



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande AUGUST 2023

Greetings,

I hope that you are enjoying the extended daylight hours that summertime brings and are taking time to be out and about, connecting with family and friends. Last week, I had a great time kayaking (first time ever). I am on a mission to add some spice to life and to not spend every DAY OFF cleaning my house and taking out the trash! Morro Bay proved to be a great place for a beginner to board a kayak and peacefully paddle around! I went with my sister Sally who came up from North San Diego County for two days.

As this August edition of the Castanet comes to you, I am enjoying a vacation week down south, meeting up with my three sisters, my twin, and their spouses for time together with "all of us" that we haven't shared since my mother's memorial in 2015 right before I arrived. So, I am pleased to be visiting with my siblings Jane (Gary) Hartling, Wendy (Chuck) Wakefield, Sally Peck and Dan & Vicki Birgelaitis. Some of their kids and grandkids are in San Diego too, so it promises to be a great time. I'm off from Wednesday July 26th to Wednesday August 2nd and will be back in the pulpit on Communion Sunday, August 6th. Here's the line-up of titles and passages for August:

August 6, 2023

MIXED BLESSINGS!

Genesis 32:22-31, Matthew 14:13-21

Wrestling Jacob & The Feeding of the 5,000

August 13, 2023

WHO WALKS ON WATER?

Genesis 37:1-4, Matthew 14:22-33

Joseph and His Brothers & Jesus Walking on the Lake

August 20, 2023

WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE

Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15:10-20

Joseph and His Brothers & Jesus Teaches Disciples

August 27, 2023

THE POWER OF THE KEYS

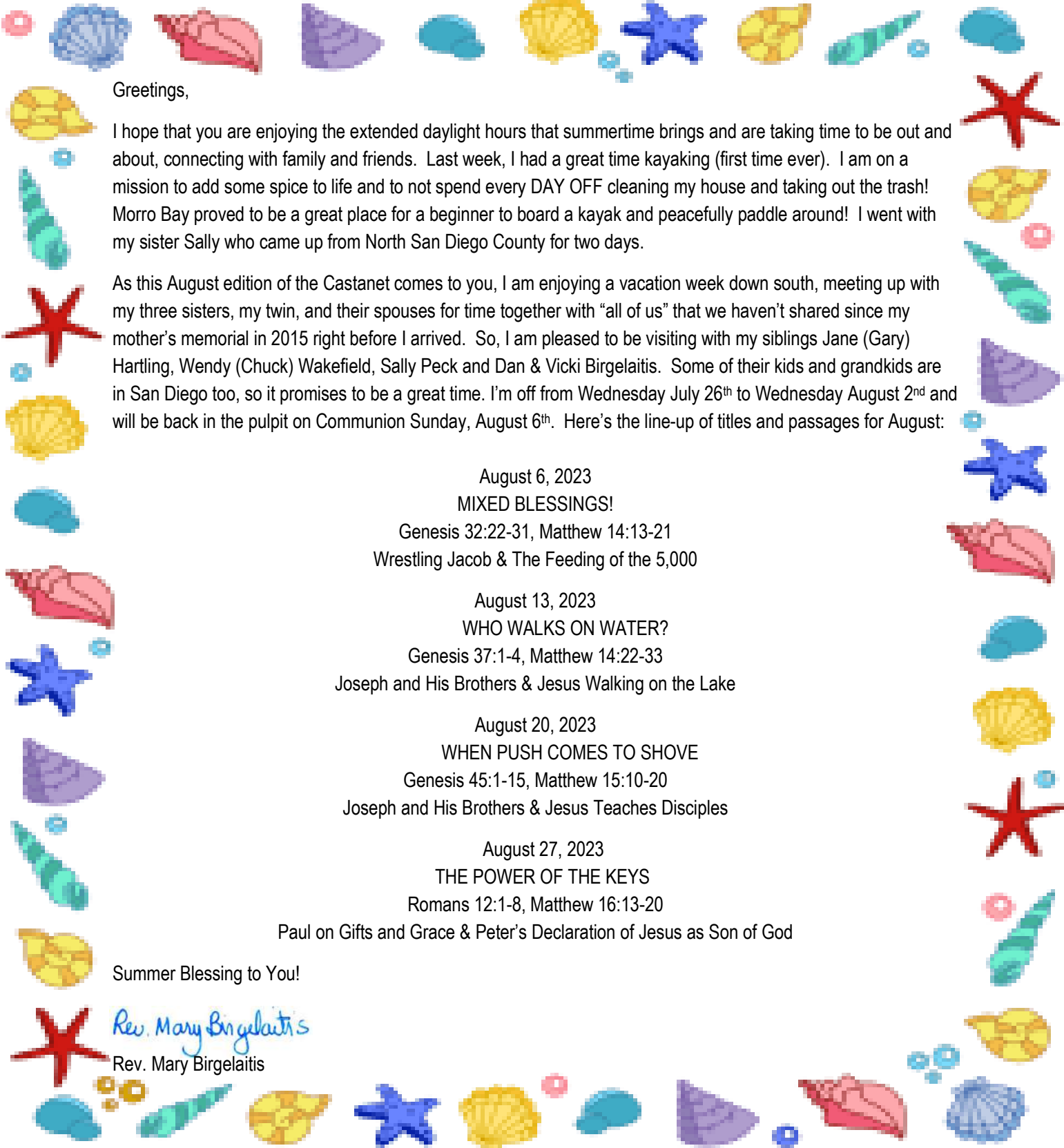
Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

