



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

NOVEMBER 2019



The UMW Annual Church Holiday Boutique

Saturday, November 2

9 am to 3 pm
Criswell Hall



Unique, wonderful handmade gifts
for everyone on your list

Bring your Friends and Family

Quilts, Table Runners, Placemats, Potholders

Jewelry, Art Work

Christmas and Fall Decorations

Plants and Baked Goods

Vintage Thrift Sale

Boutique Café

Enjoy a delicious brunch —\$7

or continental breakfast—\$5`

(see page 5 for more details)



Come ye thankful
People come...

Thanksgiving Sunday is November 24th

WORSHIP WITH US

Ecumenical Service will return next year



UMW CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE and CAFÉ—Saturday, November 2

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY—November 3

ADULT BIBLE STUDY CURRENT BOOK—Wednesday, November 6

PROGRAM MINISTRY FAMILY GAME DAY—Sunday, November 10

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY BEGINS—Wednesday, November 13

UMM ALL CHURCH PANCAKE BREAKFAST—Sunday, November 17

PROGRAM MINISTRY MELODRAMA EVENT—Saturday, November 23

HANGING OF THE GREENS —Sunday, November 24

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—December 1

HOLIDAY PROGRAM AT THE CLARK CENTER — December ???

CHOIR/CARNEGIE HALL COMES TO AG —Friday, December 6

PROGRAM MINISTRY CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA —Friday, Dec. 13



Blessings to You at Thanksgiving,

Once I preached a sermon called CELESTIAL AMNESIA. The phrase “Celestial Amnesia” caught my eye and captured my imagination. “Celestial amnesia” means letting go of negative memories/emotions, whether grief, sadness, shame, loss or anger. It means letting go of everything past, except the love of our Creator and the love given and received from others.

I have a helpful case of CELESTIAL AMNESIA with regard to October-November 2018. I tried to remember what I preached last year, and realized I didn’t preach at all. “*Heaven helped me*” forget those difficult days of dealing with a stroke and to remember the many kindnesses, comforts and the compassion that came from you.

A year later I have a debt of gratitude to Joe Brown, to those who preached a LAITY SUNDAY (*Patti Melsheimer, Joe Brown and Roger Sperling*), to Rev. David Burgeson, Rev. Ehrhardt Lang, and Dick Best, who filled the pulpit in those six weeks after the stroke. In my post-stroke fatigue they were never properly thanked. For over a month of Sundays, others stepped up and I stepped “back in” for the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service as Rev. Rob Keim kindly took my place in the pulpit.

Rev. Keim and I were both new to the Central Coast four years ago. With the retirement and move of Rev. Eugenia Price, the local ecumenical cluster of clergy has not met. She was the gracious long-time clergy presence that held the group together.

There will not be an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service this year, but Rob and I are planning to make an effort to get a group together, measure the interest in participation and the willingness to create an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and Good Friday Service for 2020. Rob and I could have done it at the last minute, with us hosting and me preaching. It makes more sense to me to wait and create a worship experience that is truly ecumenical in nature and a blessing to all the congregations who will participate. Pray for success in this effort as I draft a letter to see if we can re-connect with the Five Cities clergy and congregations once again.

Blessings, Gratitude & Peace,

Rev. Mary Biegelaitis



UMM BREAKFAST MEETING

The October UMM breakfast meeting was held at Coco's Restaurant on Saturday, October 26. Guest Speaker was Greg Hill, from the Veteran's Honor Flight Program, which has been taking war veterans to Washington, DC since 2005. The veterans are accompanied by a companion of his or her own choosing. We have had many SLO County veterans take the trip. Join the UMM fellowship and celebrate Veterans Day (November 11) with us on November 17.

