



"The kingdom of God is like a net that was cast into the sea" ---Matthew 13:47

Cast-A-Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

May 2025

276 North Halcyon Road * Arroyo Grande * CA 93420 * (805) 481-2692

Worship with us in May

"The time is out of joint, O cursed spite, that ever I was born to set it right!" Such were the words of Shakespeare's Hamlet who felt the burden to make things right and knew that to do so was beyond his ability to accomplish. My rendition of those lines as we approach the end of this decade together is **"The time is getting short, O cursed spite!"** I, too, am overwhelmed by a sense of responsibility and the desire to leave things in order to make this transition good for you and the pastor who will join you. Indeed, the time IS short! With two months to share, most of what I can do for the congregation is done. I simply want to be with you and to enjoy the time we have left. With less than nine sermons to preach, I offer you this series for the month of May.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR LIFE

May 4, 2025
Third Sunday of Easter
Rx: Laughter
Communion at both Services

May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Rx: Sing
Heritage Sunday

May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Rx: Love
Mother's Day/ United Women of Faith

May 25, 2025
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Rx: Give Thanks
Memorial Day Weekend

I will depart from the lectionary during these 50 days of Easter, keeping the alleluias going, and choosing passages that dovetail with our many special Sundays. During June, I will do likewise as we move through Holy Communion, Ascension, Pentecost, Father's Day and my last Sunday. Tricia Stewart, Chancel Choir Director, will be away for the month of May from May 1st-18th. Special music has been planned for the month of May.

---Mary Birgelaitis

Welcome New Members

It was our joy to welcome three new members in the month of April. We welcome:

Nan Lippitt
Debora Bradley
Evelyn Bradley

Stay tuned for additional information.

Fun! Fun! Fun!

Pictures of recent fun events at our church are on our website **WorshipWeekly.com**.

Click on **See recent Fun Events**. It is towards the top of the page between the **Mission Statement** and **Current Ongoing Programs**.

All Of Us!

Remember ZIGGY? ZIGGY's sentence structure is not always an English teacher's delight, but ZIGGY gets his point across and is entertaining to boot! My favorite ZIGGY cartoon pictures ZIGGY standing alone saying:

***"Many of us are more capable than some of us,
but none of us is as capable as all of us!"***

It's time for all of us to come together in unity, peace and in the power of Christ to make this the best transition ever in the life of our church. O how I appreciate the many volunteer hours you all invest in the life of our congregation so that we can do important outreach in the name of Jesus. You are a blessing, and it's true, together we can do more than any of us can do alone! Love, forgive, serve, and remember the words of scripture in 1 Peter 2:9:

***"You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, called out of darkness
into God's light."***



**Sunday May 4th
11:30-1pm**

**Dine In or Take Out
\$10 – Under 12 \$5**

**Brought to you by the UMM
Proceeds to benefit the Children's Center**

Church Council Report

The Church Council has been busy for the last two months! We approved the purchase of Hearing Enhancement Equipment for the sanctuary. This new device will help many of our members hear the service more clearly. Those who wear hearing aids will be able to "sync" their hearing aids with the equipment. We look forward to the installation.

The Church Council is also considering the purchase of a new grand piano, possibly a digital electric piano. Dennis Eiler, our pianist, says that our current grand piano is getting too old and needs tuning regularly. The new piano will be "programmable" so that the pianist can change the key while music is played, it will not need regular tuning and should have a better sound. Dennis and members of the Trustees are planning a trip to Los Angeles to see and hear the proposed piano.

We need your help to fund these special purchases. Please donate. Mark your checks or envelopes "Hearing" or "Piano"

Did you notice the beautiful flower cross in the Narthex on Easter Sunday? It was the creation of the Worship Committee, Joe Brown, Kerren Brown and Brad Bettencourt.

We are pleased to welcome Carolyn Anderson, our new Lay Leader, to our meetings.

