

REPORT FROM THE ACTING TREASURER

We completed our Fiscal Year, which ended June 30th, in good financial shape. Thanks to the generous support of our congregation, overall stewardship, which includes holiday offerings, was \$295,802 which was 100.8% of plan. Expenses were slightly below plan. This allowed us to pay back another \$3,000 of the Endowment loan. The Church still owes the Endowment Board \$9,000. The loan from the Endowment Board allowed us to get through a difficult period a few years ago without resorting to major staff layoffs.

The preliminary budget for this coming Fiscal Year requires a modest \$5000 increase in overall Stewardship. We are planning for increased emphasis on the Children's Ministry and Congregational Care, along with modest raises for members of our staff and anticipated increases in some expenses.



The Estimates of Giving received thus far leave us about \$21,000 short of what we need. If you have not turned in an Estimate of Giving, please do so, in order that we can properly budget for the coming Fiscal Year. Estimate of Giving cards can be found in the Narthex and may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the Church Office.

~Joel Anderson

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume after our summer break on Wednesday, September 4 at 5:00 PM (Please note the time change to 5:00 PM)

Sept. 4 will begin a series on Stories Jesus Told: How to Read a Parable by Greg Carey. You will explore six of Jesus' parables to learn how to read, interpret, and live them in your daily life.

Oct. 23 will begin a series on <u>Down to Earth</u> by Mike Slaughter. You will learn that nothing about the Christmas story is ordinary. Mike Slaughter says it's enough to confound the mind and make the heart contrite. This study opens up God's Christmas surprise to us and examines how it changed everything.

Nov. 20 will begin the Advent study <u>Light of the World</u> by Amy Levine. You will explore the biblical texts surrounding the story of Jesus' birth, tracing the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi.

Please mark your calendars and plan now to join us for these studies. You will find that it is an enjoyable, yet informative hour of sharing together.

~Judy Atwood

From the Pastor

A CARING CONGREGATION!

What do you care about? Starting at the center of the circle, your list probably reads something like "I care about God, Christ, the Church. I care about my family and friends, my health, my work, my relationships."

Speaking for the universal Church with a capital "C" the list might read "We care about redemption, salvation, spreading Good News, i.e. sharing the kerygma with future generations."

A specifically United Methodist rendition might read" "We care about our world---social justice, missions, outreach, creation, the environment and all the important issues that are included when we throw out the net of God's Grace."

In August, I'm "fielding" themes in sermons that are important to us at Arroyo Grande First. One week, it will even be an experimental dialogue sermon with Joel Anderson! You can pick up the ball too! Toss it around and start some life-giving dialogue in our community. What do you care about?

AUGUST SERMON AGENDA (ASA)

August 4 – WE CARE ABOUT KIDS!

August 11 - WE CARE ABOUT SENIORS!

August 18 - WE CARE ABOUT COMMUNITY!

August 25 – WE CARE ABOUT THE BIBLE! (a dialogue)

The word "ASA" is of Hebrew origin? It's a name that means "doctor" and "healer". As a was the third king of Judah, who reigned for forty years. The Urban Dictionary says "Asa" refers to the most amazing person in the world, a God-send, perfect in every way! (Jesus?!!!)

Align yourself with the August Sermon Agenda, ASA! Be amazing. Create healing conversations and think about what the Bishop has charged our congregations to present at Charge Conference 2019. What do you see as important for the church going forward? What's your vision for the church you want to be a part of?

There are many tacks we can take come September. I'll start off with "WE CARE ABOUT MUSIC", come September 8th as the choir returns! Music, worship, fellowship, outreach? Immigration, LGBTQIA, the environment? Do you prefer safe waters or do you like to traverse controversial terrain? What floats your boat? Create healing conversations.

The whole world is in God's Hands!









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!

AUGUST LITURGISTS

AUGUST 4

8:30 a.m.———Joseph Brown 10:30 a.m.——Roger Sperling

AUGUST 11

8:30 a.m.———Lucy Jacob 10:30 a.m.——David Beaman

AUGUST 18

AUGUST 25

8:30 a.m.———Joel Anderson 10:30 a.m.——Judy Leonard







Dates	Topics and Schedule				
Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis "We Care About Kids!"				
Wednesday, Aug. 7	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall				
Sunday, Aug. 11, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis "We Care About Seniors!"				
Wednesday, Aug. 14	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall				
Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis "We Care About Community!"				
Wednesday, Aug. 21	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall				
Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis "We Care About The Bible!" (a dialogue)				
Wednesday, Aug. 28	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall				

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Chancel Choir Members and Prospective Choir Members.

