



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande JANUARY 2024



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

NEW BIBLE STUDY 1/16

TOUR OF PAULDING HOUSE 2/10

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION 1/19

UWF CHILI BOWL 2/11

GUEST PULPIT SPEAKER 1/21 & 28

WALKING TOUR OF AG VILLAGE 2/24

MOVIE DAY 1/28 "OPPENHEIMER"

Visit WorshipWeekly.com for more details.

Opportunities for joining on-going church events and activities!

Sunday Church Services

8:30 AM Contemporary Service

10:30 AM Traditional Service

United Methodist Men

UWF / UMW and Circle Groups

Sew n Sews, JOY Circle, Book Club,

Mary-Martha-Esther

Wednesday Work Day

Music Groups

Chancel Choir

Handbell Choir

Gerry's Quilt Class

Exercise Classes

Senior Exercise Tue, Wed, Thu 9 AM

Chair Yoga Tue 11:00 AM

275 North Halcyon Road . Arroyo Grande . CA 93420 . (805) 481-2692

From the Pastor

Epiphany Worship:

Epiphany! A season of Light. Epiphany begins each year on January 6th and celebrates the manifestation of Jesus Christ on Earth. Jesus enters the world as the incarnation of God. We jumpstart the season on that 12th Day of Christmas and on Epiphany Sunday we lift up the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi who brought gifts to Bethlehem to honor Jesus. Each year the following Sunday celebrates the Baptism of our Lord and we offer an opportunity for the congregation to renew baptismal vows together in worship. This season revealing God's Love and Light takes us all the way to the threshold of Lent and ends on Transfiguration Sunday which is February 11th this year. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Information regarding Lent will be in the February Cast-a-net.

January Pulpit Guest

January 21st and January 28th

We welcome as our pulpit guest this month Dr. Ken Kaisch who will fill the pulpit on both January 21st and January 28th, providing coverage during two weeks of our pastor's annual vacation. Here's the month of January at-a-glance. Happy New Year to You!

January 7

BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Holy Communion & Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows
LIGHT IN US
Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

January 14

2nd Sunday After Epiphany
Human Relations Day
WHEN GOD CALLS
Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Psalm 139:1-3,7-10, 23-24, John 1:43-51

January 21

3rd Sunday After Epiphany
THE INCARNATION
Dr. Ken Kaisch
1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Psalm 100, John 13:1-9

January 28

4th Sunday After Epiphany
OUR MISTAKEN NOTIONS OF SIN
Dr. Ken Kaisch
I John 3:1-3, Psalm 95:1-7, John 8:1-11



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



JANUARY 7

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

JANUARY 14

8:30 a.m.-----Sharon Roemer
10:30 a.m.-----Robin Isakson

JANUARY 21

8:30 a.m.----Susan Thronson
10:30 a.m.-----Rosslyn Clauson

JANUARY 28

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

~ submitted by Jan Treat

NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER LIST FOR DECEMBER 31, 2023-MARCH 30, 2024

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)
12/31/23	Westlake Village UMC	Pastor Walter Dilg, Jr.
12/31/23	Trinity UMC of Los Osos	Pastor Les Lungren
01/07/24	Woodland Hills UMC	Pastor Seung-il Whang
01/07/24	Van Nuys UMC	Pastor Sang Ho Yi
01/14 /24	Santa Clarita Korean Mission	Pastor Sang Hun Park
01/14/24	St. James UMC	Pastor Connie Tamkin
01/21/24	San Luis Obispo UMC	Pastor Mark Sturgess
01/21/24	Grace Korean UMC	Church Leaders
01/28/24	Santa Barbara First UMC	Pastor Liz Aguilar
01/28/24	Santa Barbara First UMC	Pastor Rob Fluesler

Dr. Ken Kaisch is an Episcopal priest and a clinical psychologist, who is retiring from his private practice in Orange County, CA. He is passionate about the soul's journey into God. A published author, his next title is *Inside the Invisible: The Universal Path to Spiritual Transcendence*, where he compares the mystical journey described in the six major world religions with each other, finding an incredible concordance amongst them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

We beat our goal for the Advent/Christmas offering - by \$38. We raised \$7,832 against the plan of \$7,800. That includes 36 doves, 15 cats, 15 dogs, 15 donkeys, 25 sheep, 2 cows, 4 camels and 1 angel! That stable must be getting crowded with all those animals coming to worship the baby Jesus. And a special Thank You to our angel contributor.

The Thanksgiving Offering came in over plan, with \$3,385 against our goal of \$2,500.

We have a wonderful, generous congregation!

