



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

MAY 2022

Congregation of AGFUMC!

April showers bring May flowers! We haven't had rain forever and a day and, though I love flowers, I am focusing on other blessings and miracles this spring. The April/May "lectionary helps" and "prompts", that I use, zero in on just that. There were showers of blessings from God in OT passages during Lent culminating in the Blessing of Resurrection at Easter. Easter Blessings & Miracles continue in post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to disciples from the Gospel of John and in exciting episodes from the Book of Acts. These will take us through holidays like Mother's Day, Memorial Day, and Father's Day all the way to Pentecost on June 5th. It's a promising Spring.

Last week I uncovered an unexpected blessing that this church gave me 36 years ago through the ministry of the Rev. Everett L. Taylor who was your pastor. I was searching for something and happened across a letter received in 1986. It was on the same church letterhead we use today at this address and phone number with Everett L. Taylor's name at the top.

Since coming here his name has haunted me. From time to time I'd say to myself, "**Why is his name so familiar? I don't recall having known of him or having met him.**" That's right. I didn't know him, and never did meet him, but the contact I HAD had was in the form of a delightful letter he sent to me on the occasion of my ordination as an Elder welcoming me into the Annual Conference. How kind it was for Everett Taylor to take the time to craft that letter in 1986, and what a blessing it was for me to rediscover it with new meaning in 2022!

The letter read, "**This isn't official, but it is heartfelt: Welcome to Full Connection in our Annual Conference! When I came into the Conference in 1954, I was warned by unofficial letters of greeting from several ministers, not all of whom I knew. So it is my pleasure to greet you.**" You read that right, it said WARNED and "warned" was carefully crossed out and he had written "warmed" in its place. (Definitely before automatic spell-checkers, which is also a blessing!) The letter continued "**If you are up this way, let me buy you a 'cuppa'. Let me know if I can do you any good. Grace and Peace. Everett L. Taylor.**"

I thought your heart might be warmed as mine was then and now by this Arroyo Grande hospitality expressed on your behalf.

Blessings & Miracles to You!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



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

Program Ministry

Program Ministry invites you to participate in these scheduled events.

If you've not signed up for "MOVIE" time, you're missing a great afternoon experience. It's free movies, free snacks, free to choose your own seat, and even an intermission. If you have any suggestions for our committee email sandy.underwood@charter.net or drop a note in the Program Ministry registration box.

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 1:00 pm in Criswell Hall, Mechanic's Bank will present a lecture "Fraud – email, text and phone" We all have received such communications. Join us at this free event so you can get the latest information on how to protect yourself.

Monday, May 16, 2022, 9:00 am meet at Lil' Bits Café for breakfast. Good Food, Good Service, Good Reviews. Sign up so we can make our reservation. Limited seating.

Sunday, May 22, 2022, 4:00-6:30 pm in Criswell Hall, Movie presentation:
"Jungle Cruise" 2021 Rated PG-13) starring Dwayne Johnson (The Rock) and Emily Blunt. Based on Disneyland's theme park ride where a small riverboat takes a group of travelers through a jungle filled with dangerous animals and reptiles but with a supernatural element.

June Walk hosted by Lucy Jacob - Date to be determined.

Sunday, June 26, 2022, 4:00-6:30 pm in Criswell Hall, Movie presentation:
"Monument Men" (2014, Rated PG-13) starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray and Cate Blanchett. An unlikely World War II platoon is tasked with the rescue of art masterpieces from Nazi thieves and with returning them to their owners.

Sunday, July 3, 2022, 2:00 pm, meet at church for visit to "Greener Pastures Farm Sanctuary". Cost is \$10 per person. Greener Pastures is located on 5 acres in Arroyo Grande; They rescue, rehabilitate, and provide care for dozens of animals saved from neglect, kill pens, slaughter houses and factory farms. They are a registered 501c(3). Once animals are rehabilitated they are shared with others in order to teach kindness.





