



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande MAY 2023

“The Lusty Month of May!”

*“Tra la, it's May, the lusty month of May
That lovely month when everyone goes blissfully astray
Tra la, it's here, that shocking time of year
When tons of wicked little thoughts merrily appear!”*

When May 1st rolled around in 2020 and 2021, your staff and I were crying out “*May Day, May Day!*” In 2020 we spent hours in the sanctuary every Sunday morning videotaping liturgy and songs to send to you via video. At least in 2021 I wasn’t in my office chatting to myself, but it wasn’t much better. I was preaching to an empty sanctuary as we continued to reach out to you. It isn’t hard to see why this year my mind goes to a happy song from “*Camelot.*” We are in a much more “*idyllic place*” enjoying an atmosphere of happiness. Welcome Spring! Welcome Joy! HE IS RISEN!

I’m definitely not recommending that we follow the lyrics and go “*blissfully astray,*” but I do love the musical *Camelot*, I do love that song, and I am very happy to greet you as we meet in the midst of the many in-person activities that have been well underway for a long time now.

May is a favorite month of mine. I’m not suggesting we do what that song says when it sings of the “*dreary vows that everyone takes and breaks,*” making “*divine mistakes,*” “*eating forbidden fruit,*” “*throwing caution to the wind along with self-control*” and doing “*a wretched thing or two!*” We don’t follow the lyrics, we follow the leader, Jesus, who leads us into joy of another kind, showing us how to celebrate life, love, and one another. Make each day precious as May unfolds. Be in worship for the Special Sundays of May. Keep singing melodies that put pep in your step, and come along to celebrate the hope, belief, and excitement of what we can do and be together.

May 7th Communion Sunday at both services
May 14th Mother’s Day/Festival of the Christian Home
May 21st Ascension Sunday/Heritage Sunday
May 28th PENTECOST

Happy May to You!

Rev. Mary Biegelaitis



The logo for the Treasurer's Report features the words "TREASURER'S REPORT" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a rectangular frame that has a light blue grid pattern. A red diagonal line crosses the frame from the top-left corner to the bottom-right corner.

We have a wonderful, loving, and hardworking congregation. For this we are grateful!

We support and help each other in times of need. We have an active Children's Center that provides much needed quality childcare to our community. Our Trustees keep our campus looking clean and beautiful. All these gifts fuel our gratitude.

In addition, as members and friends of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, we support our church well in times of need. During the COVID crisis, regular tithes and offerings went UP, not down. When the Narthex was flooded, when the gas lines needed replacing, when windows were broken by vandals, our members provided the financial support needed to make repairs. We offer our thanks to God and to all of you.

Our Church provides many educational, social and wellness opportunities including Bible Studies, Book Club, Senior Exercise, Chair Yoga, Quilt Class, Sew and Sews, United Women in Faith and Methodist Men. Our Program Ministry provides fun and educational fellowship opportunities, including visits to the Turtle & Tortoise Sanctuary, Covell Ranch Clydesdales, Movie Night, nature walks, lecture series and more. Our church has fun social activities, including the Christmas Extravaganza, Mardi Gras, Easter Brunch, Children's Center Sunday, Birthday Gala and Trunk or Treat. You, our many volunteers, keep the church and these wonderful programs running.

Our Church supports children through the Sunday School program. We support college students through the ELT Scholarship program. We join with others to support missions in our community, including the 5Cities Christian Women's Pantry and People's Kitchen. And we support missionaries around the world, in Alaska, Haiti, and Zimbabwe.

Our music program is a congregational favorite. That program includes choir music, a lively praise band, a wonderful volunteer organist and a phenomenal pianist. The icing on the cake is our handbell choir. COVID forced us into the world of video. We stayed connected, and now we appreciate what video has done to strengthen our community. The video ministry reaches members unable to attend due to health or distance, as well as viewers all across the United States. A hard-working, talented and dedicated staff is always something to be thankful for. Their longevity in "sticking with us" is a gift from God, and has been a stabilizing element as they have picked up new tasks and new skills to keep us going and growing.

