

service on occasion. The Season of Pentecost is longer than a football season. It extends all the way to Advent. So, we are still celebrating the Spirit!

The September sermon series is called THE GOOD LIFE. We'll be gathering insight from the Book of Romans and the Gospel of Matthew. We are also kicking off a Membership Class for those of you who wish to join the church or want to come along to ask a question or two. You'll see that information in a separate article in this issue. Here's the line-up of September Sunday sermons:

> September 3, 2023 THE GOOD LIFE: Self-Sacrifice Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

> September 10, 2023 THE GOOD LIFE: **Fulfilling Love** Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, 2023 THE GOOD LIFE: Non-Judgment Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, 2023 THE GOOD LIFE: Generosity Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Rev. Mary Bir gelactis







We wrapped up our Pledge drive with \$300,860 total estimated giving. This left us \$19,140 short of our goal. An amazing 82% of those responding increased their estimates of giving. This demonstrates how much our members love and support the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Unfortunately, it was not enough to offset the \$12,110 from members who moved or passed away, those that had to decrease their estimates of giving due to financial difficulties and expected increases in expenses this coming year. A special thanks goes to Jim Alquist, our Financial Secretary who compiled this information. Jim records and tracks Estimates of Giving and contributions throughout the year. If you have any questions about your giving, please contact Jim.

I reworked the budget to bring it in line with our estimated income. This will result in trimming expenses for most teams, reducing our Apportionments to support the Annual Conference and a greater reliance on the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter offerings. Please give generously to our upcoming holiday offerings.

Joel Anderson, Acting Treasurer



WE ARE HAVING A YEAR LONG BIRTHDAY BASH!

Methodist Church! Our church was chartered on September 18, 1884. We hope to have various events throughout the year. If you have any suggestion.

Joel Anderson. 1 have various events throughout the year. If you have any suggestions, please contact Joel Anderson. A wonderful history of our church can be found at our website at https://worshipweekly.com/125th.html Or go to our worshipweekly.com website, click SITE then click HISTORY towards the bottom of the list.

Our next-door neighbor, the Arroyo Grande Cemetery is also 140 years old, so to start the birthday celebrations local historian Jim Gregory is giving us tour of the cemetery, and will discuss some of its interesting and historic occupants on Saturday, October 7 at 10AM. There is no charge for the tour.

Please sign-up at the Connections Table in the Narthex.

~ submitted by Joel Anderson



Trustees' Report for August, 2023

The Trustees are currently working on several projects. •

- The ceiling in the women's bathroom in Criswell Hall has been repaired by Scott Swenson of Central Drywall (at no charge). Plans are to replace the light fixture and repaint the whole bathroom.
- The damage caused by leaky windows in the McMillen Room has been repaired and will now need to be painted soon.
- Bids are currently being requested for upgrading the lighting in the parking lot and converting to LED lights which will provide more light to the area.
- Bids have been received for restraining the porticos on both the Bennett Street side and the parking lot side. That will happen in the next month or two.

~submitted by Dick Melsheimer



WORSHIP LITURGISTS



SEPTEMBER 3

8:30 a.m.-----Joseph Brown 10:30 am.-----Rose Ann Steiner

SEPTEMBER 10

8:30 a.m.----Susan Throndson 10: 30 a.m.----Patti Melsheimer

SEPTEMBER 17

8:30 a.m.-----Lucy Jacob 10:30 a.m.-----B.G. Perriguey

SEPTEMBER 24

8:30 a.m.-----David Beard 10:30 a.m.----Cristy Van Hook

~ submitted by Jan Treat

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

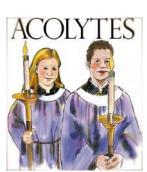


This is another way to extend your discipleship and support our church. Call or talk with Kerren Brown at church for more information.

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 LIST FOR AUGUST 2023

Pray for the continued vision of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference-"Ending spiritual and physical hunger."

--District Superintendent Reverend Melissa Roux MacKinnon

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
9/03/23	Pacific Korean UMC	Church Leaders
9/03/23	El Buen Pastor UMC	Pastor David Burgeson
9/10/23	Simi Valley UMC	Pastor Stacy Brooks
9/10/23	Malibu UMC	Pastor Erin Stenberg
9/17/23	North District Union	Pastor Mary Dennis
9/17/23	University UMC of Isla Vista	Pastor Frank Schaefer
9/24/23	North District	Pastor Melissa McKinnon
9/24/23	Trinity UMC of Los Osos	Pastor Les Lungren





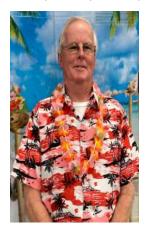


Photo Gallery of beach-themed Sunday at the church on August 13th!
First row—Rev. Mary, Bud, David, Ian, Valerie, Rosslyn.
Second row--Judy, Lucy, Elwood, Dennis, Priscilla, Mary, Leona, Mary, Mary.











