

“Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Go—Share Christ.”



Cast~A~Net

NOVEMBER 2015



ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Tuesday, November 24, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Saint John's Lutheran Church
959 Valley Road, Arroyo Grande, CA
(corner of Valley & Los Berros)

“Giving Thanks for the Beauty of God's Blessings”

First United Methodist of AG will participate together in the Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Celebration hosted this year at Saint John's Lutheran Church. We will worship together at 7:00 p.m. with members of **our chancel choir** joining with other choirs in the anthem **“Simple Praise”**, as we sing traditional thanksgiving hymns and as we enjoy a short message delivered by Rev. Randy Oiumette.

The community offering will go to help Captive Hearts Christian Women's Recovery and Five Cities Diversity Coalition Statue.

An offering of canned goods is welcomed, and any bakers among us are invited to bring a plate of goodies to share with all. The service should be an hour long.



The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree returns again this year with gift tags on the tree to aid foster children and other children in need. The Angel Tree will be set up during the Hanging of the Greens on November 28, 2015.

Please take the original tag from the tree and then sign your name on the duplicate tag and leave it on the tree. I make the duplicate tags in case you lose your original tag. You must attach the original on your UNWRAPPED GIFT (or gifts) and bring them to church on Sundays in December or you can bring the UNWRAPPED GIFTS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. You can use the duplicate tag on your UNWRAPPED gift (or gifts) if you lose the original tag.

All gifts must be brought to church no later than December 21, 2015. If you have any questions, you may contact Jan Treat.

Thank you for your generous giving spirit to help these children in need.

Blessings, Jan Treat



UMW Holiday Boutique

Saturday, Nov. 7

8:30 am—3 pm



HANDCRAFTED GIFTS

Jewelry * Aprons * Quilts
Afghans * Tote Bags
Fall and Christmas Décor
Jams * Jellies
Candy * Baked Goods * Art Work

ENJOY A DELICIOUS BRUNCH

9:00 A.M.—1:00 pm
\$10

*Proceeds support Methodist Missions
at home and around the world*

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



From the Pastor

From Rev. Mary B:

The holidays are here! A successful “Halloween Happening” with the dedication and participation of our committed children’s education team and friends brought the children out on Sunday, October 25, to learn, to worship with us and to have a good time. Thank you, Carolyn & Company!

Now, we’re off and running into November. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS is Saturday November 1st so be sure to set your clock back on Saturday night to be “on time” for worship on All Saints’ Sunday as we honor church members who have passed away since All Saint’s Day 2014. There are at least a dozen of our faithful friends to remember with affection as we light candles and name their names in reverence with honor. So, be present as we lift them up to the Lord in thanksgiving for their precious lives among us.

November 8th it will be our joy and privilege to welcome new members into the congregation. We have at least four people who are anticipating taking that step, and at least two others who will reunite by restoring their membership. We will also receive an affiliate member. It is an exciting day for all. Come welcome them, get to know and recognize them, and celebrate the loving community that is Arroyo Grande FUMC.

Remember, the Community Thanksgiving Celebration is not the “eve” of Thanksgiving this year, but a day earlier. This decision was made in hopes of including people who ordinarily travel out of town, in this great ecumenical service of grace and gratitude, so be sure to note the time and place and be present at St. John’s, with our pastor and members of the choir who are representing us. This year the pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, hosting the event, will bring the message. It’s a wonderful opportunity to hear Rev. Randy Ouimette in the pulpit as he will be retiring in March of 2016 after 27+ years of service to our community.

It’s Advent!

November 29th Right After Thanksgiving

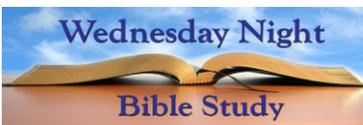
That’s right! As soon as Thanksgiving weekend arrives, Advent does too! There is no pause this holiday season, so if you’re feeling full of turkey and dressing and want to sleep in, don’t! Be present to begin the season singing the songs of Advent Sunday, November 29th. This year we will have the children light our Advent wreath each Sunday instead of individual families and bring the children in a little closer as we worship during Advent. Planning with and for them must be a top priority for all of us. With that extra effort on our part, they will come! And we can find ways to help Carolyn and her small team have a big impact in the lives of children that will shape and form their spirituality for a lifetime.

