



**HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING**

# Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande **NOVEMBER 2024**

## *IN-PERSON CHARGE CONFERENCE*

*NOVEMBER 17, 2024 - 12:30 – 2:30 P.M.*

*COME ONE, COME ALL!  
LUNCH AND ANNUAL BUSINESS*

We will celebrate “Charge Conference” as a “Church Conference” which, according to the Book of Discipline, means this meeting is open to the whole church, not just our elected leaders. This is an Annual Meeting with our District Superintendent Rev. Garth Gilliam. He will be with us for both worship services as well. It is our first single church in person Charge Conference since 2012.

The Charge Conference includes a reflection by our District Superintendent, a celebration of our ministry over the past year and important church business including approval of clergy salary & benefits package, membership audit report, electing leadership, approving the budget, reviewing the report of the pastor and other ministry reports.

### **GARTH GILLIAM**

Garth Gilliam became the North District Superintendent of the California-Pacific Annual Conference on July 1, 2024. As a Full Elder, Reverend Gilliam brings to the role of District Superintendent over two decades of work across The California-Pacific Conference.

Reverend Gilliam sensed a call to full-time ministry while working as an Engineer on Rockwell’s Space Station program. After leaving the aerospace industry, Reverend Gilliam served in full-time ministry with the Pacoima First United Methodist Church. He served for 3 years as the Director and Community Developer of the Shalom Zone Urban Development Project. During his work with the Shalom Zone Project, he created several successful programs, including a Men’s Ministry, an Alternative Worship Service and a nationally recognized Mentoring Ministry for boys at risk that won many awards, including the AACF’s President’s Award.

From there, Reverend Gilliam was appointed by The California-Pacific Conference to serve as the Director of Youth, Young Adults and Camp Ministry.

In this position, he created many new conference-level ministries including the Youth Worker Academy, a conference-wide Rites of Passage Program, the Urban Kids Camp and the Urban Plunge Mexico Mission Project, which annually took over 120 participants to build homes, and to provide medical services and children’s ministry in severely impoverished areas of Baja Mexico.

In 2004, after leading for 8 years in a conference staff position, Reverend Gilliam was appointed as Associate Pastor at Santa Clarita UMC. In 2006, he was appointed as Senior Pastor of Sherman Oaks UMC.

Reverend Gilliam received his Bachelor’s Degree from California State University in Northridge, a Master’s Degree from Azusa Pacific University and a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is married to Kimberly and is the proud father of two daughters and one son – Autumn, Summer and Nehemiah. Garth will preside at our Charge Conference on November 17.

## Year end is a time for giving – And saving on taxes



There are a number of ways to give to our Church that could save you money on taxes, even if you do not itemize deductions.

### **GIVING APPRECIATED PROPERTY**

If you own investments that have increased in value (stocks, bonds, real estate, or mutual funds), you can donate them to a church or charity and take a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value and avoid declaring the capital gain of the assets as income. Many people consider this the equivalent of a double deduction.

### **IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS**

Owners of traditional IRA, and SEP and SIMPLE IRA accounts must begin taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) once the account holder is age 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022). Failure to do so may result in substantial tax penalties. The Distribution is considered taxable income and may even push one into a higher tax bracket UNLESS the funds are given directly to a qualified charity, such as our church. With a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a check goes directly from your IRA to your church or the charity you select.

### **GIVING & RETAINING INCOME FOR LIFE**

Did you know you can give to a charity while retaining income from the gift for the rest of your life?

A charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust enables you to receive flexible or guaranteed income. This offers several attractive benefits. You could receive income that exceeds income that you are currently receiving on C.D.s or bonds. A portion of the annual annuity may be tax free. You could receive a charitable income tax deduction. The California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation offers a number of charitable giving options. Their website is [www.CPUMF.org](http://www.CPUMF.org) or they may be contacted by phone at 626-568-7347

### **GIVING UNNEEDED LIFE INSURANCE**

Do you own an old life insurance policy that is no longer needed? Perhaps the purpose for the policy no longer exists (your children are grown or your mortgage is paid off) or your financial situation has changed and mitigates the need for the insurance. Consider giving the policy to the church or a charity and receive a charitable income tax deduction for the lesser of your cost basis or the replacement value. If the value is more than you wish to donate, consider cashing in the policy and giving a lesser portion.

