



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande APRIL 2023

Easter Blessings!

Holy Week is upon us. We usher in Holy Week with **Palm Sunday**, April 2nd. Be with us in worship at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. and enjoy our hospitality time following the services. Be on the lookout for seasonal visitors, newcomers and families from our Children's Center. Many people who don't ordinarily enter our doors do so on these most meaningful holidays. They are holy days for all of us!

On **Maundy Thursday** we will gather at 5:00 p.m. for a brief service of Holy Communion celebrating The Last Supper in scripture and song, followed by a simple **Soup Supper** in the Friendship Hall at about 5:45 p.m. If you can't get there in time for our worship, please feel invited to come ahead for the meal and fellowship. It's all to nourishing, body, mind and spirit!

Ecumenical Good Friday Service This year our ecumenical (cross-denominational) Good Friday service will be at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church at 301 Trinity Avenue in AG. The service will begin at 7:00 pm and will be a traditional liturgical service from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. The death of Jesus on the Cross changed the universe forever and assured us of eternal relationship and life with God. Please join as we remember what God has already done, and continues to do, for us all.

EASTER SUNDAY! Our 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services will be connected by an **EASTER BRUNCH** between the services in order that we may visit and mingle as a whole congregation and have a great setting to greet visitors and newcomers who may wish to stay and learn a little more about our church from you! Be on the lookout for new friends, so that you can extend a warm welcome to one and all.

An **Easter Egg Hunt** will happen after second service, that means shortly after 11:30 a.m. The **Easter Bunny** will appear at both the Brunch and the Egg Hunt so come with your kids (grandkids, great-grandchildren, friends and neighbors) and bring your camera to capture their beauty and joy!

Rev. Mary Binglewitz



Judith Kay Atwood

September 26, 1942 ~ February 22, 2023

On Saturday April 15th, 2023
we will gather at 11:00 a.m. in our sanctuary
to

Celebrate the Life of Judy Atwood
Deaconess, Diaconal Minister, Missionary,
California-Pacific Annual Conference

We thank God for Judy and her years of servant ministry
through the United Methodist Church
and her friendship and service to the Arroyo Grande UMC
since she entered into retirement



The Bookwoman's Daughter :

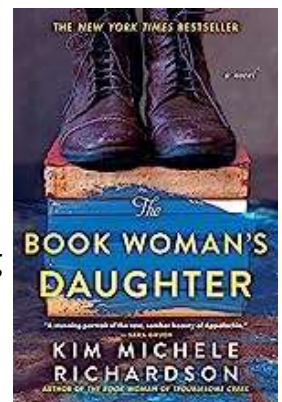
UWF Book Club April Selection

Last year we discussed The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek, a historical fiction novel set in the 1930's in rural Kentucky. The bookwoman, Cussy Mary Lovett, traveled through the Appalachian hills on a mule to deliver books to needy people. Her daughter, Honey Lovett, is featured in the sequel, The Bookwoman's Daughter, which the UWF Book Club will discuss on Friday, April 21st at 10:30 A.M. in the church library.

As a young girl Honey has witnessed her parents hiding from the law. Once they are imprisoned, Honey has to find a way to earn money so she

can avoid being sent away by the authorities. Luckily she is hired to pick up her mother's old packhorse route delivering books. With the help of other strong women, Honey learns to fight ignorance, the "old ways," and racial prejudice, to gain her independence and freedom.

If you'd like to read and discuss The Bookwoman's Daughter, see Patti Melsheimer or Judy Leonard to borrow a book from a SLO Library book kit. Join us on April 21st for a lively discussion!



submitted by Judy Leonard



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



APRIL 2

8:30 a.m.-----Joseph Brown
10:30 am.-----Nancy St. Laurent

APRIL 9

8:30 a.m.-----Sharon Roemer
10: 30 a.m.-----BG Perriguy

APRIL 16

8:30 a.m. -----Lucy Jacob
10:30 a.m.-----Cristy Van Hook

APRIL 23

8:30 a.m.--Mary Thronson
10:30 a.m. -----Judy Leonard

APRIL 30

8:30 a.m. --Susan Thronson
10:30 a.m.-----Robin Isakson

submitted by Jan Treat

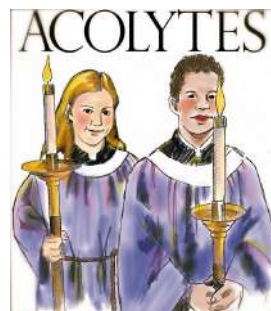
Ushers are needed for Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Training is offered for new or returning ushers.