UMM PANCAKES TO CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

The first UMM Pancake Breakfast of fall 2019 is scheduled for Sunday, November 17 from 8:30 AM to 11 AM in Criswell Hall. Many new men have stepped

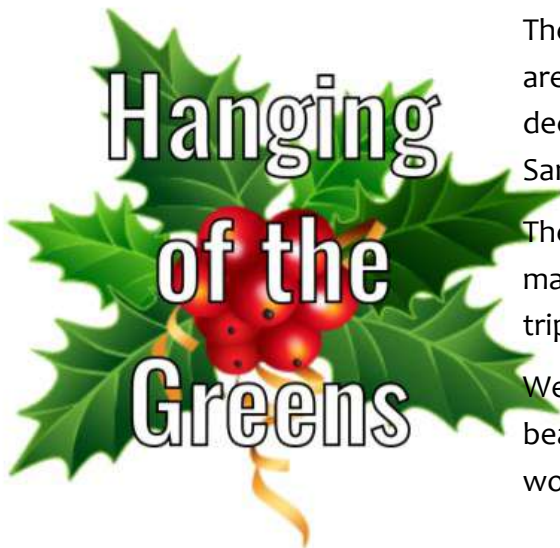
forward to help with events. The timing of events on Sunday is planned so that people from both first and second service can eat breakfast together.

As they have for many years, the men will offer a full breakfast menu that includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit cup and coffee, tea, or hot chocolate.

COST: Adults \$10, Youth \$5 and kids under 10 years FREE. Tickets go on sale Sunday, November 3 after both services. The meal is being served on Veterans Day weekend.

Men wishing to join activities should contact Paul Holden or Val McClure.

submitted by Val McClure, Vice President



Hanging of the Greens — It takes a village (I mean a church!)

The "Hanging of the Greens" will be held on **Sunday, November 24th**. We are hoping to accomplish this in two stages. The first stage will be the decorating of Criswell Hall after the morning's 8:30 service, and then the Sanctuary and Narthex will be decorated after the 10:30 service.

The Worship Team needed to make some changes to the past format as many of the members that assist with the decorating will be on the choir trip to NYC the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

We hope you can join in this annual tradition of making our Church a beautiful jewel for the Holiday season. Pizza will be served for those working at noon!

submitted on behalf of the Worship Team by Carolyn Eaton



"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."



It's time for the Annual Holiday

Boutique put on by the United Methodist Women. Besides all the ornaments, plants and hand made items, there will be baked goods and a vintage shop.

We are also offering a Café with the choice of a brunch or continental breakfast for you to take a rest during your buying frenzy. The brunch consists of a slice of quiche with fruit garnish, accompanied by a pastry for \$7.00.



If that's more than you want, we offer a selection of baked goods with your beverage of coffee or tea for \$5.00.

For the last several months, members of UMW have been meeting to make a variety of holiday decorations to personalize your home with unique items.

Please join us in Criswell Hall on Saturday, November 2 from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM.

Happy Holidays everyone!



SILENT AUCTION FOR THE VIRGINIA MOTHE'S GRANNY SQUARE AFGHAN

Here's the story: The crocheted squares made by Virginia Mothes, who passed in March, were found when Virginia's house was cleared out last spring. Janice Moore was kind enough to finish crocheting the squares together into the afghan. The completed afghan is now being offered on Silent Auction. Bids will be accepted Sunday, October 27, at the Boutique on November 2, and again on Sunday, November 3, at which time the winner will be announced at 12 noon. Virginia was an active and beloved member of our congregation.



NO NOVEMBER UMW BOOK CLUB MEETING

Due to the holidays the UMW Book Club will not meet in November. Instead we will discuss the novel, Ordinary Grace, by William Kent Krueger on **Friday, December 13th** at 11 A.M. in the McMillen Room.

In this intriguing story Frank Drum, a minister's son, narrates what happens during the summer of 1961 in a small Minnesota town. He relates the occurrences as a 13-year-old would react to a world that seems to be falling apart in front of him. Still he discovers how God's grace helps each of us deal with brokenness and grief by having hope and faith.

See Patti Melsheimer for a library copy of Ordinary Grace. Or you may check out your own copy through the library system.

submitted by Judy Leonard

“WE SEE A NEW CHURCH”

This document has been prepared for our upcoming Charge Conference in response to Bishop Grant Hagiya’s call to all churches of the California-Pacific Conference:

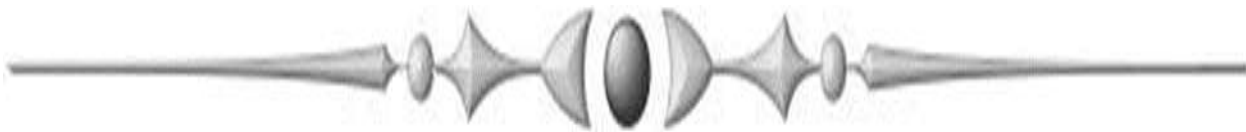
Future Ministry Statement:

Our church has responded to the call of our Bishop to develop a statement of future ministry hopes, by engaging in prayer and holy conferencing to discern God's call on our lives to be an open and inclusive congregation. Below is the statement that will guide our ministry priorities in the coming years.

