



The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

*Christmas Eve
A Service of Lessons and Carols*

December 24, 2015

7:30 p.m.

PRELUDE *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* Johnny Marks

INTROIT *There's a Song in the Air*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which has come to all people, for to you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord!

Unto us a Child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

And the government shall be upon his shoulders.

**His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

*OPENING CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 234
verses 1, 3 & 6

CHRISTMAS EVE WELCOME

ANTHEM *Love Came Gently* by Marty Thunderburk

INVOCATION

***O God,
We come tonight to Bethlehem, in quietness and peace. We kneel at the manger to behold the miracle. The glory of Your Love is revealed in the Christ Child. With awe and reverence we worship. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Let your love be born in us anew. Amen.***

THE BIRTH FORETOLD

Isaiah 11:1-6
CAROL *(remain seated)* *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 211
verses 1 & 4

THE ANGEL GABRIEL VISITS MARY

Luke 1:26-33
CAROL *(remain seated)* *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 230
verses 1, 3 & 4

THE BIRTH/MARY'S SONG

Luke 2:1-7
SOLO *Mary, Did You Know?* Mark Lowry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE ANGEL'S SONG

Luke 2:8-14
CAROL *(remain seated)* *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 238
verses 1, 3 & 4

THE SHEPHERD'S RESPONSE

Luke 2:15-20
CAROL *(remain seated)* *The First Noel* No. 245
verses 1 & 2

THE WISEMEN'S RESPONSE

Matthew 2:1-12
CAROL *(remain seated)* *The First Noel* No. 245
verses 3, 4 & 5

OUR RESPONSE

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER
SOLO *O Holy Night* John Sullivan Dwight

HOMILY *"SPECIAL DELIVERY:
Love is Born"*
Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

*CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* No. 240

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Offertory *Out of the East* Harry Noble

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

CANDLELIGHTING

For safety, as we light candles, please hold the lit candle completely upright and let your neighbor tilt the unlit candle to receive the flame from your light. The pianist will play while the candles are being lit. We will not begin singing *Silent Night* until all the candles are lit. When the piano and choir begin *Silent Night*, please begin singing.

CAROL *(remain seated)*

Silent Night Holy Night

(please refer to insert for words)

*THE BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL *(please stand)*

Joy to the World

(please refer to insert for words)

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Traditional—Arr. Dan Coates

PARTICIPATING IN TONIGHT'S SERVICE:

Chancel Choir
Choir Director, Julie Burns
Pianist, Dennis Eiler
Soloists, Julie Burns,
David Bauer

Liturgists, David Beaman, Judy Atwood
Pastor, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Ushers, Bernie Hawkins, Harry Egan,
Mary Hawkins, Mike Takenaka
Sound Technician, Mike Coho





Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Today's Liturgist: Judy Atwood



In the name of Christ Jesus, we welcome you to the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande and to this service of worship. We are happy that you have joined us here today. Your presence is a gift and we hope that you will find our worship meaningful and that you come worship with us again.

If it is your first time with us, we invite you to join us for coffee hour in our fellowship hall so that we can get to know each other.

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Contact us.

M - F from 9 AM – 1 PM
(subject to change)
* Our Senior Pastor is off on Mondays.

Church Office: 805 . 481 . 2692
On The Web @ worshipweekly.com
Office E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis E-mail: revmaryb@fumcag.org



Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center

Program Tours Daily by appointment ONLY on Monday thru Friday 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM.
Come and find out if we are a good fit for you and your child.

Office Hours: M—F from 9 AM—5 PM

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

<p>Cal-Pac Conference Bishop: Minerva G. Carcaño</p> <p>North District Superintendent: Rev. James Powell</p> <p>Senior Pastor: Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis</p> <p>Missionary (retired) / Lay Leader: Judy Atwood</p> <p>Church Office Administrator: Frances Robertson</p> <p>Website Manager: Jamie Foster</p>	<p>Choir Director: Julie Burns</p> <p>Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler</p> <p>Multi-Media Director: Mike Coho</p> <p>Handbell Choir Director: Leonard Lutz</p> <p>Children's Education Director: Carolyn Russell</p> <p>AG UM Children's Center Director: Madrigal Quagliano (805) 481-2223</p>
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8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE



December 27, 2015



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Music by The Lord's Crew

December 27, 2015

8:30 AM

Gathering

OPENING PRAISE All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

*PRAISE SONGS The Friendly Beasts
Little Drummer Boy
Wonderful, Merciful Savior

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys & Concerns
Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving
The Lord's Prayer

Sharing and Responding to God's Word

SONG OF ILLUMINATION Wonderful Counselor

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Luke 2:22-40

MESSAGE "FULL SPEED AHEAD"
Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

RESPONSE SONG What Child is This

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION
(please bring offering up at Communion)

Words for Communion
Communion Song Bless the Lord Oh My Soul
Prayer after Communion

Going Forth to Serve

*FINAL BLESSING El Shadai

*CLOSING SONG Angels We Have Heard on High

*Worshippers stand as able.

