

HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

JULY 2019

"Love the Lord your God with heart, soul, mind and strength" is THE GREAT COMMANDMENT, along with its corollary "Love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus said again and again, "Love one another." Mission and outreach are ways in which we do just that. Chuck and Betty Ashton have been at the helm of the Food Pantry Ministry and the Give-Away for a decade.

We are *happy* that Chuck is HEALING from a serious injury to his femur sustained on May 21st. We are *sad* that it has happened. We pray for his recovery and for Betty as she steps up alongside him in the rehabilitation process. Betty and Chuck have always worked so hard together. We've seen the fruit of their labor in the community that has gathered on Mondays to serve those in need. Thank God for their time, talent, and service through the Food Pantry and Give-Away.

Feeding the hungry and helping the poor remain top priorities in the life of our church. We continue to support community food programs and will create new pathways beyond our UMCOR and Conference Giving. Church Council will take up the conversation. Whatever we do going forward will bring glory to God and help to others.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, think about Chuck and Betty's faithful service that spearheaded these gifts of food, clothing and basic necessities to so many individuals and families. Let their work be inspiration. Know that when the time is right and Chuck is more able to navigate, we will create a celebration of their successful ministry among us. On behalf of the congregation, THANK YOU Chuck & Betty and all your volunteers. Remember the words of Hammarskjold:

~Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

"For everything that has been, THANKS.

For everything that shall be, YES!"

ELT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT HONORED ON JUNE 16th



Judy Leonard, the chair of the Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship Committee, presented the 2019-20 scholarship recipient, **Collin Odom**, to the congregation on June 16th. She shared the history of the ELT Scholarship named for one of our past pastors, Everett Lee Taylor, and introduced the current recipient. Collin is part of a group of over fifty (50) recipients since the scholarship program began 29 years ago.

This is the fourth time he has received the ELT Scholarship.

Collin Odom, who will be a student at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this fall, has completed an Associate Degree from Cuesta College in music and liberal arts. He will major in musical performance in the Boyer College of Music at Temple University. In the future he would like to obtain a graduate degree and become a professional musician. He hopes to study in Germany so that he can also become fluent in speaking German.

We thank Collin for his bassoon performance during the second service on Sunday, June 16th. We wish him the best as he pursues his goal of performing with a professional orchestra.

From the Pastor

SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY!

I am a safety nut. I get it from my Dad, an Electrical Engineer, who had five kids to shepherd into adulthood. He did a good job quickening our awareness around safety concerns. With the exception of one broken arm, a broken foot, a broken toe and the needle that remains in my sister's knee, we all made it!

At church, I am always looking for ways to keep the premises and property safe for our congregation and community. Early this year I was happy to be connected with Senior Risk Consultant, George Reindel, from Philadelphia Insurance Company. Philadelphia is our California-Pacific Annual Conference insurance carrier. George scheduled a visit to FUMCAG for April 16th. The purpose of the visit was to walk the premises and make recommendations for risk management.

Since I arrived, I have made it my business to be attentive to the safety of choir and worship leaders in the chancel area. I have held my breath when we get down Christmas trees and decorations from high above the stage in Criswell Hall, and have been attentive to the way we store things so as to prevent fire hazard. I am relieved to have Trustees who constantly troubleshoot and make sure things are taken care with an eye for the safety of the children/staff of our Children's Center as well. We've warded off potential problems like a wire that heated up in a wall, and a leak or two. Water damage isn't an issue we want to deal with. It tops the list in the history of high claims in our UM churches!

George Reindel met with members of our Board of Trustees, inspected the property and presented us with a report with recommendations for risk management (April 22nd). George solicited our follow-up on items including electrical, storage and safety lighting concerns and the issue of the management of keys. He was impressed with the work we have done thus far. The buildings and property are well maintained and children are protected. George gave us a one-year time line to perfect items in need of tweaking. Trustees went to work ASAP. In fact, the Trustees had scheduled an appointment with the Ashtons for May 30th to bring them into the "safety loop" too since the Food Pantry brings a large number of folks onto the premises weekly. Sadly enough, Chuck's accident happened a week before our scheduled meeting. Our hearts go out to Chuck and Betty as he recovers.

