



"Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Go—Share Christ."

Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

DECEMBER 2015



Thursday, December 24th
7:30 P.M. SANCTUARY



A Service of
Scripture,
Candlelight
& Carols

With the
Chancel
Choir &
Soloists

MESSAGE:

"SPECIAL DELIVERY: Love is Born"

Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

Photo by Judy Atwood

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



From the Pastor

***“He slips into time zones without headlines, amid dove feathers and straw,
and slowly we discern in the shadows of our separation
the silhouette of Love.”***

Anonymous

Christian Friends,

The Advent-Christmas journey is a journey into light! Against the backdrop of a world filled with violence, homelessness and hunger, people of faith bear witness to the light. We reverence life. We honor the beauty and dignity of persons. And together, we reach out with compassion to touch the lives of people in need.

Many, this season, know the “shadows of separation.” Loved ones have died in terror attacks, and people are traumatized the world over. Global conflicts have called pilgrims to journey to faraway places into uncertain futures. And so, we pray for immigrants and we pray for refugees. We pray for military personnel, world leaders and residents who remain in war-torn homelands.

These are not the first “dark nights” into which the world has traveled. Remember Joseph. Remember Mary. And think of wise men, shepherds and ordinary people. Into their dark nights God came with love and light! We can share God’s love and light this season, and we can know God’s abiding peace in the midst of this darkness. Let others see in us the “silhouette of love.”

Our giving to the church is always an act of faith in the future and a blessed affirmation of the value of the work we share. Your generosity is always appreciated. Beyond giving, let your presence in worship this Advent be a gift to God as we honor the Christ Child all season and as we celebrate Jesus’ birth on Christmas Eve, lighting candles in a Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary.

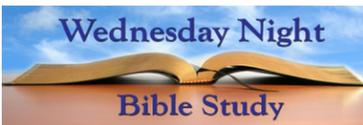
You are the Light of the World together as you reflect God’s peace, God’s power and God’s grace. Come together each Sunday this season to renew your hope and bear witness to the light. Let a prayer-filled Advent be ours together.

Christmas Peace & Blessings,

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



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
Wednesday, December 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study <i>Christmas Is Not Your Birthday</i> Session 3 <i>Scandalous Love</i>
Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday of Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS: Faith Prepares" Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6
Wednesday, December 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study <i>Christmas Is Not Your Birthday</i> Session 4: <i>Jesus' Wish List</i>
Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "A SONG IN THE SOUL: Joy Receives" Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 1:39-56
Wednesday, December 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study <i>Christmas Is Not Your Birthday</i> Session 5: <i>By A Different Road</i> Final Study of this series
Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis—"A STAR IN THE NIGHT: Peace Shines" Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:39-45 CHRISTMAS CANTATA "Sing with the Angels!" By Joel Raney
Wed., December 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study on Christmas Break
Thursday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 P.M. A Service of Lessons and Carols Meditation by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis—"SPECIAL DELIVERY: Love is Born"
Sunday, December 27 First Sunday after Christmas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis— "FULL SPEED AHEAD" Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40
Wed., December 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Study New Year Break
Sunday, January 3 Epiphany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Sunday, December 20th

10:30 A.M.

Worship Service



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Chancel Choir
 presents the
 Christmas Cantata

"Sing with the Angels!"

By Joel Raney

With special musicians:
 Cello- Alisha Bauer
 Flute- Kristy Aston
 Percussion-Leonard Lutz



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

Val McClure, publicity

News &
Announcements

DECEMBER UMM JUBILEE to be a Humdinger

Bernie Hawkins, Chairman for the 4th Annual All Church Christmas Jubilee, assures us that this year's event will be the best ever. The Talent Show now has over eleven acts promised and will include singing, dancing, magic, and drama. All participants will be from our own congregation .

The Methodist Men will have a table full of Christmas goodies, and the best part is that it's all FREE. The event will take place on **Friday, December 11** from 7-9:30 p.m. in Criswell Hall. What a great way to start out the Christmas Holiday with the entire Family! Don't miss this fun-filled event.

HELP NEEDED

One of the Jubilee acts needs some help from the congregation in finding some props for their presentation. **Needed are:** Some cold weather hats with ear flaps (fur?), a "buckskin" shirt (large), two Pistol gun belts, two children cap guns or old time pistols. All items will be on "loan" and returned promptly after the Jubilee. If you have any of these items, see Val McClure.



