



5th Yellow Umbrella
12th Mary-Martha Circle
19th AGUM Children's Center
26th Staff-Parish Relations

Coffee Hour responsibilities include the set-up and clean-up of the coffee pots and providing refreshments for both the 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM Coffee Hour times in Criswell Hall. **Thank you!**



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1st Sr. Health Screening
- 2nd People's Kitchen
- 4th Praise Team Rehearsal
- 5th Green Umbrella
- 6th Staff-Parish
- UMW Steering Committee
- 7th Trustees
- 8th Blue Umbrella
- 9th Finance @ at the Girls Restaurant
- Communications
- Esther Circle
- Red Umbrella
- RUMP
- 11th Columbus Day
- 13th JOY Circle
- 14th Mary-Martha Circle
- 15th Preschool Board
- 16th Church Council
- 26th Reformation Sunday
- Harvest Party
- 28th Care-Ring Ministry



Bishop: Mary Ann Swenson
Superintendent: Rev. Cathleen Coots
Pastor: Rev. David Burgeson
Min. of Visitation: Rev. Harold Headrick
Secretary/ Newsletter: Sarah Barber
Bookkeeper: Victoria Gandy
Multi-Media Coordinator: Sean Lehman

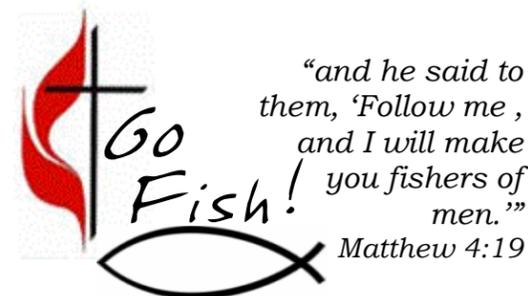
Website manager: Jamie Foster
Music Director: Julie Walters
Praise Team Leader: Susan Coho
Pianists: open position
Organist: Don McGuire
Puppet People: Willy Ford-Raetz & Mike Herber

Grande Ringers Director: Leonard Lutz
Youth Directors: Mike & Linda Herber
Children's Director: Nancy Baughman
United Methodist Children's Center AG UM Children's Center Director: Madrigal (Maddy) Quaglino

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The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

October 2008

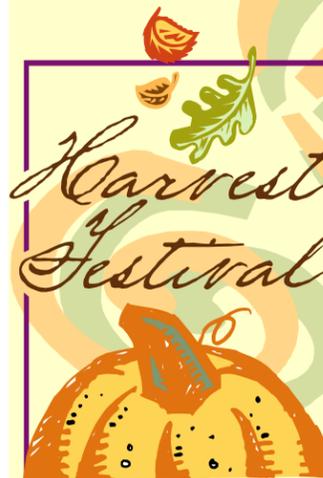
"The kingdom of God is like a net that was cast into the sea" ~ Matthew 13:47
 Phone: 805-481-2692 Website: WorshipWeekly.com Email: FUMCAG@sbcglobal.net



Sometimes An Anniversary Is So Big It Has To Be Celebrated In A BIG Way

Our church will be celebrating its **125th anniversary in 2009**. A committee has already been formed, under the able leadership of Larry and Pat Wiemers, and plans have been under way for months in anticipation of this September 2009 event. This anniversary is such a milestone that it can't be just done on one day.

The Anniversary Committee has given approval for celebration events to begin this year as a means of getting the word out to both our congregation and the public. By the time of this publication, the Youth Group, the Green Umbrella, and other members of our church family, will have participated in the Harvest Festival Parade, had a booth at the Harvest Festival, and passed out free water with a label inviting people to come to our church.



We ask that you mark your calendars for the next event, Sunday, October 26, the All Church Harvest Picnic and Potluck. Please join us in Criswell Hall immediately following the second service for food, fellowship, and fun. Be sure to dress in your "best" harvest/western themed duds and bring a potluck dish to share. The children will enjoy a bounce house and some games (adults can participate too), as this event will be in lieu of our Annual Harvest Party. **KIDS:** Be sure to wear costumes if they choose too. Please bring a dessert item to include in a best dessert contest or just to share with others. You won't want to miss sign ups for the pie eating contest. Back by popular demand: the **Kiss The Pig Contest**. Please look for the "pig containers" where donations can be made towards one of four people who you would like to see be the lucky winner. Please check your upcoming church bulletins for further details regarding this. **Hope to see everyone there!**



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Newsletter TEAM

Chair: David Beaman
Layout Editor: Sarah Barber
Proofers: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, and Virginia Mothes
Communications Committee: Sarah Barber, David Beaman, Reverend David Burgeson, Virginia Mothes, Sandy Schwarer, Sean Lehman and Jerry Smith.
Deadline: 10th of each month
 Articles for consideration must be submitted by this date.
Address Updates: Do you want to be removed from our mailing list? Need to update to your information or add a friend? Contact our church office at (805) 481-2692 or e-mail us at fumcag@sbcglobal.net



Notes From our Pastor

This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it! Each day we have the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. And over the past several weeks as we have gotten to know one another in a variety of settings, you have made a difference in my life as we have learned a little about each other. Thank you.