Please consult your tax advisor for details and what would work best for your situations.

Joel Anderson  
Acting Treasurer

## BOARD OF Trustees' MEETING

Have you noticed the trees on the church property? They have all been trimmed and shaped so that they are not blocking windows or filling the gutters with leaves. They also trimmed the tree in the Children's Center playground. The children had a great time

watching the "big machines" work! Thanks to Bunyon Brothers for their great work!

Watch for the replanting of the garden areas on either side of the Halcyon entrance to the church parking lot. Our regular gardeners from Hacienda Landscape will be doing most of that planting.

Have any of you discovered how the narthex entrance to Criswell Hall has changed? Something is missing! Can you identify what is no longer there?

The weekly work group has been busy replacing tires on toy trucks and putting together new tiny chairs. Such fun!

~submitted by Dick Melsheimer, Chair



**WORSHIP  
LITURGISTS**



**NOVEMBER 03**

8:30 a.m.-----Joe Brown  
10:30 a.m.-----Judy Leonard

**NOVEMBER 10**

8:30 a.m.-----Lucy Jacob  
10:30 a.m.-----Barbara Reineke

**NOVEMBER 17**

8:30 a.m.-----Elwood Hyden  
10:30 a.m.-----Rose Ann Steiner

**NOVEMBER 24**

8:30 a.m.-----David Beard  
10:30 a.m.-----Kent Unsworth

~ submitted by Carolyn Anderson

**USHERS**



There is an urgent need for ushers to participate in our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 NOVEMBER 3 to NOVEMBER 24, 2024**

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

*-- DS Reverend Garth Gilliam*

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
11/03/24	First UMC of San Fernando Santa Clarita Korean Mission	Pastor Teaira Parker Pastor Sang Hun Park
11/10/24	Santa Barbara First UMC Santa Barbara First UMC	Pastor Liz Aguilar Pastor Robb Fuesler
11/17/24	Palmdale First UMC ReNew UMC	Pastor Jim White Pastor Sam Park
11/24/24	Ojai UMC Pacoima First UMC	Pastor Kdait Donaldson Pastor Adrian Garcia

**From the Pastor****GRACE AND GRATITUDE  
Here, There and Everywhere!****November is a month of GRACE and GRATITUDE!**

September-October ushered us into fun, festivals and fall activities like the Arroyo Grande Harvest Parade that our church happily participated in. November continues to bless us with opportunities to participate in craft fairs, boutiques and holiday activities as we prepare for Thanksgiving, Christmas and gift-giving. Along with the gifts we give to friends and family, we will give to people in need in our community through clothing, food, and toy drives, along with special projects like the Angel Tree that our congregation has so lovingly supported over time. In worship it will be a month of GRACE AND GRATITUDE.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 we celebrate ALL SAINTS' in worship. We will light candles of remembrance, from our Christ Candle, for each member who has passed away since All Saints' 2023. We look back and say, "FOR ALL THAT HAS BEEN, THANKS!" as we give thanks not only for our members who passed this year, but for our dear friends and family members who have gone before us in years past.

November 10th 2024, we look ahead to the future and complete that phrase from Dag Hammarskjold's book MARKINGS saying, "FOR ALL THAT SHALL BE, YES!" Our pastor will be preaching the first two Sundays of the month.

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, is our in-person Charge Conference with our District Superintendent presiding. We are overjoyed that our Superintendent Rev. Garth Gilliam has also accepted our invitation to be in the pulpit at both Sunday morning worship services. What a privilege it is to have Garth present with us. Our thanks to Joel Anderson who is providing overnight accommodations at his "Shellabration" Beach House rental. Our church offers this hospitality through Joel, and we are grateful.

November 24<sup>th</sup> is both CHRIST THE KING Sunday and THANKSGIVING Sunday. We will give thanks together in worship and end the liturgical year on this last Sunday of the long season of Pentecost before we jump into the journey to Christmas during Advent which begins the next week on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. There is often an extra Sunday between Thanksgiving and the first Sunday in Advent, but there isn't this year. So, hang onto your hat and get ready for a sprint to Christmas!

