



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

MAY 2020

THREE BIRGELAITIAN RULES (from the gospel according to Mary)

If I were to give you three “Birgelaitian Rules” off the top of my head and from the bottom of my heart, it would be these:

- Don't let discernment, good sense and due diligence crumble in the face of the weariness of cabin fever! (i.e. don't run out without a mask, touching everything in sight just because it's a GORGEOUS spring day, you want to get out and you think *"you deserve it"*. We all deserve the best possible outcome and we are still in this together.
- Don't let anxiety, panic and fear ACCUMULATE within in the face of misinformation, mistrust and crazy news. (i.e. ***"Trust in the Lord always..."*** pour out thoughts, feelings and your prayers to God for the nation and our world.)
- Keep finding ways to have fun. Remember how it is when you grieve? When your heart is heavy and life feels burdensome, you've gotta keep dancing. *"Now"* is like *"then"*. Discipline the mind and force yourself to lighten up, interact and have fun anyway. Go through the motions until life actually IS fun again.

These “on the run” rules (we really ARE working hard here and we're all “winging it”) are not so far afield. They resemble the Three Simple Rules of John Wesley, “Do No Harm”, “Do Good”, “Stay in Love with God”. We CAN and we WILL.

Think of a train:



Don't let **FEELINGS** lead the train. Don't let **FACTS** frighten and overwhelm you. **FAITH IS THE ENGINE**. Feelings are the caboose. Good feelings will follow after you make choices that are good for you and for everyone else taken together.

P.S.

The staff and I are going crazy missing you and the usual activities. We're trying to make up reasons WE MUST SEE YOU. While we are making up reasons, the UMW is going to DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! There may be an opportunity for you to drive-through our parking lot, come Mother's Day, and if you can't go out at all, something may appear on your porch. We'll let you know via the weekly letter and e-blast!

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



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

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT FUMCAG

The COVID-19 lockdown has certainly changed life at our church. I am pleased that most of you have continued your generous regular tithes and offerings. Some have even put in extra to get us through this difficult period. Still, the contributions received over the past month have been about 23% below plan. In addition, we are no longer collecting fees from the Children's Center and other groups for the use of our facilities. This would leave us with about a \$6300 deficit each month. In response Staff-Parish and Trustees have taken actions to cut our ongoing expenses and some have volunteered to forgo their salary. The Annual Conference has suspended pension contributions for three months and has allowed us to reduce our Apportionments. In all this saves us about \$3700 per month. That still leaves about a \$2600 deficit each month. We entered this situation in relatively strong financial shape which should allow us to ride this out through the end of the year if contributions continue at the present level. We pray that things will be returning to normal well before then.

Because we are unable to meet as a congregation and because of the uncertainty of plans and expenses in the coming months, our Stewardship Drive, which usually takes place after Easter, has been suspended. I ask that everyone continue their regular tithes and offerings. You may use the envelopes provided in the weekly letters to return your contributions, or you may give on-line through the GIVE NOW portal on our website www.WorshipWeekly.com. The on-line giving can come from either your checking or savings account or a credit card. Giving can be one-time or can be set up on a regular basis.

Thank you for all your support and prayers.

Joel Anderson



HELLO UMYF KIDS AND FAMILIES ... from Miss Pam

Hello out there. I've been texting and praying for you and your family. We had so much fun at our one and only meeting: making sand jars and our banners, playing games, and the 20 Count volleyball. You are all truly AMAZING! Thanks to all of church members who so generously donated so that we can plan future activities and service projects. Kerren Brown deserves praise and a big "thank" you for assisting at our meeting and for the delicious brownies and ice cream.

YOUTH: ARE YOU READY FOR A CHALLENGE?

Plant a seed and watch it grow, and at the same time, plant seeds of kindness.

Keep a journal and watch the results!

