

**“Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Go—Share Christ.”**



# Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

FEBRUARY 2019



## Super CHILI Bowl

Sunday, February 3



**United Methodist Women**

will be selling delicious

**Homemade Chili and Corn Bread**

for you to **take home** to enjoy as you watch the Super Bowl football game!

For \$12 you can purchase a container of 4 cups of Super Bowl Chili (beef, turkey or vegetarian)

and two corn muffins and cookies

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the UMW table in Criswell Hall to assure there is enough for you!



*All profits will be given to UMW charitable projects—local, national, and international.*



**Sunday, February 3** UMW Chili Bowl

**Saturday, February 9** Barn Dance—7 PM—Criswell Hall

**Thursday, February 14** Valentine's Day

**Saturday, February 16** UMM Breakfast Meeting—9 AM—Coco's

**Thursday, February 21** Western Dance Class—7 PM—Criswell Hall

**Friday, February 22** UMW Book Club—11 AM—McMillen Room

**Saturday—Tuesday, February 23—26**

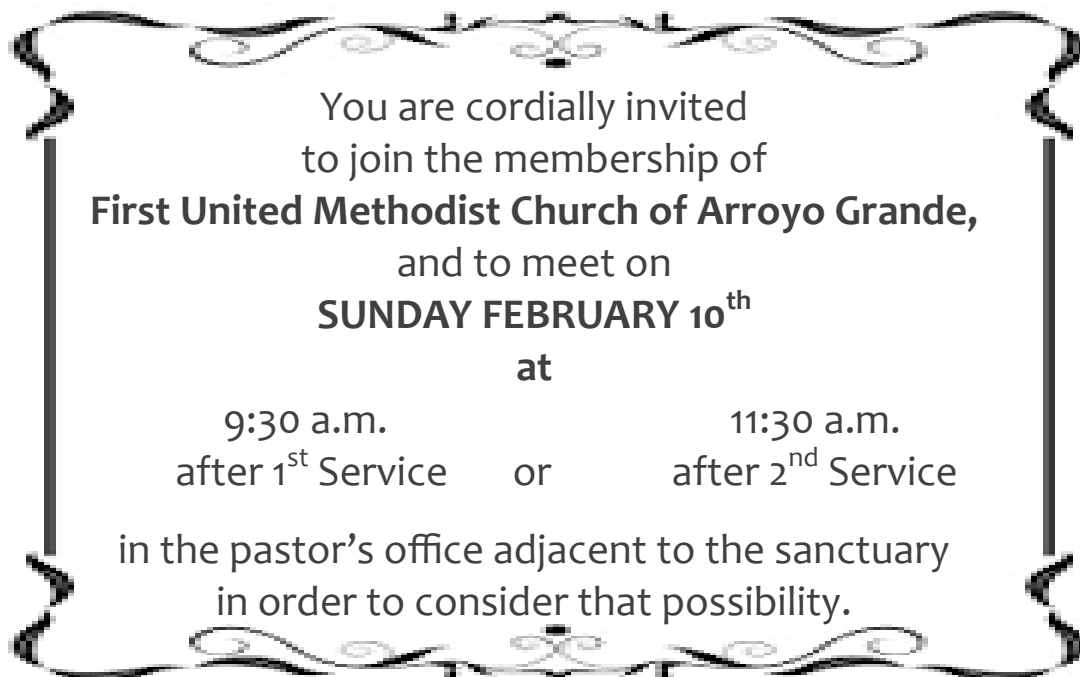
The United Methodist General Conference, Saint Louis, Missouri

**Thursday, February 28** Program Ministry Tour to San Luis Obispo History Center Museum—1 PM



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

## From the Pastor



In baptism we become a part of the Body of Christ. Christianity is a communal faith, and Christian worship is communal too. We may find solace, comfort and calm in prayer with God alone, but Christian worship is meant to bring us together before God. God comes to us announcing love, forgiveness and grace and inviting us to become people of The Way, walking in the footsteps of Christ.

Pastors are perplexed when people say ***“I am a Christian but I don’t need the church.”*** ***“My faith is private.”*** That’s an oxymoron! It doesn’t make sense. To be a Christian is to be linked with God and others in community.

Given the communal nature of the Church, church membership is a natural step for Christian disciples. We commit to a community of believers with whom we work, grow and serve. We are not meant to live in isolation, and the church is a great place to know others face-to-face.

Whether you have already decided church membership is a “yes” or you are just thinking about it, come with your questions and register your interest. We would like to take in new members on Transfiguration Sunday, March 3, 2019 at whichever service you attend. If you are interested and cannot come on February 10<sup>th</sup>, please call the pastor or let the church secretary know of your interest at 805 481-2692.

