



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

MARCH 2022

LENT 2022

Until now, we haven't walked through Lent in the way we are used to doing since 2019. That's three years! Our journey was interrupted the Third Sunday in Lent of 2020, and we were virtual all the way to Pentecost 2021. I never knew I'd be this excited about a trek to the cross, but 2022 is extra meaningful since we are able to take the journey in person. I hope you will join us in the sanctuary on Sunday morning or make a commitment to watch weekly via video. You may find it fun to re-visit the service after having been there. Different meanings emerge and different songs may speak to you the second time around. As you enter Lent 2022, may God bless your journey to Easter.

We offer you an opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, in the sanctuary at 11:00 AM-1:00 PM. This will be a simple receiving of the symbol of ashes without a worship service, like unto the simplicity of opening our doors for prayer during the many COVID months of 2020-2021. We will have background music, a pastor and musician present, and a quiet, warm place for you to pray. This season's scripture readings and sermon titles are listed below:

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU

March 6th – First Sunday in Lent

“Return & Be Blessed”

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Luke 4:1-13

March 13th – Second Sunday in Lent

“Stand Firm in Faith”

Genesis 15:1-6

Philippians 3:17-4:1

March 20th – Third Sunday in Lent

“Acknowledge the Greatness of God”

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

March 27th – Fourth Sunday in Lent

“Be a New Creation”

Psalm 32:1-7

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

April 3rd – 5th Sunday in Lent

“Persevere”

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:4b-14

April 10th – PALM SUNDAY

“Celebrate Jesus”

Luke 19:28-40

Rev. Mary Bingleau's

From the Church Council

Mask Policy

Due to the latest California and CDC Mask guidelines, Church Council will re-evaluate our mask guidelines.

Additional Social Distancing Seating Option

For those that would like additional assurance of social distancing it was decided to open seating in the transepts.

Those using the transepts would enter and exit through the sanctuary door near the office, thus avoiding potential exposure in the narthex. Only a limited number of individuals can be seated in the transepts in order to insure proper social distancing.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of this opportunity is asked to contact Mary Hawkins or Mary Birgelaitis in advance of Sunday Services.

Fellowship Time (a.k.a. Coffee Hour) is Returning

Fellowship time, also know as Coffee Hour is returning! Church Council voted to hold Fellowship Time outside after each service on the first Sunday of each month. But, in order for this to happen we need YOU to volunteer to help.

We need volunteers to set up a few tables, bring individually packed goodies (e.g. cookies in a plastic bag, cupcakes) and clean up. Sign up sheet and further information is on a table in the narthex. This provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions. Please help out so we can again enjoy fellowship and coffee after our Sunday services.

*~ Joel Anderson,
Church Council Chair*



**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



March 6

8:30 a.m.—Joseph Brown
10:30 a.m.—Barbara Reineke

March 13

8:30 a.m.—Sharon Roemer
10:30 a.m.—Alice Addison

March 20

8:30 a.m.—Mary Thronson
10:30 a.m.—Priscilla Alquist

March 27

8:30 a.m.—Susan Thronson
10:30 a.m.—Patti Melsheimer

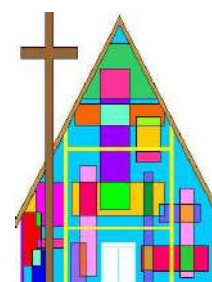
Ushers are still needed for Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Training is offered for new or returning ushers. This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church. Call or talk with Kerren Brown at church for more information. See church directory for contact information. Your church needs you!



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.”



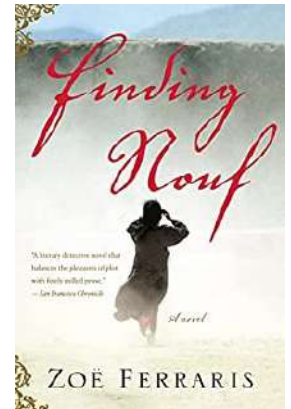
Prayer Week	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
March 6	First UMC of Paso Robles	Pastor Josh Zulueta
March 6	First UMC of North Hollywood	Pastor Steve Peralta
March 13	First German UMC	Pastor Kurt Poland
March 13	Estero Bay UMC	Pastor Stephen Meadors
March 20	Camarillo Korean UMC	Pastor Sang Lee
March 20	Bishop First UMC	Pastor Kate Hunter
March 27	Bethel Korean Mission Church	Pastor Kisung Nam
March 27	Atascadero UMC	Pastor Steven Poteete-Marshall



