



"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 SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Words from the Pastor

September is here! Growing up, September meant pencil shavings, cooler nights, and American football. It was an exciting time of year. We have exciting things happening here at First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. There are plenty of opportunities to connect with people and bring people with you. The first introduction can be one of our many events we have happening. I love all the different ways we build relationships here at our church. There is something for everyone! Many thanks to everyone who makes everything happen. We have an awesome church because of you.

We even have a couple of new things happening! With the start of the youth program, we need people to join in and make this successful for our Jr. and Senior High Students. On September 6,

we will have a leaders meeting with Rev. Tim Olson. After the leaders' meeting, the youth will have their first meeting. We would love to have you help!

New things in the air, and the North District of the California Pacific Conference has new things happening, too! And they are happening in our area! On September 28th, they have a Friends and Family Fall Fellowship. It will take place at the San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon, from 1 pm to 4 pm. That same day, we have our movie night. A fun-packed day you won't want to miss!

I love our church! I hope to see you soon!

Pastor Wes Thompson

ATTENTION ALL 4th - 12th GRADERS

DON'T MISS THIS BIG EVENT AT OUR CHURCH! (and on the Beach)

Saturday, September 20, 1 - 8PM

Opportunities for self-discovery and fun. Bishop Dottie will be there. You should be there too!

A Cal-Pac Conference North and West District Collaboration...

Young People's Academy

Session #2

BELONGING

"Where Do I Fit?"

Charter bus
transport
with pick-ups
in LA and the
SF Valley

Beach
Games
Bonfire
Hot Dog Roast
S'mores
Songs

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Arroyo Grande UMC

275 N Halcyon Rd. Arroyo
Grande, CA 93420

Music
Dance
Food
Small Groups

I praise you because I am fearfully & wonderfully made - Psalm 139:14



Open to all students
4th through 12th grade

\$20 per person

\$10 each for charter bus

2 of a 3-part series where we
tackle "3 Big Questions"

Self-discovery & Fun.
Meet other students and learn how
God made YOU perfectly



Scan to
Register

Please register in advance using the QR Code, through link from our website: [WorshipWeekly.com](https://www.worshipweekly.com)
or at <https://www.jotform.com/form/252013880565153>

UWF BINGO & PIZZA NIGHT



THANK YOU, LUCY AND ADRIAN!



A big THANK YOU to our two newest volunteers at the back of the church. Lucy Jorstadt operates the soundboard and slide projector twice a month at first service. Adrian Paredes operates the soundboard most Sundays at second service. Stop by at the soundboard on your way in or out of the sanctuary and thank them for their help. We still need volunteers to operate the video camera at both services and need substitutes for the sound board.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY JOHN MACKEN



WE ARE RESTARTING OUR YOUTH GROUP WE NEED YOUTH AND YOUR HELP!

We are restarting our youth program with a kickoff meeting on **Saturday September 6**. We have invited Pastor Wes's friend, Rev. Tim Olson to help get things going. Adult volunteers and other interested adults will meet from 3 to 4PM. Junior and Senior High age youth will then meet from 4 to 5PM. Pizza for all to follow! All events are in Criswell Hall.

Tim Olson is an experienced organizer of church youth and young adult programs. Tim is coming all the way from Antelope Valley to help us get started, so **BE THERE!**

Please invite your Junior and Senior High age family and friends. We want our youth group operating for the Young People's Academy on September 20.



Tim Olson has been serving students (Junior High, High School, College) and families since 1999. In addition to his role as a Pastor, Tim has been a speaker and director for camps and retreats and has served on multiple councils regarding the future of youth ministry. He is currently in the process of becoming an Associate Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation. Tim and his wife, Wendy, live in the Antelope Valley north of Los Angeles. In addition to theological conversations, Tim enjoys a round (or two) of disc golf, visiting theme parks, hiking, and taking their dogs for walks in the desert. He was ordained in June, 2011. As a conversation starter, ask about when Katy Perry referred to him as her youth pastor.

Report about Onboarding Meeting with Staff and Leadership

District Superintendent Garth:

I want to report on the onboarding at Arroyo Grande yesterday (August 13). It seemed to have gone very well. Wes Thompson did a great job in interacting and the leaders/staff present were engaged and enthusiastic.

My special thanks to Mary Hawkins, the SPRC chair, and Blanca Placencia, the Administrative Assistant, who did a wonderful job in preparing for the event and taking care of details on the day of the onboarding.

