

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Cast~A~Net

The Kingdom of God is like a net that was cast into the sea.

- Matthew 13:47

February 2012



You have all heard this story... About this great church, in over 127 years, and how it has grown from VERY humble beginnings in "the Village" to this present glory that is UMC of AG.

In the Five Cities of the Central California Coast, where over sixty-five faith bodies exist, the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande stands out as a family-oriented church. Members and friends are not just another number, but are identified readily and are welcomed by name.

There are so many events and various doings that benefit each member of the church family, to name them all would take too much time and space. The volunteers, servant leaders and staff all make it happen in one way or another with little compensation, but with HUGE hearts for the Lord and the work of His kingdom.

These persons are not a body of heavily compensated individuals, but a group of dedicated believers who walk the extra mile to see that our church functions beautifully and we too often take them for granted. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee wants to recognize these efforts. We want to give you, too, an opportunity to meet and thank them yourselves.

What better way could there be to say thank you than to have a good ol' fashioned, United Methodist potluck? Please mark **Sunday, February 5th, 2012** on your calendar. After another great UMC of AG worship service, SPRC will host our second

Staff Appreciation Potluck Luncheon at 11:45 AM in Criswell Hall.

So come on Sunday and stay to show these special people how much we appreciate them and what they do for us.

See the sign-up sheet following the next few Sunday services and **let us know what you can bring. We hope that you will join us!**

*United Methodist
Men presents*



*Sweetheart
BREAKFAST*

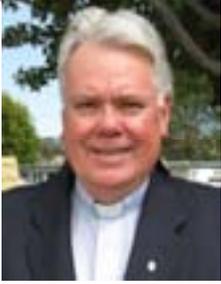
11 February
2012
8:30 AM

*Sunrise Terrace
Clubhouse*

\$10 per person
All are welcome!

*For MORE details,
see the UMM News (page 4).*

Pastor David Burgeson



Dear Church Family -

I found this interesting and true about us “United Methodists” and it speaks to where our mission is – here is part one (part two next month). Take a look.

Why does the church exist?

According to Matthew’s Gospel, the risen Christ made it clear: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (28:19-20).

Based on this “Great Commission,” our United Methodist Church has stated its purpose: “The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.” (*Excerpt from [The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church—2008](#), p. 87. Copyright © 2008 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.*)

- **We reach out to people and welcome them into the church**

We have a direct responsibility for people of the “world” around our church, the community in which we and others study, work, shop, play, and so forth. In this world are people with many hurts, doubts, and questions. There are some who are new in the community and feel a little lost, some who are proudly self-sufficient, and others who are in desperate circumstances. Our mission is to reach out to them, listen to them, accept them, share the gospel in word and deed, invite them into the family of faith, and joyfully receive all who will respond.

- **We relate people to God and help them deepen their relationship with God**

The second task in making disciples is to offer people opportunities for growing closer to God. Whether they are visitors or old-time members, just beginning the journey of faith or well along the road—all are in need of God’s love in Christ. Through worship, prayer, study, and honest sharing, we help one another discover that the Holy Spirit is not far off but present with us, wanting an open and loving friendship with each of us—not only friendship but commitment as well.

Through our congregation’s various ministries we encourage one another to give ourselves to Christ, to ground our lives in the living God.

We nurture people in Christian living

Third, our congregation’s mission is to nurture people of all ages in the Christian faith and to help them practice the disciplines of discipleship. The church exists not to serve itself but to serve the world. We come to church not only for our own personal enrichment but also to prepare ourselves to do the work of love and to get ready to be Christ’s disciples in the community. Through worship, baptism, Communion, Bible study, prayer, and other means of grace, we’re strengthened for ministry.

- **We support people in their ministry**

As members of the congregation, we’re sent into the community to serve those in need and to make our community more loving and just. We believe that the Holy Spirit empowers and guides us in these ministries and that wherever there’s need and suffering, we meet Christ, already at work. But still, we cannot be effective in ministry on our own. So the congregation exists, in part, to surround and support each member in his or her ministry. We do not always succeed in our efforts to be faithful disciples in the world. But with the loving support of the community of faith, we can continue to grow. (*Excerpt from [The United Methodist Member’s Handbook](#) by George Koehler (*Discipleship Resources*, Rev. 2006), p. 11. Used by permission.*)

Methodists in Mission

The United Methodist faith is deeply rooted in the Scripture and in the basic beliefs of all Christians. Out of that theology and faith have grown some specific actions that mark United Methodists as Christians engaged in ministry to the world. The early members of the groups that eventually became The United Methodist Church, took strong stands on issues such as slavery, smuggling, and humane treatment of prisoners; established institutions for higher learning; started hospitals and shelters for children and the elderly; founded Goodwill Industries in 1902; became actively involved in efforts for world peace; adopted a Social Creed and Social Principles to guide them as they relate to God’s world and God’s people; participated with other religious groups in ecumenical efforts to be in mission. (*Excerpt from [What Every Teacher Needs to Know About The United Methodist Church](#), p.20-23, *Discipleship Resources* © 2002. Used by permission.*)

SERMON SERIES & WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



There is always room for growth—Lets do this together!

Pastor David, our Spiritual Education, as well as our other Ministry Directors are always open to suggestions or new ideas for studies and small groups—for any age, adult, youth and child.

Let us know how we can meet your needs.

