"Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Go—Share Christ."



# Christmas Eve Service

Monday

December

24th

7:00 P.M.

Sanctuary



A Service Of Scripture Carols Candlelight

ADVENT STUDY CLASSES—Wed. Nov. 28 -Wed. Dec. 26

HANGING OF THE GREENS—Sat. Dec. 1 at 10 AM

TINSEL, TUNES, AND TREATS—Sun. Dec. 2., 4-5:30 PM

CHRISTMAS PARKING LOT GIVEAWAY—Sat. Dec. 8, 11 AM—2 PM.

AGUM CHILDRENS CENTER CHRISTMAS PROGRAM—Thu. Dec 13 at 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANA— Fri. Dec. 14, 7-9:30 PM

SING-ALONG AT CLARK CENTER—Sun. Dec. 16, at 4 PM

DECEMBER CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES—Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30



# Greetings from the Pastor!

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

ADVENT I

SILHOUETTES OF HOPE

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 ADVENT II SILHOUETTES OF PEACE Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

ADVENT III

SILHOUETTES OF JOY

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

ADVENT IV

SILHOUETTES OF LOVE

Luke 1:47-55

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 CHRISTMAS EVE Luke 2:1-20

DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

First Sunday after Christmas

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Luke 2:41-52

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis





## Mondays at 7 PM

Women come to pray together in the Sanctuary.



### Fridays at 8:30 AM

Join us in the Library for Bible Study, discussion, coffee, & friends!



### **DECEMBER LITURGISTS**

#### **DECEMBER 2**

8:30 a.m.———-Larry Baughman 10:30 a.m.——Barbara Reineke

#### **DECEMBER 16**

8:30 a.m.———Sharon Roemer 10:30 a.m.———Roger Sperling

### **DECEMBER 23**

8:30 a.m————David Beard 10:30 a.m——Virginia Mothes

### **DECEMBER 30**

8:30 a.m———Joseph Brown 10:30 a.m———Nancy St. Laurent





	EDUCATION
Dates	Topics and Schedule
Sunday, December 2 ADVENT I	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services  Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis  SILHOUETTES OF HOPE Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-36
Wednesday, December 5	<ul> <li>5:45 PM Adult Bible Study</li> <li>THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE by Matt Rawle Session 2 of 4 Facilitated by Judy Atwood</li> </ul>
Sunday, December 9 ADVENT II	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services  Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis  SILHOUETTES OF PEACE Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6
Wednesday, December 12	<ul> <li>5:45 PM Adult Bible Study</li> <li>THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE by Matt Rawle Session 3 of 4 Facilitated by Judy Atwood/Nancy St. Laurent</li> </ul>
Sunday, December 16 ADVENT III	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services  Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis  SILHOUETTES OF JOY Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6
Wednesday, December 19	<ul> <li>5:45 PM Adult Bible Study</li> <li>THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE by Matt Rawle Session 4 of 4 Facilitated by Judy Atwood/Nancy St. Laurent</li> </ul>
Sunday, December 23 ADVENT IV	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services  Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis  SILHOUETTES OF LOVE Luke 1:47-55
Monday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE	<ul> <li>7:00 PM Worship Service         A Service of Scripture, Carols and Candlelight         Rev. Mary Birgelaitis Luke 2:1-20     </li> </ul>
Wednesday, December 26	Free Dinner and Adult Bible Study on Break



Sunday, December 30

First Sunday after

Christmas

### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES**

Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
WHAT CHILD IS THIS? 1 Samuel s:18-20,26 Luke 2:4111-52

Criswell Hall 5:45 p.m.—6:45 p.m. November 28 through December 19

• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services

THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE by Matt Rawle

This Advent study will "bless us everyone" and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith.

Facilitated by Judy Atwood/Nancy St. Laurent BOOKS AVAILABLE





### THE UNITED METHODIST MEN WISH EVERYONE A WONDERFUL

### AND MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS SEASON!

## ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 2018



On All Saints' Sunday, November 4, we at First United Methodist Church, Arroyo Grande, lifted up the names of our departed members and people whose services were conducted through our ministry who have died since our last All Saints Day in November 2017.

