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

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

*

275 North Halcyon Road

Arroyo Grande

June 2025 (805) 481-2692

MEET OUR NEW PASTOR

Cast-A-Net

After much prayer, discernment, and consultation by Bishop Dottie Escobedo Frank and the Cabinet, it is the intent of the Bishop to appoint the Reverend Wesley Thompson as Pastor-in-charge of First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande, as of July 1, 2025. Pastor Wes, as he is often called, comes to us from the Atascadero Dove Creek Church of the Nazarene where he was pastor for 13 years. The Church of the Nazarene shares much of the heritage and theology of the Methodist Church. It emerged from the Wesleyan-Holiness movement in the late 19th century. Pastor Wes is coming with his wife Kristi, 20-year-old son Jonathan, 18-year-old son Joshua, both of whom are attending Cuesta College, 15-year-old daughter Makiyah, 14-year-old son Pax and their 11- year-old Xander. His eldest daughter Katelyn is attending CSU Long Beach. Both Pastor Wes and Kristi are pastor's kids. Pastor Wes is a car and motorcycle enthusiast. He loves anime, Doctor Who, travel, soccer and is an avid reader.

Pastor Wes believes that:

- God wants to see lives transformed
- we need to unite the congregation
- we need to help people
- we need to love each other and inspire hope.

He looks for ways that the church can impact the community and be a blessing.

Pastor Wes and our District Superintendent Garth Gilliam will be visiting our church on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th. Please plan to stay for Hospitality Time after services to meet and greet both D.S. Garth Gilliam and Pastor Wes.

Welcome New Pastor

Sunday June 8, 2025

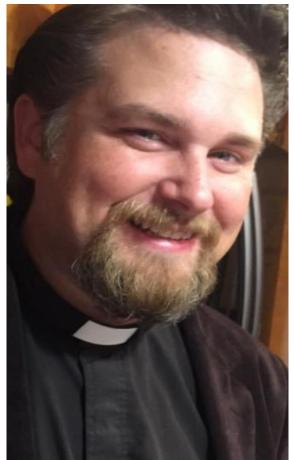
District Superintendent Garth Gillian and Pastor Wesley Thompson visiting

Sunday July 6, 2025

Rev Wesley Thompson first Sunday, welcome festivities and a welcome barbeque luncheon.

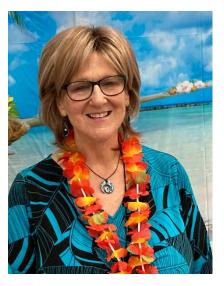
Pastor Mary's Last Day Preaching

Sunday June 22, 2025 Pastor Mary Birgelaitis last day presiding in Worship and Retirement Party. Details on Page 5.



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"For all that has been—THANKS! To all that shall be—YES!" --Dag-Hammarskjold, Markings

Farewell greetings to the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Thank you for ten wonderful years of friendship, fun and meaningful work together. This congregation is a gem and you are wonderful. I count it a great blessing to have been able to spend this last decade of ministry side-by-side with you. God saved the best for last! I am grateful for the privilege of having been appointed to the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. I can't thank you enough for being who you are, for living by the Spirit, and for the faithful way you follow in the footsteps of Jesus. I cherish you and the memories of our time together. You are strong, loving and true, and you are ready for this new chapter in ministry that you will share with Rev. Wesley Thompson at the helm. God Bless You!

Our last opportunity to worship together will be Sunday June 22nd. And for those who will be away on that day, we still have June 1st, 8th and 15th that will be wonderful Sundays to share, with Communion on the first, PENTECOST on June 8th and Father's Day on TRINITY SUNDAY June 15th. After the 22nd, I will be on the premises during the week moving out of the office and taking care of details to make sure that things are "good to go" for Pastor Wes who will step into the pulpit on July 6th.

