



Cast~A~Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

JANUARY 2018

OUR CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

As many of you know, we suffered a leak in the gas lines at the Church, requiring the gas to be shut off in December. This resulted in a rather chilly sanctuary. The new "Take or Leave a Coat Rack" proved useful for those that needed to borrow a coat to help keep warm during the services. (Of course, further donations to the coat rack are gratefully accepted). The First United Methodist Children's Center stayed warm as it is heated with electric heaters powered by our recent Solar Power Project.

An inspection showed that much of our underground gas lines were heavily corroded and needed to be replaced. Our gas lines are over 50 years old. And we noticed the gas company has been replacing their lines as well. The cost of the preliminary work and replacing the gas lines exceeded \$16,000, which is a rather large chunk of change to be looking for at the end the year.

On Christmas Eve Sunday Rev. Mary preached about how God needs us. It is people who do much of God's work on earth. And our people came through. We applied to the District Union for a grant to cover part of the costs. Grants normally take as much as a month to approve. With the help of Rev. David Burgeson, a \$12,000 grant to replace the gas lines was approved within two days. The \$12,000 check arrived in the church office the day after Christmas. The same day an anonymous donor dropped off a \$3,500 check at the office. With the other donations received we have enough to cover the entire cost of replacing the gas lines. Our prayers were answered. Thanks be to God! And thank you to Paul Holden and the Trustees for all the work involved in researching the problem, requesting the grant and letting the contracts. And thank you to those who responded so generously with financial gifts to cover the cost of this project. We have been blessed with our own Christmas miracle.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer



From the Pastor

Welcome 2018!

2017 has come to end. We embrace the New Year! Thank you for the Christmas greetings and remembrances throughout the season. Your kindness amazes me.

January is here. I always take time off in January. Let me tell you why. People ask during the Christmas season, ***“Are you going to be with your family?”*** As a clergyperson, a long days’ drive from family with other siblings out of state, it doesn’t work. For the first 15 years in ministry I tried. When I was within 3 hours of home and younger I could “pull it off” and show up at “Mom’s”, but there were many years I was stuck in holiday traffic and arrived at the end of the family celebration just in time to do their dishes!

It’s pretty nearly impossible to do all that is required to create a beautiful Christmas Eve and to have energy left to pack your own gifts and hit the road on Christmas Day. If I was part of “two” and my husband was doing the driving, I’d sleep my way to San Diego and be ready to party! After many Christmas Days on the freeway, arriving too tired to enjoy family, and oft times having a funeral that was postponed for the holiday hanging over my head, I started doing it differently, and for the last 20 years it’s worked out a lot better. Ventura was a stretch, and being this far north it just isn’t worth travelling all day on the holiday.

So, once again, I keep my own “holiday tradition” going and I will be away the last two weeks in January. I will be here on January 7th and 14th and then I will be on vacation. Rich Bolin will be covering the memorial service for Carla Gootee on Saturday January 20th which would have been Carla’s birthday. Your preachers will be:

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Rev. David Burgeson

Sunday January 28th, 2018

Rev. Rich Bolin

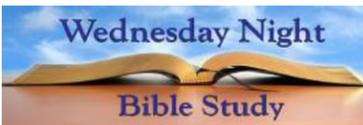
Greet these guests warmly and enjoy having some good men in the in the pulpit! I will be back with you as we celebrate Holy Communion on Sunday, February 4, 2018.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Rev. Mary Birgelaitis



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, January 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study 1 Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree by Melissa Spoelstra Facilitated by Patti Melsheimer
Sunday, January 7 Epiphany Sunday Sacrament of Communion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Wednesday, January 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study 1 Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree by Melissa Spoelstra Facilitated by Patti Melsheimer
Sunday, January 14 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services-Human Relations Day Sermon by Rev. Mary Birgelaitis
Wednesday, January 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study 1 Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree by Melissa Spoelstra Facilitated by Patti Melsheimer
Sunday, January 21 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Guest Preacher, Rev. David Burgeson
Wednesday, January 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study 1 Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree by Melissa Spoelstra Facilitated by Patti Melsheimer
Sunday, January 28 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services Guest Preacher, Rev. Rich Bolin

