HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING



Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande August 2024

140th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, Oct. 20 at 4pm in the Tabernacle

Save the date! Our church will celebrate its 140th Anniversary on Sunday, October 20 at 4PM in the Tabernacle at Camp Arroyo Grande. Camp Arroyo Grande was established by our church in 1885, just one year after the church's founding in Arroyo Grande. The historic 12-sided Tabernacle was built by church members in 1897. This brings us in a full circle. Planned festivities include old-time camp songs, a visit by John Wesley and refreshments. More details to follow. Please invite your friends and family to this fun and historic event.



SAT AUG 3



9:00 AM UMM Breakfast at Hilton Garden Inn. \$20 includes breakfast. Speaker Molly Kern, CEO SLO Food Bank. All are welcome.

SAT AUG 3



10 AM SLO Botanical Garden Visit. Meet at church at 9:20 AM to carpool or meet at the Garden. \$8 fee. **SUN AUG 25** 4PM Movie, Criswell Hall "Unsung Hero" Free movie, popcorn, refreshments. Give free tickets to invite your family and friends!



WED SEP 11 9:30 AM Camp Arroyo Grande Discovery



Hike and Tour. Meet at the church at 9:15 AM to carpool. The camp was originally founded and operated by the Methodist Church. It is also the location of our 140th Anniversary Celebration.



The Trustees have spent a lot of time this last month on security issues. They are especially concerned because over the last six months, our security volunteers, David and

Dorine Bolterman, have found over 80 times that there were unlocked doors, lights left on, heaters left on, and gates left open!

This is of great concern for the members of the Trustees and should be a concern for all. It is the responsibility of all who use the church to make sure that all doors are locked, lights are turned off and heaters or fans are turned off when they leave.

We are very thankful that the Boltermans have volunteered to get their exercise by walking around the church building each evening, but we must all take responsibility for making sure our facilities are secure. The Trustees appreciate everyone's help in this matter. If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

~submitted by Dick Melsheimer, President



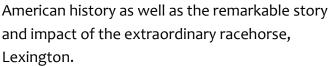
August UWF Book Club Selection: HORSE

Book Club participants will discuss <u>Horse</u>, a novel by Geraldine Brooks, at the Friday, August 16th meeting at 10:30 A.M. in the church library.

Based on the true story of the racehorse, Lexington, it follows the lives of his enslaved groom from the Civil War era, a young artist who painted a portrait of the horse, and an art collector from the 1950's interested in equestrian paintings.

Finally two young students in 2019 become intrigued with Lexington, one studying his powerful bone structure and the other uncovering the unknown story of the groom.

Throughout the story the reader encounters injustices in



See Judy Leonard if you would like to read a library copy of <u>Horse</u>.



submitted by Judy Leonard





WORSHIP LITURGISTS



AUGUST 04

8:30 a.m.----------Joe Brown 10:30 a.m.-----Priscilla Alquist

AUGUST 11

8:30 a.m.----Sharon Roemer 10:30 a.m.----Michelle Richardson

AUGUST 18

8:30 a.m.-----Mary Throndson 10:30 a.m.-----Rose Ann Steiner

AUGUST 25 8:30 a.m.----Susan Throndson 10:30 a.m.----Nancy St. Laurent

~ submitted by Carolyn Anderson



There is an urgent need for ushers to participate in our 2nd service! Several of our steadfast ushers of many years have asked to retire from this service. We are so grateful for their time, welcoming hands and friendship. In honoring their request, we must rebuild our faithful Team of Ushers this year.

I ask as you go about your weekly schedule that you include in your prayers consideration of joining the Team of Ushers.

Both men and women, also couples, are encouraged to give it a try. This is a great opportunity to greet and assist ALL who enter our doors.



We are a "Welcoming Church" with many opportunities for worship, fellowship and service. Our ushers are the first ones people meet as they enter our church. Please see Kerren Brown, who is usually in the Narthex each Sunday morning, to explore joining our Team of Ushers.

~ submitted by Kerren Brown

NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER LIST FOR AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 25, 2024

Pray for the continued vision of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference:
"Ending spiritual and physical hunger."

