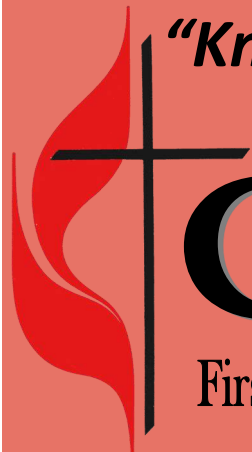


“Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Go—Share Christ.”



Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

FEBRUARY 2016



Super CHILI Bowl 50

Sunday, February 7



United Methodist Women

will be selling delicious

Homemade Chili and Corn Bread

for you to take home to enjoy as you watch the Super Bowl 50 football game.

What a great way to effortlessly entertain your friends as you watch the Big Game!

All profits will be given to UMW charitable projects—local, national, and international.

For a \$10 donation you will receive a large carton of Super Chili, that will feed two adults, and two slices of corn bread.

Available between services and after second service.



ASH WEDNESDAY

**The Beginning of Lent
Wednesday, February 10
6:00 PM SANCTUARY**

A brief worship opportunity begins the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 10th in the sanctuary. We will sing some songs, listen to the words of the traditional “Invitation to a Holy Lent”, and receive the symbol of ashes either on the forehead or hand as a reminder of the commitment we make to observe this season. We continue the Christian disciplines we practice all year long—prayer, reading scripture, study, attendance in worship, serving those in need and living out love with friends, family and everyone we meet. In so doing, we honor Jesus who in his own life did all these things to the glory of God to the very end.

*Sweetheart
Breakfast*

SPONSORED BY



FEBRUARY IS LOVE MONTH FOR UMM

*Yes, Love is in the air for the
Annual UMM Sweetheart Breakfast*

*Saturday, February 13th
9:00 AM to 10:45 AM
Criswell Hall*

What other time of year can the men tell the ladies of the church how much we love them? Besides special entertainment and flowers for the ladies a mystery couple will tell their life story.

Tina Moore has been secured to cook the breakfast, and we can all look forward to an excellent meal!

Cost is \$10 per person with tickets going on sale January 31st in Criswell Hall.

No door sales the day of the event. If you fail to get tickets, make special arrangements with Wayne Huggins, UMM Treasurer.

Single ladies are most welcome to this event.

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



From The Pastor

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

So begins the gospel of John that is the focal point of our six-week study during the 40-day season of Lent for 2016. The resource we will use is Adam Hamilton's book titled:

John: The Gospel of Light and Life

You are invited to come on Wednesday night at 5:45 p.m. after the regular free dinner that takes place at 5:00 p.m. Your own ongoing group within the church may wish to order enough copies of the book to use during that six week period. We CAN start additional groups if there is a group of folks who would like to meet at another time. And ANYONE can purchase a book and read along without being part of a group.

At Christmas we sing:

Hail the Heaven born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n healing in His wings.

And then all too often after carrying the light of Epiphany from Christmas through the transfiguration we take a plunge into darkness for weeks on end celebrating themes of sin, betrayal, death and violence. Such themes are not to be celebrated. Christ is! Every Sunday is a little Easter on which we proclaim the peace, power and joy of the Resurrected Jesus. Though a shadowy and reflective season, Lent is not meant to be miserable and we are not meant to dwell on the dereliction of Jesus, nor bring skeletons out of the closet. What we gaze upon is a life well lived in self-giving non-judgmental love.

Even our own intimate loved ones sometimes go through horrible trials in the end as death comes. When it comes to the memorial, families often say to me, "Don't dwell on what happened; please celebrate his/her life." That is what we will offer Jesus this Lent. We will not glorify the death, but acknowledge it during Holy Week and will lift up His life all season long.

Walk in the Light!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



Women's Prayer
Mondays at 7 PM
 Women come to pray together in the Sanctuary.



Adult Bible Study at 5:45 PM
FREE Fellowship Meal at 5 PM



Fridays at 8:30 AM
 Join us in the Library for Bible Study, discussion, coffee, & friends!



