First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Hope, Joy & Love Rising

Cast-A-Net

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

NOVEMBER 2026

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

Pastor's Page



Welcome to November. We are heading into the holiday season. I invite you to join us as we start the month with our All Saints' celebration on Nov. 1. I would like to mention the Tree of Life. Perhaps there is someone in the congregation you would like to honor and remember; perhaps a group would like to remember a person. Your remembrance and gift honor and cherish the memory of our friends and loved ones in First UMC Arroyo Grande. Our tree of life is designed and dedicated to give special, permanent recognition to those who have contributed to the church in ways beyond monetary gifts. Brochures in the foyer have more information.

The following week, we will begin our 7-week Advent journey. The beauty of a 7-week Advent is that it gives us time to slow down and celebrate during a busier time of year. We are slowing down to reflect on Christ's gift. Many holidays fall during this time, and we are not taking away from any; if anything, we are adding to them. In the coming weeks, we have Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and others. We also have things like Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Advent helps by going against the cultural current and taking us to the place our souls need to rest.

I look forward to this time of year as the decorations go up and the little things begin to change, hinting at the celebration to come. We have some great things coming up: Holiday Boutique, the Hal Lindsey presentation, the Christmas Friendly Neighborhood Big Band concert, the Christmas Extravaganza, and Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm. I look forward to another wonderful Christmas season here at our church.

Wesley Thompson

Rev. Wesley Thompson

UPCOMING EVENTS - INVITE YOUR FRIENDS





PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY
October 18
Celebrated with cake and cards
Thank you for all you do for our church!



Thank you so much for the wonderful cards. I read through them and enjoyed them all, and then Kristi got home from her shift and read through them. I am so blessed to be your pastor. You make pastoring a joy. We truly feel loved and appreciated. It is a tremendous blessing to have such great people to do ministry with. I feel your love and encouragement! I appreciate being appreciated.
-- Pastor Wesley Thompson

Thank you for recognizing me on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Wendy and I read all of your cards after I returned back home last weekend. It has been a difficult season for us due to the loss of Wendy's father as well as our dog, Gracie, and taking in all of your kind words meant a lot for both of us. We are blessed that we don't do this work alone here and it's been a real privilege to serve the young people in our church alongside all of you. Your encouragement is the fuel that keeps us going! I'm looking forward to being back with you in November!
--Pastor Tim Olson

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BIG BAND CONCERT
Sunday, October 4

A lively and fun musical afternoon was enjoyed by all. Our church received over $500 in free-will offerings.









Friendly Neighborhood Big Band Christmas Concert is Sunday, December 6 at 3PM

Youth Ministry

October 17 Youth Group went to the beach for fun and pizza. It was a small group due to conflicts with Homecoming Games and festivities.





Upcoming Youth events:

Sat. Dec. 14, 4PM Progressive Dinner Sign-up sheet is under the cross in the Youth room.

Sat. Nov. 21, Free Golf Lessons for Youth Group at Monarch Dunes Golf Course, 2-4pm

Mon. Dec. 28, 1:30 People's Kitchen Food Prep.

Tue. Dec. 29, 11:45 People's Kitchen Serving

See's CANDIES®

FUNDRAISER FOR THE YOUTH GROUP



SALES START NOVEMBER 1ST.

20 - 50% OF THE SALE PRICE GOES DIRECTLY TO OUR YOUTH GROUP!



FREE SHIPPING WITH ORDERS OVER $75!
DELIVERY STARTS NOV. 10TH



SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Order Online!

https://tinyurl.com/3ahffhrf



MISSION TEAM REPORT

We served 89 people at People's Kitchen on September 29.

A big thank you to Patty & Frank, Mary & Bob, Debora, Evelyn, Hilary, Ruth, Christina and Dorine who helped serve

Update on Bowls (text from Alistair)

Hey Evelyn, David, and Dorine! Just wanted to say thank you so much to you guys and everyone at First United Methodist for being part of Empty Bowls this year!

This ended up being not just our most attended Empty Bowls ever, but actually the most attended 5CHC event in our history, with an estimated 950 people attending, and we raised about $52,000!

I really appreciate you guys getting the youth involved and doing a paint party for us. It's always great seeing younger people get involved with the event, and I know there's also a lot of coordination behind the scenes to actually make something like that happen.