JANUARY LITURGISTS

January 7
8:30 a.m. *Sharon Roemer*
10:30 a.m. *David Beaman*

January 14
8:30 a.m.—*Joseph Brown*
10:30 a.m.—*Virginia Mothes*

January 21
8:30 a.m.—*Cristy Van Hook*
10:30 a.m.—*BG Perriguy*

January 28
8:30 a.m.—*David Beard*
10:30 a.m.—*Judy Leonard*

Wednesday Evening Classes—January 3rd through February 7th

Criswell Hall 5:45 PM 8 Sessions

FIRST CORINTHIANS: Living Love When We Disagree by Melissa Spoelstra

Patti Melsheimer will be at the helm as we study First Corinthians. Often we find ourselves divided. How can we work out our differences and disagreements with humility and grace, showing the love of Christ, and remaining true to what we believe?

We explore Paul's first letter to the Corinthians to learn how we as Christians are to deal with differences and divisions—when in the workplace, neighborhood, school, home, social media community, or church.



Val Mc Clure, publicity

**UMM BREAKFAST MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH at 9 AM
COCO'S RESTAURANT**

UMM Meets the Air Force

Shane M. Phipps Staff Sergeant USAF from Vandenberg AFB will be the guest speaker at the January 20th UMM Breakfast Meeting at Coco's Restaurant at 9:00am. The sergeant will fill in the group on all the different things going on at the largest missile site on the west coast. It is possible that his visit will set up an "Adventure Trip" to the base in May.

DON'T MISS this first program of 2018! Due to limited seating at Coco's, sign up for this meeting with Paul Holden, Wayne Huggins or Val McClure. Order Breakfast from Menu ~ Ladies are invited!

UMM PANCAKES ARE AMOST READY

Get your stomachs ready for the first Pancake Breakfast scheduled for Sunday, January 28th from 8:00 – 10:30 in Criswell Hall.

In addition to pancakes, the men will serve juicy sausage links, heavenly scrambled eggs, chilled fruit, and cocoa, tea, juice and coffee.

No change in the cost for 2018:

Adults \$10, Youth \$5 and kids under 10 years are **FREE**. Tickets available at the door.

Come early and fellowship with the first service congregants. Better yet, invite your neighbor, friend or acquaintance to join you as your guest, and to the service after you eat breakfast.



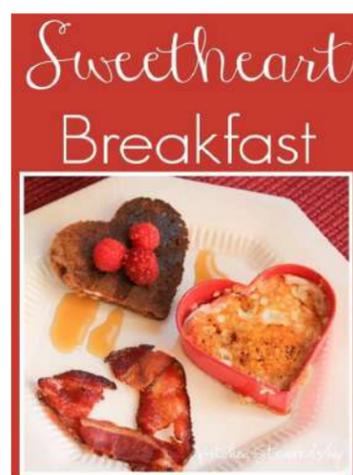
SAVE THE DATE

The annual way for the men to say to the ladies of the Church "I LOVE YOU" is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 AM in Criswell Hall.



Get this special annual event on your calendars now!

It is usually a "sell out" event!





United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION in the global ministries of the church."

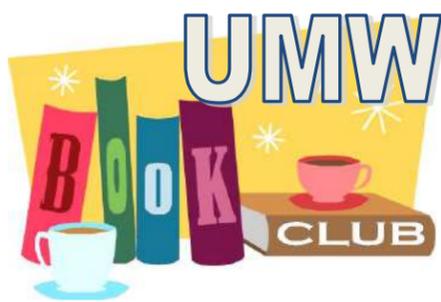
Sally Weitkamp, Publicity

"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



From the United Methodist Women
to all for contributing to our many projects—including the Chili Super Bowl Sunday,
Ladies Luncheon, Christmas Boutique and Continental Café.
These events and your support of them are what make UMW donations possible
to local missions and the National UMW.