Dates	Topics and Schedule
Wednesday, February 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study Christianity and World Religions—Wrestling with Questions People Ask Session 5: Judaism
Sunday, February 7 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis—BEYOND THE VEIL Luke 9:29-43
Wednesday, February 10 ASH WEDNESDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service The Beginning of Lent Sanctuary
Sunday, February 14 First Sunday in Lent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis—ORIGINAL BLESSING Genesis 1:26-31, John 17:20-25
Wednesday, February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study JOHN: The Gospel of Light and Life
Sunday, February 21 Second Sunday in Lent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis—FOR A WOMAN Luke 13:10-17
Wednesday, February 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study JOHN: The Gospel of Light and Life
Sunday, February 28 Third Sunday in Lent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis —THE CRUX OF THE MATTER Luke 13:1-0

FEBRUARY LITURGISTS	
February 7	8:30 a.m.—Larry Baughman 10:30 a.m.—Alice Addison
February 14	8:30 a.m.—Judy Atwood 10:30 a.m.—Barbara Reineke
February 21	8:30 a.m.—Joe Brown 10:30 a.m.—Mary Hawkins
February 28	8:30 a.m.—Sharon Roemer 10:30 a.m.—David Beaman

Wednesday Adult Bible Study
 Criswell Hall, 5:45 pm

- Continuation of Christianity and World Religions—Wrestling with Questions People Ask.
- Mid-month we start Adam Hamilton's JOHN: The Gospel of Light and Life.
- Books will be available to purchase at the group meeting.

Please Join Us!

MISSIONARY VISIT
 COMING IN MARCH

John Elmore,
 Missionary in Chile,
 will be with us on Wednesday, March 16
 to share about his work in Chile.



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair, Paul Holden

January 2016-The Latest from the Trustees

- Mary Hawkins and Mike Johnson met with Executive Janitorial to review in detail the contracted services they perform for the Church. Mary and Mike were happy to see that more duties are performed than we believed were being done. Mary will write up the duties performed to make them current. Executive Janitorial is willing to take on occasional special requests for cleaning that may be overlooked or necessary. Mary agreed to act as the Church's liaison in working with Executive Janitorial in the future.
- Power Plumbing inspected the heating duct work for the Children's Center while they were on Christmas break. The news was bad in that the ducts are in a state of disrepair. Mike Johnson will be working on obtaining bids for replacing the heating system.
- Buffy is working on quotes for replacing the entry way mats.
- Buffy will also be obtaining "No Smoking" signs soon.
- It was noted that handrails to the stage which Paul Holden installed are being used.
- Hats off to Bernie Hawkins for replacing burnt out overhead bulbs in the Sanctuary.
- Paul is looking into updating all building use agreements with our current tenants.
- The storage yard is now totally occupied and supplying the Church with \$600 monthly in additional income.



Val McClure, *publicity*

FEBRUARY 13 SWEETHEART BREAKFAST

See Cover Story for Exciting Details!



MARCH MEETING BEING SET

The March Breakfast Meeting for the UMM will be held at Coco's on Saturday, the 19th of March at 8:30 AM with open ordering from the menu. A special keynote speaker is being confirmed and will be announced in the bulletin and on the big screen.

APRIL IS TACO BUFFET MONTH

Señores y Señoritas—It's time for the "Mucho Bueno" UMM Annual Taco Buffet, to be held on Sunday, April 17 from 10:45 AM to 1 PM. You will fill your Taco Bowl with over six great ingredients for a wonderful lunch right after church. Don't miss this one! It's 'Yummy Bueno'!



Finding God in a Bag of Groceries



Sometimes you discover God or deepen your faith in the most unusual places and situations. Join the UMW Book Club members of Friday, February 26th, at 11 AM in the McMillen Room to discuss the memoir, Finding God in a Bag of Groceries.

This simple, direct book written by Laura Lapins Willis explores her experiences as a director of a food pantry in Tennessee. She discovers a world of neighbors—whether they are chronically poor or unemployed or just lonely—struggling during the great recession. Her stories about these colorful characters reflect her belief in offering a bag of groceries, a listening ear, and a heart full of love.

We invite you to join us in our discussion of this heart-warming book on February 26th.

Submitted by Judy Leonard



**United
Methodist
Women**

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

in the global ministries of the church."

