



"All of Us!"

You are asked to be present and are cordially invited to:

A Special EPIPHANY CHARGE CONFERENCE

to

CELEBRATE 2019

as we close the year past and to WELCOME 2020

with NEW VISION

Sunday, January 5th, 2020

AFTER CHURCH AT NOON

Soup Lunch in Criswell Hall

Celebrate our Church! Please come to this EPIPHANY CHARGE CONFERENCE as we celebrate the 2019 work of our church and as we welcome PERFECT VISION IN 2020! We hope you come, celebrate, and look ahead to 2020. You will hear about "what's in the works" for the coming year. This is a fun-time to celebrate our ministry. It's a soup lunch for the whole congregation to come together and to say "THANK YOU GOD" for the year that is past, and "WE WELCOME YOU, GOD", "Lead us into the New Year".

You are the church of Hope, Joy & Love Rising.

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis





Happy New Year!

"A vision without a task is but a dream. A task without a vision is drudgery. A vision and a task are the hope of the world."

I used to quote this when we had strategic planning meetings in the first churches I served. It seems like only yesterday when at Lancaster UMC we created VISION 2000. (San Gabriel, Lancaster, Temple City, Reseda, Whittier, Tustin, Ventura...WOW! This is not my first rodeo!!!) Now it is 2020, a new time in a new place and at Arroyo Grande First UMC. We look forward together and we make decisions for the future of our congregation. We dream, we plan, and we take ACTION!

Multiple versions of the above quotation appeared on line. One attributed it to an "Inscription on a church wall in Sussex England, 1730." A second one gave credit to Gordon B. Hinckley (businessman/futurist), a third to Joel B. Barker (religious leader), and most said "old proverb!" Apparently, everyone who didn't footnote properly got a little credit for this old wisdom along the way! Like the four gospels, there were slight variations depending on what tack the user was taking. The first said "a vision without a plan". The second "work without vision". A third said "vision without action". Let's land right there. ACTION. God in Christ has commissioned us to be change agents in the world!

Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world."

As 2020 begins, let this be a year of shared vision and decisive action. We love this church. We want to include new people in the good things that happen here, and to see new possibilities for ministry born in this place as we follow Jesus and live out the call to "love one another." Think, pray, share and be ready to act on behalf of the gospel as we live out our discipleship with 2020 Vision. God Bless You and a Happy 2020 to you.

The Peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Mary Bingelautis

Rev. Mary B.





Fridays at 8:30 AM

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



JANUARY LITURGISTS

JANUARY 5, 2020

JANUARY 12, 2020

8:30 a.m.——Sharon Roemer 10:30 a.m.——B.G. Perriguey

JANUARY 19, 2020

8:30 a.m.———Cristy Van Hook 10:30 a.m.———Judy Leonard

JANUARY 26, 2020

8:30 a.m.————Lucy Jacob 10:30 a.m.———Roger Sperling







Dates	Topics and Schedule
Sunday, January 5, 2020 Epiphany Sunday Communion	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis "BRIGHT MORNING STAR" Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12
Wednesday, January 8, 2020	5:00 PM Adult Bible Study Session 3: Light of the World by Amy Jill Levine facilitated by Judy Atwood
Sunday, January 12, 2020 Baptism of the Lord	• 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis "WHERE DOES LOVE BEGIN?" Matthew 3:13-17
Wednesday, January 15, 2020	5:00 PM Adult Bible Study Session 4: Light of the World by Amy Jill Levine facilitated by Judy Atwood
Sunday, January 19, 2020 2 nd Sunday after the Epiphany United Methodist Women's Sunday	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Worship will be led by members of the United Methodist Women of Arroyo Grande
Wednesday, January 22, 2020	5:00 PM Adult Bible Study Session 1: The Walk by Adam Hamilton
Sunday, January 26, 2020 3 rd Sunday after the Epiphany	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Rev. Paula Hulet, guest preacher Recently retired from Estero Bay UMC in Morro Bay where she served from 2008-2019
Wednesday, January 29, 2020	5:00 PM Adult Bible Study Session 2: The Walk by Adam Hamilton
Sunday, February 2, 2020 4 th Sunday after the Epiphany	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service Rev. Rich Bolin, guest preacher Retired from Los Osos UMC, where he served 5 years of a 41 year career in pastoral ministry in Arizona and Southern California.



