



Cast-A-Net

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



SEPTEMBER

275 North Halcyon Road Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805-481-2692 www.WorshipWeekly.com

Pastor's Page



We have finalized the budget for the coming year. First, I want to thank all of you for giving so generously and consistently. It makes a huge difference. Because of you, we have been able to accomplish great ministry this past

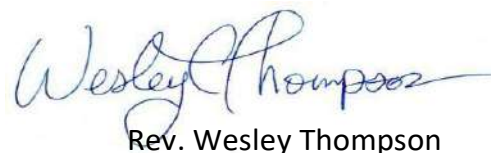
year. Starting a youth program, preparing for a nursery, starting Children's Sunday School again, field trips, Bingo, parties and many other fantastic things. We had a great Christmas Eve, Tenebrae and Easter service. We have impacted our community through your generosity in so many ways!

I thought I would take a moment to share a bit about some of the questions we get about the budget and why it is higher. All committees and church council have looked at the budget and worked on what and how we can do ministry while being good stewards with financial gifts to the church. The finance team, led by Dave Anderson, has done a good job streamlining the budget. However, we are a little short in our planning to cover everything proposed in the budget. This does require people to be diligent and careful about how we spend. You might notice the weekly amounts and the totals in the bulletin. Some months and weeks we will be ahead and others we will be behind. This is because giving fluctuates in different months. Based on past giving, we know months like December are usually higher and help us get ahead.

Why is the budget higher? As you know, the cost of everything is higher. The church insurance, apportionments and operations cost have gone up. As part of the California Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, pastoral pay is set by them and we cover the minimums; those too go up. We also have added children and youth ministries.

Someone once said, "Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." Jim Collins, in his book *Good to Great*, talks about how good-to-great companies use the budget with calm, systematic consistency, making strategic allocations to fund the core purpose, providing mission impact. As United Methodists, our mission is to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world. In our local congregation, we look for ways we can live that mission out. We transform our community through loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading compassionately to see individuals transformed through faith and our communities changed to better reflect the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of love, justice, and mercy.

We need you! You will hear from Dave Anderson and me with more specifics in the coming months. We ask for you to be in prayer about how you can help. Once again, I want to say you all are so generous; thank you! We appreciate you all so much. I know we can work together to continue to provide the same level of ministry we have been doing, and I look forward to the things God is calling us to do this coming year!


Rev. Wesley Thompson

LIVE LOVE & LAUGH

The North District Live, Love & Laugh event at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Oxnard was enjoyed by 15 members of our Church who made the drive down early Saturday morning. The fun event included seminars, Bingo, two comedians, crafts, pro-wrestling, axe throwing, pickleball, food and lots of foam.



