

"Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Go—Share Christ."

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

December 2014



Candlelight CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24 – 5:30 PM

This is a worship service for the entire family. Join us for a service to sing carols, tell the original Christmas story and worship by candlelight. *In Excelsis Deo!*

Let us come together on this special night as we, along with the Shepherds, hear about the birth of the Christ child.

Joy to the World

He will be a joy and delight to you,
and many will rejoice because of his birth...

Luke 1:14

CruzCards.com

275 North Halcyon Road . Arroyo Grande . CA, 93420 . (805) 481-2692

What if we just stop? Stop the madness. Stop the frustrating pursuit of the perfect present. Stop shopping until we drop. Stop trying to "people please" through gift giving.

What if we spend less, but give more, love more? And here's a thought. What if we use the holidays to worship God more fully?

Those are questions posed by a grassroots group known as the Advent Conspiracy. They've partnered with more than 1,000 churches—more than 300 of them United Methodist—in 17 countries to change the way the world does Christmas and the way the world gives presents or . . . presence.

"We're not trying to kill the idea of giving gifts," said Ken Weigel, pastor of ministry development at Imago Dei Community in Portland, Ore. The nondenominational congregation is one of the founding churches of the Advent Conspiracy. "What we're saying is that instead of buying your kid the Xbox, buy him a baseball mitt, and yourself a mitt, and actually make a commitment to your son to play catch regularly."

Or, suggested Weigel, give a friend or family member a couple of mugs and a pound of coffee with a note that says, "This coffee is for when we sit down and talk because what I want to do this year is spend more time with you."

Called "relational giving," it's an important tenet of Advent Conspiracy's philosophy.

"We've got to re-examine this weird idea of saying 'I love you equals X amount of money,'" he said. "What everyone really wants is to be loved and to have time with the people they love. Nobody lies on their deathbed and says, 'I wish I had more toys.'"

In fact, Weigel believes it's a relief to most people when they finally let go of their grandiose expectations of both giving and receiving over the holidays.

"Just look at Black Friday. We spent the entire day before giving thanks, and then the next day we go crazy going after things we've convinced ourselves we need. What if we just stopped the consumerism? What if we just said we actually have the things we really need — we don't need another sweater or another set of screwdrivers. What if we just looked the empire of consumerism dead in the eye and said, 'I don't need you!'"

According to Weigel, moms often have the hardest time reining in the spending because their love language is gift giving. And dads? Well, they too often try to solve Christmas giving dilemmas with a credit card. However, parents can lead by example and model giving to kids.

"Say the family has an extra \$200 they had planned to spend on a Wii, but the neighbors don't have heat, or the homeless don't have food, or a family at church doesn't have Christmas gifts. Do we want to give the neighbors heat, or the homeless a few meals, or the family who is down on their luck some stuff they

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

need . . . or do we go buy the Wii?

"Somewhere along the way, kids have got to get the message, 'Let's stop worshipping the idol of consumerism and actually start looking at Jesus and the gift God gave us in giving him.'"

It's about the meaning behind the giving.

This is the first year the Rev. Kevin Raidy's congregation has collaborated with Advent Conspiracy. At Bloomfield United Methodist Church in Indiana where he serves as pastor, a large outside banner announces, "We support a conspiracy!"

"This is an awareness project for us," Raidy said. "Meaning is lost at Christmas. Jesus was born in the simplest of settings; yet, we've lost the message."

In a series of sermons and other lessons inspired by Advent Conspiracy, Raidy is driving home the message that it is not always about the gifts; it is about the meaning behind the giving.

"The Christmas 'kick' is starting earlier and earlier every year," the pastor said. "There are pre-Black Friday sales, then Black Friday, then Cyber-Monday. Everyone is wanting bits and pieces of our money and our time. We can be stressed out from overdoing. We can be maxed out on our credit cards from overspending. Or we can have God's peace that comes from giving from the heart. It's a choice we make."

Give more of yourself so there is more for others.

In his first Advent Conspiracy sermon of the season, the Rev. Brian Germano encouraged his congregation to spend less on gifts of excess—the filler and fluff gifts they didn't really need—so that they could contribute to causes that make a tangible difference in the world.