UMM GREETS NEW YEAR

The United Methodist Men have great plans for 2020 and want you to get out one of those many 2020 Calendars you received to mark a few dates.

Sunday February 23rd PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday March 7th – BREAKFAST MEETING at Coco's with speaker

Saturday, March 21st ADVENTURE TRIP (current plans — trip to Vandenberg AFB – date may change, depending on availability)

Sunday, May 3rd – TACO BUFFET

Sunday, June 7th – ALL CHURCH BBQ

There is no charge for UMM activities except for individual restaurant orders at breakfast Meetings. Transportation on trips has been furnished by Ride-On at no cost to participants. UMM activities have been opened for guests to attend events and friends and family are welcomed. The UMM goal is to enrich the fellowship of the men of the Church.

ART SHOW DATE SET

Val McClure, UMM Vice President announced the date Sunday, May 10th as the target date for the annual "Coffee N' Art Show". Ten artists displayed their art in the 2019 show. It was enjoyed by all. The event now in its 15th year. Val McClure is the manager and organizer. Artists in our Church, please contact McClure regarding the 2020 event.

This show is primarily for painted art, not handicraft items.

-submitted by Val McClure

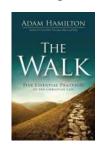


WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesdays, January 8 & 15, we complete the Advent study, <u>Light of the World</u>, by Amy Jill Levine. We have explored the biblical texts surrounding the story of Jesus' birth, tracing the Christmas narrative from the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit of the Magi.

On Wednesday, January 22, we begin a four-session study of <u>The Walk</u>, by Adam Hamilton. Discover five essential spiritual practices for our Christian walk, rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. Each week focuses on one discipline for intentionally living the Christian life.

All are welcome to join in the studies. See Judy Atwood to purchase books.





"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."

Here we are again, at the end of one great year, looking forward to the beginning of another.

- * 2019 found the UMW beginning the year with UMW Sunday celebrating the 150th birthday of UMW in the worship. New officers installed were: Mary Hawkins, president; Gerry McGuire, vice president; BG Perriguey, secretary; Betty Ashton, treasurer; and Virginia Mothes, publicity.
- * Mary Throndson and Gerry McGuire were honored for their leadership of the Holiday Bazaar.
- * Sally Weitkamp, Eva McClure, Patti Melsheimer, and Virginia Mothes, with messages of United Methodist Church District Missionary work, were guest speakers in the pulpit.
- * In February we were busy making chili for the Super Bowl Chili Sunday.
- *The Mother's Day Luncheon in May found us on a makebelieve cruise to the Mexican Riviera. We enjoyed a great taco bar lunch with children in the church entertaining us with dance and a piñata.
- * In September we enjoyed a terrific time at the Anderson's Beach House for a women's retreat.
- * Throughout the year we held circle meetings, book club, Sew and Sews, and craft workshops, finishing the year off

with the Holiday Boutique.

From our fundraisers we were able to distribute \$4,500 at year's end including gifts to Arroyo Grande Methodist Church Children's Center, Captive Hearts, 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, Oceano Elementary School, and Grover Heights Elementary School.

As we look ahead to 2020, we are busy planning for another UMW Sunday, with guest speaker, Priscilla Alquist., then preparing for Super Bowl Chili Sunday in February. We are getting out our recipes and spicing them up. We are also planning another fun Women's Mothers Day Lunch, a Pancake Breakfast in June to honor the men in the Church, a quilt show and strawberry shortcake festival, and a Mission Study. In November, we will again put on a spectacular Holiday Boutique.