Thank you for inviting me to your meetings and homes and sharing your stories with me and giving me the opportunity for you to know something about me. We've only just begun. And thank you for letting me know who might need a visit from me. You are keeping me informed and I do appreciate that so very much.

Visiting the members, constituents of our church, and people in our community is important for me. I am available for in office or home visits. Give Sarah a call at the office to schedule a time that is convenient. Let me share what happened to me when I was out visiting a local bookstore. The lady at the store was very helpful in assisting me with items I could not find. When I was ready to make my purchase, I told her I was the new Pastor at First United Methodist Church Arroyo Grande on Halcyon Road. Her response to me was "welcome home". As I left the store my thought was and is "Yes I do feel like I am home and thank you for your welcoming spirit!" Let's spread that throughout the five cities area!

There is a lot going on at the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Just look at the Calendar! And you are invited to be involved. And let me challenge you to share with your neighbors and friends about our church, don't just share with them- bring them! Invite them to come grow with us! Over 80% of first time visitors come because someone reached out and brought them.

I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together, all around the world, yes we are the church together!

Your Partner in Ministry,

David

GOD NEEDS YOU!



"MALACHI MOUSE SAYS..."

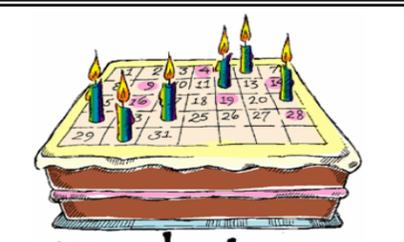
Only YOU can help "feed" Malachi Mouse. Do you have some interesting news? Vacations, weddings, births, good golf scores, any announcement that's fit to print? Drop your news by the church office.



Thank you to our acolytes and bible bearers and the "acolyte moms" for their diligence in assisting in worship each Sunday. If you would like to be a part of this team of young people, contact Lorie Ford or Nikki Raetz.



Many thanks to all who participated in our Family Fun Day! We had a blast! The Kids loved the bounce house, carnival games and you should have seen the Trike-a-Thon!!



Birthdays This Month

Bob Pierson	10/1
Sally Ann Lynch	10/3
Val McClure	10/4
David Haupt	10/5
Betty David	10/6
Bob Roemer	10/9
Lorie Ford	10/13
Chuck Buckton	10/14
Bill Taylor	10/14
Karl Whitehead	10/14
Diane Laughlin	10/17
Al Harvey	10/17
Rose Ann Steiner	10/22
Virgil Houlding	10/23
Jeanne Jenkins	10/28
Lila Anderson	10/29
T. J. Dobbs	10/29

OOPS! Did we miss your birthday? Would you like to have your name or a family member recognized? Please let us know! We would love to hear from you!!



Bible Quiz

In chapter 15 of First Corinthians, St. Paul wrote of several appearances of the resurrected Lord. Christ appeared to some women, to Peter and to the 12 disciples. Then Paul writes of Christ's appearing to a large number of people. How large was that crowd?

- A. more than 50
- B. more than 100
- C. more than 500
- D. more than 5,000

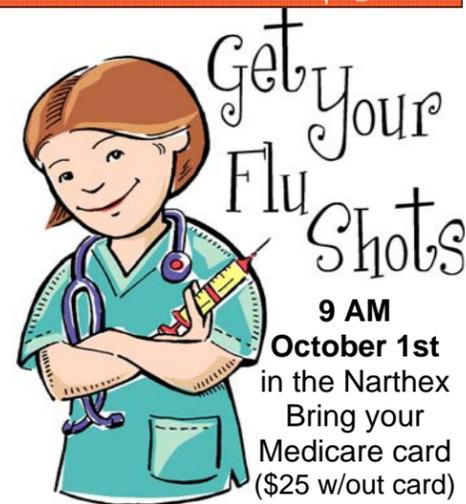
Answer: C (See 1 Corinthians 15:6.)



Adult Bible Study

Mondays at 7 PM in room 215 you can join with other men who have committed themselves to Christ and who seek spiritual leadership through Christ's word and His teachings. Join us in this special time of prayer, study, and fellowship. Come and set your focus on Christ!

All are welcome to meet with us **every Friday at 8:30 AM in the library** and get to know our church members in a small group setting. Now is the perfect time to join us as we are starting our new book. *Old Testament Stories From the Back Side* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Get yours at the church office.



R U M P

Retired United Methodist Persons

We invite all retired persons to attend a noon potluck on the second Saturday of each month in the McMillen Room.

Saturday, October 11th
Pastor David will again share with us! Join us!

All retired persons are invited to join us at noon in the McMillen Room. We ask that you bring a dish to serve 8 and your own tableware.

For more information contact **Bob and Vel Lowry.**



Will Be Closed:
Monday, October 13th
Columbus Day

Special Dates October 2008

- World Communion Sunday**
October 5
- Columbus Day Observance**
October 13
- Reformation Sunday**
October 26
- Reformation Day**
October 31
- Halloween**
October 31



The Healthy Corner

By Patti Melsheimer

Have you visited a hospital emergency room recently???