Paul on Gifts and Grace & Peter's Declaration of Jesus as Son of God

Summer Blessing to You!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



TREASURER'S REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022/23

We ended the 2022/23 Fiscal year with a \$7K deficit. Not good, but we ended last year with a surplus, which we used to cover this year's deficit. Regular tithes and offerings were \$298K, which was \$22K below plan. Holiday and Loose Plate offerings were \$3K above plan. Expenses were approximately \$13K below plan.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

As of July 23, we received 73 Estimate of Giving cards totaling \$268,778. Some of the cards returned were to increase their previous pledges. Yay! This puts us at 78% of our goal of \$320,000, or about \$70K short. We have slightly over 100 regular givers, which indicates we have not yet heard from about a third of our regular givers. If you have not submitted an Estimate of Giving, please do it now so I can stop nagging, wrap up our Stewardship drive and prepare our 2023/24 budget. If you have submitted an Estimate of Giving, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. Since we appear to be falling short of what we need, please consider increasing your giving and submit a revised card.

BANKING

We are in the process of moving our accounts from Mechanics Bank, to Interfaith Federal Credit Union. If you have any church checks drawn on Mechanics Bank, please cash it promptly as those accounts will be closed soon.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

Stewardship Drive

As of July 23



73 Estimates of Giving Totaling \$268,775

YES! We are getting close. Let's wrap this up.
Please submit your Estimate of Giving if you have not done so.
Please consider raising your Estimate so that we can reach our goal.



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



AUGUST 6

8:30 a.m.-----Joseph Brown
10:30 am.-----Cristy Van Hook

AUGUST 13

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

AUGUST 20

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

AUGUST 27

8:30 a.m.-----David Beard
10:30 a.m.-----Nancy St. Laurent

~ 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.

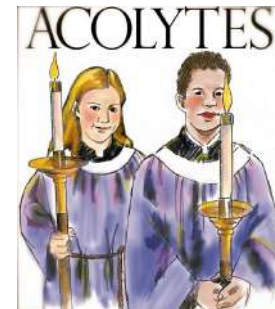


This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church. Call or talk with Kerren Brown at church for more information.

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.

NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER LIST FOR AUGUST 2023

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

"Ending spiritual and physical hunger."