And the District Superintendent’s two questions to be answered at Charge Conference:

How does your congregation “See a New Church” in the coming years?

What is the one next step your church can take to become that New Church?



The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande has responded to the call of our Bishop to develop a statement of future ministry hopes by engaging in prayer, by holding four "house meetings" and through extensive discussions and consultations.

We see a new Church that loves the Lord our God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength.

We see a new Church that loves our neighbors as ourselves.

We see a new Church where Hope, Joy and Love are Rising.

We see a new Church that we Hope will remain one truly *United* Methodist Church, a United Methodist Church that serves the Lord. We pray that the United Methodist Church will be broad enough to accept the many diverse cultural, political and theological differences in our nation and in our world.

We see a new Church where one can experience the Joy of knowing God's love, the joy of following God's will, the joy of having a relationship with Jesus Christ, and the joy of knowing we are always surrounded and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We want to spread the joy that pervades the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande into the rest of our community.

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We see a new Church that demonstrates God's love for us by loving our neighbors. Through this love we respect each other and respect opinions different from our own, for we are a politically and theologically diverse church. Through this love and support, members will feel inspired to engage in new ministries that serve our community. And through this love, God will lead us beyond our comfort zone to help others and to be faithful to God's word.

The make-up of the Arroyo Grande congregation and the nearby community is skewed toward the newly retired and mature adults, so this is one of the areas we intend to serve. We are meeting some of their needs through two new ministries: The Program Ministry and the Visitation Ministry. The Program Ministry Team focuses on activities that allow members to get out, socialize, offer emotional support to one another and invite friends and family from the community to join them. Just this past week, we had a tour of the Avila Lighthouse, which included six people over 70 years of age, and two over 90 years of age. This past week we also held a training session on Fraud Prevention. Other activities include senior exercise classes, chair yoga, prayer shawl ministry, quilting, game afternoons, nature hikes, and barn dances as well as dog day at the beach, beach walks and Table of Eight dinners. The Visitation Ministry allows us to keep in contact with members who can no longer easily attend church, events or activities and gives us an opening to provide small services of care to them. We are searching for more ways to connect with the newly retired and with mature adults in our community in order to meet their needs and to engage them in serving the community as well. We will expand both of these ministries in the coming year.

Our largest focus this next year will be to expand our Children's Ministry and to create a Youth Ministry that will help the congregation be more faithful in connecting with younger families. Included in these expanded ministries will be activities involving music and drama. A new member has volunteered to restart our Junior and Senior high youth group.

Yes, we see a new Church, where Hope, Joy and Love are Rising.

And the greatest of these is Love.

Approved by Church Council, October 17, 2019



PROGRAM MINISTRY Dates and Activities

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, immediately after church.
CRISWELL HALL, 12 noon to 2 pm

FAMILY GAME DAY

Bring a lunch or let Sandy Underwood know if you need a sandwich.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

MELODRAMA HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

This is an outing to our local Melodrama. A sign in sheet with time and cost will be available on the Program Ministry table. Judy Atwood is hosting.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:00-8:30 pm, CRISWELL HALL

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Celebrating the birth of Jesus with music, poems, skits and song. Admission is free.



Program Ministry is happy to accommodate events that have a fee associated to them. Joe Brown has designed, built and attached to our table a **RESERVATION BOX**. If you sign up for an event, please continue to use the sign-up sheet. If there is a fee associated with the event, please:

- ◆ Put the event name, date of event, and your name on the front of a small envelope.
- ◆ Put your cash or check inside the envelope and remember to seal it.
- ◆ Put the envelope in the **RESERVATION BOX** to reserve your space.

Please take a moment to review your personal calendar to ensure you are able to make the reservation. We have had a few people sign up and pay and not attend; tickets had already been purchased by Program Ministry and, once purchased, cannot be refunded.



AGUMCC is selling See's Candy for the Holidays.