Emergency rooms (ER) have changed a great deal. The reasons why ERs can no longer offer access to immediate care are complex. Emergency department visits have risen 27% in ten years, according to the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). At the same time, some 2,000 ERs nationwide closed altogether, resulting in dramatic increases in patient volumes and waiting times at the remaining facilities. Add to that the increased numbers of elderly, chronically ill patients with AIDS or diabetes and skyrocketing numbers of patients without insurance or primary care doctors, and you have "an extremely difficult situation even without a major health crisis." The majority of the nation's 4,000 hospital emergency departments report they are operating "at" or "over" critical capacity, and an ambulance is diverted every minute in this country-sent to another, farther ER-thanks to the overcrowding.

The (ACEP) advises anyone experiencing a medical emergency to take the following steps to ensure their best chances of survival and good care in the chaotic ER environment:

- Avoid the ER if at all possible. Take advantage of local urgent care clinics and your own doctor. At the same time, if you have any signs of a serious health issue, like trouble breathing, chest pain, severe abdominal pain or uncontrolled bleeding, absolutely seek out the ER."
- Especially avoid trauma centers on Friday or Saturday nights. They are very busy and you will have to wait much longer than other times.
- Bring all medications. Bring anything you are receiving for chronic medical problems, such as heart medications, blood thinners, insulin, even aspirin. It will help in your evaluation and treatment.
- If you are on blood thinners, mention it to the triage nurse. It will accelerate your evaluation and might prevent serious complications.
- Bring someone with you. Having someone who can serve as your voice, get information for you and help keep information straight is critical in the busy environment of the emergency department.
- If your medical condition worsens while waiting, let a nurse know. All emergency departments use a triage process, which means the most critically ill or injured patients are seen first. However, sometimes a patient will come in with mild symptoms, and while they are waiting, their medical condition worsens," says an ACEP statement. "It's very important for emergency patients in waiting rooms to notify the triage nurse if they are in pain or if they start to feel worse. If they are still concerned, they should ask to speak to an emergency physician or a patient advocate. People should not leave the emergency department without being seen.
- Insist on being seen by a physician if you are uncomfortable with the diagnosis. Many ERs get through their long lines of patients by having nurse practitioners or physician assistants help with the load. Do not be afraid to ask if the person treating you is a doctor, and if not, to insist you want a doctor's opinion.
- If there is a delay, do not shout at the nursing or medical staff. People go into emergency medicine because they want to help people in crisis. They are not being rude -they are busy taking care of much sicker patients. Show some courtesy.
- Bring a book or magazine. For most non-crisis ER visits, you are in for a long wait.



What do I need to do to join the Sew 'n' Sews?

Show UP! All you need to do is come to the McMillen Room between 9 and 10 AM on Tuesdays. Bring your sewing kit if you have one with a thimble, needle, and scissors. We probably have what you don't have.

Can someone teach me to learn the quilting basics ?

You'll come and often find these ladies seated around the quilt frame. Each are anxious to teach and help you enjoy it! Mary Ellen Keulen, Leona Beerup, Helen Gugeler, Trudy Romanelli and Peg Gallop.

Where do the quilt tops that you quilt come from?

Many church members have requested our work and many come from the community when they are looking for our services. Baby quilt tops have been donated in the past and we still have a number of them to be quilted.

Do you sell quilts?

Not usually. The quilts belong to individuals who want their tops finished and are willing to pay for the work. We do sell the baby quilts if we have enough quilters to keep the donated tops quilted. *Watch For A Drawing!!* We have a "Cat Quilt" that has just been completed. This is a first for our quilting group! We made the whole quilt from the get-go. This is a very colorful quilt and it will come with two pillow shams. Keep your eyes peeled for more information.

What happens to the money collected for the quilting?

We are a service group. All monies received are donated to the United Methodist Women Missions Project.

How long does it take to complete a quilt and how much thread is used?

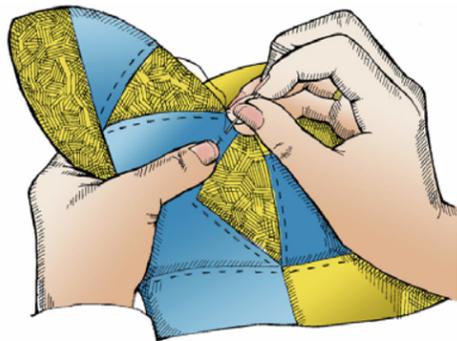
Lots of variables enter into the equation. Usually a queen size takes 6 months or longer to complete, and two spools of thread are usually enough.

How long has there been a quilter's group in this church?

The quilting group has been here at the church for about 125 years.

Is this group all work and no play?

We are a "close knit" group who look forward to Tuesdays and there is plenty of socializing when we get together to quilt!



*Sew 'n' Sews
Q & A*

Come and give us (and quilting) a try! We need you!



