

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



Cast~a~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande AUGUST 2017



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6th
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY



This coming Sunday, **August 6th**, is **International Friendship Day**. The United Methodist Women will be holding **Opportunity Drawings** at 12:30 pm, following the coffee hour. There are six Friendship Baskets, representing England, France, Italy, Mexico, and Japan, and International Chocolates.

There is still opportunity to purchase tickets. Tickets sell for one dollar each / six for five dollars.

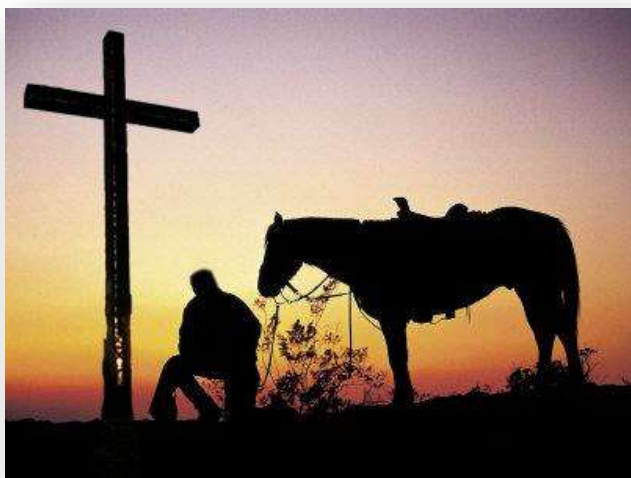
PRAYERS WORK!

Get ready to join Dr. Alice A. Addison in an encouraging new Wednesday evening class, based on the 2016 edition of the book by James Banks, “Praying Together—Kindling Passion for Prayer”.

The one-hour class from 5:45 to 6:45 pm will meet the eight Wednesdays of September and October 2017. We will explore the priority God places on praying together, incidences of the early church at prayer, and strategies for praying with and for others.

More information will be in the September Cast-A-Net and Sunday bulletins.

Sign-ups begin August 27th after services, with the first class **Wednesday, September 6th**.



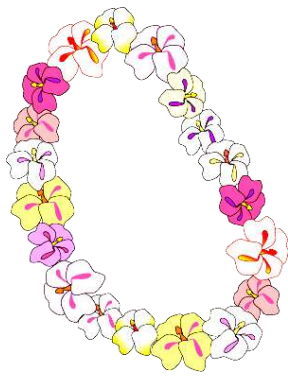
GATHER AROUND THE CAMPFIRE UNDER THE STARS

Cowboy Church at the Clark Ranch
SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 6:30-7:30 PM
Mike and Connie Clark

456 Carpenter Canyon Arroyo Grande
Christian Fellowship and Message
Cobbler and Coffee

“It’s that time again; dust off your boots and tell your friends!”

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



From the Pastor

Visit Anyone?

August is a good time for a pastoral visit. I have more time during the day than most any other time of year. We have less meetings and activities that are “locked in” to a schedule and it makes it easier to break away to visit and still get everything else accomplished in a given week. (That’s why I never vacation during the summer.) With the Finance Campaign over and done with, no Charge Conference, holiday planning and such, it’s a great time for me to catch up and to catch you if you want to visit! If you would like for me to visit with you, please call and let me know or leave that message with Frances. It doesn’t have to be long to be a good chance to get a little better acquainted.

At the beginning of my ministry, I visited all church members in the first year to year and a half in a new place. Staffs were bigger, budgets were balanced, membership was larger and most of us were able to break away from the routine demands to do visiting in addition to the regular hospital calls and such. Times have changed, churches are different and the time constraints are “too many”. Add to that a little thing called “aging” that doesn’t allow me to burn the candle at both ends anymore and visitation defaults into a “squeaky wheel gets the grease” model! Nevertheless, I enjoy visiting and I would like to visit those who would like to. So, please call.

If you see someone you think might appreciate a visit from the pastor, please ask them. And if they say “YES” pass their name along to me or Frances.

Thank you!

Rev. Mary B.