Sally Weitkamp, Publicity

"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

UMW SUNDAY—JANUARY 31

It is a delight to see so many of our women participating in the two services celebrating our UMW Sunday.

Guest Speaker: Maggie Fertschneider

What a dedicated and energetic woman! Her first responsibility beyond her local church was to serve on the Board of Directors of the Annual Conference Metropolitan Mission (MUM). This was an agency the Annual Conference created after the Watts riots. Its purpose was to help local churches in the metropolitan area of the Los Angeles basin to set up community development programs, childcare and preschools, job training, and family counseling programs. MUM provided resources and funding. Maggie served as Vice President and then President. She served four years as Chairperson of the Pasadena District Administration Council. She has served on the Santa Barbara District team, and on the Conference UMW team and many other leadership roles. Her sermon theme, "A Wounded World that cries for healing," is so appropriate for all the suffering going on in today's world.

INSTALLATION OF 2016 UMW OFFICERS

Mary Hawkins, Chairperson
Virginia Mothes, Vice Chair
Carla Gootee, Secretary
Betty Ashton, Treasurer

Special Mission Recognition Pins are given to two special and deserving ladies for their service to our organization.

SUPER CHILI BOWL SUNDAY 50, Feb 7 *See Cover Article*

WORKSHOP ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SAVE THE DATE of Saturday, March 12 for the UMW of Arroyo Grande's long-awaited **Workshop on People with Disabilities** and to study how our congregation can make their attending our church meaningful.

This topic is one of three studies UMW will be implementing this year. The planning of our event has been over a year in the making. Most of us know people with disabilities and many of us have some ourselves. We will have speakers and group leaders led by experts in their fields. Our topics will be hearing and vision, disabilities, physical handicaps, Autism and childhood disabilities. More detailed information will be featured in the March Castanet.

Treasurer's Report

For the 6 months period ending December 31, 2015



The Bad News:

We ended the first six months of our fiscal year with \$15.7K deficit, vs. a planned \$2.5K deficit for the period. This was due to pledges and regular giving being \$11K below plan. Staffing expenses were \$5.6K higher than planned due to a delay in reducing our staffing levels during the first few months of the fiscal year. Trustees expenses were \$6K

over plan; however this is because Trustees were budgeted to transfer \$5K from the Trustees non-budget accounts for the period, which has not yet occurred.

The Good News:

The Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings were the largest in recent years, coming in well over plan. Trustees has rented the vacant lot to two parties for storage, which will bring in an additional \$600 per month income.

The Bottom Line:

We will have to continue to carefully

monitor our income and expenses for the rest of the fiscal year. Unless Stewardship picks up, we may have to make additional cuts in expenses. We do have the option of borrowing additional funds from the Endowment accounts.

More News:

2015 Statements of Giving will be available at the end of January upon request. Those that itemize deductions for taxes will want a copy for their records. If you would like a Statement of Giving, please contact our Financial Secretary, Virginia Mothes, or the Church Office.

SHARON ROEMER'S "SUPER BUSY" LIFE AS TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR AND RETIREE

Sharon expressed pride that her entire 38 year career was served with our local Lucia Mar School District. She started at Dana Elementary teaching 4th, 5th, and 6th combined grades that proved to be challenging for a "fresh out of college teacher". Next was Oceano Elementary as a Resource Teacher of Language Arts Instruction. Then Shell Beach Elementary Basic School where she taught 2nd and 3rd grade students and was coordinator for Gifted And Talented Education "GATE" students. In addition, she worked for State of California with their Math Testing Programs. Her supervising roles began as Asst. Principal at Mesa Middle School (grades 6,7, and 8) then to 10 years as Principal of Ocean View Elementary School. Before retiring, she had become Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum at the Lucia Mar District Office. With her having served so many education positions, it has to be that Sharon played a significant role in the schooling of many students within our Church Family!