HAPPY NEW YEAR starts with a BANG!
SATURDAY, January 16th, at 8:30 a.m.
will be the first **BREAKFAST MEETING**
at Coco's Restaurant.

The big news is that Vice President Paul Holden has secured **LYNN COMPTON,**

our 4th District Supervisor from the SLO Board of Supervisors, to be the keynote speaker. She will be able to bring the UMM and their guests an update on everything going on in the county and answer direct questions from those attending. Ladies are invited to this event and can reserve their place by being added to a guest list with President Chuck Ashton.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24TH All Church PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The first 2016 All Church Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, Jan. 24th with serving time from 8:30 -10:30 a.m.

Breakfast

Set-Up for the event will be on Saturday Jan. 23rd at 3:00 p.m. Kitchen crew and set up crew, please take note. Let Chuck Ashton know if you can't help.



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

Review of 2015 for our UMW

Our United Methodist Women of Arroyo Grande have been very active and successfully reached our goals for 2015. Our Circles have met regularly for studies and fellowship.

This year started with our annual Women's Sunday on January 18th. Our Guest preacher, Rev. Son Hye Kim, inspired us to reach out to our community and make our neighbors feel welcome at our church. It was a joy for many of us to welcome our previous associate minister back into our pulpit. Eva McClure and Barbara Reineke received Special Recognition pins for their years of service to UMW.

On January 31st our women hosted the Santa Barbara District UMW Leadership Training Workshop.

February 1st we held a Super Chili Bowl Sunday. We raised \$4487.48 for our mission projects.

On May 9th, we had our Mother/Daughter luncheon. We served 100 people. Our United Methodist Men were our charming waiters. It was a lovely event with harpist Renee David providing music and a flower

arranging program demonstrated by Crystal Weitkamp. Our Spring Theme Baskets garnered us additional funds for our mission projects.

On August 7th we held our United Methodist Women's Spiritual Retreat at the home of Patti Melsheimer. Our leader was our own Pastor, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis. Approximately forty women attended. The theme was "Created for Happiness: Understanding your life in God". What a wonderful day we had, getting to know our new minister on a personal basis and growing closer in our relationship with God.

Saturday, November 7th was our final event. Our Holiday Boutique and Brunch was a huge success, thanks to the support of our members and the congregation. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!!! We raised over three thousand dollars!!! We will be sending 60% of the monies from our pledges and fund raisers to our national headquarters to be used for national and international projects supported by United Methodist Women, and we will use 40% here for local charities chosen by our Circle members.



Photo by Cristy Van Hook

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, November 22, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis received as members of our church, from left to right:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Glen Werling | 6 Judy Woodbridge |
| 2 Shirley Werling | 7 Armando Lucero |
| 3 Gene Heiney | 8 Gertrude Lucero |
| 4 Judy Heiney | 9 Jutta Singleton |
| 5 Nancy Pabst | 10 Tom Taylor |

At far right: Rev. Mary Birgelaitis

Meet Betty and Bud Johnson

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION—Married for 60 years

An interview with David Beaman 10/17/2015

The happy couple are Betty and Donald (Bud) Johnson who live in Nipomo and are members at First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande since 1994.

There are 27 members in their family with No. 27 being Parker who arrived last July 27th. (Betty has a hobby of Detailed Family Record Keeping.) Son Jeff and wife Sharon have three children and live in Crescent City, CA. Daughter Deborah and husband Dennis Marchiano have three children and live in Nipomo CA, and son Gregory and wife Valerie have three children and live in Santa Rosa, CA. Betty remarked that within the parent group there are four school teachers. And now...with a new generation...they also have four great grandsons. All very interesting details that mirror the pride she has in her family.



Betty was born in Hampden, MA but later moved to East Longmeadow, MA. Bud was born in Springfield, MA and later, also moved to East Longmeadow MA., where they met while attending the Congregational Church—and this is where they were married in September, 1955.

In 1970, Bud was transferred to Los Angeles, by McGraw Edison/Toastmaster Commercial Cooking Division and the family of five settled in Claremont, in Southern California. They joined the Congregational Church, then transferred to the very active United Methodist Church of Claremont, with the School of Theology close by. Two years later, Bud accepted a position of Regional Sales Manager with American Saw (Lenox) Manufacturing Company and was responsible for the thirteen Western States and the four Western Provinces of Canada. He retired 26 years later.