Jeanne Jenkins	December 14, 2017
Gertrude Lucero	January 2, 2018
Gladys Paulsen	January 11, 2018
Mary Kelleher	January 17, 2018
Armando Lucero	May 12, 2018
Paul Arriola	June 15, 2018
Kathleen (Kay) Walker	July 3, 2018
Thomas W. Taylor	August 2018
Karen Morrison	October 19, 2018

With gratitude for the privilege of having known them, we give thanks to God for their lives.



"The organized unit of the 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 THE HOPE LOVE IN ACTION participation in the global ministries of the church."



### UMW DECEMBER MESSAGE



As Christmas draws near, we draw attention to the miracles God presented to two women who were faithful and bold to follow His word.

Elizabeth was a righteous women who followed the path of the Lord. Although she and her husband, Zechariah, were old and as they called her "barren", she was sad and lonely. But an angel told her she would conceive a son, and he would be called John the Baptist and to believe as it was "God's Word."

Mary came to Elizabeth, six months later, to stay in their spare room. When Mary arrived, John jumped for joy right in her womb.

At that, Elizabeth told Mary she was blessed by God by being the mother of the Lord. Mary had been scared and had come to Elizabeth seeking

wisdom, but now the fear was gone and they rejoiced to be having their sons.

These two women were brought together as they prepared for motherhood, each strengthening and uplifting the other, each sharing wisdom and blessings. In joy and love Mary and Elizabeth celebrated together.

Today we walk in their footsteps saying yes to God, walking boldly as did the founders of the United Methodist Women when they traveled across the world to meet the needs of women in India. Similarly, our UMW meet and uplift other sisters to help protect our children from poverty, from under-education, from food scarcity, from so many other challenges facing our youth today. They require protection and we will continue to provide all we can together.

~ Virginia Mothes, publicity

### **Next UMW Book Club Meeting in January**

Due to the holidays the next UMW Book Club meeting will not meet in December but will be held on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M. in the McMillen Room. We will discuss Escape from the Green Mansion: Ordinary Church Women and Their



Extraordinary Rescue of San Francisco's Brothel Slaves by Dr. Chris Taylor. This nonfiction account relates how the "Jesus Women" helped to free Chinese immigrants from brothels in San Francisco in the late 1800's. Several copies of the book are available in the church office. You can also purchase one through amazon.com. Come join us on January 25<sup>th</sup>! See Patti Melsheimer with any questions.

~ submitted by Judy Leonard



# The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree will be set up again this year during the Hanging of the Greens. The Angel Tree gifts are for Foster children and other needy children in San Luis Obispo County. The children's names are provided by Social Workers and Eligibility Staff from the San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services.

Please take the original gift tag and attach the tag to the gift you purchase. You will need to sign the duplicate tag and leave the duplicate tag on the tree. I request the duplicate tag in case you lose the original tag, as then I know the child's name and which Social Worker the child is assigned to. You must attach the original tag to your UN-WRAPPED gift or gift(s) and bring them to church on Sundays in December or you can bring the UN-WRAPPED gifts to the church office. You can use the duplicate tag on your UNWRAPPED gift or gift(s) if you lose the original tag.

All gifts must be brought to church no later than December 19, 2018. If you have any questions, you may contact Jan Treat.

Thank you all for your generous, giving spirit to help these children in need, especially at Christmas! Your gifts do make a difference in these children's lives.

The Lord's Blessings to you all.

~Jan Treat

PROGRAM MINISTRY ~ Sandy Underwood

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 FUMCAG CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA



CRISWELL HALL, 7 PM—9:30 PM

HOSTS: Sandy Underwood and
Bernie and Mary Hawkins
Fun for the whole family with refreshments
DON'T MISS THE ALL-CHURCH TALENT
SHOW AT THE CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16
HOLIDAY SING-ALONG
AT THE CLARK CENTER



4 PM Cost: \$6 Go on own.

Open seating—no arranged seats

Please continue to check out the church website and Criswell Hall for all the great activities

Program Ministry is planning for 2019. ~ Sandy

This is your opportunity to help provide poinsettias to brighten our church and to brighten the lives of our shut-in members.



Each poinsettia plant is \$10.

Payments should be made to FUMCAG

Memo: Poinsettias.

Green 2018 Poinsettia Ordering Forms are now available: Please place payments in an offering envelope and enclose the completed form OR stop by the Caring Congregation table in Criswell Hall.



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Presents

# TINSEL, TUNES, AND TREATS

Sunday, December 2, 2018

4:00 PM --5:30 PM

Come and kick off the Christmas Season with great merriment and song.