Regular Tithes and Offerings are also above plan. We are halfway through our Fiscal Year and have received \$182,169 which is 60.5% of our annual plan. We received some substantial contributions in the past two months from members who give once a year. This puts us ahead for now. Please keep giving as we still have another six months to go in this fiscal year.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries and activities of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

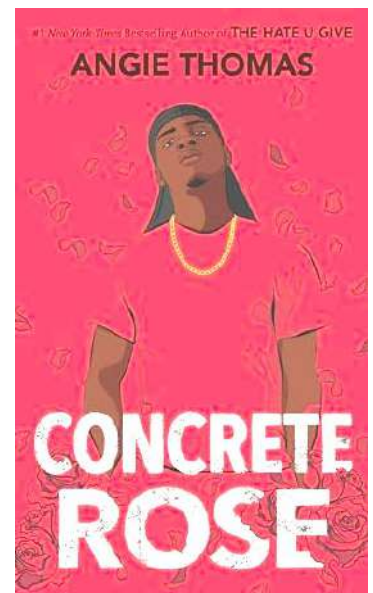


January UWF Book Club Selection: Concrete Rose

The UWF Book Club will discuss the book, Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas, on Friday, January 19th, at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. This prequel to The Hate U Give which we studied in October will give us more insight into a major character, Maverick Carter.

Maverick who is seventeen years old in Concrete Rose has to navigate a difficult world as a young black man. Despite the challenges, he shows that he values taking care of his family and setting a good example.

If you are interested in reading the book, see Judy Leonard or Patti Mehlsheimer to borrow a library copy of the book.



~submitted by Judy Leonard



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.

UWF JANUARY 2024

Here we are in January, a new year, reflecting back on the many successes of last year. One of the biggest was our Holiday Boutique in which we surpassed the profitable Boutique of the year before.

In December we held the High Tea, also well attended. Included was a very informative presentation by Judie Neufeld on "Tea". In addition, she let us use her wonderful teacup collection. What a delicious and fun gathering! And imagine my surprise when I won the opportunity quilt! Thank you.

Looking ahead we will host the Hospitality Time on January 7, 2024.



Again, back by popular demand is the Chili Bowl on Sunday, February 11. Take Home a delicious bowl of chili, cornbread, and dessert for two so you can enjoy the big game. Just \$ 20 for two. Your choice of beef, turkey, or vegetarian chili.

Get your tickets starting Sunday, January 14. This is a popular fundraiser! Be a part of it so we can continue to support our local non-profit organizations in need.

Please consider starting the New Year with a resolution to join one of the UWF circles and meet fellow women parishioners or to renew your membership.

Circles are the  of United Women in Faith.

Mary, Martha, Esther Circle meets the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am in the McMillen Room. Come join us; we'd love to have you! Contact Mary Thronson.

Joy Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the McMillen Room. Contact Kerren Brown.

Book Club will meet Friday, January 19th, in the Library at 10:30 AM. Contact Judy Leonard.

Sew and Sews meet every Tuesday in the McMillen Room from 10:00 until 2:00. Bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. Encourage all interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting and just plain visiting and sharing.

~ submitted by Gerry McGuire,
President

Dates to Remember

✓ February 11, Chili Bowl Sunday with a delicious bowl of chili, cornbread and dessert for two.

SOME OF THE FUN ACTIVITIES AT CHURCH THE LAST FEW WEEKS!

Nov 19:
Choral
Concert with
Mark Hayes.



Nov 28: The Puppets at Annual Charge Conference.



Dec 2: Christmas Variety Show.



Dec 3: Methodist Men Pancake Breakfast



Dec. 9: UWF Holiday High Tea



Dec. 14: Children's Center Christmas Program



Dec. 24: A beautiful Christmas Eve Service



Dec 31: Celebrating Harry Egan's 88th Birthday (Dec. 30)

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Our Christmas Variety Show was so much fun and showcased some very talented people. If you missed it, you will surely want to come next year.

We've had some very busy times with the holidays, so I hope you won't think we're slacking in January, but the committee is taking some needed time off. Not to mention rainy days. It's hard to plan museum tours in the rain (SLO Train Museum.) This event will be postponed to a later date.

However, our Movie Day is coming up Sunday January 28, at 2 pm – to 5:30 pm.

We will be showing "Oppenheimer", with Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, and Robert Downy Jr. It is Christopher Nolan's breathtaking global phenomenon about the father of the Atomic bomb. The movie won the Golden Globes movie for best picture of the year. It's free--movie, popcorn and refreshments! What a bargain. My husband pointed out to me that you could spend \$40-\$50 going to a theatre to see a movie with popcorn and soft drinks.

The tour of the local Arroyo Grande Cemetery, with Jim Gregory, a local Historian as our guide, last October was a hit. We welcome him back with a tour of the Paulding House on February 10th. Then, two weeks later on February 24th, a walk through the village of Arroyo Grande complete with stories of our town.

Submitted by,

Gerry McGuire

*February 10 Paulding House tour

*February 24 Walking tour of the Village

* April --S.L.O. Botanical Gardens (date TBD)



WHAT'S UP ?

The communications team put up an annual calendar of upcoming events in the hallway leading into Criswell Hall. This will allow everyone to see what events are coming up and to help teams avoid conflicts. Please notify the office and the communications committee of upcoming activities so it can be put on the calendar and publicized in the Cast-A-Net, bulletin and to the general public.