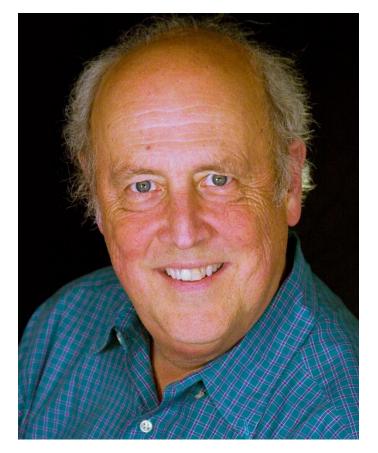
A lot of water has passed under the bridge since I joined you on July 19th, 2015. I thank God for all of it. I am especially thankful that, because of all of you, this church made it through the long COVID lockdown with flying colors, landed on its feet and has grown stronger and stronger ever since. My ardent prayer is that you will continue the good work of God as you continue to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As I hang up my robe and stoles, I won't be stepping back into pastoral roles any longer. I am going forward into retirement with the joyful anticipation of having time to more fully enjoy the blessing of living on our beautiful Central Coast and having time to spend with old friends and family. If and when the Spirit leads, there may be relocation on the horizon, but not yet! There is plenty of fun to be had right where I am, and the many things that I *"never have time to do"* are calling to me now!

As I say YES to retirement, I will pray for you as you say YES to a wonderful new chapter in your life together as the congregation of FUMCAG, and as you continue to welcome not only Tricia Stewart and Blanca Placencia, but Pastor Wes into the life of this congregation.

> May the Lord bless you and keep you; May the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

THANK YOU JAMIE!



Do you know JAMIE FOSTER? We have angels among us who help us from a distance. Jamie Foster, our dear friend, is one of them. He resides in Colorado and has been working for us for many years maintaining our church website. Our church has one of the most extensive websites of any Methodist Church. Please visit it and discover what is new.

Jamie started our website in May of 1996, and did a website redesign in 2008. Jamie was our Choir Director from 1997 to 2007. He inspired Julia Burns to step up and into the role for the 18 years that she served our congregation. Bravo to you both for providing wonderful music for our congregation.

Jamie and his wife Lynn founded our Puppet Ministry in 1995. The puppets are eager and ready to perform thirty years later! We may be hearing from them during June as they help us move into this exciting new chapter together.

Our heartfelt thanks to you, Jamie Foster

---from Mary Hawkins, SPRC Chair and Mary Birgelaitis on behalf of the congregation

Exciting Times Ahead!

Pastor Wes Thompson will bring exciting new changes to First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. He and his young family provide an opportunity to restart our youth ministries, as well as expand our existing ministries to better serve the community and our members. Of course, this is going to require your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service.

The coming fiscal year, starting July 1 looks to be a challenge. We are facing a substantial increase in expenses, most notably our insurance expenses which are going up about \$25,000! Jim Alquist, our Financial Secretary, reports that we have lost members that previously contributed approximately \$30,000 to our annual budget. Ouch!

We need EVERYONE to step up their regular giving. I hope we can greet our Pastor Thompson by closing Fiscal Year 2024-25 with a small surplus, and I pray that we can avoid having a deficit in the upcoming 2025-26 Fiscal Year. We are not planning a pledge drive this year. Most members indicated they prefer not to have pledge drives. Without an estimate of everyone's giving, budgeting is more difficult and it makes the Acting Treasurer nervous. However, we are counting on everyone pitching in to increase their giving as much as they are able in order to sustain and grow the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. We are expecting an exciting year ahead. Please give generously and join in the excitement.

> Joel Anderson Acting Treasurer

New Hearing Assist System

As we set up our new Hearing Assist System, it would be most helpful for us to know who among us has "T-Coil" in your hearing aid. We are working to make worship more comfortable and accessible to everyone. Please let Blanca Placencia in the office know if you are the owner of a hearing aid with "T-Coil!" Thank you!

News from the MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team prepared and served a hot lunch to the homeless at People's Kitchen on April 30th. We found the event rewarding and well received.

During the month of May we collected money for the celebration of Native American Awareness Sunday. Our congregation contributed \$305 for the development and strengthening of Native American ministries within the United States.

The committee decided to fund two missionaries by committing to a Covenant Relationship through the Board of Global Ministries of our denomination. The missionaries are Katherine Parker and Florence Ogugua Mefor. Katherine Parker works with Community Development in Nepal. Florence Ogugua Mefor works as a mid-wife in Zimbabwe.







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.

A big party is happening on June 22nd to celebrate Pastor Mary's retirement. Though we will miss her, we want to recognize all she has done for us and with us. We will have a Luncheon and Party with a special program. Everyone in the church is invited and we hope you will be present. There will be no charge but you will need to sign up on Sundays prior to the 22nd.