--District Superintendent Reverend Melissa Roux MacKinnon

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
8/06/23	Tujungu UMC	Pastor Kevin Kang
8/06/23	Community UMC of Inyokern	Church Leaders
8/13/23	First UMC of Arroyo Grande	Pastor Mary Birgelaitis
8/13/23	Hindi-Urdu UM Mission	Pastor Lamuel Jacob
8/20/23	La Cañada UMC	Pastor Karin Ellis
8/20/23	Immanuel UMC of Los Angeles	Pastor Jay Kim
8/27/23	North Oxnard/Garden Church	Pastor Diane Rehfield
8/27/23	North Oxnard/Garden Church	Pastor Cindy Huskey

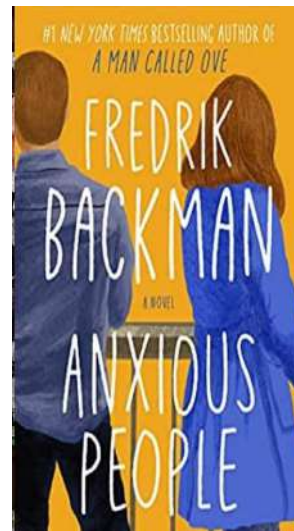


August UWF Book Selection: Anxious People

It's time for some light summer reading! Imagine a diverse group of people who have gone to an apartment open house but end up being taken hostage there by a desperate would-be bank robber. Each of the individuals and couples has one thing in common: they are not what they appear to be. As the story unfolds, each of them shares hurts and secrets that have prevented them from true happiness. Be prepared for an unexpected ending in this humorous, touching story.

The book, Anxious People, was written by Fredrik Backman who also wrote A Man Called Ove. If you would like to read Anxious People, see Judy Leonard for a library copy of the book. The UWF Book Club will meet on Friday, August 18th, at 10:30 A.M. in the church library to discuss it. We welcome you to join us!

If you have questions, see Patti Melsheimer or Judy Leonard.



~submitted by Judy Leonard

PASSING THE GAVEL AT CHURCH COUNCIL

At the July 19th meeting, the Church Council Leadership was passed from long-time chair Joel Anderson to Patti Melsheimer, who has moved on from her post as Lay Leader.

Church Council sets policies of our local church as well as coordinates and plans events and activities.

Membership consists of team leaders and appointed At-Large members.



Patti takes up the gavel in her new position of Church Council Chair.

Joel raises the gavel but does NOT have a halo. That is a birthday balloon.



Judie Neufeld, Church Council Secretary, pays rapt attention.

Getting ready for Beach Theme Sunday, to be held on August 13th.





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.

A **Spaghetti Dinner with Bingo** is planned for **Saturday August 5, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm in Criswell Hall**. Rich Neufeld will be our caller, assisted by Bernie Hawkins. \$20 donation. Lots of prizes will be given out. You don't want to miss this fun event, so put this on your calendar!

In September the Women in Faith are going to have a Women's Rally with a Luncheon on Saturday, September 16th, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the home of Judie and Rich Neufeld. Rich will work the Bar B Q, and a tour of Judie's extensive collection of needlework is anticipated. Tickets will go on sale August 27.

Mary, Martha, Esther Circle Mary Thronson, Chair, meets the last Wednesday of the month in the McMillen Room at 10:00 a.m.

Book Club meets 3rd Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Joy Circle Kerren Brown, Chair. The Circle is currently on "Summer Vacation" and will resume in the fall.

The **Sew and Sews** meet every Tuesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the McMillen Room. We invite knitters, crafters, needleworkers and sewers of all kinds, or you are invited if you just want to come and hang out with us. Fellowship is number one. We bring a sandwich for lunch. Coffee and tea and goodies are provided.

Craft Workshops began on July 27 and will continue through October until the Holiday Boutique. The workshops are on Thursdays and are held in the McMillen Room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Stay tuned and watch your Sunday Bulletin for craft activities.



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. Also needed are large backpacks and gift cards for gas. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Donated items can be dropped off at the UWF table in Criswell Hall or brought to a circle meeting.

Remember, you are always welcome to come join with us at the circles and groups!