A big Thank You goes out to all the wonderful helpers that come out to help in whatever way they can to assist us in the programs and activities we organize, from covering tables, making gift items, speaking to our participants and carrying out the plans. We love and need you all!

submitted by Gerry McGuire



January 24, 2020 Book Discussion: Flight Behavior

We will start the New Year by reading <u>Flight Behavior</u>, an account of the effects of disturbing nature, by Barbara Kingsolver. In this novel, set in rural Appalachia, people and scientists are curious about a mass

migration of monarch butterflies to their area. Some of the local townspeople think that the masses of monarch butterflies are a miracle while others question how they relate to the effects of climate change.

Patti Melsheimer will have library copies of <u>Flight Behavior</u> available at church.

Please join the UMW Book Club that will meet on Friday, January 24th at 11 A.M. in the McMillen Room. Everyone is welcome to attend!

submitted by Judy Leonard

CHANCEL CHOIR SINGS AT CARNEGIE HALL

Sounds of the Season
Directed by Mark Hayes
Carnegie Hall
December 2, 2019 at 7pm

Before we say anything, let's give a huge THANK YOU to everyone, the congregation, our community, and the VIP Supporters for their generous support of this Carnegie Hall experience, including those who attended the fundraisers ("Just Desserts to Broadway" on October 20th and "An Evening with Burns & Eiler & Friends" on July 12th). And a very big THANK YOU to Dennis Eiler for handling all the rehearsal accompaniment duties in AG!

It all began in the Fall of 2018 when our Chancel Choir director, Julie Burns, was contacted by Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) asking if our choir might be interested in joining a larger choir for a Mark Hayes-directed Christmas concert at Carnegie Hall in December of 2019. After getting over the shock, doing a little checking up, testing the waters with the choir, and the like, Julie said yes and the wheels were set in motion.

Mark Hayes is a composer and arranger of, among other things, choral music that our choir loves. We've got over 40 pieces of his in our church choir's music library.

The group of 14 singers and four VIPs in support headed for New York City on or around Thanksgiving Day of 2019. Our first rehearsal with the roughly 225-voice choir and Mr. Hayes was Saturday, November 30, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

This article and photographs are used with permission from Jamie Foster, our FUMCAG

webmaster who produces the church's website at WorshipWeekly.com. Jamie not only created an excellent account of the Carnegie Hall plans and how the Chancel Choir worked, both learning all the music and raising money, but he also participated in the event as a singer along with his wife, Lynn.

 Jamie, thank you for allowing us to spread the joy of this experience along to our Castanet newsletter readers with your article and photos.

~Castanet editor

The next day we rehearsed at the Central Park Hotel. Then on Monday, December 2nd, we rehearsed in the afternoon with the orchestra at Carnegie Hall and gave our performance there that evening at 7pm.

It's hard to describe the feelings rushing through your mind when you walk onto a stage at Carnegie Hall with nearly a full house audience. And the rush at the end when the final echos of the last song fade away and the audience erupts into a standing ovation. To say it's a thrill is the biggest understatement of all time. For a review of the concert by New York Concert Reviews, Inc., check the website.

SINGERS

Alice Addison
David Andersen
Ed Avila
Julie Burns
Carolyn Eaton
Jamie Foster
Lynn Foster
Carol Gray
Irene Kliesch
BG Perriguev

Barbara Reineke Nancy St. Laurent Sandy Underwood Cristy Van Hook

VIP SUPPORTERS

Dave Andersen, Jr. Rebeca Avila Kerren Brown Craig Ford





ARROYO GRANDE CHANCEL CHOIR MEMBERS WITH MARK HAYES





GREAT OUTINGS AND MEALS WERE ENJOYED IN NEW YORK

STERN AUDITORIUM PERELMAN STAGE CARNEGIE HALL



FROM YOUR LAY LEADER

Patti Melsheimer

Several months ago, as I was getting ready to open the door of Criswell Hall to prepare for a meeting, a man I didn't know came up to me. He was wearing a name tag and had come from the AT&T building across the parking lot. He asked if he could see the sanctuary and I said, "of course". We went in and he explained that he and his wife were married there 30 years ago! He took some pictures to send to his wife and remarked that it was "still as beautiful as it was 30 years ago!"