Betty took advantage of living near so many universities by enrolling and obtaining a college degree from Cal Poly, Pomona, in 1984. Having majored in Humanities and U.S. History, she was hired by the famous Huntington Library as a Section Docent. She taught histories of England and America to upper high school students utilizing the available resources of original and historical objects, pictures, documents and books housed in this storied and respected library.

Bud enjoys playing golf and bocce ball, plus is a member of RAMS and Masons.

Betty enjoys photography, doing family ledgers, creative writing, painting and also playing bocce ball. Many of her artistic pieces are displayed on the walls of their home.

Bud has served our church as Lay Leader, UMM President, Pastor/Parish Committee and serves as an usher.

Betty is a member of the Chancel Choir, serves the church as a JOY Circle member, and was their President. At another time, she was Co-President for the total number of UMW Circles. She has served on the Communication Committee. She is also a Member of the P.E.O. Women's Organization.

Having been lifelong church members, Betty and Bud remarked that "famous church MUSIC always means a lot to help prepare for the service message. CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS A TIME TO THINK AND TO MAKE A FIRM CONNECTION WITH SPIRITUAL ENLIGHTENMENT." They both "brought a LOT to the table" as we enjoyed our hour long visit.

LIBRARY NEWS

Submitted by Bennie Duffin

At 6'6" and weighing close to 300 pounds, Phillips Brooks cut quite an imposing figure! He was an Episcopalian minister. While traveling from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on December 24, 1865, he attended a five hour service at the Church of the Nativity. Standing near the spot where it is thought Jesus was born, he felt he could hear voices talking about the wonderful night of Jesus' birth.

Three years later while preparing for the Christmas season he remembered the peaceful view of 19th century Bethlehem from Palestine at night. He composed a hymn for the children to sing. It marvels that in the dark and quiet beauty of this little town the Everlasting Light was born.

He handed the words to the church organist, Lewis Redner, to set to music. The organist felt no inspiration at first, but on the night before the Christmas program he awoke with the music in his soul. He quickly wrote it down and then fell back asleep. The next day 6 Sunday school teachers and 36 children sang "*O Little Town of Bethlehem*"—one of the most loved hymns of Christmas.

This information is from [Then Sings My Soul](#), a book in our library, and a new book [The Sounds of the Season](#) by David Parker.

We also have some great Christmas DVDs:

1. [The Christmas Choir](#)—A man working with men from a homeless shelter who form a Christmas Choir.
2. [Joseph of Nazareth](#)—A man of faith who has to deal with the virgin birth and the challenges of protecting and raising Jesus.
3. [Bethlehem Year Zero](#)—The birth of Jesus and surrounding events as TV news would cover it today.
4. [The Mystery of the Three Kings](#)—Their origins and the gifts they brought Jesus.
5. [The True Christmas Story](#)—A presentation of archaeological evidence and biblical teachings, and the historical record of contrasting two kings—Herod and Jesus.

We have a copy of [Guideposts](#) "*The Joy of Christmas 2015*".

**COME CHECK THESE OUT AND
SEE OUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 2015
Chair, Paul Holden



The Latest from the Trustees

Mike Johnson has contracted Executive Janitorial to strip, clean, wax and buff our Social Hall and Kitchen floors the weekend of November 20th.

Mike has received three vendor bids for maintenance of the Church's oven, refrigeration, and forced air heating systems. He is preparing final agreements for the services for the board to approve at our December meeting.

The board approved the purchase and installation of a new wall heater for the youth room.

The new building use policies the board adopted in September will be brought forth at the November Church Council meeting.

The Heating System for the Children's Center is not supplying even heat to all its room. Some rooms during cold spells are not heating up to the State required 68 degrees. It is hoped that cleaning out the vents and ducts will fix the situation. Mike will work on contacting a vendor who can perform the task.

Paul entered an authorized agreement on the Church's behalf with Ride On transportation services. They will mount a spare key box on our storage shed in return for 2 days a year use of one of their vans. One of the days can include a driver for up to 4 hours.

The board approved that the Church property become a smoke free environment. If Church Council approves this action, Buffy will work at obtaining signage and Paul will lead the project to install the signs.