--Incoming DS Reverend Garth Gilliam

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
8/04/24	Bardsdale UMC Crescenta Valley UMC	Pastor Jaime Torres Pastor Kevin Kang
8/11/24	Big Pine Community UMC Pioneer Memorial UMC	Pastor Kate Hunter Pastor Kate Hunter
8/18/24	St. Matthew's UMC of Newbury Park Camarillo UMC	Pastor Jim Powell Pastor Elbert Kim
8/25/24	Friendly Valley Community UMC Christ Our Savior UMC	Pastor Stephen Meadors Pastor Glenn Hoskins

From the Pastor:

AUGUST WORSHIP!

August 4th, 2024

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost BREAD OF LIFE Ephesians 4:1-8, John 6:24-35

August 11th, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost WALK IN LOVE Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

August 18th, 2024

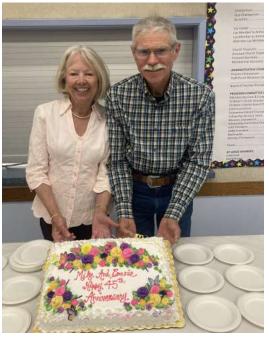
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost MAKE TODAY COUNT Ephesians 5"15-20. John 6:51-58

August 25th, 2024

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost NO GOSPEL LITE Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

Rev. Mary Birgelantis

Fun Fellowship Times in Criswell Hall







Bud's 90th Birthday

Kitchen Crew for Pizza & Bingo



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

August, 2024

Wow! Did we ever have a great Pizza and Bingo

Party. The attendance was more than we could have expected. Rich Neufeld was at his best as our caller for Bingo. Lots of prize winners! Guess we need to have Bingo more often, right!



Look in the next issue for coming activities for the big 140th Anniversary Celebration of our church. Many activities are being planned.

September will begin the <u>Craft Workshops</u> on Thursdays from 10 – 12, in the McMillen Room.

CIRCLES AND GROUPS

All women are invited to attend.

Mary, Martha Esther Circle meets the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am in the McMillen Room. Come join us, we'd love to have you!

Contact Mary Throndson.

<u>Joy Circle</u> has the summer off. See you in September.

<u>Book Club</u> meets 3rd Fridays in the Library at 10:30 am. Contact Judy Leonard for information.

<u>Sew And Sews</u> meet every Tuesday in the McMillen Room 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. We encourage all interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting and just plain visiting and sharing to attend.

~submitted by Gerry McGuire, UWF President



Lila, Marjorie and Jan with their Bingo cards!



Gerry making announcements!

And look at these enticing bags of prizes!

However, per Gerry, these are only HALF of the prizes!



Our 2023-24 Fiscal Year ended June 30 with a \$3,500 surplus. This will partially offset the \$7,168 deficit from the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. Overall stewardship was 104% of plan. Thank you to our wonderful, generous congregation!

Expenses were 103% of plan due to higher than expected expenses due to inflation and the need to purchase a new computer. A number of expenses went up during this past year, including cost of insurance, employee benefits, apportionments, postage, utilities and the Servant Keeper

software which tracks membership and contributions.

I am asking everyone to increase their regular giving if it is at all possible. Even if it is just a little bit - every little bit helps. We DID NOT have a pledge drive this year. Increasing your giving without being asked is one way to show your appreciation for not having a pledge drive, and shows your love and appreciation of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande.

Joel Anderson Acting Treasurer

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande FINANCIAL SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

