

Luke 15:11-32

The Story of the Lost Son
From *The Message* translation



There was once a man who had two sons. The younger son said to his father:

Father, I want right now what's coming to me."

So the father divided the property between them. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any. That brought him to his senses. He said:

"All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand."

He got right up and went home to his father. When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech:

"Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again."

But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to his servants:

"Quick. Bring a set of clean clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!"

And they began to have a wonderful time. All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day's work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him:

"Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbequed beef—because he has him home safe and sound."

The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said:

"Look how many years I've stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief. But have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!"

His father said:

"Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he's alive! He was lost, and he's found."

Today's Liturgist: Elwood Hyden

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Contact us.

Church Office: 805 . 481 . 2692

Church Office Open:

Monday-Thursday from 9 AM – 1 PM

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 through Friday 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM.
We invite you to visit and see if we are a good fit for your family.

Office Hours: M—F from 9 AM—5 PM

Office: 805 . 481 . 2223

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net



Cal-Pac Conference Bishop:

Grant J. Hagiya

North District Superintendent:

Rev. James Powell

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis

Missionary (retired) / Lay Leader:

Judy Atwood

Church Office Administrator:

Frances Robertson

Website Manager:

Jamie Foster

Choir Director:

Julie Burns

Choral Pianist:

Dennis Eiler

Praise Team Leader:

Mike Clark

Handbell Choir Director:

Leonard Lutz

Multi-Media Director:

Duncan Leonard

Children's Education Director:

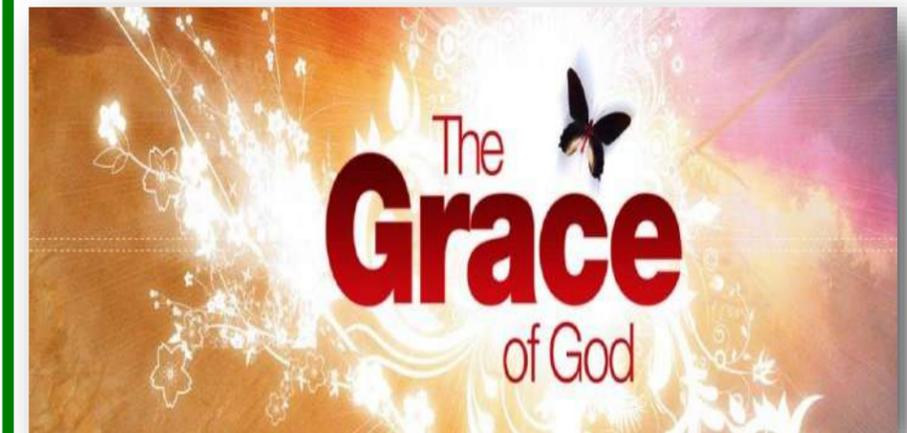
TBS

AG UM Children's Center

Director: Madrigal Quagliano

(805) 481-2223

8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE



September 3, 2017



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Welcome to Worship!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 3, 2017

8:30 AM

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Music by the Lord's Crew

Gathering

*OPENING PRAISE All the People Said Amen

WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

*PRAISE All the Heavens
Oh Lord You're Beautiful
Holy Spirit Rain Down

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing Joys & Concerns
Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Sharing and Responding to God's Word

SONG OF ILLUMINATION Great is Thy Faithfulness

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:11-32

SERMON PORTAL OF GRACE: "The Father"

OFFERING SONG Oh, How I Love Jesus

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG Lord You Have My Heart

*FINAL BLESSING Grace Greater than Our Sin

*CLOSING SONG Victory in Jesus

*Worshippers stand as able

The Bulletin Board



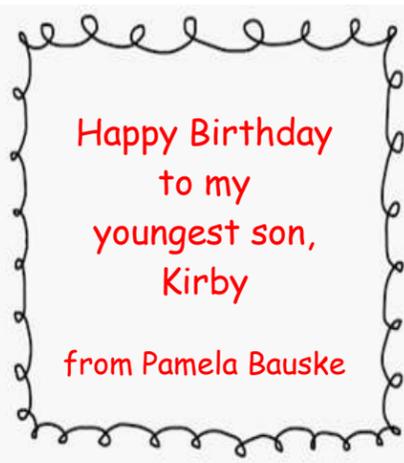
Coffee Hour Today is hosted by

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Next Week's Coffee Hour will be hosted by

JOY CIRCLE

We thank you all for your service to our church!



