



"The kingdom of God is like a net that was cast into the sea" ---Matthew 13:47

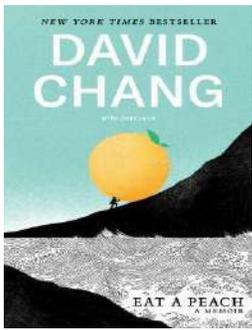
Cast-A-Net

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

August 2025

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

WE ARE UNITED THROUGH OUR DIFFERENCES



A couple of years ago, I read the book "Eat A Peach" by David Chang. David is a chef and restaurateur who has played a significant role in popularizing gourmet-style ramen. The process of making broth takes days, and with specially made noodles and carefully selected ingredients,

ramen is not just a bowl of noodles and broth. A major reason for this change is David Chang's desire to bring authentic ramen from Japan to the United States. He recalls the moment he saw sushi in a bodega in New York and knew it was time to start Noodle Bar, the first restaurant resulting in the company Momofuku, which means "lucky peach" in Japanese. David wanted others to experience the amazing ramen he enjoyed while living in Japan, where he learned how to make it.

The book traces the ups and downs of his life, discussing the challenges he faced along the way including his need for therapy and personal growth. David states, "We humans are more alike in our tastes than we think. Even with completely different tools and ingredients, we're bound to arrive at the same conclusions." He notes that nearly every culture has some form of noodle dish or taco-like meal, highlighting our shared enjoyment of wrapping food in other foods.



This observation about reaching similar conclusions with different ingredients is fascinating. I remember a professor in college who said, "People don't eat things that don't taste good, so try things from other cultures." However, trying new things can be difficult. When I was in Peru, I was offered grubs. At that moment, I wasn't thinking about what my professor had said when offered the grub. Yes I did try it. It was okay!



The main point I want to convey is that together, we are greater. Our differences can make us stronger and help bring us together. I hope you see others as more like yourself, despite differences, and work together to improve the world. It doesn't have to be a grand gesture; even one small act can make a significant difference in the lives of those around you. Remember, you are an amazing person and you make a difference!

-Rev. Wesley Thompson



TREASURER'S REPORT

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generous giving we finished our Fiscal Year ending June 30 with a \$5,471 surplus!

Overall, Stewardship came in at 98.2% of plan. However, expenses were only 96.6% of plan leaving us with a small surplus at a time when many churches are facing major deficits.

This next year looks to be challenging. We need additional funds in order to restart our youth program and to cover the many expenses that increased over the past year.

It is only because of your continued support that our church can carry out our many activities and missions.

- Thanks to your support, our church celebrated its 140th Anniversary this past year.
- Thanks to your support, we worship God together every Sunday morning with thoughtful and inspiring messages.
- Thanks to your support, we have superb worship music, including our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Praise Band, a talented pianist and organist.
- Thanks to your support we have a video ministry that not only reaches our homebound members but reaches viewers across the nation.
- Thanks to your support, we brought in 11 new members this past year.
- Thanks to your support, we have our Children's Center that provides much needed high quality child care to our community.
- Thanks to your support, our Membership Care Team is able to visit our shut ins, brings them holiday flowers and help provide rides and meals as needed.
- Thanks to your support our church helps serve meals for People's Kitchen.
- Thanks to you, our church supports the 5 Cities Women's Food Pantry, the 5Cities Homeless Coalition, the Children's Resource Network and Heifer International.
- Thanks to your support our church helps fund missionaries in other nations.

- Thanks to your support, our church raised over \$9000 to help those who suffered losses in the Los Angeles Fires.
- Thanks to your support our church helps fund the United Methodist Committee on Relief and other United Methodist causes.
- Thanks to your support our church had successful multiple mission fundraising activities including: Alternative Christmas, the Christmas Boutique, The Angel Tree, Pennies for Turkeys, and the Noisy Offerings.
- Thanks to your support, our church provides numerous opportunities for Christian growth, fellowship, health and increased well-being throughout the week including Bible Study, Book Club, Advent studies, Chair Yoga, Senior Exercise, Sew and Sews, Quilt Class and Women's Circles.
- Thanks to your support we are starting a new Wednesday evening Women's Circle, at a time when many other churches are folding their women's circles.
- Thanks to your support, we have many opportunities for Christian fellowship and fun including Bingo and Pizza night, Chili Bowl, Women's Tea & Fashion Show, The Extravaganza Variety show, the Holiday Boutique, Craft Workshop, St. Patrick's Day, Movie nights. And don't forget the Easter celebration with our own Easter Bernie and Easter Chicken. This past year we have had frequent fun and educational field trips including: Nature Hikes, Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal Viewing, Morro Bay Natural History Museum, Mighty Cap Mushroom Farm, Cabrillo High School Aquarium, Scott Trees Garden Tour and *Something Rotten* (I am referring to the PCPA play of course, not the wonderful Hospitality food every Sunday).
- Invite your family and friends to our many activities. It is an easy way to introduce them to our church and our wonderful members.