INCOME	JUNE YTO	JUNE YTD	JUNE YTD	JUNE YTO	j.
4001- Stewardship	Actual	Budget	Diff.	% Budget	Notes
4010 - Regular Offerings	\$312,608	\$300,860	\$11,748	103.9%	YAY!!
4020 - Loose Offering	\$2,809	\$2,785	\$24	100.9%	
4030-60 Seasonal Offerings	\$16,732	\$15,300	\$1,432	109.4%	
Total 4001 - Stewardship 4003 - Other Income	\$332,149	\$318,945	\$13,204	104.1%	
4313 - Preschool Facility Use	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$0	100.0%	
4312 - Property Income	\$9,000	\$8,400	\$600	107.1%	
4335 - Reserve Transfer	\$0	\$0	\$0		
4310-4330 Other Income	\$535	\$408	\$127	131.1%	
Total 4300 - Other Income	\$16,735	\$16,008	\$727	104.5%	
Total Income	\$348,884	\$334,953	\$13,931	104.2%	
EXPENSE					
1000 - Local Ministry					
Total 1110 - Communications	\$4,008	\$4,400	-\$392	91.1%	
Total 1200 - Membership Care	\$0	\$50	-\$50	0.0%	
Total 1300 - Christian Ed. Team	\$1,104	\$800	\$304	138.0%	
Total 1500 - Worship Team	\$5,787	\$2,600	\$3,187	222.6%	\$2K for video production computer
Total 1600 - Mission Team	\$13	\$50	-\$37		
Visitation Ministry	\$0	\$50	-\$50		
Total 1950 - Programs Ministry	\$0	\$50	-\$50	0.0%	
Total 1957 - Consultant	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	100.0%	
Total 1760 - Pastor	\$139,762	\$135,802	\$3,960	102.9%	Higer than plan salary & benefits
1960 Annual Conference	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Total 1000 - Local Ministry	\$156,674	\$149,802	\$6,872	104.6%	
Total 2000 Apportionments	\$27,700	\$27,120	\$580	102.1%	
3000 - Operations					
Total 3300 - Board of Trustees	\$49,209	\$50,000	-\$791	98.4%	
Total 3500 - Finance Committee	\$7,840	\$7,750	\$90	101.2%	
Total 3600 - Church Office	\$7,604	\$7,500	\$104	101.4%	
Total Staff Benefits	\$7,929	\$6,900	\$1,029	114.9%	Worker's Comp higher than plan
Total Staff Salaries	\$88,428	\$85,881	\$2,547	103.0%	
Total 3000 Operations	\$161,010	\$158,031	\$2,979	101.9%	
Total Expenses	\$345,384	\$334,953	\$10,431	103.1%	
Net Surplus/Deficit	\$3,500	\$0	\$3,500		

Treasurer's Comments:

We ended the year with a \$3.5K surplus.

This will partially offset the \$7K deficit from the previous fiscal year

Expenses higher than plan due to inflation and purchase of new computer & software for to produce worship videos. Stewardship was higher than plan due to our wonderful, genrous congregation.

ELT Scholarship News

Dear ELT Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for awarding me the Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year. I appreciate your support and trust in my academic success. This year, I hope to make new friends, learn a multitude of new subjects, and participate in new activities and clubs that I thought I would never try. Although my courses will be difficult this year, I know I can be successful in all of them. I greatly appreciate your generous contribution towards my college journey, and I will put it towards my tuition as well as my housing and fees. I will be back to visit during breaks like last year, and I will always look forward to playing on the Praise Team over Christmas and summer breaks.

Thank you again.

Ian Beard

Note from the editor:

Chloe Keith also sent a message of thanks for the Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship that was awarded to her this year, and in a unique way! It was in the form of the video of her and her horse, Legend, that was shown at an 8:30 AM worship service. Since many of you have not seen the video, Susan Throndson reminds us that the video can be seen in the YouTube church video from July 7th. Susan has also given us her paraphrase of Chloe's thanks:

"Hi everyone, Legend and I want to say hi from Texas. Thank you so much for the scholarship this year. It's really going to help me in my last year of college. I can't wait to finish up my degrees and get everything done. Thank you guys so much for your love and support always. It's been so amazing to know you are there for me and that you are always cheering me on. So thank you so much!"

Chloe Keith

MEET NEW MEMBER, JOYCE SINGELMAN



Joyce Singelman joined our church on June 23. She is a familiar face to many, as she has been attending 2nd service with her twin sister Evelyn for some time. Familiar to the Central Coast, she grew up in Santa Barbara and was active in Disciples of Christ, Girl Scouts and Y Club. She attended UCSB, started teaching primary grades, married and started her family. After retirement, she enjoyed RV camping and traveling, dancing, watercolor lessons and church activities. She

has also been busy with many children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren! Recently she moved to Pismo Beach to be close to her daughter Lynlee in Grover and found our church. She stays busy with yoga, gym classes, walks and hikes. We are blessed to have her as our newest member!