Abbreviation Legend

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



Monday—9/4

- No Emergency Food Pantry—Holiday
- Church Office Closed



Tuesday—9/5

- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
- Sew 'n' Sews plus Knitters—9 AM—MMR
- UMW Chair Yoga Class—11 AM—CH
- Handbell Rehearsal—5 PM—HR

Wednesday—9/6

- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
- Church Work Day—9 AM
- Free Fellowship Dinner—5 PM—CH
- Adult Study—5:45 PM—CH
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal—7 PM—S

Thursday—9/7

- People's Kitchen Prep—K—8 AM; 11:15 AM leave to serve
- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
- UMM Camp Roberts Trip by bus—Lv 9 AM
- Intercessory Prayer—10 AM—L
- Handbell Rehearsal—5 PM—HR
- Family Fun Day Planning Mtg—6 PM—MMR

- Worship Team—6 PM—Pastor's Study

Friday—9/8

- Bible Study—8:30 AM—L

Saturday—9/9

- Nothing currently scheduled



FIELD TRIP TO CAMP ROBERTS



- Visit to Camp Roberts Army Base—facility and museum
- Mess Hall lunch—\$5
- Travel on Ride-On Bus—FREE!
- Depart Church parking lot at 9 AM for hour ride to Camp Roberts
- Sign up now with Paul Holden as the date is near and the seating is limited
- Men and women invited

CHRIST, Praying Himself, Teaches Us How to Pray

Come to the AG United Methodist Church, Criswell Hall, the 8 Wednesdays of September and October from 5:45-6:45 PM.



Join in "Praying Together", an adult study class led by Dr. Alice A. Addison,

with James Banks's 2016 Discovery House book, Praying Together—Kindling a Passion for Prayer, and your Bible.

Sign ups going on after 10:30 service today to get your book.



WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN THE CHURCH

All who regularly attend worship and haven't joined the church by taking the step of membership are invited to do so!

Let Pastor Mary know you are wishing to join, meet with her, and we can schedule a Sunday to officially welcome you.



Choir Rehearsals Resume

Choir Rehearsals Have Begun! Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Welcome Returning Choir Members
We Invite New Members

For more information contact Julie Burns, Chancel Choir Director

FREE WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

Starting Wednesday Sep. 6 at 5 PM, please join us for the free meals for the church and the community in Criswell Hall.



Let's Plan Ahead!

Get your name on the calendar for helping with a meal. There are funds to reimburse for expenses if you desire.

Please contact Judy Atwood, Lay Leader

WRITING YOUR LIFE STORIES

Want to write about your life? Want to leave stories—that only you can tell—for your friends and family? Then try out the *Writing Your Life Stories* group activity.

We start meeting again on Thursday, September 14 at 1:30 PM in the McMillen Room. Questions? Contact Roger Sperling



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	TOTAL
Aug 6	38	87	125
Aug 13	37	81	118
Aug 20	37	90	127
Aug 27	28	72	100

OUR GIFTS

	Weekly Offerings	Budgeted:	\$4,830
Aug 6	Received:	\$9,291	
Aug 13	Received:	\$5,386	
Aug 20	Received:	\$2,122	
Aug 27	Received:	\$3,196	

Fiscal Year to Date Budgeted regular giving: \$38,642
Fiscal Year to Date Received: \$38,753
Joel Anderson, Acting Treasurer

Luke 15:11-32

The Story of the Lost Son

From *The Message* translation

There was once a man who had two sons. The younger son said to his father:

“Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.”

So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncoobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any. That brought him to his senses. He said:

“All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.”

He got right up and went home to his father. When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech:

“Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.”

But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to his servants:

“Quick. Bring a set of clean clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!”

And they began to have a wonderful time. All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him:

“Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbequed beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.”

The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said:

“Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief. But have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!”

His father said:

“Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found.”

Today’s Liturgists: David Beaman, Judy Leonard, Roger Sperling, Nancy St. Laurent, Cristy Van Hook



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

275 North Halcyon Road
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Contact us.

Church Office: 805 . 481 . 2692

Church Office Open:

Monday—Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM

On The Web @ worshipweekly.com

Via E-mail: fumcag@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis: revmaryb@fumcag.org



Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children’s Center

Program tours are given by appointment ONLY on Monday through Friday between 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM or 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM. We invite you to visit and see if we are a good fit for your family.