As a child, Sharon grew up in San Jose, CA on a prune and walnut orchard. She graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a double major in History and Sociology, plus she also met her future husband, Bob, another graduate of UCSB. She later enrolled in Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to obtain her Teaching Credential, Administration Credential,

and she earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Sharon's husband, Bob, is from a 4th generation Santa Maria family. He attended college at Fresno State, and UCSB from which he graduated with a combined Social Science major. He received a Teaching Credential and Master's Degree in Education from Cal Poly and taught middle school for 7 years. He then ran the family store, Roemer's Hardware in Santa Maria, until his retirement. He loves to play golf and to follow the stock market.

The Roemer family also includes son, Ryan, and his wife, Robin, a Library Sciences Professor at University of Washington. They live in Seattle and expect their first child in July. Ryan graduated from Stanford University and obtained a Master's Degree from UC San Diego, having studied Computer Sciences at both schools. He also earned a degree at UCLA Law School and was a Practicing Attorney for 3 years.

Son Ross, and wife, Leily, both teachers, live in San Diego. Their 5 month old daughter Nya is her parent's, and Sharon's, pride and joy. Ross graduated from UC Santa Barbara and teaches 10th grade English and History.

Sharon keeps herself busy and active by playing golf two times per week with one group at Avila Beach and a second group at Morro Bay. Another activity is a Chinese tile game called "Mah Jong". "Quilting" has also entered her portfolio of interesting activities. She also participates with "5 Cities New-



comers Group" of 600 members including retirees who attend Welcome Lunches, Game Groups, social activities and Fund Raising for Charity. She also enjoys volunteering at Clark Center events and using computer skills to keep her mind active and fascinated. She has served for several years as Chairperson of our FUMCAG Worship Committee plus she regularly prepares cooked meals to be served by Peoples Kitchen.

Sharon has traveled far and wide during her retirement. Her partial destination list included Australia, New Zealand, Eastern Europe, Russia, Spain, China, Croatia, Costa Rica, Canada, plus many more. Bob and Sharon travel on other trips to Palm Desert; Seattle to visit Ryan and family; and San Diego to visit Ross and family.

Sharon and her family have obviously done the hard work to pursue and accomplish many very desirable goals. It was an interesting and enlightening conversation we enjoyed to create this article to share with our Church family.

David Beaman, January 2016



ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS...

We will be starting a new ministry February 16, 2016, meeting every Tuesday at 9 AM in the McMillen Room. Come enjoy fellowship with your sisters in Christ. We will be making prayer shawls, lap robes, and scarves. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, that's okay. You can come to learn or just come and rest in the cozy couches to pray and share fellowship with The Sew 'N' Sews, who graciously invited us to join in their time of quilting. You can knit or crochet at home too if you would like. The knit a prayer group at the FUMC Bakersfield will be sending us 5 shawls already made to help start us out.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Shirley Werling. Hope to see you there!

Colossians 2:2 I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. NLT Version

SPECIAL REPORT for CASTANET

By Val McClure

UMM NAMES "MAN OF THE YEAR"

Someone has said we have "Church Angels". They are the many persons in our church who week after week, month after month, and year after year make our church run smoothly and an enjoyable home for the congregation. You will see them setting up the tables and chairs in Criswell Hall, working in the kitchen during events, repairing the church and grounds, emptying trash and cleaning coffee pots. The "Man of the Year", named by the Methodist Men, has been a "Church Angel" and done all the above and more.

**Man of the Year for 2015 is
KENT UNSWORTH**



Kent is a well-deserved "Angel" who works tirelessly to make our church a home to come to each week. His life is as interesting as the man himself.

In spite of his youthful looks, Kent is now age 65. He was born on December 20, 1950 in Palo Alto, Calif. His parents, Robert Unsworth and Barbara Ayer, moved the new family to San Carlos, then Redwood City when Kent was about 5. At age 10 they moved again to Mount Pleasant in San Jose and then to Monta Vista in Cupertino, Calif., where he grew up until he moved to Pismo Beach in 1979.

With all the moving, he attended many schools including four different Elementary Schools. High Schools

included John F. Kennedy Jr. High and Homestead High School in Sunnyvale. He logged time at Santa Rosa Junior College and De Anza Junior College in Cupertino where he received his AA Degree in Liberal Arts. He also attended Sonoma State and San Jose State Colleges.