UM YOUTH NEWS

Hello to all! Can you believe that summer is already over and everyone is back in school? Time does fly! The youth once again want to thank everyone for the generous support through both money donations and prayers in getting them to Camp Colby over the summer. Fifteen of our youth got to enjoy camp, whether they were at junior or senior high. As always, they are still telling tales of camp and looking forward to next year. As you can see from Criswell Hall each Sunday, we continue to collect aluminum and plastic for next year. Oh ya... a friendly reminder no milk jugs, 7-11 cups (Sean ?? ☺ Ha-Ha) or glass bottles. Thanks again to all of you!



By the time this article is read, we will have already participated in the Annual Harvest Festival in Arroyo Grande, via the parade and our booth. Look to next issue on how we did with response to the free water and invitation. And again, thanks to all who contributed money and/or water. What a generous and giving church family we have!

We have enjoyed getting to know Pastor Burgeson as he comes and hangs out with us. What a brave guy! Pastor David came to our Annual Lock-In on 8/29 and frankly was one of the smart ones who left early. We had 27 young people who stayed up all night (or so we thought—take a look bottom left). We all had a great time hanging out. We ate enough to feed an army! Pizza, cookies, candy, and soda until I thought they would be sick but amazingly there was still room for breakfast! We bounced, played games, and watched movies, all the time trying to stay awake (the parents I mean!) We thoroughly enjoyed Mike Mc Comb, who came and hung out. The youth met Mike at camp as a counselor. He is also a youth director at St Andrews Methodist Church in Santa Maria. Thanks to all the parents who helped! Especially to those who stayed all night!! We couldn't do it without you!?

We will be helping out at the Women's Club at the end of October and also involved in the All Church Picnic. In October, on Wednesdays night, we will be starting a six week bible lesson series called *What Jesus Did*. We look forward to seeing all the youth on Wednesday nights in addition to Sunday mornings.

In His Service, Mike and Linda

Come and hang out with us! We meet every Wednesday at 7 PM upstairs in the Youth Lounge!

Notes from the Chancel Choir

Kent Unsworth, Choir Publicity

Choir Returns and Welcomes New Members

The Chancel Choir returned to the loft Sunday, September 7, performing the old favorite "Lead Me Lord".

Welcome back David and Joyce! After a long hiatus, bass David Anderson, and his soprano wife, Joyce Anderson have returned to our choir.

Welcome Bea and Gary! We are glad to welcome Bea Frantz, alto, and tenor Gary Hughes (son of Glen Hughes, tenor), who have recently joined the choir.

We are looking forward to an exciting season of music once again under the enthusiastic and dedicated leadership of Choir Director, Julie Walters. Come and be a part of this dynamic musical group. We meet every Wednesday evening from 7 PM to 8:30 PM in the church sanctuary. See you there!



THE LORD'S CREW IS A PRAISE BAND OF WORSHIP LEADERS. THIS GROUP LEADS OUR CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30 AM UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SUSAN COHO.

THE LORD'S CREW MEET EVERY OTHER SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH, UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

REHEARSAL DATES

(REHEARSALS BEGIN AT 6:30PM AND SET-UP AT 5:30 PM)

- 10/4 REHEARSAL
- 10/10 REHEARSAL



SAFETY CONCERNS!



Safety and security concerns have been mentioned before. At the risk of being redundant let's re-view!

Doors around the church are still left unlocked or unlatched and lights are still being left on. When you exit the glass doors around the building, please be sure to pull the door tight and that it is latched. Pull on the handle to ensure that it does not open. The doors between the Narthex and Criswell Hall are to be locked when in the hall is not in use.

After Church and all of the children have been picked up from their classes, they are the sole responsibility of the parent. Once out of the church school classroom after being dismissed, the kids need to be under the watchful eye of their family members and ultimately their parents. They are still able to play on the patio or in the playground, on their own, however, the liability rests on the shoulders of the parents and one must be present at all times. As we are all aware, children will do things when their parents aren't present (duhh!) Children up to the age of 12 years old can use the large play set, but only in the presence of their parent. So lets all work together and take the security and safety as a personal goal. Thank you! ~The Board of Trustees

MEN'S UNITED METHODIST MEN



NEWS

Current Events

On Saturday, September 20, the men gathered at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach at 8:30 AM for our usual time for food and fellowship

Next our pastor, Reverend David Burgeson entertained and educated us with the highlights of his recent vacation trip to New Orleans. On this trip he drove from "Nawlins" to Nashville, Tennessee (about 400 miles) to the "Upper Room." This is a extraordinary combination church and museum (maintained by the publishers of our devotional guide "The Upper Room.") He described a woodcarving of the painting of the "Last Supper" which was positioned on the wall behind the altar. Thank you Pastor David for sharing with us.

Prior to this presentation, a business meeting was held. Urgent items discussed were:

- selection of the new UMM president to take office before 2009;

- a questionnaire was distributed to determine programs for the coming year;
- suggestions for fundraisers were discussed as well as determining the continuation of current fundraising events;
- a discussion on where to hold the Sweetheart Breakfast in February of 2009.