*Rev. Mary Biegelakis*

**UPCOMING SUNDAYS**

November 3, 2024  
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY  
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
FOR ALL THAT HAS BEEN, THANKS!  
Psalm 24, Mark 12:28-34

November 10, 2024  
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS  
Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost  
FOR ALL THAT SHALL BE, YES!  
Psalm 127, Mark 12:38-44

November 17, 2024  
CHARGE CONFERENCE SUNDAY  
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
District Superintendent  
Rev. Garth Gilliam preaching both services

November 24, 2024  
CHRIST THE KING/Thanksgiving Sunday  
FOREVER EXALTED  
Psalm 95, John 18:33-37



## 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.

November, 2024

The Celebration of our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church in the community was fun and very well attended. We laughed with Bud's jokes as he led us through the program, learned a lot with Rose Ann as she explained the history of our church, and were charmed with a visit from John Wesley and his sermon. The UWF ladies were sporting their new aprons for the first time.

Thank you all for your participation.

Our Holiday Boutique is FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, and SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, FROM 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

See you there for this spectacular annual event

from our women! A special shopping time for church members will also be on SUNDAY, NOV 3<sup>rd</sup> after church services.

We are excited to announce the formation of a new circle, designed specifically for working women. They will meet in the early evening. Time, day and place will be decided. If you are



interested, contact Susan Thronson. Help us support the forming of this new group!

### ***CIRCLES AND GROUPS***

All women are invited to attend.

Mary, Martha Esther Circle meets on the last Wednesday of the month. We will be taking November and December off due to the Holidays. See you back in January.

Joy Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month, 3-5 PM in members' homes. Check with Kerren Brown for more information and for meeting location and date.

Book Club will meet on the 4th Friday of November (a change from the usual 3rd Friday), in the Library at 10:00 AM.

Sew And Sews meet every Tuesday in the McMillen Room 10 until 1. Bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. We encourage all interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting, as well as visiting and sharing to attend.

~submitted by Gerry McGuire,  
President



### **NOVEMBER UWF BOOK CLUB SELECTION:**

The Women by Kristin Hannah is a fictional account of an idealistic young nurse, Frances "Frankie" McGrath, who enlists in the Army Nurse Corps during the Viet Nam war. She has no idea of the chaos, destruction, and heartache she and the other soldiers will encounter in the senseless war. Despite her courageous service, Frankie begins to question her country's involvement in the war. When she returns home,

she is stunned by the lack of welcome she receives in a divided America.

The UWF Book Club will meet on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 A.M. in the church library to discuss The Women.

We invite you to join us for a lively discussion.

Please bring your own copy of the book.



~submitted by Judy Leonard

## What is your church story?

As part of our 140th anniversary celebration year, the Communications Committee is asking everyone to tell their church story. These will be collected and published as part of our celebrations. This month we are featuring two stories, and we are look forward to receiving yours!

### Our Church Story by David and Dorine Bolterman

Dorine was baptized Catholic and attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church and David was baptized Methodist and went to a nondenominational church. When we got engaged, we decided we would visit a lot of the churches in the area and choose one that we both agreed on. We joined St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in 1964 and went there for 50 years. When it was our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary we renewed our vows and asked Father Terry who had been our Episcopal temporary minister to come from up north to renew our vows at the Portuguese Hall in Arroyo Grande. We started to look for a new church in 2014. On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2014 we went to three services: Peace Lutheran, First United Methodist and First Presbyterian. We visited a lot of different churches in 2014. Finally in November 2014 we decided on the First United Methodist Church, of which Reverend David Burgeson was the minister. We became members on March 1, 2015. Judy Atwood was the greeter at the time. I remember David would be socializing and I would be sitting at a table in Criswell Hall for coffee hour by myself and Kent Unsworth would always sit and talk with me. Judy trained David and me to be greeters, which was great because that way we would get to know the parish members at that service.

*Dave and Dorine Bolterman*



140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PHOTOS

## My Church Story by Ann Wilson

My church background is pretty ecumenical. I was dedicated at age 3 at the Baptist church. My mother took us to church and Sunday School at the Presbyterian church until I was 8. Unfortunately, she got tired of making sure my older brother did his Sunday School lessons and stopped taking us. I didn't realize until I was grown myself how important it was to get your children to church! I was sorry not to go as I enjoyed the Bible stories and being with the other kids. I was a neighborhood church so I went to school with a lot of them. That was the end of church attendance for me until college.