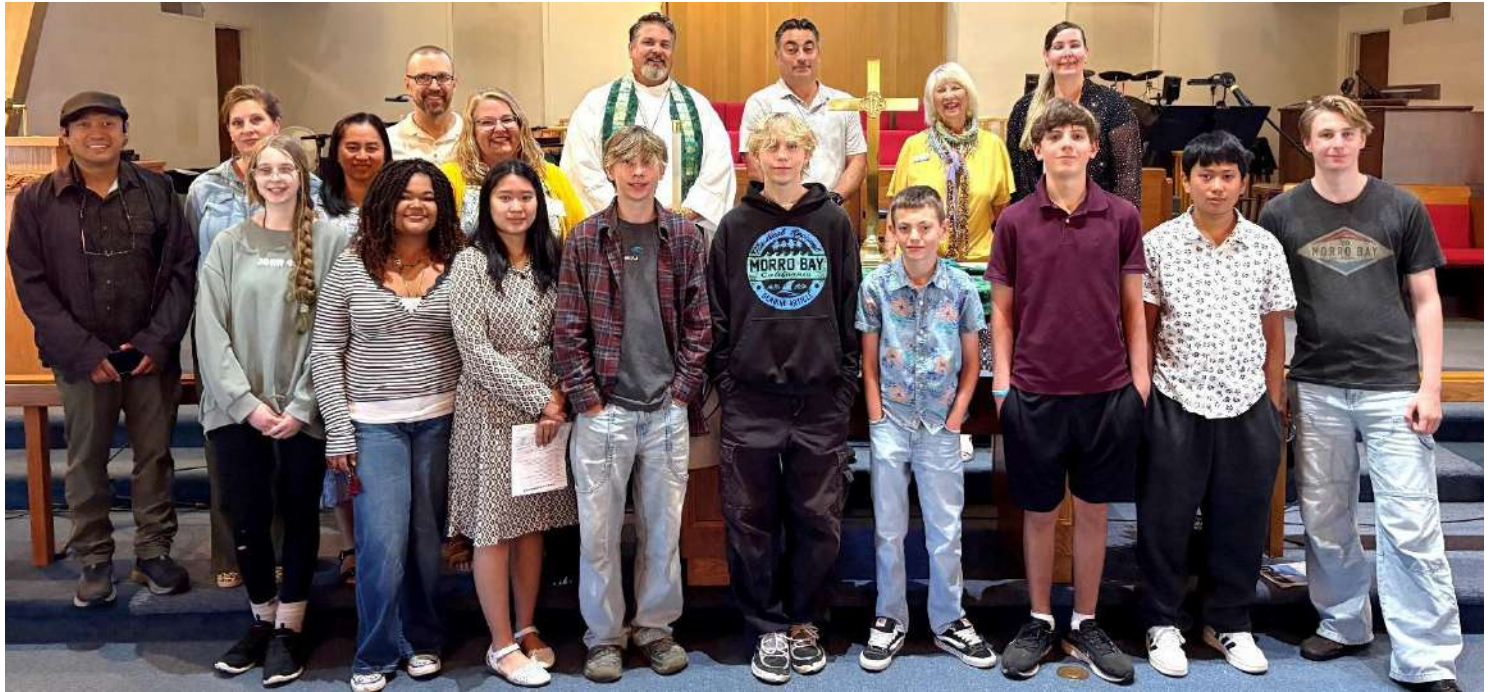
YOUTH GROUP: LABYRINTH AND LOW COUNTRY BOIL

Picking berries and husking corn, miniature golf, walking the labyrinth and delicious low country boil for dinner



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

We have Back-to-School Blessing gifts and cards available to share.
See Pastor Wes if you would like to give the gift to someone you know.



Sunday, August 16



What a Sunday! Joe Brown gave the sermon, Rosslyn Clauson played the cello at 10:30 service and there were cakes to honor our college students Ian Beard and Ellise Capuno

HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS OF ARROYO GRANDE

Local historian Jim Gregory led church members on two historical walking tours of the Village of Arroyo Grande. Both tours were sold out. Please check the Connections Table for possible additional tours.





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.

September 26, 10am - 3pm. We will host others from surrounding Methodist churches in the North District United Women in Faith. "Rooted and Renewed" is the title of the Soul and Care Retreat. You are invited to come, pause, reflect and renew, leaving encouraged for continued ministry and service. Registration is \$25 per person. This includes a box lunch from Panera. Deadline for registration is September 14. Registration form is available at the UWF card table in Criswell and in this issue of the Cast-A-Net. It is requested that you bring a reusable water bottle to eliminate landfill waste.



Many have noticed the red quilt on the wall in the McMillen Room. That's where it rests, between Tuesdays, at which time we quilt it. Its absence from there is because it is nearly finished. The community knows that Sew and Sews hand quilt for donations to our philanthropic efforts. It was thought by our group that it was a beginner's quilt, whereby the owner at the time learned how to hand sew and piece the patches together to make the many blocks that make up the quilt. When we received the blocks all were not the same size and many were not even square. Needless to say, we needed to sew these together to complete the quilt top (we usually receive the quilt tops finished). You can see it's been a long two years and some say over a million stitches, but it's almost finished. Binding is being done.