*submitted by Pam Garza
UMYF Leader*

*FROM YOUR LAY LEADER**Patti Melsheimer***2020 – The year of the Asterisk (*)**

For many events – graduations, the Olympics, anniversaries, and other events, the year 2020 will have an asterisk next to it. This is a year like no other! We hear so many saying, “When we go back to normal . . .”, or “When we get back to the way it used to be. . .” But I don’t really think we will ever go back to “the way it used to be”. When other significant events in our lives such the assassination of John Kennedy or Martin Luther King or the 9-11 bombing happened we can remember where we were – it was a moment in time. What we are experiencing now is very different – it is not a moment – it is a long-term experience lasting months or years. We really don’t know when it will end. There are not many things that we can compare this to in our lifetime – maybe WWII or the Vietnam War. These were life changing for many but even those experiences did not affect every person on the earth!

In a recent email Bishop Hagiya speaks of Admiral James Stockdale who was shot down over Vietnam during that war and was held for 8 years as a prisoner-of-war. Admiral Stockdale believed the prisoners of war who didn’t make it were too optimistic. “They were the ones who said, ‘We’re going to be out by Christmas.’ And then Christmas came and Christmas would go. Then they’d say, ‘We’re going to be out by Easter.’ And Easter would come and Easter would go. And then it would be Christmas again and they died of a broken heart.” Stockdale, on the other hand, believed these optimists failed to confront the reality of their situation, which Stockdale himself accepted as he “proactively worked to do something, ever so small, to change this reality”. He did things like develop a communication system for his fellow POWs by tapping the walls and sending intelligence information through sharing the seemingly innocent letters he wrote to his wife. He retained faith that someday he would be liberated, regardless of torture and terrible conditions. Bishop Hagiya said Stockdale “confronted the brutal facts, but never lost hope”. And Hagiya urges that this is what we must do amid the COVID-19 crisis.

It is challenging to keep one’s spirits up. Viktor Frankl, writing about the Holocaust, reminded us that we don’t get to choose our difficulties, but we do have the freedom to select our responses. David Brooks, a columnist for the New York Times called this “a time to practice aggressive friendship with each other – to be the one who seeks out the lonely and the troubled.”

I have found that I am calling and emailing friends that I have not heard from in many months. Often those I only communicate with via my Christmas letter are now receiving and sending notes of concern and friendly visits by phone. Calling strangers within our church can be very rewarding. I have enjoyed getting to talk with people I only knew by sight but nothing about them personally. It is a time for creativity and being resourceful. Many are making masks to help protect the most vulnerable. I am sure that you too have found ways to help everyone endure this time.

We are also learning new ways to worship and to pray. It is a time for new learning whether it is learning how to ZOOM on our computers, using FACEBOOK, doing Bible studies or praying over the telephone.

Will it be the same as before? I am doubtful. We will need to adapt to new circumstances and continue to innovate. With God’s help we will find new ways. We may all have an asterisk by 2020!



UMM CABINET CHART UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The UMM Cabinet met via email and decided to chart the next few months. Due to the interference of the Coronavirus some hard decisions were made. It was with deep regret that the following program changes were made. (see below)

VANDENBERG AFB TRIP (May 19th)

After a number of telephone calls to Vandenberg AFB regarding possibilities for the May 19th trip, the trip had to be cancelled. The base is taking on no more tours in the near future. They have put our tour group on "standby". If the tours resume they will let us know. We had a full sign-up of 20 persons for the event. If we are told the tours are "back-on," we will inform everyone by mail and the church bulletin of the resumption of the tour and its new date.

ALL CHURCH TACO BUFFET (May 3rd)

The Taco Buffet scheduled for May 3rd is cancelled. A decision will be made on whether it will be re-scheduled in the fall.

ALL CHURCH BBQ (June 7th)



The all Church BBQ, slated for Sunday June 7th from 11:30-1:30, remains on the "active" list. The BBQ will feature chicken and tri-tip with eat-in or take out options.

Included in the meal are BBQ beans, green salad, and rolls. Tickets will go on sale on May 24th.

Let's all hope that we are through the virus emergency by then.

15th ANNUAL COFFEE N' ART SHOW

This event has been cancelled, with hope that it can be re-scheduled in fall or early winter.



submitted by Val McClure



PROGRAM MINISTRY

Our committee is looking forward to meeting again soon! We will take direction from the Public Health Department on when and how we can begin to gather! Hang on; in Christ all things are possible.

submitted by Sandy Underwood





“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.”