I have always loved to sing, so in junior high I took mixed chorus, continued through high school, with some voice lessons in college. It was in college that I had a spiritual re-awakening. A friend started talking to me about Jesus and the importance of asking Him into your heart. I began attending the Evangelical Free Church with my friend and was baptized in 1975. I joined the choir and sang with them until 2004.

In 2004 I started moving around California doing various pharmacy contract jobs until 2009. During this time I attended Episcopal, Community and Lutheran churches. When I took a permanent job in San Luis Obispo, I started looking for a church home. Jerrilyn Trujillo invited me to attend FUMCAG the summer of 2010. I felt very welcomed and at home. Jan Moore introduced me to Julie Burns. Julie graciously asked me to join choir in the fall of 2010. It was wonderful to be back in choir. To me it is an honor and a privilege to sing in a real choir with real musicians.

I became a member under Rev. David Burgeson. The tenets of the Methodist faith appealed to me—that all were equal (man, woman, child) in the life of the church.

In 2016, I met and married Jim. We were counseled to attend a new church that neither of us had been to. We tried several churches in San Luis Obispo the summer of 2016. Jim was happy at one of them, but I was not. I returned to FUMCAG for a few years. I really tried to fit in to the church Jim likes, but it just wasn't the church experience I longed for. I stopped going to church at all, then COVID put a kibosh on live church. I returned to FUMCAG the spring of 2023. Unfortunately, I started having health issues that led to a chemo journey that began in August of 2023 and is ongoing.

And what a journey it has been! It has refined my faith to be so utterly dependent on God's grace daily. I am so grateful during this "giving thanks" time for the FUMCAG family who have prayed for me faithfully, and given me hope. My oncologist says it's a gift from God that I am alive...I like being a mystery that he can't figure out. He would really like me not to be in public but after having COVID in August 2024, I told him I was back in choir, hugging the people and eating the food. Living life to the fullest. I truly believe Jesus came to give abundant life however that shows up.

Here's my daily takeaway; Pray for healing, use the brain the good Lord gave me, and walk on the water with Jesus. I encourage you to live, and to live your faith!

Serving Him with you in love, *Ann Wilson*

## The Angel Tree

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande will have another Angel Tree this upcoming Christmas. The Department of Social Services contacted us again this year.

The Angel Tree will be set up on Sat., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> in Criswell Hall. The gift tags will be on the tree on 11/17/24 for parishioners to pick up a gift tag. I will be picking up the gifts each week after the church services. You may also bring your gift(s) to the church office during the week after contacting the church secretary.

There are two tags for each gift. The original tag is the one you take and return attached to your gift that you

purchased. The duplicate tag stays on the Angel Tree and you are to write your name on that tag. The duplicate tag is necessary in case your original tag is lost, or for persons who have not turned in their gift by the deadline date. The gifts are due no later than 12/18/24 by noon.

Thank you for your continued support to help the needy children in our county. Your gifts do make a difference in these children's lives. Thank you and God bless you.

~submitted by Jan Treat





The Church Council spent much of their time during the last meeting discussing the plans for the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and Christmas plans. Both of these activities involved most of the members of the Council!

In addition, we discussed the plans for our upcoming Charge Conference which will be held on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope everyone will try to be there to get an update on all the things our church and our

members have accomplished this year!

We have a very exciting holiday season in store for our congregation. There will be activities for all – hanging of the greens to decorate the sanctuary, an Advent Bible study, a special luncheon put on by the Missions team, an opportunity to make all sorts of Christmas crafts, a program presented by our Children’s Center children and a special evening of music, skits and refreshments!

Be sure to read the Castanet from cover to cover so you can plan your activities for November and December!

*~submitted by Patti Melsheimer, chair*



140<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PHOTOS

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

### No Movies in November and December

With the holidays fast approaching, we will suspend the end of the month movies as they would coincide with special family and friends time. We will resume in January.

Coming up faster than you think is the **HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA VARIETY SHOW** on Friday, **December 6<sup>th</sup>**.



Remember that we are looking for talented volunteers and are starting **now!** Actors, actresses, comedians, musicians, poets, you name it! Check with Gerry McGuire. Rehearsals will be soon. It was so much fun last year you won't want to miss it.