On a recent Sunday at East Cobb United Methodist Church in Marietta, Ga., Germano asked his parishioners to "give more of yourselves."

"God didn't give us things," Germano preached. "He gave us himself so we should give gifts that do the same—give of ourselves and give gifts that celebrate a relationship."

"Buy one less gift," he suggested. "And the money you save on that one less gift can then be used for gifts that matter like helping a needy family, or filling a care package for someone, or helping with a mission project."

According to Germano, the apostle Paul talks about the use of money and possessions where our abundance can be shared with others in need so there is a balance.

"So spending less," said the pastor, "helps us fulfill Paul's advice to use our wealth in ways that truly make a difference in the world."

SOURCE: UMC.org

*BY Passi-Klaus: A staff writer on the Public Information Team at United Methodist Communications.



Mondays at 7 PM

Women come to pray together in the Sanctuary.



Adults at 5:45 PM

(See schedule at right)

FREE Fellowship Meal at 5 PM

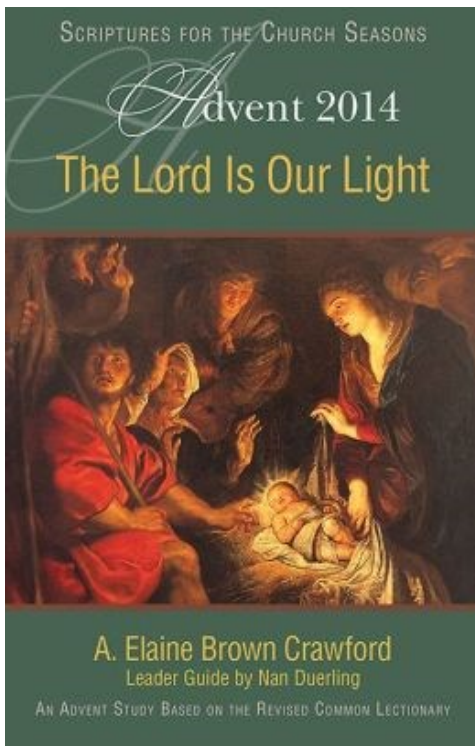


Fridays at 8:30 AM

Join us in the Library for The Story Bible, discussion, coffee, & friends!

JOIN US FOR A
FELLOWSHIP DINNER
FREE!
5 PM Wednesdays in Criswell Hall

Dates	Topics and Schedule
Wednesday, December 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Advent Study—<i>The Lord Is Our Light: Mindful Waiting</i> * This Advent study is led by our Lay Servants. Come and support them!
Sunday, December 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service TOPIC: <i>The Lord Is Our Light: Expectant Preparation</i>
Wednesday, December 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Advent Study—<i>The Lord Is Our Light: Expectant Preparation</i> * This Advent study is led by our Lay Servants. Come and support them!
Sunday, December 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service TOPIC: <i>The Lord Is Our Light—Anointed Service</i>
Wednesday, December 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Advent Study—<i>The Lord Is Our Light: Anointed Service</i> * This Advent study is led by our Lay Servants. Come and support them!
Sunday, December 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service TOPIC: <i>The Lord is Our Light—Humans Plan, God Laughs</i>
Wednesday, December 24	<p>Christmas Ever Candlelight Worship Service 5:30 PM - ONE worship service for the entire family!</p>
Sunday, December 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONE 10:30 AM Worship Service Scripture: Luke 2:22—40
Wednesday, December 31	<p>New Years Eve—Enjoy! May God bless you in 2015!!</p>



The Lord is Our Light invites you to explore God’s hope and presence through a study of the scripture readings for Advent and Christmas. Key Bible readings call us to praise God as we actively wait for the coming of God’s redemption and new creation. Through the readings, we hear the call to celebrate the light of God revealed through Jesus Christ.

The season of Advent offers opportunities to prepare for God’s coming in human form in the baby Jesus and for the approach of God’s kingdom with the second coming of Christ. Hope is the focus of Advent worship, study, and prayer. We will discover the light that began in the manger and that continues as we look forward with hope to Christ’s return.