Come begin these blessed holidays at church!

Rev. Mary B.



Women's Prayer
Mondays at 7 PM
 Women come to pray together in the Sanctuary.



Adult Bible Study at 5:45 PM
FREE Fellowship Meal at 5 PM



Fridays at 8:30 AM
 Join us in the Library for Bible Study, discussion, coffee, & friends!



Dates	Topics and Schedule
Sunday, November 1 All Saints' Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "A CLOUD OF WITNESSES" Hebrews 12:1-2 Revelation 21:1-7
Wednesday, November 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study Session with Lay Leader and Pastor and passing out of free books <u>Christmas Is Not Your Birthday</u>
Sunday, November 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "FOR THE LOVE OF GOD" Philippians 2:1-11
Wednesday, November 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study <u>Christmas Is Not Your Birthday</u> Session 1: <i>Expect a Miracle</i>
Sunday, November 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "STIR WHAT YOU'VE GOT" Matthew 25:14-30 Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16
Wednesday, November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study <u>Christmas Is Not Your Birthday</u> Session 2: <i>Giving Up On Perfect</i>
Sunday, November 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis—"FOR WHAT?" Deuteronomy 26:1-11 John 6:26-35
Wednesday, November 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving Break
Sunday November 29 First Sunday of Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis—"A LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE: Hope Keeps Watch" Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:25-26

Wednesday 5:45 PM

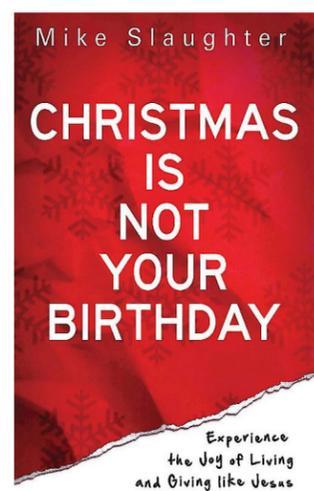
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study at 5:45 PM following our Free Wednesday Night Supper at 5 PM continues with a "jump start" to the Advent Season. On November 4th there will be a stand-alone "one session" class as we regroup.

Then we are off and running to Advent using Mike Slaughter's book, Christmas Is Not Your Birthday. Here is the schedule:

November 4th
 Session with Lay Leader and Pastor and passing out of free books
Christmas Is Not Your Birthday

- November 11th Session#1
Expect a Miracle
- November 18th Session #2
Giving Up On Perfect
- November 25th
Thanksgiving Break
- December 2nd Session #3
Scandalous Love
- December 9th Session #4
Jesus' Wish List
- December 16th Session #5
By A Different Road
- December 23rd and 30th
Christmas and New Years' Break





Helping men grow in Christ;
so others may know Christ!

Val McClure, publicity

News & Announcements



UMM
GO TO
JAIL!

Thanks to Vice Chair, Paul Holden, the UMM will land in Jail on **Friday, Nov. 20th**. This special event will take place at **10:00 AM** as the **UMM tour the new police station**. Prior to the visit the men will meet at **Coco's Restaurant at 8:30 AM** for a fellowship breakfast. They will go from the restaurant to the Church parking lot where they will walk over to see the new police facility. Meal orders at Coco's will be from the menu.

★ There will be no regular breakfast meeting in November.



Bernie Hawkins, Chairman for the
2015 Jubilee Extravaganza,

has already lined up 11 acts to perform at the **Friday, December 11th** talent show which will be held from 7-9:30 pm in Criswell Hall. Some of the great talent will include well-known names such as Kent Unsworth, Dave Bauer, the Isabella Russell Youth Group, Julie and Dennis, Val McClure and Cast, Buffy and Neil, Cristy Van Hook, the magic of Larry Baughman, Music Man Don Gugeler, Bernie & Mary and the greatest sing-along of all times with Mike and Connie.

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Criswell Hall — 7:00—9:30 PM.