Photos courtesy of Gerry McGuire and Joel Anderson



SEPTEMBER UWF BOOK CLUB SELECTION: The Rose Code

The UWF Book Club will meet in the church library on Friday, September 15th at 10:30 A.M. to discuss <u>The Rose Code</u> by Kate Quinn. This intriguing historical fiction book takes us into the lives of three English women during World War II.

They were part of a select group of British citizens who held top-secret jobs breaking codes sent out by Germans and Italians. The women's personal lives were intertwined after the war when they attempted to uncover the identity of a spy who had been in their midst.

If you would like to read <u>The Rose Code</u>, see Judy Leonard for a copy from the library book kit we are using. We welcome you to join us on September 15th as we share our feelings about the book.



~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.

Oh, it's so hot! We're not used to these high temperatures. We pride ourselves at having the perfect temperatures, beautiful scenery, and wonderful people on the Central Coast! And, great activities.

The Spaghetti Dinner with Bingo August 5 was enjoyed by all. Rich and Judy Neufeld did an excellent job as our callers. Lots of prizes were given out and everyone had such a fun time!

The luau/beachy-themed Hospitality Time on August 13th, between services, turned out to be a popular event with lots of members and guests joining in dressing for the occasion. Many photos were taken with the Hawaiian isles in the background. You can't miss seeing the photos with happy faces and tropical attire on the previous page! We look forward to the next combined Hospitality Times!

LOOKING AHEAD:

Saturday, September 16, The Women in Faith are having a Women's Rally with a Luncheon from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the home of Judie and Rich Neufeld. Rich will man the Bar B Q and a tour of Judie's extensive collection of needlework is anticipated. Amybeth Lake, our United Women in Faith Communications Coordinator of the North District and other representatives will come and present a program orienting us on our place in the District Mission endeavors. Tickets are only \$15 and go on sale August 27. Please sign up and join us.

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. Your donations are greatly appreciated. <u>Donated items can be dropped off at the UWF table in Criswell Hall or brought to a circle meeting.</u>

Craft Workshops are underway

now through November (Holiday Boutique time) and are held in the McMillen Room from 10 am till noon. We need your help, only minimal skills are needed (gluing, cutting, sorting, etc).



Shown are some of the craft items currently being made for the boutique. Stay tuned and watch your Sunday bulletin for craft activities on Thursdays.



Remember, you are always welcome to come join with us at the circles and groups!

~submitted by Gerry McGuire, President

Dates to Remember

✓ September 16, Saturday, 11:00-2:00, Women's Rally BBQ
✓ November 3, 4, 5, Holiday Boutique Sale



WOW! Did that summer fly by or what?

Our praise team continues to bless us every week in all seasons with their dedicated music. We are so fortunate to have them. Mike's leadership for praise team is spectacular. We will miss our college students as they go back to school, but are looking at a new bass player I hear.

Choir will resume rehearsals on September 7th and will start singing in church on September 10th. What a great time to think about joining us because it is going to be a fun-filled 23/24 year.

Starting first with a Composer's Workshop November 18th featuring Mark Hayes renowned composer and arranger. Our choir, along with other local voices from various churches, singing groups and other individuals will make up a mass choir. Mark Hayes will help play for our 2nd Service on the 19th and we will have a concert at 3:00 in our sanctuary. We feel so blessed to be able to present this to our church and community. Advent will follow with glorious Christmas music!

Fundraising events will begin as our year will climax with this special invitation:

Dear Julie,

In recognition of your dedication to musical excellence, due to your stellar previous appearance on the DCINY Concert Series, it is with great pleasure that I extend an invitation to you and the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande Chancel Choir to participate in a World Premiere performance of the Music of Mark Hayes on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance is planned to take place May 26th, 2024 in David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts under the baton of Mark Hayes. Congratulations to you and your singers on this wonderful achievement and recognition!

Your musicians will join with other outstanding choristers to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. DCINY, a professional production company with experience presenting at venues including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, provides a quality performance experience in collaboration with high caliber musicians and soloists. The residency includes two half-days of rehearsals and clinics, culminating in a performance with Mark Hayes on the podium.

I am excited about the prospect of including you and your singers in pursuit of a glorious and memorable concert. It is only fitting that you are given this unique opportunity to perform in one of the world's greatest concert halls, which itself represents excellence and musical achievement.