Then just last week, after yoga class, I was going into the narthex where Rev. Mary and Brad Bettencourt were arranging poinsettias. One of the women from yoga class followed me and asked if she could see the sanctuary, explaining she had never seen it even though she comes to yoga quite regularly. She just said, "Oh, it is so beautiful."

I suspect that those of us who go into the church every week or into other parts of the building don't always see the lovely facility we have. The Ballaghs, Sloans, Paulsons, Wiemers and many others who worked so hard to establish this church set a great example for all of us who are participants now.

With the recent collapse of the heater in Criswell Hall, last year's failure of the gas pipe and the problems with the heater in the sanctuary the year before, it is becoming apparent that we must take a serious look at all the parts of our facility and begin to plan for much needed renovations. The refurbishing of the narthex will begin soon but that is just a beginning. Anyone who helps out in the kitchen or looks up at the ceiling and walls while doing exercises in Criswell Hall realizes that there is some much needed work to be done.

Many things have been accomplished in the past few years – the solar panels have been installed and are saving money for us. The garden beds around the whole church which have been redone as well as the side gardens, and they are looking very nice. Electric space heaters have been installed in the preschool rooms, as well as in the pastor's office and library. Now we need to do an evaluation of the whole property and decide how to proceed. With God's help, I know we can move forward into the New Year with exciting plans for the future.



BOARD

OF

TRUSTEES

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! 2020 Is Here!

- The Church is being re-keyed
- Further information is forthcoming
- Project to be done by February 1, 2020

News from the Mission Team

MISSION TEAM: January 2020

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1. God's Steadfast Love in Action
- 2. Current Needs and Ministry
- 3. Special Giving Totals for 2019

1. GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE IN ACTION

*We received a thank you from the church in Nome, Alaska thanking us for a box of items sent their way in November. I want to share a more of their ministry with you.

"Dear Brothers and Sisters of FUMCAG:

We received your box of beautiful handmade and other items for our baby layette ministry. These layettes are not only given to the babies here in Nome, but also the surrounding 20 villages served by the Norton Sound. Health Corporation. We were told that these layettes are sometimes the nicest gifts the mothers and babies receive. Thank you for continuing to bless us with your gifts. God bless you during the holiday season and always.

Nome Community UMC, Nome Alaska" Thank you for sharing your love in action.

*Our Missionary John Elmore, in Chile, is continuing to recover from his knee surgery. Progress is being made on the restoration of the camp. He is appreciative of any financial support which we might continue to supply along with our prayer support.

*Love in action locally during Advent was a reminder of our opportunity to help with food for distribution through the 5 Cities Christian Women. We need to remember that this is an ongoing ministry all year long. Food can be donated all year long as we put our faith into action to help the hunger needs in our community.

*The latest about our Haiti mission is that the church people in Haiti have been busy searching for a way to help their community with the need for water. They have dug a well and found water. The next step is to raise funds for an electric pump so they can make the water accessible to the community. Enickson said his

goal isn't only "to preach the gospel" but to give something that can impact the community socially, as Jesus Christ asks of us, and to "help people know that following and serving God is the best choice in life."

2. CURRENT NEEDS AND MINISTRY

Prayers for how we can ask God to guide us in mission and ministry for 2020.



Many hands made much possible!

3. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2019

People's Kitchen Misc.	\$ 9,992.00
People's Kitchen Food	905.00
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	<u> 20.00</u>
11 MONTHS TOTAL	\$ 16,185.00

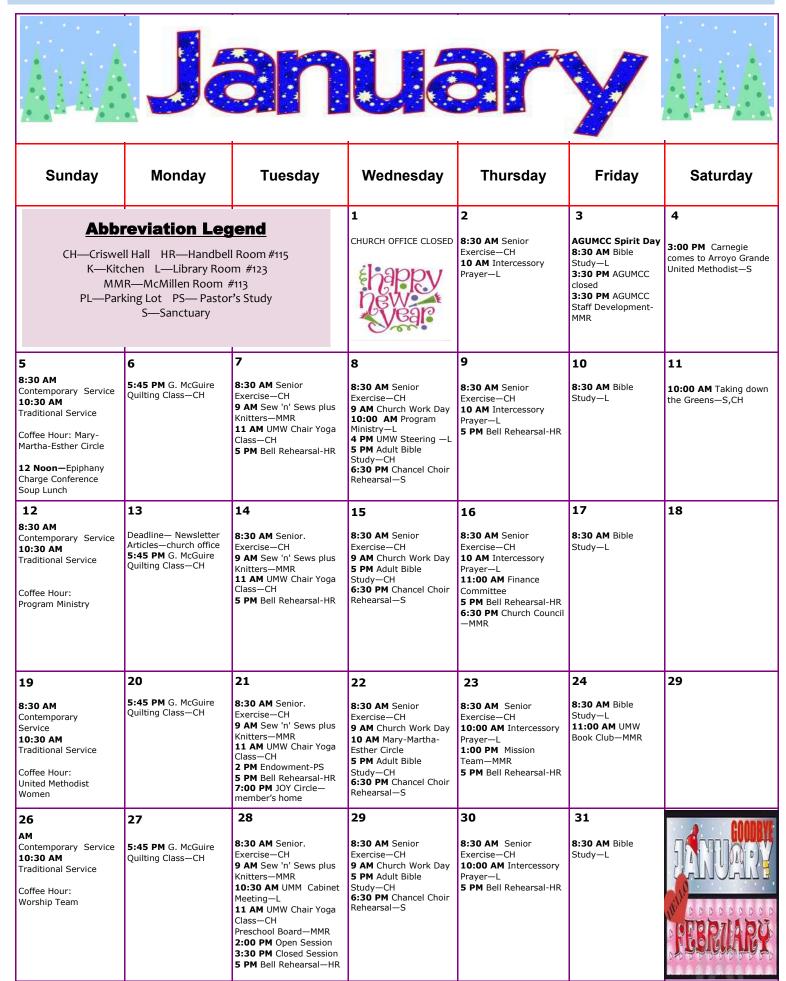
Note: The 2019 totals are not available at time of printing and will come during January.

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.





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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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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

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Varied Teams / Committees

<u>Deadline for February issue</u> *Monday, January 13*

PLEASE NOTE:

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

PEOPLE'S KITCHEN NEWS



By the time you are reading this, we will have successfully provided meals for those with hunger challenges through the People's Kitchen.

When we began this ministry again, we were given an opportunity to serve on months that have five Tuesdays. As we complete 2019, we have been back two times. In 2020, we will have the opportunity to minister in this way in March, June, September and December.

We continue to serve the casseroles, which the people enjoy, and these people were glad to know we are back serving again.

If you wish to support this ministry financially, designate your donation and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the office during the week.

Thank you in advance for supporting your ministry.

YOU GAVE ME FOOD

Birthdays In



Alex Paredes	01/04
Norm Henderson	01/07
Marjorie Ott	01/08
Carolyn Russell	01/15
Nancy Baughman	01/17
Caitlin Herber	01/17
Elwood Hyden	01/17
Jim Alquist	01/20
Judy Leonard	01/22
Violet Bauske	01/25
Lynn Stewart	01/27
Jordan Henderson	01/29
Eileen Odom	01/29
Mary Throndson	01/29



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

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



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CARNEGIE COMES TO AG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH AT 3:00 PM

from Chancel Choir Director, Julie Burns ~

"The choir would like to thank you, the congregation and community, for your generous support of our New York City trip to Carnegie Hall by giving a FREE concert on

hancel

Saturday, January 4th at 3:00 PM. We have a recording of our concert from Carnegie Hall plus we will have music, stories and highlights from our trip."