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis





## UMM TO FEATURE SPEAKER ON AGING

The next breakfast meeting of the UMM will be at Coco's Restaurant on Saturday morning, February 16th, at 9:00 AM and will feature an outstanding presentation by Joyce Lippmann, Executive Director for Area Agency on Aging for San Luis and Santa Barbara Counties.

This will be of special interest to those in our congregation who feel they are no longer a "Spring Chicken" but would like to receive the wealth of information the speaker will distribute at the meeting. Her slide presentation is first class.



Younger members of the congregation might want to attend as (here is the big news) you too will get older as time goes by. Or if you have an aged member of your family, this meeting could be very important.

Order off the menu, bring a friend or neighbor and enjoy the fellowship.

**All interested are encouraged to attend.**

## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

GERMANY, PRAGUE & AUSTRIA  
*Featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau*

NAWAS INTERNATIONAL

12 Days: July 7 - 18, 2020

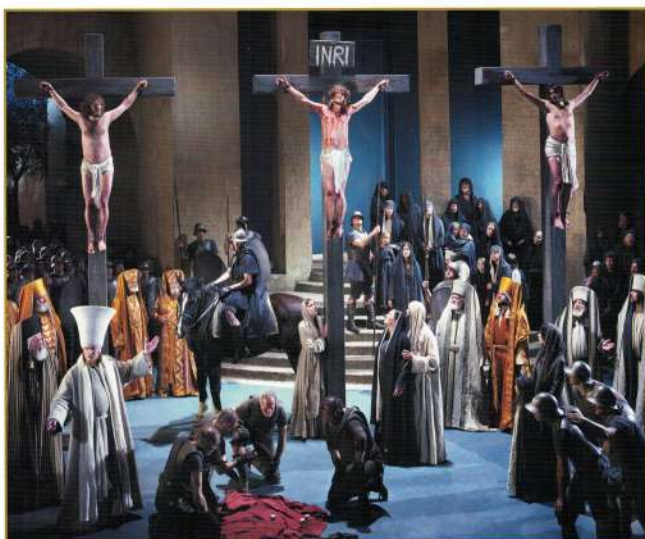
Visiting

Berlin • Dresden • Prague • Český Krumlov  
 Vienna • Salzburg • Oberammergau • Munich

Hosted By: Pastor Jim & Stephanie Powell

North District Superintendent

\$4,549 from Los Angeles



QUALITY CHRISTIAN TOURS SINCE 1949

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

In the year 2000, we last journeyed to Oberammergau, Germany to witness the Passion Play. This event inspired our Christian faith and introduced us to the persons who have shared their faith for almost 400 years. Since 1633, the village of Oberammergau has fulfilled their promise to God to reenact the Gospel story of the last week of Jesus Christ's life, crucifixion, and resurrection. Their prayers were answered when the Black Plague, which decimated Europe, passed around their village.



The miraculous story of this small village in Bavaria can only be overshadowed by the greatest story of them all. Now we are on a pilgrimage back to the Passion Play- 20 years later- and wish for you to join us on a spiritual and cultural experience like no other.

Our tour will have us staying in fine hotels for more than one-night stops. We will explore the church's story of Eastern Europe as we journey through Berlin, Prague (Czech Republic), Vienna and Salzburg (Austria), and Munich (Germany). We will host you on this pilgrimage with prayer, care, and hospitality along with our professional guides. Come join us in 2020.

Pastor Jim & Stephanie Powell  
 North District Superintendent  
 661-273-3656  
 powell.pilgrimage@gmail.com

**More details on  
 brochure in  
 church office.**



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

"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 participation in the global ministries of the church."

## UMW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2019

JANUARY 27 — UMW SUNDAY

JULY (DATE TBA) — MISSION STUDY

FEBRUARY 3 — SUPER CHILI BOWL SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER (DATE TBA) — UMW RETREAT

MARCH 16 — MISSION STUDY

NOVEMBER 9 — CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

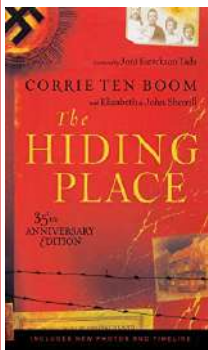
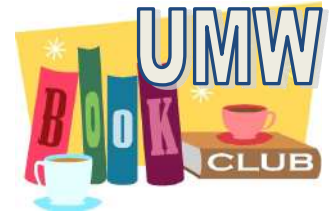
MAY 11 — MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

*There will be a "CRUISE" theme...*



### February 22 UMW Book Club Meeting

The Hiding Place – A Christian Classic



The February book selection for the UMW Book Club, The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom, is a classic Christian memoir. Corrie was a Dutch watchmaker who along with her family sheltered Jews and underground workers during World War II. Even though Corrie knew that they risked being sent to a concentration camp if caught, they bravely stepped up to help many escape from the Nazis. Ultimately the Ten Boom family was incarcerated in a concentration camp. Still Corrie showed her deep faith and positive belief that good will overcome evil.