UMW Book Club March 18, 2022 Meeting

The UMW Book Club will meet on Friday, March 18th at 10:30 A.M. in the Church Library. This month we'll discuss a mystery set in Saudi Arabia. Finding Nouf by Zoe Ferraris relates the story of a sixteen-year-old Saudi young woman who disappears. Her family hires a Palestinian detective to uncover what happened to her. As he probes the circumstances of her death, he is thrown into a different culture and challenges.

If you like reading a good mystery and discovering more about the Saudi Arabian culture, you should join us for our March discussion of this book. See Patti Melsheimer if you would like to borrow a library copy of this book. We welcome new readers to our group!



Program Ministry

March 5th from 1-3pm Wine and Design from Orcutt will host an acrylic painting workshop **Seashell on the Beach.** We must have a minimum of eight to hold this event. We have 4 spots yet to fill. Registration on line only; no refunds. Follow the link to sign up and use Event Code (**pARTy**) (case-sensitive) to purchase your seats. (e-mail/text Sandy if for help).



<https://www.wineanddesign.com/calendar/orcutt-ca/event/first-united-m>

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March 11 at 1pm meet at end of Grand Avenue near **Finns' to walk to Pier.** The walk is about 1.5 miles one way. This walk is hosted by Lucy Jacob.

March 27th at 4 pm Movie time offers **"The Art of Racing n the Rain"** Join us for popcorn, soda, candy bars and hot chocolate available for purchase.

Dodger Baseball season starts the end of March. If you are interested, sign up. Your cost will be the ticket and transportation. Once we know how many people are interested, Program Ministry will schedule a game date and transportation. Questions call 1-805-890-7874.

April 9th the united Methodist Men will meet in Criswell Hall to view "on the big screen" The Patriot" starring Mel Gibson.

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.”

As you may have heard the new stoves are here and installed. They will be dedicated March 1, with a Fat Tuesday (Shrove) Pancake dinner with pancakes (naturally), sausage, eggs, applesauce and King Cake. We will have two seatings, at 5 pm and 6 pm. The double seating is to keep us social distanced. This is being put on by the UMM, UMW, Program Ministry, Trustees and Church Council. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. Pastor Mary will delight us with a special reading of her favorite children’s story, The Runaway Pancake. Hope you can come.



Shrove Tuesday is the traditional time for a big feast to eat up all the fat (eggs, and milk thus pancakes). The following day is Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent when we restrain ourselves from all the delicious food and fast. On Ash Wednesday, with the ash mark by the clergy on our foreheads, we observe the story of Jesus’ journey into the desert for 40 days. This time of repentance and abstinence is culminated in the Easter Celebration.

With our tummies full of pancakes we should think of those less fortunate, and the Food Pantry is in need of replenishing. So Sunday March 13th, we will have a food drive. Boxed cereal has been mentioned as a good item to bring in. (See also the



food list on page 9.) As a thank you for your generous giving UMW will be baking St. Patrick’s Day cookies for you to celebrate the Irish holiday.



All of our circles and groups are meeting. I hope all women will find a place to enjoy the fellowship of friends in one or more of the groups. A reminder: The Sew and Sews are meeting Tuesdays from 10 to 2. We bring a sandwich for lunch and enjoy quilting, knitting, crocheting and various crafts in addition to the usual friendly talking and visiting.

We look forward to ushering in the spring season as we prepare for Easter, April 17th.

~submitted by Gerry McGuire

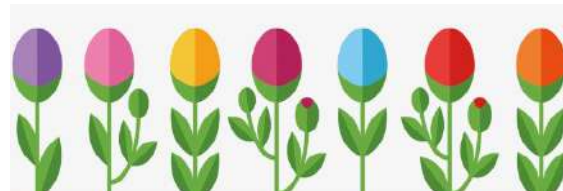
Dates to Remember

March 1 Fat Tuesday Shrove Pancake Dinner – 5 and 6 pm

March 13, Sunday, Food Drive

Easter April 17

May 7 Mothers Day Tea , all women are invited.