This Advent season, we invite you to follow with us on this journey not only through the journey of preparation for the birth of Christ but as we encourage our church’s Lay Servants on their journey to church leadership as they lead us in this study. We will have a time of questions and answers and discussion along with fellowship and prayer. **Come and join the study. Help support these people seeking to follow Christ’s exempling leadership.**



Helping men grow in Christ; so others may know Christ!

David Bauer, *publicity*

Monthly
Meeting
Memo

Saturday, November 15th, the men had their first monthly meeting of the season. We met in Pismo Beach at Coco's at 8:30 AM, ordered breakfast and enjoyed one another's company. It was awesome to hear our interesting speaker, David Smallwood speak about the mysterious Kristin Smart Case.

It's Jubilee Time

Get on your dancing shoes, tune up your song, or get your skit ready as the annual Christmas Jubilee time is coming. Under the direction of chairman, Bernie

Hawkins it will be a great time. The program includes the now famous "Talent Show" along with music, dancing and good food. Bernie is already looking for talent, so look out, you could be next. Jubilee will be held in Criswell Hall from 7 PM to 9 PM on Friday December 12th, and is fun for the whole family.



Why is Men's Ministry Important?

- Men lead others best by modeling Jesus Christ in thoughts, words and deeds.
- Spiritual maturity is signified in spiritual reproduction, as the faith of mature disciples passes on in others.
- Men growing in Christ become effective spiritual leaders in their homes and congregations, working as partners with their spouses and congregational leaders-both lay and clergy.
- Spiritually growing men help congregations to become vital and alive.
- Everything desired from and through men comes as a result of men growing spiritually and maturing as disciples: family blessings, stewardship, service, outreach, prayer, spiritual leadership, lifestyle evangelism, and faithful obedience. Men are foundational to the life and health of the church.
- When a man lives daily in surrendered faith, God is honored and many lives are blessed. Transformed hearts are forged only within Christ-centered lives-nothing less is our acceptable offering; nothing less truly reveals Christ.



CONGREGATIONAL
CARE MINISTERS

The Congregational Care Committee has had as one of their goals for 2014 the creation of a Church Directory for all members and friends of our congregation. Many hands have contributed to this work, especially Marj Wolters, Virginia Mothes, Sarah Burgeson and Lynn Stewart. We are happy to say that the Directory is now ready for distribution! They will be available after church on Sunday, December 7th. Please do sign when you receive yours. For those who cannot pick their directory up, we will make every effort to get it to you either by mailing it to you or by delivering it.

When you receive your directory, please look through it and notify Patti Melsheimer or Marj Wolters if you find errors. We will try to publish the corrections as we are notified, by printing them in the Cast~A~Net and the Sunday Bulletins.

Thanks to everyone for their patience. We hope this directory will be helpful as you use it to write notes to your church friends or send them cards when they have birthdays, are ill or absent from church.

Patti Melsheimer, *Chair*

Our team needs 2 people to help out with our Congregational Care Table after either or both worship services on Sundays.

If you are interested, the tasks will include:

- After first service setting up the table with cards, etc.
- After second service, taking down the table and mailing cards.
- For both services the team needs people to help circulate cards and gather signatures from our church family.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this ministry. Contact Buffy Prestemon.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

"The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation" Patti Melsheimer, Publicity



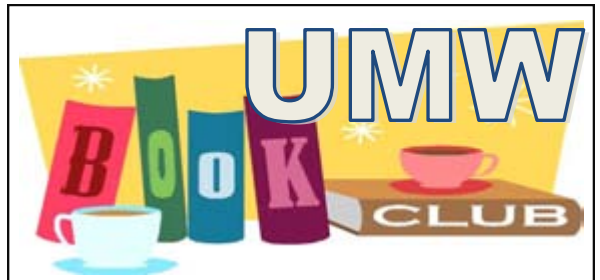
where did all the
MONEY GO?

Each time you donate money to the United Methodist Women you help support National Mission Institutions and International Ministries. National Mission Institutions related to United Methodist Women include community centers, schools, colleges, health care facilities and women's residences. These institutions offer dozens of services needed by individuals; in turn they impact entire communities one life or one family at a time.

