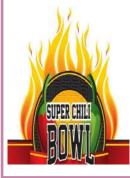
HOPE, JOY AND LOVE RISING Cast~A~Net First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande FEBRUARY 2024

UWF SUPER CHILI BOWL TAKE OUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Take Home a delicious bowl of chili, cornbread, and dessert for two so you can enjoy the big game. Just \$ 20 for two. Your choice of beef, turkey, or vegetarian chili. Chili will be ready for your pick up starting at 9:30 AM.



Get your tickets now! This is a popular fundraiser! Be a part of it so we can continue to support our local non-profit organizations in need.



Mardi Gras Attire Encouraged Sign up at the Connections Table free will offering

FANTASTIC FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Sat. Feb. 10th, Tour of Paulding House. See
Fellowship, page 8 for details.
Sun. Feb. 11th, UWF Chili Bowl Take-Out Pick up starts at 9:30 AM See UWF, page 5 for details.
Tue. Feb. 13th, 5:00 PM, Mardi Gras Party in
Criswell Hall. See announcement above.
Wed. Feb. 14th, ASH WEDNESDAY, 6:30 PM for
Imposition of Ashes in the Sanctuary.
Sat. Feb. 24, Branch Street Walking Tour in
Village of Arroyo Grande, page 5 for details.
Sun. Feb. 25, UWF SUNDAY, Potluck after
second service, please sign up.
Sun. Feb 25, 2:00 PM, Free Movie Night
"Indiana Jones and the Dials of Destiny", page 8

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Church Services 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service United Methodist Men UWF / UMW and Circle Groups Sew n Sews, JOY Circle, Book Club, Mary-Martha-Esther Wednesday Church Work Day Music Groups Chancel Choir Handbell Choir Gerry's Quilt Class Exercise Classes Senior Exercise Tue, Wed, Thu 9 AM Chair Yoga Tue 11:00 AM

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

From the Pastor

Epiphany continues with guest clergy in the pulpit, February 4th and 11th. We welcome the Rev. Rich Bolin and the Rev. Mike Eggleston. Mid-month we begin the journey to Easter through the shadowy Season of Lent. We will break out purple paraments that signify a season of penitence and the majesty of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday begins the season, February 14, 2024. We will gather for a brief worship service with simple songs, prayers and the imposition of ashes. Holy Week begins Palm/Passion Sunday March 24th and Easter is Sunday March 31st. Details for Holy Week/Easter will appear in the March Castanet.

The Lenten sermon series is JOURNEY TO SUNRISE. We claim God's Covenant promise from the First Testament as we follow Gospel Readings from the Second Testament highlighting Jesus' wilderness testing and temptation to refuse God's call, Jesus enlightening disciples as he forewarns them of suffering to come, and His encouragement to disciples to walk in light. Jesus keeps his promise to God amidst conflict. We see him enter the Gates of Jerusalem trusting in the ultimate Triumph of Grace. Here's the February sermon schedule:

Rev. Mary Bingelaitis

February 4, 2024 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion GRASSHOPPERS AND EAGLES Rev. Rich Bolin Isaiah 40:28-31, Mark 1:29-39

February 11, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday Rev. Mike Eggleston 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

February 14th, 2024 Ash Wednesday JOURNEY TO SUNRISE: The Adventure Begins Psalm 51:1-17, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Imposition of Ashes - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

> February 18, 2024 First Sunday in Lent JOURNEY TO SUNRISE: Believing God Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15 Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

> February 25, 2024 Second Sunday in Lent JOURNEY TO SUNRISE: Keeping Faith Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38 Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