The board approved the acquisition of a rug cleaner for the men's crew's use. Buffy will find the best deal on the desired rug cleaner.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTERS

Have you ever wondered why we decorate with poinsettias at Christmas? It is said that the poinsettia has a Christian significance. One tale suggests that it was first brought to this country from Mexico by Dr. Joel Poinsett. It was in 1825 that Poinsett, then U.S. Minister to Mexico, became familiar with this beautiful crimson plant that covers the hillsides in Mexico.

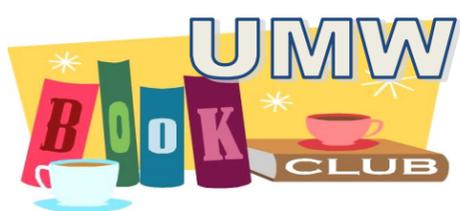
After four years, he returned to his Charleston, S.C., home and brought with him some of the plants and a Mexican legend. They called it the "**flower of the holy night**," and associated it with a story about a little girl who wept on her way to church on Christmas Eve because she had no gift to bring. As she knelt on the ground to pray, she saw this lovely plant and gladly took its red beauty into the church as her Christmas gift to the Christ child.



Each year the **Congregational Care Committee** coordinates the delivery of those lovely **Christmas Poinsettias** to our members who are shut-in or unable to come to church during the Christmas season. Approximately 25 flowers are delivered each year. If you would like to assist in this effort, please sign up at the Congregational Care table in Criswell Hall during coffee hour or fill out the form included in your Sunday Bulletin. Members of both first and second service are needed to accomplish this task.

If you are not able to deliver a flower you may want to pay for a flower that someone else will deliver. You may sign up to underwrite the cost of a poinsettia at the CCC table or complete the insert found in your Sunday bulletin.

Thank you for your assistance in this effort to share the Christmas Poinsettias! —Patti Melsheimer



We will be meeting this month on **Friday, December 18th**. We are reading a book by a local author, Katherine Prekeris Brown. The book is entitled **God Give Us Wings**.

This is a memoir about the author's family and their struggle to survive the upheaval of World War II, first in Lithuania and then in exile in Germany and then in relocation camps. **We are very fortunate that the author has agreed to join us** for this meeting and will be sharing with us about her experiences. We will also have a potluck lunch. We will meet at 11:00 AM to hear from Ms. Brown and to enjoy lunch together. Please contact Patti Melsheimer for further information to join us.



FIRST UMC OF ARROYO GRANDE
JOY JAR

... Judy Atwood, Lay Leader

Yuletide Greetings!

Warm wishes to all! We have some very wonderful things happening for our kids. As we enter into the Advent Season, our children will have a special place each Sunday during the second service, as they will be invited to participate in the lighting of the advent candles! The candles will be HOPE, FAITH, JOY, PEACE and then LOVE for Christmas. Children will be following along with their Deep Blue teachings from the Book of Luke, with Gabriel's Message, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the story of Jesus' birth and the Joyous News. The Christmas story will fill their December lessons, and we hope it will fill their hearts as well!

During this time of giving, children will be encouraged to collect coins for their "Noisy Offering". Monies gathered will go to help buy chickens to empower impoverished families in other countries. Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Children will learn that they too can help, as we join with Heifer International to buy some of these life changing animals.

Don't forget the Holiday Jamboree on December 11, from 7:00—9:30 p.m., when our congregation shares their special gifts and talents on stage in Criswell Hall! This should be a great family time event! Come, see, hear, laugh and have fun!

Talking about fun, have your kids ever wanted to wear their PJ's to church? Well, on December 20, they are encouraged to do so! We will also be hosting a Kids' Day Out right after the 10:30 a.m. service coffee hour starting at 12:00. This will be a time to create crafts, sing songs, have lunch and watch a movie! Parents are free to run errands at this time! Word has it that Santa Claus may even visit, bringing joyful news with him! The event will begin at 12:00 p.m. and will end at 2:30. Pillows and blankets are encouraged as well. This event will be free with donations gladly accepted.

This year, our Christmas Eve service will include the choir and a song from our children as well. (We hope to practice during our Kids' Day Out time?) This service begins at 7:30 p.m. on December 24, and will be a Candlelight service! It should be a very heartwarming and centering time for all.

During this season, we hope to encourage family time and church time. The world needs all the love it can get, and we hope to be sharing that love with the children of our community. We invite all families and children to come and experience our Advent Season together. *Merry Christmas to All!*
Carolyn Russell



Special Joys shared since the last writing.