In light of two people taking serious tumbles with injuries in a single week, I urge you to be aware of safety along with me and the Trustees. A third person fell last Sunday too, but was okay. Thank heaven! So be careful as you come and go in the chancel area up front. USE THE SIDES and USE THE HANDRAIL. Slow down and remove obstacles that people might trip on. Keep things off the floor in storage areas. If it's "way up there" don't climb a ladder unless you're twenty-something and working out. If you're recuperating from surgery, sit in the pews awhile and let others lend a hand. And remember post-operatively that pain killers make you think you can do more than you should, so when in doubt "sit it out". Thanks for your attention!

God Bless you and KEEP you All!

Rev. Mary Bir gelants

Rev. Mary B.





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!

JULY LITURGISTS

JULY 7

8:30 a.m.——-*Mary Throndson* 10:30 a.m.——-*Gary Thompson*

JULY 14

8:30 a.m.——-Bob Throndson 10:30 a.m.———Judy Atwood

JULY 21

8:30 a.m.——Sharon Roemer 10:30 a.m.——Cristy Van Hook

JULY 28

8:30 a.m.————David Beard 10:30 a.m.——--RoseAnn Steiner







Dates	Topics and Schedule
Sunday, July 7, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Wednesday, July 10	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall
Sunday, July 14, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Wednesday, July 17	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall
Sunday, July 21, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Wednesday, July 24	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall
Sunday, July 28, 2019	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Wednesday, July 31	• 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study on break until Fall



Hope, Joy & Love Thing I am trying to wrap up our Stewardship Campaign, but we do not yet have enough pledges to meet our goal for the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you very much if you have turned in an estimate of giving. Your timely support is greatly appreciated. However, I have not yet heard from some of you. We need EVERYONE's estimate of giving so we know what resources we can expect to

carry out our plans. PLEASE turn in your Estimate of Giving if you have not already done so. Estimates of Giving cards are in the Narthex and Church Office. They may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the office. Estimates of Giving may be changed anytime during the year as your circumstances Stewardship 1s.

change.

It takes ALL OF US to make our Church thrive.

Joel Anderson Acting Treasurer





THE UMM HAS GONE FISHING FOR THE SUMMER!



UMM ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME IN THE FALL



"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 ·HOPE·LOVE IN ACTION through participation in the global ministries of the church."

UMW NEWS

With our **November 3** Holiday Boutique coming up this fall, the Boutique Craft Workshop is also gearing up—we are thinking Christmas in July!

We need those who can sew, those handy with a glue gun and those who can cut with scissors. Even if you can just sort > things, we have a place for you! We need

your help and talents. Every Thursday from 9:30 am to 12 noon we meet in the McMillen Room and would love to have you come socialize with us as we One Hundred Fifty Years of UMW is the theme of work; you may bring or find a project, or just come and pick up something to work on at home. During the month of July, we will be working on projects with a snowman theme. Come see!

August 14 That's the day! We will have a spaghetti



dinner and bingo event. Save the Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Night date for Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 pm and come with an **NGO** appetite and ready to play bingo. Tickets will go on sale July 21.

September 13-14

the Women's Retreat and Mission Study at Joel Anderson's Beach House. You will want to join us. Come relax and enjoy the company of other women as we learn about our UMW history.



Cal-Pac 35th Annual Conference June 13-15, 2019

"I see a new church" was a phrase we heard, saw, explored, and shared with one another at Annual Conference this year. We were encouraged to reflect on our response to this phrase and what it might mean to our local congregations following the Special General Conference 2019 held earlier this year. Where is God leading and nurturing us as we look to the future?

Rev. Cedric Bridgeforth shared with the laity session the need to move beyond assumption and move toward relationship. He encouraged us to "LOOK AROUND" and to see what is really being said and done.

He shared with us "a common lexicon of Postures/Positions/Options." The first was Disaffiliation: for departure. The second was Dissolution: dismantling... real, legal. The third was Resistance: disruptive in making life hard for people with whom we don't agree. Last was Compliance: desist like an ostrich with our heads in the sand. After each phrase we were encouraged to "LOOK AROUND" and to see what is really being said and done.