Please pass along a big thank you from me to all of the youth who participated. Really appreciate you guys helping make the event what it was this year!

It was nice to finally meet you at the office! Glad your brother got to win a basket on his visit!

NOTE FROM DEB:

Deb, Joyce and I went to the Empty Bowls Event last Thursday at St. Patrick's Church, along with my brother and sister-in-law from out of town. It was a fantastic event and my brother won a gift basket in the Raffle! I came away with a bowl that was painted at our party!

SPARE CHANGE FOR TURKEYS

Start collecting your spare change for those in need. The money we collect will be given to the Five Cities Christian Women Food Pantry to buy turkeys for the Christmas baskets. During November look for the piggy banks in the narthex. November 15 and November 22 the Mission Team will be out in the narthex with our noisy buckets. Thank you for all your support.

LETTER FROM FLORENCE MEFORE
OUR COVENANT MISSIONARY IN ZIMBABWE

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

I send greetings to you all from Old Mutare Mission Hospital Zimbabwe. I do hope that you are all doing well with your families. Thanks be to God for his mercies and favors on all of us.

I want to thank you all for your support (financially and prayers) both for my upkeep, the hospital and the feeding of the pregnant women in the Waiting Mothers Shelter. We give thanks to God for his providence.

The past three months following my last newsletter, has been relatively quiet. We succeeded in completing the plumbing work for the laundry area in the Waiting Mothers Shelter. Another problem we have been experiencing is the cost of providing wood for cooking for the pregnant women. Getting wood for cooking is difficult due to the government rules about felling of trees and the need to preserve forests, hence the protection of wildlife too. I specifically approached two of my supporting churches: The Hope United Methodist Church Marshalltown Iowa and The First United Methodist Church Princeton West Virginia. We thankfully received funds from one of them with which we purchased the Industrial cooking gas stove and Industrial gas cylinder. As soon as we receive funds from the other church, it will be used for some other needs. It is important to clarify that in most places in Africa, propane and butane gas for home-use is not supplied direct from the gas company to homes. Propane/butane are filled in pressure cylinders and sold to prospective customers. Hopefully we shall see it in use in the next newsletter as soon as we put safety measures in place.

I am pleased to update all of us that the most recent update about my retirement from the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe indicates that my retirement with the ministry is scheduled at the end of my present contract which comes to an end in May, 2027 and not December 31st, 2026 as previously thought. It gives me more time towards putting necessary things in place for the sustainability of the Waiting Mothers' Shelter program. Emmanuel is doing well and our children and grand children are well too.

Prayer Points:

1) For God's guidance as we plan for the continued support of the Waiting Mothers' Shelter program following my retirement.

2) Pray for an end to the continued shedding of innocent blood in Nigeria as a result of religion and worship. Thank you so much for support. Please don't be tired.

Yours Sincerely,

Florence Mefor,
UMC missionary in Zimbabwe. Advance # 13991Z; Old Mutare Mission Hospital Project
Advance # 3022277



Newly completed laundry area





Multiple Stove and its propane gas cylinder.

UWF RETREAT

21 women from this church and neighboring North District churches joined together ON September 26 fellowship and conversation.

Through prayer we were encouraged to be challenged by the Holy Spirit and to become more rooted in Christ and renewed.

We had an opportunity to talk and get acquainted with fellow participants, including some we knew from our own Sunday church attendance.

We had a delicious box lunch, followed by some easy and rewarding craft activities.

As we closed, we desired to get together again, with the women from the other churches, Trinity Methodist Church of Los Osos and San Luis Methodist church. Each wanting to grow their group.

We thank Diane Garner, North District president, and Kim Smith, communications coordinator for traveling the distance to lead this amazing retreat.

- Gerry McGuire

















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.

Our September 26 meeting with the North District United Women in Faith Retreat was well received. We enjoyed meeting new people from other churches and getting to know our own members better. The crafts were fun. We look forward to meeting again in the future with these churches from the North District. See pictures and further information elsewhere in this issue.

We are crafting on Tuesdays for the boutique. Kits are available to pick up and take home now, too. They are located on the table in Criswell Hall in the over-hang area. Help us out. You can come on Tuesdays (between 10am and 1pm) and get instructions for the kits. It's a good time to learn new skills, including crocheting. We have coffee, tea and cookies. We have made wreaths, Christmas ornaments, potholders, crochet items and many more fun and interesting things. Nov 3 we will be in the kitchen making candy and baking. Come join us. We also need your help setting up and on the days of the sale.