Kent moved to Pismo Beach in 1979 where he and Don McGuire were neighbors for eight years. They moved together to a condo in 1988 and then to Kent's current residence in 2004.

While living in Pismo Beach, he worked for the Title Insurance and Trust in San Luis Obispo and then at Spyglass Inn. He was forced to leave that job after 14 years due to a job injury. In 1966 he went back to school, attending Cuesta College, where he received an AA Degree in Business Administration and Management. While attending Cuesta, he worked in the Application Office of the College. On graduation he worked for Arroyo Grande Hospital Business Office and later in the Marian Hospital Combined Business Office. He left that job in 2011 after his position was eliminated.

Kent sang in our Church Choir for 35 years until his hearing loss forced him to quit in 2014. He has served as Choir Librarian since 1997. Kent enjoys reading and movies and T.V. He was an active participant in community musical theater in Pismo Beach for 8 years. He loves to travel. He has served on a number of church committees acting as secretary. This included the Administrative Board, Church and Society, Council on Ministries, Evangelism, UMM and Worship. He is a founding member of the Stephen Ministry, an active member of Peoples Kitchen, and is serving as Chaplain for the UMM.

He received his first pair of hearing aids 27 years ago, which helped, but the loss grew worse over the years. He has considered Cochlear Implant but decided it was not the time.

Kent has been an active member of UMM for 36 years and is regarded as a highly honored member of the organization by its membership.

Kent Unsworth is truly one of our "Church Angels".

ARROYO GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S CENTER

FRIDAY, FEB 26 PIZZA DINNER AND RAIN GUTTER REGATTA

Dinner at 6:30 PM and Regatta Races begin at 7 PM

See the enclosed newsletter from Ms. Maddy for complete details





Winter days are now growing longer again as we come upon February. The new year is off and running! Our hearts are a flutter! Get your Valentine making skills ready for our "Be Mine, Valentine" February 14th activity day. Spread the love!

Last month, we looked at Jesus' life as a man, teacher and healer. February will take us to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, following Jesus' walk of love. He summons the fishermen brothers Simon Peter and Andrew from their boat, and then the brothers James and John from repairing their nets. He simply calls, "Come, follow me." Children will hear that the command he gave so long ago still stands true for us today. Jesus wants us to follow with our hearts.

While we perhaps begin to prepare our taxes with chagrin, children will hear the story of Levi, the despised tax collector. Jesus wanted to change his heart and life; everyone is welcome to follow. God loves us all.

Children will be encouraged to share the messages of Jesus as they learn that Jesus sent out his disciples to spread the words of love and caring. Not only were men chosen, but Jesus went against tradition, welcoming women into worship too. The message here is to follow His word regardless of gender, social status, hair color or any other characteristic. "Come, follow me," Jesus says. Yes, we will, with our hearts, minds and souls!



Best to you and yours,

Welcome to Sunday School

Carolyn Russell
Children's Ministry Director



FIRST UMC OF ARROYO GRANDE JOY JAR

I am writing this as we begin 2016. I hope you will take advantage of adding your JOYS to the JOY JAR. I hope you will begin the practice in 2016. We have shared many happenings and want to be sure we can include yours as well. SO look for the JOY JAR in the narthex and add yours. What you add might remind others of us that we also had a similar JOY and just didn't recognize it at the time. I hope to find many slips of paper in the jar at the end of January. The basket with slips of paper and pens are still by the jar for your use, if you didn't bring some with you.

NEW JOYS

Here are a listing of the few that were turned in.

- We started the year with the baptism of three of our children. Welcome Paige, Madison, and Alee.
- Families feeling blessed by the support of the community in times of transition.
- Healing of family members experienced.
- Engagements with wedding celebrations to come.
- Birthday greetings from those in the congregation.

Lent will be starting soon and we could work on naming a joy each day as we move towards the light of Easter and the resurrection. I challenge us to log a JOY A DAY. Think of Gratitude, Faith, Simplicity, Love, Healing, Forgiveness, Hope, Celebrations—to name a few. If we do that I feel we will be a more grateful and positive witness to our faith.

We would find it to be exciting to witness to the JOYS among us in the congregation and beyond. I am excited to see how we fill the JOY JAR with the JOYS we have experienced.