I look forward to working closely with you in the creation of a most rewarding performance for your singers.

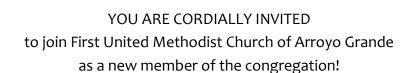
With kind regards,

Jonathan Griffith, DMA, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

As you can see it will be a very busy season, so please think about joining choir today.

Sincerely,

Julia Burns



An Inquirer's Class is happening in SEPTEMBER

Would like to transfer your membership from your previous church home to this congregation in Arroyo Grande? Are you making the decision to join a church for the very first time? Wherever you are on the faith journey, we welcome you to come to a gathering on September 10th, at 2:00 p.m. at church and to bring your questions. We will invite you to tell us a little about who you are, where you're coming, and what you need in a church as we answer your questions and give you information about this local church. Come aboard!

September 10th and 17th
Sunday afternoon
2:00 p.m.

Pastor's Study right off the main office (If we have a large group, we'll move to McMillan in the Education Building.)

In the first session we'll gather basic information and do some informal introductions. In the second session, we'll give you information about this congregation and the United Methodist Church for those who are coming from other denominations who might not be acquainted with our structure and polity. We will have a "social" gathering before or after the official day of joining the church. That will be either September 24th or the first Sunday in October and depends on you and your schedules. We are glad you have been coming and we look forward to knowing you more. Thank you for worshipping with us.

~ Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

PROGRAM MINISTRY



Rancho Burro Donkey Sanctuary--Sign up before Sep 17th for Tues. Sep 19th visit (\$35/pp donation).

This is an outing to visit Rancho Burro, the Donkey/Burro rescue sanctuary located on Tiffany Ranch Road, AG at 11:00 a.m. on Sep 19th. To carpool, meet at the church at 10:30 a.m.

Requested is a \$35 donation per person. For questions contact Connie Clark or Gerry McGuire.

Sunday, September 24th, 4:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall **MOVIE NIGHT!**The movie is "Champions" with Woody Harrelson. Brief synopsis: A former minor league basketball coach receives a court order to manage a team of players with intellectual disabilities. Despite his doubts, he soon realizes that together they can go further than ever imagined. This is based on a true story. MOVIE IS FREE, POPCORN IS FREE, SOFT DRINKS AND CANDY ARE COMPLIMENTARY. Plan to come!

Saturday, October 7th at 10:00 a.m. brings us to a **Tour of the Local A.G. Cemetery,** with well-known local historian, Jim Gregory, as our guide. No charge, but sign up at the connections table in the Narthex.

Saturday, December 2nd is our annual Christmas Program held in Criswell Hall. Details to come. The Program Ministry Committee is responsible for the many fun activities this church puts on. We are busy getting some great field trips together, but we need more input, so come join our group and help us plan interesting activities for the congregation.

Talk to Mary Hawkins or Gerry McGuire or Cyndee Rohla.

~ submitted by Gerry McGuire

JOY CIRCLE

Joy Circle will be returning to our regular evening meetings beginning the **3rd Tuesday each month** (September 19th) at 6:30 in the McMillen Room.

We will begin our Fall study with Adam Hamilton's

"The Lord's Prayer".

There are a few new study books available, and the books are also available through Amazon.

Hope to you see there, and bring a friend!

~ submitted by Kerren Brown

Thank you from the Children's Center!



News from the Missic

Robin and Rob Isakson, chairs

Prior to departing for Minnesota for the summer, Robin reminded team members that they will be calling a meeting upon their return in the fall. She submitted this UMCOR article for the September newsletter. ~ editor

UMCOR U.S. Latest Responses

Credit: Mike DuBose, UM News

UMCOR and its partners are responding to disasters across the globe every day. Please join us in prayer for the affected areas and consider giving to UMCOR U.S. Disaster Response to support these efforts.

UMCOR will provide further updates as they become available. For the most up to date information, follow the UMCOR Facebook page.

Beginning in mid-December 2022 and continuing into mid-January 2023, California has experienced a continuous series of rainstorms (frequently referred to as "atmospheric rivers"). This comes on top of wildfire damage from the last few years for many areas. As a result, California has had an extensive number of floods, mudslides, landslides, and other related damage that is estimated to have caused several billion dollars of losses - and counting.

UMCOR awarded a solidarity grant to the California-**Nevada Conference** to support a coordinated response for survivors, including relief supplies, debris removal and clean- awarded to address the current disaster. UMCOR's supply up efforts. The conference aided several communities, network is readying for the distribution of needed supplies. including those in the Sacramento area, focusing on flooded

agricultural workers and senior and low-income households. In mid-January, a powerful storm front swept across the Southeast, producing a number of tornadoes that caused damage in both the Alabama-West Florida and North Georgia conferences. Hundreds of homes were destroyed and at least 9 people were killed.