Boutique Time November 6,7,8. We will need help from all to make this the best, ever. The clipboards to sign up are on the card table in Criswell Hall. We will need help pricing, organizing, displaying, baking, and candy making November 3,4, and 5th and cleanup on the 8th. Help overseeing and straightening tables is needed on the 6 and 7.

We welcome handmade items you would like to donate and vintage and collectible items you think might sell. Plants and home baked items are always welcome.

Help us advertise. We have bookmarks and flyers you can pick up at the card table in Criswell Hall to help distribute to businesses you frequent.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry McGuire

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

November 14, Saturday 10:30 Meteorologist John Lindsey will do a presentation on El Nino. 10:30. Invite your friends. It should be very popular, don't come late.

November 29, Sunday 11:30-2:00 Advent Workshop. After second service, 11:30 to 2:00. UWF women will serve a lunch of soup, salad, rolls and dessert. Fellowship Ministry committee will be offering many Christmas crafts for you to enjoy making. Come and get into the spirit of the season.

December 5, Saturday- 5pm -7pm Holiday Extravaganza Church Talent Show. We need talent to volunteer. Let us know if you can perform. We are already signing performers up. Sign up at the connections table to come and see your talented friends. We will also be serving a delectable assortment of desserts.

February 18, 2027, Thursday, 1:50 – 2:35, A return tour of the Lompoc High School Aquarium. Those that went last year were very impressed. Sign up to attend.

Submitted by, Gerry McGuire

UWF FOOD OUTREACH



The United Women of Faith food outreach prepares meals for the 5Cities Homeless Collation (5CHC). Lucy and Zofie Jorstad, Maureen, Sandy, Mary and Dorine prepared the meals in August. Mary Jorstad, Sandy, Pat Melsheimer and Dorine made three Company Casseroles, cake, cookies and added bread and lettuce which fed 22 people at 5CHC. Please come and join them as they prepare tasty, healthy meals for those in need, at noon on the last Sunday of each month

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



This is your opportunity to help provide poinsettias to brighten our church and the lives of our shut-in members.

Please print your dedication clearly.

Thank you for your generosity.

IN HONOR or IN MEMORY OF
(please circle one)

_____

_____

Each poinsettia plant is $16.
Payments should be made to FUMCAG
Put poinsettia in memo line on check or envelope.

Please put payment and this completed form in an offering envelope and place in the offering plate or drop your envelope with form at the church office by Monday morning, December 14.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Office use only:

Cash _____ Check # _____ Amount _____



There is so much to be thankful for, and we are especially grateful for you and your continued faithful support of our church and its ministries.

As you may have noticed, our children's and youth groups are growing and becoming increasingly involved in the life and ministries of our church. Our infant and toddler nursery is now up and running, with nursery volunteers available for second service. In addition, our United Women of Faith have launched a mission ministry by providing meals for the 5Cities Homeless Coalition. These new and ongoing ministries are making a meaningful difference in the lives of others, and none of this would be possible without your generous and faithful giving.

As we look at our church's financial needs, we want to share that we began the year with a budget deficit, and we are currently facing a shortfall of more than $13,000. With rising monthly expenses and growing ministry needs, we need your support to sustain our programs and continue serving our congregation and community.

Please prayerfully consider making an additional contribution to help bridge this financial gap. As year-end approaches, there are several ways you can support our church, including endowment gifts, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from IRAs, planned giving, cash or check and online giving.

We pray that, together, we can meet this financial challenge and continue the work God has called us to do—ministering to those in need in our local community and sharing His love throughout the world. Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and continued commitment to our church family and its mission.

May God bless you abundantly for your faithfulness and many ways you help make our ministries possible.

With gratitude and blessings,
Jo Anne Napoles
Treasurer

November UWF Book Club Selection:

The UWF Book Club will meet on Friday, November 20th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library to discuss H is for Hawk by Helen MacDonald. Devastated by her father's death, Helen seeks to get connected with herself and her surroundings by training a goshawk. Mabel, the hawk, serves as a conduit for her healing and self-discovery. This true story reveals the depths of grief Helen experienced and the healing that nature can provide. You are invited to see Judy Leonard to pick up a library copy of H is for Hawk. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion on November 20th.