FEBRUARY 2024

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WORSHIP LITURGISTS



FEBRUARY 4

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

FEBRUARY 11

8:30 a.m.----Sharon Roemer 10:30 a.m.----Nancy St. Laurent

FEBRUARY 18

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

FEBRUARY 25

8:30 a.m.----Mary Throndson 10:30 a.m.----Priscilla Alquist

~ submitted by Jan Treat



There is an urgent need for ushers to participate in our 2nd service! Several of our steadfast ushers of many years have asked to retire from this service. We are so grateful for their time, welcoming hands and friendship. In honoring their request, we must rebuild our faithful Team of Ushers this year. I ask as you go about your weekly schedule that you include in your prayers consideration of joining the Team of Ushers. Both men and women, also couples, are encouraged to give it a try. This is a great opportunity to greet and assist ALL who enter our doors. We are a "Welcoming Church" with many opportunities for worship, fellowship and service. Our ushers are the first ones that people meet as they enter our church. Please see Kerren Brown, who is usually in the Narthex each Sunday morning, to explore joining our Team of Ushers. *~submitted by Kerren Brown*



NORTH DISTRICT WEEKLY COVENANT PRAYER LIST FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2024 -FEBRUARY 25, 2024 Pray for the continued vision of the UMC in the California-Pacific Conference--

"Ending spiritual and physical hunger." -- District Superintendent Reverend Melissa MacKinnon

Prayer week begins on:	Church/Ministry	Clergy Leader(s)
02/04/24	Palmdale First UMC	Pastor Jim White
02/04/24	Palmdale First UMC	Pastor Jonathan Gentry
02/11/24	ReNew UM Mission	Pastor Sam Park
02/11/24	Ojai UMC	Pastor Katie Donaldson
02/18/24	Paicoma Firsst UMC	Pastor Luis Garcia
02/18/24	Moorpark UMC	Pastor Kristi Smith
02/25/24	Northridge UMC	Pastor Douglas Dickson
02/25/24	Northridge UMC	Pastor Ralph Kwon

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CALLING ALL UNITED METHODIST MEN!

The United Methodist Men will be holding a breakfast fellowship meeting on Saturday, March 2 at 9:00 AM.

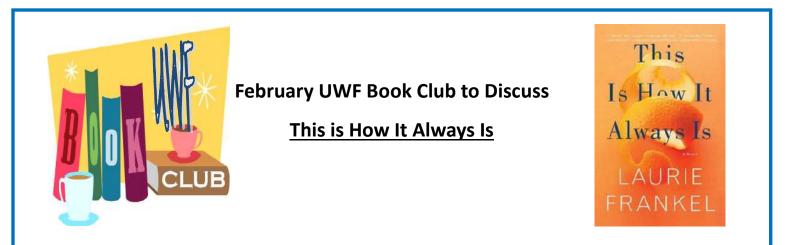
The meeting place will be the Hilton Garden Inn, 601 James Way, Pismo Beach.

A breakfast buffet will be served at a cost of \$20.

There will be a program speaker and a business discussion.



~ Paul Holden, President



Sometimes a loving family has to deal with overwhelming issues that they don't understand. In <u>This Is How It Always Is</u> by Laurie Frankel, the Walsh-Adams family tries to keep it a secret that their youngest son would be more comfortable being a girl. Although the parents and brothers accept Claude's (Poppy's) choices, they are not ready for the difficulties her gender identity poses. They also discover how difficult it is to hide family secrets.

This intriguing novel will help readers understand this complicated issue. If you would like to read <u>This Is How It Always Is</u>, see Judy Leonard for a library copy of the book. Join us for a lively discussion on Friday, February 16th, at 10:30 A.M. in the church library.

~submitted by Judy Leonard

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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.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH FEBRUARY 2024

Super Bowl Sunday, February 11th

Get that easy chair ready! The Super Bowl is



almost here. We have the Chili, and delicious it will be. The portion is enough for you and your spouse or friend. Included are cornbread and dessert for

two, so you can enjoy the big game. Just \$ 20 for two people. The chili is your choice of beef, turkey, or vegetarian. It will be ready for take out at 9:30 am on Super Bowl Sunday. Tickets are on sale now at the U W F table each Sunday until kick off. This is a popular fundraiser. Be a part of it so we can continue to support our local non-profit organizations in need.

United Women in Faith Sunday , February 25th

UWF Sunday will be followed with a Potluck Luncheon in Criswell Hall after second service. All are invited including the men of the church. Look for the signup sheet at church so we have an idea how many people to plan on. **Circles and Groups** All women are invited to attend.