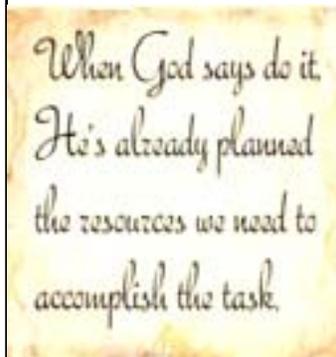
Wednesday, February 1	6:00 PM	<i>A Look At Discipleship</i>	led by Susan Coho
Sunday, February 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services ▪ Sermon: Come and Grow Together • 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group • 6:00 PM "How To Study The Bible" 		led by Mike Herber
Wednesday, February 8	6:00 PM	<i>A Look At Discipleship</i>	led by Susan Coho
Sunday, February 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services ▪ Sermon Series: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II: Servant • 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group • 6:00 PM "How To Study The Bible" (LAST CLASS) 		
Wednesday, February 15	6:00 PM	<i>Discipleship Pathway Development</i>	led by Susan Coho
Sunday, February 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services • Sermon Series: Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II: The Pathway • 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 		
LENTEN SERMON SERIES AND WEDNESDAY STUDY BEGINS			
"Final Words From The Cross" by Adam Hamilton			
Wednesday, February 22	6:00 PM	Ash Wednesday —Lenten Study Father, Forgive Them	
Sunday, February 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services - First Sunday of Lent ▪ Sermon Series: "Final Words From The Cross" • 9:45 AM Sermon Disciples Discussion Group 		
Wednesday, February 29	6:00 PM	Lenten Study "Today, You Will Be With Me In Paradise"	

Please Note: All Discussion Groups and Studies are held in the McMillen Room

Seeking Children's Ministry Director

Applicant will need to possess the following:

- ☆ Good communication skills, both verbal and written.
- ☆ Ability to work in cooperation with other church groups/leaders.
- ☆ Have the experience or background with coordinating and/or developing activities or educational programs is necessary (teaching experience in desired).
- ☆ The ability to work an average of 10 hours per week. Salary will be \$300 dollars a month. FULL job description is available in the church office.





*Helping men to grow in Christ,
so others can know Christ.*

★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★
Men's News

Submitted by Val McClure, UMM Publicity for UMC of AG

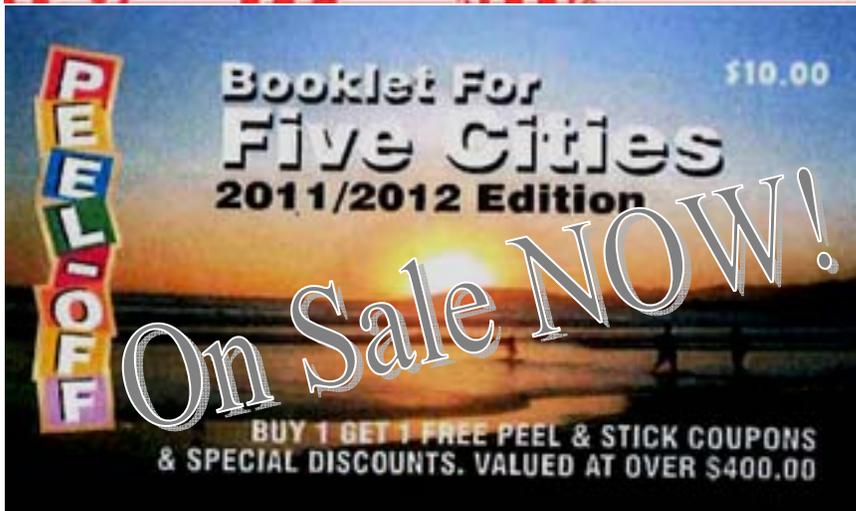
METHODIST MEN INVITE SWEETHEARTS TO BREAKFAST

The 2012 UMM gala *Sweetheart Breakfast* will be held on Saturday, February 11th at 8:30 AM in the Sunrise Terrace Club House located at 345 Sunrise Drive in Arroyo Grande. Sunrise Terrace is on Valley Rd. just south of Arroyo Grande High School. The newly renovated club house overlooks the golf and swimming pool facilities. Breakfast will be a delicious full meal especially prepared for the event. Part of the program will include a special musical presentation. Ladies are urged to attend. Men who do not usually attend the UMM meeting are encouraged to participate. Cost of the event is \$10 per person. There is some limited parking in front of the club house and parking is permitted on all side streets. As a caterer is being used, tickets must be purchased for the event. Tickets will be available in Criswell Hall starting January 29th.

For further information see Tom Egan, Wayne Huggins or Val McClure or check the UMM Bulletin Board in Criswell Hall.

**** Watch the Sunday Bulletins for more special announcements.**

Amore



**ONLY \$10 each—proceeds benefit
the Arroyo Grande United Methodist
Children's Center**



**Rain Gutter Regatta
& Spaghetti Feed
February 24th
6:30 PM**

Come to Criswell Hall
and join in the fun...A home made
boat race and spaghetti dinner .