Adult Christian Education



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



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



AUGUST LITURGISTS

AUGUST 6

8:30 a.m. Sharon Roemer
 10:30 a.m. Nancy St. Laurent

AUGUST 13

8:30 a.m. Cristy Van Hook
 10:30 a.m. David Beaman

AUGUST 20

8:30 a.m. Bob Thronson
 10:30 a.m. Virginia Mothes

AUGUST 27

8:30 a.m. Joseph Brown
 10:30 a.m. Patti Melsheimer



Dates	Topics and Schedule
Wednesday, August 2	• Adult Bible Study and Free Dinner on Summer Break
Sunday, August 6 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis JESUS SPEAKS: "You Give!" Matthew 14:13-21
Wednesday, August 9	• Adult Bible Study and Free Dinner on Summer Break
Sunday, August 13 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis JESUS SPEAKS: "Come!" Matthew 14:22-33
Wednesday, August 16	• Adult Bible Study and Free Dinner on Summer Break
Sunday, August 20 11 th Sunday after Pentecost	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis JESUS SPEAKS: "Out of the Heart" Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28
Wednesday, Aug 23	• Adult Bible Study and Free Dinner on Summer Break
Sunday, August 27 12 th Sunday after Pentecost	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis JESUS SPEAKS: "Blessed are You!" Matthew 16:13-20
Wednesday, Aug 30	• Adult Bible Study and Free Dinner on Summer Break



WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN THE CHURCH

All who regularly attend worship and haven't joined the church by taking the step of membership are invited to do so!



Let the pastor know you are wishing to join, meet with her, and we can schedule a Sunday to officially welcome you.



Val McClure, *publicity*

MEN—LOOK FOR UMM LETTER

The UMM is mailing a letter to all men in the church with a “mail back” questionnaire with a **DEADLINE OF AUGUST 15th** to be mailed back to the church. It deals with the important question, “To be, or not to be?”. Please read the letter carefully and respond accordingly. Thanks for your participation.



UMM CAMP ROBERTS “ADVENTURE” SET

Paul Holden, UMM Vice Chairman, has arranged a great trip to Camp Roberts on Thursday, September 7th. Members will leave the church at 9 am for the one hour ride to Camp Roberts. A visit of the base with a \$5 lunch and a visit to the base museum will be included in the tour. A Ride-On bus will again be available. Wives are invited to attend. Check with Paul Holden for further information and to get on the list.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF UMM ACTIVITIES

See Val McClure, UMM Secretary

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
was celebrated on July 9 for
Paislee Ann May and Easton William Ford
Parents are William and Vanessa Ford



Rev. Mary Birgelaitis with
Easton, Paislee and Vanessa





"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 in the global ministries of the church."

Sally Weitkamp, Publicity



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6th is
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY**

See the cover article for further information on the *Opportunity Drawings* for the six Friendship Baskets with international themes. The baskets were assembled and donated by the women of the JOY Circle and Mary Martha Esther Circle.



**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4th**

The UMW counts on the members of the congregation to help us out by making items for our Holiday Boutique. If you are able to make an item or two it would be appreciated. We will have a sign up sheet in Criswell Hall so we will have an idea of what people are making. Thank you so much for your help.

UMW CIRCLE SCHEDULES

JOY CIRCLE is on summer break in July and August, and begins monthly meetings again in September.

MARY MARTHA ESTHER CIRCLE continues to meet during the summer and will take its break during November and December.

UMW RETREAT CHANGE



The UMW Spiritual Retreat will not be held on September 9th as previously advertised, due to the Weitkamps having their deck replaced during that month.

The date is changed to **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th**.

It will be more enjoyable to have use of the new deck and patio rather than listening to saws and hammers.

The theme for the retreat is "SPIRITUAL LOVE, when Love is at your core". Our leader is the Rev. Dorothy (Dottie) Worley. She is a retired Methodist minister from the Los Angeles area.

Please circle your calendars, for this will be a truly spiritual retreat.



**CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!
We need your help!**

If you can sew, crochet, knit, paint, cut, paste, do needlepoint, or iron, come join our Holiday Boutique crafting group.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursday, of each month, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Thursdays for August are the 10th and 24th. and the Thursdays for September are the 14th and 28th.

Bring a snack or sack lunch and join us for fellowship and fun.



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Greetings! Are you looking for something fun to do on a Wednesday evening? Do you love hymns and worship music... raising songs and praises to God whether it be Gospel, Spirituals, Classics or contemporary music? Have you ever considered singing in the choir? Maybe you think your voice isn't worthy or you don't read music, but you absolutely love to sing. Then the First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir is the place for you.

Here are some of the added benefits:

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN A CHURCH CHOIR:

10. Rehearsal on Wednesday night means one night away from the stresses of busy life.
9. You always have a great reserved seat for Christmas and Easter.
8. You will be setting a good example for all the children, teenagers (and reluctant adults).
7. Intellectual Stimulation—when you make music, you are using both sides of your brain simultaneously.
6. Since warm-ups are 45 minutes before church, you'll never have to worry about being late to church.
5. No auditions or solos required!
4. People who are involved in music live longer and are healthier (there is medical research to back this up).
3. From the beloved St. Augustine: "To sing is to pray twice!"
2. Every once in a while you might catch a glimpse of Heaven's choir singing along with you. *I'm not kidding!*

And the number 1 reason is...

