

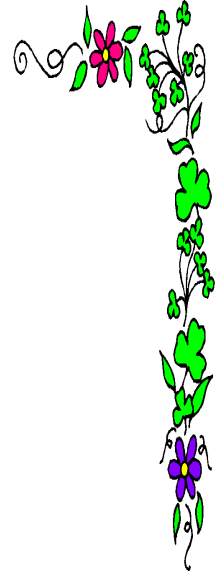
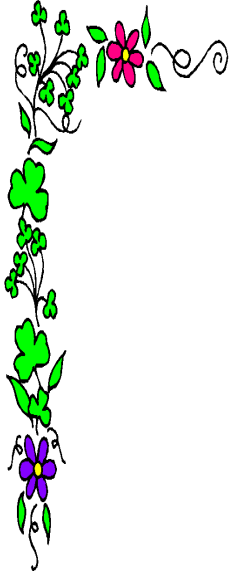


# Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

MARCH 2023

## LENT AND EASTER 2023



Lent I  
February 26, 2023  
LOOKING TO JESUS: Strength

Lent II  
March 5, 2023  
LOOKING TO JESUS: Understanding  
Communion

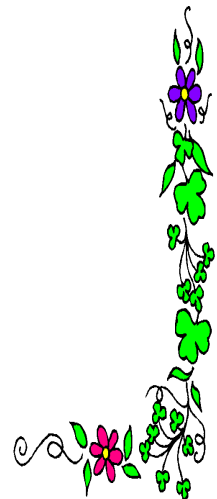
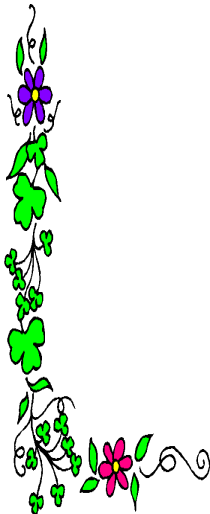
Lent III  
March 12, 2023  
LOOKING TO JESUS: Nourishment

Lent IV  
March 19, 2023  
LOOKING TO JESUS: Healing  
Bell Choir

Lent V  
March 26, 2023  
LOOKING TO JESUS: New Life

PALM SUNDAY  
April 2, 2023  
HOSANNA

EASTER  
April 9, 2023  
HALLELUJAH



## From the Pastor

### UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF UMCOR SUNDAY – MARCH 19, 2023

With the recent passing of our retired missionary, Judy Atwood, we missed a beat with regard to our January 15<sup>th</sup>, Human Relations Day, Special Offering. We thank Judy for the work she has done for so many years in keeping us on board with these important avenues of Mission Giving. We're back with the program and moving forward.

The next Special Offering comes this month on UMCOR Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to participate in any or all of these opportunities throughout the year. Native American Ministries Sunday comes along April 23, 2023, and World Communion in October.

UMCOR has been the church's favorite for a long time. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts and send them directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable. You may also wish to read about the United Methodist Response to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria in a separate article that gives you the Advance Special # for giving to that cause. Either option is a great way to give. Remember, the UMCOR Offering underwrites administrative costs of the program, and Advance Specials go to specific projects. -

### JUDY KAY ATWOOD

September 26, 1942 -- February 22, 2023

Our beloved friend and colleague Judy Atwood passed away on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

In honor of Judy, who served a lifetime as a Deaconess and Diaconal Minister answering the call to servant ministry as an at home missionary in our conference, and a Church and Community Worker in the United States, our congregation is giving you an opportunity to participate in purchasing a leaf or stone for the memorial GIVING TREE in the narthex.

A memorial service for Judy will take place in April shortly after Easter.

Along with United Methodist Women, Judy kept mission giving front and center in our ministry, and there will be opportunities to give a memorial gift in her honor to a local and a global ministry as we move forward together.

God blessed Judy's ministry, and we thank God and Judy for her dedicated service.