MANY BLESSINGS TO YOU
IN THE NEW YEAR!



UMW Book Club To Discuss Driving Miss Norma

UMW Book Club members will meet on Friday, January 26th at 11 A.M. in the McMillen Room to discuss Driving Miss Norma: One Family's Journey Saying "Yes" to Living by Norma's son, Tim Bauerschmidt, and his wife, Jamie.

When Norma was diagnosed with uterine cancer in her 90's, she decided that she did not want to just treat the cancer. Instead her family decided to take her and their dog, Ringo, on a cross-country trip together to try out adventures and meet new people. This true account shows the power of relationships and sharing experiences in the enjoyment of life.

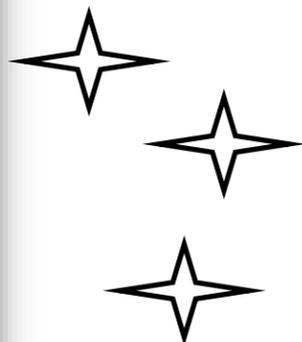
If you are interested in discussing this uplifting book, please join us on January 26th. Copies of the book are available through the library system or can be purchased at a bookstore or on-line.

submitted by Judy Leonard

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE FUN



Once again, the United Methodist Men sponsored the Christmas Jubilee, this year on December 15th. Check out the photos from this fun-filled event and see if you recognize the performers from our church!



*A Fabulous CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY
Was Held on December 9th*



*Purpose of the Giveaway—
Helping those in need and the homeless
of our community.*

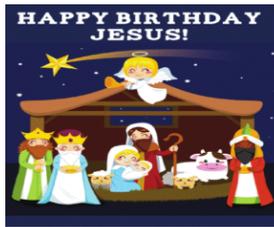


*Thank you to Chuck and Betty Ashton and the UMC Team,
and all who helped to make this event happen.*



Welcome to the new year, everyone! It is hard to believe that we're here already. We hope your Christmas was filled with family warmth.

The children enjoyed our happy birthday party for Jesus last Sunday. It was a good reminder to celebrate Jesus every day, with love in our hearts.



As we go into 2018, the children will continue the story of Jesus' early life, with the story about the three wise men. These men were great men of knowledge, who studied the stars and prophecy. Unlike many manger scenes, they did not arrive the night of his birth, but arrived much later.

This month, children will be learning about the earlier days of Jesus and the lessons he brought for all of us to learn about, even in our hectic modern lives. This year, take time to follow his teachings.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with Sunday school teaching, VBS, and other events throughout the year. Can you take time to help create a learning environment for our kids?

Happiest new year to you all!

Carolyn Russell



The Latest from the Board of Trustees



December 2017

Paul Holden, President

- Just prior to the December meeting a gas leak was found and SoCal Gas shut us down. We can be grateful that it was found, because as it turns out it was a major gas leak and could have caused major damage. As Joel points out in his Cast-a-net article, we are blessed to have funds from donations and a grant to cover the project's costs.
- The majority of our meeting centered around what we found out through Rex Rooter plumbing and coming up with a strategy to solve the problem in a timely manner.
- We revisited the remodeling of the Narthex. Patti Melshimer has a poster board display of some of the elements to consider. We will revisit this project at our Jan. 9th meeting.
- Paul Holden requested that we enter negotiations with Green Valley Landscaping. Everyone was in agreement that it would be a good idea to put professionals to work at beautifying the grounds of the Church. Paul was able to reach an agreement with the company. They will bring our grounds up to par on a weekly basis (Saturdays) for two months and then go to an every other week schedule.
- It has been noticed that bathroom supplies have been running out. Mike Johnson has produced a clipboard to remind Executive Janitorial as to what our needs are.