There is SO MUCH to be grateful for at the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. All these activities take money. We have quietly "not done" a pledge drive for the past 3 years because it wasn't the time and place. The lack of such a pledge drive made many thankful! This year, however, it's time to talk "finances" concretely again. Together we made lemonade when life gave us lemons. We've created hope, joy, and love in the midst of adversity. Now that life is more "business as usual", we've seen contributions fall short of what is needed. Beloved friends have passed away, and COVID slowed down the influx of newcomers who bring both leadership gifts and financial gifts. So, this year our Finance Team and Church Council have authorized a pledge drive. Be grateful! It's a good decision. We'll be giving you facts and figures, and making the push for pledges between now and July 1st and launching a YEAR OF GRATITUDE for the fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

Please help show your gratitude by increasing your regular giving. As expenses always go up, we need to buckle down and make good decisions for our congregation with regard to the church's budget and our own generous giving. I ask everyone prayerfully to consider increasing their regular tithes and offerings. Estimate of Giving cards will be distributed later this month. I need EVERYONE to turn in an Estimate of Giving card so I can make an accurate budget for the upcoming year.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



MAY 7

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

MAY 21

8:30 a.m.-----TBD
10:30 a.m.--Patti Melsheimer

MAY 14

8:30 a.m.----Joseph Brown
10: 30 a.m.----Rosslyn Clausen

MAY 28

8:30 a.m.-----TBD
10:30 a.m.---Nancy St. Laurent

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

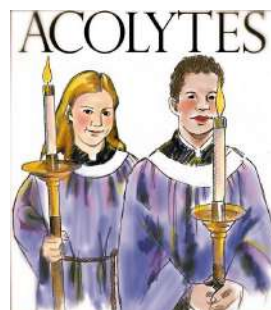


This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church. Call or talk with Kerren Brown at church for more information.

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.

NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER FOR May 2023

“Ending spiritual and physical hunger.

Pray for the continued vision of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference:

God of mercy and grace, we lift up to you all who wander in darkness in search of your light as we leave Lent behind and strive to live as Your Easter people. Come Holy Spirit, Come. Fill our lives, our churches, and our communities with your inspiration and vibrant strength. Be for us an ever-flowing source of courage, wisdom, faith, hope and love for this day and the days ahead. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. – Change Manager Reverend Mary Dennis

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
5/07/23	Korean UMC of Oxnard	Pastor Chae Hon Nam
5/07/23	Ridgecrest UMC	Pastor Wesley Elmore
5/14/23	Chatsworth West UMC	Pastor Eric Iki
5/14/23	First UMC of Ventura	Pastor Matthew McPhee
5/21/23	North Hills Hispanic Mission	Pastor Ervin Aguilon
5/21/23	Saint Andrew UMC	Pastor Eric Scott
5/28/23	Santa Maria First UMC	Pastor Neil Platon III
5/28/23	Sherman Oaks UMC	Pastor Garth Gilliam

ELT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE ON MAY 15, 2023

Students are encouraged to apply for the Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship now. Both graduating high school seniors and undergraduate college students who have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work may apply.

Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications are now available on-line (www.worshipweekly.com) and in the church office. The purpose of this scholarship is to help deserving United Methodist students enrolled in accredited universities, community college, or technical schools defray the cost of their education.

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



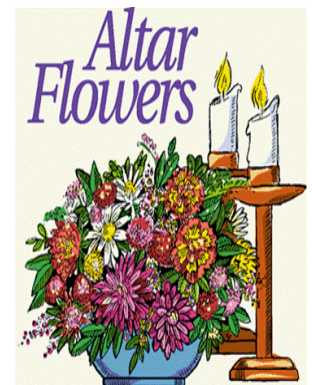
submitted by: Judy Leonard, ELT Scholarship Committee Chair

Committee Members: Nancy Gerrish, Judy Heiney, BG Perriguey, and Jan Treat

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?