Special performances by
Judith and the Jazz Krewe,
Kindred Spirits, Swing Shift,
The Disciples Quartet,
FUMCAG Grande Ringers, Chancel Choir and Praise Team!

Join us for a fun time of music and treats!

Music venue is the Church Sanctuary
Treats in Criswell Hall

Hosted by the Worship Committee





# Special message from the Chancel Choir Director



We are so pleased to be able to share the news that we have been invited to sing at **Carnegie Hall**, in New York City, December 2, 2019. We are still a little shocked and amazed. Fifteen members from our choir, past and present, will join in to make a group of 250 voices to sing the music of Mark Hayes at Carnegie Hall.

We are grateful to have the year to plan. Singers and VIP guests will have to pay their own way, which is quite costly; however, we are hoping to do some fundraising throughout the next year to help offset some of the costs. We will always be happy to accept donations.

I believe it will be a very rewarding and exhilarating experience for all those involved. There will be a press release that will go out as it gets a bit closer. Stay tuned for more details as it unfolds.

~ Julie Burns

# FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Patti Melsheimer

I collect Christmas books (among other things!). Their titles and subjects vary wildly. Some are big thick books, some are picture books, some are from when our children were small. Their titles vary greatly - "The Christmas Promise", "A Certain Small Shepherd", "The Paper Bag Christmas", "The Christmas Secret", "The Christmas Box", and "The Christmas Blessing".

But my favorite over the years is "The Second Christmas". It is a small book with lovely hand-drawn pictures that tells the story of Mary and Joseph escaping from Bethlehem into Egypt and becoming immigrants in a foreign land.

It tells of the suspicion and curiosity of the villagers as they wonder who these strangers are. Mary and Joseph worry about being discovered. Gradually they become braver and Joseph begins to practice his trade of carpentry and soon he has a successful business going. Mary begins to allow the other women to visit and hold the baby. But then one day a group of people on camels comes through. No one knows who they are but they are very impressive with their fine robes. They ask if there are any strangers in the village. Eventually Joseph is brave enough to come forward. It is then that the kings tell him it is safe to return to their home.

It is a very simple story but it makes one think of the implications for today – "immigrants", "strangers", "different in appearance and language". Who knows?

But of course the story we can all read again and again is found in the second chapter of Luke.

Merry Christmas!





## Please consider your Church when doing your year end tax planning

You may gain significant tax advantage when required IRA distributions or appreciated stock are donated directly to a charity. Please consult your tax advisor for details. Donations to our church may be made to the general fund or one of the endowment funds. Endowments are gifts that keep on giving, year after year.

~Joel Anderson, Acting Treasurer

# News from the Mission Team

### MISSION TEAM: December 2018

### Judy Atwood

### MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1. History of Methodist Mission
- 2. Disaster Response
- 3. Special Giving Totals for 2018

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. HISTORY OF METHODIST MISSION

This month we begin a series on the history of Methodist mission. Education has been one of the most consistent features of Methodist mission from its beginning to its present outreach. Wherever Methodists have gone in mission, whether the coalfields of England, the American frontier, Asia, Africa, South America, and beyond, they have started schools.

We will recount how Methodist understandings of mission have affected the educational work that was such an important part of that mission. Four eras of Methodist mission theology and practice correspond with four eras of Methodist institutions and philosophies. These eras can be thought of as shifts in emphasis between the Methodist slogans of "reforming the nation" and "the world as my parish."

Those eras include an early era of domestic mission on Great Britain and the United States, an era of international mission from the West, an era of the decolonization of mission, and a new era of global networking. Watch for the first era next month.

2. <u>DISASTER RESPONSE</u> UMCOR Offering cares in times of disaster. In the aftermath of the recent fires in our District, we offered the opportunity to respond again to the needs of those most affected. Thank you again for your gracious and generous response. To date we have received \$1,220.00..Again you have let others know that someone cares.



Many hands continue to do many things.

3. <u>SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2018</u>
Watch as the totals grow during the year!