We will have our end of summer get together on August 25th at 3:00 PM at the home of Dick and Patti Melsheimer. Thank you again for hosting!

Come and have a great time of fellowship as we get ready for our first rehearsal on August 28th at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. Yes, the time has changed. Let's give it a try and see how it works for everyone. Invite someone who loves to sing and have a good time.

If potential choir members have any questions, please contact me!

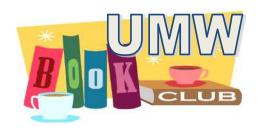
submitted by Julie Burns, Chancel Choir Director



THE UMM HAS GONE FISHING FOR THE SUMMER!



UMM ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME IN THE FALL



UMW BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS IN AUGUST TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

After a summer break the UMW Book Club is meeting again on Friday, August 23rd at 11 AM in the McMillen Room. We will be discussing a classic, <u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u> by Harper Lee. Copies of <u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u> are available through the library system and in used book stores.

The story is told through the eyes of a young girl, Scout, whose father is defending a black person who has been accused of raping a white woman. In the 1960's South justice is difficult to find for a black person. Still her father, Atticus, who takes up the fight to free this innocent man, exemplifies his belief in doing what is right.

Come join the group as we focus on this relevant novel that has recently been adapted for Broadway. Everyone is welcome to drop in this meeting or future ones. The UMW Book Club meets the fourth Friday of each month.



"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

submitted by Gerry McGuire

We need sewers, those handy with a sewing machine, needle, glue gun, or scissors. Even if you can just sort things we have a place for you. We need your help, and remember November 2 is going to come real soon. Meeting every Thursday from 9:30 to 12 noon in the Mc Millen Room we'd love to have you come socialize with us as we work on projects for the big sale or just come and pick up a project to take home and work on. November 2

is the date for this years' Christmas Boutique Sale. **Boutique Craft workshop is gearing up!** We just finished 15 small Christmas candy stockings. Help us add to that list. We have so many ideas and just need help putting them together. During the month of August we will be working on projects with a Kitchen/Home theme. Come see.

August 14 That's the Day! We will have a Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Party. Save the Date, Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 pm and come with an appetite and ready to play Bingo. Tickets are on sale now! Check out the UMW table in Criswell Hall next Sunday, the office or Mary Hawkins or Gerry McGuire for tickets. The whole family is welcome.





September 13-14 One Hundred and Fifty Years of UMW.

Women's Retreat and Mission Study, at Joel Anderson's Beach House. You will want to join us. Come relax and enjoy the company of other women while we eat, do crafts and meditate learn about our UMW history.

We will be doing an overview of the book, <u>Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission</u> by Ellen Blue. Sign up Sunday at the UMW table in Criswell Hall.

PROGRAM MINISTRY

PROGRAM MINISTRY DATES and ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST

August 13 WHAT'S COOKING!

APPETIZER AND LIGHT MEAL DEMONSTRATION Tuesday

> COST: \$15 p/p 6 PM CRISWELL HALL





WESTERN BARN DANCE August 17 Saturday

COST: \$10 p/p 7 to 9 PM Criswell Hall

Live Music—Gunmetal Gray Band Come to dance, learn to dance, or simply to hear the live band, watch and enjoy the fellowship!



Dear Church Family,

It has been very exciting to plan activities this past year. Remember to invite your friends in the community to join us in these activities. Since this is a new program, we are making decisions and testing the waters.

Most of the events/activities are free or have a small fee to offset the cost of the event/ activity. There is a small budget and scholarships are sometimes available (call me). If you are housebound, don't drive, or need help getting to church, please let me know.

When you sign up, it's absolutely necessary that, if there are costs described on the sign-in sheet, the fee must be paid at least one week prior to the event. (You understand, like when you make an airline reservation, you pay when you make the reservation.) It's the only way I can gauge for food, transportation, set up and the number of people needed to support the event.

Looking forward to continuing Program Ministry; share your ideas. Email me.

Sandy Underwood

NOTES from the CHANCEL CHOIR

A Director's Note...

Thank you! Thank you is all I can say about our last fundraiser! We raised a little over \$5,000. This church is so amazing, and I don't know where to start with my words of thanks, but I will give it a go. Please forgive me if I forget someone.

