



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande FEBRUARY 2025

BINGO!



ED, REBECA AND GUESTS: LOTS OF WINNING CAME FROM THIS GROUP!



THE BOLTERMAN'S HAVING A GREAT TIME AND HELPED AS WELL!



RAY AND BERNIE ENJOYING PIZZA!



EVELYN AND DEB NEED JUST ONE MORE NUMBER!

From the Pastor:

Pastor Mary is on vacation as this month's issue goes to print. She will return later this week!



Sun. Feb. 09 Superbowl Chili Takeout
After second service
\$20 serves 2
Sign ups encouraged



Sun. Feb. 16 UMM Sweetheart
Pancake Breakfast
Serving: 9:15 - 10:45 AM
Tickets: \$10 per person



COMING SOON



Sat. March 15: Morro Bay Natural History Museum and Morro Bay State Park Boardwalk
Leave church 12:15 Admission \$3

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of December 31, we are halfway through our Fiscal year, which started July 1. Regular tithes and offerings are at 109% of plan. This is good, but is primarily due to a few of our generous members who give once a year at the end of the calendar year. I appreciate these wonderful gifts, but we have to remember that these funds have to last us through the rest of the year. In previous years were usually further ahead of plan at the end of December. Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings fell about \$3700 below plan and \$3,100 below last year. This leaves a gap in our funding. Overall expenses have been running essentially at plan. A number of our expenses are increasing in 2025. Overall, our income is somewhat less that where I would like it to be at this time, but we are only halfway through our fiscal year, so there is plenty of opportunity to catch up. We need **EVERYONE** to continue their generous giving so that we can end the fiscal year without of deficit. It always looks good when a retiring pastor leaves a church with a fiscal year surplus rather than a deficit.

We are having a very generous response towards the Los Angeles Fire Relief. Over \$9000 was raised in just two weeks!! The funds are being remitted weekly to our Annual Conference which is headquartered in Pasadena. They are close to the fires and apply the funds to where the needs are greatest. Initially funds were being used to provide Target and Walmart gift cards to families that lost everything in the fires.

- Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

WORSHIP LITURGISTS



FEBRUARY 2

8:30 a.m.-----Joe Brown
10:30 a.m.-----Joyce Singleman

FEBRUARY 16

8:30 a.m.-----Lucy Jacob
10:30 a.m.-----Rosslyn Clauson

FEBRUARY 9

8:30 a.m.—Mary Thronson
10:30 a.m.-- Michelle Richardson

FEBRUARY 23

8:30 a.m.-----Elwood Hyden
10:30 a.m.-----Carolyn Anderson

~ submitted by Carolyn Anderson

Devastating fires leave the Altadena and Pacific Palisades Methodist churches and community without homes. Our church is supporting both churches through the District drive.



Community United Methodist Church in Pacific Palisades was founded in 1922. Our church was one of the first structures in the town.

Over the last 100+ years, the building at 801 Via de la Paz hosted not only a church and a preschool, but countless community gatherings: baptisms, weddings, funerals, holidays, carnivals, dances, plays, classes, volleyball, basketball, 12-step meetings and many potlucks.

The building was brought down by the Palisades Fire in a matter of hours on **Jan 8, 2025**.

Our church community also lost dozens of homes and a beloved member to the fire.

As we mourn our losses, we know that tomorrow the sun will rise on another day and we will continue to serve our community.

People are asking what they can do to help.

Please see the links below for information. And keep the prayers coming.



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

As the Castanet goes to press, we are visiting the Elephant Seals.

as there is a limit of 15 people on the tour.

Friday, March 28, we will tour the Mighty Cap Mushroom in Paso Robles. A 45 minute tour is set for 11 AM. You will get the chance to see how mushrooms are grown in Paso Robles. There is a \$20 fee per adult and \$10 for each child 13 and under. Sign up soon -

We are also busy coming up with new ideas!

*---submitted by Gerry McGuire,
Fellowship chair*

New Membership Class for February

Would you like to transfer your membership from your previous church home to this congregation in Arroyo Grande? Are you making the decision to join a church for the very first time? Wherever you are on the faith journey, we welcome you to come to a gathering on

February 23, 2025 , from 9:45 am to 10:15 am at church, to meet and bring your questions. We will invite you to tell us a little bit about yourself, where you are coming from, and what you need in a church as we answer your questions and give you information about our First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande.





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.

FEBRUARY 2025

A new circle is forming especially for working women and those looking for an early evening circle. If you are interested, contact Susan Thronson or leave your name with the office, or Gerry McGuire or Mary Hawkins. Be one of the founding members!

UWF had a very successful Pizza and Bingo in January, doubling the number of people anticipated. What fun we had and with quick action we managed to get enough pizza for everyone! As a fund raiser, we raised a lot of money for our charities.