1. **Serving God—considering all God does for us, it's just a little giving back!**

So come on out on **Wednesday, August 30th** for our first rehearsal.

We will rehearse two weeks before returning to the choir loft on **September 10th**.

Julie Burns

Chancel Choir Director





FIVE CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN

[Note from Editor:
This is a continuation of the series
on the history of the organization.]

In review: Women of various churches were involved in “Christian Women United”, an international organization, and were assisting pastors and priests of the Five Cities community with preparation for an annual meeting, “World Community Day”. In 1973 about ten women, inspired by Marie Robertson, discussed the possibility of forming a local group. Eventually a meeting was held at her home, and Christian Women of the Five Cities was formed. The purpose of the organization is to unite all women of all churches to grow in devotion to Jesus Christ through witnessing in all areas of life—home, community, nation, world. In October 1973 a meeting was held at the Shell Beach Methodist Church, and Marie was elected president.

The first pantry was in the garage of John and Edna Miller, members of our church. The members would get a call from social services and deliver food to the families. At first only a few families were assisted, maybe 6 or 7 a month.

By 1982 113 families were assisted, consisting of 407 individuals. Thirty-two Christmas baskets were given out. In addition to food, clothing, baby layettes, wheel chairs, hospital beds and walkers were loaned to those in need.

By 1983 growth was steady. Starting with seven churches, 20 churches were now involved. Attendance at the monthly meetings averaged 50. There was a record attendance of 100.

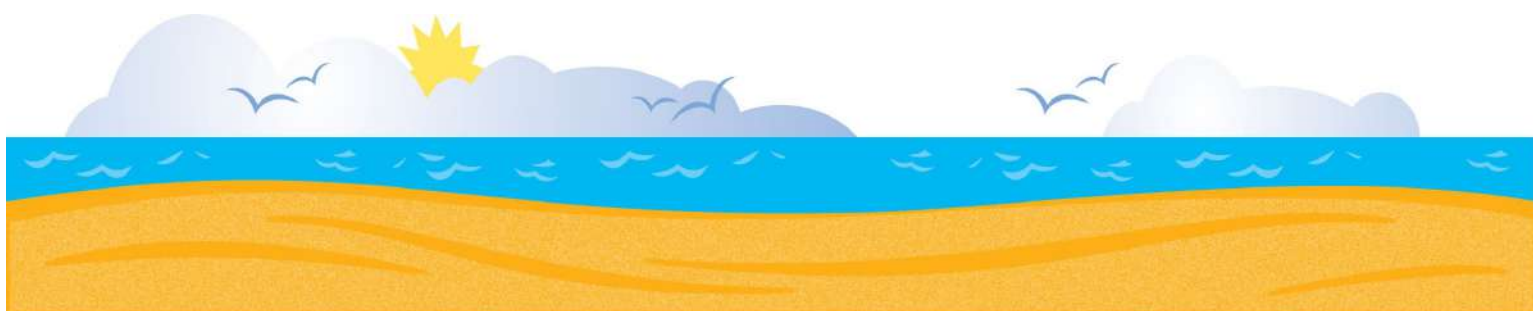
By 1988 the pantry moved to the Bethel Baptist Church. About 60 women were involved. They continued with the “World Day of Prayer”, but their main project was to feed the needy. 1,547 families were assisted (5,286 people). Forty-one Christmas baskets were handed out, with 150 gifts. Diapers and clothing were sometimes available, but they no longer loaned wheel chairs, hospital beds and walkers. Layettes were given to social services. Visits were made to the retirement homes and the convalescent centers. Baby quilts were donated by the South County Quilters Guild. The Joy Singers were formed and sang at the convalescent centers and retirement homes. The Bethel Baptist Church needed their room, so in 1992 the pantry was moved to Central Coast Baptist Church at Rockaway and 9th. The group continued working with the “World Day of Prayer”.

In 1998 seventy-five Christmas baskets were handed out at our church. I believe we have done this continuously since then. We also give out gifts to children up to 12 years of age.

There was a low point in 1993 when we had to close the doors due to a lack of food, but 35,832 people were served. We again had to move because the church needed the room.

Now what?

