even if you should happen to be confined to your home. Even if you find yourself with a busy schedule we hope you will take the time, as you can adjust to your personal time frame.

Calling all crafters: On July 7, we had our first craft workshop of the year, attended by a good size group. We made cards for the up-coming, **November 4-5, Boutique.**

Thursday, August 4th we used decals and decoupage to make some great craft items. We meet in the McMillen Room

Thursdays from 10 am to 12 noon. We social distance, and many wear their masks.



Starting in September, we will meet every Thursday through October till the Boutique to craft more items. We will teach any skills needed.

Sept. 1- small notebooks,

Sept. 8- silk ribbon,

Sept. 15- yo-yo dolls,

Sept. 22- small cloth dolls, Sept. 29- sock snowmen,

Oct. 6 -Teddy bears.

We also encourage you to stop by and see what's happening on Tuesdays at Sew and Sews.

"We Believe Love in action can change the world."

submitted by Gerry McGuire, UWF President

Dates to Remember

Sept. 1 make small notebooks (cutting and gluing)

Sept. 8 make Silk Ribbon Pillows (embroidery)

Sept. 15 make yo-yo dolls (limited elementary sewing)

Sept. 22 small cloth dolls (stuffing and gluing)

Sept. 29 sock snowman (stuffing and gluing)

October 1 Birthday Gala

Oct. 6 Teddy bears (stuffing and limited sewing)

FALL BIBLE STUDIES

Our First Study

October 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15 (6 sessions)

It is time again to calendar our Tuesday afternoon Bible Studies. **SO** get out your calendar and write down the dates.

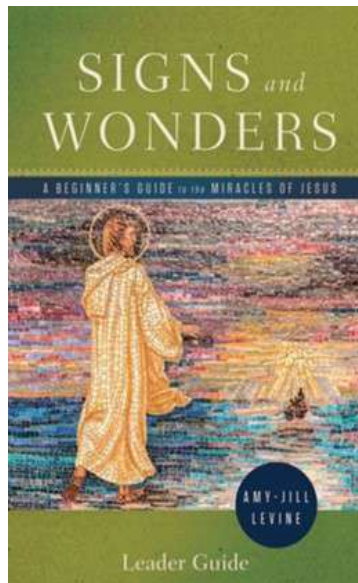
We will begin with exploring the miracles of Jesus in *Signs and Wonders* with Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New

Testament studies and Bible study author. In *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine explores selected miracles of Jesus in historical and theological context.

For each miracle, she discusses not only how past witnesses would have understood the events, but also how today's readers can draw meaning from Jesus' words and actions. Chapter topics include:

1. Giving sight to the blind: Metaphors of understanding (Mark 8, John 9)
2. "Take up your pallet and walk" (the paralyzed man) On the role of caregivers.
3. A bleeding woman and a dead girl. The importance of women's bodies.
4. Walking on water and stilling the storm. Ecological readings of the Gospels.
5. The feeding of the 5,000 (or more) The centrality of bread.
6. The raising of Lazarus. Taking death seriously.

After this first study, we will skip Thanksgiving Week and start the second book in late November.

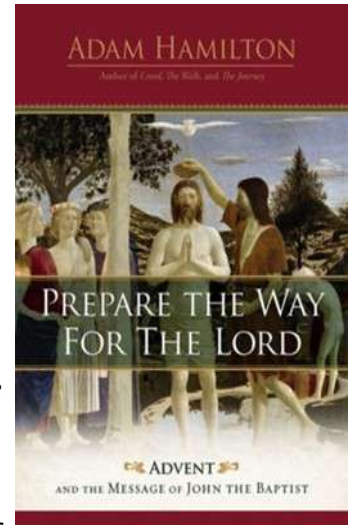


Our Second Study

Nov. 29, Dec 6, 13, 20 (4 sessions)

Prepare to receive Christ this Advent with the message of John the Baptist and best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton in *Prepare the Way for the Lord*.

For two thousand years, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the weeks leading up to Christmas. In *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist*, best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton explores the Advent themes



of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming.

In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to "prepare the way of the Lord." When we hear the message of John the Baptist, it makes us and our world ready to receive Christ.

Chapter topics include:

1. A People Prepared for the Lord
2. God Is Gracious
3. The Fruit of Repentance
4. Witnesses Testifying to the Light

If you haven't participated before, please know you are welcome to join us with either of these studies. If you want a book to read on your own, we can do that as well. Let Judy Atwood know how you want to participate, either with the group or on your own.

