



HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING

# Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande JUNE 2023

39th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church

BISHOP DOTTIE ESCOBEDO-FRANK Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

## Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Nourish!

JUNE 14-17, 2023 CALIFORNIA & HAWAII

JUNE 15-18, 2023 GUAM & SAIPAN

The clergy on the Central Coast of the North District and lay representatives of our churches had a wonderful opportunity to share a simple meal with our Resident Bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank at a recent gathering held at the San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church. Gerry McGuire, Mary Hawkins, Joel Anderson, and I were in attendance. It was refreshing and encouraging to me as the Bishop spoke simply, kindly and in a straightforward manner to us all encouraging clergy to take their days off, their vacation time, continuing education time and a little more in the coming year! That theme will likely be extended as we gather soon for the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference in Los Angeles at which the theme Ending Physical & Spiritual Hunger will focus on the word “Nourish!”. The Bishop clearly understands how challenging recent years have been for all of us in the church!

In the preliminary report for the meeting, the Bishop wrote:

This year at Annual Conference we are focusing on “nourish.” There are many ways we need to nourish our souls. The first is to rest, the second is to restore, and the third is to find joy.

Summer is a good time for all of us, laity and clergy alike, to focus on restoring the soul and establishing a pattern of rest, renewal and relaxation that can be built into one's lifestyle all year long. Read some poetry, spend time in nature, and involve yourself in something you love. Is it cooking, art, community concerts in the park? Whatever it is, break pace with your usual pattern and add something refreshing to the mix of activities that are yours this summer.

Each year in our preliminary report, there's always a list of suggested reading put forth by the Bishop. This year there are some “change of pace” titles that I find refreshing. I commend them to you:

Rest In the Storm by Kirk Byron Jones

Fulfilled: Living and Leading with Unusual Wisdom, Peace, and Joy by Kirk Byron Jones

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate

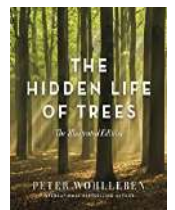
--Discoveries from a Secret World by Peter Wohlleben

Soul Reset by Junius B. Dotson

Thrive by Arianna Huffington

Rest: Why You Get More Done When You Work Less by Alex Soojung-Kim Pang

Where the Jazz Band Plays: The Weary Blues – Poetry by Langston Hughes



Sincerely,

*Rev. Mary Bingleantz*

# **YES!**

**YES!** Regular tithes and offerings are running about \$20,000 behind plan and where we were at this time last year.

**YES!** We are controlling expenses, and expenses are below budget.

**YES!** We need your extra financial help to finish this fiscal year in order to avoid a significant deficit.

**YES!** We expect expenses to increase this coming fiscal year and...

**YES!** We need funds to give our hard-working staff an appropriate raise.

**YES!** We are grateful for Our Church, its ministries, music, friendship and fellowship, spiritual guidance and all it does for our congregation, our community and through our missionaries around the world.

**YES!** We are grateful for those who have gone before us that have supported this Church for almost 140 years.

## ***So, I want everyone to say:***

**YES!** *"I will increase my regular giving to the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande."*

Joel Anderson  
Acting Treasurer



**WORSHIP  
LITURGISTS**



**JUNE 4**

8:30 a.m.-----Joseph Brown  
10:30 am.-----Judy Leonard

**JUNE 18**

8:30 a.m. -----Elwood Hyden  
10:30 a.m.-----Cristy Van Hook

**JUNE 11**

8:30 a.m.-----Sharon Roemer  
10: 30 a.m.----Rose Ann Steiner

**JUNE 25**

8:30 a.m.-----Lucy Jacob  
10:30 a.m.-----BG Perriguey

**Ushers are needed for Worship Services** at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Training is offered for new or returning ushers.

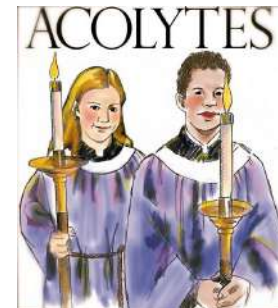


This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church. Call or talk with Kerren Brown at church for more information.

See church directory for contact information.

~submitted by Kerren Brown

**Hey, all you kids ages 8 to 18!**



If you would like to serve your Church as an Acolyte, call Lorie Ford or see Lorie at Church.

**NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER FOR JUNE 2023**

**“Ending spiritual and physical hunger.**

*Pray for the continued vision of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference:*

*God of mercy and grace, we lift up to you all who wander in darkness in search of your light as we leave Lent behind and strive to live as Your Easter people. Come Holy Spirit, Come. Fill our lives, our churches, and our communities with your inspiration and vibrant strength. Be for us an ever-flowing source of courage, wisdom, faith, hope and love for this day and the days ahead.*

*In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. – Change Manager Reverend Mary Dennis*

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
6/04/23	Community UMC of Pearblossom	Pastor Glenn Hoskins
6/04/23	Santa Clarita UMC	Pastor Rachel Tabutol
6/11/23	St. Paul's UMC of Tarzana	Pastor Vernon Kemp
6/11/23	Valley Korean UMNC	Pastor Jay Ahn
6/18/23	Burbank First UMC	Pastor Sam B. Kim
6/18/23	Christ UMC of Santa Maria	Church Leaders and Laity
6/25/23	Altadena UMC	Pastor Andre Wilson
6/25/23	Holliston UMC	Pastor Young Chung



**UMM Annual Bar-B-Q**

Father's Day Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM

Eat In or Take To Go

Tri-Tip, Chicken or Combo Dinner

\$15 p/p Tickets on sale now after 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Services



**CAMP ARROYO GRANDE**

This was the old Methodist camp ground that served the community for many years.

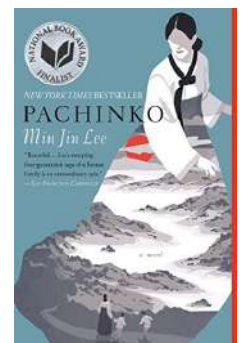
A group of local people purchased this property when it went up for sale. It is used by a number of groups now.

Many members of our church spent wonderful hours at Camp Arroyo Grande.



**June 16<sup>th</sup> UWF Book Club to Discuss Pachinko**

Our June book selection, Pachinko by Min Jin Lee, traces a Korean family's experience from the time of Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910 to 1989. The story revolves around Sunja, a loyal, hard-working Korean girl, who accepts a marriage proposal from a Japanese minister to save face. Transported to Japan she later has two sons- one who becomes a scholar while the other makes a fortune running pachinko, (pinball-like) games. Throughout this multi-generational story we learn about the secrets, love, and misfortune of this Korean family living in Japan.



We welcome you to join our book discussion on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. in the Church Library. See Judy Leonard or Patti Melsheimer with any questions.

~submitted by Judy Leonard



# United Women in Faith

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.

Saturday May 13 we enjoyed our annual Mother's Day Tea. A delicious lunch was put together by our Kitchen ladies under the direction of Marjorie Ott. We feasted on scones, cucumber and chicken croissant sandwiches, followed by Tre Leche cake and strawberries.

Then the fun began with line dancing, music and singing western and tea and Mom themed songs. Thank you, Mary Hawkins, Chloe Keith, Dennis Eiler and Connie and Mike Clark. Fun was had by all.

A **Spaghetti Dinner with Bingo** is planned for **Saturday August 5, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Criswell Hall**. \$20 donation. Lots of prizes will be given out. You don't want to miss this fun event. So put this on your calendar (note change of date from previous announcement).

**September's Retreat will be a Luncheon on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm**, at the home of Judie Neufeld. This will be a Bar B Q. We will get to see Judie's extensive collection of needlework.

**People Want to Know** when the circles meet! Come join us as we need you!

**Mary, Martha, Esther Circle**, Mary Thronson, Chair, meets the last Wednesday of the month in the McMillen Room at 10:00am. The Circle is

currently doing a bible study of "Words of Life" by Adam Hamilton on the Ten Commandments.

**Joy Circle**, Kerren Brown, Chair, meets 3rd Tuesdays of the month, at 6:30 pm in the McMillen Room.

**Book Club**, meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

The **Sew and Sews** meet every Tuesday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the McMillen Room. We invite knitters, crafters, needleworkers and sewers of all kinds or if you just want to come and hang out with us. Fellowship is number one. We bring a sandwich for lunch, coffee and tea and goodies provided.

We continue to collect much needed items for the Five Cities Homeless Coalition.

Needed items are new sweatshirts, sweatpants, underwear, and socks, also coffee, tea, hot chocolate, creamer, sugar, soft breakfast bars, cereal, individually packed juice, crackers, cookies, chips, cup of noodles and camping meals. And large backpacks and gift cards for gas. Your donations are very appreciated.



Donated items can be dropped off at UWF table in Criswell Hall, or brought to your circle meeting.

~submitted by,  
Gerry McGuire

Dates to Remember

- ✓ August 5, Saturday, 5:00 - 8:00, Spaghetti Dinner with Bingo
- ✓ September 16, Saturday, 11:00-2:00, Women's Retreat BBQ
- ✓ November 3, 4, 5, Holiday Boutique Sale



**CHILDREN'S CENTER  
SUNDAY CELEBRATION  
April 23, 2023**





### CHANGES TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MONTHLY CASTANET AND THE BI-MONTHLY UPPER ROOM, A DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

It is hard to fill the shoes of Judy Atwood, who did so many things for the church and our members. We sure do miss her! The distribution of our monthly newsletter, the Castanet, and the bi-monthly "Upper Room" Daily Devotion Guide booklets were one of many of the tasks that Judy did. We are realizing the many tasks that Judy carried out on our behalf.