There are different perspectives with a wide variety of definitions when we start using the terms, progressive, moderate/centrist and conservative. These are the terms we have heard frequently following General Conference 2019. The realities are hard truths.

Traditionalist is not the same as "support for the Traditional Plan." A Traditionalist can be open to full inclusion or agree with General Conference 19. Real dialogue is still needed.

Progressive is not synonymous with "support for a full inclusive church." Dialogue is yet needed.

"LOOK AROUND"! Listening posts are being scheduled throughout the conference in September-December. Show up and listen to and participate in the conversation. Learn what a new church might look like. Let your imagination be liberated from what has been, so that all might live and love as God calls each to be, and as we live together as a new church.

~Judy Atwood, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

PROGRAM MINISTR'

Dear Church Family,

It has been very exciting to plan activities this past year. Remember to invite your friends in the community to join us in these activities. Since this is a new program, we are making decisions and testing the waters.

Most of the events/activities are free or have a small fee to offset the cost of the event/ activity. There is a small budget and scholarships are sometimes available (call me). If you are housebound, don't drive, or need help getting to church, please let me know.

When you sign up, it's absolutely necessary that, if there are costs described on the sign-in sheet, the fee must be paid at least one week prior to the event. (You understand, like when you make an airline reservation, you pay when you make the reservation.) It's the only way I can gauge for food, transportation, set up and the number of people needed to support the event.

Looking forward to continuing Program Ministry; share your ideas. Email me.

Sandy Underwood

PROGRAM MINISTRY DATES and ACTIVITIES

SOLVANG PACIFIC CONSERVATORY THEATER (PCPA) July 26

Friday MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET—8 PM THEATRE

\$50-55 FOR PCPA TICKET

RIDE-ON PROVIDING 12-PERSON VAN FROM CHURCH—LV 5:30 PM

TAKE PICNIC OR PURCHASE AT PCPA **DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JULY 8**

WESTERN DANCE CLASS—7 PM—CRISWELL HALL July 18

Thursday DONATION

August 17 WESTERN BARN DANCE—7 PM—CRISWELL HALL

Saturday **COST: \$10**



PRESERVIEW CARL JOHNNY

FOR ALL PROGRAM MINISTRY ACTIVITIES, SIGNUPS ARE TAKEN ON THE CLIPBOARDS IN THE NARTHEX

COME CHECK OUT THE DETAILS AND DATES FOR FUTURE EVENTS

NOTES from the CHANCEL CHOIR

FUNDRAISING FOR THE CHANCEL CHOIR TRIP TO SING AT CARNEGIE HALL

An Evening with Burns & Eiler and Friends!

Friday, July 12 5:30 pm—8:30 pm

Black Lake Community Room, 498 Colonial Place, Nipomo

You will not want to miss this! The group that is traveling to New York is putting on a fabulous fundraising evening of lively music, appetizers by the culinary expertise of Jacqui Burns and an amazing live auction. We have some fabulous prizes to bid on including a "Golden and Silver ticket" from Doc Burnstein's Ice Cream, a gift from Ron's Nursery, a one-night stay and breakfast from Madonna Inn and a three-night stay at a beautiful four bedroom beach house here in lovely Oceano. Wow!

Tickets are \$40.00 per person and can be purchased from Julie Burns or Sandy Underwood.

We will also be having another fundraiser soon that the whole church can get excited about. We will be selling T-shirts and sweatshirts with our new beautiful logo, designed by the very talented Joel Anderson. The shirts will be solid blue, with the logo on the front. Look for a table that will be set up in Criswell Hall after services. Cost is very reasonable—\$20 to \$30, depending on style.

Carnegie Hall is, for many, the pinnacle venue for great performances. There will be a 250-voice choir with singers from around the globe and a full orchestra under the direction of Mark Hayes.