Dinner: \$6

See Maddy for details—481-2223



United Methodist Women
Faith, Hope and Love In Action

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.

by Sally Weitkamp, UMC of AG UMW Chair 2012

On Sunday, January 8th we celebrated United Methodist Women's Sunday. What a joy to see so many of our women participating in both worship services. Our guest speaker was Beverly King, the President of the Santa Barbara District United Methodist Women. Her sermon was based on the scripture Matthew 5: 14-16, Let Your Light Shine, So Others Will Know God. Kudos to the *Lord's Crew* and our delightful choir who inspired us with singing the lyrics, "this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine." It was a great way to start our new year adding to the joy and enthusiasm of our UMW. At this special service, we also installed our 2012 UMW officers for the coming year. Introducing

your 2012 Arroyo Grande UMW Steering Committee:

- Chairperson/President 2012 Sally Weitkamp
- Assistant Chair (*immediate past chair*) Virginia Mothes
- Co-Chair Elect for 2013 Mary Hawkins
- Secretary Coordinator Eva McClure
- Treasurer Betty Ashton
- Publicity T B D
- Program Coordinators T B D
- Representatives from each of the following UMW groups:
 - Esther Circle Vel Lowry
 - Mary-Martha Circle Eva McClure
 - JOY Circle Lucy Jacob
 - Women of Worth Kathleen Ballagh
 - Sew 'n' Sews Representative
 - Book Club Patti Melsheimer

2012 Upcoming Special Events

A Bridal Tea

This **April** event will feature a bridal fashion show featuring gowns belonging to our church members and worn by our church youth, followed by a Bridal reception of *hors d' oeuvres* and wedding cake.

A Spiritual Retreat

Watch future publications for Information on this **June** event.

Soup & Sandwich Lunch

We will host a luncheon following the second church service one Sunday in **August**.

Holiday Boutique & Luncheon

Watch for more on this event scheduled in **October**.

Be sure to look for information on other special gatherings (i.e., Day of Prayer and Self-Denial, guest speakers, mission studies) that will be open to the congregation.



UMW
Steering
Committee
Monthly—watch for
details on new time!

Esther
Circle
○ Circle
2nd Thursday of
each month at
12 PM in the
McMillen Room.

JOY
○ Circle
3rd Tuesday of
each month at
7 PM in home of
a member.

Mary-
Martha
○ Circle
4th Wednesday
of each month
at 9:30 AM in the
McMillen Room.

WOW
○ Circle
3rd Thursday of
each month at
6:30 PM in the
McMillen Room.



Healthy Corner

How are you doing on your New Year's Resolutions??

Hopefully, one of those resolutions was to lose weight and be more active. Numerous studies have found that weight loss of as little as 5-10 percent of initial body weight can result in significant improvements in blood pressure and cholesterol levels, as well as other improved health outcomes. Here are some reminders to keep you going.

- Try eating more fruit and less meat. Registered dietician Jaimie Davis, Ph.D., research associate with the Institute for Prevention Research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, says that fiber from the fruit fills you up and the natural sweetness of fruit may satisfy a sweet tooth that would ordinarily be craving a doughnut. Try to add 3 more servings of fruits and vegetables to your diet each day.
- Keep track of your portions by using a food diary. Keeping track of when, what, how much, where, and why you eat can help you be aware of the amount of food you are eating and the times you tend to eat too much. A food diary can be kept in a notebook, on your cell phone, or online.
- Eat breakfast every day. Breakfast might be the most important meal of the day. According to [WebMD](#), studies have shown that eating a healthy breakfast can be very beneficial. If you have a limited amount of time in the morning for breakfast, prepare the night before by leaving out utensils and plates. Make sure that there are lots of healthy breakfast options in your pantry and refrigerator including quick breakfast options such as fruit or yogurt for when you are short on time.
- Try cooking at home more. Cook at least 3 meals more per week than you are now, even if that means cooking breakfast or lunch. You can also prepare a large portion once and freeze some for later.
- Cook fish or seafood for dinner 2 times a week. The American Heart Association recommends eating fish (particularly fatty fish) like salmon, mackerel, herring, lake trout, sardines and albacore tuna are high in omega-3 fatty acids.
- Eat your Vegetables! Expand the number of all-vegetable dishes that you eat by making 1 dinner or main-meal-of-the-day vegetarian. Add herbs and spices to make vegetables even tastier. Start with a small quantity (1/8 to 1/2 teaspoon to a package of frozen vegetables), then let your own and your family's taste be your guide. Chopped parsley and chives, sprinkled on just before serving, also enhance the flavor of many vegetables.
- Get active! Anne Peters, M.D., director of the USC Clinical Diabetes Program, says, "Our bodies just aren't meant to be sedentary." Peters advises people who get no activity to take a 5-minute walk one day and keep increasing it until they get to at least a half-hour. "It's so much better than nothing, incomparably better than nothing," she says. As you progress, try to develop a well-rounded fitness training program which includes these five elements: aerobic fitness, strength training and core exercises, balance training, and stretching and flexibility. It isn't necessary to fit each of these elements into every fitness session, but factoring them into your regular routine can help you promote fitness for life.

Happy 2012!

Some Credit Where Credit IS Due

~ A Visit With Bernie & Mary Hawkins ~

by David Beaman

It takes a LOT of voluntary service from congregation members to make the church mission successful and we are blest to have many members who share their time plus their commitment to serve in meeting that goal.

All who know them will agree that Bernie and Mary Ann Hawkins, AGUM Church members since March, 2009, definitely set an example for all to follow. Both serve on Yellow Umbrella, attend Bible Study classes, help with and play biblical characters in Vacation Bible School, serve twice per month at Peoples Kitchen, have volunteered to help congregation members move into a new home and beyond that, seem always agreeable to make themselves available when any service they can do is needed.

Mary Ann is very active in United Methodist Women activities and is currently "in training" for future office as President, serves as Esther Circle Treasurer, was chosen to serve on steering committee and the Board of Trustees. Before coming to Arroyo Grande, she grew up, lived and worked in Morgan Hill, CA where she was once employed by the city in Parks and Recreation department and led exercise and fitness classes. Mary is also a retired manager from Starbucks and contributes her work and supervisory experience. Additionally, she has a background working for health fitness clubs plus pursuing her other favorite activities in dancing classes and enjoys performing in public events.