Do you enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the altar on Sundays? There are dates available for Sunday morning flower dedications in upcoming months. We still have many openings available for your dedications during the summer months. Please contact the church office.

Your floral tribute will be placed on the altar for both services on Sunday and will be seen in the video for that week. After the services you can pick up the arrangement or we will get it to you. Just let us know.



Please note that due to the higher cost of fresh flowers, the 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.



United Women in Faith

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.

Castanet UWF May 2023 *submitted by Gerry McGuire*

Our luncheon meeting of the United Women in Faith, Saturday, April 22, was a fun and inspiring day.

Rich Neufeld gave a very interesting talk about **life in Narvacan, Philippines**. We all want their secret of how they manage to get their laundry so sparkling white in the midst of pollution of their river. This was such a great talk on **Earth Day**. Hopefully we all can make a difference. We also enjoyed a flavorful meal catered by Panda Express.

This coming month, Saturday May 13 we anticipate our **Annual Tea**, 11am to 1, in Criswell Hall. We look forward to a delightful Tea/Lunch with some fun entertainment being put together by Mary Hawkins and the Clarks. Brush off your Western Hat--a western Fancy Tea Hat? Cost is \$15. Sign up this Sunday. You don't want to miss this event!

People Want to Know when the circles meet. Check out the days and times and come join us!

Mary, Martha, Esther Circle, Mary Thronson, Chair. Meets the last Wednesday of the month in the McMillen Room at 10:00am. Currently doing a Bible study of "Words of Life" by Adam Hamilton.

Joy Circle, Kerren Brown, Chair. Meets 3rd Tuesday

of the month at 6:30 pm in the McMillen Room.

UWF Book Club. Meets 3rd Friday of the month at 10:30 in the Library.

The **Sew and Sews** meet every Tuesday, from 10-2 in the McMillen Room. We invite knitters, crafters, needleworkers and sewers of all kinds. Or if you just want to come and hang out with us, please do!

Fellowship is number one. We bring a sandwich for lunch, coffee and tea and goodies are provided.

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. Large backpacks and gift cards for gas are also welcome. Your donations are very much appreciated. Donated items can be dropped off at the UWF table in Criswell Hall.



*Rich Neufeld, speaker, at UWF Luncheon.
Thank you, Rich!*



Dates to Remember

- ✓ 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

EASTER BUNNY GALLERY



GETTING TO KNOW FRANCES ROBERTSON

Frances has been our church secretary for over 8 years! She came to us with an extensive background and with many skills that have been put to use as our Church Secretary. She is a local woman, having been born in the San Joaquin Valley and later moving with her family to San Luis Obispo when age 12, where she attended local schools beginning in eighth grade and graduating from San Luis Obispo Senior High School.

Since then, she has traveled, and has done an interesting array of work in many parts of the world! She has a great interest in music and has played the piano in a variety of settings including Trinity Methodist Church in Los Osos for almost two years. She has sung in choirs wherever she has lived. She currently sings in the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church choir in San Luis Obispo. St. Stephen's is her home church and she enjoys the network of relationships she has had there since 1981.

Frances enjoys travel, especially in Scotland and England, and has visited and lived in the Caribbean, the British Virgin Islands and New York City. She received her degree in psychology from State University of New York at Albany and immediately moved to Manhattan for her first professional jobs. She has worked with people throughout her career in counseling, career guidance and social work.

More recently, back in California, she worked as Office Manager for the San Luis Obispo Symphony and as the Director of Finance and Donor Services

for the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center in San Luis Obispo. While at FPAC, both with her Board of Directors and Cal Poly fundraising people, she helped organize social and other events, such as the work involved with the installation of the Forbes Pipe Organ. In-house at FPAC she used her artistic and computer skills to produce newsletters, and coordinated other efforts, working with both board members and with donors.

Today, in our church office she produces the weekly bulletins, creates the monthly edition of the church newsletter and oversees the office on a day-to-day basis, answering phone calls, receiving visitors, and answering all sorts of questions about our church and its activities.