....Judy Atwood, Lay Leader

News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: February 2016

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. P.E.T. Vehicles
2. Noisy Offering Mission Project
3. Local Project Support
4. Special Giving Totals

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. P.E.T. VEHICLES ... Can you guess what these are? They are called Personal Energy Transportation Vehicles.



The Pet Mobility Project seeks to reflect the love of God by bringing the gift of mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk. 70+ million people worldwide are leg disabled...* due to birth defects, disease and casualties. *Without help they crawl in the dirt.

Gifts to this project provide these children of God with hand cranked Personal Energy Transportation carts, vehicles that allow them to go where ordinary wheel-chairs won't go. There is no cost to the recipient. See more information at the Mission Table.

2: NOISY OFFERING MISSION PROJECT...

Thank you for your great response to the first noisy offering project to purchase flocks of chicken. Our total after two months is \$476.70, which is enough to help 79.5 families gain in supporting their family and having a healthier life.

We will continue to do this on the SECOND SUNDAY of the month. So be ready to greet the children with your coins, or quiet money as well!

3. LOCAL PROJECT SUPPORT...Thank you for your generous support for two of our local projects...Five Cities Christian Women, and our People's Pantry. Your help makes many folks be able to share with their families in a way they otherwise would not be able.

Many hands continue to do many things.



4. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2015

ELT Scholarships	50.00
Human Relations Sunday	335.00
Native American Sunday	261.00
No More Malaria	12.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	406.00
Peace With Justice	201.00
People's Kitchen food	685.73
People's Kitchen Misc.	8,395.00
Rev. Lang Mission Fund	5,700.00
South County Food Bank	685.72
World Communion Sunday	<u>203.25</u>
<u>12 MONTHS TOTAL:</u>	\$16,919.70

A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION.

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
	<p>1 Pastor's Day off 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer-S</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga Class" (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice-Handbell Room</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>4 8 AM People's Kitchen Prep - Leave to Serve 11:15 AM 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 6 PM Worship Team (MMR)</p>	<p>5 Spirit Day at AGUMCC 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AGUMCC Closed 3:30 PM AGUMCC Staff Development-(MMR)</p>	<p>6 3 PM AGUMCC Parent Night Out Set Up 3 PM—Event 4-8 PM (PR,MMR, K, Court-yard) 5:30 PM Praise Team Set Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>7 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:45 AM Caring Congregation Committee (L) UMW Super Chili Bowl 50 Take Home Coffee Hour: Worship Team</p>	<p>8 Pastor's Day Off 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 9:30 AM UMW Steering Comm (L) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga Class" (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (H Room) 7 PM Trustees (MMR)</p>	<p>10 ASH WEDNESDAY LENT BEGINS 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 6 PM Ash Wednesday Service (S) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM AGUMCC Young Toddlers Friendship Party-set up 8 AM (MMR) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle(MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 7 PM Finance Team (MMR)</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 9 AM Older Toddlers Friendship Party-set up 8 AM (MMR) Noon Deadline Newsletter Articles (Office)</p>	<p>13 9 AM United Methodist Men Sweetheart Breakfast </p>
<p>14 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:30 AM Sunday School "Be Mine, Valentine" Event (CH,K) Coffee Hour: Esther Circle</p>	<p>15  Church Office Closed 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters (MMR) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga Class" (CH) 1:30 PM Preschool Board - open session (MMR) 2:30 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (H Room) 7 PM JOY Circle (member's home)</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Communications Committee (L) 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Lenten Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room)</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Bible Study (L)</p>	<p>20 5:30 PM Praise Team Set Up 6:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal (S)</p>
<p>21 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Staff Parish Relations Committee STAFF PARISH RECOGNITION SUNDAY</p>	<p>22 Pastor's Day Off 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters (MMR) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga Class" (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (H Room)</p>	<p>24 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM Mary-Martha (MMR) 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Lenten Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room)</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 11 AM UMW Book Club (MMR) 6:30 PM AGUMCC Pizza Dinner and Regatta Race Event-Set Up 3 PM (CH,K)</p>	<p>27 3 PM Set Up CCC Luncheon for Sunday (CH)</p>
<p>28 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:30 AM New Member Recognition Luncheon (CH) Coffee Hour: Endowment/ELT</p>	<p>29 Pastor's Day Off 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.</p> 				