**WORSHIP
LITURGISTS**



MAY 1

8:30 a.m.—Joseph Brown
10:30 a.m.—RoseAnn Steiner

MAY 8

8:30 a.m.—Ian Beard
10:30 a.m.—David Beaman

MAY 29

8:30 a.m.—David Beard
10:30 a.m.—Judy Leonard

MAY 15

8:30 a.m.—Sharon Roemer
10:30 a.m.—Patti Melsheimer

MAY 22

8:30 a.m.—Susan Thronson
10:30 a.m.—Nancy St. Laurent

submitted by Jan Treat

USHERS



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!

submitted by Kerren Brown



**A Shout-Out to Kids,
Ages 8 Through High School!**

If you are interested in serving as an ACOLYTE, call Lorie Ford or see me at Church.

My phone number is in the church directory.

District Covenant Prayer List

from DS Rev. Melissa Mackinnon

Prayer Week

Church/Ministry

Clergy Leader(s)

May 1	St. Mark UMC of Santa Barbara	Pastor Cynthia Huskey
May 1	St. Paul's UMC of Oxnard	Pastor Christian Jung
May 8	Pacific Korean Mission	Pastor Do Won Lee
May 8	Ridgecrest UMC	Pastor Wesley Elmore
May 15	Chatsworth West UMC	Pastor Eric Iki
May 15	First UMC of Ventura	Pastor Erin McPhee & Pastor Matt McPhee
May 22	St. Andrew UMC	Pastor Eric Scott
May 22	North Hills Hispanic Mission	Pastor Ervin Aguilon
May 29	Santa Maria First UMC	Pastor Robert Isip
May 29	Sherman Oaks UMC	Pastor Garth Gilliam



Come join the UMM's trip to the
Point San Luis Lighthouse

Wednesday May 11th

We leave the Church parking lot at **12:30 pm**
on a Ride-On Bus for a **1:00 pm tour**

Transportation is Free but the Cost of Tour is \$25

Space is limited to only 10. There is a Sign Up sheet in
the Narthex. Payment is due the day of trip.

Checks can be made out to United Methodist Men.

The logo for 'TACO BAR'. The word 'TACO' is in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. Below it, 'BAR' is in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. To the right of 'BAR' is a green cactus silhouette.

On Sunday May 1st after the second service the
United Methodist Men are holding a taco bar! For
a cost of \$10 per person, the taco bar includes taco
fixings (meat, cheese, onions, olives, tomatoes, etc.),
beans, rice, dessert and beverage.



This is a UMM fundraiser for future
church needs.

submitted by Paul Holden

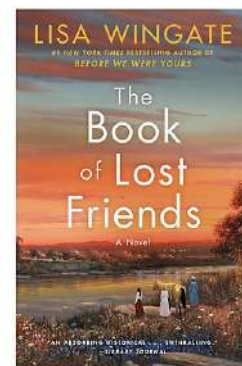


May Book Club Selection: The Book of Lost Friends

Our book club will meet on Friday, May 20th, at 10:30 A.M. in the church library to discuss the historical novel, The Book of Lost Friends, by Lisa Wingate. Regular participants will recall that we were going to discuss the second half of The Nightingale in May, but everyone had already finished reading it by our April meeting. So we are moving on to the new book.

This book includes stories of women – one, a group of women in Louisiana in 1875 and the other a young teacher in Louisiana in 1987. Their lives intertwine when a hidden book is discovered that reveals their connection.

For the May meeting, participants are asked to secure a copy of The Book of Lost Friends from the library or purchase one on a website like www.abebooks.com or www.amazon.com. The websites have used books that are reasonably priced. See Patti Melsheimer or Judy Leonard if you have questions about getting a book.



submitted by Judy Leonard



United Women in Faith

Castanet UWF May 2022

We are now United Women in Faith. “Why?”, you ask? This is part of a refreshing of the United Methodist Women organization. This is an effort to bring us into the 21st century. We studied the United Methodist Women and how they began 150 years ago. Now we move ahead into a new era. There is a new logo, and there are new and improved programs for current members in an attempt to welcome new women to join and put love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth everywhere.