Please consider stepping up your already generous support in order that we may continue to grow our church and its many missions and activities.

-- Joel Anderson
-- Acting Treasurer



WELCOME
PARTY FOR
PASTOR
WESLEY
THOMPSON
AND
FAMILY



PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Food Prep July 28 - Food Delivery July 29

About 15 volunteers from our church served about 80 meals to an appreciative crowd.



Next People's Kitchen

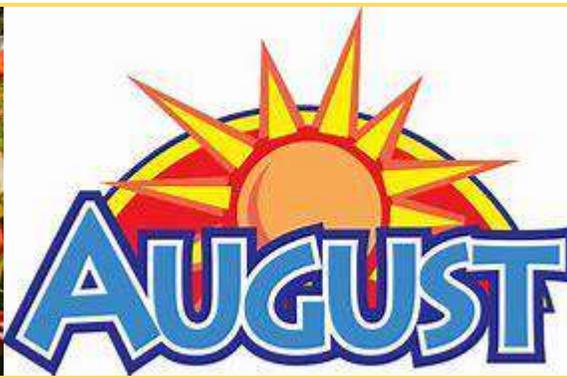
Food Prep Mon. Sept. 29 1:30

Food Delivery Tues. Sept. 30.

Leave church 11:00

Please plan to join us.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Abbreviation Legend CH-Criswell Hall HR-Handbell Room #115 K-Kitchen L-Library Room #123 MMR-McMillen Room #113 PL-Parking Lot PS-Pastor's Study S-Sanctuary					1	2
3 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	4 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-	5 9AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 7 PM Trustees, MMR	6 9 AM Church Work Morning – CH 10AM Fellowship Ministry, L 6:30 Worship Team Pastor's Office	7 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH	8	9 9:30 to 3:00PM New Minister On-Boarding
10 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	11 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	12 9AM Senior Exercise _ CH 10AM Sew & Sews, MMR	13 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10AM UWF Steering Committee – Library 1:30PM Mission Team MMR	14 Senior Exercise CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1:30PM Finance Committee Library	15 10:30AM UFW Book Club Library	16 5PM UWF Bingo & Pizza
17 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	18 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class CH	19 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study - CH 1:30 Finance - L	20 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 2PM Church Council MMR 6:30PM Daughters of Grace Circle MMR	21 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 10:30 AM Staff Parish Pastor's Office 3:30PM Children's Center Board MMR	22 11AM Nominations Committee Pastor's Office	23
24 AND 31 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 4PM Movie (31 st) Penguin Lessons	25 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH 4:30Pm Communications	26 9AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5PM Bell Choir	27 10 AM Mary- Martha-Esther Circle-MMR	28 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 6:30 to 8:30PM Choir Practice	29	30

A NOTE FROM MEMBERSHIP CARE

SHAWL MINISTRY

Several years ago, we had a special ministry in our church making shawls and lap blankets for those members who were sick or recovering from a serious illness. The intent is to bring blessings to those in need when the desire for warmth and soft cuddling brings comfort. Several weeks ago, I went to our church closet to pick up a shawl for one of our members who was having a hard time recovering from medical treatment. I found only one shawl. I took it to the church member and found that the thoughtful gift fulfilled this need in a meaningful and special way.

We need to resume our shawl ministry again so this gracious blessing can be

continued when others are in need. As these shawls and blankets are made, they are blessed by those sharing in the ministry. You are invited to participate whether sitting in your chair at home watching TV, traveling or coming to Sew and Sews on Tuesday mornings from 10-noon. I encourage you who are interested in learning or brushing up on your skills in knitting, crocheting, tying or sewing to come to this group. There are experts with great experience to help with patterns and techniques. Janice Moore will resume her roll of keeping track of the shawls and blankets.