Church Office: (805) 481-2692
 E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net
 Find us on Facebook at: **United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande**
www.facebook.com/fumcag

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis
 E-mail: revmaryb@fumcag.org
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Deadline for March Issue
Friday, February 12, at Noon

PLEASE NOTE:

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

"BE MINE, VALENTINE"

Sunday, February 14

Sunday School invites all children to meet in Criswell Hall after second service on Valentine's Day to make a Valentine for someone special and enjoy a Valentine treat.

Be sure to dress for the occasion by wearing something red or pink or your favorite color.



The importance of the time spent in coffee hour following both services was affirmed by Church Council.

It is a time to meet and greet new and existing friends to reinforce that we are a caring congregation. There is a schedule posted in the kitchen on the cupboard door showing who has responsibility each week for this special time. If you would like to share a special event some Sunday, please let the group who is hosting know your plans and everyone can plan accordingly.



Responsibilities when hosting include leaving the kitchen clean when finished. This includes taking table cloths and wet cloths home to wash and return to the kitchen in a timely manner. We don't want to invite "uninvited guests" by not having clean linens. Copies of the **schedule** will be placed in the narthex as well. If you haven't had the pleasure of helping in this special time, feel free to volunteer. You will also note on the schedule there are some ALL CHURCH SUNDAYS.

Thank you in advance for making this a special time of caring. Judy Atwood, Lay Leader



Margaret Coombs	02/01
Devin Paredes	02/02
Barbara Reineke	02/03
Isabella Russell	02/03
Matthew Williams	02/03
Guy Oates	02/04
Betty Ashton	02/05
Mark Moore	02/06
Betty Johnson	02/07
Wayne Huggins	02/08
Cafi Cohen	02/09
Victoria Gandy	02/09
Bennie Duffin	02/10
Michael Johnson	02/10
Paul Collagen	02/16
Frances Robertson	02/18
Irene Kliesch	02/19
Peter Quaglino	02/21
Michelle Paredes	02/25
Jackie Jackson	02/27

MILESTONES

BAPTISMS

DEATHS

Paige Bridges
 Madison Bridges
 Alea Hill

Art Moore
 Hilde Hollinger
 Al Harvey
 Michael Jacob

Did we miss a birthday?

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



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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 Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Address SERVICE REQUESTED

Gas Voucher Program Discontinued

The Finance Committee recommended and the Church Council concurred, that the Gas Voucher program be discontinued.

The program was created many years ago when there was a gas station around the corner. It was intended primarily to benefit travelers passing through the area. Gas was a lot cheaper then. Arroyo Grande Shell has reported a number of abuses of the program. Vouchers are used to buy gas, then cash to buy cigarettes, beer & junk food. The same people are often coming in every few months. Most other organizations that had a gas voucher program have discontinued it due to abuses or have much tighter restrictions. The program causes numerous interruptions to the work flow in the office.

Rev. Mary and the Mission team will come up with a plan to redirect the Benevolence Offering towards a new or existing ministry.

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

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"Getting to Know You"
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

New Member Welcome Luncheon

The **Caring Congregation Committee** invites you to "get to know" the newest members of our church. We are pleased that we will be welcoming thirteen new members who have joined our church during the last fifteen months.

Immediately following second service on Sunday, **February 28th, everyone** is invited to Criswell Hall for lunch and a program. This will be your chance to greet and "get to know" our newest

members and for them to get to know YOU! This is also a time to get better acquainted with all the other members of our church.

We will have a time of fellowship, a delicious luncheon provided by a generous donation from the Endowment Committee and a short program.

Please look for the sign-up sheets at the Caring Congregation table in Criswell Hall to RSVP. We want to make sure there is enough food for everyone!

As Julie Andrews would say,

*Getting to know you, getting to know all about you.
 Getting to like you, getting to hope you like me.
 Getting to know you, putting it my way but nicely.
 You are precisely my cup of tea!*

Submitted by Pat Wiemers