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.

Hey, all you kids ages 8 to 18!

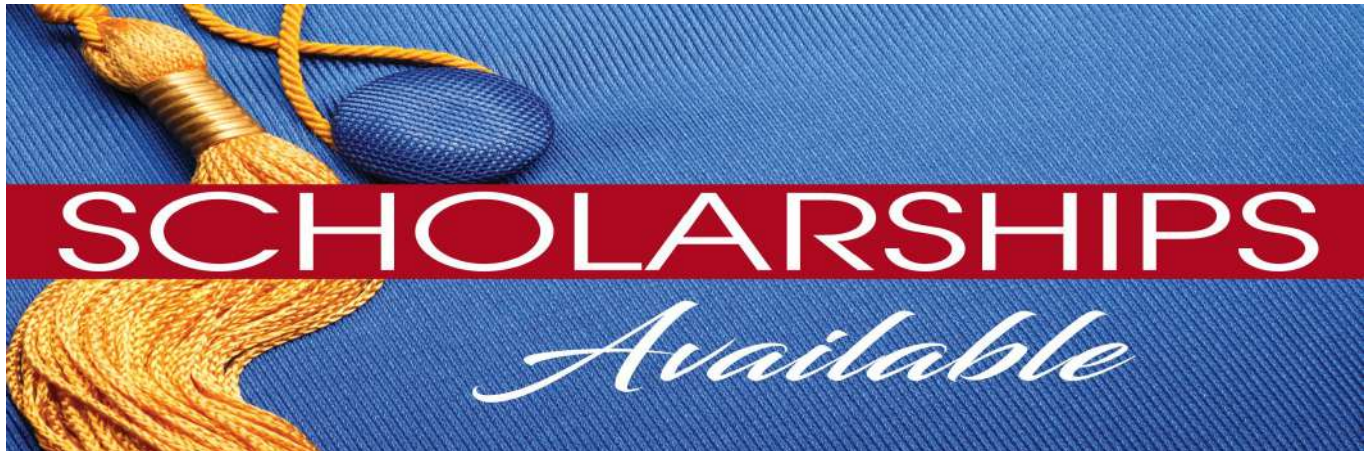


If you would like to serve your Church as an Acolyte, call Lorie Ford or see Lorie at Church.

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)
4/2/23	First UMC of Pasadena	Pastor Amy Aitken
4/2/23	First UMC of Reseda	Pastor Christian Jung
4/9/23	First UMC of Canoga Park	Pastor Elaine Shin-Paul
4/9/23	Thousand Oaks UMC	Pastor Anna Mulford
4/16/23	Lancaster UMC	Pastor Gregory Pittman
4/16/23	Scott UMC	Pastor Alma Johnson-Hawkins
4/23/23	First UMC of Lompoc	Pastor Joy Price
4/23/23	Magnolia Park UMC	Pastor Chris Fracchiolla
4/30/23	St. Mark UMC of Santa Barbara	Pastor Cynthia Huskey
4/30/23	St. Paul's UMC of Oxnard	Pastor Rachel deBos-Haigler



**ELT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE COMING SOON:
May 15th**

This year priority for ELT Scholarships will be given to the high school graduates going on to college. Undergraduate students may apply for this scholarship more than once provided they have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work. Repeating college students do not need letters of recommendation but must attach a current college transcript to the application. High school seniors need to include the recommendation letters and high school transcript with their application.

Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications and instructions are now available on-line at
(www.worshipweekly.com)

and in the church office. Only students who have been active participants in the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church may apply. The completed application with required attachments must be turned in or mailed to the church office by May 15th. Scholarship checks will be sent to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2023 college classes.

We are still accepting donations towards the ELT Scholarships. You can make out a check to the church noting ELT Scholarships on the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

Help us to show our support of our youth!

submitted by: Judy Leonard, ELT Scholarship Committee Chair
ELT Scholarship Committee Members: Nancy Gerrish, Judy Heiney, BG Perriguey, and Jan Treat



United Women in Faith

Castanet UWF April 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.

A combined luncheon/general meeting of the United Women in Faith will be held on Saturday, April 22, 11am-1pm. That's Earth Day, so we will have a mission-related program at that meeting.