Círcles are the heart of united Women in Faith

<u>Mary, Martha Esther Circle</u> meets the last Wednesday of each month at 10 am in the McMillen Room. Come join us, we'd love to have you! Contact Mary Throndson.

Joy Circle meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in members homes at 3:30 pm. This first meeting in homes will be at Pricilla Alquists' house. Contact Kerren Brown.

<u>Book Club</u> will meet 3rd Friday, in the Library at 10:30. Contact Judy Leonard for a book.

<u>Sew And Sews</u> meet every Tuesday in the McMillen Room 10 until 2, bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. We encourage all interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting and just plain visiting and sharing to attend.

> ~submitted by Gerry McGuire, President

Dates to Remember

- V February 11, Chili Bowl Sunday with a delicious bowl of chili, combread and dessert for two.
- ✓ February 25, UWF Sunday at both services, with Potluck Luncheon following second service.

SCAM ALERTS

The Scammers are still trying to separate you from your money. The following have been reported just in the past month:

Members are getting e-mail supposedly from other members encouraging them to apply to a program that promises money from the government. These are not from our members. And you will not get any money, you will lose money. They are SCAMS. Delete them.

This past week a large, obnoxious warning from "Microsoft" appeared on the Church's office computer. It said that the computer is infected with a virus and partially disabled the mouse. The warning says to call a "Microsoft" at a phone number appearing on the screen. It is a SCAM to steal your money. DO NOT CALL THE NUMBER. Microsoft does not send out such warnings. The "virus" is easily removed by hitting the ALT, CTRL and DELETE keys, then click on "Sign Out". When you sign back in the computer the warning should be gone. Then run an anti-virus scan to be sure there are no other problems. I personally like the free version of Malwarebytes, though it does regularly nag you to buy the paid version.

The church office received an e-mail, supposedly from one of our staff members, requesting a change in their direct deposit. Kelli our sharp-eyed bookkeeper was suspicious and contacted the staff member, who said they never made the request.

Always verify through a different form of communication when you get a request for personal information or request to send money or gift cards. Don't use the reply information provided by the requestor. Members of our church had their e-mails hacked, then the hacker sent out requests for gift cards. If you get an odd request by e-mail or text, then phone that person. Engage in a chat to ask questions that a scammer is unlikely to know the answer to, such as something you did together recently, a discussion of Sunday's sermon or a mutual friend.

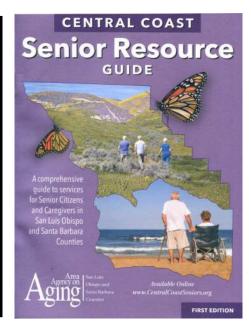
Always be aware. Always be suspicious.

~ submitted by Joel Anderson Communications Chair

SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE AVAILABLE

The new Central Coast Senior Resource Guide is available on Connections Table in the Narthex. The free book was produced by the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties Area Agency on Aging. It provides advice and contact information for a wide range of government, non-profit and commercial services available to older adults in this area including emergency services, caregiving, education, financial assistance, health services, recreation and fitness and much more.

Also available are a limited number of California Department of Motor Vehicles Handbooks for those that have a license renewal coming up or want to brush up on the latest traffic laws.





The Church Council, made up of the chairs of our various committees, meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. At our most recent meeting we spent quite a bit of time discussing the Coffee Hour procedures. Everyone agreed that this is something we want to continue. But how to accomplish the whole thing is rather challenging!

As well as providing refreshments, the coffee must be made and turned on, the tables must be set up; the food must be plated and set out; and clean up entails labeling and storing leftover food, washing serving plates, washing the coffee pots, and putting the tables back in the alcove.

The Church Council decided that we would continue to ask various committees to be responsible for providing the food but that individual members of the congregation would be asked to help with the setting up and taking down of the tables and chairs, plating the refreshments and then cleaning up the food and serving items after second service. We will need volunteers for this work!