Last month the idea of staying home was new and actually seemed like a great opportunity to get some of those things done that we just never seemed to have the time to do. Well, it’s been over a month, going on two, depending on when you first started counting. Last month it was going to continue until after Easter, now it is at least till May 15, as we are writing this newsletter, but who knows? This “unknown” wreaks havoc with anyone trying to adhere to a calendar of activities. Do we cancel or postpone? Does anyone have a crystal ball?



With the annual Mother’s Day Luncheon and the Pancake Breakfast to honor the men of the church cancelled, the UMW came up with an alternate plan (we’re good at that). We are going to have a **Virtual Tea, honoring our Mothers**. Look in your mail for an envelope with a tea bag, letter and envelope. The virtual tea will be explained then.

And, mothers, look on your doorstep on Mother’s Day for a special surprise.

Time will tell if we will be able to have the Spaghetti Dinner with Bingo, and our Boutique in November. In the meantime, with the extra time, think about making things for the Boutique and cultivating plants and succulents. Geraniums can be rooted. For those of you who liked our kits to take home, we are planning on filling a basket with these kits that you could pick up outside the church office. When you have to go out, you could just pick up a kit during regular office hours (usually Monday—Thursday, 9 AM to 2 PM). No need to go in. Everyone can keep socially distanced.

Give one of your UMW friends a call. Let’s all keep in touch. Texting and email are good too! We’re strong women and we will get through this, as they keep saying on TV. If you feel alone, call someone; they are probably feeling lonely too. God is with us and will guide us through these times.

submitted by Gerry McGuire



UMW BOOK CLUB MEETINGS ON HOLD

Well, we are still planning to meet some time in the future to discuss our current book, *The One in a Million Boy*. Let’s use this time to read other books and look for some that our group would enjoy discussing. As soon as it is safe to get together again, we will set up the next meeting.



Email or call Patti Melsheimer if you have questions or comments.



submitted by Judy Leonard

1918 flu epidemic—if you think it's bad now. . .

(Ventura has been suffering through a serious epidemic of the "flu" this winter, a circumstance that inspired Mrs. M. E. Phillips to research and write about the more disastrous influenza epidemic of 1918. —Editor.)

By M. E. McGee

If you lived in Ventura the autumn of 1918, no doubt you read in the Oct. 23 issue of the Ventura Daily Post an announcement of a two-day fund festival. There would be two appearances of acts, "with musical-circus side shows" and all kinds of other "where a fellow may take his girl from falling off if he wants to." The announcement added that two kinds of electric light would make the carnival grounds a fairyland.

On the same page there was a brief mention of the "Spanish" influenza that had been reported in some California towns. The Red Cross offered the suggestion to avoid celebrating the "flu," as it was called. Patients should be isolated, and the persons caring for them should wear proper masks.

Dr. F. E. Carrano, a Ventura physician, was quoted as saying that there was no cause for alarm, and that it would be advisable to close schools.

In a precautionary measure, however, a Red Cross committee was organized. It was headed by Mrs. M. E. Walter Phillips, chairman, with Dr. Carrano, Mrs. Catherine Thompson, a nurse, and Mrs. Beatrice Wilson, Dr. "Doc" for its members.

The epidemic was a quiet affair, with large crowds attending. One little girl who went with her parents enjoyed it thoroughly, but she was taken ill the following day, and the nearby called a physician who diagnosed the illness as the flu. The child, Ynez Rodriguez, today is a librarian at Foster Library.

The epidemic stayed until Saturday, Oct. 19, spreading quietly with the excitement, and more cases of flu were reported. On the day after it left, the newspaper learned of the sudden and tragic death of young Mrs. J. E. Smart, who on the previous day had entertained guests in her home.

On Oct. 20, a week from the first issue of the Post stated that there was no service at the Santa Barbara Mission for the first time since its founding in 1791. All public gatherings in Santa Barbara were banned because of the influenza.

By Oct. 21, six days after the last two-day fund of the epidemic had ceased at the carnival, Ventura began its real battle with the "flu." All schools, churches, postrooms, newspapers, theatres and places where people gathered were closed.