We are creating a sign-up list for both the Castanet newsletter and The Upper Room booklets so that we can mail them to people who wish to receive them in that way. We want these publications to be available for our members, guests and friends.

The **Castanet** is posted on the church's web site, [Worshipweekly.com](http://Worshipweekly.com) under the heading of "Newsletter" at the beginning of each month. A hard copy of the newsletter can be mailed to your home each month at your request; or you can pick up a hard copy available in the church Narthex or Fellowship Hall.

The **Upper Room** comes as a small booklet with regular print or is available in large print. Your copy can be mailed to your home bi-monthly on request with a notation as to your small or large print preference; or you can pick up a booklet in the church Narthex or Fellowship Hall. The booklets are there for you to enjoy at no cost.

*~submitted by Kerren Brown,  
Chair, Membership Care*

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## News from the Trustees Committee

For the past several months the Trustees have been doing a “Spring Cleaning” and have been refreshing various areas of the church property. The following is a sample of some of the projects we have started or finished with many more being planned!

The church office was painted, and new cabinets added.

A new gardening company has been hired. They have installed new landscaping on the parking lot side of the church. New landscape plants are planned for the two sides of the driveway accessing the parking lot from Halcyon.

Two large windows in the sanctuary and the glass door leading to the children’s Center that were damaged by vandals have been replaced.

The stained-glass windows from the Shell Beach Methodist Church were installed in the side transepts.

Other projects are planned. We currently have a workday every Wednesday from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and we are planning to have once a quarter Saturday workdays to involve more people.

At our last meeting the Trustees took a tour of the whole church campus, looking in all the various rooms and cupboards. In this way we hope to familiarize the whole committee with the facilities and begin to glean ideas of how we can improve our church facilities. If you have ideas or concerns about our church buildings, please let Dick Melsheimer know.

*~submitted by Patti Melsheimer*



## REMINDERS TO MISSION TEAM MEMBERS:

These reminders are from Rob and Robin Isakson since they will be in Minnesota for a few months:

1. Remember that Mission Team is responsible for Hospitality on Sunday, July 2 and Sunday October 1.
2. Remember that we need at least 3 members to commit to making casseroles on August 28 and serving at People's Kitchen on August 29.  
Rob and Robin will be back for the October 31 People's Kitchen date.



# News from the Mission Team

*Robin and Rob Isakson, chairs*

## June Cast a Net Article

Haiti held a corner of Judy Atwood's heart. Judy had a long working relationship with Enickson in Haiti with the FUMCAG Mission Team financially supporting a number of projects, i.e.: sewing and cooking school, providing sewing machines and a stove, salary for teachers, repairs to a roof on one of the buildings and the construction of a water well.

Property that is close to the village and schools has been donated, as well as the cost of the foundation of the building, through private donations.

The building will accommodate 50 to 70 children and a staff to include a director, an accountant, a secretary, and cooking and cleaning staff.

Plans for the two story main building include a reception and administration area, kitchen and dining area, a multi-purpose room, a storage area, bathrooms, twelve large bedrooms and outdoor facilities.



*Left:* Enickson Villiere, the pastor of the church in Haiti, who spearheaded many projects including the Sewing Ministry to teach students skills, and followed through with them.

*Right:* Follow-up photo of the machines in place for the Sewing Ministry.



Enickson recently contacted FUMCAG with plans to construct housing for orphans and children in difficult situations as there is almost no infrastructure to support orphaned children. They have already identified 50 orphaned, vulnerable children, most of them manage as best they can, housed with grandparents and relatives. The others orphaned children spend all their time on the streets, in need of food, shelter, nurturing and raising.

Construction of a home for orphaned children would provide these orphans a safe, nurturing environment, proper nutrition and, most important, allow them to attend school.

Being in the first stages of development, with construction plans in hand, Enickson is seeking financial assistance to cover the construction costs.

## Mission Team Members,

Rob and I will be leaving shortly for Minnesota. When we return in the fall, we will call a team meeting. Continued support of missions in Haiti and Nome, Alaska will be discussed as well as other ideas and options from the table.

We wish you all a relaxing summer.