To me, the most important thing that emerged is that the group thought that communication in the church can be better and that this has been systemic for a long time. That's a good thing to acknowledge and work on.

They also posed some excellent and thoughtful questions, and Pastor Wes responded well.

A few people mentioned - and I agree - that while this onboarding experience was definitely a good one, they thought that it would have been better earlier. I have shared this with our onboarding facilitators. Something to think about as you consider future onboarding experiences.

I have offered a post-onboarding meeting to Mary if a follow-up to the onboarding is desired.

DS Garth: the next step in the onboarding process is a meeting with you, Pastor Wes, and me. This is led by Pastor Wes to give his perspectives on the onboarding and how things are going since then.

I suggest that we have this meeting in October before charge conference season ramps up.

Thanks so much. Grace and aloha,

Hawaii District Superintendent
Tom Choi

Hello, September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 HAPPY LABOR DAY	2 9AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5pm Bell Choir HR 7 PM Trustees, MMR	3 AM Church Work Morning – CH 10AM Fellowship Ministry, L 6:30 Worship Team Pastor's Office	4 9 AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5:00PM Bell Choir HR 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Band Rehearsal CH	5	6 3 to 4PM Youth Leaders 4 to 5PM Youth Group
7 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	8 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-	9 9AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5pm Bell Choir HR 7 PM Trustees, MMR	10 9 AM Church Work Morning – CH 10 AM UWF Steering Committee Library 1:30 PM Mission Team 6:30 PM Daughter's Of Grace MMR	11 9AM Senior Exercise-CH 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 5:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal HR 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Band Rehearsal CH	12 10:10 AM Luffa Farm Tour	13 9 to 12PM Church Work Day 11:30 to 1PM Tea and Fashion Show
14 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	15 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH	16 9AM Senior Exercise _ CH 10AM Sew & Sews, MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 1:30PM Finance Library 3:00PM Joy Circle 5pm Bell Choir HR	17 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 2:00PM Church Council 6:30PM Daughters of Grace Circle MMR	18 9 AM Senior Exercise-10:30 AM Staff Parish 10:30 Book Club - Lib 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 3:30 PM Children's Center Board MMR 5:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Band Rehearsal CH	19	20 1 to 8 PM Youth Academy
28 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	22 6:00PM Gerry's Quilt Class CH	23 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew & Sews MMR 11Am Chair Yoga CH 1PM Bible Study CH 5:00Pm Bell Choir HR	24 9 AM Church Work Morning-CH 10 AM Mary Martha MMR	25 9 AM Senior Exercise-11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 3:30 PM Children's Center Board MMR 5:00PM Bell Choir Rehearsal HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Band Rehearsal CH	26 11AM Nominations Committee Pastor's Office	27 Harvest Festival Parade
28 8:30 AM Informal Worship Service 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 5PM Movie Superman	29 6 PM Gerry's Quilt Class-CH 4 PM Communications Library	30 9AM Senior Exercise-CH 10 AM Sew & Sews- MMR 11 AM Chair Yoga-CH 1 PM Bible Study-CH 5PM Bell Choir			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	

Pig Butchering and Other Scams

It starts with an innocuous text such as "Hi" or "How are you feeling?", or perhaps a text that appears to be have been sent the wrong number such as "Can we meet for lunch today" or "Did you get the package I sent?". The message may come from what appears to be a local number. The idea is that the scammers want you to respond. Once you respond they start what seems like a harmless conversation, but it is really designed to build ongoing communication and develop trust. Scammers may spend weeks, or even months, in casual conversation before introducing the scam. They may show off a lavish lifestyle to appear successful, which often leads to conversations about investing. Once the scammer has the victim's trust, they will propose an investment opportunity, often in crypto assets. After an initial modest investment, they may ask for more and more funds. Once they have taken as much of your money as they can get, they and your money disappear. The term Pig Butchering refers to the practice of fattening pigs before slaughter, symbolizing how scammers "fatten" their victims with false attention before exploiting them financially. Don't be a pig that gets slaughtered. Be aware. **Don't answer odd texts from unfamiliar numbers. Delete them.**

An e-mail scam that has been especially prevalent in recent weeks is "**New Sign-in Detected**" or "**Confirm your e-mail**". It often continues with a warning "Your account will be deleted". The scammer wants you to click on the link in the e-mail, which brings you to a fake website where you enter your e-mail address and password. And guess what, they can now access your e-mail account! With that they may be able to gain access your bank, credit card and investment accounts and attempt to take out loans in your name. If you get such a warning, you can probably ignore it. If you are unsure, sign into your e-mail account as you usually do and check your account. **DO NOT USE THE LINK PROVIDED.** Amazon will often send similar messages when you log into your Amazon account, so you can ignore that message if you recently accessed your Amazon account.