--Communications Committee

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR CAST-A-NET?

The Cast-A-Net highlights all the goings on at the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Your copy can be delivered by postal mail, e-mail or both. Please notify the office if you would like to change or add to how you receive your copy. You can also subscribe for e-mail delivery by e-mailing "SUBSCRIBE" to umcag+subscribe@googlegroups.com or by going to our website WorshipWeekly.com and clicking on the Subscribe link at the lower left corner. Copies are also available in the Narthex and entrance to Criswell Hall.

--Communications Committee



News from the Mission Team

Special Sunday: Human Relations Day – January 14th 2024

“Listening Hearts: Responding to the Prophetic Call.”

Based on the lectionary reading for January 14, 2024: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20).

On January 14th, we respond to the invitation to participate in the Human Relations Day offering – an opportunity to stand with other United Methodist churches to build the beloved community envisioned by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This denomination wide Special Sunday is designed to strengthen human relationships and community outreach. Samuel’s story reminds us of the importance of being attentive to God’s call. Today, as we navigate the world’s complexities, we are invited to listen not only with our ears but also with our hearts. By participating in the Human Relations Day offering, we embrace the power of relationships, the strength of community and the good news that all of God’s children are of sacred value.

Of the funds received, fifty-seven percent supports Community Developers programs, thirty-three percent supports The United Methodist Voluntary Services (UMVS) and ten percent supports Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

In a world that often feels uncertain, embracing God’s love shifts our perspective. Supporting the Human Relations Day offering channels our resources into servant leadership, community building and ministries that embody peace with justice. Please give generously to this Special Sunday by writing a check to FUMC -AG and designating “Human Relations Day offering” in the memo line.

~ submitted by Priscilla Alquist

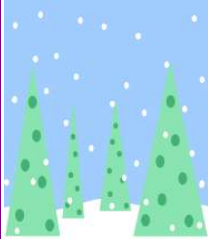


A Special Thank You to Scott Trees and Ball FloraPlant for donating the 22 poinsettias that were delivered to our shut-ins before Christmas, helping to spread Christmas joy.





January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  NEW YEARS DAY	2 9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews --MM 11:00 AM Chair Yoga - CH	3 9:00 AM Senior Exercise -CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 Fellowship Ministry--L	4 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice-HR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal--S	5	6 9:30 AM Taking down of Christmas Decorations
7 Epiphany Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional	8 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	9 9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 10AM Sew & Sews--MMR 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice-HR 7:00 PM Board of Trustees--MMR	10 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM Mission Team-CH	11 8:30 AM Clergy Cluster--MMR 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice-HR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal--S	12	13
14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	15 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH 10:00 AM RAMs Meeting-CH Martin Luther King Birthday	16 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 1:30 PM Finance-PS 2:30 Endowment-CH 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice--HR 6:30 PM JOY Circle--MMR	17 9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering Committee-L 2:00 PM Church Council--MMR	18 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:30 AM Staff Parish--PS 4:30 PM Children's Center Board--MMR 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice--HR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal--S	19 10:30 AM UWF Book Club--L	20
21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	22 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	23 9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews --MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice--HR	24 9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH	25 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice--HR 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal--S	26	27
28 4th Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 2:00-5:30 PM Fellowship Movie Night- "Oppenheimer"	29 4:30 PM Communications -L 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	30 9:00 AM Senior Exercise --CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews --MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5:00 PM Hand Bell Practice--HR	31 9:00 AM Senior Exercise--CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM Mary-Martha -Esther Circle--MMR		Abbreviation Legend CH—Criswell Hall S—Sanctuary K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123 MMR—McMillen Room #113 PL-- Parking Lot PS— Pastor's Study HR—Handbell Room #115	



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 Leonard Lutz
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TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Criswell Hall
 We will meet on January 16 to begin our new Bible Study of

Adam Hamilton's
**WRESTLING WITH DOUBT:
 FINDING FAITH**

Books are available.

This is an enthusiastic group that welcomes all to join!



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. Your floral tributes are welcomed and will be placed on the altar for both services on Sunday. You can pick up your arrangement after the second service. Just let us know.

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.

Orders can be made from the Grand Bouquet on 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.

Birthdays in



Alex Paredes	01/04
Norm Henderson	01/07
Marjorie Ott	01/08
Michelle Richardson	01/08
Carolyn Russell	01/15
Nancy Baughman	01/17
Elwood Hyden	01/17
Jim Alquist	01/20
Judy Leonard	01/22
Violet Bauske	01/25
Lynn Stewart	01/27
Jordan Henderson	01/29
Eileen Odom	01/29
Mary Thronson	01/29



Hope, Joy & Love Rising



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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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Children's Center Chronicle



The Lord bless you and keep you;

*The Lord make His face shine upon
you, And be gracious to you;*

*The Lord lift up His countenance
upon you, And give you peace.*

Numbers 6: 24-26