The last luncheon, held in January, was enjoyed by so many; we will certainly look forward to this upcoming event. I hope you already have it on your calendar. Our guest speaker will be Rich Neufeld, husband of Judie. Rich has spent a lot of time visiting the Philippines and the people there. He has distributed much needed books and shoes. I'm sure you will find this story interesting. There will be a \$10 fee to help cover the cost of the lunch (which will be inspired by the Philippines). Sign up with your Circles.

We continue to collect much needed items for the Five Cities Homeless Coalition. Needed items are new sweatshirts, sweatpants,

underwear, and socks, also coffee, tea, hot chocolate creamer, sugar, soft breakfast bars, cereal, individually packed juice, crackers, cookies, chips, cup of noodles and camping meals. And large backpacks and gift cards for gas. Your donations are very appreciated.

The Sew and Sews group would welcome new attendees. We meet Tuesdays from 10-2 in the McMillen Room. We invite knitters, crafters, needleworkers and sewers of all kinds or those who just want to come and hang out with us. Fellowship is number one. We bring a sandwich for lunch; coffee and tea and goodies provided.

Have a meaningful Lent. Don't forget the activities scheduled for Easter week.

*submitted by,
Gerry McGuire*

Dates to Remember

- ✓ April 15 Memorial Service, 11:00 AM for Judy Atwood
- ✓ 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

LAY LEADERSHIP 2023

Your Nominating Committee is looking for you! Sometimes there is confusion as the Nominating Committee “title” changed mid-stream a few years ago and is also known as the Lay Leadership Committee in the church. It’s function is to discern, invite, and put in place strong leadership across the board to strengthen and sustain the church in great form now and going forward. Nominating Committees used to meet in the fall and have people in place January 1st each year. As lifestyles have changed, people travel, live in multiple places and such, the work of the Nominating Committee has changed. We want anyone and everyone to offer their skills in one way or another whenever they are here. We will accommodate your traveling and your busy lives in order to have you making decisions and working with us. And we work ALL YEAR with great commitment, fortitude and prayer to do this work on your behalf. WE NEED YOU!

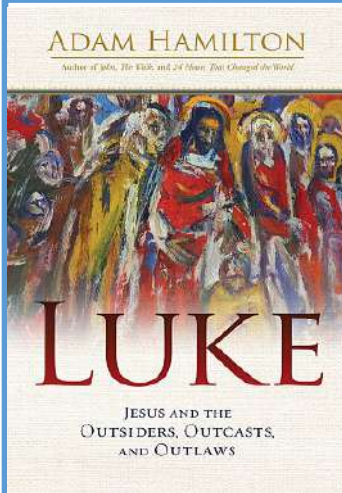
We are working on strengthening all our teams, accommodating present members' needs to attend to their own health concerns and families during seasons where they can not “do as much”, and we need new people to join FINANCE TEAM, ENDOWMENT, a re-forming COMMUNICATIONS TEAM, and such. We are always on the look-out for the right matches for our administrative teams, ie. SPRC, Finance and Trustees and we have a GREAT, GREAT need to get a group together to plan and implement activities for our children who will become youth before you know it. We don’t have time to waste. They grow fast and they need this church experience. It is formative!

We are looking now for people to bring on board July 1st. Some will be able to join a team sooner, but that is our target date for publishing a solid list of leadership for you to see. Let’s hope your name is there. We can show you along the way who is in place right now. Sometimes there are natural chemistries that make a great group, and you may see a group of folks you already know and work particularly well with on a team and may wish to join them.

MISSIONS is important to all of us. Our current team leaders are Rob and Robin Isakson who were taking over the tasks from Judy Atwood our retired Missionary who recently passed away. The Isakson’s have purchased a home in Minnesota and will be in California half the year and in Minnesota near family during the other months, so we are looking for a leader to step up along side them and for people to strengthen that team and see it through this transition.

This is just the “tip of the iceberg” of this great task, but we wanted you to come on board and to think and pray with us. There are already many changes in leadership in the works and we will publish them to you as they happen.

Thank you!



TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join a new Bible study with our Tuesday afternoon Bible study group starting April 25th. We will be studying Adam Hamilton's new book, entitled "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws".

We meet in Criswell Hall on Tuesdays at 1:00 PM and would love to see you there. Your insights and understanding can help others better understand God's word. Please see me after the worship service for the book.

submitted by Nancy St. Laurent

SCAM ALERT!