Bernie was born with a serious impairment that left him totally deaf plus also affected all speech development. The family had lived in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Florida and when he was 9 years old his mother moved all the children to Los Angeles so he could undergo a series of experimental hearing restoration operations available only at UCLA. Those operations were successful and the next step was to introduce essential speech therapy at John Tracy Clinic. He credits his mother's very hard work supporting the family and her per-

severance in obtaining successful treatments for his recovery. He graduated from Belmont High School in 1966 and went on to LA Community College then to Glendale College and Trade Tech College where he studied electronics and engineering for his career pursuits.

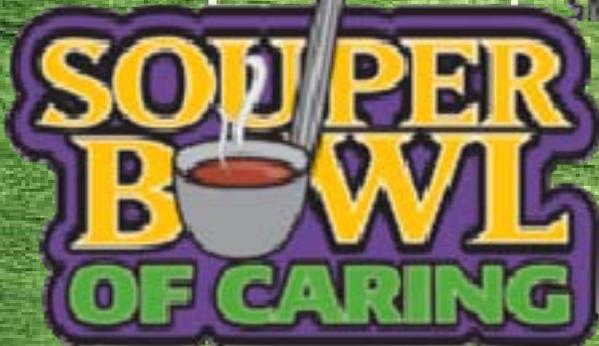
Bernie has a professional background in maintenance of large office buildings and holds licenses in electrical and plumbing maintenance. He generously shares his knowledge and expertise with our church and has become one of "Tom Egan's right hand men" as repairs and upgrades are needed to maintain the church campus and facilities. There are recent improvements we can all enjoy that Bernie has played a share in providing, such as; new storage shed near back corner with electrical service included; new motion detector lights at storage sheds near Preschool yard; additional electrical receptacles in Preschool classrooms; locally placed, supplement hot water heaters for the restrooms that provide instant hot water. He brings experience to evaluating a situation and installing or improving the outcome for maximum efficiency.

Warm hospitality and friendliness are appropriate descriptions of the visit we had at their home to prepare this article. They both are very happy with finding their church "home". They regularly practice reading the Bible and the lessons they acquired from attending Bible Study classes. They have developed many friendships.

Mary Ann and Bernie just celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary on 1/06/12.



Mary & Bernard Hawkins

Youth in Action**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5**

40

2012

Souper Bowl of Caring equips and mobilizes **youth** to positively impact their communities by collecting money and/or food around Super Bowl weekend. On a day when our nation likes to gather, eat, and watch a big football game—let's STOP - shift the focus to helping those in need. *100% of collections are donated our local Food Bank.*

**FUN! FUN! FUN!****OK...Let's see...where to start...**

**Christmas Eve program went well! Christmas Day was a blast!
We rang in the new year with "What We Know."**

BUT...did you know that on the first Sunday of 2012, our children decided to be more Christ-like this year. The kids thought it

would be a good idea to re-commit to Christ (and to each other) that they would be a good testimony of what it is to be a follower of Christ Jesus, keeping up with daily prayers, remembering to be kind to others, being obedient to parents and teachers, sharing with others, and just being a good example of a 'believer' in general—and shine God's love. Our kids are going to be "Christ With Skin On". We could all learn from that!

This month we will be sending cards to our shut-ins, finishing our fruit of the spirit quilts, and looking for a program to sing for the season of Lent. Our kids are already learning so many songs that we want to sing for the worship services on Sunday. It is hard to choose which one to share with you all. Look for more in upcoming bulletins on when we will be singing for you and *invite a friend*.

But in all of this great fun,,,,it is with sadness that we say "good-bye" to Carolyn Russell as she steps down as our Children's Ministry director. We have appreciated her work in this ministry and will be sorry to see her leave. She continues to work with the *Bright Futures* Program in the Lucia Mar District, but has added to her load as an online internet editor. Her time will not allow her to continue in this position but she will still be with us in church. Be sure to give her your thanks!

*God bless and look for us kids on Sundays and Wednesdays.
We'd love to shake your hand and introduce ourselves!*

All Glory to God and in the love of Christ,
The Children's Ministry Team



TRUSTEES REPORT for January 2011

- The Parsonage account fell \$4,000 and is now \$157,447.
- Budget is not yet finalized. We are starting 2012 with a positive number, where December ended in the hole.
- We are working on a grant from the District for some major face lifting that will run around \$60,000-70,000. The grant can be a partial grant or partial loan. There are a few things to work out, so please keep us in your prayers. This house of the Lord needs work.
- We talked about creating a “must do list”...then look at a “like to do list...” then maybe work with the congregation on a “wish list.” More on that later.
- During January, I need to finish getting bids for re-keying the church, as well as, for the termite work.
- The tool closet across from the McMillen Room has been cleaned out...sorta. All paint cans have been moved to the metal shed and now it needs to be rearranged. Harry Egan was a big help in cleaning out the metal shed and putting in the paint cans. After the closet is finished, the small closet where the re-cycled cans and plastic are stored will be cleaned out. This will help with our storage problem.
- January will see Criswell Hall’s walls are cleaned!
- As of January, we are no longer contracting landscapers. We are doing our own yard work thanks to volunteers. Mike Herber has volunteered to do the grass, and I am toying with the idea of a weekly work day. Maybe from 8:30 AM—11:30 AM (a break at 10:00 AM). We would do some yard work, small projects, change out dead bulbs, oil hinges, et cetera. Just general maintenance needs. Sound good?
- I think I have found a place that will work on our organ. Need to get some pegs inline first. More on this later.
- Do you know what?? During 2011, you have had the finest group of people on the Board taking care of you and this House of the Lord. They have come up with some fine ideas, some “what ifs”, “why can’t wes” and some “how abouts”. They are truly God’s hands. **Give thanks to** Norm Henderson, Mike Herber, Mary Hawkins, Betty Lorenz, Phil McKibben, Don McGuire. And Virginia Mothes our steadfast secretary and Pastor David show up to make sure we stay serious. *Give these folks a hug. God bless!!*



The UMC of AG People's Kitchen Team serves hot meals to the

needy in our community at the *Shouts of Grace Church* in Grover Beach on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. The team leaves UMC of AG at 11:30 AM with eager hearts for service.