This fundraiser will bring in money to provide professional growth opportunities for our teachers.

Orders and money are due by **Tuesday, December 3rd**. The candy will be ready for pick up **Friday, December 13th**. To place a See's Candy order, please see me between services in Criswell Hall on Sundays Nov 24th and Dec.1st. You can also share this fundraiser with others via our web site or our Facebook page.

Maddy Quaglino,
Director, Arroyo Grande United Methodist



PENNIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It's time to collect your pennies and spare change to help families who are in need in our community.

Did you know that for every \$1 you give, it has a value of \$10 at the Food Pantry?

Take home a "Piggy Bank" from the narthex and return it by **Sunday, November 24, 2019.**

100% of your contribution will be given to the **Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry**. Our goal this year is to raise \$200.

Thank you for your support.

Maddy Quaglino, Children's Center Director
Judy Atwood, Mission Team, Chair



News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: November 2019

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Making A Difference
2. Special Giving Totals for 2019

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At the recent church council meeting, the opportunity for raising funds by coordinating the sales of our church t-shirts with our logo was passed to the Mission Team for the purpose of raising funds for a mission project. Suggestions for possible projects included Heifer International, Habitat, and Captive Hearts. Other suggestions are welcomed.



The Bauske family models our shirts.

We will soon have signup sheets available for you to make a purchase. The proceeds will help us be a part of making a difference .

Hunger is real in our community and we can have an impact. One suggestion is to fill a box with an item a day during advent which begins on December 1.

- Suggestions: 1. Box of Cereal, 2. Peanut Butter, 3. Stuffing mix, 4. Boxed Potatoes, 5. Mac & Cheese, 6. Canned Fruit, 7. Canned Tomatoes, 8. Canned Tuna, 9. Dessert Mix, 10. Applesauce, 11. Canned Sweet Potatoes, 12. Cranberry Sauce, 13. Canned Beans, 14. Box of Crackers, 15. Rice, 16. Oatmeal, 17. Pasta, 18. Spaghetti Sauce, 19. Chicken Noodle Soup, 20. Tomato Soup, 21. Canned Corn, 22. Can Mixed Veggies, 23. Canned Carrots, 24. Canned Green Beans.

We can give it to the 5 Cities Food Pantry.

Many hands made much possible!



♦ SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2019

People's Kitchen Misc.	\$ 5,191.00
People's Kitchen Food	749.00
South County Food Coalition	550.00
UMCOR-Human Relations Sun.	145.00
UMCOR World Communion Sun.	472.00
UMCOR-Native American Sun.	344.00
UMCOR-Fire Relief	500.00
UMCOR-Nebraska Flood	174.00
UMCOR Peace with Justice Sun.	229.00
Shower the People	500.00
Missions Haiti	1,000.00
Missions John Elmore	1,100.00
UMCOR Bahamas	140.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	114.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	20.00
9 MONTHS TOTAL	\$11,228.00

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.

November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Give thanks to
the Lord
and proclaim his
greatness.
Let the whole world
know *what he has done.*
I Chronicles 16:8

Give Thanks

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

1
AGUMCC Spirit Day
8:30 AM Bible Study—L
 ALL DAY—Holiday Boutique Set Up
3:30 PM AGUMCC closed
3:30 PM AGUMCC Staff Development—MMR

2
THE UMW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE
9 AM TO 3 PM

Daylight Savings Time
Ends tomorrow

3
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
10:30 AM Traditional Service

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Coffee Hour:
Endowment/ELT

4
5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH
7 PM Women of Prayer—S

5
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR
11 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH
5 PM Bell Rehearsal—HR

6
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9 AM Church Work Day
11:30 AM Program Ministry—L
5:00 PM Adult Bible Study—CH
6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S

7
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR
10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L
5 PM Bell Rehearsal—HR

8
8:30 AM Bible Study—L

9

10
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Coffee Hour:
Communications Committee

Noon—Family Game Day—CH

11
 Deadline— Newsletter Articles—church office
5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH
7 PM Women of Prayer—S

VETERAN’S DAY

12
8:30 AM Sr. Exercise—CH
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR
10:30 AM UMM Cabinet Meeting—L
11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH
5 PM Bell Rehearsal—HR
7:00 PM JOY Circle—member’s home
7:00 PM Trustees—PS