With the shortage of nurses at home, families had to take care of their own sufferers. Flu cases were not admitted to the Elizabeth Park Memorial Hospital on Fir Street because the disease was too contagious.

On learning that in some



First Methodist Church as it looked in 1918 when it served as infirmary for flu victims

houses both parents were ill and children were going hungry, a kindergarten across St. W. Street donated its for food. Some others volunteered and several public service organizations a group formed to provide clothing and blankets. Mrs. C. G. Patton, like several, was also "down on her hands" were advised by Mrs. Charles Daly and Miss Vesta Wagner.

The committee decided that an emergency hospital was the only solution in the matter of providing proper care and began to look for a suitable building. Mrs. A. H. Sheldon, chairman of the Red Cross, secured permission to use the kindergarten building on Tolo Street and ordered it investigated because of an earlier epidemic of whooping cough among its deeds. Then came the disappointing news that the school board decided against its use as a hospital, and the search began again.

When doctors reported 122 cases of influenza on Oct. 24, the committee decided its efforts to locate a building with adequate facilities.

Through the efforts of I. A. Dasher and J. E. Rubin, the committee at last secured the only building in town that would adequately and willingly serve as a hospital. It was the Methodist Church at the corner of Oak and Main streets, because of its several classrooms, kitchen and parlors, it would be very well, and when the Rev. Francis C. Edmunds told the congregation what was planned, "The Methodists entered jealously and heartily into the effort and have that shown a fine civic spirit," according to the Post.

With the cooperation of the newspaper, the 14 to 15-bed hospital immediately began to serve the community, with the



Ynez Rodriguez

first three patients arriving on Oct. 21. A graduate nurse was on duty that night.

According to an appeal through the newspaper, donations flooded in old suit coats to be used as work coats and towels, and several women volunteered their services as practical nurses and for the task of keeping the hospital clean and sanitary. Others shared shifts as office workers and answered the telephone. Mrs. Macy E. Patrick volunteered to do all the cooking for the patients and nurses, and in the exhausting work she was assisted by Mrs. Ed Phillips.

On Nov. 1, Roy Basso died, the fourth member of the Basso family to succumb. As

the family was well thought of, this voluntary cause an an unusually severe day to the community and perhaps spared on the people's efforts to control the epidemic more than any other thing.

The Sister Singers offered an old horse-drawn ambulance to take patients to the hospital, but as there was not a horse in town, some one rigged up a trailer coupling and attached it to a motor car. Persons needing the ambulance could maintain it by placing the fire hose.

On Sunday, Nov. 3, there appeared in the Post a church letter from the Rev. Edwards asking people to continue two-

day worship in their own homes, if possible, and to pray for the sufferers. The only church doors in town that were open were those of the Methodist Church, not for services but for health service.

Three days later headlines read: "An Epidemic in California in This City." There had been 75 new cases reported the day before. But on the next, the outside of the sick city was hit by the snow, "Kaiser 2000," and two days later, with the Armistice concluded, there was great rejoicing in spite of the staggering number of the cases.

As the Red Cross supply of masks ran low, people were urged to make their own, and Mrs. Frank Silver, Mrs. John Drake and Mrs. Frances Bradley volunteered to assist in this task. In a few days 75 per cent of the population was masked, but the epidemic continued.

Then came a fatal city epidemic. Anyone appearing on the streets unmasked would be arrested. There were 30 arrests.

It was the evening that seemed to show the tide. New cases diminished in number, and finally, on Nov. 21, the last patient left the emergency hospital, and on Thanksgiving Day, after four weeks of service, the hospital closed.

On Dec. 1, the mask law was lifted and children returned to school on Dec. 22.

This marked a dramatic new experience in the town of Ventura, which numbered 2,000 inhabitants at that time. Through suffering and sharing the citizens were brought closer together as they fought the enemy called "flu" — an invisible enemy that made a millionfold of the town and took 29 lives.