Our team distributes NEW socks, gently used clothes, and small travel-sized toiletries *which are a **CONSTANT need.***

MEALS SERVED

- January: 279
 - **2012 YTD: 279**
- since January 2011: 2,613

SOCKS DISTRIBUTED

- January 2012: 269
- **TOTAL to Date: 4,038**

Got Donations?

Wanna Serve?

Contact the Ashtons on Sundays or the UMC of AG church office anytime.



as of 1/22/12

Monthly Budget

\$22,000.

Received to Date

\$ 17,646.

Difference

\$ - 4,500

(one week to go!)

- Yellow Umbrella News - Mission & Social Concerns

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: JUDY ATWOOD

This month I want to celebrate all that was shared in ministry with others with our Special Giving in 2011. We will start again tracking in 2012 to see where we are being in mission with those in need.

More Exploration

General Conference of the UMC will be this coming spring. Thanks to those who came out to learn more about General Conference. More information will be online and in our publications the closer we get to the gathering. If you see information and have questions, share it with me and we can discuss it.

HAITI: SECOND ANNIVERSARY

January 12, 2012 marked the second anniversary of the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti, which killed more than 200,000 people, including UMCOR and General Board of Global Ministries executives Sam Dixon and Clinton Rabb. UMCOR has worked tirelessly since the earthquake to bring restoration, healing, and hope to the people of Haiti. In the early recovery phase, which continues today, UMCOR's work has been facilitated by our strong connections forged over decades of service in Haiti. Together with our partners, UMCOR is advancing work in the fields of education, health and hygiene, shelter and reconstruction, livelihoods, and capacity strengthening. UMCOR continues its work in Haiti to be there and be hope. Your gifts help make that possible. Please give to **Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325**, to support UMCOR's ongoing work.

If you are interested in working with the Yellow Umbrella this year, please let me know and we will have you join us at our meetings.

**THANKS FOR SPECIAL GIVING AND
MINISTRY RESPONSES.**

Let us count the ways where you are plugged into mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church. *I celebrate you!!!*

Many hands can do many things!



Special Giving TOTALS for 2011—Well done!!

Black College Fund	50.00
Domestic Disaster Response	589.
Five Cities Christian Women	420.00
John Elmore (Chile)	125.00
Krista Givens, Missionary (Germany)	2,500.00
Goat for Haitian Goat Farm	50.00
Haiti Relief	50.00
Japan Relief	1830.00
Julie & David Elmore (Alaska)	275.00
Muriel & Terry Henderson (Mexico)	125.00
Methodist Student Day	300.00
Mule for Haitian Goat Farm	350.00
Native American Ministries	409.00
Nothing But Nets	775.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	805.00
Peace with Justice	307.00
People's Kitchen	1,264.28
Lorene & David Persons (Congo)	125.00
So. County Food Bank	1,685.94
Spring Storms	480.00
VBS Mission Project	249.29
World Communion Sunday	586.00
Your 2011 Giving GRAND TOTAL	13,350.51



Happy February everyone!

Choir is in full swing for 2012, but we always have room for more. If you are interested in joining us, come have some fun & fellowship through music on Wednesday nights at 7:00 in the sanctuary. We have many glorious months of music yet to come. We will soon be starting lent and Easter music as well as planning for May's Cluster festival music.

The Christmas season was such a joy. Special thanks to the bell choir, Polly Monson, Jamie Foster, Mike Coho, Mike Albertson, and Leonard Lutz for joining in on the Calypso piece. I sure had a lot of fun with that one, and hoped all enjoyed it. We have such talented people in our congregation and community.

We enjoyed singing at Alder House and The Villages in San Luis Obispo in December. (clockwise from top left: Betty Johnson, Trudy Romanelli, Chuck Burns, Don Gugeler, Dennis Eiler, Tom Egan, Hilde Hollinger, Helen Guegler, Alice Addison, and Julie Burns.) Stay tuned for more special activities.

In Christ, Julie Burns—Choir Director



The praise band is a team of worship leaders we call **The Lord's Crew**. This Group leads our Contemporary Worship Service Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM led by Susan Coho and meet every other Saturday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
6:30 PM - SATURDAYS
 11th & 25th



Library News

We now have Billy Graham's latest book, "Nearing Home: Life, Faith & Finishing Well."

DO you have outstanding Library books?

Check us in the Library between and after services EVERY Sunday!



Shoes in Church

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

I showered and shaved, I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat, in a pew just in time.

Bowing my head in prayer, closed my eyes.
I saw the shoe of the man next to me,
touching my own. *I sighed.*

With plenty of room on either side...
I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?'
It so bothered me, his shoe touching mine,
but it didn't seem to bother him much.

A prayer began: 'Our Father' I thought,
'This man with the shoes, has no pride.
They're dusty, worn, and scratched.
Even worse, there are holes on the side!'