A quilt is not only a family heirloom, but a historical record of fabrics (many in this quilt are from the 1940's and 50's. There is a block with the date 1975 embroidered on it. A label will go on it with what information we can get together, the person who started it and those who worked on it, including the ladies of Sew and Sews.

Boutique November 6,7,8 and 15. We need help from all of you to make this the best boutique ever. We have some kits available to take home and finish. These can be found on table in Criswell Hall. Sign up sheets will be in Criswell for those interested in helping set up. Looking forward to a very successful Boutique!

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry McGuire

JOY CIRCLE NEW MEETING TIME

Joy Circle will return to their regular in-home monthly meeting on the third Tuesday each month, beginning September 15, 2026 at 2:30-4:30pm! All women from the congregation are welcome to join Joy Circle. We will begin this season's study with Adam Hamilton's "Moses, In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet". This series is accompanied with a video narrated by Adam in his classic storytelling style with riches of faith, his own experience of the "geography of Moses" and connecting the Scriptures with our modern context. (Paraphrased from introduction). Bring your Bibles. We encourage discussion, prayer and fellowship. Our September meeting will be held at Kerren Brown's home. Please see/call for her address. This is a loving group of women with joy and welcoming in their hearts.

North District United Women in Faith

Rooted and Renewed

Jeremiah 17: 8 *They will be like trees planted by the streams, whose roots reach down to the water.* (CEV)



...a Soul Care retreat where you will be invited to pause, reflect and renew leaving encouraged for continued ministry and service. Join others from surrounding area churches in a retreat lead by a North District UWFaith team.

Please bring a reusable water bottle to eliminate landfill waste.

Questions? Contact Diane Garner (805) 795-0344



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 N Halcyon Rd
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

September 26, 2026

Registration: 10 a.m.
10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Box lunch included

Registration deadline: September 14

Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church Name: _____

Choice of Sandwich: choose one...

_____ Cranberry Walnut Chicken Salad

_____ Tuna

_____ Turkey and Cheddar

_____ Mediterranean Veggie

Registration fee: \$25

Write check to: **North District United Women in Faith** and mail to the District Treasurer by **September 14.**

Crystal Ward
1856 Sinaloa Ave
Pasadena, CA 91104

MISSION TEAM



The Mission Team had a special guest on Saturday, August 15. Sixteen church members enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Katherine Parker, our Covenant Missionary in Nepal. Jim and Priscilla Alquist provided us with a barbecue at their house. Our church and our Mission Committee has sponsored Katherine for a number of years through United Methodist Global Ministries. We were honored by her visit. About every three years Katherine is given time to come home.

Nepal is about 1/3 the size of California, yet has a population of 30 million. Katherine has been working the western area of Nepal lately, partnering with a group called United Mission to Nepal. The vision of the group is fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepal society. Currently it is focused on violence in the community. She loves her job, loves helping people and enjoys sharing knowledge and needs. She would be happy to send email updates to church members who send their email addresses to her at: kparker@umcmmission.org. She mentioned that the response to requests may be sporadic due to access and time. A video of her presentation should be available soon on our website and YouTube channel.

Our Serving at People's Kitchen is coming up at the end of September. Come join us.

Monday, Sept. 28, 1:30 Food Prep in church kitchen.

Tuesday, Sept. 29, Noon meal distribution at House of God Church, 946 S. Rockaway, Grover Beach. Carpool from church at 11:30 or meet there at 11:45.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

We have a great variety of tours and events coming up. Keep checking the Connections Counter to sign up.

August 5 and 15 we toured the Village of Arroyo Grande with Jim Gregory, a local historian as our guide. He enlightened us on history of buildings and early people of the town, including some colorful stories. Limited to a group of 10 on each day, our list filled up fast. We are considering adding another date for those that missed out. Sign up on the waiting list at the Connections Counter in the Narthex, or see Lucy Jacobs.

Upcoming events:

September 4, Friday, Plantel Nursery Tour, Santa Maria, They grow vegetable transplants and do automated planting of these at farms. Meet at 9:20 at church to carpool.