On Sunday, September 21, our UMM hosted the first All Church Pancake Breakfast for the 2008—2009 year. Our members host this event 5 times during the year. Look for it in your weekly bulletins. We will continue with the same menu, at the same price and hold it at the same time in the same place.

Looking Ahead to October

On Saturday October 18, 2008, the men will hold their monthly meeting at the Mission Inn of Pismo Beach at 8:30 AM. We look forward to hearing from Richard Leonard of the Dept of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Automotive Repair.

Dick Gainer, *Interim President*

WOODCARVING OF THE LAST SUPPER



Supporting Our Church With...

Our Prayers The 5 Purposes of Prayer

Praise & adoration: responding to the glory and grandeur of God.

Thanksgiving: acknowledging the Giver of all good gifts.

Confession: Admitting our failures and asking for pardon.

Petition: Asking God to take care of us.

Intercession: Asking God to help others.

Dale A. Matthews,
from *The Faith Factor*

Our Presence I Believe In Church

I believe more profoundly in the church every hour that I live. We can make our

money and our witness go further through the church than through any independent movement. We can do more constructive work through the church than any other way in the world. That is my deepest conviction. I have watched all kinds of independent movements, and my conviction steadily deepens that Christians are doing the wisest thing possible when we link our lives with the church.

George W. Truett
(1867-1944), Baptist pastor

Our Gifts

Why We Pledge

About this time of year many churches ask their members to designate what they hope to give in the year to come. We know that the church is not a

business - it's the family of God - but things go better if the church operates along responsible and concrete business principles.

When we pledge, the church can plan which programs it can afford to launch or maintain, how many paid staff members (pastor, secretary, custodian, choir director, etc.) it can employ. It can project how much support it can send to missions, children's homes, settlement houses in many lower economic areas and more.

A pledge, made after prayer and with full consideration of one's resources, helps prevent financial stress and makes the church perform more effectively. Ultimately, our pledge and the fulfillment of it serves God and gives joy to every-

one including ourselves.

Our Service Wise Investments

Kay Ekstrom, founder of the Christian Family Care Agency in Phoenix, spent 25 years helping people in need, particularly poor and ailing children. She believes it's wiser to "build" children than to "repair" adults. "I believe that God doesn't ask about your ability, only your availability," she says.

People like Ekstrom get an immediate reward from helping people who need a boost. But they also see their work as an investment in the future. Such faithful servants experience the inner wealth that comes from giving and from "spending" yourself.



Umbrella Update

Over the next few months, we are going to take an in-depth look at each of our umbrella groups; Red, Green, Blue, and Yellow. We plan to detail their mission, their purpose and goals and hopefully what these important and vital groups represent to our church and share with all of us their hopes for the future. The first in this series will be the Blue Umbrella; please read on...

What Is The Blue Umbrella?

Can you share the gifts God has given you??

The Blue Umbrella is a group of church members who provide personal attention to the many needs of our congregation. They assist in the preparation of meals for shut-in members, send out cards, make phone calls and even bring holy communion to them.

The Prayer Chain is another avenue of service. This is the place to go when you are in need of the awesome power of prayer. With one call to Betty Ann Quintana, your request will move along the prayer chain like fire and within minutes, many of your church family will be praying with you and for you. What a wonderful feeling!!

The Intercessory Prayer Group meets each Thursday morning in our church library. It is a small group of spirit filled friends who pray, not only church members, but also church concerns. If you feel led by the Holy Spirit and would like to be part of the spiritual growth of the church, join us at 10 AM next Thursday. We would love to have you.

The Care-Ring Ministry meets to review the weekly attendance reports with the focused intent on church members who have not been in church for one reason or another. The group follows up with cards, phone calls and visits to further help meet the needs of our church family, whatever they may be.

Be part of the Blue Umbrella and join us in serving our church and it's members! We would love to have other spirit filled people with a heart for giving of their time. To learn more or find out about the next meeting, contact the church office.



Continued, COLORS, previous page 13.

From sunset on Easter Eve until the day of Pentecost, **white and gold** are used. Other symbols are often flowers, butterflies, peacocks, and the phoenix. The day of Pentecost is symbolized with **red** along with the descending dove and rainbow. **Red** is the color of fire and love. You will see it used on the Day of Pentecost and any other time when the Holy Spirit is emphasized.

Season After Pentecost is from the first day after Pentecost through the day before Advent. The first Sunday After Pentecost is known as Trinity Sunday and is symbolized with **white**. All Saints' Day (November 1) or the first Sunday of November white is also used. The second Sunday through the next to last Sunday is green and the combinations of colors and colors other than the basic four are considered appropriate during this season.

Source: Trinity United Methodist Church website at <http://tumcsa.org/> and "United Methodist Altars, A Guide for Congregations" by Hoyt L. Hickman

ATTENDANCE

August 2008

3rd	138
10th	141
17th	137
24th	178
31st	144

Sunday Average 148

PLEDGE INCOME

As of August 31st, 2008

Received To Date

\$ 167,364

Pledged Budget

\$ 179,237

Difference

\$ -11,923

You Too Can Serve!

