HANDBELL CHOIR Christmas Medley: I Saw Three Ships, The First Nowell, Westminster Carol arr. Douglas E. Wagner

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer Infant Holy, Infant Lowly verse 1 No. 229

Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Choral Response Infant Holy, Infant Lowly verse 2 No. 229

CHOIR ANTHEM Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S Bach, arr. W. Riegger

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 61:1-4 Luke 1:46b-55

HYMN (remain seated) Sing We Now of Christmas verses 1-3 No. 238

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis SERMON

ADVENT AGENDA:

"Imagine Joy"

OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission

The Holly and the Ivy Offertory Traditional/arr Cindy Berry Doxology/Prayer of Dedication Hymnal, No. 95

> Praise God whose dawn transfigures night, whose Daystar shines for us on high, whose Spirit brings into our sight. the joy to which our world draws nigh.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear *CLOSING HYMN No. 218

*BENEDICTION

As children of God's promise, we go to bring hope to the world. Blessed by Christ's presence, we go forth in peace.

RESPONSE It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (refrain) No. 218

Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

POSTLUDE Christmas Joy Franklin Ritter

Music Director: Julia Burns Piano/Keyboard: Dennis Eiler Organist: Brad Bettencourt

ISAIAH 61:1-4

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations: they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

LUKE 1:46B-55

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Today's Liturgist: Nancy St. Laurent



ALL CHURCH SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TIME

are the last TWO Sundays in December Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

Bring your extra Christmas goodies

	STEWARDSHIP					
WEEK	8:30	10:30	IN-PERSON	VIDEO	TOTAL	
11/19	39	70	109	35	144	\$ 5,458
11/26	29	53	82	26	108	\$ 3,412
12/03	40	78	118	14	132	\$10,075
12/10	39	74	113	n/a	n/a	\$ 4,649

Our Fiscal Year started July 1 Weekly Offering Needed \$6,038 STEWARDSHIP REPORT: YTD Received \$156,921 YTD Budgeted \$137,371 Christmas Received \$2,226 Christmas Budgeted \$7,800 Report on the animals is on the next page.

HOSPITALITY TIME Today's Hosts:

Christian Education and Worship

Hosts next Sunday, Dec. 24

> ALL CHURCH SUNDAY



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Frances is taking a well deserved vacation. She will return Jan. 2. Office will be open the week of Dec 18 to 21, 9:00-1:00. We welcome Linda Wood who is covering for us. Office will be closed Christmas through New Years Day.



Mon	Dec 18	10:30 AM UWF Book ClubLibrary.		
Tue	Dec 19	11:00 AM YogaCH.		
Wed	Dec 20	9:00 AM Church Workday.		
		4:30 PM Childrens Center Board MeetingMMR,		
Thu	Dec 21	6:30 PM Choir RehearsalSanctuary.		
		8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service-Sanctuary,		
		10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service-Sanctuary,		
Sun	Dec 24	7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service-Sanctuary.		

Abbreviation Legend CH--Criswell Hall S--Sanctuary K--Kitchen L--Library Room #123 MMR--McMillen Room #113 PS--Pastor's Study

HR--Handbell

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, December 24 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols with Traditional Candle Lighting

BRING THE ADVENT ANIMALS TO BABY JESUS

For this year's Advent/Christmas offering we want to bring all the animals to the manger to adore baby Jesus. Please join in the fun and give generously.

So far we have raised \$2,226 towards our goal of \$7,800 consisting of

8 Sheep at \$100 0 Cows at \$250 2 Camels at \$500

But no Angels at \$1000. Won't someone be an Angel and donate an Angel.

Mark your contributions "ADVENT" or specify which animal you would like to sponsor.



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 N. Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805 481-2692 fumcag@yahoo.com worshipweekly.com



December 17, 2023 10:30 AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. "

---Luke 1:46-47

PRELUDE God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Traditional English Carol

INTROIT How Great Our Joy arr. John Rutter

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The day foretold is coming,

when our awakening hearts

will receive the salvation of our God.

The One foretold is coming-----

whose joy will enter our hearts and send us forth singing!

The day is at hand! O World, rejoice!

The Savior draws near!

*OPENING HYMN There's a Song in the Air verses 1-3

No. 249

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

While we are waiting, come to us, O God.
Reveal your presence in our time of worship.
Guide our steps in our speaking and our doing.
Flow through our lives, our church, and our world with your steadfast love and mysterious peace.
In joyful anticipation, we pray. Amen.

HANDBELL CHOIR What Child is This?

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Carolyn Russell

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE The Candle of Joy