



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

JANUARY 2022



As we say good-bye to 2021 and greet 2022, I share with you words from Howard Thurman that I have read annually for years between Christmas and the New Year:

A New Melody

The old song of my spirit has wearied itself out. It has long ago been learned by heart so that now it repeats itself over and over, bringing no added joy to my days or lift to my spirit. It is a good song, measured to a rhythm to which I am bound by ties of habit and timidity of mind. The words belong to old experiences which once sprang fresh as water from a mountain crevice fed by melting snows. But my life has passed beyond to other levels where the old song is meaningless. I demand of the old song that it meet the need of the present urgencies. Also, I know that the work of the old song, perfect in its place, is not for the new demand!

I will sing a new song. As difficult as it is, I must learn the new song that is capable of meeting the new need. I must fashion new words born of all the new growth of my life, my mind and my spirit. I must prepare for new melodies that have never been mine before, that all that is within me may lift my voice unto God. How I love the old familiarity of the wearied melody--- how I shrink from the harsh discords of the new untried harmonies.

Teach me, my Father, that I might learn with the abandonment and enthusiasm of Jesus, the fresh new accent, the untried melody, to meet the need of the untried morrow. Thus, I may rejoice with each new day and delight my spirit in each fresh unfolding.

I will sing, this day, a new song unto Thee, O God.

Rev. Mary Binglea's

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

The graphic features the words "TREASURER'S REPORT" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered on a light blue grid background. A red diagonal line crosses the text from the top-left to the bottom-right.

Wow, what a difference a few weeks can make. Your Acting Treasurer was starting to sweat around mid-October, and not because of the warm spell. Contributions were running about \$15,000 under plan. Word got out and our congregation responded! As of mid-December, regular tithes and offerings are almost \$27,000 above plan. Some of this is due to members making advance payments on their pledges, so we will have to save some of those funds for use later in the year. Others made an extra, generous contribution. We have a wonderful and caring congregation. The Thanksgiving offering came in slightly over plan. The Christmas offering has been running well below plan, but the Christmas season is not yet over so I am hoping that more comes in. Overall expenses have been running slightly below plan.

This fall we gave all our staff a 3% raise and we are bringing on some new paid positions to help our Church move forward. All this takes money. We recently hired a webmaster who will also help improve our Social Media presence. We are still looking for a Praise Team Leader when Mike Clark retires, a Sound Technician who will train volunteers on the sound board, and a Publicity Coordinator to get the word out about all our many activities in order to bring in new member. If you know of anyone that might be interested or are interested yourself, please contact Mary Hawkins or the Church Office for further details.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

PUTTING AWAY THE DECORATIONS!



Saturday, January 8th

at

10:00 a.m.



What goes up must come down!

It's time to put away the Christmas decorations for another year. So, please come help us. I just couldn't bring myself to write UNHANGING OF THE GREENS. It's so unpoetic, but what do you call it? Cleaning up is never as glorious as the decorating, yet we appreciate all helping hands who pitch in to do both! Can't drag a box or lift, come along anyway! You can encourage others, pack away bows and such.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve! The more the merrier.



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



JANUARY 2

8:30 a.m.—Sharon Roemer
10:30 a.m.—Judy Atwood

JANUARY 9

8:30 a.m.—Joe Brown
10:30 a.m.—BG Perriguey

JANUARY 16

8:30 a.m.—Mary Thronson
10:30 a.m.—Barbara Reineke

JANUARY 23

8:30 a.m.—David Beard
10:30 a.m.—Priscilla Alquist

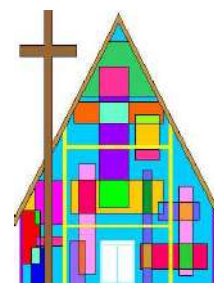
JANUARY 30

8:30 a.m.—Ian Beard
10:30 a.m.—Nancy St. Laurent

District Covenant Prayer List

from District Superintendent, Rev. Melissa MacKinnon

*“Pray for the continued mission of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference:
to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”*