You are asked to stop by the information desk to sign up for this responsibility! We thank you in advance for your help!

~ Patti Melsheimer, chair



The Trustees are currently working on two major projects. You may have noticed that the Women's Restroom in Criswell Hall has a "Warning" sign on the door. That is because we are updating the restroom! Under the guidance of Irene Kliesch, the wallpaper border was removed, the walls have been patched, and unsightly fixtures have been removed. We are now receiving bids for new flooring. Next the walls will be repainted, a new light fixture and a new mirror will be installed as well as a new towel dispenser. When the Women's bathroom is completed the Men's bathroom will also receive some much needed attention!

The Trustees are also working to install handicap ramps at both the Children's Center door and the door leading into McMillen room. David Beard is supervising this project. When completed this will allow easier access for both strollers and wheelchairs.

~ Dick Melsheimer, chair

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

We welcome back Jim Gregory with a tour of the Paulding House February 10th. Please sign up at the Connections Desk for the tour. Meet at church at 9:30 to carpool. Tour at 10:00. \$5.00 fee.



Two weeks later Jim will lead a walk through the Arroyo Grande Village, with fascinating stories of our town. That will be February 24th. Meet at church at 9:30 to carpool. Tour at 10:00. \$5.00 fee. Again, please sign up at Connections.



Our movie for this month will be Harrison Ford in the thrilling,

"Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" on Sunday, February 25, at 2:00 pm. As usual the movie is free and also the refreshments and popcorn.

We've saved a seat for you!

Submitted by,

Gerry McGuire

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR CAST-A-NET?

The Cast-A-Net highlights all the goings on at the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Your copy can be delivered by postal mail, e-mail or both. Please notify the office if you would like to change or add to how you receive your copy. You can also subscribe for e-mail delivery by e-mailing "SUBSCRIBE" to

umcag+subscribe@googlegroups.com or by going to our website WorshipWeekly.com and clicking on the Subscribe link at the lower left corner. Copies are also available in the Narthex and entrance to Criswell Hall.

--Communications Committee



HOSPITALITY SNACKS FEBRUARY & MARCH

F <u>EB 4</u>	ENDOWMENT/ELT
<u>FEB 11</u>	UWF
<u>FEB 18</u>	COMMUNICATIONS
<u>FEB 25</u>	MISSION TEAM
<u>MAR 3</u>	TRUSTEES
<u>MAR 10</u>	STAFF-PARISH
<u>MAR 17</u>	<u>FINANCE</u>
<u>MAR 24</u>	NOMINATING
<u>MAR 31</u>	WORSHIP TEAM

News from the Mission Team

Feeding the Hungry at South County Peoples' Kitchen



I imagine many of you have heard of The Peoples' Kitchen in Grover Beach, but let me share with you a little bit of its history. They served their first meal in May 1992 to 4 people. Currently, they are located at the Shouts of Grace church near 9th street in Grover Beach. About 70-80 guests are served meals every day of the week from 12-1 pm. The people that attend the meal can come with no questions asked. Some are homeless but others are mentally or physically challenged, elderly or just low on funds. There are approximately 30-40 organizations that take turns providing the meal of the day. I have found records of our church's involvement back to 2008, but it might have started even earlier. When needed, we have also provided clothing, socks and toiletry kits.

Around 2010, we were very actively involved in preparing meals. Members of the congregation would sign up to prepare the casseroles needed, often with canned goods from the Food Bank secured by Chuck and Betty Ashton. Members brought the casseroles they prepared to the church and we baked them just before transporting them to serve at the Peoples' Kitchen. We served the meals quite often and many were involved in that effort. Through the years, the program has been tailored to the point where your Mission Team procures or purchases the food needed, prepares and serves lunch on the 5th Tuesday of the month throughout the year. During the Pandemic, a grant of \$500 was written and awarded to help us purchase food for the meals we prepare.

Our first meal service of 2024 took place on January 30 and we are excited to share pictures with you! (see below) Do come and help us as your time and energy permit. It is a very worthwhile community outreach mission and we are proud to uphold the long tradition of First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande being a part of it!