Robin and Rob Isakson





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Abbreviation Legend</b></p> <p>H—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</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p><b>Trinity Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM                      11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH                      10:00 AM Program Ministry-Ls</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      10:00 AM UMC Clergy Cluster--MMR                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	9	10
<p>11</p> <p><b>Second Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service                      ELT Scholarship Presentations at both services</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM                      11 AM Chair Yoga-CH                      5PM Bell Practice-HR                      7:00 PM Board of Trustees-CH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH                      6:30 PM JOY Circle--CH</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      10:30 AM SPRC-PS                      1:00 PM Finance-PS                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 AM UWF Book Club--L</p>	17
<p>18</p> <p><b>Third Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service                      Barbecue after second service</p>  	<p>19</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM Sen                      10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM                      11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR                      6:30 PM Joy Circle--MMR</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 AM Sr Exercise-CH                      9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH                      10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm-L                      2:00 PM Church Council--MMR</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>9 AM Sr Exercise-CH                      10:30 AM SPRC-PS                      5 PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	23	24
<p>25</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service                      10:30 AM Traditional Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class--CH</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      10:00 AM Sew and Sews--MM                      11 AM Chair Yoga-CH                      5PM Bell Practice-HR</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH                      10 AM Mary-Martha Esther Circle--MMR</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH</p>	<p>30</p>	

Meet Our  
**CHURCH STAFF**

**Church Office:** (805) 481-2692  
**E-mail:** fumcag@yahoo.com  
**Website:** www.worshipweekly.com  
**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

**Lay Leader:** Patti Melsheimer  
**Office Administrator:**

Frances Robertson  
**Website Manager:** Jamie Foster  
**Children's Education Director:**

Carolyn Russell  
**Music Director:** Julia Burns  
**Praise Team Director:** Mike Clark  
**Choral Pianist:** Dennis Eiler

**Handbell Choir Director:**  
 Leonard Lutz

**Bishop:** Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank  
**District Superintendent**  
 Rev. Melissa Roux McKinnon

**Preschool Director:** Madrigale Quaglino  
**E-mail:** agumcc@sbcglobal.net  
**Preschool Office:** (805) 481-2223

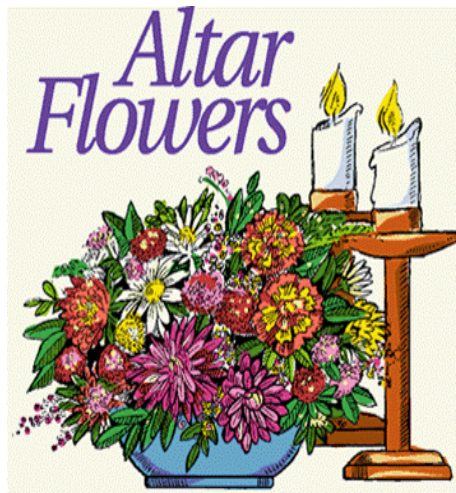


**Layout Editor:** Frances Robertson  
**Proofing Team:** Priscilla Alquist, Judy Leonard, Patti Melsheimer, Mary Whitson.

**Other contributors:**  
 Varied Teams /Committees/  
 Office Angels

**PLEASE NOTE:**

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



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

Do you enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the altar on Sundays? Dates are available for Sunday morning flower dedications in upcoming months. We still have a number of openings for your dedications during the summer. Please contact the church office.

Your floral tribute will be placed on the altar for both services on Sunday and will be seen in the video for that week. After the services you can pick up the arrangement or we will get it to you. Just let us know.

**Please note that due to the higher cost of fresh flowers, the cost for altar flowers is \$30.**

Orders can be made from the Grand Bouquet which upon your request. Orders can also be placed to have Brad Bettencourt create an arrangement using Trader Joe flowers.

Please contact Frances in the Church Office. She is the liaison with both Grand Bouquet and Brad.



Mike Reinecke	06/04
Jim Steiner	06/05
Ray Douglas	06/07
Sadie Krovious	06/08
Bill Weitkamp	06/11
Lili Bauske	06/14
Janice Moore	06/15
Dennis Eiler	06/16
George Stewart	06/17
Pauline Castillo	06/18
Connie Clark	06/19
Gloria Johnson	06/19
BG Perriguy	06/20
Sandy Underwood	06/23
Victoria Paredes	06/24
Bobbi Merris	06/28



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



**Visit us on the web at [worshipweekly.com](http://worshipweekly.com)**

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[www.facebook.com/fumcag](http://www.facebook.com/fumcag)

2023



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Children's Center Chronicle



PRESENTATION OF  
THE EDWARD  
LEE TAYLOR  
MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
FOR 2023  
WILL BE ON  
SUNDAY, JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>

**DURING BOTH FIRST & SECOND WORSHIP SERVICES**

**PLEASE BE THERE TO HONOR AND  
CONGRATULATE OUR STUDENTS!**

*Judy Leonard, ELT Scholarship Committee Chair*  
Committee Members: Nancy Gerrish, Judy Heiney,  
BG Perriguet, and Jan Treat