**WORSHIP  
LITURGISTS**



**MARCH 5**

8:30 a.m.-----Joseph Brown  
10:30 a.m.-----Barbara Reineke

**MARCH 19**

8:30 a.m. -----David Beard  
10:30 a.m.----Patti Melsheimer

**MARCH 12**

8:30 a.m.-----Sharon Roemer  
10:30 a.m.-----Priscilla Alquist

**MARCH 26**

8:30 a.m.-----Ian Beard  
10:30 a.m. -----Judy Leonard

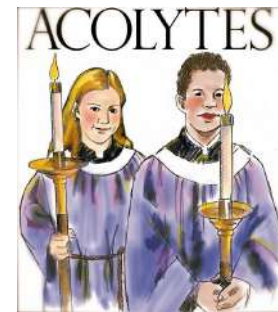
**Ushers are needed for Worship Services** at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Training is offered for new or returning ushers.



**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.*

**NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY 2023**

*Pray for the continued vision of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference:  
"Ending spiritual and physical hunger."*

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
3/5/23	First UMC of Paso Robles	Pastor Josh Zulueta
3/5/23	First UMC of North Hollywood	Pastor Steve Peralto
3/12/23	First German UMC	Pastor Kurt Poland
3/12/23	Estero Bay UMC	Pastor Steve Poteete-Marshall
3/19/23	Camarillo Korean UMC	Pastor Sang Lee
3/19/23	Bishop First UMC	Pastor Kate Hunter
3/26/23	Bethel Korean Mission Church	Pastor Kisung Nam
3/26/23	Atascadero UMC	Pastor Michelle Park



Photo courtesy of Bernie Hawkins

*Thank you!*

What a joy it was to return from two weeks vacation on February 5<sup>th</sup> and be surprised by a delightful celebration on my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Thank you so very much. The cake was wonderful, the decorations sparked joy, and my moment was fulfilled from the balloons, the green boa, Julia and Dennis's special song, to a most amazing and generous gift! I will use the gift card to exit to Avila and right to the beach for a getaway.

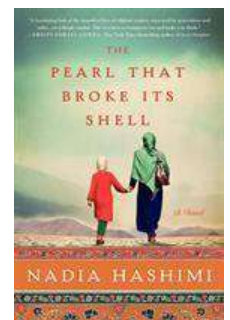
God bless you all!

Rev. Mary B.



## THE PEARL THAT BROKE ITS SHELL

By Nadia Hashimi



The UWF Book Club will meet on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 A.M. in the Church Library to discuss a novel linking two generations of women posing as men in Afghanistan.

The Pearl That Broke Its Shell by Nadia Hashimi relates the story of Rahima, a young girl, who poses as a boy in 2007 according to the custom of bacho pash; this allows her to attend school, go to shops, and chaperone her older sisters until she becomes old enough to marry. We discover that her great-great-grandmother, Shekiba, disfigured and orphaned, also saved herself by dressing as a male guard at the royal palace. The book interweaves the tales of the two women separated by a century.

If you would like to discover more about the effects of the Afghanistan culture and tradition on women, you should join us for our March discussion of this book. See Patti Melsheimer or Judy Leonard if you would like to borrow a library copy of this book. We welcome new readers to our group!

*submitted by Judy Leonard*



# United Women in Faith

Castanet UWF March, 2023

**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.**

In February we lost a very special member of our UWF, Judy Atwood. She was a very motivating force not only in our women's group but also in our church. It's hard to think of activities she didn't have an integral part in. She will be truly missed.

We are happy to see that the JOY Circle has a new leader, Kerren Brown. Thank you, Kerren. We expect good things and inspiring meetings from the Joy Ladies as you go forward.

Super Bowl Sunday Chili sales were fantastic. We took in very close to \$800 to be used for our mission projects. Thank you all who enjoyed chili, cornbread muffins and cookies made by the UWF ladies.

Looking ahead to April, plans are in the making for another combined luncheon general meeting of the United Women in Faith. Saturday, April 22 is the date to mark on your calendar. That's Earth Day so we will have a mission related program at that gathering. Stay tuned for more information.

Have a meaningful Lent.