David and Margaret Youth & Family Services in La Verne, CA is an example of a National Mission Institution. They provide residential services for 70 at-risk adolescent girls, ages 11 to 18, with therapeutic and academic services designed to nurture their physical, psychological and educational development.

2014 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Batis Center for Women in Quezon City, Philippines. Long a partner of United Methodist Women, Batis Center has invested United Methodist Women's Pledge to Mission funds in God's work with women migrant workers who are returning home to the Philippines, in distress from abusive and exploitative treatment. The center specifically addresses the issues of youth migration and trafficking of women and girls — including in times of natural disaster when families and communities are especially vulnerable.

From United Methodist Women living out their faith in Liberia to girls dreaming of college education in China; from women farmers feeding their families in Haiti to women and children receiving treatment for tuberculosis at a missionary hospital in the Philippines; from crisis intervention for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong to unlocking financial opportunities for rural communities in Mozambique; your contribution to United Methodist Women impacts more lives than can be counted.^[2] Each life touched by your gift is improved and, in turn, that woman or child is empowered to reach out in a positive way in the local community. Internationally, 2013 Mission Giving funds supported 121 programs carried out by 107 organizations in more than 110 countries.



The United Methodist Women's Book Club has combined the November and December meetings. We will gather on Friday, December 12th at 11 AM to discuss "Sum It Up: A Thousand and Ninety-Eight Victories, a Couple of Losses, and a Life in Perspective" by Pat Summitt.

Pat Summitt, the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history tells for the first time her remarkable story of victory and resilience as well as facing down her greatest challenge: early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

Those of us who have already begun reading this autobiography have found it almost impossible to put down, even if basketball is not your favorite sport! We will be meeting in the McMillen room at 11 a.m. Join us even if you have not read the book. You will find the discussion enlightening and informative.



Greetings from Children's Ministries!

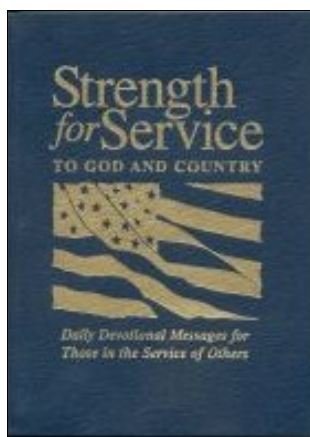
November lessons had us exploring "Hope for God's People". The verse for the month was (Jeremiah 29:11) **I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord.** We learned about the adventures of Joseph. Joseph reunites with his family near Thanksgiving time. It is a good lesson about family, forgiveness, and hope. We hope your families have also been reunited with love!

We participated in a bake sale for Family Fun Day, working with the Youth Group. We made \$236.46 which will go to Children's programs. Thank you all who participated in the sale!

Children will be learning about the birth of Christ with lessons from Matthew (1:23), as we enter the Advent season. The children will be exploring what Advent means, along with their lessons. Also, please keep in mind, we will be looking for helpers for our Christmas Eve program. We wish all of you a joyous season!

I would like to thank all of our new and continuing volunteers that are helping to strengthen our Sunday school. I can't thank you enough. Our Sunday school is growing, and we are blessed!

Carolyn Russell
Interim Children's Education Director



Mission Agency Will Match \$1 Million on UMC "GivingTuesday"

October 2014 (gcumm.org)

New York, NY--The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries announced that on Dec. 2, 2014, it will match up to \$1 million in gifts made online to any project through The Advance as part of UMC GivingTuesday.

Marie Kuch-Stanovsky, who chairs the communication and development committee of Global Ministries' board of directors, expressed enthusiasm about last year's record \$6.5 million raised online through The Advance on UMC GivingTuesday. "It was a wonderful sign of commitment and extravagant generosity, maximizing the impact of thousands of United Methodists coming together on one day to transform the world."

Directors approved allocating matching funds dollar for dollar up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online on Dec. 2, 2014, between 12 a.m. EST and 11:59 p.m.

Kuch-Stanovsky explained that to stretch the matching funds, a maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds and a project may receive a maximum of \$25,000 in matching funds.

UM Men may want to contribute to the Strength for Service Fund (<http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/3021221>).