This rebranding “aims to welcome current members whose local churches may at some point choose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join”... “changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement”. There is a new website (uwfaith.org). Check it out to find out about the many new programs.

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



“Tea for Two”



Back to Arroyo Grande UWF, coming up, so soon, Saturday May 7, 11:30 to 1:30 we will enjoy our “Tea for Two”. This is a tradition around here, so get your fancy hat. You can even decorate it for the occasion. (There may be prizes! Don’t tell).

Come enjoy the music brought to you by Julie and Dennis and partake of a delicious tea and lunch.

Get your tickets now!

\$15 per person.

Invite a friend.

We’re going to have a great time.

Getting my hat ready and excited to have tea with you,

submitted by Gerry McGuire

Dates to Remember

- * Saturday, May 7th
Mothers’ Day Tea
All women are invited
- * Saturday, September 10th
Women’s Retreat at the Melsheimer Home



Chancel Choir News



April was filled with wonderful music as we welcomed back the choir and finally celebrated Easter in the sanctuary. Choir was so thrilled to see Ed Avila return, and we were joined with a few newcomers as well: Rena Wallace, Elizabeth Arnold and Marcela Toledo have joined us when they are able. And weren't Brad and Dennis awesome on organ and piano? They continue to awe and amaze.

We were blessed with the solo of Nancy Cook. And Dave Beaman had a lovely solo with the choir backing him up. We look forward to hearing from Roger Sperling on May 1st as our Easter Season continues.

June will soon be upon us, and I would love to keep some small groups going so we continue to have wonderful music during the summer months. Please consider singing in one of these; just contact Julie for details if you are interested. It could be a quartet, duet or even more: Perhaps an octet.

submitted by Julie Burns, Director



AGUMCC SUNDAY

Celebration of the Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center Sunday was held on April 24 with the students/children participating in the worship service by performing a song they had learned for the occasion. Families of the children were invited to attend, and the service was followed by AGUMCC's Art Show and Ice Cream Social in Criswell Hall. Maddy Quaglino, Director of the Children's Center, along with teachers and board members, coordinated the event. Photos of the event are shown below.



ART SHOW & CHILDREN SINGING IN THE SANCTUARY

Photos are
courtesy of
Maddy
Quaglino,
used with
permission.





SCHOLARSHIPS

ELT Scholarship Applications Due on May 15th

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 college, or technical schools defray the cost of their education.

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, 2022 college classes.

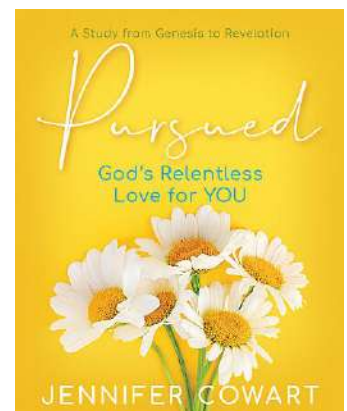
submitted by Judy Leonard

Book Study Class

Pursued, *God's Relentless Love for YOU* by Jennifer Cowart is the new book we will study. There is something in all of us that longs to be loved, to be desired, to be pursued—whether by a special someone, our friends, or others in our lives. This longing for love and acceptance is the underlying story of many of our lives, and it's the overarching story we see throughout the Scriptures.

In this six-week study we will explore the main theme that runs throughout the stories in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation: God's relentless love for us.

The new Book Study class began on Tuesday, April 19th and meets in Criswell Hall at 1:00 PM. It continues for six weeks, through most of May. Contact Judy Atwood for books.



News from the Mission Team

by Judy Atwood, chair

MISSION TEAM: May 2022

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

Reflection from Julie Wilson, Church and Community Worker, Executive Director, Open Arms Community Center, Winston-Salem, N.C.

"These are extraordinary times for children. Crafting gives them the ability to imagine, to create and be children when the world around them is turned upside down. It's difficult for both students and teachers to communicate during a time when children need that touch and facial expressions and laughter they used to share among friends.