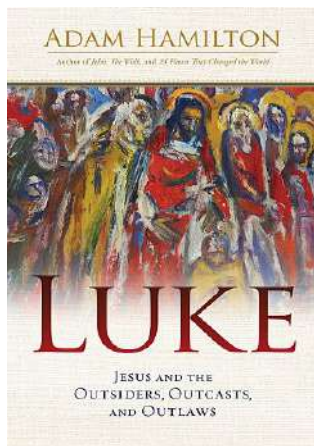
In addition to a love of learning and a passion for music and travel, Frances enjoys family and friends, entertaining, cooking, decorating, fashion and is an avid reader.

From San Luis Obispo to New York City to the Caribbean and back, we are glad Frances has come full circle and is here with us in Arroyo Grande today.

We are very fortunate to have Frances as part of our church family!

submitted by Patti Melsheimer

TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY



The Tuesday afternoon Bible study group has just begun a new book on April 25th and you are invited to join us. We are studying Adam Hamilton's recent 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

ACTIVITIES THROUGH PROGRAM MINISTRY

- o Movie for **Sunday, April 30, 4:00 PM “80 for Brady”** starring Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno, Sally Field 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 be shown at 4:00 PM in Criswell Hall.



The visit to the Covell Ranch in April to see and learn about the Clydesdale horses was a great success!



Horses were at the top of the hill--see the ocean in the background)

The magnificent creatures shown here are actually the colts! (big!)



News from the Mission Team

Rob and Robin Isakson, chairs

Mission Team May Cast A Net Article

Rob and I were welcomed to our first FUMCAG Mission Team meeting on March 28, 2019.

At that time, Betty and Chuck Ashton were also on the team and responsible for the casseroles that supported the first Thursday of the month meal at the People's Kitchen. Congregants would pick up casserole making supplies after church on Sundays, make and freeze casseroles at home and bring them to the church freezer the following Sunday. The Ashtons would bake them at the church and then take them to the People's Kitchen with a team to help serve them to the hungry and homeless in our community. That changed in July of 2019 when Chuck Ashton had an injury accident and the Ashtons could no longer continue their program support, and **the scheduled first Thursday of the month was assigned to another church.**

Judy Atwood was then contacted by the People's Kitchen with the option to provide meals on months that had 5 Tuesdays, starting in October 2019. Judy Atwood, Robin Isakson and Pat Weimers agreed to meet in the church kitchen and make casseroles that were refrigerated over night and baked by Judy Atwood in the church ovens prior to serving Tuesday morning at the People's Kitchen with the serving team meeting in the church parking lot and driving over to the site.

Then came the Covid pandemic and from 2020 to 2023 Judy and I continued to meet in the church kitchen to make casseroles and refrigerate them over night. Judy would bake them the next morning and **Judy, Rob and I would meet at the church and go together to the People's Kitchen to pack meals that would be handed out to the hungry at the P.K.**

window. That arrangement continued until **January 31, 2023 when we could return to actually serving meals.**

Rob and I baked casseroles that morning and Mary Hawkins and Rob and I went over to serve the hungry. Our next 5th Tuesday will be May 30, 2023. We will be making casseroles in the church kitchen on Monday, May 29 at 10 a.m. Any Mission Team members who are available that morning, please meet us in the church kitchen. Rob and I will be purchasing casserole making supplies for two People's Kitchen dates, May 30 and August 29, prior to meeting on May 29. We will need at least one other person to serve with us on May 30.

We will need three people to commit to the August 28 and 29 People's Kitchen dates as Rob and I will be in Minnesota at that time. We will be returning for the October date. If you are not a member of the Mission Team but are interested in participating in the making and serving of casseroles for the homeless and hungry in our community, you are welcome to participate this month. Please contact me at church or at home (# in church directory) to let me know if you will be coming.

People's Kitchen Dates are May 30, August 29 and October 31 and **Hospitality Dates** are July 2 and October 1.