Look for opportunities to serve; don't wait to be asked! Remember: YOU can serve without being a part of an "official" ministry. We all can extend the word of welcome, whether or not we are official greeters; be listening and caring friends; be ready to give reason for the hope that is in us, whether or not we are on the evangelism team; be enthusiastic participants and ready to give a hand, whether or not we are on the planning or cleanup committees. Let God lead you to your gifts to give!

Bread of Life

When we receive the bread offered during Holy Communion, it's the spiritual equivalent of receiving free bread. No matter how you slice it in terms of your own denominational tradition, the "real" bread and "real" drink connect us deeply and spiritually with God through Christ. We are nourished by the grace we receive, encouraged by the diverse crowd around us and strengthened to live life to the full. There's no substitute for the love and life we experience when we break the Bread of Life. Like Peter we cry out, "Lord, to whom [else] shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68, NIV).

—Homiletics



JOIN US AT THE LORD'S TABLE!

Holy Communion is observed on the first Sunday of each month as part of our 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service and every Sunday during our Contemporary Worship Service at 8:30 AM.

United Methodsits are...

... a happening people! Involved, committed, diverse, open. A people who try to be accepting, caring, hospitable and inclusive. Family- and community-oriented. A people who are concerned about those beyond their communities, around the world. Active in mission, responsive. A people who love music, church suppers and fellowship. Initiators, with a history of creating ministries related to education, employment, health and other issues. A people who like to tell the story of God's redeeming grace.



United Methodist Women

"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Now that Summer has merged into Fall, perhaps this is a good time for women of the church to re-view their calendars. We are all a little protective of how we spend our time outside of our private lives, but at the same time, it is often the outside activities that make our lives even better.

The United Methodist Women offer an inspirational activity menu. The core values of Spiritual, Fellowship Education and Mission guide their planning. Shared fellowship is an important part of the Circle meetings. Special Bible study assists the Spiritual growth. Education and Missions round out the purpose of the United Methodist Women.

All women of the church are invited to the Circles and to sit in on Steering Committee meetings to discover where they might find an area of appeal. Our UMW goal is to share God's love with one another and to faithfully support the global ministries of the United Methodist Church. We are especially focused on the needs of women, children and youth.

To receive more information about our UMW, please contact the following ladies:

- Helen Gugeler and Trudy Romanelli—Sew 'n' Sews
- Vel Lowry and Carleen Minkler—Esther Circle
- Marian Balster—JOY Circle
- Bea Frantz and Eva McClure—Mary-Martha Circle



JOY Circle



Mary-Martha

OUR UMW CIRCLES

We encourage all ladies to find a Circle that will meet her needs. Join us for food, fun and fellowship as we serve the Lord in ministry.

JOY Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. This month the ladies will meet on **10/21**.

Esther Circle meets on the second Thursday of each month at noon in the McMillen Room. This month the ladies will meet on **10/09**.

Mary-Martha Circle meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM in the McMillen Room. This month the ladies will meet on **10/15**.



HYMN HISTORY

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther who is considered the Father of the Protestant reformation wrote *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. Psalms 46 serves as the inspiration for this classic Christian hymn. The hymn's strong and powerful verses echo the same spirit of faith that David wrote with in the Psalm. The music and lyrics of the hymn were a battle cry to many martyrs during the Reformation. In fact, upon Luther's death, the first line from "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" is etched on the great reformer's tombstone.

Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) had strong convictions with regard to religion and music. In 1517, he nailed ninety-five theses to the door of the Cathedral of Wittenberg, Germany. Reformation Day is celebrated by Protestants on October 31.

This action was considered to be the "Declaration of Independence" to liberal thinkers of that day. *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* was one of the major musical contributions of Martin Luther along with *Away In A Manger*. Luther was also known for his doctrine that salvation is not based on works but by faith alone.

Today we sing in church as a congregation as a result of Martin Luther. On the subject of lay people worshipping in song, Luther said, "After theology, there is nothing that can be placed on a level with music. It drives out the devil and makes people cheerful. It is a gift that God gave to birds and to men. We need to remove hymn singing from the domain of monks and priests and set the laity to singing. By the singing of hymns the laity can publicly express their love to the Almighty God." source: <http://www.gospelpiano.com/articles/hymn-stories-1-mighty-fortress.htm>

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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth is His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.*

*And tho' this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim - we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.*

Well, the Vine Club gathering was another blast! With 5 children and 3 adults, we met Saturday September 13th. Pastor David visited with us and shared positive Biblical messages. The children learned that God is always ready to listen to them! He wants to hear about our happy events as well as the sad ones in our lives. Visiting with God strengthens our faith.

Saabedra, Teddi, Charlie, Lexi and Montana enjoyed the puzzles and created their special tinker toy designs. Then it was off to the playground for some exercise. The children loved it as they helped Mrs. Dobbs paint an area on the mural in the yard of AG UM Children's Center. Thank you Parents!!

Watch for more special events in October!

VineClub



Have you wondered what the colors on the altar mean? Or the significance of the color of banners in the sanctuary? Have you questioned the colors of the stole that pastors wear at worship services and what they represent?