P.S. FREE Refreshments
Furnished by the UMM

MILESTONES

BIRTHS

Helen & Don Gugeler have a new great granddaughter, Audrey
Lynn & George Stewart welcomed a new great grandson, Mason
Janice & Art Moore have a new great granddaughter, River Mae

DEATHS

The Rev. Al Gorsline, former pastor of FUMCAG

CELEBRATIONS

Al Harvey — 101st birthday
Betty David — 90th birthday
Bob Pierson — 90th birthday

Betty and Bud Johnson — 60th anniversary
Lynn and George Stewart — 50th anniversary
Mary and Bob Thronson — 47th anniversary
Gloria and Mike Johnson — 47th anniversary
Linda and Mike Herber — 30th anniversary



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

"The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

Sally Weitkamp, Publicity



United Methodist Women's

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church
275 N. Halcyon, Arroyo Grande

Saturday, November 7th

8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Handcrafted Fall and Christmas Décor

Baked Goods * Jams * Jellies * Candy * Plants * Art Work

Enjoy a Delicious Brunch

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM \$10

Proceeds support Methodist Missions at home and around the world



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We ended the first quarter of our 2015/16 fiscal year with a \$7K deficit. This is substantially worse than expected. Much of the deficit was due to a \$5K shortfall in stewardship in September. I pray that this was just a temporary shortfall, and that those who fell behind in their giving will get caught up over the coming months.

Staff-Parish has implemented cuts in order to bring our staffing more in line with our current income. It is sad and painful that we have had to eliminate the Adult Ministry Director position. In the future we will depend on volunteers to fulfill these duties. I thank Susan Coho for her many years of dedicated service in this ministry. In addition, salary adjustments are being made in other positions.

I encourage everyone to consider making a generous Thanksgiving and Christmas contribution so that we will not be forced to make further cuts in staffing or programs.

On the positive side, the Trustees received a generous donation from Craig Ford in memory of his wife, Gerrie. Also, our empty lot just west of the parking lot has been partially rented. Though the income from this is small, every little bit helps. There are additional opportunities for those who would like to rent part of the lot for storage. Please contact Trustee Chair Paul Holden for details.

In the long run, our Church must increase its membership to support its wide range of programs.

Grace and Peace,
Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

Meet Jim and Rose Ann Steiner—Reliable and Faithful Members to our Church

I enjoyed a most pleasant visit with two “Featured Members”, Jim and Rose Ann Steiner in their home one morning ‘high up on the mesa’. They have been married 51 years, all of that time living in California. They joined our church in 2001 and have remained familiar and regular attenders who enjoy worship with their many friends. Jim served as former Coordinator of Peoples Kitchen for 7 years, Endowment Board Treasurer and is a regular usher during worship services. Rose Ann participates in JOY Circle, as a UMW fund raiser volunteer and service liturgist.



Jim, although born in Wisconsin, grew up in Fort Collins, CO; graduated from Colo. State University with a degree in Finance; served two years in the US Army, then progressed to Financial Controller during his 30 year career with Ryder System Inc., an International Transportation Services Co., before retiring.

Rose Ann was born and raised in Shamrock, Texas. She was baptized and grew up in the Methodist Church. She earned a BA at Texas Tech University and attended graduate school at Cal State Los Angeles; she worked 35 years in the public schools teaching language disordered students.

They have two sons, Scott and Eric, daughter-in-law Suzanne Steiner, plus two grandchildren. Justine is a senior in high school and Jake, a junior at Arizona State University.

Jim and Rose Ann have traveled to South America, Africa, Europe, China and areas of the United States since retirement. They spend their leisure time golfing, caring for their home, playing bridge, using computers, volunteering with fund raisers, attending book group meetings and AAUW charitable and educational enrichment activities well as church activities. Jim has also served as Treasurer of their Homeowner’s Association and is currently on the Board of Directors.