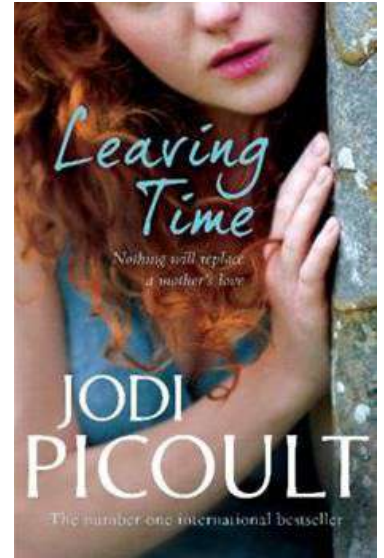


UWF BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS LEAVING TIME

The September UWF Book Club meeting will be held on Friday, September 16th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. This month’s book, Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult, is told from the perspective of 13-year-old Jenna whose mother had disappeared in a mysterious accident in Africa. Her mother, Alice, had been a research scientist who was studying the grief process in elephants. Jenna enlists the help of a psychic and detective to help her piece together what really happened to her mother. Besides the search, the descriptions of elephant behaviors promise to captivate the reader.

If you are interested in reading Leaving Time , you can get a copy of it from Patti Melsheimer or can purchase your own book online. Come join the book club on September 16th for a stimulating discussion.

submitted by Judy Leonard



Mike Clark with Faye on horseback
Horse's name: Roy



**Program
Ministry visit
to the Clark
Ranch on
August 9th.
Thank you,
Mike & Connie!**



Madeline has the opportunity to make friends with a horse!

Let's get acquainted!



Have you met Brad Bettencourt, our church organist?? If not, you have a treat in store! Brad retired from teaching in “the Valley” in 2016 and decided to move to the Central Coast where his two sisters live. Luckily for us, he decided to visit the Methodist Church in Arroyo Grande and “the rest is history!”

Brad was born in Turlock, California and grew up on a dairy farm in Atwater. While in high school he worked at a flower shop in Turlock and enjoyed it so much that he decided to go to a trade school in Portland to study to become a florist. By the time he was 21 he bought his own flower shop. Flower arranging is something he enjoys very much (as some of us learned when we attended his flower arranging classes last year!). But after 12 years as a shop owner, he decided that he wanted to try something else! So, he went back to college and got his degree in education. From 1988 to 2016 Brad taught Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades in the town of Livingston, near Atwater. It is obvious when talking with Brad that he loves teaching and children. Besides teaching, he kept busy planning and carrying out summer camps and vacation Bible schools for his Turlock Baptist church. During this time, he also adopted Ramon or “Raymie” as he affectionately calls his son who was three years old at the time of adoption. When Brad decided to move to Arroyo Grande, Raymie also made the move. Raymie is a barber and works at the “Sports Clips” barber shop near California Fresh Market.

As we all know, besides children and teaching, Brad loves to play the organ! He started taking lessons when he was in eighth grade. And played for his church in Atwater until he moved here. When he first visited our church, he noticed that we have a beautiful organ, but no one was playing it on a regular basis. He spoke with Pastor Mary and learned that we were looking for someone to be our church organist, so he volunteered! He says it is a wonderful instrument and he enjoys playing it. (And we enjoy listening to him playing it!)

Even though he has retired, Brad has not slowed down! Most days, he can be found early mornings, at the church, practicing on the organ. Once a month Brad takes a Sunday off and he and Raymie go to Livingston to visit “Mona”, Raymie’s daughter who lives with her mother and is now 5 years old. Brad proudly tells me that Mona has started kindergarten at the same school that he once taught at! Brad is also very close with his family, and the whole family (including his sister who recently moved to the Azores), “zooms” once or twice a month to keep in touch.

Brad says his philosophy of life is to “See the good in everything!” Stop by the organ and chat with Brad and you will see that attitude reflected in his smile and his music!

submitted by Patti Melsheimer, Lay Leader

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: September 2022

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

Reflection this month comes from Liz Shadbolt.

Liz is a Deaconess working in the Community Care Fellowship in Nashville, Tennessee.

"Overnight shelters for people experiencing homelessness can be chaotic but happy places. Folks are buoyed by a warm meal and a clean bed with the promise of a safe night. Those nights usually end in the very early morning as they head back into an uncertain world.