Join the book club meeting on Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11 A.M. in the McMillen Room to discuss this remarkable book. Several copies of The Hiding Place are available through the public library system. See Patti Melsheimer if you would like to purchase your own copy.

~submitted by Judy Leonard

PROGRAM MINISTRY DATES and ACTIVITIES

~ Sandy Underwood

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 7-9 PM CRISWELL HALL

**BARN DANCE CRISWELL HALL**

PHOTO BOOTH & SNACKS

COST \$10

COME TO DANCE OR  
TO WATCH AND ENJOY!



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 7-9 PM CRISWELL HALL

**WESTERN DANCE CLASS COST \$5**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28 1-3 PM

**SLO HISTORY CENTER MUSEUM**

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 17



SATURDAY, MARCH 9 6:45 AM TO 10 PM

**AMTRAK TO SANTA BARBARA ZOO**

REGISTER BY:

FEBRUARY 10

COST: TBD



SUNDAY, MARCH 10 6-8 PM CRISWELL HALL

**FAMILY GAME EVENING**



**SIGNUPS FOR ALL PROGRAM MINISTRY ACTIVITIES  
ARE TAKEN ON THE CLIPBOARDS IN THE NARTHEX**

**COME CHECK OUT THE DETAILS AND DATES  
FOR FUTURE EVENTS**

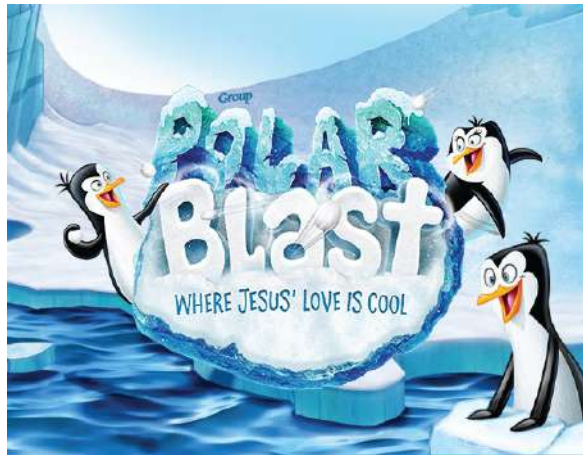
Photos from the January 17th  
Initial Western Dance Class

Photos by Judy Atwood





## VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ Carolyn Russell



Help our kids sled into an ice way of having a fun summer weekend!

Possible Dates - **June 28, 29 and 30th**

Join our crew for a 2 day VBS - **Polar Blast** - where kids chill with friends and warm up to Jesus, the coolest friend of all!

VBS will be a 2.5 hour 2 day event followed by dinner on a Friday afternoon and a Saturday afternoon! (2:30 -5:00 - then dinner) .

We will also have a small program on Sunday during Sunday school.

We are looking for volunteers to help lead small groups of kids, oversee crafts, play fun games, sing songs and help with dinners.

Come one and come all for a snowball o' fun! Help make this a reality for our community.

**Must have volunteers to continue with planning.**

**Contact Carolyn Russell in person or through the church office**

### UPDATE ON 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, or check at the church office.*

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

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Patti Melsheimer

### Deciding a Way Forward

As I wrote in my column last month, The United Methodist General Conference will be meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on February 23 to 26 in a special session, which will focus on the church's stance on LGBT inclusion. In 2016 at the General Conference, the United Methodist Council of Bishops was authorized to form a commission to examine and possibly revise every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options to help maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

This group is called the Commission on a Way Forward. The Commission is made up of 32 people (11 laity, 2 deacons, 11 ordained elders and 8 bishops) and represents United Methodists from around the world and from various backgrounds and theological understandings. They met 9 times from January 2017 to May 2018 when they presented their final proposals to the Council of Bishops. They developed three plans. Several other plans have been submitted for consideration by other groups.

Nothing has been decided at this point. The outcome of this special session cannot be predicted! The effect on local churches will not be known until General Conference votes on a plan. Until that time each of us can help by praying for the conference and for guidance for those delegates who are representing us.