~submitted by Gerry McGuire,
President



Dates to Remember

- √ August 5, Saturday, 5:00 - 8:00, Spaghetti Dinner with Bingo
- √ September 16, Saturday, 11:00-2:00, Women's Rally BBQ
- √ November 3, 4, 5, Holiday Boutique Sale

1ST UMC OF ARROYO GRANDE HOSTS


COMPOSER WORKSHOP WITH MARK HAYES 18-19 NOV 2023



\$20 per person includes workshop expenses
and continental breakfast and lunch



Saturday, November 18:
Registration & breakfast from 9:15 - 10:00 a.m.
Rehearsal 10-1
Lunch service 1-2 and dismissal

 Sunday, November 19th:
Concert 3:00

Please register before 9/30/23 by contacting Julia Burns,
Music Director at 1st UMCAG 275 Halcyon Rd, Arroyo Grande,
at 805.481.2692 or FUMCAGMusicDirector@gmail.com.



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM IS BACK!

The Communications Team is responsible for publicizing the activities and events of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande to members of the congregation, our local community and to other Methodist churches within our conference.

The team will focus on creating content including articles for Cast-A-Net, web site content, news releases to local media and our annual conference, social media posts, posters or signs featuring upcoming events, slides for use before services and on screens in the narthex, and messages for the outdoor sign.

The responsibility for the production of the Cast-A-Net, weekly bulletins, video service and website will remain with the existing staff. The Communications team will provide some content and will coordinate to present a clear and consistent image of our Church.

The ultimate goal of the Communications Team is to increase member involvement in church activities and bring new members into the congregation.

To do this I need YOUR help.

I have an e-mail account for the Communications Team: FUMCAGcommunications@gmail.com

Please send any pictures you take of church related activities to me at:

FUMCAGcommunications@gmail.com or text them to Joel Anderson at 805-709-4450. I want to build a picture file that can be drawn on for our website, social media, Cast-A-Net and to publicize future activities.

We need reporters. If you lead or attend a church activity, such as a Program Ministry outing, UWF event or UMM event please send a short report (and hopefully pictures as well) to: FUMCAGcommunications@gmail.com

We need people who can do graphics, both hand drawn and computer graphics.

And we need people who can contact local media or have contacts with reporters or radio or television personalities to publicize events at our church.

If would like to join this team please contact Rev. Mary or myself.

Joel Anderson
Communications Team Chair



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

News from the Trustees Committee

The Trustees continue to work on decluttering our church and its many rooms and cabinets. They are also in the process of installing some new features including a small hot water heater in the small room near the front of the sanctuary. Work continues on the women's bathroom in Criswell Hall, and replacement of dry wall areas that have been damaged by water leaks.

Membership on the Trustees includes David Beard, Irene Kliesch, Mary Hawkins, Patti Melsheimer, Dick Melsheimer and Mark Moore. Sadly, we are saying "goodbye" to Mark as he moves to Oregon. But happily, we are saying "welcome" to Mike Balster who will now become a member of the group.

The Trustees meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Workdays continue at the church on Wednesday mornings. Extra hands are always welcome on workdays. In addition, some workdays are being planned for Saturdays for some of the larger projects so that more people can participate.

If you notice an item that needs some type of repair or maintenance, please fill out one of the Repair Request forms attached to the clipboard on the Trustees Bulletin Board in Criswell Hall. Each request will be reviewed, and further action will be taken. There is also a Trustees mailbox in the church office where notes can be placed.

In case of emergencies call Dick Melsheimer at 805-720-3319 or call the Church office at 805-489-2692.

~submitted by Dick Melsheimer



These reminders are from Rob and Robin Isakson since they are in Minnesota for a few months:

1. Remember that Mission Team is responsible for Hospitality on Sunday, July 2, and Sunday, October 1.
2. Remember that we need at least 3 members to commit to making casseroles on August 28 and serving at People's Kitchen on August 29.
Rob and Robin will be back for the October 31 People's Kitchen date.

