

Children's Center Chronicle

Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center www.worshipweekly.com December 2025

Message from Ms. Maddy

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "AGUMCC's Community Service Project" and gave their spare change for the Pennies for Turkeys Drive. This is a simple way to help children understand others' needs. The Five Cities Christian Women's Food Pantry also greatly appreciates your contributions. They will use the money to purchase turkeys for the Christmas Baskets, which will be given to families in our community. This year, we collected \$720.13. **Yippee !!**



Each family will receive a "Family Heritage Information Sheet" this month. Please complete and return it to your child's teacher. This project will help us learn more about your family and the traditions you may celebrate. If your family has a tradition you want to share with your child's classmates, please tell your child's teacher or message them through the Child Pilot App. We hope everyone feels connected as we invite you to share your family traditions.

The children will practice for our Christmas Program from Monday, December 8th to 11th from 9:00 am to 9:45 am in the church. Our Christmas Program will be Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6:00. Children are to arrive in their classrooms before 5:45 pm to prepare for the evening. After the Christmas Program, there will be a Social in Criswell Hall following the children's performance. Please sign up to bring an item to share. We will also need help with setup and cleanup.

On Friday, Dec. 21, we will have a school-wide "Pajama Day." This is also a Minimum Day. School closes at noon. In addition, the school will be closed for Christmas Break from December 22nd to 26th, 2023. School will reopen on Monday, December 29th. We will also be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026, and open on Friday, Jan. 2nd.

The results are in from our Fall 2025 Family Survey are in. 90% of the families were very satisfied with the overall program, while 10% were satisfied. These results were gathered from a 50% online and 50% paper format. We are glad to meet the needs of both styles to maximize results. Of the families who completed the survey, 100% felt that their child is well cared for, happy, and enjoys participating in the program. They also felt the program promotes their child's learning and development. According to the survey, the families' top reasons for choosing our program were the low child-to-teacher ratio, followed by the age-appropriate curriculum and socialization. Additionally, 94.4% of families prefer receiving information through Childpilot, with in-person communication as the second. We asked families how we met their childcare needs. Here is what they said: "I can't say enough amazing things about the program, the staff, and teachers are absolutely wonderful." "I'm most impressed by the individual attention my child receives." Complete survey is attached.

The First United Methodist Church Council has decided to close AGUMCC. The decisions comes due to low enrollment and financial hardship, AGUMCC last day of school will be Friday, January 2, 2026.

Dates To Remember

- **Friday, December 5-** School Closes at 3:30, for Staff Development. It's SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY! Show your school spirit and wear your AGUMCC t-shirt.
- **Thursday, December 11** AGUMCC Christmas Program 6:00 in the Sanctuary. A Social will follow in Criswell Hall.
- **Friday, December 19-** Pajama Party Day and a Minimum Day. Children get to wear their favorite pajamas to school. School will close at 12:00 noon. (No lunch that day.)
- **December 22 to 26th** School is closed for Christmas Break and reopens Dec. 29th and then closed January 1, 2026.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

It has been a joy for our staff and me to care for, love, and spend time with you and your little ones. Many of you have been part of our community for years, and we are so grateful for your trust in us. We've had the privilege of providing the very best care and early childhood education, all for the bright future of your child.

As I look back on the incredible 19 and a half years as the director of this program, I'll always treasure the wonderful moments we've all have shared together.

Blessing to you all, Ms. Maddy

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BIBLE STORY AND GOODIE BEAR TIME
IN THE NARTHEX WED. DEC. 3 AND THUR.
DEC. 4, 2025

Bible Story: "The Good News", from the Beginning Bible, Luke 2:8-20.

"Fruit of the Spirit": Peace.

Verse: Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you.

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Ms. Swati's TK Class

November is over. Children enjoyed various class areas. Children were interested in building with the trains and tracks. They built bridges and had awesome conversations about the different places they are going. Children worked cooperatively when building and sharing the trains. Children had fun with the 'Number Turkey' activity as they practiced one-to-one correspondence and number recognition by pinching the clothespins onto the turkeys to represent the feathers. Children enjoyed the farm in our block center. They created a farm by building a fence to make homes for the different farm animals and sorting them into groups. Moreover, the children had lots of fun and were creative in building a hideout home for the turkey so he wouldn't be eaten for Thanksgiving Day. The children used wooden blocks and popsicle sticks to hide the turkey so it wouldn't be seen.