Shine Like Stars from Max Lucado's Walking with the Savior: "The wise people will shine like the brightness of the sky. Those who teach others to live right will shine like stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3"

Thank you, Judy, for all you taught me in the short time we had together. Shine brightly!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Announcement: No Senior Exercise During the Month of May</p>	<p>1 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p> 	<p>2 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11:00 AM Chair Yoga--CH 1 PM Bible Study-- CH 5 PM Bell Practice-- HR</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Church Work Day--CH 10 AM Program Min- istry Comm--L ??</p>	<p>4 5 PM Bell Practice-- HR 6:30 PM Choir Practice-S</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>8 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11:00 AM Chair Yoga--CH 1 PM Bible Study-- CH 5 PM Bell Practice-- HR</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM Church Work Day--CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm-L</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM UMC Clergy Cluster--MMR 5 PM Bell Practice-- HR 6:30 PM Choir Practice-S</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 11:00 - 1:00 UWF Mother's Day Tea--CH</p> 
<p>14 Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:30 AM Contem- porary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service <i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>15 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>  <p>ELT SCHOLAR- SHIP DEADLINE</p>	<p>16 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>17 9:00 AM Church Work Day--CH 2:00 PM Church Council--MMR 6:30 PM JOY Circle--CH</p>	<p>18 4:30 PM AGUMCC Board Mtg--MMR 5 PM Bell Practice-- HR 6:30 PM Choir Practice-S</p>	<p>19 10:30 AM UWF Book Club--L</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Seventh Sunday of Easter 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>22 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11 AM Chair Yoga- CH 5PM Bell Practice-- HR</p>	<p>24 9:00 AM Church Work Day--CH</p>	<p>25 5 PM Bell Practice-- HR 6:30 PM-Choir Practice-S</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Day of Pentecost</p>  <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>Church Office Closed for Holiday 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>30 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11 AM Chair Yoga- CH 1 PM Bible Study- CH 5PM Bell Practice-- HR</p>	<p>31 10 AM Mary-Martha Esther Circle--MMR</p>		<p>Abbreviation Legend</p> <p>H—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>	

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com
Website: www.worshipweekly.com
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: Madrigale Quaglino
E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net
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

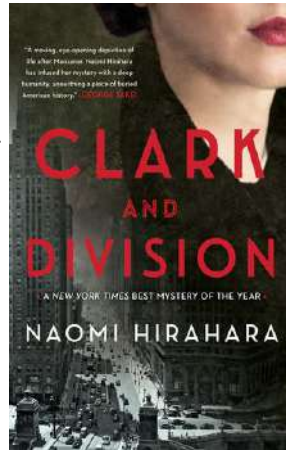
PLEASE NOTE:

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



UWF Book Club's May Book

Selection: Clark and Division In Clark and Division by Naomi Hirahara, a mystery set in 1944, a Japanese-American family is released from an internment camp in Manzanar. Like so many other Japanese-Americans after the bombing at Pearl Harbor, they had been detained for a number of years. The family had hoped to reunite with the oldest daughter in Chicago where they were being resettled; however, when they arrived in Chicago, they discovered that she had supposedly committed suicide. The youngest daughter takes it upon herself to find out the truth despite the difficulties of dealing with an unfamiliar city and distrust.



The Book Club will meet on Friday, May 19th, at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. If you would like to read Clark and Division, see Patti Melsheimer or Judy Leonard to borrow a copy of the book.

We welcome you to join us!

submitted by Judy Leonard



Hilary Henderson	05/02
Sophia McHugh	05/08
Karen Wise	05/08
Marilyn Balster	05/11
Judie Neufeld	05/12
Doris Douglas	05/16
Mark McHugh	05/17
Vinnie Paredes	05/18
Paul Jacob	05/22
Rob Isakson	05/25
Roger Ridley	05/26
Arianna Davis	05/30



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

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



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2023

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Children's Center Chronicle

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EASTER BUNNY GALLERY
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