News from the Mission Team

By Judy Atwood, *chair*

MISSION TEAM: January 2018

Judy Atwood

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS:

1. [Message from Global Ministries](#)
2. [Faith and Facts: Sustainability---Environmental Justice](#)
3. [Special Giving Totals for 2017](#)

GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE...IN ACTION

1. MESSAGE FROM GLOBAL MINISTRIES

We are seeing our whole planet as an arena of mission - every land on earth is both sending and receiving missionaries as the Good News of Jesus Christ is spread among all people. The wider the span of our faith, the more important is every local faith community, each congregation finding its place in the worldwide body of Christ. The General Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) are among the instruments through which God's ministry is accomplished and God's will is realized.

2. FAITH AND FACTS: SUSTAINABILITY---ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

What does the Bible say? Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, but must you tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with you feet? (Ezekiel 34:18) Thus says the Lord, "Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your soul." (Jeremiah 6:16)

What does The United Methodist Church say? Let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social and technological lifestyles to support a

more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation. (Social Principles, 160)

What do the facts say? Less than 5% of the world's population lives in the United States, and yet U.S. residents consume 20% of the world's produced energy, 21% of the world's beef, and generate nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

What do you say?

- *Reduce: Buy less stuff.
- *Reuse: Find innovative ways to repurpose old products.
- *Recycle: Paper, glass, aluminum, plastic.
- *Refuse: Be sure to pack a reusable bag before you head out shopping.
- *Rethink: How much is enough, being sure that it was produced in a way that is both earth-friendly and worker friendly.

3. SPECIAL GIVING TOTALS FOR 2017

We are tracking our special giving totals for 2017.



ELT Scholarship	\$3,681.64
UMCOR-Human Relations Offering	310.00
Missions	13,000.00
People's Kitchen Food	617.66
People's Kitchen Misc.	22,873.00
South County Food Bank	559.79
UMCOR-UMCOR Sunday	582.00
UMCOR-Imagine No Malaria	2.00
UMCOR-Native American	131.00
Noisy Offering	12.40
UMCOR-Peace with Justice	135.00
UMCOR-Hurricane Harvey	2,180.00
UMCOR-World Communion Sunday	514.00
11 months total through November	\$44,598.49

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
	<p>1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed 1 PM No Emergency Food Pantry Today-Open Monday Jan. 8</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews + Knitters (MMR) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga (CH) 5 PM Handbell Rehearsal (HR)</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>4 8AM People's Kitchen Prep - Leave to Serve 11:15 AM 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 5 PM Handbell Rehearsal (HR))</p>	<p>5 Spirit Day at AGUMCC 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 3:30 PM AGUMCC Closed 4 PM AGUMCC Staff Development (MMR)</p>	<p>6 10 AM "Unhanging" of the Greens</p>
<p>7 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Caring Congregation</p>	<p>8 11AM UMM Cabinet Meeting-L 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry 5:45 PM Quilting Class -Gerry McGuire (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews + Knitters (MMR) 9:30 AM UMW Steering (L) 11 AM Chair Yoga C (CH) 5 PM Handbell Rehearsal—HR 7 PM Trustees—MMR</p>	<p>10 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 1 PM Writing Class (MMR) 5 PM Handbells—HR</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) Noon Deadline Newsletter Articles (Office)</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Coffee Hour: Mary-Martha-Esther Circle Human Relations Offering</p>	<p>15 OFFICE CLOSED ML KING HOLIDAY 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 5:45 PM Quilting Class -Gerry McGuire (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews + Knitters (MMR) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga Class" (CH) 2 PM Endowment—PS 1:30 PM Preschool Board - open session (MMR) 2:30 PM Preschool Board - closed session (MMR) 5 PM Handbells—HR 7 PM JOY Circle (member's home)</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) 7PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 11 AM Finance (PS) 5 PM Handbells—HR 7:30 PM Church Council—MMR</p>	<p>19 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 12 Noon Newsletter Deadline—Office</p>	<p>20 9 AM UMM Breakfast with guest speaker— Coco's Restaurant Carla Gootee's Memorial Service—Time TBA</p>
<p>21 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Rev. David Burgeson guest preacher Coffee Hour: Worship Team</p>	<p>22 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 5:45 PM Quilting Class -Gerry McGuire (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews (MMR) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga Class" (CH) 5 PM Handbells—HR</p>	<p>24 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 10 AM Mary-Martha-Esther—MMR 10 AM Communications—L 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 10 AM Intercessory Prayer (L) 1 PM Mission Team—MMR 5 PM Handbells—HR</p>	<p>26 8:30 AM Bible Study (L) 11 AM UMW Book Club —MMR</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 8:30 AM Contemporary Service 10:30 AM Traditional Service Rev. Rich Bolin, guest preacher UMM Pancake Breakfast</p>	<p>29 1 PM Emergency Food Pantry (CH) 5:45 PM Quilting Class -Gerry McGuire (CH) 7 PM Women of Prayer (S)</p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Sew 'n' Sews + Knitters (MMR) 11 AM UMW "Chair Yoga Class" (CH) 5 PM Handbells—HR</p>	<p>31 8:30 AM Senior Exercise (CH) 9 AM Church Work Day 5 PM Free Dinner (CH) 5:45 PM Adult Bible Study (CH) 7 PM Chancel Choir (S)</p>			