~submitted by Priscilla Alquist

LATEST SCAM ALERTS

The scammers have been busy this past month. The Tribune recently reported about Seniors who lost thousands of dollars to scammers. Some things to watch for:

- * Scammers always press you with a sense of urgency, so you don't have time to think.
- * No legitimate organization demands payment in gift cards, crypto currency such as Bitcoin.
- * No legitimate organization is going to send a courier to pick up cash, gold bars, etc.
- * Scammer e-mails often do not address you by name, just something generic like Dear Customer.
- * Some scammers use the name in your e-mail address. I get e-mails to Dear FUMCAGcommunications.
- * Look at the return e-mail address (Apple makes this difficult for reasons known only to them). The e-mail address should correspond to the company that sent it. Bank of America is not going to send you an e-mail that from a Russian or Indian domain (.ru or .in)
- * Scammers often send out bulk e-mails using BCC (Blind Carbon Copy). Be cautious if the e-mail indicates it is also going out to "Undisclosed Recipients

Here are a few of the recent scams going around:

Fake on-line bills: Members have been getting fake e-mails claiming to be from PayPal, We Transfer, Norton Lifelock Security, Best Buy, etc. The thing they have in common is that they provide a phone number to call to cancel the transaction. **DO NOT CALL THAT NUMBER.** The scammers want to get your bank account information so they can rob you blind. Legitimate on-line payments do not list a phone number to cancel. They do not need your bank account or credit card information as they would already have it to make the transaction in the first place.

FastTrak: A number of people have been getting texts supposedly from FastTrak or similar toll road providers saying they owe a toll. They don't say exactly when, where or the license plate number of the vehicle. Legitimate FastTrak tolls include this information. Unless you specifically gave FastTrak your phone number, you can delete it. FastTrak sends notices by U.S. mail. If you have not been on a toll road or bridge recently you can delete it.

Fake Facebook Friend Requests: Scammers have been sending out fake Facebook Friend requests. Some of these even come from people who passed away. If you get a friend request from someone you are already connected with in Facebook, it is probably safe to ignore it. If unsure, contact the person. The false friend Facebook pages will show few if any connections.

Docusign requests: Requests to sign documents on-line. These are typically done as part of real estate transactions or financial transactions. In a legitimate transaction the sender will usually notify you before sending any Docusign documents. If you are not in the middle of a transaction you should delete it. Even if you are in the middle of a transaction make sure it is actually from the firm you are dealing with and not a scammer. A phone call to the firm could save you a lot of grief.



Dear Congregation, your Mission Team is pleased to introduce you to Katherine Parker, a United Methodist Missionary serving in Nepal. We have chosen her to be in a Covenant relationship with our congregation and will be helping to support her work financially with a pledge donation of \$2,500 this year from our Mission Endowment account. Katherine visited our team last fall and we were impressed with the community development work she is doing in Nepal and look forward to sharing that with you in the year to come.

Methodists have been a part of the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) since it was founded in 1954. Katherine's work in Nepal involves the development of frameworks for helping the community determine how they would like their lives to change and giving them the tools to enable them to achieve those changes. The UMN work in transformation is in five areas: education, health, peacebuilding, good governance and sustainable livelihoods. She works with groups from each community as they focus on issues important to them such as water, sanitation and hygiene, maternal and child health and adolescent sexual

reproduction and rights. Katherine was previously based in one of UMN's field offices in western Nepal and now works in participatory research across the organization from a base in Kathmandu, where she is also a part of the UMN leadership team.

Katherine is passionate about the process of linking values to action. She believes in telling the stories of our lives and exploring the stories of our faith. These enable us to give voice to our shared values and work together across cultural and other divisive barriers. She believes together we can progress towards a world where every person can live to his or her fullest potential.

In Nepal since 2013, Katherine formerly served in Cambodia with the Community Health and Agricultural Development program of the Methodist Mission there. She has been a missionary since 2007. Out of college in 2000, she became a mission intern for three years with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan and Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Her home church is Mt. Tamalpais United Methodist Church in Mill Valley, CA.

~submitted by Priscilla Alquist, Mission Team Chair



Katherine Parker, photographed in Nepal.