For several years, I was often the van driver on this morning trip. My still sleepy passengers were usually quiet and tense as everyone considered the day ahead and their plans for survival.

One spring morning, as we inched our way through traffic, I heard the familiar chords of a favorite song, "Purple Rain" by Prince on the radio and turned it up. It only took a few seconds for those chords to reach the back of the 16-passenger van and a few more for everyone on board to sing along with the first "I only want to see you laughing in the purple rain."

The next seven minutes, we all sang at the top of our lungs in shared joy. There were nodding heads and air guitar solos. God brought us together in an unexpected way, bringing joy and connection into a space where it became holy."

HOSPITALITY:

Our congregation has been busy sharing hospitality locally and globally.

LOCAL: We just finished a drive to assist our own Preschool with needed supplies.

Along with the in-kind items brought, We provided over \$232.00 in cash for the teachers to use as needed for teaching the children.

COMMUNITY: We received notes of thanks from the 5Cities Christian Women Food Pantry for the \$298.00 plus that was sent their way to give them the ability to purchase other needed items. This helps them assist the growing numbers of our neighbors in need.

GLOBAL: Your 7 boxes of items for the layette ministry in Nome, brought this note: "Your generous gift helps to ensure that we can reach and support each and every newborn and mother not only in Nome, but the entire Norton Sound Region. We are so appreciative!"



Photo courtesy of Maddy Quaglino, AGUMCC Director



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.



September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Boutique Crafting—MMR	2 4:00 PM AGUMCC Staff Meeting—MMR	3
4 13th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	5 	6 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH	7 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH	8 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Boutique Crafting—MMR	9	10
11 14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	12 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH	13 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH	14 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH 10:00 AM Trustees Monthly Meeting—CH 5:30 PM Carpool to Solvang PCPA, show & picnic	15 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10 AM Boutique Crafting—MMR 10:30 AM SPRC Meeting—CH 4:30 PM AGUMCC Board Mtg—MMR	16 10:30 AM UWF Book Club—L	17 5:00 Program Ministry Barn Dance—CH
18 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	19 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH	20 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 6:30 PM JOY Circle—CH	21 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm-L	22 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10 AM Boutique Crafting —MMR 	23	24
25 16th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 4:00 PM Movie Night "Rise"	26 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH 10:00 AM Program Ministry—L	27 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH	28 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH 10:00 AM Mary Martha Esther—MMR	29 9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Boutique Crafting—MMR	30	Abbreviation Legend CH—Criswell Hall S—Sanctuary K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123 MMR—McMillen Room #113 PL—Parking Lot PS— Pastor's Study HR—Handbell Rm #115



Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
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 www.facebook.com/fumcag

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Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

E-mail: mbirgelaitis@gmail.com

Missionary (retired): Judy Atwood

Lay Leader: Patti Melsheimer

Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson

Website Manager: Jamie Foster

Children's Education Director:

Carolyn Russell

Music Director: Julia Burns

Praise Team Director: Mike Clark

Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler

Handbell Choir Director.:

Leonard Lutz

Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya

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Varied Teams /Committees/Office Angels

The Burns' family, Nancy, Julie and Jacqui, wish to thank everyone for all their support during this difficult time of Chuck's passing. The cards, flowers, gifts, and kindnesses make our hearts overflow. Thank you to a most amazing church family.



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.



- Sally Weitkamp.....9/13
- Alice Addison.....9/14
- Bob Thronson.....9/16
- Jan Treat.....9/18
- Peg Gallop.....9/21
- John Emery.....9/22
- Glen Werling.....9/24
- Judith Atwood.....9/26
- Claire Jacob.....9/29

PROGRAM MINISTRY WALK ON AVILA BEACH—WITH OR WITHOUT DOGS



Above—Judy with dogs (from left) Cowboy, Gretchen, Lydia.



Upper Right—Cristy with dogs Gretchen & Millie.



Right—Judy and Connie with dogs (from left) Cowboy, Lydia, Millie & Gretchen.



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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www.facebook.com/fumcag



2022

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A From Your Music Director



It's September and the choir is coming back. We need to build and add members so please, if you have been on the fence about wanting to join us, now is the time. Perhaps you have a friend who doesn't attend our church but would like to sing. We will meet almost every

Thursday evening in the church sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:00. The first rehearsal will be September 8th and the first Sunday back in the church service will be the 18th along with the bells. Even if you don't read music, there are musicians to help you along. Contact Julia if you are interested in joining in.

submitted by Julia Burns, Music Director