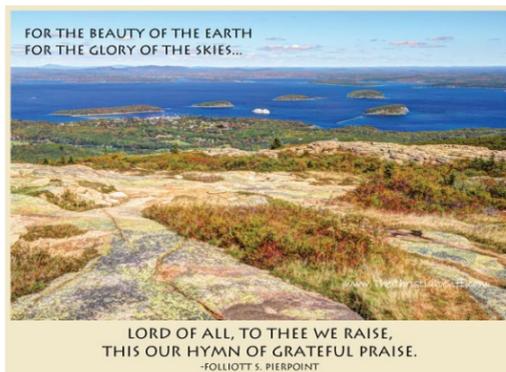
Jim and Rose Ann “feel grateful for the caring attitude of all the nice people that make up our congregation.” They offered the phrase “A Feeling of Peace” as their description of their worship, participation and membership at First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. They are looking forward to knowing and working with Pastor Mary.

David Beaman 10/10/15

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING FINDS IN OUR OWN UMC LIBRARY!

One of the few songs devoted entirely to giving thanks is *For the Beauty of the Earth*. Foliott S. Pierpoint was born in Bath, England, October 7, 1835. He graduated from Cambridge and taught at Somersetshire College. One day while walking in the countryside he saw the green ocean, the blue sky, and the river Avon. Overcome by the beauty of the scene he wrote the words to this song. The music is by Conrad Kocher.

Originally meant for communion services of the Anglican Church, it became associated with the American Thanksgiving when it crossed the Atlantic.



Sometimes we do not recognize the things for which we should be thankful and we do not thank God enough. Viktor Frankel learned in the death camp at Auschwitz to be thankful for what he had. Prisoners there dream of bread, cakes, warm baths—things we take for granted.

Corrie ten Boom tells us her sister Betsie said to be thankful for the fleas! Why??? The fleas kept the guards away from their building in the concentration camp; therefore, they could hold prayer meetings and Bible study in it!

God created the entire cosmos.
Let us rejoice and be thankful for it!

This information is in two books in our library—[Then Sings My Soul](#) by Robert J. Morgan and [The Hiding Place](#) by Corrie ten Boom. Come check them out, and see what else we have in the library.

By Bennie Duffin

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 2015
Chair, Paul Holden



The Latest from the Trustees

Paul Holden is meeting with the Paulsens regarding their gift.

Mike Johnson has continued to pursue vendors who would perform periodic preventive maintenance on our heating systems.

Mike Johnson had received a couple of estimates for replacing wall heaters. Paul agreed to contact Norm Henderson who works for Scot's Handyman Service to obtain another estimate since \$1,500 per unit seemed high to the group.

Mike Johnson is close to obtaining bids for having the social hall and kitchen floors stripped and buffed.

Paul did not have success selling our extra steam table on Craigs List.

We did enter into a month by month contract with Scot's Handyman Service to rent our storage yard at \$250 per month.

The Board approved the Children's Center requests for building use for the coming year.

Mike Johnson has drafted new building use policies which will now be taken to Church Council for consideration.

Buffy researched possible solar electric vendor options and provided Rev. Mary with the literature.

The Trustees are considering replacing our entry way mats with newer higher textured ones.



Submitted by Patti Melsheimer

Our UMW book club read **The Bite of the Mango** for October. It was a rather sad but enlightening story of a young woman who endured the revolution in Sierra Leone, including having her hands cut off, and still managing to survive and to immigrate to Canada. There she has finished her degree and is working with the UN to help other refugees.

Because of the holidays, we will be combining our November and December meetings. We will meet on Friday, December 11th. For this reading we have chosen a book by a local author, Katherine Prekeris Brown. The book entitled **God, Give Us Wings**. This is a memoir about Ms. Brown's family and their struggle to survive the upheaval of World War II, first in Lithuania, then in exile in Siberia, and then in relocation camps. The editors say, *God, Give Us Wings is a captivating personal snapshot of one of the darkest periods in recent history and of the indomitable power of the human spirit.* "

We have been fortunate to get 10 copies of this book from our library. If you would like to join us in reading this book, please contact Patti Melsheimer. Please join us the fourth Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the McMillan room for fellowship and lively discussions.



In her book, **The Caring Congregation**, Karen Lampe says, "Caring for the congregation is more than any one person can do, even the pastor. All persons eventually experience grief and loss, crisis and suffering; and many come to church for the first time as a result of needing help."

She suggests, "Congregational care should be modeled after the ministry of Jesus, who offered compassion, understanding, healing, and wholeness as a way of offering God's redemptive gift of grace." Congregational Care is one reason, according to pastor Adam Hamilton, that his church is successful in attracting and keeping new members.