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:
 Rev. Mary B. Birgelaitis
E-mail: revmaryb@fumcag.org
Missionary (retired) / Lay Leader:
 Judy Atwood
Office Administrator:
 Frances Robertson
Website Manager: Jamie Foster
Choir Director: Julie Burns
Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler
Praise Team Leader: Mike Clark
Multi-Media : Duncan Leonard
Handbell Choir Dir.: Leonard Lutz
Bishop: Grant J. Hagiya
S District Superintendent:
 Rev. James Powell

AG UM Children's Center
Director: Madrigal Quaglino
E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net
Office: (805) 481-2223



Chair: Joe Brown
Members At Large (alphabetically):
 Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Rev. Mary Birgelaitis, Judy Leonard, Virginia Mothes, Frances Robertson.
Layout Editor: Frances Robertson
Proofing Team: Judy Atwood, David Beaman, Joe Brown, Judy Leonard, and Virginia Mothes.
Other contributors:
 Varied Teams / Committees
Deadline for February Issue
Friday, January 19, at Noon

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



The Angel Tree

A big thank you to our congregation for being so giving with our Angel Tree.

Social Services is very grateful for our continuing support, which makes Christmas “special” for these foster children and other needy children in our community. This year we supplied 55 gifts!

Our congregation has “huge hearts” and is always willing to help others.

Blessings, and thank you to all. ~ Jan Treat

TABLE OF 8 PROGRAM



We are currently forming the social dinner groups of 6 to 8 people.

Those who want to continue to participate need to sign up again.

New members are most welcome as well as returnees!

Contact Marjorie Ott or Lucy Jacob for more information and sign-up forms.



January Birthdays

Lynda Mahaffey	01/04
Alex Paredes	01/04
Ella Craig	01/06
Norm Henderson	01/07
Carolyn Russell	01/15
Nancy Baughman	01/17
Caitlin Herber	01/17
Jim Alquist	01/20
Judy Leonard	01/22
Violet Bauske	01/25
Mary Birgelaitis	01/25
Lynn Stewart	01/27
Barbara Zilkoff	01/28
Jordan Henderson	01/29
Eileen Odom	01/29
Mary Thronson	01/29



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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

• IN THIS • ISSUE

Visit us on the web at worshipweekly.com

Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande
www.facebook.com/fumcag

COVER STORY:

A Christmas Miracle

- From the Pastor.....2
- Christian Education3
- UMM.....4
- UMW, Book Club.....5
- Jubilee Fun.....6
- Giveaway.....7
- Sunday School and Trustees.....8
- Mission Team News 9
- Calendar.....10
- Angels, Table of 8, Birthdays.....11
- Happy New Year..... 12
- Children's Center Chronicle