During art, children created jellyfish and decorated them with dabber dots and used tissue paper for the tentacles. We also learned about jellyfish. We talked about the things we're thankful for. The children made their own turkey, by they coloring a coffee filter with markers. The children were amazed how the colors blended together when they sprayed it with water.

In addition, children made a special turkey handprint placemat and decorated it with fall stickers, which you can all share with your family on Thanksgiving Day. Lastly, our 'Pennies for Turkeys' container got very heavy as they brought in their coins to put into the container. I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving Day with all their loved ones. Thank you for all your support; you all are truly appreciated! Gobble, Gobble!

In December, we will transition to pine cones and a Christmas theme. We will focus on the letters M and N. Please send your child with a picture, as they really enjoy coming to the front to talk about it. We will introduce the star shape and talk about how many sides and corners it has. We will be practicing writing numbers during our table work and writing our names and letter formation. Lastly, the bible focus will be on "Peace" after hearing the story on the "Birth of Jesus." I wish you all and everyone a warm and safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year., ~ Ms. Swati

Ms. Liz & Ms. Shirley's Preschool Class

Happy Holidays to each one of you. Christmas is almost here, and I'm excited to spend the month of December with the children and learn about your family's holiday traditions. We have a world map displayed in the classroom and are learning about the countries and regions where our families are from. We also have two new children who have joined our class. I want to welcome Eagan, who joined us from the toddler class, and Quinton, who joined us in November. We have a growing preschool classroom, which is

very exciting!

As the weather begins to change, please dress your child accordingly. In our area, the climate can be cold. The winter mornings are crisp, like spring at lunchtime, and very warm, like summer in the afternoon. We always recommend dressing in layers for a successful day in colder weather. This also allows us to help your child practice working with zippers and buttons. In the classroom, there is a puzzle to help the children with buckles, zippers, shoelaces, and buttons.

This month, we have exciting plans for the Preschool classroom. We have transformed the dramatic play area in our own Post Office, where children will mail cards and presents to each other and learn about the essential jobs performed by mail delivery personnel. We will be working on a fun holiday art project. Children are busy decorating Christmas trees with ornaments. Children are enjoying building train tracks. They are playing with the nativity set and learning the story of Baby Jesus. Please continue to check your child's folder, personal belongings, and lunch cubbies daily at pickup. Also, double-check that your child has an extra set of clothes to wear to school, just in case.



The children are practicing for the winter program this month and will perform on stage on December 11th at 6 pm. This is truly a special event, and we hope that you will join us! We will be closed the week of December 22nd through December 26th to spend the holiday with our friends and family. Happy Holidays and Blessings for a Happy New Year Love, Liz

Ms. Cindy Bo's Toddler Class

We are coming to the end of another year, and it is a perfect time to reflect on the blessings of family, friends, and our school community. We look forward to celebrating these blessings with you during this special season.

The toddlers enjoyed many of our November activities. They continued exploring with flashlights and showed curiosity about the pumpkins and gourds that remained in the classroom from October. They had lots of fun singing songs about turkeys and pumpkin pies, swaying together as we sang and read the "Cumbayah" book, and giggling as they allowed us to paint their hands for their Thanksgiving placemats. The toddlers were so excited to share the "Pennies for Turkeys" they had collected from home, and they took turns adding them all to our classroom collection jar. Thanks to all who contributed to that! We also worked together to make a couple of pumpkin pies from scratch. I want to offer a special thank you to J. Marie, Mia's Grandma, for her help with that special activity. Most of the children thought the pie was very tasty, and I hope you were able to enjoy a little slice sent home with them, too. Yum! The toddlers enjoyed the story "Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud," which introduced them to different family members trying to help get various farm animals out of the mud. We talked about "Visitors" having to leave, but always coming back, as we sang "She'll be Come'n Round the Mountain." We also spent time talking about our families and how much we had to be thankful for as we prepared to celebrate Thanksgiving.

This month, we will be busy preparing for our annual Christmas Program and Social, and we look forward to that celebration with you. We will be celebrating Christmas in our classroom with a little nativity set for the children to play with. We will also introduce them to the gift of Jesus as we share the story of His birth. If you have any special family traditions you would like us to know. May you have a blessed Christmas, surrounded by those you love, Cindy Bo

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