Our Arroyo Grande UMC Congregational Care Committee is attempting to provide care for our congregation. If you would like to become a member of this committee we would welcome your interest.

We meet on the second Sunday of each month immediately after second service.

Please contact Patti Melsheimer for more details.





As the signs of fall surround us—autumn leaves, pumpkin pies, yummy turkey, and cooler rainy weather—our thankfulness seems to flow out effortlessly. The excitement of our Thanksgiving season envelops us!

Children will be looking forward to our November 15th Thankful Happening. And while our minds lean toward fowl, the kids will be raising money to buy a different kind of fowl - chickens! These birds will aid to empower people. Our children will help to end world hunger and poverty.



Now that is something to be thankful for!

Our stories for the children are still coming from Genesis, as we follow the family of God. We continue with Isaac and Rebekah and the birth of their twins, Jacob and Esau. These boys would have a lifelong power struggle between them, yet each boy had his own gifts and talents. God blesses us in many different ways. He loves each of us for who we are. Yet, another thing to be thankful for!

Children will continue learning about Esau and Jacob, and the jealousy between older and younger siblings. They will see that God loved and blessed Jacob in spite of his character flaws. God loves us in spite of our flaws as well. Thanks be to God!

We will discuss the blessing Jacob bestowed upon his son, and how deception entered into the picture. In this world, children often equate “cheating” with being acceptable and even smart. It will be stressed that dishonesty always comes with consequences. When we live as the Bible teaches us, we learn to be honest and fair in our dealings with others. We live the way God wants us to. We will be happier. We will be thankful!

Continue to pray for our children and our program here. Remember, we are always looking for volunteers to help with our kids, whether once a month, or as a teacher, or in other ways. Thank you to all who helped with our **Halloween Happening**. See you at our

Thankful Happening!

Many Thanks!
CAROLYN



FIRST UMC OF ARROYO GRANDE
JOY JAR

... Judy Atwood, Lay Leader

Special Joys shared since the last writing. I found more slips in the jar this month. Always fun to go through the collection each month to remember our celebrations. So hopefully we are more aware of the joys we have and are celebrating them. The basket with slips of paper and pens are still by the jar for your use, if you didn't bring some with you. Hope you find it and use it.

New Joys.

- * Joe Brown's daughter is recovering nicely from her surgery
- * Janice and Art Moore have a new great granddaughter
- * Bea Frantz paid us a visit...good to see her
- * Children's Center Fun Day was a success
- * Lucy Jacob and Joel Anderson had a big family birthday celebration
- * Dennis Eiler gave thanks for prayers as he celebrates 10 years of sobriety
- * Al Harvey turned 101
- * Dave Bauer is anticipating a new grandchild
- * Bob Pierson turned 90
- * Don and Helen Gugeler have a new great granddaughter
- * Carolyn Russell has a new full time position at Arroyo Grande High School
- * Lynn and George Stewart have a new great grandson
- * Neil Prestemon's mother is improving from pneumonia
- * Glen Hunt reported on a wonderful memorial service for Al Gorsline
- * Utta and Tom are appreciative of their welcome to their new church home
- * Daniel and Jake and Emerson were glad to be back for a visit before leaving again
- * Chuck Ashton's brother, Jim is doing well after his cancer treatments
- * Linda and Mike Herber celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary
- * Praise and thanks to Susan and Mike Coho for all they do for the church
- * Chuck and Betty's youngest granddaughter celebrated her 16th birthday
- * Bob Thronson's brother, Ron, is doing well following second cataract surgery

How exciting it is to witness to the JOYS among us in the congregation and beyond. I am excited to see how we fill the JOY JAR with the JOYS we have experienced each month.

... Judy Atwood, Lay Leader



News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, *chair*

MISSION TEAM: November 2015

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. UMC #Giving Tuesday
2. Noisy Offering Mission Project
3. Blanket and Jacket Holiday project.

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. UMC #GIVING TUESDAY...As we approach the holiday-giving season, UMC #GivingTuesday is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit of cheerful Christian giving by making a donation through The Advance. On Dec. 1, United Methodists once again are invited to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season by participating in UMC #GivingTuesday.