If you would like to read more about the Commission on a Way Forward and their recommendations go to [umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward](http://umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward).

If you want to learn more about the special session of the General Conference go to [umc.org/gc2019](http://umc.org/gc2019). I believe that you will be able to follow the proceedings at this site. You might also want to visit [umc.org/what-we-believe](http://umc.org/what-we-believe) for information about the beliefs of the United Methodist Church.

*(Some of this was based on an article in response magazine, January/February 2018)*

Patti Melsheimer, Lay Leader



# News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

## MISSION TEAM: February 2019

Judy Atwood

### MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. [History of Methodist Mission](#)
2. [Special Giving Totals for 2018](#)

### GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

#### 1. HISTORY OF METHODIST MISSION

This month we continue the series on the history of Methodist mission with Methodist education and Western foreign mission. The first Methodist schools outside of the British Isles and the United States opened in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, started by missionaries who wanted to duplicate the mix of religious education, socioeconomic self-improvement, and national reform that characterized Methodist schools at home. In this way, they continued the pattern of Methodist mission holism.

At the same time, these schools reflected something new in Methodist mission: its participation in a colonial model of missions that spread Western culture along with the gospel. Methodist mission and Methodist education no longer sought to reform just the nation, but rather the whole world, albeit along a model of Western culture.

Methodist education was undeniably part of the missionary effort to promote not just religious but cultural change among non-Christian groups. Methodists agreed that the main purpose of mission schools was to produce converts to Christianity. Methodist schools included religious instruction as part of their curricula, and many Methodist converts did indeed come from schools. But in addition to religious instruction, the curricula of most Methodist schools presented a traditional Western understanding of necessary knowledge and academic disciplines. Debates over vernacular education ensued, and while some Methodist schools did operate in the vernacular, the primary emphasis around the world was on English-language education.

The Anglo-Chinese schools that operated throughout China and Southeast Asia are a prime example of the sort of English-language, Western-oriented education offered by Methodist missionaries.

In the case of girls' schools started by Methodist missionaries, the mere existence of such schools spoke to the intended aims of cultural change. Schools like Ewha School for Girls (now Ewha University) and Lucknow Woman's College (now Isabella Thoburn College) proclaimed a vision of empowered educated womanhood in direct contrast to how missionaries perceived women's roles in traditional societies. (To be continued).

#### 2. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2018

*Many hands made much possible!*



#### What our totals were for 2018!

ELT Scholarships	\$ 1,445.00
People's Kitchen Misc.	26,464.38
People's Kitchen Food	691.09
South County Food Bank	691.07
UMCOR—Fire Relief	3,974.00
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	711.00
Covenant Relationships	4,500.00
Mobility Worldwide	1,000.00
Haiti—Erickson Villere	1,000.00
Blankets for 5 Cities basket	153.54
Shower the People	341.00
<u>Missions—Ehrhardt Lang Fund</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>

12 MONTHS TOTAL: \$ 47,094.08

*Thank you for your second mile gifts*

**A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION.  
DON'T ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOUR FOOTSTEPS, IF  
YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO MOVE YOUR FEET.**

# FEBRUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		<p align="center"><b>Abbreviation Legend</b></p> <p>CH—Criswell Hall HR—Handbell Room #115                      K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123                      MMR—McMillen Room #113                      PL—Parking Lot PS—Pastor's Study                      S—Sanctuary</p>				<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>AGUMCC Spirit Day</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Bible Study—L  <b>3:30 PM</b> AGUMCCC closed  <b>3:30 PM</b> AGUMCC Staff Development—MMR</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Contemporary Service  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Service</p> <p>Coffee Hour: JOY Circle</p> <p>UMW Super Chili Bowl</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>1 PM</b> Emergency Food Pantry—CH  <b>5:45 PM</b> G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH  <b>7 PM</b> Women of Prayer—S</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR  <b>11 AM</b> UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Church Work Day  <b>5:30 PM</b> Adult Study Group—CH  <b>7 PM</b>—Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>8 AM</b> People's Kitchen Prep—Leave to Serve 11:15 AM—K  <b>8:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise—CH  <b>10 AM</b> Intercessory Prayer—L  <b>1:30 PM</b> Writing Class—MMR  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Bible Study—L</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>7 PM</b> Program Ministry Barn Dance—CH</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Contemporary Service  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Service</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Mission Team</p> <p><b>9:30 &amp; 11:30 AM</b> New Member Inquiry Group—PS</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>1 PM</b> Emergency Food Pantry—CH  <b>5:45 PM</b> G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH  <b>7 PM</b> Women of Prayer—S</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR  <b>11 AM</b> UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Church Work Day  <b>9:30 AM</b> UMW Steering--L  <b>5:30 PM</b> Adult Study Group—CH  <b>7 PM</b>—Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise—CH  <b>10 AM</b> Intercessory Prayer—L  <b>1:30 PM</b> Writing Class—MMR  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR</p> <p align="center"><i>Happy Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Bible Study—L</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>9 AM</b> UMM Breakfast Meeting (Coco's)</p>	
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Contemporary Service  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Service</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Finance Team</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>1 PM</b> Emergency Food Pantry is open—CH  <b>5:45 PM</b> G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH  <b>7 PM</b> Women of Prayer—S</p> <p align="center"><b>Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Sr Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Deadline for newsletter articles  <b>9 AM</b> Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR  <b>11 AM</b> UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH                      Preschool Board—MMR  <b>1:30 PM</b>—Open session  <b>2 PM</b>—Closed session  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR  <b>7 PM</b> JOY Circle—Home of Member</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b>--Senior Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Church Work Day  <b>10 AM</b> Communications Meeting—PS  <b>5:30 PM</b> Adult Study Group—CH  <b>7 PM</b>—Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b>--Senior Exercise—CH  <b>10 AM</b> Intercessory Prayer—L  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR  <b>6:30 PM</b> Church Council—MMR  <b>7 PM</b>—Western Dance Class—CH</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Bible Study—L  <b>11 AM</b> UMW Book Club—MMR</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	
<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Contemporary Service  <b>10:30 AM</b> Traditional Service</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Caring Congregation</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>1 PM</b> Emergency Food Pantry—CH  <b>5:45 PM</b> G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH  <b>7 PM</b> Women of Prayer—S</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b> Senior Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR  <b>11 AM</b> UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b>--Senior Exercise—CH  <b>9 AM</b> Church Work Day  <b>5:30 PM</b> Adult Study Group—CH  <b>7 PM</b>—Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b>--Senior Exercise—CH  <b>10 AM</b> Intercessory Prayer—L  <b>1 PM</b> Program Ministry Tour to SLO History Center Museum  <b>5 PM</b> Handbells—HR</p>			

Meet Our  
**CHURCH STAFF**

**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

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**Lay Leader:** Patti Melsheimer

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Frances Robertson

**Website Manager:** Jamie Foster

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**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 Quagliano

**E-mail:** agumcc@sbcglobal.net

**Office:** (805) 481-2223



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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 March issue**

**Tuesday, February 19  
in the morning**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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



**ELT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ON-LINE**

Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications will be available on-line (www.worshipweekly.com) and in the church office beginning in March. The purpose of this scholarship is to help deserving United Methodist students enrolled in accredited universities, college, and technical schools defray the cost of their education.

Only students who are or have been active participants in the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church may apply. Graduating high school seniors must include letters of recommendation as well as a high school transcript with their completed applications. Returning college students will need a college transcript but are not required to submit letters of recommendation. Students may apply for this scholarship more than once provided they have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work.

The completed application with required attachments must be turned in to the church office by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship recipients will be introduced to the congregation in early June. Scholarship checks will be given to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2019 college classes.

~ Judy Leonard



**February Birthdays**

Margaret Coombs	02/01
Devin Paredes	02/02
Robert McGuire	02/03
Barbara Reineke	02/03
Isabella Russell	02/03
Matthew Williams	02/03
Guy Oakes	02/04
Betty Ashton	02/05
Mark Moore	02/06
Betty Johnson	02/07
Wayne Huggins	02/08
Victoria Gandy	02/09
Michael Johnson	02/10
Frances Robertson	02/18
Irene Kliesch	02/19
Peter Quagliano	02/21
Leonard Lutz	02/23
Michelle Paredes	02/25
Jackie Jackson	02/27
Chloe Keith	02/28



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!





# First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

**Visit us on the web at [worshipweekly.com](http://worshipweekly.com)**

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[www.facebook.com/fumcag](http://www.facebook.com/fumcag)

The month of  
**February**



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- Children's Center Chronicle

Again the Communications Team thanks everyone for submitting information for the updated directory. It has “kept coming” and we’re delighted! We are following up the process of “revisions and corrections” and now plan to have the replacement sheets ready about mid-February. We will produce these revision pages to be replaced in your blue directory. If you have not yet picked up your blue directory, remember to do so. They are in the Narthex.



Thank you!  
Joe Brown  
Chair, Communications Team