---Patti Melsheimer, Chair

Treasurer's Report

We are nearing the end of our Fiscal Year which ends June 30. With Rev. Mary retiring and a new pastor coming, it is important that we end the year in the black. Right now, it looks like it is going to be close. We had strong giving in December and January, but we have been running deficits of over \$6,000 per month the last two months with stewardship falling off and expenses exceeding plan. We lost some generous givers who entered the Church Triumphant. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas offering fell over \$3,000 short of what was needed. I am hopeful we can exceed our goal \$5,500 for our Easter Offering. As of Easter we received \$5,012, so we are close. It is important that everyone maintain or if possible, slightly increase, their regular giving for the rest of the year, so that we may end the fiscal year without a deficit.

---Joel Anderson, Acting Treasurer

SCAM ALERT!!!

Scammers are trying to obtain a copy of our church directory. One claimed to be a new member and e-mailed Rev. Mary asking for the directory. Another used the name of a member to e-mail the church office asking for a copy of the directory. Blanca, our new administrative assistant is wise and was suspicious. She phoned the member and they quickly confirmed that she did not send the request.

If scammers get ahold of a directory they may pose as members and send out messages asking for help or may ask for donations. Always be suspicious. Verify that an e-mail is the members correct e-mail address before replying. Confirm by phone or in person if you get a request asking for money to make sure it is not a scammer.

Always keep our church directory private. It is only for members personal use and should never be given out. If someone asks you for a copy tell them to pick it up at the church.

--- The Communications Committee



Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

327-25
Dear Rev. Mary Binselnitis and First UMC of Arroyo Grande,
Thank you for your generous gift given to care for those who suffered loss due to the Los Angeles fires.

Your gift is being used to provide immediate support to those who lost homes, church, neighborhoods, and towns. You have helped us know God's love and hope for a better future.

I thank God for you!

Grace y paz,
Dottie

— # —



United
Women
in Faith

A new circle has formed especially for working women and those looking for an early evening circle. The new circle has had their first meeting with 6 enthusiastic members. They are studying the book "Daughters of Grace". They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30. They welcome more members. If you are interested, contact Susan Thronson or leave your name with the office. This year has been very busy for the United Women in Faith. There have been many memorials, retirement parties and even a wedding. This has resulted in some of our usual activities being postponed. One of those is our UWF Sunday. We will recognize our United Women in our Faith circles and will recognize special people on Mother's Day. Yes, our Annual Tea has always been the Saturday before Mother's Day. This year we will have the Tea, on Saturday, September 20, 11:30 to 1:30. We are putting together a event "not to be missed" memorable Fashion Show. Tickets go on sale in August for \$10 per person.

Our next Bingo and Pizza is planned for Saturday, August 9th, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. As this is a fundraiser, tickets will be \$20 or \$10 for children under 12.

Look for special events recognizing Pastor Mary as she retires and welcoming our new minister. Dates to be announced.

Circles and groups: All women are invited.

Mary, Martha Esther Circle meets on the last Wednesday of the month. We are studying MOSES. Joy Circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month, 3-5 pm in member homes. Check with Kerren Brown for more information.

Evening Women's Bible Study meets on 2nd Wednesday in McMillen Room at 6:30. Contact Susan Thronson.

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, to attend.

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

News from the Mission Team

On Sunday, May 4 your Mission Committee will be asking for donations for Native American Ministries Sunday. Please use the giving envelopes found in the pew racks and write "Native American" on your check or the outside of the envelope. Checks should be made out to FUMCAG. These contributions will be collected throughout the month of May. Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries throughout the United States.

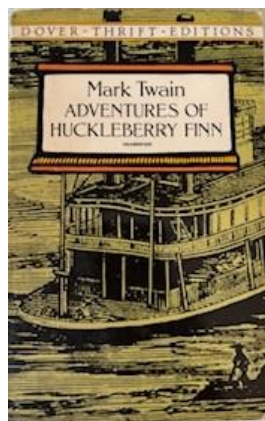
The Missions Committee welcomed two new members in April: Debora Bradley and Evelyn Bradley. Debra and Evelyn helped with food preparation and serving at People's Kitchen on January 31, 2025. All members are invited to a People's Kitchen 33rd Anniversary BBQ on May 3rd. Executive Director of 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, Janna Nichols and Stephanie LaBlanc gave the Mission Committee a presentation on what is being done locally for the homeless. The committee found the presentation very informative. The Church Council endorsed the Mission Committee plan to host Alternative Christmas Fair on October 26, 2025. Unique Christmas gifts supporting non-profit organizations will be sold. As United Methodists, our social principles highlight the call to be instruments of love, justice, and care.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to our Nominating Committee for their diligent work in staffing our committee and recruiting leaders all year long. Thank you to Rose Ann Steiner, Lori Ford, Mary Hawkins, Gerry McGuire, Pattie Melsheimer. If you would like a current list of teams and leaders please see Blanca in the office.