Some members of our church recently lost money in a clever scam. One member had their e-mail account hacked and stolen. E-mails were sent out to everyone on their contact list asking for a favor by purchasing an Amazon gift card and then e-mailing it to their "niece". Because the e-mail address seemed legitimate some members complied, but the gift cards went to the scammer who hacked the account, not to the member of their family.

A few tips avoid being ripped-off:

1. **NEVER provide gift card numbers by e-mail or phone** unless you are actually purchasing something and dealing directly with the vendor. Thieves like gift cards because they are like cash and difficult to trace. No legitimate outfit accepts gift cards as payment except for purchases. No government agency **EVER** accepts payment by gift card. If you wish to give a gift card to someone, do not use e-mail. E-mails can be hacked and the gift card cashed before the recipient has a chance to use it.
2. If you get a request to send funds, gift card or similar favor, contact the person the email or text says is making the request by another means to verify it is truly them. **Do not reply by e-mail.** Phone using the number you have on file, do not use the number that it says they are calling from. Ask them if it is legitimate. If you do respond to the requester who may be an impostor, ask multiple questions that only you and they would know the answer to, such as an activity you both participated in or something about another family member. A common scam used on older people is for someone claiming to be a grandson or other close relative claim to need funds immediately sent to them to pay bail, medical emergency, etc.
3. **The IRS, Medicare, Jury Commissioner, Police Department etc. will NEVER phone you asking to immediately send money.** The IRS conducts business by mail, not by phone.
4. Publisher's Clearing House **does NOT ask for a fee to deliver the Million Dollar Prize to your home.** Neither does the state lottery board. You are **NOT heir to a fortune** that some long-lost relative left you if you only pay a small lawyers fee. The **Customs department does NOT have a trunk full** of money addressed to you if you just pay the duty. Bill Gates is not going send you millions of dollars. **A request for a "small fee" in order to receive a large amount of money is a SCAM, don't be a sucker.**

submitted by Joel Anderson

PROGRAM MINISTRY

- o This coming Tuesday, April 4th, is the date of Program Ministry's visit to Covell Ranch Clydesdales in Cambria. The group is complete, with nine people participating. This consists of a trail ride in some type of wagon or cart, depending on the number of people in the party. The ride is 1.5 hours.

Forty to sixty Clydesdales of all ages live on the 2,000 acres, and every year foals are born. You will get to be up close and personal with them, as well as with goats and mini donkeys. Ocean views and an endangered Monterey Pine Forest are part of the ride.

The ranch staff will teach all about Clydesdales and how their family passion became their business. Another time, some of you "riders" may like us to plan a future outing to ride these beautiful horses!



- o Movie for Sunday, April 30, 4:00 PM "80 for Brady" starring Jane 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. This will shown at 4:00 PM in Criswell Hall



submitted by Sandy Underwood

Review of Program Ministry field trip from Gerry McGuire:

I'd heard of the Turtle and Tortoise Rescue Service in Arroyo Grande, but I had never visited and it's right here in our neighborhood. Twelve people from our church had an interesting and educational time, March 18, walking through the grounds. It was so neat to hold a little four month old, box turtle. We also were able to feed the many turtles and tortoises from all over the world. Didn't know there were so many different varieties. It was so cute to see such a small turtle chomping on a big zucchini. This was just one of many neat field trips organized by Program Ministry.

Check out Program Ministry!



Photos courtesy Mike Clark



News from the Mission Team

Rob and Robin Isakson, chairs

Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church states that 54 missionaries were commissioned for service in 9 different worship services taking place around the world from April to July. Some began service in new placements while others continue with work they began during the pandemic. As pandemic restrictions are lifted in many countries, small gatherings and travel have once again become possible, with certain precautions. From April through July, Global Ministries coordinated regional missionary gatherings so that 54 missionaries could be officially commissioned and have a few days to fellowship, worship and continue training together with other missionaries in the regions they serve. Most of the missionaries participating in the commissioning services expressed joy and amazement at meeting face to face. Some had begun their missionary service as early as 2020. Returning to their places of service after the events, many of the missionaries expressed gratitude, but also a renewed sense of calling and service, after being encouraged and supported by Global Ministries and their missionary colleagues.