ELT Scholarships	\$ 1,445.00
People's Kitchen Misc.	19,064.38
People's Kitchen Food	559.14
South County Food Bank	559.13
UMCOR—Fire Relief	1,150.00
UMCOR—Human Relations Sunday	53.00
UMCOR Sunday	967.00
UMCOR—Native American Ministries	250.00
UMCOR—Peace with Justice	206.00
UMCOR-World Communion	202.00
Haiti Mission	2,000.00
Cal Pac Disaster Response	505.00
Covenant Relationships	4,500.00
Mobility Worldwide	1,000.00
Haiti—Erickson Villere	1,000.00
Blankets for 5 Cities basket	<u> 153.54</u>

10 MONTHS TOTAL: \$ 32,614.19

A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION.

DON'T ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOUR FOOTSTEPS, IF
YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO MOVE YOUR FEET.

CAST~A~NET PAGE 10 DECEMBER 2018 10 AM Hanging of the Greens of the Gree Sunday Monday **Tuesday** Wednesday **Thursday Friday** Saturday 2 5 8:30 AM AGUMCC Spirit Day PARKING LOT 1 PM Emergency Food Contemporary Service 8:30 AM Senior 8:30 AM Senior **GIVEAWAY** 8 AM People's Kitchen 8 AM Giveaway Set Pantry—CH **5:45 PM** G. McGuire Quilt-10:30 AM Exercise—CH Exercise-CH Prep—Leave to Serve 11:15 AM—K Up to 3 PM 9 AM Set UP-Traditional Service 9 AM Church Work Day 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus 8:30 AM Bible CH,K,N, PL ing Class—CH Knitters-MMR 11 AM Program Ministry 8:30 AM Senior 7 PM Women of Prayer-S Study-L Event: 11 AM -**5 PM** Free Dinner—CH No Chair Yoga today Coffee Hour: Exercise—CH 3:30 PM AGUMCCC 2 PM 5:45 PM Adult Study Finance Committee 5 PM Handbells—HR 10 AM Intercessory closed 3:30 PM AGUMCC 7 PM-Chancel Choir -4 PM Tinsel, Tunes and 5 PM Handbells—HR Staff Development-Rehearsal-S Treats Event-S MMR 11 12 13 14 15 8:30 AM Senior 8:30 AM Senior 8:30 AM Senior 8:30 AM Bible 8:30 AM 9 AM AGUMCC Program Exercise—CH

9 AM AGUMCC Program Study—L **9 AM**— Christmas Exercise—CH **9 AM** AGUMCC Program Exercise—CH **9 AM** AGUMCC Program Contemporary Service 10:30 AM 1 PM Emergency Food Practice—S Practice-S Practice—S Extravaganza Set Traditional Service Pantry-CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Intercessory Up /Practice—-CH, K **5:45 PM** G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 9:30 AM UMW Steering--L Knitters-MMR Praver-L 7 PM Program Coffee Hour: 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga 3 PM AGUMCC Pro-11:30 AM—Program Ministry Christmas **7 PM** Women of Prayer-S Endowment/ELT Class-CH Ministry-L gram Practice—S Extravaganza-**5 PM** Free Dinner—CH 5 PM Handbells—HR 5 PM Handbells—HR CH,K 6:30 PM —Caroling 5:45 PM Adult Study 6:30 PM AGUMCC Rehearsal for Clark Ctr Group—CH Christmas Program-S Performance-S 7 PM—Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 8:30 AM Bible 9 AM Deadline 8:30 AM Senior 8:30 AM Senior 8:30 AM Senior 8:30 AM Newsletter articles Exercise—CH Exercise-CH Exercise-CH Studv-L Contemporary Service 1 PM Emergency Food 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Intercessory 10:30 AM Pantry-CH Knitters-MMR 10 AM Communications-Prayer-L Traditional Service 5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilt-11 AM UMW Chair Yoga 5 PM Handbells—HR 11:30 AM-Program ing Class—CH Class—CH Coffee Hour: Preschool Board—MMR 7 PM Women of Prayer-S Ministry—L **5 PM** Free Dinner—CH Caring Congregation 1:30 PM—Open session Committee 5:45 PM Adult Study 2 PM-Closed session Group-CH **5 PM** Handbells—HR 7 PM-Chancel Choir 7 PM JOY Circle-home of Rehearsal—S member 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 8:30 AM Bible Church Office Closed 8:30 AM 9 AM Church Work Day No Food Pantry 10 AM Intercessory Study-L Contemporary Service Free Dinner and Adult Prayer-L 10:30 AM 7 PM CHRISTMAS EVE Study Group on Break 5 PM Handbells—HR Traditional Service 7 PM-Chancel Choir Re-SERVICE hearsal—S Coffee Hour: JOY Circle **CHRISTMAS DAY** Christmas Eve 30 31 8:30 AM No Food Pantry Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: All Church Cookies