*submitted by,  
Gerry McGuire, President*

## Dates to Remember

- √ April 22, Saturday, 11:00- 1:00 General UWF Luncheon Meeting
- √ May 13, Saturday, 11:00- 1:00 Mother's Day Tea
- √ July 15, Saturday, Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo
- √ September 16, Saturday, 9:00-2:00, Women's Retreat
- √ November 3,4,5, Holiday Boutique Sale



## It's Time to Apply for the 2023 ELT Scholarship



It's that time of the year when college-bound students apply for scholarships. Since our endowment fund has significantly decreased in value in 2022, we reached out to all of you for donations. Due to recent donations from church members, we will be able to award Everett Lee Taylor Scholarships again this year. At this time we have received \$3100 towards the 2023 scholarships!

Thank you for helping us continue our scholarship program this year. If you would still like to donate, write a check made out to our church and note ELT Scholarships on the memo line. Please donate by the end of March.



Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications will be available on-line ([www.worshipweekly.com](http://www.worshipweekly.com)) and in the church office beginning in March. The purpose of this scholarship is to help support deserving United Methodist students who will be enrolled in accredited universities, colleges, or technical schools during the 2023-2024 school year.

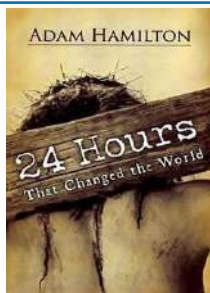
Only students who are or have been active participants in the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church may apply. Graduating high school seniors must include letters of recommendation as well as a high school transcript with their completed applications. Returning college students will need to provide a college transcript but are not required to submit letters of recommendation. **This year priority will be given to the high school seniors applying for the ELT Scholarships.**

The completed application with required attachments must be turned in to the church office by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship recipients will be announced in early June. Scholarship checks will be given to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2023 college classes.

So, if you would like to be considered for an ELT Scholarship, please submit a completed application by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Judy Leonard with any scholarship questions.

*submitted by: Judy Leonard, ELT Scholarship Committee Chair*

ELT Scholarship Committee Members: Nancy Gerrish, Judy Heiney, BG Perrigey, and Jan Treat



### TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

#### **24 Hours That Changed the World** by Adam Hamilton.

Adam Hamilton guides us, step by step, through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life in his popular, heart-breaking, 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 this study, let Nancy St. Laurent know so you can get a book.



## UMCOR Response to Earthquakes In Turkey and Syria

Through Advance Specials, our denomination's Committee on Relief responds to needs and natural disasters around the globe thanks to the faithful giving of United Methodist congregations throughout the connection.

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck southern Turkey at 4:17 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, was the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. In the hours that followed, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude.

The earthquake and aftershocks also impacted northwest Syria, where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance. Syrian communities, many of them women and children, are simultaneously facing an ongoing cholera outbreak and extreme winter weather including heavy rain and snow.

Thousands have been killed in both countries, and deaths continue to rise as rescue crews seek survivors in collapsed buildings. The humanitarian response is struggling to ramp up to meet the need among the devastation and winter weather.

UMCOR's longstanding humanitarian partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC), has multiple offices and project sites in Turkey. In IBC offices people fill the halls as they seek shelter, warmth, and a hot meal.

With the devastating damage to roads, transport and infrastructure, IBC has received hundreds of families in its Kilis Community Center for shelter, warm items, and hot meals since the first hours Monday morning. Kilis is serving as a major hub for coordination and relief efforts, including for cross-border response into Syria.

UMCOR has released initial solidarity grants to IBC and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue (working in Syria) to help provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready to eat meals and first aid kits to those who have been displaced. UMCOR staff members are also in touch with other partners in the region. Additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Please join UMCOR in prayer for the many people affected by these devastating earthquakes, including the rescue crews seeking survivors and those caring for the injured and displaced.

Support relief and recovery efforts for this and other international disasters by donating to [Advance # 982450 here](#).

Editor's Note: This information is from <https://umcmmission.org>

FUMCAG's Finance Chair suggests making checks out to our Church and mark UMCOR or EARTHQUAKE on the check or offering envelopes.

# PROGRAM MINISTRY

- Monday, March 20, 3 pm - Avila Beach Walk - Dog Beach - Bring your dog for an off leash experience (if pup is good listener). Or just bring your human self (woof). The beach is pretty flat when tide is out and an easy walk. Walk as much as you want. Meet at beach. Talk to Lucy Jacob if you need directions.