Many thanks to the dedicated members of our Staff Parish Relations Committee for above and beyond the call of duty service during this time of many changes. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to chair, Mary Hawkins along with her team, Rose Ann Steiner, Maureen Rose, Stacy Inman, Frank Williams, Patti Melsheimer and Carolyn Anderson. We are grateful for your service.

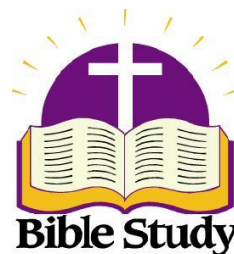
May UWF Book Club Selection: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn



May, 2025 UWF Book Club Selection: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Many of us have read The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain as high school students. Published in 1884 this classic story portrays an unlikely friendship between a runaway slave boy, Jim, and an abused teenage white boy, Huckleberry Finn. Along with

their adventures, the story provides a look at slavery, friendship, prejudices and bigotry. The UWF Book Club will meet in the church library on Friday, May 16th, at 10:30 A.M. to discuss The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. See Mary Whitson for a copy of the book or check it out at the public library.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

**Meets on
Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall
The Group is currently studying
"The Final Days"
by Matt Rawle
Books are available from Nancy.
All are welcome to join us!**

ELT Scholarship Applications Due by May 15th

The ELT Scholarship Committee is eagerly awaiting applications for this year's round of ELT Scholarships. If you have been involved with our church and plan to attend a university, community college, or trade school as a fulltime student in the fall, please check out our scholarship application and instructions on the church's website (www.worshipweekly.com). Applications are also available in the Church Office. New and returning college students may apply for the scholarship.

Completed applications must be turned into the church office by Thursday, May 15th. If you have any questions, contact Judy Leonard.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to ease the financial burden of advanced education just a little bit.

Fellowship Ministry

Sunday May 4, at 11:30 Taco Bar Tickets \$10.
With proceeds going to the support of the Children's Center.

Sunday May 25 4:00 pm Free Movie Night,
The movie is The Long Game.

Saturday June 21, from 10 to 12 noon
Gardens of Scott Trees and Bob Davis.

The gardens are awesome and the tour with Scott is very informative. If you missed it last year, join us for sure! I can already smell the roses.

Sunday, July 20 1:30 PCPA at Marian Theatre in Santa Maria is performing the play "*Something Rotten*". This is a Shakespearean Play that is funny and witty. If you are interested, please let us know by **Sunday, June 15th**. The cost is \$40.50 per person.

---Gerry McGuire

We Need YOUR Help!

A church thrives through its volunteers. We need your help. These positions take only a few hours a month and can fit around your schedule.

- Ushers are needed for both services.
Please contact Kerren Brown
- Video Camera operator, especially 2nd Service.
Please contact Mike Coho.
- Sound Board operators needed at both services.
Please contact Mike Coho
- Prayer Coordinator
Please contact Rev. Mary
- Help with New Member Classes
Please contact Rev. Mary
- Holiday Flowers Coordinator (Christmas & Easter)
Please contact Rev. Mary

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
May 04	Joe Brown	Cristy Van Hook
May 11	Mary Thronndson	Ken Unsworth
May 18	Susan Thronndson	Michelle Richarson
May 25	Joel Anderson	Rosslyn Clauson

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Church office will be open from
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Monday - Thursday