Throughout Christian history, certain symbols and colors have become associated with major and minor festivals, special occasions, and seasons in the church year. In the western culture of the church, tradition associations are with the following colors and themes:

Blue—hope, love, truth, faithfulness, heaven

White—purity, holiness, innocence, faith and light

Purple—royalty, repentance, remorse

Black—sin, death, evil

Scarlet—royalty, loyalty

Red—fire, love

Green—growth, victory, hope, God's abundance, marriage

The Christian year contains two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent—Easter—Pentecost.) Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color **purple** for royalty repentance and remorse; and a festival season symbolized by the color **white**—purity, holiness, innocence, faith and light. Between each cycles the color **green** is used symbolizing growth, victory, hope and God's abundance.

Purple is used during the preparatory season of Advent and Lent. Advent is the first season in the Christian year. This season always includes four Sundays and starts on the first Sunday after November 27th and ends at sunset on December 24th. Advent wreath with four **purple** candles is lighted successively on each of these Sundays and was first used by the Protestants in the German Lutheran church. The Circle of the wreath represents God's unending love; made of evergreens that symbolizing the hope of eternal life in which the four purple (or sometimes blue) represent the four weeks of Advent, with the white candle in the center lit on Christmas Eve or Day. One candle is lit on each Sunday until all candles are lit. As the fresh candle is lighted, the others are relighted to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christmas is a season whose colors are represented by **white and gold**. **White and gold** are joyous and festive colors which set the tone of the Christmas season that begins at sundown on December 24th and continues until January 6th.

Season after epiphany is celebrated from January 7th until the day before Lent. The first Sunday after Epiphany (or the Baptism of our Lord) is symbolized by **white** and the second through next to last Sunday after Epiphany by the color **green**.

Lent begins on the seventh Wednesday (also known as Ash Wednesday) before Easter to sunset on the Eve of Easter is symbolized by **purple, grey** and **dark earth colors**. Burlap and other rough textures are often used during this time. **Red** is added during Palm Sunday and Holy Week to symbolize the blood of Christ. Often during service on Palm Sunday, we use palm fronds to remind us of the event. All crosses may be veiled during Lent, especially during Holy Week and absolutely on Good Friday. Any dark color or white is used on Maundy Thursday and often churches strip all visuals from the sanctuary and do not replace them until after the first service of Easter. No color is used on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

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Occasionally a pastor may hear a church member complain about Holy Communion being offered too often. Others may intentionally stay away on the Sundays when the sacrament is served. Or someone may say, "I don't feel that I am worthy of taking Communion, so I just don't partake of it at all."

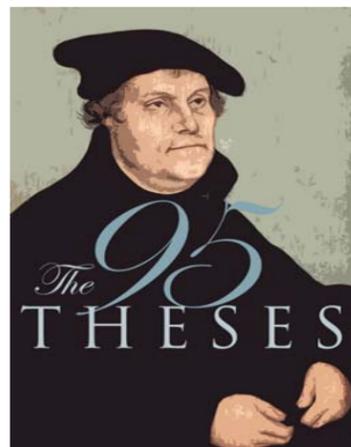
Let's consider that last statement. The truth of the matter is that if a person has to be totally worthy to receive the sacrament, no one could ever take it. Perhaps we need to remember the 12 men to whom it was first offered. Judas betrayed Christ. Peter was about to deny Christ. Others had been arguing as to which of them was the greatest. All of them were shortly to flee before getting arrested for being with Jesus.

Some friends, right? Yet how do they differ from us?

The important thing is that Christ still loved them and had great hopes for them. Surely he has great hopes for us as well. Let's honor our Lord's invitation to remember him.



World Communion Sunday — October 5th



The Protestant Reformation

Reformation Day is celebrated by most Protestant churches on October 31. Consider this important contribution of Martin Luther, one of the main leaders of the Reformation.

Luther was considered the Father of the Reformation. His life was threatened due to his protesting of certain activities he felt did not befit the Church. Luther went into hiding and found refuge as the guest of the ruler of Saxony in Wartburg Castle.

How was Luther to pass the time until it was safe for him to begin preaching and teaching openly again? He translated the Bible from the original languages into German. It was not an easy task. There were various versions of the German language spoken across that country. The different dialects made it difficult for those from any given section of the country to communicate easily with those from another.

Luther's Bible, therefore, was a great gift to the German people. The words he used — which, by the way, he checked with the castle's butcher to make sure the common person could understand — actually enabled the German people to have a unified language. In a real sense, Martin Luther was the father of the German language used today.

Protestants recall the Reformation to remember that day in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

Ultimately, the following five statements of belief became central to Protestant Christians.

- ≈ Scripture alone is the final authority of Christian doctrine.
- ≈ Christ alone is Lord and Savior.
- ≈ God's freely given grace is central to salvation.
- ≈ Sinners are justified by faith in Christ alone.
- ≈ God alone is worthy of all the glory.

Kid's Page

For kid-hearted people, too!



As for our family...