Also, save the July 6th from 11:00 to 1:30 for a luncheon and BBQ to welcome our new Pastor, Wesley Thompson and family. You will also need to sign up for this celebration, so that we make sure we have enough food.

Looking ahead:

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

Our Annual Tea and Fashion Show has been rescheduled to Saturday, September 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. We are putting together a not-to-be-missed show. The tickets will go on sale in August at \$10 per person.

Circles and Groups: All women invited to attend. **Mary, Martha Esther Circle** meets on the last Wednesday of the month and is studying a book on Moses.

Joy Circle meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 3:00-5:00 pm in members' homes. Joy Circle is taking a break during July and August

6:30 After Work Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in McMillen Room. Contact Susan Throndson. **Sew And Sews** meets every Tuesday in the McMillen Room at 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. 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 meets on the 3rd Friday, in the library, at 10:30. Contact Judy Leonard for a book if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry McGuire

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR MARY

Please join us Sunday, June 22 after second service to help celebrate Pastor Mary's retirement after 10 years at our church and more than 40 years in the Ministry. Food, fun and entertainment will be provided. Rev. Mary loves the beach so wear your beach wear.

Cards are encouraged. Those wishing to make a donation to Rev. Mary may make checks payable to the church with "Rev. Mary" noted in the memo field.

We Need **YOUR** Help!

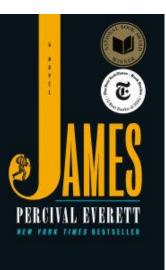
A church thrives through its volunteers. We need your help. These positions take only a few hours a month and can fit around your schedule.

- Ushers are needed for both services.
 Please contact Kerren Brown
- Video Camera operator for both services. Please contact Mike Coho.
- Sound Board operator, especially 2nd Service. 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

Library News

Our Church has a lovely library. I am Joyce Singelman the new librarian. I will be in the library most Sundays between 9:30 and 10:15, also other times when I get a chance. There has not been a librarian since before Covid. I plan and hope to get the library organized and user-friendly. You are welcome to stop by at anytime and browse or check out a book or two and say hello. June library spotlight: we have many wonderful children's books, bible stories both picture and chapter books, as well as many popular authors. All children, visitors, members are welcome to enjoy our resources here in our church.

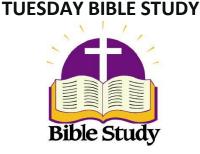
UWF June Book Selection James by Percival Everett



At our May Book Club meeting we discussed the classic <u>Adventures of</u> <u>Huckleberry Finn</u> by Mark Twain. This story which was narrated by known characters, including the runaways Huckleberry Finn and Jim. Their journey down the Mississippi River on a raft became one of constant danger and cover-ups.

In our June book, <u>James</u> by Percival Everett, the runaway slave, Jim, becomes the narrator of this twisted version of the original story. Through his point of view we discover how intelligent, compassionate, and wise Jim is.

We will meet on Friday, June 20th at 10:30 A.M. in the Church Library to discuss <u>James.</u> You are invited to join us. Participants will need to purchase their own books for this meeting (available online and in the Monarch Book Store in Arroyo Grande).



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!

June Worship Schedule

June 1st, 2025

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Communion/Ascension Sunday *"IN OUR HEARTS"* Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, preaching Psalm 47, Luke 24:44-53

June 8th, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Festival of the Holy Spirit PENTECOST Rev. Garth Gilliam, preaching Acts 2:1-21

June 15, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Trinity Sunday/Father's Day *"WHEN A HOUSE BECOMES A HOME"* Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, preaching Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

June 22, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Pastor's Last Sunday in the Pulpit *"AND IT CAME TO PASS"* Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, preaching 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, John 1:1-14

June 29, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST *"CHANGE IS INEVITABLE"* Rev. Paula Hulet, preaching Psalm 137:1-6,Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

July 6, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Be in worship to welcome our new pastor! Rev. Wesley Thompson, preaching

Fellowship Ministry

Summer is almost here! What a great time to return to the beautiful **Gardens of Scott Trees and Bob Davis.** June 21, from 10 to 12 noon will be the date for this wonderful return visit. The gardens are awesome and the tour with Scott is very informative. If you missed it last year, join us for sure! Please sign up at the Connections counter.