September 12, Saturday, Dana Adobe in Nipomo, Meet at the church to carpool at 10:00. It's Heritage Day, so there will be added fun. Bring a picnic lunch or order something from the food trucks. Ask Connie Clark for further information.

September 13, Volunteer Sunday, There will be a catered Lunch to honor all our church volunteers after second service. Everyone is invited.

September 27, Sunday, 4pm, End of Month Movie - Title to be announced.

November 14, Saturday, 10:30 am, John Lindsey, meteorologist, will give a presentation on El Nino.

November, Sunday, (date to be announced) Advent Workshop

December 5, Saturday, 5-7pm, Holiday Extravaganza

Submitted by, Gerry McGuire



VIDEO CAMERA AND SOUND BOARD OPERATORS NEEDED AT BOTH SERVICES

No experience necessary.
Youth welcome. See Pastor Wes.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

There will be a catered Lunch to honor all our church volunteers after second service. Everyone is invited.

September Book Club Selection



On Friday, September 18th the UWF Book Club will meet in the church library at 10:30 A.M. to discuss *Life Among the Savages* by Shirley Jackson. This charming memoir of her life in rural 1950's Vermont raising children reveals the humorous challenges of motherhood. Join us as we discuss her life with a household of her four children, her husband, and assorted pets. See Mary Whitson if you would like to borrow a copy of the book. Questions? Talk to Mary Whitson or Judy Leonard

Church Council Report

The Church Council met Wednesday August 19th. Our new Chair of Finance, Dave Anderson, presented the recommended budget for 2026-27 which was approved. There will be challenges for us this year because of increases including janitorial services and our apportionments paid to the Conference. Our new Treasurer, Joanne Napoles, was introduced. Joanne has kindly consented to continue as the Church Council secretary. Thanks Joanne!!

The Nominations Committee reported that they are still seeking a chair for the Trustees. Pastor Wes discussed the activities of the youth program including their recent trip to a District Youth meeting in Oxnard. Priscilla Alquist reported that our church membership now stands at 145 with the passing of Shirley Werling. Mary Thronson reported that the new church directory will be going to the printer very soon!

THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BIG BAND CONCERT

Sunday, October 4, 3PM
in the Sanctuary



Free Admission -- Donations Welcome
Proceeds benefit our church
Invite your friends!



California-Pacific Conference
The United Methodist Church

HELP AFTER HURRICANE LALA

Hawaii needs our help! On August 15 the storm damaged hundreds of homes and buildings and left thousands without power. Support ongoing disaster relief efforts with your special donation.



Use QR code, web link or checks made out to our church with the notation: "Hawaii Disaster Relief"

www.calpacumc.org/donate

Prayer & Praise List

Dear Heavenly Father, I come before You seeking Your divine intervention against sickness. Lord, I ask that you pour out your healing power upon me and restore me to full health, in Jesus name.

Please pray for:

Bobbie M, Colton W. Leroy, Tim, Wendy, Gracie, Alice, Bud, Nan L, Dorine B, Marilyn B, Doris D, Gary, Barbara, Isabella, Lee F, Lee E, Ron, Elaine, Linda, Emery Phil M, Sandy W, Russell S, Bert K, Joe M, Carlos V, Lydia V, Nallo V, Rosario R, Lupe C, Carmen G, Linda H, Mark J, Cristy V, Eddie S, Barry, Chad, Dennis, Alina L, Alex, Harper, Carolyn, Jack and Stephen G