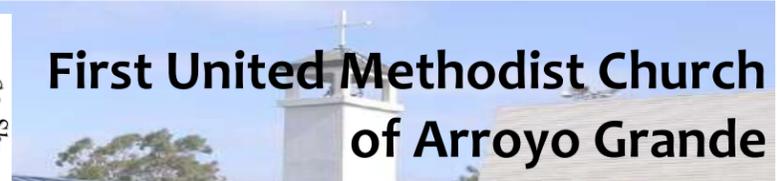
Office Hours: M—F from 9 AM—5 PM

Office: 805 . 481 . 2223

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

<p>Cal-Pac Conference Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya</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>Praise Team Leader: Mike Clark</p> <p>Handbell Choir Director: Leonard Lutz</p> <p>Multi-Media Director: Duncan Leonard</p> <p>Children’s Education Director: TBS AG UM Children’s Center</p> <p>Director: Madrigal Quaglino (805) 481-2223</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



Welcome to Worship!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 3, 2017

10:30 AM

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

CENTERING WORDS

“For years, I had instructed students on the different aspects of the spiritual life, trying to help them see the importance of living it. But had I, myself, really ever dared to step into the center, kneel down and let myself be held by a forgiving God?”

---Henri Nouwen, The Return of the Prodigal Son

...new opportunities, new life, new hope...

Open your heart to Christ and be renewed in joy and hope.

WELCOMING OUR VISITORS

PRELUDE

Here I Am to Worship

Tim Hughes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The old has passed away.

Our yesterdays are past and gone.

Today is alive with fresh possibilities.

The present is vibrant with new opportunities.

In Christ, we find forgiveness and grace.

In Christ, we enjoy mercy and grace.

OPENING HYMN

Amazing Grace verses 1-3

No. 378

OPENING PRAYER *(seated)*

God of forgiveness and renewal,

open our hearts to the call to return home to your love and grace.

Bless us and renew us,

that we may live as new creations, building your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Carolyn Russell

Nursery care is available.

Children ages K-6 are dismissed with their teachers at this time.

A TIME OF PRAYER

Choral Call to Prayer

Cares Chorus

TFWS #2215

Congregational Prayer

Choral Response

Cares Chorus

TFWS #2215

SPECIAL MUSIC *Grace Alone* Brown, Nelson
Ann Wilson, Janice Moore, *duet*

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:11-32
“...this parable is a window through which I can step into the Kingdom of God.”

HYMN (*remain seated*) *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy* No. 121

SERMON *PORTAL OF GRACE: “The Father”*
...an invitation to enter the story...

OFFERING
Invitation to the Offering
Offertory *I Worship You, Almighty God* Sondra Corbett-Wood
*Doxology/Blessing of the Offering
*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Hymnal, page 15

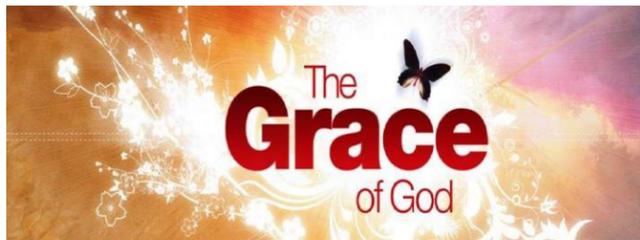
Communion Music *More Than Wonderful* Lanny Wolfe

*HYMN *Amazing Grace* verses 4-6 No. 378

*BENEDICTION

We, who were lost, have been found.
We, who were dead, have received new life.
Go and share God’s welcome with the world.
We go to welcome everyone home.

POSTLUDE *Your Grace is Enough* Matt Maher

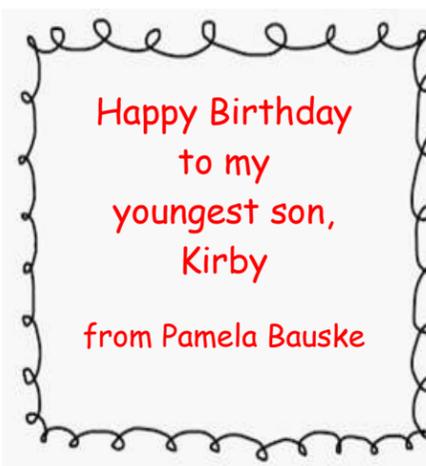
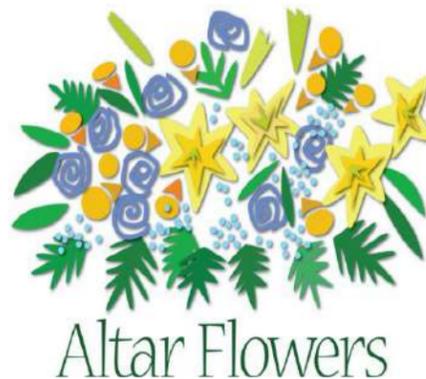