First to the Set-up crew and clean-up crew (many were the same): Carolyn, Dave, Bob, Sandy, Irene, Barbara, Mike, Christy Clarke, Nancy, Dick M., Heidi & Jacqui.

To BG & Barbara for securing our venue.

To the band, Dennis & Art Dougal who had to set up all the equipment while I bossed everyone else around. Ha!

To Dave, Carolyn, Jackie & B.G. for their extraordinary musical talents. Thanks for the hours of practice and the time given.

To Irene for the fabulous decorations. Great Job! We always know who to go for class and elegance in transforming our venues.

To the Chef extraordinaire, Jacqui Burns and her trusty helper Heidi Quiggle who donated her time. The food was wonderful and the tables looked amazing.



To the bartenders who were not only very experienced and hardworking, but much fun and entertaining!

To all the very generous donors of our auction items food and drinks: Joel Anderson, Madonna Inn, Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream, Ron's Nursery, Mike & Connie Clark, Sandy & Bob Underwood & Patti & Dick Melshiemer, Nancy & Chuck Burns, B.G. Perriguey, Burns & Eiler.

To all the very generous supporters who bought the auction lots and paid for tickets. (too many to mention by name)

To our Auctioneer Lee who also donated his time and put up with all my neurotic behavior, who also, by the way is the love of my life.

To Sandy who was there whenever, wherever, with whatever task I asked of her; to bounce ideas off or perform the littlest of details. Thank you, my friend and cohort! I can't imagine doing any of it without you.

As you can see it takes a Village or a very loving and supportive church to get to Carnegie Hall.

Much love and thanks to all!

submitted by Julie Burns, Chancel Choir Director

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Patti Melsheimer

Immigrants - Migration - Immigration - Migrants!

The newest issue of National Geographic magazine's cover story says, "A World on the Move – Seas rise, crops wither, wars erupt. Humankind seeks shelter in another place." Not just in the United States but all over the world people are experiencing the effects of "people on the move". The latest United Nations report says that 68.5 million people have been forcibly displaced by the end of 2017! According to the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, forced displacement is "a crisis of global proportions and immense moral and ethical implications." Most of us cannot imagine what it must be like to abandon one's home nation due to war, natural disaster or economic hardship.

I can remember during WWII we were concerned about "DP's" – "Displaced persons" who were moving throughout Europe to escape the horrors of war. We sent toothpaste and other personal goods to help them. During the Vietnam War many areas in California welcomed refugees from Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Today Europe is experiencing migration from North Africa and Eastern Europe. The United States is experiencing immigration from Mexico, El Salvador, and other Central American countries.

"How strong is the push to leave? To abandon what you love? To walk into the unknown with all your possessions stuffed into a pocket?" wonders Susan Goldberg, the author of the National Geographic article. "It is more powerful than fear of death."

We sometimes forget that all of us are descended from migrants. Today, in the United States, we seem to be closing our doors, ignoring the fact that our parents, grandparents, or maybe our great grandparents were immigrants. We seem to have forgotten the quote by Emma Lazarus, on the Statue of Liberty, that says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me."

The United Methodist Church upholds practicing hospitality to migrants, immigrants, refugees, and others without regard to race, status, nationality or religion. The United Methodist Social Principles, found in our Book of Discipline, include a section titled "Rights of Immigrants" that states, "We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education, and freedom from social discrimination."

The United Methodist Board of Church and Society urges people to speak out by calling their members of Congress, writing an op-ed piece or connecting with local immigrant advocacy and support networks. Oppose fear mongering and xenophobia in conversations in public and in private—at the market, at church, at school, and at home. Remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV). Be an active citizen and speak out to make society better.

News from the Mission Team

MISSION TEAM: August 2019 Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Making A Positive Difference 2. Special Giving Totals for 2019

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

This is what we as a congregation are about. Our congregation has a history of making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Our support enables Global Ministries to fulfill the mission of the Church through evangelism and church growth with our covenant relationships.

Just this last month we have received notes and letters from several of the places we have supported. We have joined in the ecumenical support of Shower the People, a local ministry in our county that provides opportunity for people to have a hot shower and be able to feel good about themselves.

We heard from Enickson Villiere in Haiti as he continues to serve his church, build his business and his home for his family...all with health issues for all three of them. He remains positive and so appreciates the prayers for him and his ministry.