Men are encouraged to visit the website early in the day as only the first \$1 million will be matched. Contributions coming in after that match has been completed will not be matched.

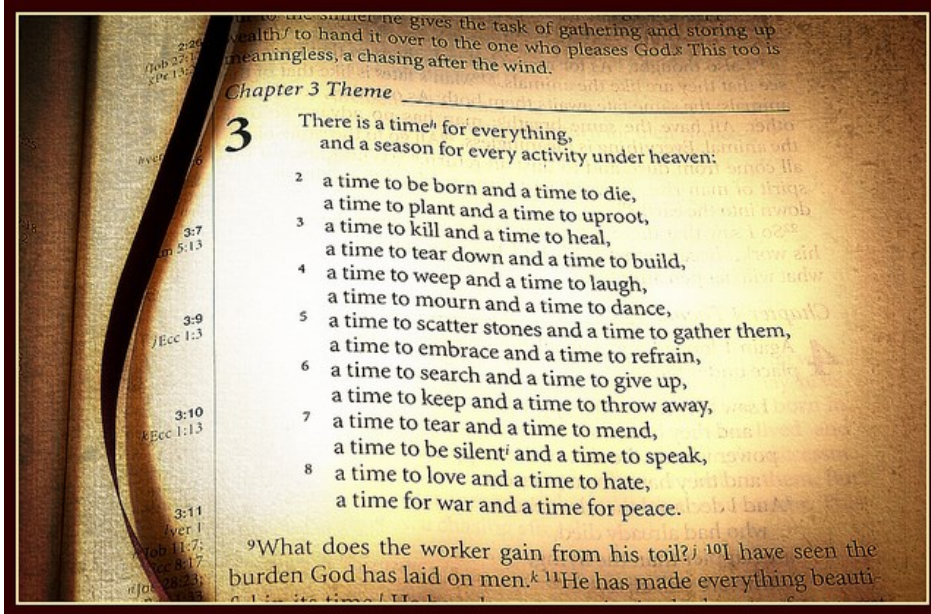
Sharing our gifts is a spiritual discipline that helps us grow stronger as the body of Christ. The church's response to those in need is an expression of our faith, a confirmation of our discipleship and a witness to our love for our neighbors.

This year, we have an exciting opportunity to maximize your support. On December 2, as part of the UMC #GivingTuesday, you can express the spiritual discipline of giving by donation online through **The Advance** to any project or missionary of your choice. On this day only, December 2, your gifts will be matched up to \$1 million (see above). As always 100% of your gifts will go towards the designated project.

Support a missionary who is sharing the light of Christ or bring healing and hope to survivors of natural and civil disasters.