[The article on page 6 was written in 1975, at the time of a flu epidemic in Ventura, by Mrs. M.B. McGuire, about the more disastrous influenza epidemic of 1918. It was published in the Ventura County Star-Free Press on March 2, 1975. I have retyped the article in a larger font to enable easier reading. — Editor]

"If you lived in Ventura the autumn of 1918, no doubt you read in the Oct. 15 issue of the Ventura Daily Post an announcement of a four-day band festival. There would be two hippodromes of acts, "nine monster circus side Shows" and all kinds of rides "where a fellow may hold his girl from falling off if he wants to." The announcement added that hundreds of electric lights would make the carnival grounds a fairyland.

On the same page there was a brief mention of the "Spanish" influenza that had been reported in some California towns. The Red Cross offered two suggestions to avoid catching the "flu," as it was called. Patients should be isolated, and the persons caring for them should wear gauze masks.

Dr. T.E. Cunnane, a Ventura physician, was quoted as saying that there was no cause for alarm, and that it would be ridiculous to close schools.

As a precautionary measure, however, a Red Cross committee was organized. It was headed by Mrs. Walter Hoffman, chairman, with Dr. Cunnane, Mrs. Andrew MacGregor, a nurse, and the health officer, Mr. Brakey, as its members.

The carnival was a gala event, with large crowds attending. One little girl who went with her parents enjoyed it thoroughly, but she was taken ill the following day, and the family called a physician who diagnosed the disease as the flu. The child, Ynez Rodriguez, today is a librarian at Foster Library [1975].

The carnival stayed until Saturday, Oct. 19, spreading germs with the entertainment, and more cases of flu were reported. On the day after it left, the townspeople learned of the sudden and tragic death of young Mrs. J.E. Stuart, who on the previous day had entertained guests in her home.

On October 20, a small item on Page 1 of the Post stated that there was no service at the Santa Barbara Mission for the first time since its founding in 1786. All public gatherings in Santa Barbara were banned because of the influenza.

By Oct. 22, six days after the last toe-

teasing tune of the carousel had ceased at the carnival, Ventura began its real battle with the "bug". All schools, churches, poolrooms, cardrooms, theatres and places where people gathered were closed.

With the shortage of nurses in town, families had to take care of their own sufferers. Flu cases were not admitted to the Elizabeth Bard Memorial Hospital on Fir Street because the disease was too contagious.

On learning that in some homes both parents were ill and children were going hungry, a kindhearted citizen, G.W. Widrin, donated \$5 for food. Soon others contributed, and several patriotic women organized a soup kitchen to provide wholesome meals. Mrs. C.G. Bartlett took orders and soon "meals on wheels" were delivered by Mrs. Charles Daly and Miss Vesta Wagner.

The committee decided that an emergency hospital was the only solution to the problem of providing proper care and began to look for a suitable building. Mrs. A.M. Sheldon, chairman of the Red Cross, secured permission to use the kindergarten building on Palm Street and ordered it fumigated because of an earlier epidemic of whooping cough among students. Then came the disappointing news that the school board decided against its use as a hospital, and the search began again.

When doctors reported 122 cases of influenza on Oct. 24, the committee doubled its efforts to locate a building with adequate facilities.

Through the efforts of L.A. Durfee and J.E. Rains, the committee at last secured the only building in town that would adequately and willingly serve as a hospital. It was the Methodist Church at the corner of Oak and Meta streets. Because of its several classrooms, kitchen and toilets, it would do very well, and when the Rev. Franklin C. Edwards told his congregation what was planned, "the Methodists entered promptly and heartily into the affair and have thus shown a fine civic spirit," according to the Post.

With the cooperation of the townspeople, the 18-20 bed hospital immediately began to serve the community, with the first three patients arriving on Oct. 31. A graduate nurse was on duty that night.

Answering an appeal through the newspaper, housewives donated old soft cloths to be used as wash rags and towels and several women volunteered their services as practical nurses and for the task of keeping the hospital clean and sanitary. Others shared shifts as office workers and answering the telephone.