- Turtle and Tortoise Sanctuary, Saturday, March 18. Meet at church at 9:30 am. Bring zucchini and romaine lettuce. Donations to the Sanctuary are welcome. They rescue turtles, tortoises, and other animals that are in need of a caring and protected home for a variety of reasons. Some are abandoned, some are found, and others outlive their caretakers! The majority stay here on the ranch, while others are re-released into their native habitat, and some are made available for adoption.



- Movies for Sunday, March 26, 4:00 PM – “You People” starring Eddie Murphy is about how a new couple and their families reckon with modern love amid culture clashes, societal expectations and generational differences (unless “A Man Named Otto” is released on Prime).



- Saturday, April 22, 6:00 PM, Newlywed Game. Four couples compete for a **prize** by answering questions about their relationship, often with entertaining results.
- Movie for Sunday, April 30, 4:00 PM “80 for Brady” starring Joan Fonda, Lily Tomlin, Rita Moreno, Sally Fields and Tom Brady. Four best friends live life to the fullest when they embark on a wild trip to see their hero play in the 2017 Super Bowl (unless “A Man Named Otto” is released on Prime).

- Sunday, April Covell Ranch Clydesdales Cambria – Planning for April, 2023, leaving church at 10:45 sharp. NO SPECIFIC DATE until we know how many are interested as the cost is \$50 per person. It is a trail ride in some type of wagon/cart depending on the number of people in the party. 1.5 hours. 40-60 Clydesdales of all ages live on the 2,000 acres. There are foals born every year. You will get to be up close and personal with them as well as goats and mini donkeys. Ocean views and an endangered Monterey Pine Forest are part of the ride. They will teach all about Clydesdales and how their family passion became their business.



submitted by Sandy Underwood



# News from the Mission Team

*Rob and Robin Isakson, chairs*

## *MISSION TEAM: MARCH, 2023*

### **God's Love in Action in Zimbabwe**

In June, 2022 the Mission Team nominated and agreed to sponsor nurse mid-wife Florence Ogugua Mefor in Mutambara, Zimbabwe. Florence is a missionary with the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Florence states, "God's mission is being carried out as numerous women and children are being cared for and given higher chances of survival. Ministry is to help save lives and to improve failing eye sights and general well-being of patients."

Florence is a native of Abatete, Nigeria. She is married to Dr. Emmanuel U. Mefor and they have three children, Chukwuebuka, Osita Jude and Anulika. The Mission Team chose to sponsor Florence after the retirement of John Elmore, a missionary in Chile that the team had previously sponsored.

In the past, the Mission Team has been involved with supporting missionaries; cleaning our sanctuary for Holy Week; feeding the homeless and hungry through the People's Kitchen; holding food drives benefiting the 5 Cities Christian Women's Coalition; supporting a small school in Haiti with cooking, sewing classes, and teachers'

salaries; and donating to Mobility Worldwide, Shower the People and other organizations.

Possible areas of service in 2023 include a Noisy Offering during both worship services to benefit the FUMCAG Preschool, continued Food Drives and support of current projects in Haiti, Alaska and in our community.

All are welcome to share ideas with us for possible projects.

#### MISSION TEAM UP-COMING DATES:

- Mission Team will be responsible for meals at the People's Kitchen on May 30, August 29 and October 31, 2023. Approximately 49 people were served at the People's Kitchen on January 31, 2023.
- Mission Team will be responsible for Hospitality in Criswell Hall on March 12, July 2 and October 1, 2023.