Program Ministry



The movie for August 27th will be "Woman in Gold." The 2015 film focuses on Maria Bloch-Bauer's niece Maria Altmann, played by Helen Mirren, and her quest to reclaim the famous Klimt painting ("Woman in Gold") from the Austrian government, but there is a lot more to the story. It is a true story of Maria's battle to recover her family possessions that were seized by the Nazis during World War II. The movie is free, popcorn is free, and soft drinks and candy are complimentary. Plan to come.



The Program Ministry committee is responsible for many fun activities this church puts on. We are busy getting some great field trips together, but we do need more input, so come join our group and help us plan interesting activities for the congregation.

Talk to Mary Hawkins or Gerry McGuire or Cyndee Rohla.

~submitted by Gerry McGuire

FUTURE ACTIVITIES ALREADY ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR FOR 2023

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS

Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo	Saturday, August 5
Beach Theme Sunday	Sunday, August 13
Free Movie "Woman in Gold"	Sunday, August 27
UWF Women's Rally Luncheon	Saturday, September 16
Trunk or Treat	Sunday, October 30
Holiday Boutique Sale	Fri./Sat./Sun. November 3, 4, 5
Harvest Lunch	Sunday, November 12 after second service
Christmas Variety Show	Saturday, December 2



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<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>		<p>1</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM Program Ministry--L</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM UWF Craft Workshop -MMR</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00 - 9:00 PM UWF (United Women in Faith) Spaghetti and Bingo--CH</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 7:00 PM Board of Trustees-CH</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 6:30 PM JOY Circle--CH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM UWF Craft Workshop -MMR 10:30 AM SPRC-PS</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>Beach Theme Sunday </p>	<p>14</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM 11:00 AM Chair Yoga - CH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm-L 2:00 PM Church Council--MMR</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM UWF Craft Workshop -MMR 10:30 AM SPRC-PS</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 AM UWF Book Club--L</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM UWF Craft Workshop -MMR</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 4:00 PM CH Movie "Woman in Gold"</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH Mission Team makes casseroles for Peoples Kitchen</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MMR 11:00 AM Mission Team takes food & serves at Peoples Kitchen 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM Mary-Martha-Esther Circle--CH</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 10:00 AM UWF Craft Workshop -MMR</p>		

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

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E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com
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 www.facebook.com/fumcag

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Frances Robertson

Website Manager: Jamie Foster

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Carolyn Russell

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Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler

Handbell Choir Director:

Leonard Lutz

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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?

Do you enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the altar on Sundays? Dates are available for Sunday morning flower dedications in upcoming months. We still have a number of openings for your dedications during the summer. 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 cost
for altar flowers is \$30.**



Orders can be made from the Grand Bouquet 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.



Tina Moore.....8/01
 Priscilla Alquist.....8/02
 Jacqueline Ridge.....8/02

William Bauske.....8/03
 Rosslyn Clauson.....8/04
 Fern Farmer.....8/06

Patty Williams.....8/07
 Nancy St. Laurent.....8/08
 Gerry McGuire.....8/10

Frank Ridge.....8/10
 John MacKeen.....8/12
 Bill Gerrish.....8/13

Robert Underwood.....8/15
 Nancy Gerrish.....8/17
 Betty Stephens.....8/17

Carol Gary.....8/19
 Nancy Burns.....8/20
 Dorine Bolterman.....8/22

Joseph Brown.....8/23
 Frank Williams.....8/23
 Cristy Van Hook.....8/24

Niki Raetz.....8/26
 Sharon Roemer.....8/27

Peter Paredes.....8/28
 Cecile Huggins.....8/30
 Wyatt Russell.....8/31



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!



Summer is a great time here at First United Methodist Church! You are invited to check out our Summer Worship Services, Volunteer Opportunities, Movies, Activities, Books to Read, Sewing and Crafting Groups, New Friends, and much more!



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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www.facebook.com/fumcag

2023



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Children's Center Chronicle

Sunday August 13 is
BEACH THEME SUNDAY!
You are invited to wear Hawaiian shirts,
beach hats, flip-flops, leis.