Every gift made online through [The Advance](http://www.umcmmission.org/give) at www.umcmmission.org/give on Dec. 1, 2015 will be matched up to \$1 million. When you make an online donation on Dec. 1, you will "Activate Love. Transform Lives. Change the World." Last year on UMC #GivingTuesday, United Methodists collectively raised \$2.5 million online through [The Advance](http://www.umcmmission.org/give).

As always, when you give through [The Advance](http://www.umcmmission.org/give), 100 percent of your gift directly supports the ministry you designate; overhead costs are covered through other channels. Love in action transforms lives!

When you donate through [The Advance](http://www.umcmmission.org/give) on Dec. 1, UMC #GivingTuesday, your gift could be matched up to \$1 million.

2: NOISY OFFERING MISSION PROJECT... I hope you have been saving up your change for the children to begin collecting their noisy offering. It has been decided to collect money to purchase flocks of chickens through Heifer International.

Rokomuzzaman Tubin's family in Bangladesh received a flock of chicks from Heifer. The gift of a flock of chicks has changed their lives forever. For \$20, you can make a difference to another family just like the Tubins. Would you like to give the gift?

3. BLANKET AND JACKET HOLIDAY PROJECT...

To remember our neighbors closer to home, we are again collecting blankets and jackets to help them keep warm. Place your items in the red box in the narthex. They will be distributed by the 5 Cities Christian Women and People's Kitchen Give Away. So look in your closets and shelves to see what you no longer need. You may also make a cash donation and we will do the shopping for you. Thanks in advance for your generosity.



Many hands continue to do many things.

To Update Totals

3. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2015

Kits 4 Kids	520.00
ELT Scholarships	2,300.00
Human Relations Sunday	335.00
Native American Sunday	261.00
No More Malaria	12.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	406.00
Peace with Justice	201.00
People's Kitchen food	445.18
People's Kitchen Misc.	7,768.40
Rev. Lang Mission Fund	5,000.00
South County Food Bank	<u>445.20</u>
8 MONTHS TOTAL	\$17,693.78

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</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH)</p>  <p>All Saints Day</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Trustees 12 PM New Member Meeting (PS)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 11 AM Chair Yoga Class (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 PM Church Work Day 9:15 AM Storytime with Pastor & Goodie Bear (N) 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8 AM People's Kitchen Prep-Leave to Serve 11:15 AM 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9:15 AM Storytime with Pastor & Goodie Bear (N) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Rm) 7 PM Worship Team-PS</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Spirit Day at AGUMCC-Wear your shirts! 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 10 AM UMW Boutique Set Up (K,CH) 3:30 PM AGUMCC Closed</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 AM to 3 PM UMW Holiday Boutique (CH, K) 9 AM to 1 PM UMW Holiday Brunch</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH)</p>  <p>New Members Are Joining</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Communication Committee 11:45 AM Congregational Care Committee (L)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 10 AM UMW Steering 11 AM No Yoga this week 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 7 PM Board of Trustees (MMR)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 PM Church Work Day 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study - (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p> <p>★☆☆ Veterans Day ☆★</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 7 PM Finance Team (MMR)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 PM Castanet Newsletter articles due (church office)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 PM Praise Team Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice (S)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH) All Church Coffee Hour 11:30 AM Sunday School Event (CH,K) 11:45 AM Worship Team (MMR)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise-CH 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 11 AM Chair Yoga Class-CH Preschool Board Meeting (MMR) 1:30 PM Open Session 2:30 PM Closed Session 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 7 PM JOY Circle (at the home of a member)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 PM Church Work Day 10 AM Communications (L) 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 8:30 AM UMM (Coco's) 10 AM UMM Tour of AG PD 1 PM Mission Team (MMR)</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH)</p> <p>Blanket, Jacket Blessings Sunday</p> <p>Coffee Hour: Esther Circle</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 11 AM Chair Yoga (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 7 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. John's Lutheran Church</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 9 AM Set Up AGUMCC-CH,K 9:30 AM Mary-Martha (MMR) 12 PM AGUMCC Giving Celebration Event (CH,K) 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM No Dinner 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study On Break 7 PM Chancel Choir On Break</p>	<p>26</p> <p>THANKSGIVING DAY Church Office Closed</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 11 AM UMW Book Club Moved to December 11, 2015</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10 AM Hanging of the Greens 5:30 PM Praise Team Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice (S)</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>Advent</p> <p>8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH) Coffee Hour: Church Council</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>					