~ submitted by Priscilla Alquist, Missions Chairperson





Dorine Bolterman, Mary Hawkins & Robyn Isakson prep People's Kitchen Serving team are Frank Williams, Priscilla Alquist, Patti Williams & Mary Hawkins

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EEBRARY								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
				1 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir RehearsalS	2	3		
4 8:30 AM Contemporary Service with Praise Band 10:30 AM Traditional Service with Chancel Choir Guest preacher: Rev. Rich Bolin	5 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	6 9:00 AM Senior ExerciseCH 10AM Sew & Sews-MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal -HR	7 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Morning, everyone invited-CH 10:00 AM Fellowship-L	8 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir RehearsalS	9 10:30 AM Guy Oates Memorial Service-S	10 Tour of Paulding House, sign up at Connections		
11 8:30 AM Contemporary Service with Praise Band 10:30 AM Traditional Service with Chancel Choir Guest Preacher: Rev. Mike Eggleston UWF Chili Bowl Take-Out after each service.	12 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	13 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 2:00 Set Up for Mardi Gras Party-CH 5:00 PM Mardi Gras Party-CH 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	 14 Ash Wednesday 9:00 AM Sr Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Morning, everyone invited-CH 8:30 AM Childrens Ctr Valentines Party-MMR 10:00 AM UWF Steer- ing Committee-L 1:30 Mission Team- MMR 6:30 PM Imposition of Ashes-Sanctuary 	15 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:30 AM Staff ParishPS 4:00 PM Children's Center Board MMR 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S	16 10:30 AM UWF Book Club-L	17		
18 8:30 AM Contemporary Service with Praise Band and Handbells 10:30 AM Traditional Service with Chancel Choir and Handbells	19 No Quilt Class PRESIDENTS DAY	20 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews -MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 1:30 PM Finance-PS 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	21 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Morning, everyone invited-CH 2:00 PM Church Council-MMR	22 9:00 AM Senior Exercise-CH 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S	23	24 Branch St. Walking Tour of AG Village sign up at Connections		
25 8:30 AM Contemporary Service with Praise Band 10:30 AM Traditional Service with Chancel Choir UWF SUNDAY 2:00 PM Free Movie Night-Indiana Jones	26 4:30 PM Communications-L 6:00 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	27 9:00 AM Senior Exercise -CH 10:00 AM Sew and Sews MMR 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1:00 PM Bible Study-CH 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR	28 9:00 AM Senior Exer- cise-CH 9:00 AM Church Work Morning, everyone invited-CH 10:00 AM Mary-Martha -Esther Circle-MMR	29 5:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal-HR 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S	S—Saı K—Ki L—Library MMR—McMil PL Par PS— Past	on Legend swell Hall nctuary tchen Room #123 len Room #113 king Lot or's Study Il Room #115		

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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

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Layout Editor: Frances Robertson Proofreading, Mailing and Office Assistance: Mary Whitson, Dorine Bolterman Other contributors: Teams /Committees/ Office Angels

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Criswell Hall We are continuing with our study of Adam Hamilton's WRESTLING WITH DOUBT: FINDING FAITH Books are still available.

This is an enthusiastic group that welcomes all to join!

Our Lenten Study book is ordered and is REMEMBER by Susan Robb.



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. Your floral tributes are welcomed and will be placed on the altar for both services on Sunday. You can pick up your arrangement after the second service. Just let us know.

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.

Orders can be made from the Grand Bouquet on 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.



Devin Paredes	02/02
Robert McGuire	02/03
Barbara Reineke	02/03
Isabella Russell	02/03
Betty Ashton	02/05
Mark Moore	02/06
Wayne Huggins	02/08
Irene Kliesch	02/19
Maddy Quaglino	02/2211
Leonard Lutz	02/23
Michelle Paredes	02/25
Chloe Keith	02/29

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 birthday to our monthly birthday list!



Remember Valentínes Day February 14





February

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275 North Halcyon Road Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

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COVER STORY

SPECIAL EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

Children's Center Chronicle