**Sunday, December 1**, we look forward to beginning to observe Advent with a light lunch of soup, salad, roll and cookies followed with a Craft Workshop after



church. We already have people lined up to lead a craft and would love to have more helpers. There will be gingerbread house making, cookie decorating, Advent wreath making, beaded candy canes and more! What fun!

This takes place in Criswell Hall from 11:30 AM to 4 PM, and only costs \$15 per person or \$25 per family.

In January we will have a visit to see the elephant seals and possibly have lunch in Cambria. Date to be announced. Sign up to be included.



Sign up for events at the Connection Desk  
in the Narthex.

*~submitted by Gerry McGuire, Chair*





# News from the Mission Team

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR IS ALMOST HERE!

### NOVEMBER 10 & 17 in CRISWELL HALL

Your Mission Team has planned a great opportunity for you to do advance Christmas shopping that will provide a unique Christmas gift to give your loved ones as well as support worthwhile non-profit organizations! After service on November 10, there will be tables set up displaying various gifts you can purchase along with a Christmas gift card you can use in your Christmas giving and a receipt for your donation to the non-profit organization. If there are any selections left over, they will be available again on November 17 before the Charge Conference begins.

The organizations on display that will receive your donations are as follows: Habitat for Humanity, Heifer International, Women at Risk International, our Methodist Missionary Katherine Parker's work in Nepal, and the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition here locally. Cash or checks will be gratefully accepted for these organizations. Come and help us give a lasting Gift of Life! It will be fun!!



## DONATE TO UMCOR FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

Back in September, your Mission Team brought you an article in the Castanet about the wonderful work done by UMCOR for their disaster response around the world this year. Although it included the warning that there was a predicted record-breaking storm season this year for the U.S., no one had any idea it would be as bad as it has been. Hurricanes Helen and Milton have devastated the East Coast and the season is not over yet! UMCOR is in great need of continued donations to help in their efforts to feed and give support to millions affected by the storms. Please prayerfully consider a donation at this critical time by cash or check. Use our regular offering envelopes in the pew. If you write a check, please make it out to FUMC-AG Disaster Relief on the memo line. Bless you!

*~submitted by Priscilla Alquist, Mission Team Chair*

## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT SPECIAL SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27

On United Methodist Student Day, we partner with other Methodist congregations in a special offering to support the next generation of young disciples on their educational journey. One of the denomination's six special offerings, United Methodist Student Day celebrates young adults and gives them a financial and spiritual boost.





# Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

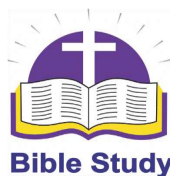
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## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

Meets on  
Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. In Criswell Hall  
The group is beginning a new book  
**An Unlikely Advent**  
by Rachel Billups  
starting on Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> for  
six weekly sessions.  
**Books are available from Nancy.**  
**All are welcome to join us!**



## 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. Contact Frances in the Church Office

**The cost for altar flowers is \$30.**



## Daylight Savings Time

Set your clocks back  
Saturday night,  
Nov. 2, 2024 at 2:00 a.m.



RoseMary MacKeen 11/16  
Helen Gugler 11/21  
Christina Cuddy 11/23  
Adrian Paredes 11/23  
Del Hollinger 11/29

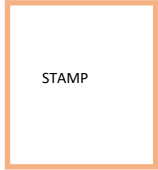


Have we missed **your** birthday? If so, it is not listed in our data base. Please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birthday to our monthly birthday list!



# First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road  
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**NOVEMBER** Visit us on the web at **worshipweekly.com**



Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande  
[www.facebook.com/fumcag](http://www.facebook.com/fumcag)

2024

### SUNDAY HOSPITALITY SNACK HOSTS

- NOV 03 Finance Committee
- NOV 10 Nominating Committee
- NOV 17 Worship Team
- NOV 24 Children's Center
- DEC 1 Staff-Parish
- DEC 8 Endowment/ELT
- DEC 15 Trustees
- DEC 22 Mission Team
- DEC 29 Fellowship Ministry

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Nov 17 12:30-2:30 PM**

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*Children's Center Chronicle*

### Mission Statement of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande is a joyful, active and fun-loving faith community. We worship on Sunday mornings and offer opportunities for Christian growth, fellowship, health and increased well-being all week long. Members represent a wide range of theological and political views and commit to treating each other with love and respect in the midst of differences. We nurture spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of God's love in Christ as we work together to spread the love of God in our community and in the world.