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	ay	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAPPY SUMMER!	CH-Criswell Hal L-L MMR-	eviation Legend I S-Sanctuary Kitchen ibrary Room #123 McMillen Room #113 udy HR-Handbell Ro	K- 3		1 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH	2	9:00 AM UMM Breakfast & Speaker at Hilton Garden Inn, \$20 includes breakfast. 9:20 AM Meet at church to carpool to SLO Botanical Garden, 10 AM tour. \$8 fee. Both events have signups at Connection desk
4 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	5 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	6 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 7:00 PM Board of Trustees-MMR	7 9:00 AM Church Morning-CH 10:00 AM Fellow Committee-L		8 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH	9	
11 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	12 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH	9:00 AM Church Morning -CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering-L 1:30 PM Mission Team-MMR		9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:30 AM Staff ParishPS 4:00 PM Children's Center Board-MMR	16 10:30 AM UWF Book Club-L	Have an awesome Summen!
18 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	19 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	20 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew & Sews-MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1:30 PM Finance-L	9:00 AM Church Morning-CH 2:00 Church Cou MMR		22 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH	23 11:00 AM Nominations-PS	24
25 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 4:00 PM Free Movie-CH	26 4:30 PM Commu- nications-L 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH	28 9:00 AM Church Morning-CH 10:00 AM Mary- Martha-Esther Circle-MMR		29 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH	30	goodbye, august



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TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

In June the Bible Study group completed Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings by Matthew L. Skinner.

After taking a summer break the study

After taking a summer break the study group will begin with a new book,

CALLED by Susan Robb--Hearing and Responding to God's Voice--Lessons from Six Biblical Characters.

Books are available NOW from Nancy.
Get a head start on reading!

Sessions begin at 1:00 PM on Tuesdays in September (exact date TBD) with weekly gatherings in Criswell Hall.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?

Do you enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the altar on Sundays? Dates are available for Sunday morning flower dedications in upcoming months. Your floral tributes are welcomed and will be placed on the altar for both services on Sunday. You can pick up your arrangement after the second service. Just let us know.

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.

You have the option to have flowers from Grand Bouquet or have Brad Bettencourt make your arrangement. Please contact Frances in the Church Office. She is the liaison with both Grand Bouquet and Brad.



Augus	
<u>Tina Moore</u>	08/01
Priscilla Alquist	08/02
Jacqueline Ridge	08/02
Rosslyn Clauson	08/04
Patty Williams	08/07
Nancy St. Laurent	08/08
Gerry McGuire	08/10
Frank Ridge	08/10
John MacKeen	08/12
Bill Gerrish	08/13
Bob Underwood	08/15
Nancy Gerrish	08/17
Betty Stephens	08/17
Carol Gary	08/19
Nancy Burns	08/20
Dorine Bolterman	08/22
Joe Brown	08/23
Frank Williams	08/23
Cristy Van Hook	08/24
Niki Raetz	08/26
Sharon Roemer	08/27
Peter Paredes	08/28
Cecile Huggins	08/30
Wyatt Russell	08/31

HOSPITALITY SNACK HOSTS

AUG 4 Trustees

AUG 11 Staff-Parish

AUG 18 Finance Team

AUG 25 Nominating



2021

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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



The United Methodist Men are having a breakfast meeting on Saturday, August 3rd at 9:00 AM at the Hilton Garden Inn.

The guest speaker is Molly Kern, CEO of the SLO Food Bank.

Admission, which includes breakfast, is \$20.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sign up ASAP

~Paul Holden, President

ISSUE

COVER STORY

Celebration & Summer Events

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Children's Center Chronicle

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Sign up at the Connections table on Sunday for any of these great activities.

Saturday, August 3rd, San Luis Botanical Garden is our next garden tour. It is located near El Chorro campground and across Highway 1 from Cuesta College at 3450 Dairy Creek Road. The tour is scheduled for 10 AM, so meet at the garden entrance at 9:50 or at the church at 9:30 to carpool. The gardens depict five Mediterranean climate regions of the world. There is an admission fee of \$8.





Movie, August 25 at 4:00 PM, "Unsung Hero". Based on a true story, we see a couple, after the collapse of their music business, move from Down Under, along with their seven children. The movie shows the power of Family. The movie is free, as is also popcorn & refreshments.

Nature Discovery Hike and Tour at Camp Arroyo Grande Sept. 11, 9:30 AM. Meet at the church at 9:00 if you want to carpool. This camp was originally founded and operated by the Methodist church. For those that don't know, it is located just above the village and close to the original First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Ask Lorie Ford about the church.

~submitted by Gerry McGuire, Chair