Superbowl chili is soon going to be here again. Sunday, February 9 is the day! You get enough chili, cornbread and cookies to serve 2 people, all for \$20. You may choose between turkey, or beef, with or without beans, or vegetarian.

Circles and Groups

Mary, Martha, Esther Circle meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

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

Sew and Sews meet every Tuesday in the McMillen Room at 10 until 1. Bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. We encourage those interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting and just plain visiting and sharing.

Book Club will meet the 3rd Friday, in the Library at 10:30 AM. Contact Judy Leonard for a book if interested.

Two Memorial Services will be held in February:

Bill Weitkamp on the 8th at 10 AM

Wayne Huggins on the 15th at 11 AM

-submitted by Gerry McGuire, UWF President



FEBRUARY 2025 UWF BOOK CLUB SELECTION: The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

The UWF Book Club will discuss an unusual book, The Midnight Library, by Matt Haig, on Friday, February 14th at 10:30 AM in the church library. The main premise is that a midnight library exists filled with books that give people a chance to try out a different life than they have chosen. In the science fiction account of a Midnight Library beyond the edge of the universe, books reveal the story of another possible life as well as the one you have led.

What kind of life could you have led if you had made different choices? Would your life be better? In the book, Nora Seed explores the Midnight Library selections to try to decide what is meaningful in life.



Join us in discussing this thought provoking book on February 14th. See Mary Whitson if you would like to borrow one from a library book kit.

--submitted by Judy Leonard

Wishing Frances the very best in her retirement!



Piedras Blancas trip to see the Elephant Seals

Pictures courtesy of Lucy Jacob and Nan Lippett.

Nan reported:

The trip to the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Rookery was an exceptional experience!! We saw an elephant seal being born directly in front of us. We all thoroughly enjoyed docent Amanda who travels all the way from southern Los Angeles to volunteer. She was especially great at sharing.



Remembering Loved Ones Through The Tree of Life

Most of you have probably noticed the Tree of Life located in the narthex of our church. This tree isn't found growing in a pot but consists of branches, leaves, and stones mounted on the wall. As a cornerstone of the Endowment Fund, it honors the memory of loved ones and friends in the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Or it can be used to commemorate special occasions such as weddings or anniversaries, or honor parents, children, family, or friends.

The stones at the base of the tree and leaves along the branches are inscribed as requested by the donor. The stones are reserved for contributions of \$2000 or more while the leaves are inscribed for a minimum contribution of \$500. The funds from your Tree of Life donation are distributed to a church need of your choice. If not designated, the funds will be used for such needs as mission outreach, charitable and educational activities, scholarships, and maintaining church property.

A leaf or stone on The Tree of Life is a lasting memorial to loved ones who have passed away or special people or occasions in our lives. If you are interested in donating to The Tree of Life, pick up a green application located beside it.



WEBSITE UPDATES

Please check out the latest updates to our church website: WorshipWeekly.com

Our webmaster Jamie Foster has added pages featuring pictures of our recent fun events including the Christmas Extravaganza, Christmas Crafts Fair, Christmas Eve Service UWF Boutique and the 140th Anniversary Celebration. Check out the **Recent Fun Events** link on the home page.

There is a link to the excellent video by Susan Thronson that was presented at our recent Charge Conference. The video reviews our new Mission Statement in conjunction with the many activities that take place in our congregation.

The home page lists upcoming church events. Please let Joel Anderson know if you would like an event or activity listed.

There are also links to our worship service videos, Cast-A-Net, weekly bullet+ins, our church's history, the Children's Center, on-line giving and much more. The "Find" tab brings up a powerful search engine. The search engine can be used to research past events, people or ??.

Now Hiring

Part-time Church Secretary 25 Hours Per Week

Qualifications include: Computer Skills, People Skills and Communication skills. Contact the Church office or Mary Hawkins.

Experience Required: A minimum of five years of increasingly responsible secretarial experience.

The detailed job description and application are also available at: SLOJOBS.COM



News from the Mission Team

We have put up the bulletin board in the Criswell Hall showing a list of resources in the Five Cities Area and elsewhere. We have asked the Church Council if we can put this information in our display area that shows our monthly calendar so that anyone can see it.

At our Alternative Christmas we sent Heifers International \$2,045. and the church matched that amount for a total of \$4,090. The Heifers International had a generous donor that matched our amount by 4 times for a grand total of \$16,360.00. We are so blessed that we were able to donate so much.

Mission Team decided to continue to support Katherine Parker in Nepal again this year.

We will be meeting with Janna Nichols from the 5 Cities Coalition and the Homeless Warming Center to see if we can help provide food for them as well as the People's Kitchen.

We would like to thank the congregation for their donations of warm winter clothing and toiletries. It was greatly appreciated by the People's Kitchen.

Frank Williams picks up food weekly at Smart and Final and delivers it to the 5 Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry. Thank you for your service.