UMCOR awarded solidarity grants to both conferences to support a coordinated response for survivors, including relief supplies, debris removal and clean-up efforts. ERTs were deployed in both conferences. The South Georgia Conference has also deployed to assist with the relief efforts.

Widespread atmospheric instability during the evening of March 24, 2023, caused a powerful tornado that was on the ground for more than an hour and traveled at least 170 miles, killing more than 25 people, injuring hundreds and causing damage primarily concentrated in Mississippi. According to weather experts, the supercell that produced the deadly twister in Mississippi also appeared to produce tornadoes causing damage in northwest and north-central Alabama and then Georgia.

UMCOR approved a grant from the Mississippi Conference for emergency relief and gave permission to the North Alabama Conference to use unused funds previously

August/September 2023: Gifts through UMCOR for Lahaina Relief:

Our heartfelt prayers and compassionate giving continue to help **UMCOR** help others. Especially at this time we remember our sisters and brothers on the Hawaiian island Maui as we respond to the immense needs created by the fire in Lahaina. All that remains standing on the church property of the Lahaina UMC is their beautiful sign out front. We are grateful for the gifts this church offers to **UMCOR** all year long, and for the gifts you have already given to **UMCOR's** Lahaina Relief effort. As you feel moved, simply make a check out to the church and write "HAWAII" on the memo line and your gift through our church will be recorded alongside your annual giving. Thank you so very much for your compassion in action for others. ~ Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



AST~A~NET		SEPT	EMBER 2023		PAGE 10	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Abbreviation CH—Criswo S—Sanct K—Kitcl L—Library Ro MMR—McMillen PL Parkin PS— Pastor' HR—Handbell F	ell Hall tuary nen som #123 Room #113 ng Lot 's Study	SE	PTEMB	ER .	1	2
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17 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service	18 6 PM Gerry's Quilt ClassCH	19 9 AM Sr Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and SewsMMR 11:00 AM Rancho Burro Visit 11:00 AM Chair Yo- ga -CH 1 PM-Bible Study-CH 2:00 PM Finance-PS 6:30 PM JOY Circle- MMR 26	20 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM UWF Steering Comm-L 2:00 PM Church CouncilMMR	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM UWF Craft Workshop -MMR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S	22	First Day of Fall
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 4:00 PM CH Movie Night	6 PM Gerry's Quilt ClassCH	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and SewsMMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1:00 PM Bible Study -CH	9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Day—CH 10:00 AM Mary-Martha -Esther CircleCH	9:00 AM Senior ExerciseCH 10:00 AM UWF Craft Workshop -MMR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S		



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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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Children's Education Director:

Carolyn Russell

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Praise Team Director: Mike Clark

Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler

Handbell Choir Director:

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District Superintendent

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TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

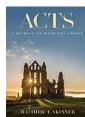
First meeting is Tuesday, September 12 1:00 p.m. Criswell Hall

The study book is

ACTS: Catching Up with the Spirit.

Nancy will have the books with her on Sunday at church.

The Acts of the Apostles is a unique



and crucial book that chronicles the story of God's grace flooding out to the world through the lives of the apostles in the decades

immediately following Christ's ascension into heaven.

Author and biblical scholar Matthew Skinner provides a broad yet theologically attuned introduction to this important book and its story of the early church learning to bear witness about God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

All are welcome to join us!



Sally Weitkamp.....9/13
Alice Addison.....9/14
Bob Throndson.....9/16

Jan Treat.....9/18

Peg Gallop.....9/21

John Emery.....9/22

Glen Werling.....9/24

Claire Jacob.....9/29





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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 autumn.

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.

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.

Orders can be made from the Grand Bouquet 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.



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande www.facebook.com/fumcag



2023



The United Methodist Men thanks the congregation for making the June

Church Bar-B-Q a big success with a profit of nearly \$900. The board agreed to use these funds towards awarding scholarships.

~ Paul Holden, UMM President

ISSUE

COVER STORY

Greetings from Rev. Mary	
Treasurer, 140 th Birthday, Trustees	2
Liturgists, Ushers, Acolytes, Prayer List	3
Photo Gallery, UWF Book Club	4
United Women in Faith	5
Music Director Notes	6
nquirer's Class	7
Program Ministry, Joy Cir, NoisyOffering.	8
Mission Team, Lahaina	9
Calendar	.10
Birthdays, Bible Study, Altar Flowers	11
UMM, Mark Hayes Workshop	.12

Children's Center Chronicle