'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
The shoe man said a quiet 'Amen.'
I tried to focus on the prayer but my thoughts
were on his shoes again.

Aren't we supposed to look our best when
walking through that door?
'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, glancing
toward the floor.

Then the prayer was ended and
the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud sounding
proud as he sang.

His voice lifted the rafters his hands
were raised high.
The Lord could surely hear the shoe
man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering and what
I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man
reached into his pockets so deep.

I saw what was pulled out
what the shoe man put in.
Then I heard a soft 'clink' as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me to tears, that's no lie.
It was the same for the shoe man for tears
fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service as is the custom here.
We must greet new visitors and show them all
good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow and wanted to meet
the shoe man.
So after the closing prayer I reached over and
shook his hand.

He was old and his skin was dark and
his hair was truly a mess.
But I thanked him for coming for being our guest.

He said, 'My name's Charlie
I'm glad to meet you, my friend.'
There were tears in his eyes but he had a large,
wide grin.

'Let me explain,' he said wiping tears from his eyes.
'I've been coming here for months and you're the
first to say 'Hi.'"

'I know that my appearance is not like all the rest.
But I really do try to always look my best.'

'I always clean and polish my shoes
before my very long walk.
But by the time I get here they're dirty and dusty,
like chalk.'

My heart filled with pain and
I swallowed to hide my tears.
As he continued to apologize for daring
to sit so near

He said, 'When I get here, I must look a sight.
But I thought if I could touch you then our souls
might unite.'

I was silent for a moment knowing whatever I said,
would pale in comparison, I spoke from my heart,
not my head.

'Oh, you've touched me,' I said
'and taught me, in part;
'that the best of any man is what is found
in his heart.'

The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never know.
Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty old
shoe touched my soul.



Since the Middle Ages, Christians in the "Western Church" have observed Ash Wednesday (the seventh Wednesday before Easter) as the first day of Lent. On this day, many receive ashes on their forehead as a reminder of their sorrow and remorse for their sins. The ashes are often times made by burning palm branches left over from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Ash Wednesday this year is February 22. Join us at **6 PM** in the **McMillen Room** as we kick-off with a **Lenten Sermon and Wednesday Study Series** entitled, *"The Last Words Of Christ."* Pastor David will do **Imposition of the Ashes.**

This series will continue on Wednesdays at 6 PM for our Children and Adults study. The youth will study at 7 PM. We invite you to look at this important time leading up to Easter in a different light.



God Said, "NO!"

I asked God to take away my habit.
God said, **"No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give up."**

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said, **"No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary."**

I asked God to grant me patience.
God said, **"No. Patience is a by product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned."**

I asked God to give me happiness.
God said, **"No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you."**

I asked God to spare me pain.
God said, **"No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."**

I asked God to make my spirit grow
God said, **"No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."**

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy
life.
God said, **"No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things."**

I asked God to help me love others, as much as He loves me.
God said, **"Ahhhh, finally you have the idea."**



194Sunday	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	Nursery	Kids/Youth	Teachers	TOTAL
January 1	n/a	127	1	5/in-service	4	137
January 8	54	123	1	5/6	5	194
January 15	51	128	1	6/7	6	199
January 22	46	127	1	10/5	5	194

January 29 **No information at time of publication**



SUNDAYS-8:30 & 10:30 AM

Kids of elementary age meet weekly in the Sanctuary at the beginning of worship on the front pews. Then following the **Children's Moment**, we are dismissed with our teachers to our Sunday School room 211.

The first Sunday of the month, we head to the MMR for **What We Know Sunday** then return to the sanctuary to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



WEDNESDAYS - 6 PM

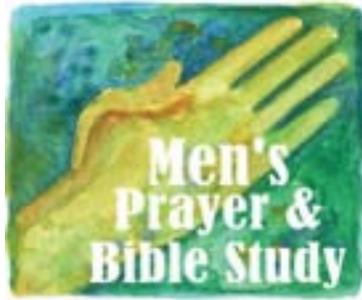
All elementary age kids and 'tweens meet in Criswell Hall as we wander over to our Sunday School Room (room 215) for worship, the Word, and some fun and games.

A FREE dinner is served at 5 PM



FRIDAYS - 8:30 AM

Meet weekly in the Library and will soon begin a new study – a perfect time to join!



MONDAYS - 7 PM

All men seeking God's will for their lives are welcome to join us in room 215. This group is currently studying varied books of the Holy Bible.



SUNDAYS - 10:30 AM &

WEDNESDAYS - 7 PM

Junior High & High School teens are invited to our Youth Lounge (room 215) for fellowship and fun as we dive into the life of a teen living for Christ. *Come, join the Fun!*



Scripture Reading

THURSDAYS - 5 PM

—rain or shine—

Join us In the Sanctuary as we read the Bible **out loud**. We pray that you will be a part of this time to bless the Lord and speak His Word which never returns void.

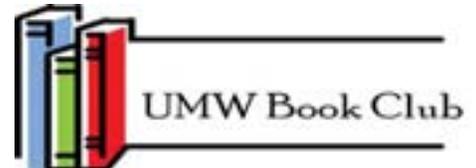


Contact the church office at (805) 481-2692

Request can remain anonymous!

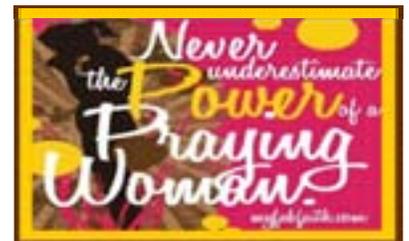
THURSDAYS - 10AM

The prayers are lifted up each week by our **Intercessory Prayer Group**. These prayer warriors meet and pray for our church, community and ANY spoken or unspoken requests given to our church.