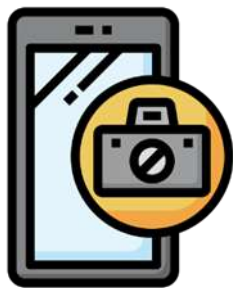
Nancy Imwold from the People's Kitchen says they are looking for a couple people to help in their kitchen. They call them Kitchen Angels. They would be keeping the kitchen clean and doing the dishes. They have a dishwasher. A person usually takes a day a week, same day each week. Hours are 11:45 until 1:15ish, or until all dishes are done and put away. Simple job, but they really could use a couple. If not on a weekly basis, then as a back up as

needed. If you would like more information, you can call Nancy at 805-458-1992. Thank you.

Next month Janna Nichols will come to our Mission Team meeting to discuss with us the possibility of us making food for the 5 Cities Coalition facilities community room and the Homeless warming Center.





Photos from the successful Alternative Christmas Drive



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM WANTS YOUR PICTURES

The Communications team is creating an on-line photo library of the many activities that take place at our church. Photos are used on our website, in the Cast-A-Net, for publicity for upcoming events and will help document our activities for future generations. Please send pictures of both past and future church activities to Joel Anderson by e-mail or text or e-mail them to the Communications Team at FUMCAGcommunications@gmail.com.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<p>2 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service</p>	<p>3 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>4 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 7:00 PM Board of Trustees-MMR</p>	<p>5 9 AM Church Work Morning -CH 10 AM UWF Steering-L 1:30 PM Mission Team-MMR</p>	<p>6 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service</p> <p><u>Superbowl Chili</u></p> <p><u>pickup after second service \$20 feeds 2 people</u></p>	<p>10 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>11 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1:30 PM Finance Meeting-Library</p>	<p>12 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 2:00 PM Church Council-MMR</p>	<p>13 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:30 AM Staff Parish--PS 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 4 PM Children's Center Board-MMR 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S</p>	<p>14 10:30 AM UWF Book Club-L</p> 	<p>15</p>
<p>16 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service</p> <p><u>UMM Sweetheart Pan- cake Breakfast</u></p> <p><u>Serving: 9:15-10:45 AM</u></p> <p><u>\$10 per person</u></p>	<p>17 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p> <p>President's Day Observance</p> <p>Church Office Closed for Holiday</p>	<p>18 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga- CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 3 PM JOY Circle-at homes 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR</p>	<p>19 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH</p>	<p>20 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S</p>	<p>21 11:00 AM Nominations-PS</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service</p>	<p>24 4:30 PM- Communications-</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>25 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR</p>	<p>26 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10 AM Mary- Martha-Esther- MMR</p>	<p>27 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-</p>	<p>28</p>	<p><i>Hello March</i></p> 

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com
Website:
www.worshipweekly.com
Find us on Facebook at: United
Methodist Church of Arroyo
Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag

Pastor: Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis
E-mail: mbirgelaitis@gmail.com
Office Administrator:

Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Children's Education Director:
Carolyn Russell

Music Director: Julia Burns
Praise Team Director: Mike Clark
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Handbell Choir Director:

Leonard Lutz
Worship Video Editor:
Susan Thronson

Bishop: Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank
District Superintendent
DS Rev. Garth Gilliam

Preschool Director:
Madrigale Quaglino
E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net
Preschool Office: (805) 481-2223



Layout Editor:
**Proofreading, Mailing and
Office Assistance:**
Mary Whitson, Dave Bolterman
Dorine Bolterman
Other contributors:
Teams /Committees/
Office Angels

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study

Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

Meets on
Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. In Criswell Hall

Next Bible Study book is:
CONTEXT

by Josh Scott
and begins on Tuesday, January 21

**Books are ordered and will be available
soon from Nancy.
All are welcome to join us!**



WOULD YOU LIKE TO HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWERS?

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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Devin Paredes.....02/02
Barbara Reineke....02/03
Isabella Russell...02/03
Betty Ashton...02/05
John Roan...02/05
Mark Moore...02/06
Irene Kliesch...02/19
Maddy Quaglino...02/22
Leonard Lutz...02/23
Michelle Paredes...02/25
Chloe Keith...02/29



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
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

FEBRUARY
2025

**SUNDAY HOSPITALITY
SNACK HOSTS**

- FEB 2** Endowment/ELT
- FEB 9** UWF
- FEB 16** UMM
- FEB 23** Mission Team

**• IN THIS •
ISSUE**

COVER STORY

Photos from BINGO

- From the Pastor, Coming Events.....2
- Treasurer, Liturgists, Prayers.....3
- Fellowship Ministry, Member Care.....4
- United Women in Faith, UWF Book Club....5
- Retirement Party.....6
- Elephant Seal Rookery.....7
- Tree of Life, Website Info,8
- Mission Team, Your pictures wanted.....9
- February Calendar.....10
- Bible Study, Flowers, Birthdays.....11
- Sunday Hospitality, Mission Statement....12

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.