www.umcmmissions.org/give

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	Pastor's Day off 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. Quilting Class (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)	8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 2 PM Endowment (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L)	8:30 AM People's Kitchen Team Prep-Day (CH/K) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 9:15 AM Storytime with Pastor David & Goodie Bear (N) 9:30 AM Mary- Martha for Thanksgiving and Christmas (MMR) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Advent Study 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)	8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:15 AM Storytime w/ Pastor David & Goodie Bear (N) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room)	Spirit Day at AG UM CC * Wear your shirts! 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AG UM CC Closed	12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211)	
7  Coffee Hour: JOY Circle 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 12 PM Christian Ed. Team (MMR) 2 PM Music for Sunday Afternoon "Celebrations Concert" Sweet Adeline's (S)	8 Pastor's Day off 12 PM Central Coast Hospice Bereavement Support Group (MMR) 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. Quilting Class (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)	9 9 AM AG UM Children's Center Christmas Program Practice (S) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 7 PM Trustees	10 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM UMW Steering (L) 12:30 PM Alzheimer's Association Care Giver Support Group (MMR) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Advent Study 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)	11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 7 PM Worship Team (MMR) 7 PM AG UM Children's Center Christmas Program & Reception	12 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 11 AM UMW Book Club  Newsletter Deadline  7 PM UMM Annual Christmas Jubilee And Variety Show	13  11 AM Christmas Party for the Needy and Homeless 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 5:30 PM Praise Team Set Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team (S)	
1  Coffee Hour: Worship Team 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 2 PM Music for Sunday Afternoon "Celebrations Concert" Sweet Adeline's (S)	15 Pastor's Day off 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. Quilting Class (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)	16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM Congregational Care Team (L) 11 AM Clergy Cluster (215) 1:30 PM Preschool Board - open session (MMR) 2 PM Endowment (L) 2:30 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 7 PM JOY Circle (at the home of a member)	17 8:30 AM People's Kitchen Team Prep-Day (CH/K) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 10:30 AM Communications (P/S) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Advent Study 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)	18 12 PM Five Cities Christian Women Food Set-up and Gift Wrap (CH) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11:30 AM People's Kitchen - leave to serve 12 PM Five Cities Christian Women 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room)	19 9 AM—2 PM Five Cities Christian Women Food Set-up and Gift Wrap (CH) 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)	20 9 AM—noon Five Cities Christian Women Food Basket Distribution (CH/MMR) 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211)	
2*  Coffee Hour: Church Council First Day of Winter 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	22 Pastor's Day off 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. Quilting Class (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)	23 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 1 PM Alzheimer's Support Group for Adult Children of Parents (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L)	24  5:30 PM Candlelight Service	25  Church Office Closed December 25 & 26	26	27 12:30 PM Dr. Chess (211) 5:30 PM Praise Team Set Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team (S)	
AG UM Children's Center CLOSED for Christmas Break— December 22—26, 2014							
28  Coffee Hour: Christmas Cookie Potluck One Service Today 10:30 AM Gospel Music Service	29 Pastor's Day off 1 PM UMC of AG Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 6 PM AG Rec. Dept. Quilting Class (CH) 6 PM Debtors Anon (MMR) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S) 7:30 PM AIAnon (MMR)	30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (handbell Room) 5 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 	31 8:30 AM People's Kitchen Team Prep-Day (CH/K) 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day				



The youth group, once again, had a great time at the concert held at the church, on 11/09/14. (Pictures from the weekend are included.) Lybecker and Kevin (from Un-scene Patrol) and our new friend Jonathan, the cellist, gave two awesome performances. What a blessing to have been able to host these fine young Christian men and witness their testimonies. In spite of our efforts to

invite youth groups from other local churches weeks in advance, it is unfortunate that so many perceived this as only a FUMCAG activity and chose not to attend. Less than a hundred took advantage of the opportunity to hear these talented musicians, who typically perform for thousands. The intimate size of the group, however, made those of us that did attend feel so very privileged and blessed.

It is with sad and heavy hearts that we write this last article for the Cast~A~Net, after attending the Church for 27 years and leading the youth for 16. This will be our last season at the FUMCAG, before branching out, hopefully, to reach a broader base of hungry souls. We are so grateful for the opportunities and experiences we have had at this church over so many years; the many dear and wonderful friends we have made; the countless memories we will always cherish; and the manner in which so many members have embraced our family as their own and helped us raise our daughters here. The opportunity we have had to help raise your children in Christ has been priceless; has ministered to us in so many ways; and continues to bless and encourage us, as we witness them grow into mature Christian adults, raising their own families and developing their own ministries.

We earnestly pray for God's guidance and blessings not only for the youth but for all those at the FUMCAG going forward. Please pray for us, as well. We hope and expect that our paths will continue to cross and that we will be able to continue serving your youth in an even broader capacity going forward.

In Christ's Service, Mike and Lou



**"Don't Cry
Because It's Over,
Smile Because It
Happened." DR. SEUSS**



News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, *chair*

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS: Many things to report this edition... so read carefully so as not to miss out. 1.) Mission Agency News, 2.) Giving Tuesday, 3.) Blanket Campaign, 4.) Alternative Christmas Update, 5.) Layette Items for NOME, 6.) Special Giving totals for 2014.

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE..IN ACTION

1. MISSION AGENCY NEWS

New missionaries commissioned. The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries commissioned seven new missionaries for service around the world. The new missionaries come from South Korea, the United States, Paraguay and the Philippines and will be serving in Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, the United States and Taiwan. Bishop Silvio Cevallos of the Evangelical United Methodist Church preached at the service in Quito, Ecuador.