| Prayer Week | Church/Ministry | Clergy Leader(s) |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| January 2 January 2 | Woodland Hills UMC Westlake Village UMC | Pastor Seung-il Whang Pastor Walter Dilg & Pastor Rachel Tabutol |
| January 9 January 9 | Van Nuys UMC Trinity UMC of Los Osos | Pastor Jay Ahn & Pastor Bo Yong Lee Pastor Gilbert Stones |
| January 16 January 16 | St. James UMC Santa Clarita Korean Mission | Pastor Malyong Yi Pastor Sang Hun Park |
| January 23 January 23 | Santa Barbara First UMC San Luis Obispo UMC | Pastor Mark Richardson & Pastor Alan Strout Pastor Mark Sturgess |
| January 30 January 30 | ReNew UM Mission Palmdale First UMC | Pastor Sam Park Pastor Jim White & Pastor Jon Gentry |



The UMM is having a breakfast meeting at Coco's on Saturday, January 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Featured guest speaker is Devon McQuade, Associate Director of the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition. She will let us know what is new and the developing with their efforts to address the

needs of the homeless population in south San Luis Obispo County.

Seating is limited so reservations are required. There is a signup list in the Narthex, or call Paul at 805-270-0204 to reserve a seat.



5 Cities homeless coalition

submitted by Paul Holden

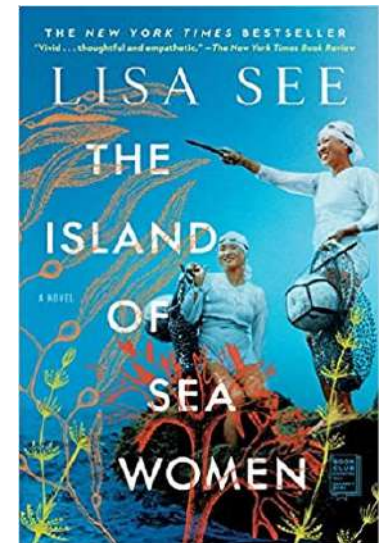


The UMW Book Club Discusses The Island of Sea Women in January

The UMW Book Club members will begin the New Year by reading The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See. A popular author, Lisa See draws the reader into a story of friendship and struggle to remain connected despite major obstacles. The story begins in the 1930s and continues through the Korean War and into current times. The two friends, Mi-ja and Young-sook, meet as baby divers who are part of an all-female diving community on Jeju, a Korean island. For decades the girls' friendship is tested since Mi-ja is the daughter of a Japanese collaborator, and Young-sook comes from a line of Korean divers.

If you are interested in joining us, we welcome you to pick up a copy of the book in the church office. The January meeting is set for Friday, January 21st at 10:30 A.M. in the church library.

See Patti Melsheimer if you have any questions about attending our group.



submitted by Judy Leonard



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

“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.”

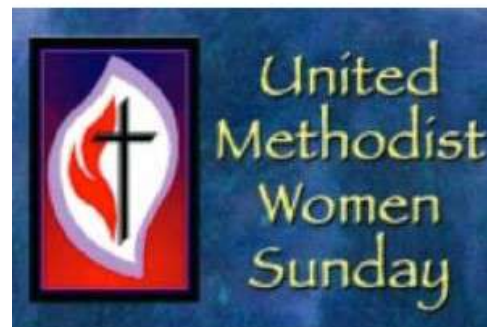


As the seasons change and we find ourselves morphing into a wintery New Year, I hope everyone found Hope, Joy, Peace and the Love of Christmas. The sharing of the crèche displays (photos page 8) in Criswell Hall during Advent brought us together, with the Angel Tree in view. Thank you to all who shared the variety of Nativity scenes. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was both beautiful and inspiring.

The New Year brings us an opportunity for a new beginning, a progression to more and more relaxation in the restrictions we had come to expect. As I go out into the world more and more barriers are coming down and relaxing. We can pat ourselves on the back for wearing our masks and social distancing.