Tribute to Don and Helen Gugeler

Every so often there are people that represent just what a Christian is in the way they act and live. Don and Helen Gugeler are just such a couple. As they leave our congregation, we recognize just how much we will miss them. They have been active members of this church for over thirty years, regular attendees to all church activities, serving on many church committees and boards, and faithfully singing in our Chancel Choir.



It all began in Iowa, with the birth of Don Gugeler in Des Moines, Iowa to a Methodist minister and his wife. And a little later Helen was born in Laurens, Iowa. They met while attending Iowa State University as they were singing in the Methodist Church choir in Ames, Iowa. 1949 was the year they both graduated college and then got married. Their family grew to three daughters and one son. They made a big move to Santa Monica, California when Don accepted employment with Douglas Aircraft. While in Santa Monica they were active members of the Santa Monica First United Methodist Church and the Huntington Beach Community Methodist Church, when his work transferred him to Huntington Beach.

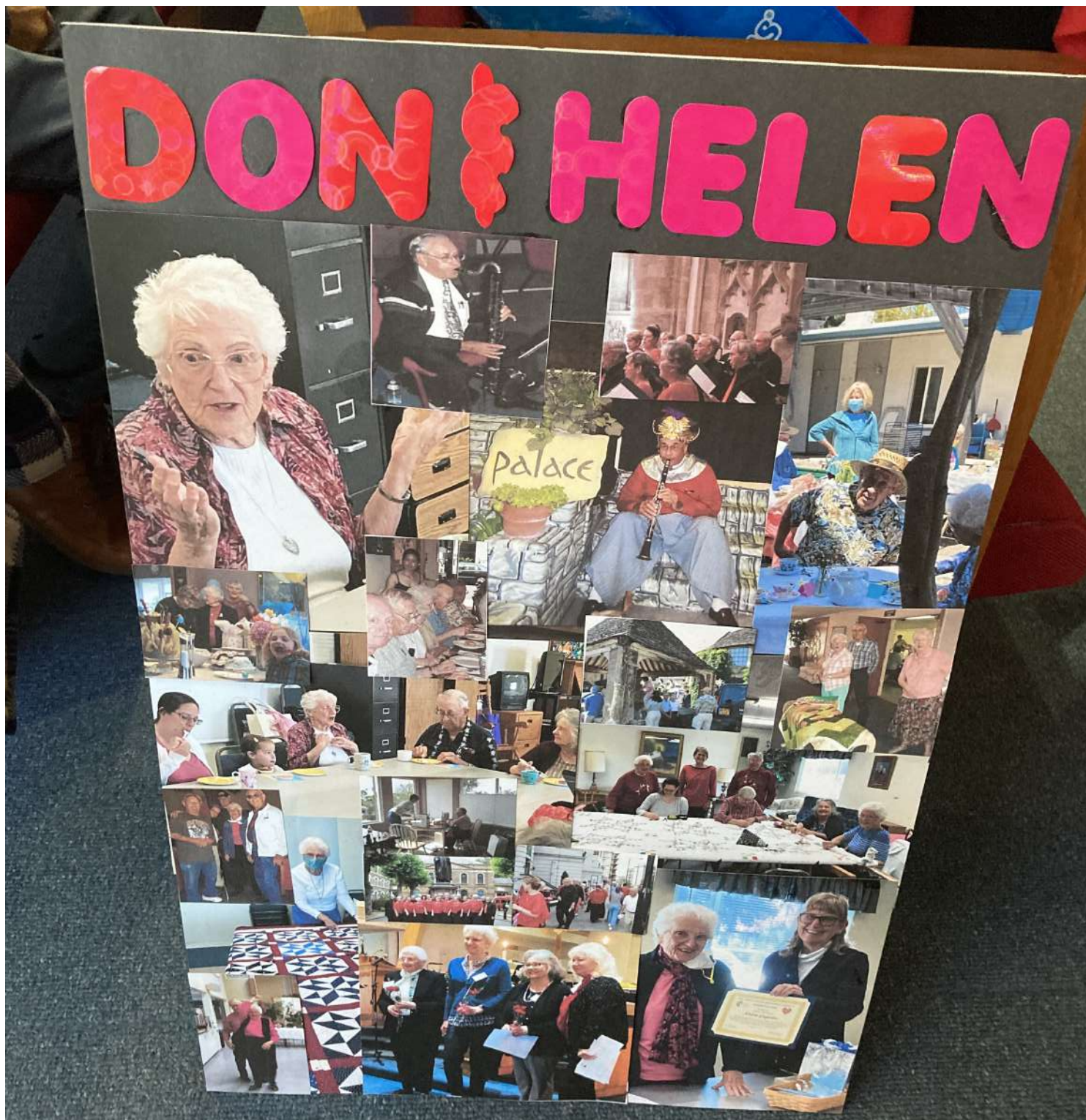


Upon retirement, they moved to Arroyo Grande and became active members of this church. Helen has her Quilting interest which she has shared in leadership of the Sew and Sews and preparing items for the Holiday Boutique. Don as you all know has his love of music and the clarinet which he has shared with us and the community. Don and Helen have represented us as lay members to annual conference.

They have been blessed with seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren which they look forward to seeing more of as they move to be closer to their daughter in Templeton. With Don's failing eyesight they will have support from family there.

They have shown their faith while showing us how to be effective and caring members. We will miss them and won't be surprised to see them active (singing in the choir) in the Methodist Church of Atascadero.

Written by Gerry McGuire with assistance from Cast~A~Net article by David Beaman, December 15, 2015.





It's Time to Apply for the 2022 ELT Scholarship

It's that time of the year when college-bound students apply for scholarships. Our church is fortunate to be able to award Everett Lee Taylor Scholarships again this year.

Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications will be available on-line (www.worshipweekly.com) and in the church office

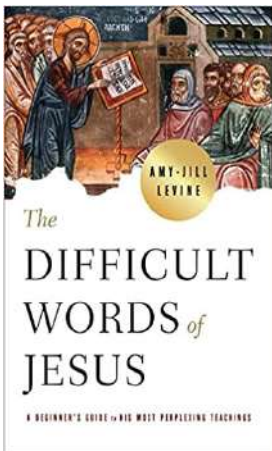
beginning in March. The purpose of this scholarship is to help support deserving United Methodist students who will be enrolled in accredited universities, colleges, or technical schools during the 2022-2023 school year.

