

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Mon. Dec 12 No Quilt Class until January
Noon Deadline to deliver Angel Tree gifts to tree or office.



Tue. Dec 13	Senior Exercise 9:00 AM CH Chair Yoga, 11:00 AM CH	Bible Study 1:00 PM CH Hand Bell Practice, 5:00 PM HR
Wed. Dec 14	Senior Exercise 9:00 AM CH	Trustees Workday 9:00 AM CH
Thu. Dec 15	Senior Exercise 9:00 AM CH Finance 2:00 PM CH Children's Center Christmas Program 6:30 PM S	SPRC Meeting 10:30 AM CH Hand Bell Practice 5:00 PM HR
Fri. Dec 16	UMW Book Club 10:30 AM L	
Sat. Dec 17	Nothing currently scheduled	
Sun. Dec 18	Contemporary Worship, 8:30 AM S Traditional Worship, 10:30 AM S Craft Making during Hospitality CH	



EVENT TODAY

Sunday, Dec. 11 Cookie Decorating Party 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM CH to decorate your cookies that you might bring. There will also be some cut-out cookies for you to decorate and take home. Program Ministry is supplying frostings and decorations for the cookies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. Dec. 18 Craft Making. Sponsored by the Sunday School after church during Hospitality Time in Criswell Hall. Contact Carolyn Russell for more information.



10:30 AM SERVICE DEC 18
GUEST MUSIC GROUP
"Cross Traffic" provides special Christmas vocal music during the 10:30 service.
We also have our monthly handbell Sunday, at both services, with a Christmas medley from our handbell ringers directed by Leonard Lutz.

DECEMBER 24 7:00 PM
CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE
A worship service for the entire family. Join us to sing carols, tell the original Christmas story and worship by candlelight.



DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 AM ONLY



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 N. Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



December 11, 2022

10:30 AM

ADVENT III

*"In our weakness, Christ arrives with strength.
 In our fear, Christ arrives with courage.
 In sorrow, Christmas comes to bring hope and joy.
 May this promise take root in our souls.*

PRELUDE "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" with "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"
 Bach/Pritchard

CHORAL INTROIT *The Snow Lay on the Ground* TFWS #2093

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rejoice! God's promises are ever near.
We wait for Christ's birth with patience.
 Rejoice! God's strength is with us.
We rest in the power of God's mighty love.
 Rejoice! We gather in the joy of our salvation.
In this love, we gather to worship and pray.

*OPENING HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1-3)* No.238

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

**Promised One, enter our hearts anew.
 Enter our worship with your promised presence,
 that we may know you better.
 Enter our lives and our world,
 that we may proclaim your presence
 and sing your praise.
 With joy and gratitude, we pray in your blessed name.
 Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Carolyn Russell

Abbreviation Legend: * Please sign up in advance at the welcome desk in the Narthex.
 CH = Criswell Hall HR = Hand Bell Room #115 PS = Pastor's Study
 MMR = McMillen Room #113 L = Library Room #123 S = Sanctuary

SOLO *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer *Star-Child (verse 1)* TFWS #2095
 Prayers of the People
 Choral Response *Star-Child (verse 4)* TFWS #2095

CHORAL ANTHEM *Comfort and Joy* Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 35:1-10
 Luke 1:46-55

HYMN (*please remain seated*) *There's a Song in the Air (verses 1 & 2)* No. 249

SERMON Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

THE GIFTS CHRIST BRINGS:
 "Comfort and Joy"

OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission
 Offertory *Coventry Carol* 16th century English Carol
 Doxology Melody from Hymnal, No. 95

***Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,
 whose Daystar shines for us on high,
 whose Spirit brings into our sight
 the JOY to which our world draws nigh.***

*CLOSING HYMN *Sing We Now of Christmas (verses 1 & 2)* No. 237

*BENEDICTION

As children of God's promise,
we go now to bring hope to the world.
 Blessed by Christ's presence,
we go forth in love and joy.

*RESPONSE *The Snow Lay on the Ground (refrain)*

POSTLUDE *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night* Handel/Tate/Brody

* Please stand as able.

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Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.
 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.
 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.
 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.
 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.
 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.
 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.
 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but

the redeemed shall walk there:
 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,
 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.
 He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'
Today's Liturgist: BG Perriguy

HOSPITALITY:

**Today hosted by:
 CHRISTIAN
 EDUCATION**



**December 18 will
 be hosted by:
 STAFF-PARISH
 RELATIONS
 COMMITTEE**

WEEK	ATTENDANCE					TOTAL	STEWARDSHIP
	8:30	10:30	IN-PERSON	VIDEO	TOTAL		
11/13	31	51	82	40	122	\$3,733	
11/20	38	56	94	56	150	\$2,664	
11/27	34	44	78	40	118	\$7,961	
12/04	36	40	76	16	92	\$27,106	
Weekly offering needed: \$6,160							
Fiscal year to date:		Needed \$141,680	Received \$133,586				
Thanksgiving:		Needed \$2,900	Received \$1,427				
Advent/Christmas Offering:		Needed \$5,100	Received \$865				
That is 1 sparrow, 2 cats, 6 dogs, 2 roosters, 1 pig, 4 sheep and a donkey.							
Waiting for the shepherds, wise men, wise women and angels to arrive							