We should be thinking a lot at this time of year of our Joys, so I hope to find many slips of paper in the jar at the end of December, The basket with slips of paper and pens is still by the jar for your use, if you didn't bring some with you. Hope you find it and use it.

NEW JOYS

This month, I want to take the freedom of listing a few that come to my mind:

- *A large class of new members joining the church
- *The Wednesday crew that keep the facility looking nice and in good repair
- *Clean shiny floors in Criswell Hall and the Kitchen and Pantry
- *Bulletin and Newsletter folders
- *Computer fixer in the office
- *Food give away each Monday
- *5 Cities Christian Women ministry
- *People's Kitchen meals
- *Upcoming Angel tree with gifts for children in need
- *Christmas Offering to support our various ministries
- *Staff who support and help in the direction of our ministry
- *Music program and the hours shared to make this possible
- *Ministry provided by the Children's Center as they guide young lives
- *United Methodist Women and their ministries
- *United Methodist Men and their ministries
- *Any and all other ministries that I have not mentioned. All are important.

Have a blessed Advent season as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ our Savior. Go forth sharing this Good News!

How exciting 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 this month.

News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, *chair*

MISSION TEAM: Nov. 2015

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. UMC #Giving Tuesday
2. Noisy Offering Mission Project
3. Advent Prayer Journey
4. Special Giving Totals

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. NOW IS THE TIME. Every gift made online through [The Advance](http://www.umcmision.org/give) at www.umcmision.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.umcmision.org/give).

As always, when you give through [The Advance](http://www.umcmision.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.umcmision.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.

We will begin this offering on Dec. 13th so be ready to greet the children with your coins. (Bills or checks would also be accepted!)



3. ADVENT PRAYER JOURNEY. You might want to pray with a camera in hand each day and see what you record. You COULD make this a FAMILY AFFAIR. It could be lots of fun as well as a learning time. Begin Nov 29 Hope, 30 Prepare, Dec 1 Wait, 2 Journey, 3 Open, 4 Comfort, 5 Wisdom, 6 Peace, 7 Listen, 8 Free, 9 Justice, 10 Awake, 11 Mystery, 12 Grace, 13 Joy, 14 Ponder, 15 Sign, 16 Praise, 17 Release, 18 Promise, 19 Faith, 20 Love, 21 Wonder, 22 Community, 23 Gift, 24 Birth, 25 Light.

Many hands continue to do many things.



4. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2015

ELT Scholarships	50.00
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	342.13
People's Kitchen Misc.	5931.00
Rev. Lang Mission Fund	5000.00
South County Food Bank	342.14
World Communion Sunday	<u>203.25</u>
<u>10 MONTHS TOTAL:</u>	\$13,083.52

**A THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION.
DON'T ASK GOD TO GUIDE YOUR FOOTSTEPS, IF
YOU'RE NOT WILLING TO MOVE YOUR FEET.**