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Abbreviation Legend CH-Criswell Hall HR-Handbell Room #115 K-Kitchen L-Library Room #123 MMR-McMillen Room #113 PL-Parking Lot PS-Pastor's Study S-Sanctuary				1 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Craft Workshop -MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	2	3
4 Communion Sunday 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	5 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	6 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1PM Bible Study-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	7 9 AM Church Work Morning - CH	8 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Craft Workshop -MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	9	10
11 Mother's Day UWF Sunday 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	12 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	13 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5 PM Bell Choir-HR	14 9 AM Church Work Morning – CH 10 AM UWF Steering Committee 1:30 PM Mission Team-MMR	15 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:30 AM Staff Parish—PS 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 3:30PM Children's Center Board-MMR	16 10:30 AM UWF Book Club-L	17
18 Heritage Sunday 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	19 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	20 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study - CH 1:30 Finance - L 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	21 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 2 PM Church Council-MMR	22 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S	23	24
25 Staff Appreciation 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 4:00 Free Movie-CH The Long Game	26 People's Kitchen Food Prep 4:30 PM-Communications-L 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	27 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	28 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10 AM Mary-Martha-Esther Circle-MMR	29 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S	30	31



Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center Open House April 10, 2025



“Tons of Fun,”

said Lucy Jacob about our trip to Mighty Cap
Mushrooms in Paso!

March 28, 2025

By Nan Lippitt

Owner and founder Chris Batlle could easily be featured on the cover of Inc. Magazine, an organization dedicated to American entrepreneurs. Perhaps he already has! What began as an interest in foraging and a passion for mushrooms has become a highly successful business venture. It all began in 2019 when Chris started growing about 5 pounds of mushrooms in his garage on a weekly basis. Five years and two facilities later, he expects to grow at least 3,000 to 4,000 pounds mushrooms weekly (that is 2 tons of mushrooms!). He mentioned being thankful to God for his success.

Chris’s passion for caps, another name for mushrooms, can be found throughout all aspects of his business. Most commercial mushrooms are grown on conveyer belts in manure. By contrast, his mushrooms are grown in sterile blocks of oak and soy in black plastic bags. The switch to black-colored bags, one of his innovations, has increased productivity by about 20%, which contributes to being a viable entity.

After conducting market studies, Chris focused on growing high quality artisanal, gourmet mushrooms sold exclusively in San Luis Obispo County. Some of the varieties are Giant Trumpet, Chestnut, Oyster, Shiitake and Lion’s Mane mushrooms. He requires chefs that use his mushrooms to tour the facility. Chris also sells mushrooms, mushroom growing kits, and mushroom merchandise at his facility.

Chris recommends cooking mushrooms rather than eating them raw; this makes their many nutritional benefits more bioavailable.

Chris is especially personable, and his tour of Mighty Cap Mushrooms was very interesting.