2. GIVING TUESDAY

When Methodists are united . . . we provide an alternative to the recent US consumer driven shopping traditions of Black Friday, Local Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday. UMC #GivingTuesday offers an opportunity to start off the holiday season by giving instead of getting through supporting organizations and missionaries that have been researched and approved by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. And 100% of all gifts made through The Advance are given directly to the designated project. Thanks to United Methodists' participation in last year's UMC #GivingTuesday:

- Ministries purchased new land in places like Cambodia and Tanzania.
- An entire community in the Philippines is rebuilding after being devastated by a typhoon.
- Families in Guatemala are generating income and improving their diets through gardening.
- Youth in the US repaired homes for families in need while being trained to be servant leaders.
- UMCOR responded globally to disasters that weren't in the news spotlight.
- A health care center in Haiti now offers increased access to care.
- A community in Sierra Leone finished digging a well to provide clean safe drinking water.

3. BLANKET CAMPAIGN FOR CHRISTMAS

November 23rd was Blanket Sunday. We had a special blessing by Pastor David, before they are given out at the People's Kitchen Annual Christmas Party and by the 5 Cities Christian Women's Christmas baskets. Thank you for your great response. You all made it possible for folks will be able to have more warmth this year

4. ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS UPDATE

Thanks again for your support. We raised \$ 175. with this special giving.

5. LAYETTE ITEMS FOR NOME

REMINDER— if you have items for the Christmas box to be sent soon, place them in basket at the mission table.

Many hands can do many things!



*THANK YOU FOR YOUR
FAITHFULNESS.
YOU HAVE BLESSED MANY
OTHERS LOCALLY AND
AROUND THE WORLD.*

6. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2014

Alternative Christmas	175.00
Children's Ministry	100.00
AGFUMC Food Pantry	20.00
Human Relations Sunday	317.00
Imagine No Malaria	2,878.78
Native American Sunday	187.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	656.00
Peace With Justice	285.00
People's Kitchen Food	4,050.91
People's Kitchen Misc.	6,846.88
South County Food Bank	463.22
Vacation Bible School	481.00
World Communion	150.00
Youth Mission Fund	253.00
10 MONTHS TOTAL	16,863.79

**DON'T ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOUR
FOOTSTEPS, IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING
TO MOVE YOUR FEET.**



The Angel Tree

Be a Blessing!

The Angel Tree is known also as the Giving Tree and helps foster care children as well as kids in need around the county.

The Angel Tree has gift tags from the Child Welfare Services and Eligibility Specialists from San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services. The gift tags indicate what the child would like or the parents of the child would like for the child to receive as a Christmas gift.

The tree is decorated with gift tags in duplicate. There is a tag for each child. When you choose a tag, please take the ORIGINAL tag to use as a gift tag on your gift. The other duplicate tag is to stay on the tree for reference in the event that the ORIGINAL is misplaced so that we can locate the correct gift for the correct child in the system

Please bring your UNWRAPPED gift(s) to Criswell Hall and leave them underneath the Christmas tree or give to Sarah in the church office. All gifts must be turned in NO LATER than December 21, 2014.

Christmas is a time of sharing and giving. Please consider sharing your abundance with others with a joyful heart. Visit the Angel Tree and make a child's Christmas wish come true. You will be so blessed by it and glad that you did. Thank you for your generosity.

Blessings in Christ, Jan Treat



Five Cities Christian Women

will be handing out food and gifts again this year. We plan to help about 60 families. The Helping Hands ministry from Harvest Church will hand out clothing, scarves, gloves and other items that they have collected or made. The California Poppies Decorative Artists will be supplying the children's gifts. Blankets that our church has collected in our Blanket Campaign will be handed out. You can pick-up a list of requested food donations from our donation basket in the church Narthex or you can call and we will give you a list. Please give as you are able. Sign up for baskets is November 20th at the Central Coast Baptist Church in the fellowship hall which is across the street from the church.

Happy Holidays and may God bless you in the season!



AGUMCC is having their annual **See's Candy Fundraiser** to help the staff go to the California Association for Education Young Children's conference in Sacramento on March 5 & 6, 2015.

See Ms. Maddy for details.

Place your order and pay by December 3. Candy will be available for pick up Dec 12.