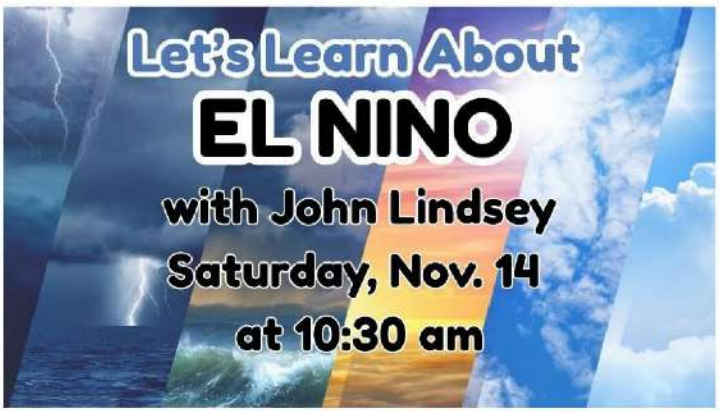


LIBRARY NEWS

All of you are always welcome to come into the library to browse. It is open between services and during fellowship on Sundays. Here are more titles our folks have checked out recently.

- Laugh Again by Charles Swindoll
- The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom
- Parables from the Back Side by Ellsworth Kalas
- Understanding the Methodist Church by Nolan Harmon
- Susanna Wesley by Arnold Dallimore
- The Call by Adam Hamilton
- Sunset by Karen Kingsbury
- The Telling and The Crossword by Beverly Lewis
- The Origin of Satan by Elaine Pagels
- Lessons of Faith DVD

Happy reading,
Joyce Singelman



Upcoming Events

Sun.	Nov. 1	See's Candy Sales Kickoff
Fri-Sun.	Nov 6-8	Holiday Boutique 9am-2pm, Friday & Saturday, Sunday after both services
Sun.	Nov. 8	Start of 7 Weeks of Advent
Sat.	Nov. 14	John Lindsey presentation on El Nino, 10:30
Sat.	Nov. 14	Youth Group, Adults 3pm, Youth 4pm, 5:30pm Dinner
Sun	Nov. 15	Change for Turkeys, after both services
Sun.	Nov. 15	Boutique after both services
Sat.	Nov. 21	Free Golf Lessons for Youth Group at Monarch Dunes Golf Course, 2-4pm
Sun	Nov. 22	Change for Turkeys, after both services
Sun.	Nov. 29	Advent Workshop 11:30-2:00, Includes lunch and crafts
Sun.	Nov. 29	UWF Food Outreach, Noon
Fri.	Dec. 4	Deadline to order See's Candy
Sat.	Dec. 5	Holiday Extravaganza Talent Show, 5-7pm
Sun.	Dec. 6	Friendly Neighborhood Band Concert, 3pm
Tue.	Dec. 8	Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, 1pm. Advance on-line signup required
Sat.	Dec. 12	Youth Group Progressive dinner 4pm
Thu,	Dec. 17	Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, 1pm. Advance on-line signup required
Thu.	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service, 4PM
Sun.	Dec. 27	UWF Food Outreach, Noon
Mon.	Dec. 28	People's Kitchen Food Prep, 1:30,
Tue.	Dec. 29	People's Kitchen Serving, Leave church 11:45

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
November. 01	Joe Brown	Rosslyn Clauson
November. 08	Susan Throndson	Rose Ann Steiner
November. 15	Sharon Roemer	Patti Melsheimer
November. 22	Lucy Jacob	Carolyn Anderson
November. 29	Elwood Hyden	Priscilla Alquist

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

November 01 Mission Team
November 08 Nomination Committee
November 15 Staff Parish
November 22 Trustees
November 29 Worship Team