*submitted by Rob and Robin Isakson*





# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Abbreviation Legend</b></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><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR                      6:30 PM-Choir Practice-S</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      11 AM Chair Yoga-CH                      1 PM Bible Study--CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH                      10 AM Program Ministry Comm--L</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>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><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Set clocks one hour ahead for Sunday</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      11 AM Chair Yoga-CH                      1 PM Bible Study--CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR                      6:30 PM Board of Trustees--CH</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH                      10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm-L                      6:30 PM JOY Circle--CH</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH                      10:30 AM SPRC—CH                      2:00 PM Church Council--MM                      4:30 PM AGUMCC Board Mtg—MMR                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR                      6:30 PM Choir Practice-S</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Book Club--L</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Turtle&amp; Tortoise Sanctuary Visit-meet at church-Program Ministry</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Avila Dog Beach Walk-Program Ministry                      6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>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><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR                      6:30 PM-Choir Practice-S</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service                      4 PM Movie Night--CH "You People"</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9 AM Sr Exercise-CH                      11 AM Chair Yoga—CH                      1:00 PM Bible Study-CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      10 AM Mary-Martha Esther Circle--MMR</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR                      6:30 PM-Choir Practice-S</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> 	

# Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

**Church Office:** (805) 481-2692  
**E-mail:** fumcag@yahoo.com (temp)

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

**Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

**E-mail:** mbirgelaitis@gmail.com

**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:** Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**District Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux McKinnon

**Preschool Director:** Madrigal Quaglino

**E-mail:** fumcag@yahoo.com (temp)

**Preschool Office:** (805) 481-2223



**Layout Editor:** Frances Robertson

**Proofing Team:** Priscilla Alquist,  
Judy Leonard, Patti Melsheimer,  
Mary Whitson.

**Other contributors:**

Varied Teams /Committees/  
Office Angels

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?

There are dates available for  
Sunday morning flower dedica-  
tions in upcoming months.  
Please 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 cost for  
altar flowers is now \$30.**

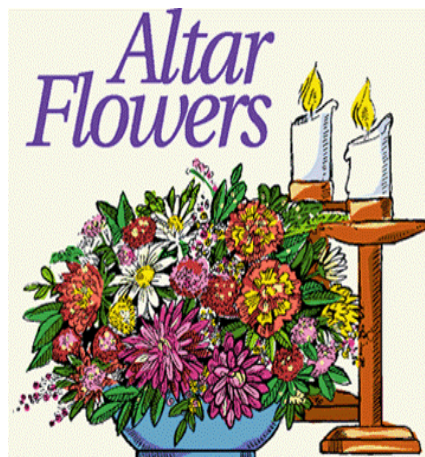
Orders can be made from the  
Grand Bouquet which we will do  
upon your request.

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.



Carina Avila	03/02
Lucy Jacob	03/07
Christy Clarke	03/10
Carolyn Anderson	03/11
Art Gary	03/15
Toni Harvey	03/20



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!





# First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

**Visit us on the web at [worshipweekly.com](http://worshipweekly.com)**

Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande  
[www.facebook.com/fumcag](http://www.facebook.com/fumcag)

## MARCH

## 2023

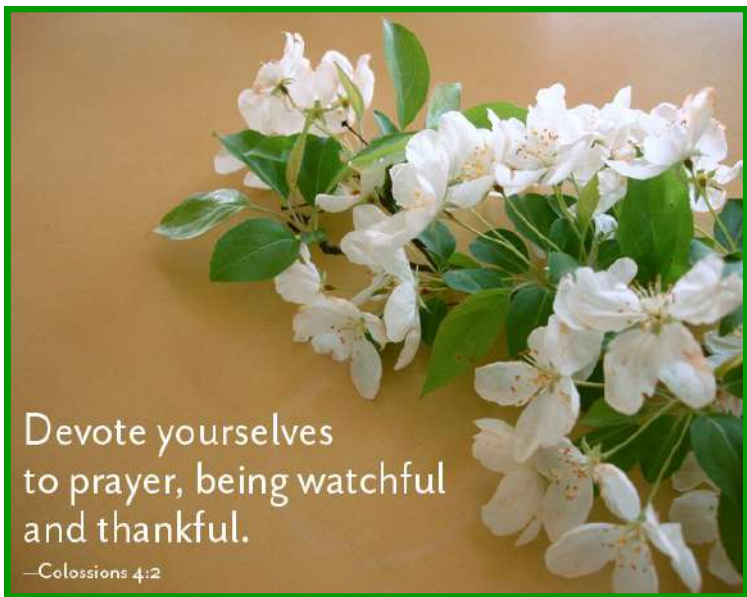


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Devote yourselves  
to prayer, being watchful  
and thankful.

—Colossians 4:2