One of the works we will be performing is called *Magnificat*! Our own choir will perform this sometime before we go to New York, so look for a special concert with the music of Mark Hayes. The choir will have two half-day rehearsals and then the dress rehearsal and concert on December 2nd. It is all very exciting as it gets closer.

God bless you all and happy summer!

Carnegie Hall, New York City

Julie Burns,
Chancel Choir Director

FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Patti Melsheimer

The 35th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference June 13-15, 2019

<u>"I see a new church"</u> was the theme of the Annual Conference held in Redlands, California at the University of Redlands. We were urged throughout the Conference to think about how we might envision a new church and how we can encourage the members of our individual churches to consider a "new church".

On Thursday, Bishop Grant Hagiya's sermon for the opening worship service was most inspiring. He preached his vision of a new church. In the midst of his sermon, the Bishop went to his knees in a personal prayer of confession and led the gathering in a corporate prayer of confession. He then invited every member of the congregation to go back to their local church to discuss and "vision" what a new church would look like. It was a very moving moment.

Throughout the Conference, much time was devoted to discussing how our churches and our Cal-Pac Conference should react to the Special General Conference 2019. Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth gave a presentation to the laity that was very helpful because he shared definitions, history and analysis of where we are in the current challenges facing the Conference after the GC2019. Rev. Denyse Barnes introduced herself and her new role as 1/4 time LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Coordinator. She reviewed the information provided and outlined the ramifications of the decisions made at the Special Session and the subsequent Judicial Council rulings. Special "listening posts" are planned for all local congregations so that there can be input from as many as possible regarding how we, as a Conference and as individual churches, should proceed.

There were many special celebrations through out the four days. The "Celebration of Ministry Service" (formerly the Retirement Service) honored those who are retiring. One special tradition is to have the retiree with the most years of service pass a stole to the youngest person being ordained, symbolizing the passing of pastoral leadership from one generation to the next. Diane Rehfield, pastor of the Atascadero Church and Paula Hulet, pastor of the Estero Bay Church, were two of those retiring. Following the retirement ritual, it is traditional for a baby, usually the child of one of the pastors, to be baptized. What a sweet tradition that is!

Probably the most inspiring special celebration was the "Service of Ordination of Elders and Deacons and the Commissioning of Provisional Members". It was so moving to see these young people (and some not so young but starting a new career!) stepping out into a new world. There were men and women, Koreans, Samoans, Anglos, and Hispanics – ready to take on the challenges of our time.

I always come home from Conference reinvigorated. Thank you for sending me.

~Patti Melsheimer, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

News from the Mission Team

MISSION TEAM: July 2019

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1. Annual Conference Certificates
- 2. Camp in the Woods with John Elmore
- 3. Special Giving Totals for 2019

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. ANNUAL CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES

At the North District gathering at Annual Conference, First UMC of Arroyo Grande received a certificate for paying 100% of our 2018 Apportionments. Thank you for your support and commitment to continue God's work in the world. The certificate is signed by Archana Carey, Treasurer and Rev. James Powell, District Superintendent.

At the Missionary Luncheon, we also received a certificate signed by Bishop Hagiya for being a 100% Missionary Supporting Church in 2018. We supported two Missionaries for \$2,250.00 and paid Apportionments of \$33,413.53. This is a number equal to \$167.39 per member of our congregation.

Thank you for your faithfulness.

2. CAMP IN THE WOODS WITH JOHN ELMORE

John Elmore is one of our covenant missionaries. He is starting a three year adventure to rehabilitate Camp Campomento el Bosque---"Camp in the Woods." Funds are necessary to make this possible.

The Mission Team made the decision to send \$1,000 from our Mission Fund toward the beginning of the rehabilitation process. If you would like to help with

this venture, please mark your check in the memo "JOHN ELMORE". You can place it in the offering or in the container on the mission table in Criswell Hall. Thanks in advance.

Campomento el Bosque has 22 acres of land and many buildings that need rehabilitation.

Many hands made much possible!



NOTE: Current totals yet to be updated for May. Four month total is through April.

2. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2019!