September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9 AM Tai Chi 10 AM Sew & Sews & Crafts- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7PM Trustees MMR 7:30pm Neighborhood Big Band CH	2 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10AM Fellowship Ministry 10AM Worship Team 5:30PM L	3 9 AM Fast walking & Tai Chi CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec 10AM Plantel Tour	5
6 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	7 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH 9	8 9 AM Tai Chi 10 AM Sew & Sews & Crafts- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Neighborhood Big Band CH	9 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10AM Steering Committee L 1:30PM Mission Team 6 PM Choir Rehearsal S 6:30PM Daughter's of Grace MMR	10 9 AM Fast walking & Tai Chi CH 10:30AM Staff Parish MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 11:30AM Nominations Committee, MMR 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	11 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec	12 Dana Adobe History Day, Carpool from church at 9:30am
13 Volunteer Appreciation Sunday 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	14 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	15 9 AM Tai Chi 10 AM Sew & Sews & Crafts- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 3PM Joy Circle 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30PM Finance MMR 7:30pm Neighborhood Big Band CH	16 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 2PM Church Council MMR 6 PM Choir Rehearsal S	17 9 AM Fast walking & Tai Chi CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	18 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec 10:30AM UWF Book Club L	19
20 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	21 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class CH	22 9 AM Tai Chi 10 AM Sew & Sews & Crafts- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Neighborhood Big Band CH	23 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 6 PM Choir Rehearsal S	24 9 AM Fast walking & Tai Chi CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	25 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec	26 North District Wome4n Retreat 10am-3pm
27 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 4PM Movie Night CH	28 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH 4:30PM Communications L	29 9 AM Tai Chi 10 AM Sew & Sews & Crafts- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Neighborhood Big Band CH S	30 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10AM Mary, Martha, Esther Circle MMR 6 PM Choir Rehearsal	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		

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: 805-481-2692

E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com

Website:

www.WorshipWeekly.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/fumcag

You Tube Worship Videos:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc6e32x5>

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Thompson

E-mail: wes.thompson@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Blanca Estela Placencia

Webmaster: Jamie Foster

Choir Director:

Tricia Stewart

Praise Team Director:

Mike Clark

Pianist/Keyboard: Dennis Eiler

Handbell Choir Director:

Leonard Lutz

Bookkeeper: Kelli Stein

Worship Video Editor:

Susan Thronson

Covenant Missionaries:

Katherine Parker, Nepal

Florence Mefor, Zimbabwe

Bishop:

Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

District Superintendent:

Rev. Garth Gilliam

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

September 06	Worship Team
September 13	Communications
September 20	Membership Care & Daughters of Grace
September 27	Fellowship Ministry
October 04	Finance
October 11	Joy Circle

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



09/06 Mike Coho
09/08 Generoso Mandac
09/10 Jinna Gillean
09/12 Jonathan Thompson
09/13 Sally Weitkamp
09/14 Alice Addison
09/16 Bob Thronson
09/18 Jan Treat
09/22 John Emery
09/23 Macie Mendez
09/29 Claire Jacob

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.

Interested in exploring membership in our church?

Contact Pastor Wes, Kerren Brown or leave a message in the office

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
Sept. 06	Joe Brown	Patti Melsheimer
Sept. 13	Elwood Hyden	Carolyn Anderson
Sept. 20	Susan Thronson	Rose Ann Steiner
Sept. 27	Mary Thronson	Rosslyn Clauson



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

September 2026

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Fri. Sep 4 | Plantel Nursery Tour, Santa Maria, 10am, Meet at church 9:20 |
| Sat. Sep 12 | Dana Adobe History Day.
Carpool from church at 9:30 |
| Sun. Sep 13 | Volunteer Appreciation Sunday after 2nd service. Includes lunch. |
| Sat. Sep 26 | District Women's Retreat 10AM-3PM |
| Sun. Oct 4 | Neighborhood Band Concert, 3PM |
| Sun. Oct 25 | Alternative Christmas Boutique, after both services |
| Mon. Oct 26 | Little Pink Houses of Hope dinner |
| Nov 6 - 8 & 15 | Boutique |
| Sat. Nov 14 | John Lindsey presentation on El Nino. 10:30 |
| Sat. Dec. 5 | Extravaganza Talent Show 5-7PM |
| Sun. Dec 6 | Neighborhood Band Concert 3pm |
| Tue. Dec 8 | Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. 1pm, Advance on-line signup required. |
| Thu. Dec 17 | Alternate date: Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. 1pm, Advance on-line signup required. |

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.