Mrs. Mary E. Philbrick volunteered to do all the cooking for the patients and nurses, and in this exhausting work she was assisted by Mrs. Will Philbrick

On Nov. 1, Roy Reese died, the fourth member of the Reese family to succumb. As the family was well thought of, this calamity came as an unusually severe blow to the community and perhaps spurred on the people's efforts to control the epidemic more than any other thing.

The Native Daughters offered an old horse-drawn ambulance to take patients to the hospital, but as there was not a horse in town, some men rigged up a trailer coupling and attached it to a motor car. Persons needing the ambulance could summon it by phoning the firehouse.

On Sunday Nov. 3, there appeared in the Post a cheerful letter from the Rev. Edwards asking people to continue Sunday worship in their own homes, if possible, and to pray for the sufferers. The only church doors in town that were open were those of the Methodist Church, not for services but for health service.

Three days later headlines read: "No Let Up in Epidemic in this City." There had been 25 new cases reported the day before. But on the ninth, the morale of the sick city was lifted by the news, "Kaiser Quits" and two days later with the Armistice confirmed, there was great rejoicing in spite of the staggering number of flu cases.

As the Red Cross supply of masks ran low, people were urged to make their own, and Mrs. Frank Silford, Mrs. John Brakey and Mrs. Frances Bradford volunteered to assist in this field. In a few days 75 per cent of the population was masked, but the epidemic continued.

Then came a fateful city ordinance. Anyone appearing on the streets unmasked would be arrested. There were 30 arrests.

It was the masking that seemed to stem the tide. New cases diminished in number, and finally, on Nov. 27, the last patient left the emergency hospital and, on Thanksgiving Day, after four weeks of service, the hospital closed.

On Dec. 5, the mask law was lifted and children returned to school on Dec. 22.

Thus ended a dramatic war experience in the town of Ventura, which numbered 3,800 inhabitants at the time. Through suffering and sharing the citizens were brought closer together as they fought the enemy called "flu" — an invisible enemy that made a battleground of the town and took 29 lives."



*This email was sent to us April 3, 2020
from our Cal-Pac Field Missionary, Mozart Adevu
He is with UMCOR in West Africa*

Dear Friends of FUMC, Arroyo Grande, CA

Greetings from my family and friends in Ghana. We all know how difficult the times are but Psalm 27:14 tells us to *“Wait for the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart; I say wait on the Lord”*. In these times of unprecedented pestilence, we as Christians should remain steadfast and prayerful and plead with the good Lord to let this scourge pass over us unscathed. We ask for God’s abundant grace and His unending mercies. The Lord will remain faithful. We decree as in Isaiah 54:17 that *“no weapons formed against us shall prosper”*. We should remain hopeful in the end and know the Lord will restore us: 3 John 1:2 is full of His promise; *“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”*.

This newsletter is just to enable you to hear from me and know that my family is safe. We are looking forward to the end of this pandemic and when we can re-connect more happily again. I’m optimistic that we will meet in the Fall when I itinerate in the US. I still have a positive outlook as I look forward to the end of this pandemic. The appeal we make every time to all is to get ALL to stay at home to lessen the risk for our overburdened medics and health personnel who are on the front-line.

The farmers you have supported also send their greetings and good wishes to you. They are in prayer with you and hope you will come out of this stronger. They have shared a little on their preparedness should the pandemic hit their communities. They have shared how they are coping in their daily lives. They are grateful that you have been a blessing to them.

Please send our love to ALL and keep safe!

Your Missionary,
Mozart Adevu
Global Missions Missionary
Accra, Ghana



Did you see the cluster of lilies that were in the Easter video? We made sure that they didn’t just sit there with no one enjoying them. So, thanks to our “lily elves”, we loaded them up and gave them new living spaces with congregation members where they could continue to be enjoyed. A special thank you to Mary Hawkins, Bernie Hawkins, Cristy Van Hook, Dennis Eiler and Judy Atwood for making this happen.