People's Kitchen & UMC of AG Serving Team

Many thanks for all of your support! We are in constant need of casserole makers and people to help prep and serve on our bi-monthly days. See the Ashton about how you can take part.

Meals Served: Year to Date—2,808
Socks Distributed: To Date—10,776



Wednesdays - 9 AM

Join us as we clean up our house of worship—come, and spruce up the House of the Lord; *there is always something to do and places that need work—jobs of all kinds.*

Come, contribute as you are able...all are welcome!

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@scbglobal.net
Senior Pastor:
 Rev. David M. Burgeson
Missionary (retired):
 Judy Atwood
Office Administrator:
 Sarah Burgeson
Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Choir Director: Julie Burns
Praise Team Director: Susan Coho
Organist: Don McGuire
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Multi-Media Director: Mike Coho
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
Christian Education Directors:
 Susan Coho, *Adult*
 OPEN, *Youth Directors*
 Carolyn Russell, *Children's Interim*

Bishop: Minerva G. Carcaño
District Superintendent:
 Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth

AG UM Children's Center
Director: Madrigal Quaglino
E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net
Office: (805) 481-2223



Chair: Joe Brown
Members At Large (alphabetically):
 Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Pastor
 David Burgeson, Sarah Burgeson,
 Judy Leonard and Virginia Mothes.
Layout Editor: Sarah Burgeson
Proofing Team: Judy Atwood, David
 Beaman, Joe Brown, Virginia Mothes,
 and Judy Leonard.
Other contributors:

- Varied Teams/Committees

Deadline:

Noon on December 12th.

PLEASE NOTE:

Layout Editor reserves the right to cut & edit articles to meet space limitations.



THANKS FROM NOME

“Your box of wonderful layette items arrived in fine shape. Thank you for all. The blankets are beautiful and we really needed the little outfits and socks. We've taken both boy and girl layettes to the Regional Hospital every week lately as there seems to be a baby boom.

We are having rain on top of ice, so walking outside upright is a challenge; luckily we have cleats.

Thank you all again for your generosity

Sincerely in Christ, Janet Brower”



We want to get a final box off for 2014 soon. Please put any items in the basket soon... **little outfits are really needed!**



David Beaman	12/3
Mike Takanaka	12/5
Stephen Wise	12/5
Michael Balster	12/7
Adeline Bottorff	12/8
Isabella Sloan	12/8
Mike Coho	12/9
Gage Dowd	12/9
Mike Clark	12/9
Eva McClure	12/9
Jamie Foster	12/9
William Russell	12/9
Richard Duffin	12/13
Susan Thronson	12/13
Julie Burns	12/16
Mary Green	12/17
Kent Unsworth	12/20
David Bauer	12/22
Cyndee Rohla	12/24
Eric Duffin	12/26
Caress Dowd	12/26
Jed Moore	12/27
Nicole Baughman	12/27
Joe Leonard	12/27
Mike Jacob	12/28
Elizabeth Alquist	12/29
Harry Egan	12/30



Did we miss a birthday?

Contact our church office...we need you to fill out an information form for you and your family.



Christmas symbols

Evergreen Tree: Titus 1:2
Eternal Life

Star & Lights: Matthew 2: 9-10
Star that told of Christ's birth

Candy Cane: Luke 2: 8-9, John 10:11
Staff of shepherds who visited the Christ child/Christ is the good shepherd

Bells: John 10:16
Ring out to bring lost sheep back to the fold

Holly & Berries: Titus 1:2, Luke 22:44
Green - Eternal life, Red - Blood of Christ

Gift: Matthew 2:1,11, John 3:16
Wise men's gifts to the Christ child/God's greatest gift to us was the Savior



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Address SERVICE REQUESTED

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INSERT

Children's Center Chronicle

UNITED METHODIST MEN PRESENT

Christmas JUBILEE & VARIETY SHOW

Friday, December 12th from 7 — 9 PM

Come, enjoy festive music, sing Christmas carols, see a special *Variety Show*, a telling of the ORIGINAL Christmas story and...lots of tasty goodies.

Don't miss this **FREE** evening to join our community as we get into the Christmas spirit.

** Childcare will be available*

Bring a friend. ***All are welcome!***