**NEW YEARS EVE** 



Church Office: (805) 481-2692 E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net Find us on Facebook at: United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

www.facebook.com/fumcag

### **Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis
E-mail: revmaryb@fumcag.org
Missionary (retired): Judy Atwood
Lay Leader: Patti Melsheimer
Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson
Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Choir Director: Julie Burns
Praise Team Director: Mike Clark
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Multi-Media: Duncan Leonard
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya

**District Superintendent:**Rev. James Powell

### AG UM Children's Center

**Director:** Madrigal Quaglino E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Office: (805) 481-2223



Chair: Joe Brown

### Members At Large (alphabetically):

Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, Judy Leonard, Patti Melsheimer, Virginia Mothes, Frances Robertson.

**Layout Editor:** Frances Robertson **Proofing Team:** Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Joe Brown, Judy Leonard, and Virginia Mothes.

### Other contributors:

Varied Teams / Committees

Deadline for January issue Monday, December 17 in the morning

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

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



# TABLE OF 8 PROGRAM

We are currently forming the groups! Those who want to continue to participate need to sign up again. New members to the program are highly welcomed as well.

Social dinner groups will be formed consisting of 6 to 8 people. The purpose is for church members to have an opportunity to gather monthly in a social setting with other members. This will provide an environment to get to know and care for one another on a more personal level (and have some fun, too).

The group can decide the specifics — dining out or rotating dinner at their homes. The group will gather monthly for 6 to 8 months. Then the groups will be reconfigured to provide opportunities to get to know other church members.

This program fits anyone's needs. If your home is too small for 6 to 8 people, no worry, you can go out to dinner at a restaurant, host at someone else's house, have a picnic, or make a reservation to use the church. Consider having a little more fun and get to know your church family members better.

For more information please contact: Marjorie Ott or Lucy Jacob

"Come join the fun with Table of 8. We would love you to join us!" ~ Lucy

# Birthdays



Judy Heiney.....12/01 David Beaman....12/03 Gary Thompson....12/05 Stephen Wise.....12/05 Adeline Bottorff.....12/08 Jamie Foster.....12/09 Eva McClure....12/09 William Russell.....12/09 Michael Clark.....12/10 Nancy Sperling.....12/10 Gene Heiney.....12/12 T. Richard Duffin.....12/13 Deborah Lewis.....12/13 Susan Throndson.....12/13 Karen Brown....12/16 Julie Burns.....12/16 Kent Unsworth.....12/20 Cyndee Rohla....12/24 Joseph Leonard.....12/27 Jed Moore.....12/27 Harry Egan....12/30



Have we missed **your** birthday? If so, it is not listed on our data base. Please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birthdate to our monthly birthday list!



DIRECTORY TEAM

10e Brown

# First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

## THANKS TO THE Church Directory

Many thanks for the team that made it possible for us to produce the new Church Directory. We had tireless effort from proofreaders Judy Leonard, Virginia Mothes and Judy Atwood. Frances Robertson provided the labels and Patti Melsheimer prepared the original list and was always being there for support. Jim Alquist provided technical advice. Our team especially thanks **Dave Anderson** for printing the Directory in such a timely matter! We hope you will all find it useful and if there are any omissions or corrections, please give them to me for future revisions.

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande www.facebook.com/fumcag

# IN THIS ISSU

Chair, Communications Team

### **COVER STORY:**

Advent and Christmas Events	
Advent & Christmas Services	2
Christian Education	3
UMM, All Saints	٠4
UMW Message, Book Club	5
Angel Tree, Program Ministry, Poinsettias	6
Tinsel & Tunes, Choir Trip	7
Lay Leader Message, Tax Planning	
Mission Team News	9
Calendar	10
Table of 8, Birthdays	.11
New Directory, Christmas Giveaway	12

Children's Center Chronicle

FIRST UNITED METHODIST **CHURCH OF ARROYO GRANDE** 

# CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8th 11 AM to 2 PM

> HELPING THOSE IN NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

- **NEW SOCKS & WARM CLOTHES**
- **CHRISTMAS GIFTS**
- **BLANKETS**
- **JACKETS**
- **MUCH MORE!!**



Everything is FREE including coffee and donuts for our guests!