Due to the fundraising efforts of this last year, the UMW, in addition to the monies we send to the World Missions, is able to gift some local groups checks to help them continue their work in the community. Thanks to your help we are able to do this.

The Annual UMW Sunday is being planned as we speak. The Women of the Church will participate in the service on Sunday, February 6.



Already in this new year the UMW have plans for new fund raising activities, starting with our popular Super Bowl Sunday Chili Sale on February 13th.

Tickets will go on sale January 16th. For \$15 you can pick up enough chili (your choice of vegetarian, turkey, beef or no beans) for two people, two corn muffins and cookies.



Prayers for a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Respectively submitted,

Gerry McGuire

Dates to Remember

February 6 – UMW Sunday

February 13 — Super Bowl Chili Sunday

Angel Tree Thank You

Thank you to the congregation for providing such wonderful gifts for the Angel Tree this past Christmas. The congregation has been so generous and caring about the gifts for the foster care children and other needy children. All of the tags were taken and all of the gifts were received by December 20, 2020. Some people even brought extra gifts.

The church will be receiving a gracious thank you letter from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services this month, thanking our church for the generous contributions to their program for children. Many more children were in need this year.



The Angel Tree

If you need verification for a charitable income tax deduction, Social Services has given their tax identification number as 95-60000939.

Church members at this church have caring hearts and are truly generous in helping others in the community, especially children. Thank you again for your love and generous support for The Angel Tree. Bless you all!

Have a Happy 2022.

submitted by Jan Treat



Brad Bettencourt displays a Christmas arrangement made during his floral arranging class in December under the auspices of *Program Ministry*.

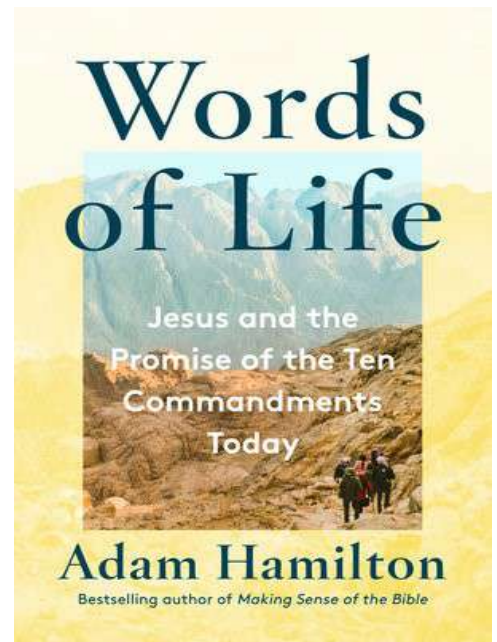
Check the information in the Narthex to find more of the activities *Program Ministry* makes available to the congregation.

Bible Study and Lenten Study Classes Are Coming Up!

Words of Life... Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today

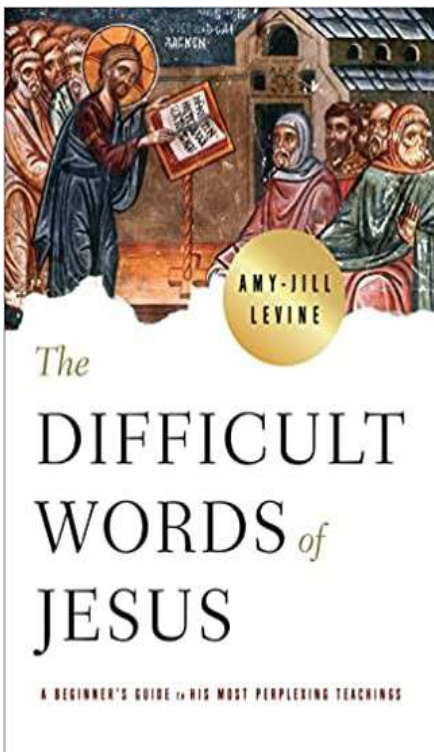
Bible Study on Tuesday afternoons will resume again January 18, with six sessions by Adam Hamilton. The group meets at 1:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall with social distancing. Adam brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. He looks at the commandments in their historical context, considering the meaning of each in Hebrew, how Jesus reinterpreted them, and how each was intended to point to a life-giving “thou shalt.” He also explores how the latest research in science and psychology illuminates these commandments as a way of ordering one’s life in the present day.