We heard from Advance GCFA in appreciation of the check from the Hammond Endowment fund in the amount of \$855.00 for the United Methodist Mulungwish Theological School in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We also heard from Mobility Worldwide as a thank you for the \$500 gift which was matched by another donor to make it go further in making carts that allow for individuals to be mobile. They no longer have to rely on someone else to move them from place to place.

WE are blessed. WE are making a positive difference in a variety of ways. The mission team is working on ideas for expanding our ministry especially in our own community. If you have an idea you would like to share with us, please do. Watch for what is coming next. We invite all of you to be a part.

Many hands made much possible!



2. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2019

People's Kitchen Misc.	\$4,797.00
People's Kitchen Food	550.00
South County Food Coalition	550.00
UMCOR-Human Relation Day	145.00
UMCOR Sunday	472.00
UMCOR-Native American Sun.	344.00
UMCOR-Fire Relief	500.00
UMCOR-Nebraska Flood	174.00
UMCOR Peace with Justice Su	n. 229.00
Missions Haiti	500.00
Missions John Elmore	1,100.00

Thank you for your second mile gifts

\$9,362.00

6 MONTH TOTAL







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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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1	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Christian Education	5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer-S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L 7 PM Rehearsal for Bassoon Recital—S	8:30 AM Bible Study—L	2 PM Collin Odom Bassoon Recital—S
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: United Methodist Men	5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer-S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH 6 PM Program Ministry Food Demonstration—CH,K 7 PM Trustees—PS	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM UMW Steering— Committee—L 6 PM UMW Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo—CH,K	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L 6:30 PM Church Council—MMR	8:30 AM Bible Study—L	7 PM Program Ministry Barn Dance— CH
18 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Worship Team	9 AM Deadline News- letter Articles—Office 5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer-S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH Preschool Board— MMR 4:30 PM—Open session 5:00 PM—Closed session	8:30 AMSenior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Communications— PS—?? 11:30 AM Program Ministry—L	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L	8:30 AM Bible Study—L 11 AM UMW Book Club—MMR	24
	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Program Ministry	5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer-S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Mary-Martha- Esther—MMR	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L	8:30 AM Bible Study—L	



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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
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Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
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Varied Teams / Committees

Deadline for September issue Monday, August 19 PLEASE NOTE:

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



Holy Land "Journey through the Bible" March 17-27, 2020

You are invited to join Pastor David and Sarah Burgeson on an 11-Day Journey Through the Bible to Israel that will expand your knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and this sacred land. The journey will follow the footsteps of Jesus, Paul, Samuel & David and will change the way you read God's Word. Join us to see traditional holy sites and places where Jesus walked out his ministry. Set sail on the Sea of Galilee with us, and walk through the Old City of Jerusalem. Traveling to the Holy Land not only increases your understanding of scripture, it strengthens your relationship with God. Please consider being a part of this pilgrimage of faith and come join us to experience a once-in-a-life-time journey.

We are currently planning an informational meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Pastor David or pick up a brochure at the FUMCAG church office.



Tina Moore.....8/01 Priscilla Alquist.....8/02 Jacqueline Ridge.....8/02 William Bauske.....8/03 Rosslyn Clauson.....8/04 Fern Farmer.....8/06 Patty Williams.....8/07 Nancy St. Laurent.....8/08 Gerry McGuire.....8/10 Frank Ridge.....8/10 John MacKeen.....8/12 Bill Gerrish.....8/13 Robert Underwood.....8/15 Nancy Gerrish.....8/17 Betty Stephens.....8/17 Nancy Burns.....8/20 Dorine Bolterman.....8/22 Joseph Brown.....8/23 Frank Williams.....8/23 Cristy Van Hook.....8/24 Niki Raetz.....8/26 Sharon Roemer.....8/27 Charles Burns....8/28 Peter Paredes.....8/28 Cecile Huggins.....8/30 Wyatt Russell.....8/31



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



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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ISSUE

COVER STORY:

Please join me for a bassoon recital

on Saturday, August 10th at 2 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

You will hear a wide selection of bassoon pieces from 17th century Telemann to 20th Century contemporary music with string and piano accompaniment.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

275 N. Halcyon Rd., Arroyo Grande CA 93420

Collin Odom

Collin Odom is the 2019 winner of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande's Everett Lee Taylor Memorial Scholarship.

Come support local music. Everyone is welcome!