With school starting, schedules are getting busy again. Sometimes you might feel like you're going in too many directions and forgetting what's really important. Use the key below to remind you of where your family's real focus should always be.

A	B	D	O	N	R
E	F	H	S	T	U
I	L	M	V	W	Y



Word search puzzle grid with the text "B" and "JOSHUA 24:15B" visible.

Answer: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."



OUR HOUSE

This craft is a reminder of the blessing of your family and what you and your family should do for God.

What you need:

- 8 1/2" x 11" cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- A photograph of each person in your family that you can cut apart
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- A hanging picture frame that holds an 8 1/2" x 11" photo (optional)

What you do:

- Draw a colorful picture of the outside of your house. Remember to add a door and windows.
- Decide where you want each person's photo to go. Cut out a whole body (if you want someone to stand on the front porch, for example) or just cut out a face (if you want someone to be looking out a window).
- Use the glue stick to glue the cut-out photos onto your drawing.
- Write out Joshua 24:15b, NIV: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."
- To frame your picture, have an adult help you. If you don't have a frame, display your house on a refrigerator or bulletin board for everyone to see.

Trustees Report

Church Council 4 September 2008

This report covers both August and September meetings.

August Meeting

- It was brought to the attention of the trustees that the nursery was not fit for babies. A few took one look and left. The Children's Center was asked to remove all animals and have the carpet cleaned. This was done immediately. A portable crib was donated and the room is now ready for Sunday services.
- Mentioned also was the fact that the Children's Center is using the McMillen Room which was initially set as off limits. A letter was drafted by the Children's Center, to the Trustees asking for reconsideration.
- David Beaman asked for clarification as to who is responsible for the posting of the sign on Halcyon Road. The Board agreed that the Communications Committee will hold this responsibility.
- New rain gutters have been installed and are paid for.
- Account 5600 is set up for the building fund. Monies have been donated for certain projects and deposited into the Building Fund. Where they get mingled with other monies. To prevent this, additional accounts have been set up to identify the designated funds. For example, 5601 is remodeling the Women's Bathroom account; 5603 Landscaping. If necessary, more will be created.
- Tom Egan presented to the Staff-Parish Relations Committee a request and plan to purchase a Parsonage. The answer was NO and all plans to do so ceased.
- The beauty of the women's bathroom is due to Mrs. Betty Lorenz and her hard work.
- The Boy Scouts have asked permission to do another Eagle project. They want to design and install a sign just outside the main entrance to the Children's Center. Norm Henderson made a motion that the sign be attached to 4X4 posts not permanent to the wall. Motion was carried.

September Meeting

- Tom Egan moved to have a short meeting as the US Tennis Open was on. Motion carried.
- The Boy Scout representative was present to formally present his outline for the Eagle Project. The board gave complete approval. The removal of two 8 foot sections of the hedge outside the Children's Center will be necessary.
- Children's Center director, Maddy Quaglino, presented a letter to the board explaining that she was given permission to use McMillen Room but it was not approved by the Board. The Board was unanimous in approving her request to use the room when not in use.
- Landscaping is being continued. The two areas by the main driveway are done; two dead plants in the North Atrium have been replaced; the drip lines on Bennet Street have been looked at. There is more work to be done. The watering program will have to be changed to conform with the city of Arroyo Grande's new watering schedule.
- The interest from the Parsonage account amounted to \$7,429.25 and has been deposited to the Building Fund account 5600.
- As part of the adult education program, the sanctuary is being used every Tuesday night for a community choir rehearsal.
- Pastor Burgeson is concerned about ANY people using his office. Hence forth, the door leading to the sanctuary, just outside the office will be left open during this time. Please give him and any person in conference with him privacy.
- A motion was passed to install a basketball hoop for the youth. Pastor David asked who used Criswell Hall on a special night, but no one knew. It was unknown so we will make use of the Calendar and event book in the church office to know what is going on in the church.
- Mr. Weimers is again sealing the posts in the Porticos.
- A motion was made and passed to install a ceiling fan in Pastor David's office. This will involve re-doing the ceiling lights to accommodate the new fan.



125 and counting...

...that is, counting on YOU to help make the 125th anniversary of UMC of AG a memorable year. Since our charter on September 18, 1884, this church has served its members and the community in a remarkable ministry, and it continues to do so now. This is your chance to be a part of the celebration of our 125th anniversary. Come help us get started by sharing your ideas, your time and your talents at the next planning committee meeting on October 12th in the McMillen Room after second service. Some of you have already suggested ideas for programs, events, and fundraising. Thank you! But, we need EVERYONE to share their ideas. Please fill out one of the yellow suggestion cards in the pew racks and place it in the "piggy" basket in the Narthex or bring it to the meeting with you. And of course, we need volunteers to serve on the committees as well! There are so many ways YOU can help!



For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

[Matthew 18:20](#)



Women of Prayer



This non-denominational women's group meet **at 7 PM on Mondays** in the UMC of AG sanctuary to pray for this church and others in the community; asking God to pour out His Spirit of redemption, deliverance, healing and salvation.

Contact Susan Coho for more information.