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 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)	2 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 Advent Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)	3 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	4 Spirit Day at AGUMCC-Wear your shirts! 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 PM Set Up for Parking Lot Giveaway (CH,L,N,K) 3:30 PM AGUMCC Closed	5 8 AM Set UpUMC Christmas Parking Lot Giveaway (N,CH,K,L) EVENT 11 AM to 2 PM 3 PM AGUMCC Parent Night Out Set Up (PR,MMR, K, CY) EVENT 4 PM to 8 PM
	6 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH) Coffee Hour: Staff Parish Relations Committee	7 9 AM AGUMCC Christmas Rehearsal (S) 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)	8 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 9 AM AGUMCC Christmas Rehearsal (S) 10 AM UMW Steering 11 AM Chair Yoga (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 7 PM Board of Trustees (MMR)	9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM AGUMCC Christmas Rehearsal (S) 9 PM Church Work Day 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Advent Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)	10 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM AGUMCC Christmas Rehearsal (S) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM Esther Circle (MMR) 3 PM Set Up AGUMCC Christmas Program (CH,S,K) Program 6:30-7 PM 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room) 7 PM Finance Team (MMR)	11 8:30 AM Bible Study 12 PM Newsletter articles due (office) 6 PM UMM Set-Up for Show 6-7 PM 7-9:30 PM UMM Holiday Jubilee (CH)
13 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH) 11:30 AM Sunday School Event (CH,K) 11:45 AM CCC (MMR) 12 PM SPRC (L) Coffee Hour: Finance Team	14 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)	15 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)	16 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 Advent Bible Study (CH) PM Chancel Choir (S)	17 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 12 PM FCCW-Food & Gift Outreach (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room)	18 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 9 AM FCCW-Food & Gift Outreach (CH)	19 7 AM FCCW-Food & Gift Outreach (CH,N) 6 PM Chancel Choir Party –Home of Melsheimers
20 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 Traditional Service CHRISTMAS CANTATA 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH) 12 PM Children's—Parents Day Out Coffee Hour: JOY Circle	21 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)	22 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 11 AM Chair Yoga (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room)	23 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 Bible Study on Break 7 PM Chancel Choir on Break	24 Church Office Closed 7:30 PM CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 	25 Church Office Closed CHRISTMAS DAY 	26 5:30 PM Praise Team Set-Up (S) 6:30 PM Praise Team Practice (S)
27 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service 10:30 AM Youth Bible Study (CH) Coffee Hour: All Church	28 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)	29 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 11 AM Chair Yoga (CH) 5 PM Grande Ringers Practice (Handbell Room)	30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day Celebration Event (CH,K) 12 PM Ladies Christian Counseling Groups (L) 5 PM No Dinner 5:45 PM Bible Study On Break 7 PM Chancel Choir On Break	31 	1 JANUARY New Years Day Church Office Closed	2 JANUARY



Church Office: (805) 481-2692
E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net
Find us on Facebook at: United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag
Senior Pastor:
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Deadline for January Issue
Friday, December 11th, at Noon
PLEASE NOTE:
 Layout Editor reserves the right to cut and edit articles to meet space limitations.



FIVE CITIES CHRISTIAN WOMEN are handing out food boxes at our church on **Saturday, December 19th** from 10 AM to 1 PM to families who have requested our help for Christmas. Gifts donated by the **California Poppies Decorative Artists** will be given to children. The **Helping Hands from Harvest Church**—the old Methodist Church in the village—will provide knitted and crocheted hats and mittens and gently used jackets and coats. The blankets donated by **you, the congregation**, will be given out. The **United Methodist Children's Center** held a Pennies for Turkeys drive and donated the money to us. **Boy Scout Pack 413** will be on hand to fill the boxes and carry them to the cars. It is wonderful to see so many groups working together for a good cause!

We are in need of canned yams, canned sweet potatoes and canned chicken broth, or mixes. These may be left in our basket in the narthex or delivered to our pantry at 192B South 9th Street, Grover Beach, Monday through Friday 8:30 to 9:30 AM or 2 to 4 PM. Monetary donations are needed checks may be made out to FCCW and mailed to FCCW, PO Box 756, Grover Beach 93483.



The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree has returned this year with gift tags on the tree to aid foster children and other children in need. The Angel Tree is now set up in Criswell Hall.

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



David Beaman	12/3
Mike Takenaka	12/5
Stephen Wise	12/5
Michael Balster	12/7
Adeline Bottorff	12/8
Mike Coho	12/9
Gage Dowd	12/9
Mike Clark	12/9
Eva McClure	12/9
Jamie Foster	12/9
William Russell	12/9
Richard Duffin	12/13
Susan Thronson	12/13
Julie Burns	12/16
Mary Green	12/17
Kent Unsworth	12/20
David Bauer	12/22
Cyndee Rohla	12/24
Eric Duffin	12/26
Caress Dowd	12/26
Jed Moore	12/27
Nicole Baughman	12/27
Joe Leonard	12/27
Mike Jacob	12/28
Elizabeth Alquist	12/29
Harry Egan	12/30



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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 Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
 Address SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

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www.facebook.com/fumcag

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

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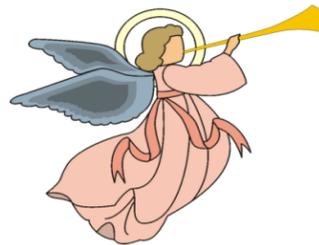
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Children's Center Chronicle

Announcing UMM 4th Annual
Jubilee
 Friday, Dec. 11—7-9:30 PM—Criswell Hall



Fun for the whole Family
 Refreshments—and it's all **FREE**



Don't Miss the "All Church"
TALENT SHOW at the **JUBILEE**