The Bulletin Board



Coffee Hour Today
Is Hosted By

ALL CHURCH COFFEE
HOUR

Next Week's Coffee Hour
Will Be Hosted By

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We thank you all for your

Altar Flowers
Today



Happy Birthday
To my grandson, Josiah
From Nancy St. Laurent



Abbreviation Legend

(S) Sanctuary (PL) Parking Lot
(L) Library (CH) Criswell Hall
(MMR) McMillen Room (K) Kitchen
(P/S) Pastor's Study



Monday—12/28

- No Emergency Food Pantry Today
- Women of Prayer—7 PM—S

Tuesday—12/29

- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
- Chair Yoga Class—11 AM—CH
- Grande Ringer Rehearse—5 PM—HBR

Wednesday—12/30

- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
- Church Work Day—9 AM
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- Dinner and Bible Study on Break
- Chancel Choir on Break

Thursday—12/31

- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
- Intercessory Prayer—10 AM—L

NEW
YEARS
EVE



Friday—1/1

- NEW YEARS DAY
- Office Closed

Saturday—1/2

- Nothing on schedule

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

A news release from Val McClure:

"The Photo Directory is at the printers and should be in our hands after the first of the year. The holiday schedule for the printer slowed down the completion of the project."

Human Relations Sunday

January 17, 2016



This Special Sunday celebrates the connectional work of the United Methodist Churches.

It supports the Community Developers Program and United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS), both of which are administered by Global Ministries, and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program administered by the General Board of Church and Society. Human Relations Day is celebrated on the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

Thank you to Carolyn Russell and her staff for the "Kids Day Out"—Sunday School Christmas Happening last Sunday

And thank you to the Congregation for their support of the program!



A Note from Bennie:

We have Christmas children's books in the library! Please come check them out! Books, CDs and videos about Christmas are also available for adults. Get better acquainted with this little gem of a library found in our own church.



EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

CLOSED MONDAYS DEC. 28 & JAN. 4

Due to the Food Bank being closed—so no food is available to distribute.

Chuck and Betty and their team of volunteers will be "on break". Thank you to all of them for their dedicated service to those in need in our community.

PANTY REOPENS JANUARY 11th

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT

October-December 2015

FIRST UMC ARROYO GRANDE
EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Families Served.....749

People (Individuals).....2,436

Including Children.....792



Sign-Ups for the UMM
Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, January 16,
8:30 AM, Coco's

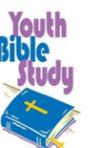
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Criswell Hall after each service

Keynote Speaker—Lynn Compton,
Member of the Board of Supervisors and
Representative to our 4th District
South County area

Due to limited seating at
Coco's you must sign up
in advance. Ladies are
most cordially invited to
attend.



SUNDAY
MORNING
YOUTH BIBLE
STUDY
CRISWELL HALL
10:30 AM



Join Us For Fellowship And Fun
on Sunday mornings!

All middle school and high
school students are invited.
Ibby Russell leads the group.



Today's Scripture

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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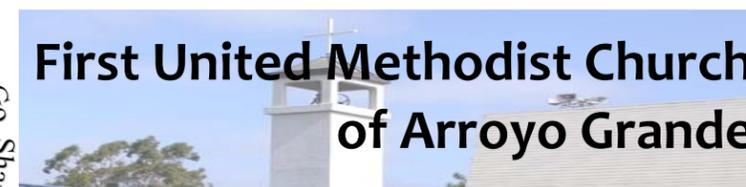
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Welcome to Worship!

ORDER OF WORSHIP First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 27, 2015

10:30 AM

* You are invited to stand in body and/or spirit

*"The reason for Simeon's song?
Deep inside his tired old heart,
He knew that the infant he held in his arms
Was in truth the One who had been holding him all his life long."
—Michael Card*

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE	Angels We Have Heard on High	
INTROIT	He is Born	No. 228

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We celebrate hope born in a manger!
God of Christmas, let hope be born in us.
We follow the star and walk in the light!
God of Christmas, guide our journey through life.
Like Simeon we rest in the knowledge of your Presence!
God of Christmas, assure us with your peace.
May the peace of Christ usher us into this New Year!
Thank you, God, for the gift of Your love.

* OPENING HYMN *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* No. 240

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Judy Atwood
Nursery care is available. Children ages K-6 are dismissed with their teachers at this time. Junior and Senior high will meet in Criswell Hall.

CHOIR ANTHEM *What Child is This* William C. Dix

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

A TIME OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer	My Master, See verse 1	No. 226
Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer		
Choral Response	My Master, See verse 2	No. 226

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Luke 2:22-40

*CAROL *Away in the Manger* No. 217

SERMON "FULL SPEED AHEAD"
Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

OFFERING
Call to Stewardship and Mission
Offertory *I Wonder as I Wander* John Jacob Niles
Doxology/Prayer of Dedication

*CLOSING CAROL *Joy to the World* No. 246

BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go Tell it on the Mountain (refrain)* No. 251

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

POSTLUDE *Let There Be Peace on Earth* Sy Miller / Jill Jackson



The Bulletin Board



**Coffee Hour Today
Is Hosted By**

**ALL CHURCH COFFEE
HOUR**

**Next Week's Coffee Hour
Will Be Hosted By**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**We thank you all for your
service to our church!**

**Altar Flowers
Today**



**Happy Birthday
To my grandson,
Josiah**

From Nancy St. Laurent



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