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: May 2020

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. [God's Steadfast Love...in Action](#)
2. [Sanctuary Cleaning](#)
3. [Special Giving Totals for 2020](#)

1. GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

We have six church wide Special Offerings during the year in the United Methodist Church. The next one is Native American Ministries Sunday, and the gifts help support the ministries of the Committee on Native American Ministries in annual conferences. This offering serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. This special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States, and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans. When you support this offering, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You will empower congregations that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

During my years of work in the Midwest, I had opportunity to be in ministry with many Native Americans. Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC) is home to many Native American Churches. The UMC has 31,867 congregations in the U.S. The total number of Native American churches is 157 (+/-4), which is 0.47%. Of the 157 Native American churches, 87 are located within the OIMC.

You can go on line to learn more at UMCgiving.org/giveNAMS to share God's steadfast love in action.

I enjoyed going to events in the OIMC. Once I attended their Annual Conference and helped their children's ministry which was led by another Deaconess. You see the whole family going to conference when they gathered. The work of the conference is done. The United Methodist Women meet. The UMYF meets for youth ministry activities. That leaves the children who then participate in activities planned for them when the adults and older brothers and sisters are in their sessions. I always enjoyed hearing them sing familiar hymns in the various languages of their tribes.

2. SANCTUARY CLEANING

"Spring cleaning" has been changed until we are able to resume services in person. Then, we will appreciate any who are willing and able to join in the cleaning/readying of the sanctuary for worship. If you feel like you can participate in this opportunity when the time comes, please contact me and I will begin a list of those to be contacted at that time. Many hands will make the process go quickly.

3. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2020

Many hands made much possible!



Your second mile giving will be caught up next month when we have the information.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 Hilary Henderson Birthday
3 4th Sunday of Easter	4	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer 	8 Karen Wise Birthday	9
10 5th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 	11 Jim David Birthday	12 Judie Neufeld Birthday	13	14	15  ELT SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE	16 Doris Douglas Birthday
17 6th Sunday of Easter	18 Vinnie Paredes Birthday	19	20	21 Ascension of the Lord 	22 Paul Jacob Birthday	23
24 7th Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday 	25  Robin N. Isakson Birthday	26 Roger Ridley Birthday	27	28	29	30 Arianna Davis Birthday
31 Day of Pentecost 	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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PLEASE NOTE:

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



(from left to right: Barbara Reineke, BG Perriguy, Irene Kleisch and Sandy Underwood.)

Wow, do we all miss each other!!! Some of the choir got together to try a social distancing afternoon doggie play date. The humans did well, wore their masks and got a good distance outside, but the doggies couldn't resist playing with each other. What creative ways are you all finding to get through our shelter at home times?

We even had a little sing-a-long. I will be contacting various individuals from the choir to try to get some music lined up for our weeks to come. We hope this won't go on forever, but it may be a while till we can worship as we used to do. So in the interim... Let's get creative.

If you have pictures that you have been taking or short videos that you would like to share, you can email them to me, Julie Burns. Who knows, they might end up in one of our church videos or on the website.

God Bless you all during this time. Stay safe, be patient, and love one another, not necessarily in that order!

submitted by Julie Burns



New members are coming regularly



Hilary Henderson	05/02
Karen Wise	05/08
Jim David	05/11
Judie Neufeld	05/12
Doris Douglas	05/16
Vinnie Paredes	05/18
Paul Jacob	05/22
Robin N. Isakson	05/25
Roger Ridley	05/26
Arianna Davis	05/30

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
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



THE FIVE CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOOD PANTRY CURRENTLY NEEDS:

- *Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese
- *Breakfast Cereals

You can bring these items to the church office, which is usually open between 9 AM and 2 PM Monday-Thursday.

They will be delivered to the Pantry by church members.



Thank You!

ELT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2020

Students are encouraged to apply for the Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship now. Both graduating high school seniors and college students who have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work may apply. Scholarships may be awarded multiple times.



Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications are now available on-line (www.worshipweekly.com) and in the church office. The purpose of this scholarship is to help deserving United Methodist students enrolled in accredited universities, community colleges, or technical schools defray the cost of their education.

Only students who are or have been active participants in the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church may apply. The completed application with required attachments must be mailed or turned in to the church office by May 15th. ELT Scholarship checks will be sent to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2020 college classes.

Even though we may not be able to introduce our recipients in person this year, we will highlight them in an upcoming newsletter.

submitted by Judy Leonard

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