13
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9 AM Church Work Day
4:00 PM UMW Steering Committee—L
5:00 PM Adult Bible Study—CH
6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S

14
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR
10 AM Intercessory Prayer—L
2:00 PM Fraud & Scam Protection Program—CH
5 PM Bell Rehearsal—HR
6:30 PM Church Council—MMR

15
8:30 AM Bible Study—L

16

17
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Coffee Hour: AGUMCC

UMM Pancake Breakfast

18
5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH
7 PM Women of Prayer—S

19
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR
11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH
 Preschool Board—MMR
2:00 PM Closed Session
3:30 PM Open Session
5 PM Bell Rehearsal—HR

20
8:30 AM--Senior Exercise—CH
9 AM Church Work Day
10:00 AM Mary-Martha -Esther Circle—MMR
5:00 PM Adult Bible Study—CH
6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S

21
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9:30 AM UMW Crafts Workshop—MMR
10:00 AM Intercessory Prayer—L
11:00 AM Finance Committee—PS
5 PM Bell Rehearsal—HR

22
8:30 AM Bible Study—L

23
 Program Ministry
 Melodrama Excursion

24
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
10:30 AM Traditional Service

Coffee Hour:
Church Council

Hanging of the Greens

25
5:45 PM G. McGuire Quilting Class—CH
7 PM Women of Prayer—S

26
8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH
9 AM Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—MMR
11 AM UMW Chair Yoga Class—CH
5 PM Bell Rehearsal—HR

27
8:30 AM--Senior Exercise—CH
9 AM Church Work Day
5:00 PM Adult Bible Study on leave until Dec 4
6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal—S

28
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

Happy Thanksgiving

29
8:30 AM Bible Study—L

30

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
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 Find us on Facebook at: United
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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

E-mail: revmaryb@fumcag.org

Missionary (retired): Judy Atwood

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

District Superintendent:

Rev. James Powell

AG UM Children's Center

Director: Madrigal Quaglino

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Deadline for December issue

Monday, November 18

PLEASE NOTE:

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



135th Anniversary Recap

We celebrated our anniversary on September 29th in typical Methodist style, with a well-attended potluck.

It was fun and informative, thanks to the “man of many hats” or should we say “*caps*”. In addition to his **host cap**, Joel Anderson also wore the **historian** and **statistician caps**. We appreciate all he does for the church, and he continues to do it with a smile.

At the potluck were some of the archives on display and most people were attracted to pictures and objects. The time capsule we created will not be sealed until the end of 2019 as we would like to add more items before the end of the year. We would like to include pictures (with explanations of the work and activities of this church. Our church is changing and the people at the 150th anniversary will open the time capsule and find the ‘good ole days’ of 2019 very interesting!

We would be remiss if we didn't say thank you to all those who wore the “worker bee” caps and pitched in on kitchen duty and clean up.

submitted by Pat Wiemers



November 3, 2019 Daylight Saving Time Ends

When local daylight savings reaches Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, at **2:00 am**, clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour to Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019, **1:00 am**, local standard time instead.



Joy Collins.....11/02
 Bill Cross.....11/05
 Judy Woodbridge.....11/09
 Bonnie Swafford.....11/13
 RoseMary MacKeen.....11/16
 Carol Ferrari.....11/18
 Lynn Foster.....11/21
 Helen Gugeler.....11/21
 Marcia Sommermeyer.....11/22
 Christina Cuddy.....11/23
 Victoria Harrington.....11/23
 Adrian Paredes.....11/23
 Jessica Williams.....11/25
 Mike Albertson.....11/26
 David Burgeson.....11/26
 Larry Wiemers.....11/28
 Del Hollinger.....11/29

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!

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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



PHOTOS FROM THE 'JUST DESSERTS TO BROADWAY' CHOIR FUNDRAISER

In addition to the choir members going to Carnegie Hall, many additional musicians, friends and family helped with the fundraiser, by performing at the show, serving in the preparation of the music for the tour, and helping with the fundraisers.

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Children's Center Chronicle



Rehearsal accompanist Dennis Eiler at the keyboard with Judy, Dave and Gary.



Chuck Burns sings, "Edelweiss" with choir director daughter, Julie.



*Thank You
To All!*

Ed Avila performs as Phantom of the Opera