Kerren Brown, Membership Care, Chair



A separate section for recent arrivals is coming soon. These donated books include nonfiction, biographies, fiction, inspirational and devotional books. Come in and browse. You might like to read *Grace*, an autobiography by our own Bud Johnson's granddaughter. By the way, the library is missing its second copy of *Grace*. If you have it at home, please return it when you are finished with it. I would like to increase library usage. Come visit after services.

Librarian Joyce Singelman



Please save your spare change for the "Back-to-School Noisy Offering".

The Missions Team is gracious to help our Arroyo Grande United Methodist Children's Center (AGUMCC) raise funds for school supplies. At this time of year, many school supplies go on sale, making it an excellent opportunity to stock up. Please support this effort by placing your spare change in the Noisy Offering Collection after each service on Sunday, August 10, and Sunday, August 17. If you need a container to collect your spare change, feel free to take a piggy bank from the narthex and bring it back anytime.

What is the Nominating Committee?

In The United Methodist Church, the Lay Leadership Committee, called the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, is responsible for identifying, developing, and supporting Christian leaders within the local church. This committee plays a vital role in ensuring the church has effective lay leadership to fulfill its mission and ministry.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Identifying and Nominating Leaders

The committee identifies individuals with the gifts and graces for leadership within the church and nominates them for various positions, such as committee members, officers, and lay members of annual conference.

Developing and Supporting Leaders

The committee works to develop the leadership skills and spiritual growth of individuals, providing training and resources to help them effectively serve in their roles.

Monitoring and Evaluating Leadership

The committee monitors effectiveness of lay leaders and provides ongoing support and evaluation to ensure they are fulfilling their responsibilities.

Guiding the Church Council

The committee provides guidance to the Church Council on matters related to leadership structure of the church.

Recommending Leadership for Various Ministries

The committee recommends individuals to serve in various ministry areas, ensuring that the church has qualified and dedicated leaders for all aspects of its work.

Composition and Structure

- The committee is typically composed of professing members of the local church, often elected by the charge conference.
- The number of members can vary, but the Book of Discipline suggests a maximum of nine members, excluding the pastor and lay leader. The pastor often serves as chair, and a layperson may serve as vice-chair.
- The committee may include a youth representative and should strive to be diverse in terms of age, gender, and race.

Relationship to Church Structures:

- The Lay Leadership Committee works closely with Church Council (also known as the administrative council or church leadership team) to ensure effective leadership and administration of the church.
- It also collaborates with the committee on pastor-parish relations (or staff-parish relations) to foster healthy relationships between the pastor, staff, and laity
- Committee recommendations for leadership positions are often presented to the Charge Conference for approval.

In essence, the Lay Leadership Committee is a crucial component of the UMC's governance and leadership structure, working to ensure that the church is equipped with the lay leaders needed to fulfill its mission and ministry effectively.



United Women in Faith

The Welcoming Party for Pastor Wes and his family was well attended, with approximately 140 people in attendance. Everyone had a great time with lots of food and fun. We love the Thompsons and hope for many wonderful years ahead with them.

Our next **Bingo and Pizza** has been changed to **August 16**, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. As this is a fundraiser, tickets will be \$20, \$10 for children under 12. Our caller will be Bernie Hawkins or Rich Neufeld. Sign up at the connections counter.

Our annual Tea has been rescheduled to Saturday, **September 13**, 11:30 to 1:30. We are putting together a funny and memorable Fashion Show. With our own Rose Ann Steiner as Master of Ceremonies and some famous models of distinction. This year we are inviting members to sponsor a table by doing the centerpiece, tablecloth (you can use ours) and favors. Teacups and teapots are provided. Tickets go on sale, August 17th for \$15 per person. Sign up at the connections counter to let us know you're coming or to sponsor a table.

Circles and groups: All women are invited to attend. **Mary, Martha Esther Circle** meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am in the McMillen Room. They are studying a book on Moses.

Joy Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month, 3-5 pm in members' homes. Check with Kerren Brown for more information. Meeting will resume in September.

Our New Circle Daughter's of Grace meets in the McMillen Room at 6:30 the 3rd Wednesday of August. They are reading a book on the women of the Bible. Contact Susan Thronson.

Sew And Sews meet every Tuesday in the McMillen Room from 10 to 12. We encourage those interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting or just plain visiting and sharing. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is resuming, but we need knitters and crocheters. So we're calling for help!

Book Club meets the 3rd Friday, in the library, at 10:30. They are reading the book "Frozen River". Contact Judy Leonard for a book if interested.