You don't have to leave your home or country to be a missionary; there are opportunities in your church, community and around the globe. **Compassion International** is an organization releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. They started shortly after the Korean war when an Army Chaplain saw the need to assist orphaned children. They currently have 2.2 million children sponsored in 25 countries around the globe. Children ages 1-22 are sponsored and receive health care and hygiene training, nutrition and water, age-appropriate Christian teaching, education and vocational training, mentorship, guidance and love through your sponsorship. Sponsoring a child for \$38. a month personally connects you to a child who knows your name, treasures and prays for you and your family. You can write and receive letters to and from your sponsored child. Visits to sponsored children have been interrupted due to the Covid pandemic.

Rob and I have been sponsoring children since 2002 when we sponsored our first child, a boy in Colombia named Luis. We went on to sponsor five girls in India, Karpaga Devi, Dara Nirmala, Rachel, Haritha and Induhumathi. In 2009 we traveled to India to meet three girls, Karpaga Devi, Rachel and Haritha, and their mothers. Shortly after the Haiti earthquake that devastated the island nation, Rob went to Tomas, Haiti to assist in building a school. When he returned from Haiti, he suggested that when our India girls graduated, we sponsored children in Haiti as Haiti was in a far worse condition than India. We next sponsored two children in Haiti, a boy, Jameson, and a girl, Lorentzia. After Jameson graduated from the Compassion program, we chose to sponsor a girl in Guatemala, her name is Waleska. Maria in Ecuador came next and most recently two girls, sisters, in Mexico, Yamileth and Gaby. We currently sponsor five girls, Lorentzia, Waleska, Maria, Yamileth and Gaby. You don't always know how your sponsored relationships end. Sometimes families move and the child is no longer attending a Compassion sponsored Child Development Center. Others stay with the program until they graduate or age out at age 22. We believe that our three India girls graduated and became a teacher, a pharmacist assistant and a software employee. We know that Jameson in Haiti graduated and continued his education in computer assisted graphic design. Our two girls in Mexico hope to become veterinarians and want to study at UC Davis here in California. **It is our attempt, through Compassion International, to bring Hope, Joy and Love Rising to our five sponsorships in four countries.**

submitted by Robin Isakson



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>2</p> <p>Passion/Palm Sunday</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 1 PM Bible Study--CH 5 PM Bell Practice--HR</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10 AM Program Ministry Comm--L</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 AM Sr Exercise-CH 5 PM Maundy Thursday Service-S 5:45 PM Soup Supper--CH 6:30 PM Choir Reh-S</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 PM Ecumenical Good Friday Service, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, AG</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5PM Bell Practice-HR 6:30 PM Board of Trustees-CH</p>	<p>12</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>13</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>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:00 Memorial Service for JUDY ATWOOD</p> <p>In the Sanctuary Followed by a Reception in Criswell Hall</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Second Sunday in Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 2:00 PM Church Council-MM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise—CH 4:30 PM AGUMCC Board Mtg—MMR 5 PM Bell Practice-HR 6:30 PM-Choir Practice-S</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:30 AM UWF Book Club--L</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:00 to 1:00 General UWF Luncheon Meeting-CH</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Third Sunday in Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Mary-Martha Esther Circle--MMR</p>	<p>27</p> <p>AM Senior Exercise—CH 5 PM Bell Practice-HR 6:30 PM-Choir Practice-S</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 4:00 PM Movie "80 for Brady" CH</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--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?

There are dates available for Sunday morning flower dedications 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.

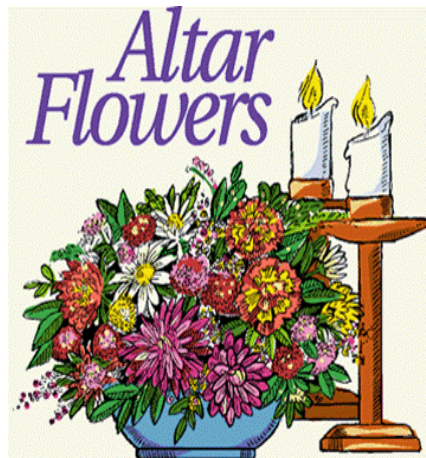
Orders can be made from the Grand Bouquet which we will do upon your request.

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.



Jack Cuddy	04/01
Paul Holden	04/04
Patti Melsheimer	04/06
Grant Cuddy	04/08
Shirley Werling	04/08
Don Gugeler	04/11
Ryan Odom	04/24



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!

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 9, 2023

8:30 AM Contemporary Service

10:30 Traditional Service

See cover article for more Easter details