So, at Open Arms, we help each other. We build each other up with our reading and writing and math skills; yes, even adults can learn new math! When our schoolwork is done, the children play and they color and they create and they use their God-given talents. Sure, they may not color within the lines, or they may get paint all over the tables while their fingers are all sticky with glue. But the room is filled with laughter and talk and chatter and blocks falling loudly to the floor.

Some may see this chaos and noisy and disruptive, but, after a while, this becomes music to our ears. Not even a mask can stand in the way of what God intended for these little people to be children."

OUR MINISTRY CHALLENGE FOR LENT

Our challenges for the Lenten season were "Feed Your Faith" and "Feed the Hungry". At this writing we raised \$591 for Heifer International to provide chickens, garden seeds, and honeybees.



Our second challenge was to provide funds to support needs in Ukraine through UMCOR. We feel great about our congregation's response to this need. We have raised \$3,341.

UMCOR has been responding to needs in Ukraine since the beginning of the war. Grants have been given to a variety of local groups in Ukraine and surrounding countries who have received refugees. Monies given provide food, clothing, and medical supplies.

[Thank you for Feeding Your Faith and Feeding the Hungry.](#)

[Watch for more mission ideas and activities in the coming months. You are welcome to share ideas for projects with us.](#)



[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.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>11:30 UMM Tacos</p>	<p>2 10:00 AM UMM Cabinet—L</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1:00 PM Tue. Book Study—CH</p>	<p>4 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH</p>	<p>5 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>6 4:00 PM AGUMCC Staff Meeting—MMR</p>	<p>7 11:30 AM UWF (UMW) Tea for Two Luncheon—CH</p>
<p>8 Fourth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>9 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>10 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1 PM Tue. Book Study—CH</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Trustees Monthly Meeting—CH</p> <p>UMM Lighthouse Field Trip—Lv church 12:30 PM</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 1:00 PM Program Ministry—Fraud: Email, Text & Phone—CH</p>
<p>15 Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>16 9:00 AM Program Ministry Lil' Bits Cafe</p> <p>10:00 AM ELT Committee—L</p> <p>6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p>	<p>17 8:30 Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1 PM Tue. Book Study—CH</p> <p>6:30 PM JOY Circle—CH</p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM UWF Steering—L</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:30 AM SPRC—PS</p>	<p>20 10:30 AM Book Club—L</p> <p>AGUMCC Monthly Board Mtg—MMR</p> <p>Open—1 PM</p> <p>Closed—2 PM</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Sixth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p> <p>Staff-Parish Appreciation Sunday at both services</p> <p>4:00 PM Program Min. Jungle Cruise movie—CH</p>	<p>23 6:00 PM Quilt Class, Gerry—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM UMM Cabinet—L</p>	<p>24 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p> <p>1 PM Tue. Book Study—CH</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>9:00 AM Trustees Workday—CH plus</p> <p>10:00 AM Mary Martha Esther—L</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p>	<p>27 10:30 AM UMW Book Club—L</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Seventh Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service</p> <p>10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>31 8:30 AM Senior Exercise—CH</p> <p>10:00 AM Sew n Sews—MMR</p> <p>11 AM—Peoples Kit—Lv</p> <p>11:00 AM UMW Chair Yoga—CH</p>	<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>			



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Handbell Choir Director.:

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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?

There are dates available in the upcoming months to purchase flowers for Sunday worship. Contact the church office for dates available and to make dedications.



Your floral tribute will be placed on the altar for the both services on Sunday and recorded in the video made for that week. After the services you can pick up the arrangement or we will get those beautiful flowers to you. **Please note that due to the higher cost of fresh flowers, the new cost for altar flowers will be \$30.** The alternative would be to have a much smaller arrangement.

Orders can be made, as in the past, from the Grand Bouquet which we can do upon your request. Orders can also be placed with Brad Bettencourt 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 both Grand Bouquet and Brad Bettencourt.



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



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 birthday 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



Psalm 77:14