In a culture marked by workaholism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace. If you are interested, please join us and ask for a book!



submitted by Judy Atwood

The DIFFICULT WORDS of JESUS...A BEGINNER'S GUIDE to HIS MOST PERPLEXING TEACHINGS



Our Lenten Study by Amy-Jill Levine will begin March 1. This is also a six session class and will be at the same time and location.

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God’s word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult.

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

submitted by Judy Atwood

CHRISTMAS 2022**Sign-up now to Help Next Year**

Yes! I'm serious!!! This year we missed the boat on a couple of items because there was no one assigned to "make it happen". Would you like to be in charge of any of these things next year? You'll have all year to think about it, put it on your calendar and be "good to go" come November 2022. Next year Advent begins the last Sunday of November just like this year, and Christmas is on Sunday! So, it will be another challenging year for your staff. We love it when it falls mid-week! If you are interested in shepherding any of these special holiday decorating items, please let the pastor know.

Job #1

Be the force behind getting our wooden nativity set up in the church yard. This means coordinating date, time and 'rounding up the muscle power, i.e. soliciting the help of our local rancher Mike Clark and equally muscle-bound friends to pick a place, secure the wooden figures and stabilize them.

Job#2

Be in charge of putting some Christmas Lights or tasteful outdoor decorations in the gardens that can be seen through the windows from the sanctuary.

Job #3

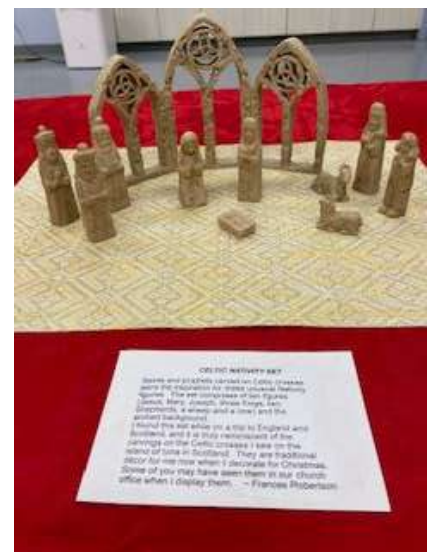
Gather a small group of helpers and consider what we might do outside to draw attention to the church and beautify for Christmas and we'll help get what you need on hand before next Advent begins, i.e. white lights on some front windows, bush nets on a couple of bushes, a star of Bethlehem. We could have some outdoor decorators create something.

If you would like to take on one of these projects, let us know.

~MBB

PHOTOS FROM UMW CRÈCHE DISPLAYS

photos courtesy Gerry McGuire



News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: January 2022

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

We have faced many challenges over the past year, and yet I was filled with **JOY** for the many ways we were in ministry together.

We began the year with the Wesley Covenant Prayer and the challenges it provides for us.

*"I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with who thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."*

Reflecting on the year, here are some of the ministries we carried out.

Lent was early in the year and we did a food drive for our local pantry.

About this time, we learned about a new ministry idea in Haiti for a Sewing Class to train young adults in a skill that they might use to sustain themselves. We raised funds for sewing machines and supplies.

In May we sent our first shipment of baby items to Nome, Alaska for their Layette program which serves Nome and 12 communities in the area.

Church logo T-Shirts, and caps, etc. were sold in June to help local ministries. Also, in the summer, the folks in Haiti started a second ministry to teach students to cook as way of making a living. A stove was needed

for that to happen. They now have a stove and can teach cooking.

Talking about education, we supported our own pre-school with funds for teachers to purchase supplies for students.

Another disaster to which we responded was the earthquake in Haiti.

Soon we were back to the fall with another food drive for our local pantry to help with Thanksgiving and Christmas food needs.