4TH THURSDAY - 4 PM

All are welcome to the McMillen Room for discussion on the monthly selection. *Watch for book title in the weekly bulletins.*



MONDAYS - 7 PM

The Women of Prayer meet in the Sanctuary to pray for this church and others in the community, asking God to pour out His Holy Spirit of redemption, deliverance, healing and salvation. *Contact Susan Coho if you have any questions, prayers or praises.*

What is The Walk To Emmaus?

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."



The Walk to Emmaus experience is a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus community," is made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend. The community supports the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

During and after the three days, Emmaus leaders encourage participants to meet regularly in small groups. The members of the small groups challenge and support one another in faithful living. Participants seek to Christianize their environments of family, job, and community through the ministry of their congregations. The three-day Emmaus experience and follow-up groups strengthen and renew Christian people as disciples of Jesus Christ and as active members of the body of Christ in mission to the world.

The Upper Room, a ministry unit of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, sponsors the Walk to Emmaus and offers it through local Emmaus groups around the world. Although connected through The Upper Room to The United Methodist Church, The Walk to Emmaus is ecumenical in nature. The intent is not to teach church doctrine, but rather to work within the common theology of the Christian faith and promote unity within the different Christian churches.

Most of what you will find in the website (emmausci.org) is specific to the Channel Islands Emmaus Community. If you would like more information about The Walk To Emmaus, for instance, other communities throughout the United States, please visit upperroom.org/emmaus.

If you would like to experience The Walk To Emmaus, please contact Pastor David Burgeson at UMC of AG at (805) 481-2692 or contact the Sponsorship Representative for the Channel Islands Emmaus at crdvt@roadrunner.com.

- **Men's Walk:** February 23rd—26th
- **Women's Walk:** March 1st—4th

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☆ **AG UM CC Chronicle**



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Minister of Visitation:

Rev. J. Harold Headrick

Resident Missionary (retired):

Judy Atwood

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Sarah Burgeson

Preschool/Church Bookkeeper:

Victoria Gandy

Website Manager:

Jamie Foster

Chancel Choir Director:

Julie Burns

Lord's Crew - Praise Team Director:

Susan Coho

Organist:

Don McGuire

Choral Pianist:

Dennis Eiler

Multi-Media Director:

Mike Coho

Puppet People, Chair:

Mike Herber

Grande Ringers— Director:

Leonard Lutz

Christian Education:

Susan Coho, *Adult*

Mike & Linda Herber, *Youth*

open position, *Children*

Bishop:

Mary Ann Swenson

District Superintendent:

Rev. Cathleen Coots

AG UM Children's Center

Director: Madrigal Quaglino

agumcc@sbcglobal.net

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Chair: Heidi Carpentier

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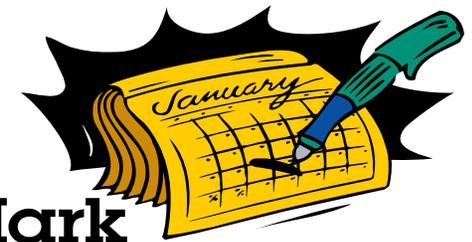
Gary Hughes & members.