~submitted by Bennie Duffin
[to be continued in another installment]





Hello,

As we squeeze out a few more days of summer fun before we go back to school routines, we welcome our lessons for Sunday school. Our anchor point for August is "We choose to serve God" and our Bible verse is "My family and I will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15. Our stories follow the book of Joshua, with God choosing Joshua, and how Joshua leads a community to peace. The following story is how Joshua sent spies into Canaan and the grace shown from a lowly follower of God. The next Sunday involves the crossing of the river Jordan, when God's people settled in the land, free from their wanderings. The final Sunday, we hear about the famed walls of Jericho.



We have been trying a one room school-house in Sunday school, and have decided to continue it. We welcome others to join us for one Sunday a month to help assist or teach, and give some of our teachers greatly needed spiritual rest. We will continue to meet in the McMillan room after Children's Moment in church, for the video and discussion. Then, we will be upstairs in our Sunday school class. Our nursery will continue on in the nursery room. We need volunteers to help there, too. Please consider this once a month volunteer effort. The kids and teachers need you!

On the last Sunday in August we will promote our children. Children will receive certificates and prizes as they are recognized in their new grade levels.

Enjoy the rest of summer!

Blessings,

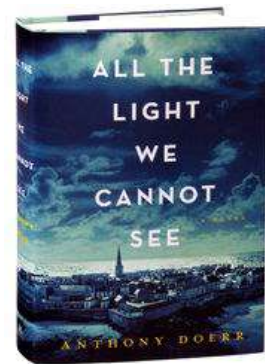
Carolyn Russell



No Summer UMW Book Club Meeting

Although the book club isn't meeting this summer, you can start reading our September selection, All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. The exciting story, set during World War II, relates the special relationship between a blind French girl and an orphaned German boy.

Check out a copy at the library; they have both regular and large print versions of it. Or let Patti Melsheimer know if you'd like to buy your own book.



Our next book club meeting is set for Friday, September 22nd, at 11 A.M. in the McMillan Room. Hope to see you there!

~submitted by Judy Leonard



SOMEONE CELEBRATED
A BIRTHDAY

News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, *chair*

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Mission Projects
2. Faith and Facts Health Care
3. Special Giving totals for 2017

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. MISSION PROJECTS

We are blessed to have funds for mission projects through designated giving to the Endowment Fund. We receive more funding in the near future. If you have ideas for mission support that you would like for the Mission Team to consider, please let us know.

2. FAITH AND FACTS HEALTH CARE

What does the Bible say?

The Lord executes justice for the oppressed; gives food to the hungry; sets the prisoners free; opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. (Psalm 146:7-8)

What does The United Methodist Church say?

Health care is a basic human right. Health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. Stewardship of health is the responsibility of all. Creating the personal, environmental, and social conditions in which health can thrive is a joint responsibility—public and private. (Social Principles ¶162.V)

What do the facts say?

- Over 32 million people in the U.S. lack health insurance, a decrease of 9% from 2013. Most uninsured are in low-income working families.
- In 2014, 15% of the American population lived in poverty, that's 46 million people.
- Illness and medical bills contributed to 67% of American bankruptcies in 2007.
- People who don't have health insurance are more likely to forego preventive care, rely on the emergency room, be diagnosed in late stages of a disease, and leave prescriptions unfilled.

What do you say?

- Remind your members of Congress that health care is a right and not a commodity. Our priority for health should reflect our shared values honoring human life. We should work to correct inequity, especially as it affects the poor, disabled, and other vulnerable populations who cannot afford or do not have access to health care. Take action today at www.umpower.org.
- Learn more about federal spending decisions. Visit the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities www.cbpp.org for the latest analysis of proposed legislation.

3. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2017

We began tracking our special giving totals for 2017 in January. Let's watch this grow through the year ahead.

Many hands continue to do many things.



ELT Scholarship	\$1,156.64
Human Relations Offering (UMCOR)	310.00
Missions (Ehrhardt Lang)	3,500.00
People's Kitchen Food	364.12
People's Kitchen Misc.	10,158.00
South County Food Bank	306.25
UMCOR-UMCOR Sunday	582.00
UMCOR-Imagine No Malaria	2.00
UMCOR-Native American	131.00
Noisy Offering	12.40
UMCOR-Peace with Justice	135.00
6 Months Total	\$16,657.41


SIX MONTHS TOTALS THROUGH JUNE

Thank you for your second mile gifts.