Only students who are or have been active participants in the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church may apply. Graduating high school seniors must include letters of recommendation as well as a high school transcript with their completed applications. Returning college students will need to provide a college transcript but are not required to submit letters of recommendation. Students may apply for this scholarship more than once as long as they have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work.

The completed application with required attachments must be turned in to the church office by May 15th. Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship recipients will be announced in early June. Scholarship checks will be given to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2022 college classes.

So, if you would like to be considered for an ELT Scholarship, please submit a completed application by May 15th. Contact Judy Leonard with any scholarship questions.

Lenten Study Class



The Difficult Words of Jesus, A Beginner's Guide to his Most Perplexing Teachings.

This Lenten Study is by Amy-Jill Levine and begins on Tuesday, March 1 and continues for six sessions. The group meets at 1:00 PM in Criswell Hall, with social distancing.

Jesus provided his disciples teaching 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 this book, Amy-Jill shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation. Contact Judy Atwood for books.

News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: March 2022

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

Reflection from Rhett Thompson, Global Missionary serving in Panama, Evangelical Methodist Church in Panama City:

"One of the lessons we have learned this year is how interconnected we are, and how much we have taken for granted the simple joy of being able to come together. Like many of you, I have reached out to the others through a phone call or an email. One such call was to Louise Thrift, a special Sunday School teacher at Bright Star UMC in Douglasville, GA where I worked as youth minister while in seminary. She was delighted to hear from me. I was awed to learn that ever since she heard that I had "gone off to Panama" as a missionary pastor, she had been praying for me and for the people of Panama. Every day, since 1985.

During the pandemic, the church in Panama was shut down. Our first service after resuming worship services was a funeral. Another loss to COVID 19. As we enter the Lenten season, we mourn this and other losses. We have walked the Via Crucis. We have walked through the valley of the shadow of death. But death does not have the final word. We serve a risen Lord."