July 6 Fellowship Ministry will be barbequing Santa Maria style tri tip to welcome our new Pastor. Sign up and be sure and come. The PCPA, Marian Theatre, Santa Maria is performing the play, "Something Rotten" July 20th at 1:30. Plans are to leave and possibly carpool after church. If you are interested, please let us know by June 15. This is a Shakespearian musical play. It is labeled as the funniest musical comedy in 400 years by Time Out New York. Combining sixteenth century wit with twenty-first century Broadway flair. The cost is \$40.50 per person. These are normally \$60 seats. There are only a couple of seats left. The Movie of the month will be June 29, 4pm. The Movie will be "Nonnas", with Vince Vaughn and Susan Sarandon. A delightful and heartwarming movie about a man who risks everything to honor his mother by opening an Italian restaurant with actual "nonnas" (grandmothers) as the chefs.



Date8:30June 01Susan ThrondsonJune 08David BeardJune 15Sharon RoemerJune 22Joe BrownJune 29Mary Throndson

10:30 Dave Anderson Carolyn Anderson Joyce Singleman Rose Ann Steiner Michelle Richardson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	2 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	3 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 7 PM Trustees, MMR	4 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10AM Fellowship Ministry, L	5 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	6	7
8 Pentecost Sunday Rev. Garth Gilliam Preaching 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	9 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH 9	10 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	11 9 AM Church Work Morning – CH 10 AM UWF Steering Committee 1:30 PM Mission Team-MMR	12 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	13	14
15 HAPPY FATHERS DAY! 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	16 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	17 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 -HR	18 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 2 PM Church Council-MMR	19 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:30 Staff-Paish, PS 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 3:30PM Children's Center Board-MMR 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal- HR	10:30 AM UWF	21 9:45 Scot Trees Garden Tour
22 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service Farewell Party for Pastor Mary after 2nd service	23 4:30 PM Communications L 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class CH	24 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 HR	25 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10 AM Mary- Martha-Esther Circle- MMR	26 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 2:00PM Children's Center Promotion 5 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal- HR	27 11AM Nominations, PS	28
29 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 4:00 Free Movie-CH Nonnas	30 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH			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		

SCOTT TREES

Scott Trees is a beautiful human being. Gracious, loving, and thankful. For those of you that know him, this comes as no surprise.

Family is important to Scott. His Dad, one of twelve children, grew up in abject poverty. He took over the family farm and also worked as a janitor from 6 p.m. to midnight. Scott repeatedly stated that his parents made big sacrifices, and became emotional.

Scott's life began on a small dairy farm without indoor plumbing in Illinois. He lived on a farm until he left for college. They had many animals, which Scott and his twin sister Ann both still love. The two have been close since childhood. Ann named her first dog Scotty; Scott named his first Pyrenees, Annie. Scott travels to Illinois a couple of times a year, including every Christmas.

Remarkably, Scott knew from a young age that he wanted to be a plant breeder/horticulturist. In fifth grade he read about Luther Burbank, the legendary American plant breeder who developed the Russet potato. This inspired Scott. He participated in a 4-H project in which he did landscaping around the family farm. He even mail ordered a yellow calla lily to create a beautiful arrangement for the Champaign County Fair. The judge was so impressed that she wrote him a postcard saying that the word "<u>American</u>" ends in the words "<u>I can</u>".

Scott's sense of adventure led him to California to pursue his Ph.D. in plant genetics at U.C. Davis. In order to continue his studies, he spent six years in the Army National Guard, which he enjoyed. In 1974, Scott embarked upon his illustrious career as a plant breeder, developing over three hundred patented plants, traveling to over twenty countries such as Papua New Guinea, and throughout the U.S. This August, Scott and Bob will travel to Alaska, completing his quest of visiting all fifty states!

Scott grew up in the Methodist Church; his family was involved with various aspects, e.g., his Mom taught Sunday School. While living in Chicago, Scott attended a Free Methodist Church, a small denomination within the Methodist Church, for ten years. Attending the Free Methodist Church was especially meaningful to Scott.



Yes, Scott plays the accordion, another of his passions. He began in first grade, and amazingly, has played ever since. Scott enjoys playing Broadway show tunes and classical music. He played Rhapsody in Blue at a state competition in Chicago. He is currently working on Phantom of the Opera. Scott plays every day before dinner.