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

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Deadline for December Issue
Friday, November 13, at Noon

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Lay Leadership Committee at Work

Lay Leadership/Nominating Committee is working at the important task of creating leadership teams for 2016. We invite you to be in prayer with us as we invite people into leadership as:

Finance Chair
Church Treasurer
Christian Education Chair

We have secured a Church Council Chair to succeed Damien Stednitz provided that we can fill a position he is currently serving. We gratefully welcome Sharon Roemer back into the role of Worship Chair, and we are eager to add team members to work with Church Council, Congregational Care, SPRC, Worship Team and others. The opportunities are many to be a part of strengthening this ministry and shaping the future.

Every pastor is charged with the important task of creating and guiding collaborative teams and managing change in the church. Right now it is more important than ever that intentionally we create strong groups of compatible people and skill-sets to move the church forward.

Your Lay Leadership / Nominating Committee includes Wayne Huggins, Patti Melsheimer, Marj Cawelti, Betty Ashton, and Judy Atwood. If you have input as to someone you might see as an able leader in any of these areas, let me or one of these team members know what you're thinking.

---Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



FREE WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

We continue to offer Wednesday 5 PM free meals for the church and the community.

LET'S PLAN AHEAD!

Get your name on the calendar for helping with a meal. The ministry of a free meal to anyone continues on with your help.



Joy Collins	Nov 2
Bill Cross	Nov 5
Damien Stednitz	Nov 5
Harold Headrick	Nov 8
Dionne Gregory	Nov 9
Bonnie Swafford	Nov 13
RoseMary MacKeen	Nov 16
Carol Ferrari	Nov 18
Lynn Foster	Nov 21
Helen Gugeler	Nov 21
Christina Cuddy	Nov 23
Adrian Paredes	Nov 23
Jessica Williams	Nov 25
Mike Albertson	Nov 26
David Burgeson	Nov 26
Iris Caldon	Nov 26
Larry Wiemers	Nov 28
Del Hollinger	Nov 29

Did we miss a birthday?

Contact our church office...we need you to fill out an information form for you and your family.



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
 Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
 Address SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE!

CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

Saturday, December 5

11:00 AM — 2:00 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARROYO GRANDE
 275 N. HALCYON ROAD
 ARROYO GRANDE

- NEW SOCKS & WARM CLOTHES
 - CHRISTMAS GIFTS
 - BLANKETS
 - JACKETS
 - MUCH MORE !!



Helping those in need and the homeless of our Community

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com
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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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A  From the Choir Director...

The choir is back in full swing and preparing for our **Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service** as well as practicing Christmas music. I know, it's impossible to believe that it's here again.

The Ecumenical Service this year will be at St John's Lutheran Church with a slight twist: it will be held November 24, Tuesday instead of Wednesday night. Our choir will be joining with other church choirs from the area singing "Simple Praise." Always a lovely time.

Our choir is preparing a **Christmas Cantata** called "*Sing With The Angels.*" It tells the Christmas story from the vantage point of angels...from Gabriel's first appearance to Zacharias, to the glorious scene of angels filling the heavens singing "*Gloria in excelsis Deo,*" which we will perform for the congregation on **December 20th at the 10:30 service.** We are hoping to have some instrumentalists accompany us and we will also be playing a Christmas number with the bells. There will be a part for the congregation as well near the end of the Cantata.

Everyone gets so busy during this time of year. Remember to take time to enjoy your family, friends and just bask in all the glorious wonderful things God provides for us. Stop and listen to an old hymn or Christmas carol.

There is always room in the choir for more folks to come and join us in making a joyful noise unto the Lord. Come on down on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:30. We really do have loads of fun and precious time together.

Happy Thanksgiving with a grateful heart for this church,
 Julie Burns