November



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURADAY
1 8:30am Informal Worship Service 10:30am Traditional Worship Service See's Candy Sales Kickoff Daylight Saving Time Ends	2 6pm Gerry's Quilt Class	3 9am Tai Chi, 10am Sew n Sew Crafters, 11am Chair Yoga, 5pm Bell Choir, 7pm Trustees, 7:30pm Big Band	4 9am Church Work Morning, 10am Fellowship Ministry, 5:30 Daughter's of Grace Women's Circle, 5:00pm Worship Team, 6pm Chancel Choir	5 9amTai Chi & Fast Walking, 11am Chair Yoga, 5pm Bell Choir	6 10am Parks & Rec Knitting & Crocheting, Holiday Boutique 9 to 2pm	7 9 to 2pm Holiday Boutique
8 8:30am Informal Worship Service 10:30am Traditional Worship Service Start of 7 weeks of Advent Holiday Boutique after both service	9 6pm Gerry's Quilt Class	10 9am Tai Chi, 10am Sew n Sew Crafters, 11am Chair Yoga, 5pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Big Band	11 9am Church Work Morning, 10am UWF Steering Committee, 1:30pm Mission Team, 6pm Chancel Choir	12 9amTai Chi & Fast Walking, 10:0x0am Staff Parish, 11am Chair Yoga, 11:30am Nominations Committee, 5pm Bell Choir	13 10am Parks & Rec Knitting & Crocheting,	14 10:30am John Lindsey El Nino presentation Youth Group, 3pm Adults 4pm, Youth, 5:30pm Dinner
15 8:30am Informal Worship 10:30am Traditional Worship Service Change for Turkeys Holiday Boutique Children, Youth, Committee Noon	16 6pm Gerry's Quilt Class	17 9am Tai Chi, 10am Sew n Sew Crafters, 11am Chair Yoga, 2:30pm Joy Circle, 5pm Bell Choir , 5:30 Finance Committee 7:30pm Big Band	18 9am Church Work Morning, 2pm Church Council, 6pm Chancel Choir	19 9amTai Chi & Fast Walking, 11am Chair Yoga, 5pm Bell Choir	20 10am Parks & Rec Knitting & Crocheting, 10:30am UWF Book Club	21
22 8:30am Informal Worship Service Change for Turkeys 10:30am Traditional Worship Service	23 4:30pm Communications 6pm Gerry's Quilt Class	24 9am Tai Chi, 10am Sew n Sew Crafters, 11am Chair Yoga, 5pm Bell Choir 5:30pm Finance 7:30pm Big Band	25 9am Church Work Morning, 6pm Chancel Choir	26  	27 10am Parks & Rec Knitting & Crocheting,	28 Hanging of the Greens, 10am
29 8:30am Informal Worship Service 10:30am Traditional Worship Service 11:30 Advent lunch and workshop Noon: UWF Food Outreach	30 6pm Gerry's Quilt Class			**Some Important Upcoming Events:** Fri. Dec. 4 Deadline to order See's Candy. Sat. Dec. 5 Holiday Extravaganza Talent Show, 5-7pm. Sun. Dec. 6 Friendly Neighborhood Band Concert, 3pm. Thu. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service, 4PM		

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: 805-481-2692
Email: fumcag@yahoo.com
Website:
www.WorshipWeekly.com
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/fumcag
You Tube Worship Videos:
https://tinyurl.com/yc6e32x5

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Thompson
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 Throndson

Covenant Missionaries:
Katherine Parker, Nepal
Florence Mefor, Zimbabwe

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

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



Interested in exploring Membership?

Please contact Kerren Brown, Pastor Wes or the office if you are interested in exploring membership in our active, fun and growing church.



11/02 Alexander Thompson
11/07 Patrick Harvey
11/07 Wesley Thompson
11/07 Aaliyha Vasquez
11/15 Jim Harvey
11/16 Edmelyne Capuno
11/16 Rosemary MacKeen
11/17 Michael Capuno
11/21 Helen Gugeler
11/23 Christina Cuddy
11/23 Adrian Paredes
11/29 Del Hollinger
HAPPY100 DEL!!

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.

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:
Julie F & Family, Rose Marie, Bob T, David, Ann, Karol, Colette, Dale, Mrs. Anita, Jack, Gary, Colton W, Harper, Jeff K, David, Emilio G, Lisa H, Tiffany G, Rain R, Teal G Myla B, Karol, Dennis, Barbara, Karl, Nancy St L, Bert, Cristy & Lamar V, Carlos V, Andres M, Jose M, Nallo V, Carmen G,

Hope, Joy & Love Rising

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Visit us on the web at: WorshipWeekly.com

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

November 2026

Our Covenant

We Love God

We Love People

We Work Hard

We Collaborate

We Show Unreasonable Hospitality

We Learn From Our Mistakes

We Can Do Difficult Things

We Are Committed to One Another

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.