Growing up on a farm, Scott thought that he was missing out. For the record, he even built a miniature golf course. Now, once again, living among hundreds of beautiful roses that he lovingly grows, he knows that "Farm is better." He feels extraordinarily blessed for so many things, including his upbringing. "I thank God every day for my job, for living here..."

Scott and Bob welcome you to a home garden tour on Saturday, June 21st at 10 o'clock at 871 E. Cherry Ave., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420. Please sign up in the narthex.



United Women in Faith

UWF & MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY

United Women of Faith honored two couples for their long-time service to our church: Priscilla and Jim Alquist, and Dorine and David Bolterman. Roses were given out to women at church. Cake and snacks were enjoyed by all at Hospitality time.



CHANGES COMING TO ON-LINE GIVING

We are changing our on-line giving system. This will require those that have set up on-line giving to re-enter their information when the new system is implemented. Details of the conversion will be sent to those with regular on-line giving in the coming weeks.

The existing VANCO on-line giving will soon stop interfacing with the Servant Keeper system that we use to track contributions and attendance. In addition, VANCO "upgraded" their system a while back, making it difficult for us to add or change special Sunday offerings. We are switching the Servant Keeper for on-line giving. This should give us more flexibility for seasonal and special offerings and hopefully lower our fees.

Setting up regular on-line giving, either through your bank, investment company or our on-line giving portal is an easy and convenient way to support our church. It avoids the hassle of writing checks and continues your support even when you are on vacation.

Doris Douglas celebrated her 98th birthday at our May 18th Service



Welcome New MembersNan LippittDebora Bradley and Evelyn Bradley







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:** Carolvn Russell **Interim Choir Director: Tricia Stewart Praise Team Director:** Mike Clark Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler Handbell Choir Director: Leonard Lutz Worship Video Editor: Susan Throndson Bishop: **Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank District Superintendent:** Rev. Garth Gilliam

Children's Center (Preschool): Director: Madrigale Quaglino E-mail: <u>agumcc@sbcglobal.net</u> Phone: 805-381-2223

HOSPITALITY HOSTS June 01 Finance June 08 Nominating Committee June 15 Methodist Men June 22 UWF June 29 Membership Care July 6 Fellowship Ministry

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWERS?



Do you enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the altar on Sunday? Dates are available for Flower dedications in upcoming months. Your floral tributes will be placed on the altar for both Sunday morning services and can be picked up after the second service or on Monday during office hours.

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.

Contact Blanca in the Church Office



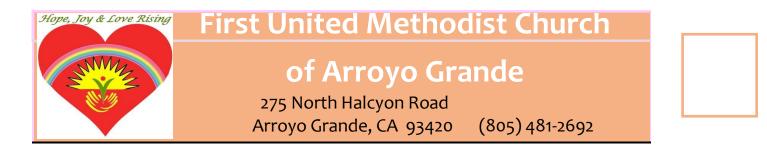
- 6/4 Mike Reineke
- 6/5 Jim Steiner
- 6/7 Ray Douglas
- 6/15 Janice Moore
- 6/16 Dennis Eiler
- 6/19 Connie Clark
- 6/19 Gloria Johnson
- 6/20 BG Perriguey
- 6/21 Evelyn Bradley
- 6/21 Joyce Singelman
- 6/23 Sandy Underwood
- 6/24 Victoria Paredes
- 6/26 James Wise
- 6/28 Bobbi Merris
- 6/29 Maureen Rose

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.



Visit us on the web at: WorshipWeekly.com

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

June 2025

Upcoming Events

Sun Jun 6	Pentecost, D.S. Rev. Garth Gilliam Preaching, Meet Pastor Wes
Sun Jun 15	0,
Sat Jun 21	Scott Trees Garden Tour, 9:45
Sun Jun 22	Rev. Mary Retirement Party
Thu Jun 26	Children's Center Promotions,
Sun Jun 29	Free Movie Night "Nonnas"
Sun Jul 6	Welcome Pastor Wes Thompson
Sun Jul 20	"Something Rotten" by PCPA at
	Marion Theater , Santa Maria
Sun Jul 27	Free Movie Night
Mon Jul 28	Peoples Kitchen Food Prep 1:30
Tue Jul 29	Peoples Kitchen Food
	Distribution 11:00
Sat Aug 9	Bingo & Pizza Night, 5PM
Sat Sept 13	Woman's Tea & Fashion Show

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.