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



AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH	2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Free Dinner and Adult Bible Study on Summer Break 7 PM Chancel Choir on recess until Aug. 30	3 8 AM People's Kitchen Prep—K—11:15 Leave to Serve 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L	4 Spirit Day at AGUMCC 8:30 AM Bible Study-L 3:30 PM AGUMCC Closed 4:00 PM AGUMCC Staff Development—MMR	
6 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:45 AM SPRC-MMR 12:30 PM UMW Drawing for Friendship Baskets Coffee Hour— Caring Congregation Committee	7 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry—CH 5:45 PM Quilting Class—G McGuire—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer—S	8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH 7 PM Board of Trustees—PS	9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM —UMM Steering -L 5 PM Free Dinner and Adult Bible Study on Summer Break 7 PM Chancel Choir on recess until Aug. 30	10 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10 AM UMW Boutique Crafts—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L	11 8:30 AM Bible Study-L 12 Noon Deadline Newsletter Articles—Office	
13 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour—Mission Team	14 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry—CH 5:45 PM Quilting Class—G McGuire—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer—S	15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH Preschool Board—MMR 1:30 PM Open Session 2:00PM Closed Session	16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Communications Committee—L 5 PM Free Dinner and Adult Bible Study on Summer Break 7 PM Chancel Choir on recess until Aug. 30	17 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L 11 AM Finance Team—PS 5:30 AM Preschool Back to School Night—CH, K Event 6:00-7:00 PM	18 8:30 AM Bible Study-L 12 Noon Deadline Newsletter Articles—Office	
20 8:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour—Church Council	21 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry—CH 5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer—S	22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters— MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class— CH 12 Noon —Nominating Committee—PS	23 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day Bible Study—CH 10 AM Mary-Martha—Esther Circle—MMR 10 AM Communications-L 5 PM Free Dinner and Adult Bible Study on Summer Break 7 PM Chancel Choir on recess until Aug. 30	24 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10 AM UMW Boutique Crafts—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L 1 PM Mission Team—MMR 6 PM Family Fun Day Planning Meeting—MMR	25 8:30 AM Bible Study-L	26 6:30—7:30 PM Cowboy Church at the Clark Ranch 
27 8:00 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Sunday School Promotions Coffee Hour—SPRC Comm. Sign-ups begin for Wednesday classes on Prayer	28 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry—CH 5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer—S	29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters— MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class— CH	30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day Bible Study—CH 5 PM Free Dinner and Adult Bible Study on Summer Break 7 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsals begin— S	31 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L		

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

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

Missionary (retired) / Lay Leader:

Judy Atwood

Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson

Website Manager: Jamie Foster

Choir Director: Julie Burns

Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler

Multi-Media Director: Duncan Leonard

Handbell Choir Director: Leonard Lutz

Children's Education Director: TBD

Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya

District Superintendent:

Rev. James Powell

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, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, Judy Leonard, Virginia Mothes, Frances Robertson.

Layout Editor: Frances Robertson

Proofing Team: Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Joe Brown, Judy Leonard, and Virginia Mothes.

Other contributors:

Varied Teams / Committees

Deadline for September Issue

Friday, August 18 at Noon

PLEASE NOTE:

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



Caring Congregation Committee

The Caring Congregation Committee has been quite busy in the last six months. We have coordinated efforts to:

- Deliver flowers for Christmas & Easter
- Visit shut-ins during Older Americans month (May)
- Provide a successful New Member luncheon
- Organize the "Tables for Eight" dinner groups
- Deliver prayer shawls to members and friends.
- Send birthday cards, "missing you" cards and sympathy cards to many in our congregation.

In which activities did you participate?

The CCC's project for the next two months will be to collect names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all those who have come to our church since the last Church Pictorial Directory was compiled. We will make corrections to names that were incorrect in the current directory. If your name needs to be included in the directory, please stop by the CCC's table in Criswell Hall to provide that information. Or call the church office with the information.

What other activities would you like to see the Caring Congregation Committee sponsor? Perhaps you would like to be a member of the committee. Our new committee chair, Judie Neufeld, would love to hear from you. You can contact her on Sundays at the CCC table or call the church office and volunteer!

~submitted by Patti Melsheimer



In August

Tina Moore	01
Priscilla Alquist	02
William Bauske	03
Fern Farmer	06
Nancy St. Laurent	08
Virginia Mothes	09
John MacKeen	12
Bill Gerrish	13
Nancy Gerrish	17
Nancy Burns	20
Joseph Brown	23
Cristy Van Hook	24
Niki Raetz	26
Charles Burns	28
Peter Paredes	28
Cecile Huggins	30
Wyatt Russell	31



Have we missed **your** birthday? If so, it is not listed on our computer. Please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birth date to our monthly birthday list!



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Address SERVICE REQUESTED

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Children's Center Chronicle

**Relax Into
Summer!**

**Dress Casually
For Church**