Along with this we supported the pre-school in raising funds for turkeys.

Through the year we have continued to serve meals at the People's Kitchen.

I am grateful to this congregation for your response in so many ways. I invite you to share your ideas for mission with us. I hope you are energized by this trip down memory lane of 2021!

So, my challenge to myself and others who wish to join me, continue to be who you are and be willing to take time to help make a change in the life of others.



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



January



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | <p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> |
| <p>2 Epiphany Sunday</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> | <p>3</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p> | <p>4</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> | <p>5</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> | <p>6</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> | <p>7</p> <p>4:00 PM AGUMCC Monthly Staff Mtg—MMR</p> | <p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM Christmas Décor Putting Away—Church, Narthex, Hall, Outdoors...</p> |
| <p>9 Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> | <p>10</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p> | <p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> | <p>12</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM Trustees Monthly Mtg—CH</p> <p>1:30 PM SPRC Meeting—CH</p> | <p>13</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>11:00 AM Finance—PS</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> |
| <p>16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> | <p>17</p> <p>I HAVE A DREAM MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</p> | <p>18</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1PM Bible Study—CH</p> <p>2PM Endowment—PS</p> | <p>19</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM UMW Steering Committee—L</p> | <p>20</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>1:00 PM Church Council—CH</p> | <p>21</p> <p>10:30 AM UMW Book Club—L</p> <p>1:00 PM AGUMCC Board MTS—MMR</p> <p>1:00 PM Open, 2:00 PM Closed</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Memorial Service for Mike Johnson 11:00 AM</p> |
| <p>23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional</p> | <p>24</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p> | <p>25</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> | <p>26</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> | <p>27</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> |
| <p>30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> | <p>31</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p> | | | | | |

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

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PLEASE NOTE:

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

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER
FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP?**



You are invited to order flowers to honor or remember someone special.

Your floral tribute will be placed on the altar for the worship services on Sunday and recorded for the video made for that week. After the services you can pick up the arrangement or we will get those beautiful flowers to you. The cost remains at \$25 .

Orders can be made, as in the past, from the Grand Bouquet which we can do upon your request. Or orders can be placed with Brad Bettencourt (long-time florist himself who actually owned a flower shop for years) who has created lovely arrangements with Trader Joe's flowers used in our worship services.

Please contact Frances in the Church Office, who is the liaison with the Worship Team, to make your plans.



| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Alex Paredes | 01/04 |
| Norm Henderson | 01/07 |
| Marjorie Ott | 01/08 |
| Carolyn Russell | 01/15 |
| Nancy Baughman | 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 Thronson | 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!



Hope, Joy & Love Rising



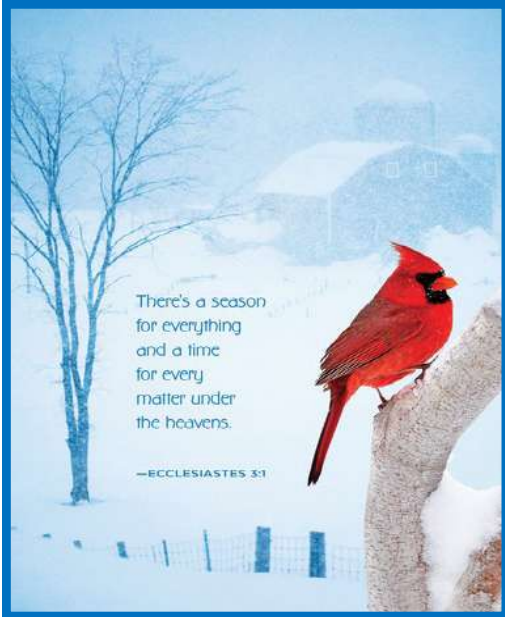
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January
2022

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Children's Center Chronicle

NAME BADGES

We want to be a place where everybody knows your name.

(no, not THAT place)

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG

To request a new or replacement name tag, fill out a badge request form found in the basket next to the badge carousel in the Narthex and leave it in the basket.

Both pin back and magnetic back badges are available.