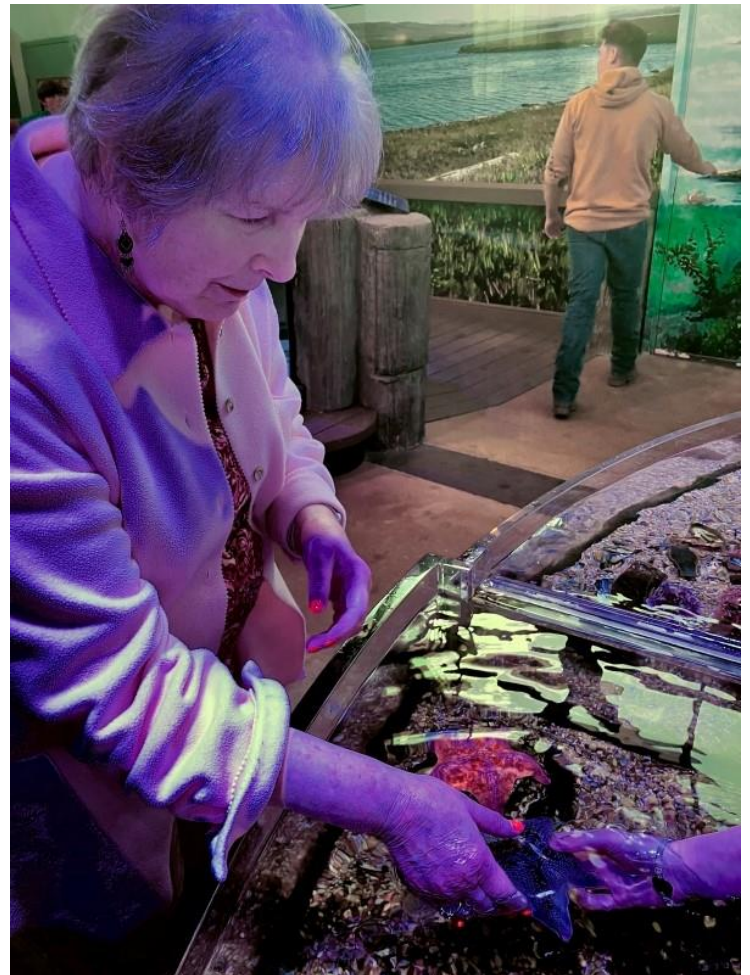


Our wonderful Easter Celebration included a rousing sing-along Hallelujah Chorus followed by Hospitality Time that with the Easter Bunny and Easter Chicken handing out eggs filled with Easter surprises.



Cabrillo High School Aquarium Tour

Not only did we find Nemo, but Dory too! Yes, Dory, Nemo and many other marine animals, including sharks, jellies, abalone and coral, are alive and well at the Cabrillo High School Aquarium in Lompoc. Four members of the Lompoc United Methodist Church joined us on the Aquarium tour. Over two hundred high school students are involved with the Aquarium including operation, maintenance, obtaining specimens, conducting research, acting as docents; and collaborating with Monterey Bay Aquarium, an important partner. Everyone was duly impressed and enjoyed the visit.



Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: 805-481-2692

E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com

Website:

www.worshipweekly.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/fumcag

Pastor: Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

E-mail: mbirgelaitis@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Blanca Placencia

Webmaster: Jamie Foster

Children's Education Director:

Carolyn Russell

Interim Choir Director:

Tricia Stewart

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:

Rev. Garth Gilliam

Children's Center (Preschool):

Director: Madrigale Quaglini

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 805-381-2223

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

May 4 Methodist Men

May 11 UWF

May 18 Trustees

May 25 Staff Parish

June 1 Finance



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 Blanca in the Church Office

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.



5/2 Hilary Henderson
5/3 Susan Coho
5/3 Jo Anne Napoles
5/8 Karen Wise
5/11 Marian Balster
5/12 Judie Neufeld
5/13 Randall Jones
5/14 Stacy Inman
5/15 Bob Jorstad
5/16 Doris Douglas
5/18 Vennie Paredes
5/18 Terry Ramsey
5/20 Janine Williams
5/22 Paul Jacob
5/25 Rob Isakson
5/26 Roger Ridley

Did we miss your birthday?

If so, please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birthday to our monthly birthday list.

LEGACY GIVING

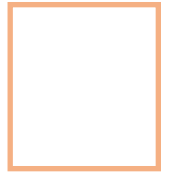
If you missed the Legacy Giving Workshop, Personal Philanthropy brochures from the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation are available at the Connections Table in the Narthex, or you may contact them directly at 626-568-7347 or on the web at www.cpumf.org to help create your own personal or family legacy.



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

May 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sun. May 4 Taco Bar, 11:30-1pm \$10**
\$10 Adults, \$5 children under 13
- Sun. May 11 Mother's Day and**
UWF Recognition
- Thu. May 15 Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship**
Application Deadline
- Sun. May 25 Staff Appreciation Sunday**
- Sun. May 25 Movie Night 4PM,**
The Long Game
- Sun. Jun 8 ELT Scholarship Sunday**
- Sun. Jun 15 PCPA play "Something Rotten"**
Deadline to reserve tickets
- Sat. Jun. 21 Scott Trees Garden Tour 10AM,**
leave church at 9:45
- Thu. June 26 Children's Center Promotions,**
Noon,S

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.