*Worshippers stand as able

© 2017 Mary Scifres for Mary Scifres Ministries. Permission for reprint and ideas use granted to all subscribers and their local churches. For additional reprint permissions, contact maryscifresministries@gmail.com



Coffee Hour Today
is hosted by
STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS
COMMITTEE
Next Week’s Coffee Hour
will be hosted by
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE
*We thank you all for your
service to our church!*



Abbreviation Legend

(S) Sanctuary (PL) Parking Lot
(L) Library (CH) Criswell Hall
(MMR) McMillen Room (K) Kitchen
(PS) Pastor’s Study (HR) Handbell Room



- Monday—9/4**
- No Emergency Food Pantry—Holiday
 - Church Office Closed
- Tuesday—9/5**
- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
 - Sew ‘n’ Sews plus Knitters—9 AM—MMR
 - UMW Chair Yoga Class—11 AM—CH
 - Handbell Rehearsal—5 PM—HR
- Wednesday—9/6**
- Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
 - Church Work Day—9 AM
 - Free Fellowship Dinner—5 PM—CH
 - Adult Study—5:45 PM—CH
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal—7 PM—S
- Thursday—9/7**
- People’s Kitchen Prep—K—8 AM; 11:15 AM leave to serve
 - Senior Exercise—8:30 AM—CH
 - UMM Camp Roberts Trip by bus—Lv 9 AM
 - Intercessory Prayer—10 AM—L
 - Handbell Rehearsal—5 PM—HR
 - Family Fun Day Planning Mtg—6 PM—MMR
 - Worship Team—6 PM—Pastor’s Study
- Friday—9/8**
- Bible Study—8:30 AM—L
- Saturday—9/9**
- Nothing currently scheduled



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

FIELD TRIP TO CAMP ROBERTS

- Visit to Camp Roberts Army Base—facility and museum
- Mess Hall lunch—\$5
- Travel on Ride-On Bus—FREE!
- Depart Church parking lot at 9 AM for hour ride to Camp Roberts
- Sign up now with Paul Holden as the date is near and the seating is limited
- Men and women invited

CHRIST, Praying Himself, Teaches Us How to Pray

Come to the AG United Methodist Church, Criswell Hall, the 8 Wednesdays of September and October from 5:45-6:45 PM.



Join in “Praying Together”, an adult class
Led by Dr. Alice A. Addison,
with James Banks’s 2016 Discovery House book,
Praying Together—Kindling a Passion for Prayer and your Bible.
Sign ups going on after 10:30 service today to get your book.

Welcome

WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN THE CHURCH

All who regularly attend worship and haven’t joined the church by taking the step of membership are invited to do so!

Let Pastor Mary know you are wishing to join, meet with her, and we can schedule a Sunday to officially welcome you.

Choir Rehearsals Resume

Choir Rehearsals Have Begun!
Wednesdays at 7 PM
in the Sanctuary

Welcome Returning Choir Members
We Invite New Members

For more information contact Julie Burns, Chancel Choir Director

FREE WEDNESDAY SUPPERS

Starting Wednesday Sep. 6 at 5 PM, please join us for the free meals for the church and the community in Criswell Hall.

Let’s Plan Ahead!

Get your name on the calendar for helping with a meal. There are funds to reimburse for expenses if you desire.

Please contact Judy Atwood, Lay Leader

WRITING YOUR LIFE STORIES

Want to write about your life? Want to leave stories—that only you can tell—for your friends and family? Then try out the *Writing Your Life Stories* group activity.

We start meeting again on **Thursday, September 14** at 1:30 PM in the **McMillen Room.**

Questions? Contact Roger Sperling

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE			OUR GIFTS		
	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	TOTAL	Weekly Offerings Budgeted:	\$4,830
Aug 6	38	87	125	Aug 6 Received:	\$9,921
Aug 13	37	81	118	Aug 13 Received:	\$5,386
Aug 20	37	90	127	Aug 20 Received:	\$2,122
Aug 27	28	72	100	Aug 27 Received:	\$3,196
Fiscal Year to Date Budgeted regular giving:				\$38,642	
Fiscal Year to Date Received:				\$38,753	
Joel Anderson, Acting Treasurer					