We're getting ready for the **Holiday Boutique, November 7, 8, & 9**. We're looking for new ideas and helpers. Let us know if you'd like to help out either by crafting or working the time of the boutique.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry McGuire



Prayer & Praise List

Dear Heavenly Father, I come before You seeking Your divine intervention against sickness. Lord, I ask that You pour out Your healing power upon me and restore me to full health, in Jesus Name

Please pray for:

Ann, Dale, Cristy, Doris, Ron, Clarence, Shelly, Leland, Teal, Jack, Sally, Gary, Tiffany, Kaity, Jason, Harper, Bodie, Colton, Joe, Susan, Marjorie, and Kerri.

- Peace in Ukraine, Gaza and Somalia
- Families and victims of recent shootings
- Those in Texas and across the nation affected by storms.

We Need **YOUR** Help!

A church thrives through volunteers. We need your help. These positions take a few hours a month and can fit around your schedule.

- Ushers are needed for both services.
Please contact Kerren Brown
- Video Camera operator for both services.
Please contact Mike Coho.
- Sound Board operator, especially 2nd Service.
Please contact Mike Coho
- Photographer needed for 2nd service.
Please contact Joel Anderson

News from the MISSION TEAM

The Mission Team requests offerings for the Guadalupe River Flood victims.

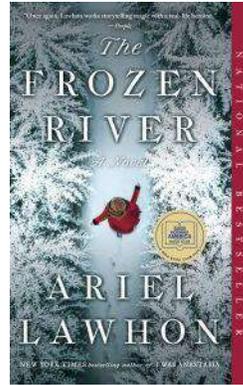
July was the month the team prepared and served a hot lunch to the Peoples Kitchen. We planned for 80 meals, including a beef casserole, salad, bread and a dessert. We had help from many church members children, as they were on school break.

We welcomed a visit from our new Pastor Wesley at the July meeting.

The next service the Peoples Kitchen will be September 29th and 30th.

The Mission Team plans to have an Alternative Christmas in October, please prepare your shopping list for this event.

August UWF Book Selection: The Frozen River



Due to conflicts in book club members' lives, we had to cancel the meeting. We will discuss The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon at our next meeting on Friday, August 15th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library.

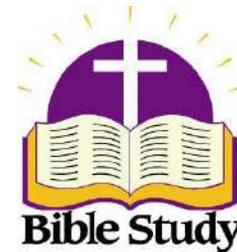
The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon is a captivating story about Martha Ballard's attempts to tell the truth

about what happened in the winter of 1789 in a small Maine community near the frozen Kennebec River. She has recorded every birth and death in her diary as well as scandals and lies. Ultimately, she gets involved in trials and false accusations as she pursues justice for the innocent victims. In a time when women were not supposed to speak up, she defies expectations.

Join us on August 15th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library to discuss The Frozen River. This month readers will need to purchase their own copy of the book or share a book with another person. See Judy Leonard or Mary Whitson for ideas about where to get a book. We hope to see you on August 15th

Contact Judy Leonard if you need a book.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

Meets on

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall

The Group is currently studying

“The Final Days”

by Matt Rawle

Books are available from Nancy.

All are welcome to join us!

HELP NEEDED

Do you have a computer with a CD drive?

When cleaning out the Church office we discovered a box of Compact Disks (CD) containing photos of church activities and Cast-A-Nets from about 2005 to 2012.

We need someone to copy the files to a thumb drive and or upload them to our on-line Google photo dump for our archives. If you have the time but not a computer with a CD Drive the church has an old desktop computer with a CD Drive you may use either at home or at church. It is fun seeing church friends from many years ago!

Contact Joel Anderson for further information.

---Communications Committee--



CHOIR STARTUP

Thursday August 28, 6:30 to 8:30PM

Attention all singers!

All those who can carry a tune are invited to join the choir. We start rehearsals on Thursday, August 28th in the sanctuary. Rehearsals are 6:30PM to 8:30PM. We'd love to have you! If you don't know if you're "choir material" or not, I'd be glad to give a listen. Just contact me by e-mail at tstew4@aol.com. Or, just show up! See you then!

-- Choir Director Tricia Stewart

Fellowship Ministry

The Welcoming Party for Pastor Wes and his family was well attended and enjoyed by all. This is the beginning of a great relationship with our congregation.

The PCPA, play at the Marian Theatre, "Something Rotten" proved to be a very energetic and fun loving musical production enjoyed by the twelve attending.

The movie for the end of the month, is "Penguin Lessons" on August 31, at 4pm. The movie takes place amid the politics of 1970's Argentina. An English teacher finds a new lease on life after he rescues a stranded penguin. Free movie, popcorn, candy and soft drinks. Sign up at the connections counter.