OUR MINISTRY CHALLENGE FOR LENT

The challenge for this Lenten season is

"Feed Your Faith and Feed the Hungry."

We will provide a container in the narthex for you to help us do this through Heifer International. We are raising funds for Flocks of Chickens at \$20/Flock, Garden Seeds \$20/Share, and Honeybees \$30/hive. We will keep you updated each week by the jar.

If you want to do so by check, mark Heifer on it. Or clean out that spare change container we all have! Let's see how many flocks, seeds, and bees we can send to help feed the hungry.



LOCALLY: 5 CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOOD PANTRY






On March 13th, we will be sharing a drive through with the UMW for a St. Patrick's Day surprise. We are collecting food for the local pantry to help with food needs. The items they are particularly in need of at this time include: cereal, soups, spaghetti sauce, pasta (any kind), boxes of Mac & Cheese, peanut butter, canned tuna or chicken, oranges, lemons or produce from home gardens.

WATCH FOR MORE MISSION IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Abbreviation Legend</p> <p>CH—Criswell Hall S—Sanctuary K—Kitchen L—Library Room #123 MMR—McMillen Room #113 PL—Parking Lot PS—Pastor’s Study HR—Handbell Room #115</p>		<p>1 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 1 PM Bible Study—CH 5 PM, 6 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancakes/ Mardi Gras—CH, K</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus  11:00 AM-1:00 PM Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes—S</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>4 4:00 PM AGUMCC Staff Meeting—MMR</p>	<p>5 1:00 PM Acrylic Painting Workshop—Seashell on the Beach—(Program Ministry)—CH</p>
<p>6 First Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>7 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 10 AM-Noon Prayer Time--S 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 1 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus 10:00 AM Trustees Monthly Meeting—CH 1:30 PM SPRC—CH</p>	<p>10 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>11 1:00 PM Program Ministry WALK. Meet at Finn’s, walk to pier.</p>	<p>12 Daylight Savings Time Set clocks ahead 1 hr tomorrow at 2 AM </p>
<p>13 Second Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Food Pantry Drive</p>	<p>14 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>15 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 10 AM-Noon Prayer Time--S 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 1 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus 10:00 AM UMW Steering Committee—L</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 1:00 PM Church Council—CH </p>	<p>18 10:30 AM UMW Book Club—L 1:00 PM AGUMCC Board Meetings—MMR 1:00 PM Open, 2:00 PM Closed</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>21 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 10 AM-Noon Prayer Time—S 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 1 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus 10:00 AM Mary-Martha-Esther Circle—MMR</p>	<p>24 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 4-6 PM Program Ministry Movie—CH</p>	<p>28 10:00 AM UMM Cabinet—L 10:00 AM Peoples Kitchen Prep—K 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR 10 AM-Noon Prayer Time—S 11 AM—Peoples Kit—Lv 11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH 1 PM Bible Study—CH</p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p>	<p>31 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH 1:00 PM Mission Team—MMR</p>		

Meet Our
CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net
Find us on Facebook at: United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

E-mail: mbirgelaitis@gmail.com

Missionary (retired): Judy Atwood

Lay Leader: Patti Melsheimer

Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson

Website Manager: Jamie Foster

Children’s Education Director:

Carolyn Russell

Choir Director: Julie Burns

Praise Team Director: Mike Clark

Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler

Handbell Choir Director.:

Leonard Lutz

Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya

District Superintendent

Rev. Melissa Roux McKinnon

Director: Madrigal Quagliano

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Office: (805) 481-2223



Layout Editor: Frances Robertson

Proofing Team: Rev. Mary Birgelaitis,

Priscilla Alquist, Judy Atwood,

David Beaman, Judy Leonard,

Patti Melsheimer.

Other contributors:

Varied Teams / Committees

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.



March Birthdays

Carina Avila	03/02
Lucy Jacob	03/07
Christy Clarke	03/10
Carolyn Anderson	03/11
Art Gary	03/15
Toni Harvey	03/20
Chuck Ashton	03/30
Arianna Davis	03/31

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

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



2022



Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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Children's Center Chronicle