People's Kitchen Misc.	\$3,495.00
People's Kitchen Food	275.44
South County Food Coalition	275.44
UMCOR-Human Relation Day	145.00
UMCOR Sunday	472.00
UMCOR-Native American Su	ın 195.00
MissionHaiti	500.00

4 MONTH TOTAL \$5,357.88

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.



7						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Summed Summed	AGUMCC Begins Summer Session 5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer- S	2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH 5 PM Handbells Rehearsal on break until fall	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 5:30 PM Adult Study on Break until Fall 7 PM—Chancel Choir Rehearsal on break until fall	Church Office and AGUMCC Closed	5 AGUMCC Spirit Day 8:30 AM Bible Study—L 3:30 PM AGUMCC closed 3:30 PM AGUMCC Staff Development- MMR	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Board of Trustees	5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer-S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga— CH	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L	8:30 AM Bible Study—L	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Staff-Parish Relations Committee	5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer- S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH 7 PM Trustees—PS	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 9:30 AM UMW Steering— L	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:30 AM UMW Crafts Group—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L 11 AM Finance—PS 7 PM Program Minis- try Western Dance Class—CH	8:30 AM Bible Study—L	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Endowment/ELT Committee	9 AM Deadline Newslet- ter Articles—Office 5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer- S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH Preschool Board—MMR 4:30 PM—Open session 5:00 PM—Closed session	8:30 AMSenior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Communications— PS 10 AM Mary-Martha- Esther—MMR 11:30 AM Program Ministry—L	8:30 AMSenior Exercise—CH 9:30 AM—UMW Crafts Group—MMR 10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L 1:00 PM—Mission Team—MMR	8:30 AM Bible Study—L 5:30 PM Meet at church—Program Ministry Solvang PCPA and Picnic	1
28	29	30	31		. 4	-
8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Communications Committee	5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH 7 PM Women of Prayer-S	8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR 11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH	8:30 AMSenior Exercise—CH 9 AM Church Work Day	Abbreviation Legend CH—Criswell Hall HR—Handbell Room #115 K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123 MMR—McMillen Room #113 PL—Parking Lot PS— Pastor's Study S—Sanctuary		



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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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Lay Leader: Patti Melsheimer
Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson

Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Choir Director: Julie Burns
Praise Team Director: Mike Clark
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Multi-Media: Duncan Leonard
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya
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<u>Deadline for August issue</u> *Monday, July* 22

PLEASE NOTE:

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



Holy Land "Journey through the Bible" March 17-27, 2020

You are invited to join Pastor David and Sarah Burgeson on an 11-Day Journey Through the Bible to Israel that will expand your knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and this sacred land. The journey will follow the footsteps of Jesus, Paul, Samuel & David and will change the way you read God's Word. Join us to see traditional holy sites and places where Jesus walked out his ministry. Set sail on the Sea of Galilee with us, and walk through the Old City of Jerusalem. Traveling to the Holy Land not only increases your understanding of scripture, it strengthens your relationship with God. Please consider being a part of this pilgrimage of faith and come join us to experience a once-in-a-life-time journey.

We are currently planning an informational meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact Pastor David or pick up a brochure at the FUMCAG church office.



JULY

Collin Odom	07/02
Mary Whitson	07/03
Shirley Cross	07/06
Bud Johnson	07/06
Michael Rohla	07/08
Larry Baughman	07/11
Bernie Hawkins	07/11
Lexie Harrigan	07/13
Sarah Burgeson	07/14
Dick Melsheimer	07/14
Faye Cuddy	07/15
Gary Hughes	07/15
Enrique Quintana	07/15
Joel Anderson	07/19
Betty Lorenz	07/20
Christine Ridley	07/20
Nancy Thompson	07/20
David Bolterman	07/23
Cassie Davis	07/29

Have we missed **your**birthday? If so, it is not listed in
our data base. 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

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Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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Children's Center Chronicle

Program Ministry HARMONY HEADLANDS STATE PARK hike and picnic on June 29

Did the hikers see the wildlife, or vice versa?



For more Program Ministry information, see page 6





Happy Hikers—Jan, Patty, Judy, Paul, Frank, Cristy, Del, Kent photos courtesy Lucy Jacob