We look forward to a visit to the Luffa Farm Friday September 12 and a tour of the Price House in Pismo Beach. On Saturday, October 18th. With the Holidays coming before you know it, set aside November 30th for the Advent workshop.

Submitted by, Gerry McGuire

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
August 03	Joe Brown	Rose Ann Steiner
August 10	Mary Thronson	Nancy St. Laurent
August 17	Susan Thronson	Michelle Richardson
August 24	David Beard	Joyce Singleman
August 31	Sharon Roemer	Patti Melsheimer

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: 805-481-2692

E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com

Website:

www.WorshipWeekly.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/fumcag

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Thompson

E-mail: wes.thompson@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Blanca Placencia

Webmaster: Jamie Foster

Children's Education Director:

Carolyn Russell

Interim Choir Director:

Tricia Stewart

Praise Team Director:

Mike Clark

Choral Pianist: Dennis Eiler

Handbell Choir Director:

Leonard Lutz

Worship Video Editor:

Susan Thronson

Bishop:

Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

District Superintendent:

Rev. Garth Gilliam

Children's Center (Preschool):

Director: Madrigale Quaglino

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 805-381-2223

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

Aug 03 Trustees

Aug 10 Staff Parish

Aug 17 Finance

Aug 24 Nominating Committee

Aug 31 Worship Team

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH FLOWERS?



Do you enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements placed on the altar on Sunday? Dates are available for flower dedications in upcoming months. Your floral tributes will be placed on the altar for both Sunday morning services and can be picked up after the second service or on Monday during office hours.

The cost for altar flowers is \$30.

Contact Blanca in the Church Office



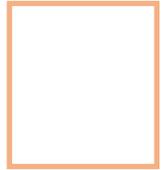
8/01 Tina Moore
8/02 Priscilla Alquist
8/02 Jacqueline Ridge
8/04 Rosslyn Clauson
8/07 Patty Williams
8/08 Nancy St. Laurent
8/10 Gerry McGuire
8/10 Joshua Thompson
8/10 Frank Ridge
8/11 David Avila
8/12 John Mackeen
8/13 Bill Gerrish
8/15 Robert Underwood
8/17 Nancy Gerrish
8/19 Carol Gary
8/20 Nancy Burns
8/22 Dorine Bolterman
8/23 Joe Brown
8/23 Frank Williams
8/24 Peter Paredes
8/24 Cristy Van Hook
8/26 Niki Raetz
8/27 Jacqui Burns
8/27 Sharon Roemer
8/30 Cecile Huggins
8/30 Wyatt Russell

**Did we miss your birthday?
If so, please contact the
church office and we will be
glad to add your birthday to
our monthly birthday list.**



First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

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



Visit us on the web at: WorshipWeekly.com
Find us on Facebook at **United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande**
www.facebook.com/fumcag

August 2025

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| Sat. | Aug 9 | New Minister On-Boarding 9:30-3:00 |
| Sat. | Aug. 16 | UWF Bingo & Pizza Night 5PM |
| Sun. | Aug. 31 | Free Movie "Penguin Lessons" 4PM |
| Fri. | Sept. 12 | Loofa Farm Tour, Carpool from church at 10:10 |
| Sat. | Sept. 13 | Women's Tea and Fashion show 11:30-1:30 |
| Sat. | Sept. 20 | Young People's Academy 9:00 to 3:00 |
| Sat. | Sept. 27 | Harvest Festival Parade |
| Sun. | Sept 28 | Free Movie Night 4PM |
| Mon. | Sept. 29 | People's Kitchen Food Prep, 1:30, |
| Tues. | Sept. 30 | People's Kitchen Food Distribution 11AM |
| Sat. | Oct. 4 | St. Francis Day - Blessing of the Animals |
| Sat. | Oct. 18 | Tour of the Price House, 10:30 |
| Sun. | Oct. 26 | Alternative Christmas |
| Fri-Sun. | Nov.7-9 | Christmas Boutique |

Mission Statement of the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

The First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande is a joyful, active and fun-loving faith community. We worship on Sunday mornings and offer opportunities for Christian growth, fellowship, health and increased well-being all week long. Members represent a wide range of theological and political views and commit to treating each other with love and respect in the midst of differences. We nurture spiritual growth and a deeper understanding of God's love in Christ as we work together to spread the love of God in our community and in the world.