Deadline: 10th of each month

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Senior Health Screen. (N/L) 5 PM Free Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)	2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen 5 PM Aloud Bible Reading (S) 5:00 PM Grande Ringers	3 AG UM CC Spirit Day - wear your school shirt! 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed Staff Development	4 9 AM Lay Speaking Class (MMR/CH/Youth Lounge) 12:30 PM The Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)
5 <i>Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II: Relational</i> Coffee Hour: Endowment "Souper" Bowl Sunday 8:30 AM Contemporary Service & Sunday School 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Discussion Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Children's Church (MMR) 11:45 AM Staff Appreciation Potluck (CH) 6 PM <i>How To Study The Bible</i> (MMR)	6 3 PM Central Coast Homeschool Theater Ensemble (CH) 5 PM Youth Self Defense & Safety Awareness (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	7 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5:20 PM Mom & Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211) 6:25 PM Boundaries for Ladies (211) 7 PM Trustees (MMR) 7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Steps to Recovery (211)	8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 12:30 PM Alzheimer's Assoc. Care Giver Support Group (MMR) 5 PM Free Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Wednesday Night Study— <i>Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II</i> (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)	9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Aloud Bible Reading (S) 5 PM Grande Ringers 7 PM AG MS Society Information Presentation (MMR)	10 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)	11 8:30 AM UMM Sweetheart Breakfast at the <i>Sunset Terrace Clubhouse</i> 12:30 PM The Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (S) 
12 <i>Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II: Servant</i> Coffee Hour: Esther Circle 8:30 AM Contemporary Service & Children's Sunday School 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Discussion Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service & Children's Sunday School 11:45 AM Green Umbrella (MMR) 6 PM <i>How To Study The Bible</i> (MMR)	13 3 PM Central Coast Homeschool Theater Ensemble (CH) 5 PM Youth Self Defense & Safety Awareness (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	14 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10:30 AM Communications (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5:20 PM Mom & Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211) 6 PM MS Support Group (MMR) 6:25 PM Boundaries for Ladies (211) 7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Steps to Recovery (211)	15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 5 PM Free Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Wednesday Night Study— <i>Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II</i> (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)	16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (CH) 9 AM AGUMCC Friendship Breakfast (MMR) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 5 PM Aloud Bible Reading (S) 5 PM Grande Ringers 6:30 PM Women of Worth - WOW (MMR)	17 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 PM Alzheimer's Support Group for Adult Children of Parents (MMR)	18 12:30 PM The Adventures of Dr. Chess (211)
19 <i>Making Disciples of Jesus Christ Part II: The Pathway</i> Coffee Hour: Red Umbrella 8:30 AM Contemporary Service & Children's Sunday School 9:45 AM "Dig Deeper" Disciples Discussion Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service & Children's Sunday School 	20 3 PM Central Coast Homeschool Theater Ensemble (CH) 5 PM Youth Self Defense & Safety Awareness (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)  OFFICE CLOSED	21 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 2 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 3:30 PM Preschool Board - open session (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5:20 PM Mom & Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211) 6:25 PM Boundaries (211) 7 PM JOY Circle (at the home of a member) 7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Steps to Recovery (211)	 22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM AG UM CCC Story time with Pastor David (N) 9:30 AM Mary-Martha Circle (MMR) 5 PM Free Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Imposition of the Ashes and Lenten Study Class 1 (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)	23 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM AG UM CCC Story time with Pastor David (N) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 4 PM Book Club (MMR) 5 PM Aloud Bible Reading (S) 5 PM Grande Ringers	24 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 6:30 PM AG UM Children's Center Spaghetti Dinner and Rain Gutter Regatta (CH)	25 12:30 PM The Adventures of Dr. Chess (211) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (S)
26 Coffee Host: Communications  8:30 AM Contemporary Service & Children's Sunday School 9:45 AM Discussion Group (MMR) 10:30 AM Traditional Service & Children's Sunday School *Youth in worship	27 3 PM Central Coast Homeschool Theater Ensemble (CH) 5 PM Youth Self Defense & Safety Awareness (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Men's Bible Study (215) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AlAnon (MMR) 7:30 PM AlaTeen (211)	28 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers 5:20 PM Mom & Dad Factor Group for Ladies (211) 6:25 PM Boundaries for Ladies (211) 7 PM Church Council (MMR) 7:30 PM Ladies Christian 12-Steps to Recovery (211)	29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 5 PM Free Fellowship Dinner (CH) 6 PM Lenten Study Class 2 (MMR) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S) 7 PM UM Youth Group (215)			

FEBRUARY

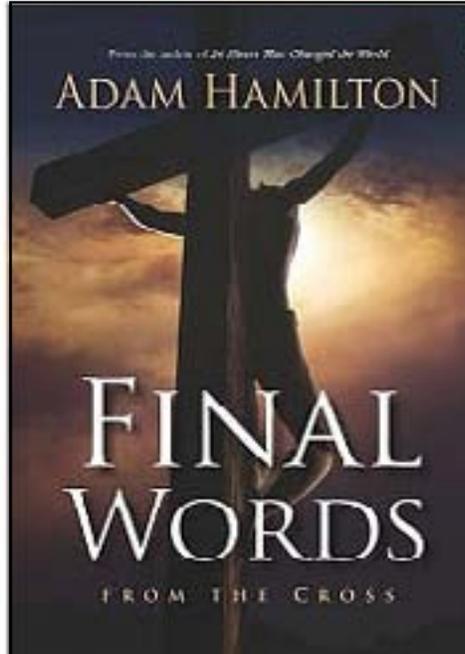


Mark Your Calendar!

Celebrating a



Devin Paredes	2/2
Barbara Reineke	2/4
Ian Spalding	2/4
Betty Ashton	2/5
Betty Johnson	2/7
Wayne Huggins	2/8
Victoria Gandy	2/9
Guy Oates	2/10
Louise Scheibelhut	2/10
Mike Johnson	2/10
Bennie Duffin	2/11
MaryBeth Lorenzen	2/14
Ryan Roemer	2/19
Jamie Carr	2/22
Irene Kliesch	2/20
Michelle Paredes	2/25
Anna Prestemon	2/27
Jackie Jackson	2/27
Bob Davis	2/28
Sean Treat	2/29



In life and in death, Jesus words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven final words statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves: "Father Forgive Them," "Behold Your Son, Behold Your Mother," "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise," "I Thirst," "It Is Finished," "Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit."

In "24 Hours That Changed the World," Adam Hamilton took us on a Lenten journey through the last day of Jesus' life. Now in this inspiring follow-up book, we will explore, along with Hamilton, these final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Each chapter begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. The chapters then explore the meaning of Jesus dying words for our lives today. Following the last statement, a post-script recounts the words Jesus spoke following his resurrection, including what truly were the final words Jesus spoke while walking this earth. Join the crowd now and experience the final words from the cross.

Date	Meeting	Time
2/2	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
2/4	Lay Speaking Class 2	9 AM—3 PM
2/7	Trustees	7 PM
2/9	Esther Circle	12 PM
2/11	UMM Sweetheart Breakfast	8:30 AM
2/12	Green Umbrella	11:30 PM
2/14	Communications	10:30 AM
2/16	People's Kitchen	11:30 AM
2/16	Women of Worth	6:30 PM
2/20	OFFICE CLOSED	---
2/21	Preschool Board	---
	• Closed session	2 PM
	• Open session	3:30 PM
2/21	JOY Circle	7 PM
2/22	Mary Martha Circle	9:30 AM
2/22	Ash Wednesday <i>Lenten Study Begins</i>	6 PM
2/23	Book Club	4 PM



February's Coffee

Hosts are:

5th	Endowment
12th	Esther Circle
19th	Red Umbrella
26th	Communications