Another scam going around is "**DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS PURCHASE**". You don't because you did not make it. The scammer wants you to click on the link or call the phone number to "cancel" the purchase. In reality they want to get your credit card or bank information. **DON'T RESPOND.** If you are unsure, log into your bank credit card or PayPal account to check.



Church Work Day
Saturday, September 13
9am to Noon
Pizza lunch provided
Wear Your Grubbies!

Arroyo Grande United Methodist
Children's Center
275 N. Halcyon Rd.
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

**ENROLLMENT
NOW OPEN**

- **TODDLER CLASS 18-30 MONTHS**
- **PRESCHOOL CLASS 2.5-3.5 YEARS**
- **TK CLASS 3.5 -4.5 YEARS**

For more information
and to get a tour call
Maddy at 805-481-2223
Website: agumcc.org





United Women in Faith

Bingo and Pizza was lots of fun, with pretty much everyone winning multiple prizes. We are looking forward to the next one.

Our annual Tea is scheduled for 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 MC 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. Tickets are \$15- per person. Sign up at the UMW card table in Crisswell Hall to let us know you're coming, to sponsor a table and get your tickets.

We are getting ready for the **Holiday Boutique, November 7, 8 & 9**. We are 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. We will start our weekly Thursday craft workshops, from 10 to 12 in the McMillan Room, September 4. Everyone is welcome to come help out. If you are good at crafting come and bring your ideas. Even if you are a novice, we'll teach you.

Circles and groups: All women are invited to attend the circles and groups of your choice.

Mary, Martha Esther Circle meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am in the McMillan Room. Joy Circle is resuming their meetings this month after a summer off. Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month, 3-5pm in members' homes. Check with Kerren Brown for more information.

Our new circle Daughters of Grace meets in the McMillan Room at 6:30 the 2nd Wednesday of the month. They are reading a book on the Women of the Bible. Contact Susan Thronson.

Sew And Sews Meet every Tuesday in the McMillan Room from 10 until 12, bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. We encourage those interested in quilting, crocheting, knitting and just plain visiting and sharing. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is resuming, but we need knitters and crocheters.

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

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, Stacy, Nan, Cristy, Micaela and Beverly,

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

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR YOUTH ACADEMY, SEPT. 20

The North District needs help putting on the Youth Academy on September 20. Use the QR code below to register or go to: <https://gqr.sh/yEDa>

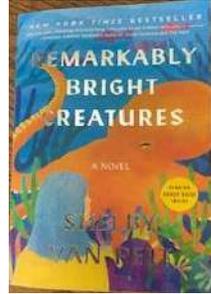


We Need **YOUR** Help!

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
- Youth Volunteers
Please contact Pastor Wes
- Video Camera operator for both services.
Please contact Mike Coho.
- Sound Board operators
Please contact Mike Coho
- Photographer needed for 2nd service.
Please contact Joel Anderson

September UWF Book Selection: Remarkably Bright Creatures



The UWF Book Club will meet on Friday, September 19th, at 10:30 A.M. in the church library for a discussion of Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Who would believe that a relationship between an aging octopus and a lonesome old woman could develop

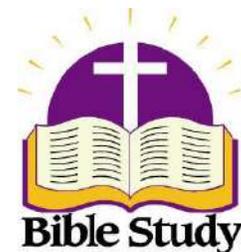
into a loving friendship? Tova works as the evening cleaning lady who relishes all the sea creatures in the Sowell Bay Aquarium; she especially loves Marcellus, the intelligent Pacific octopus, who keeps escaping from his tank. The story is much more than just a charming tale. Other humans in Tova's life become entwined in solving mysteries and finding resolutions to their personal issues. You will also learn interesting facts about octopuses!

You are invited to join the discussion of this endearing story on September 19th. Copies of Remarkably Bright Creatures can be purchased locally at the Monarch Book Store in Arroyo Grande or on-line. You can also check with Mary Whitson who ordered multiple used copies of it.

MISSION TEAM REPORTS *Successful Clothing Drive*



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

Meets on
Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in Criswell Hall
The Group is currently studying
"Breaking The Code"
by Bruce Metzger
Books are available from Nancy.
All are welcome to join us!
Future Studies are:
Revelations
Heaven and Earth by Will Willimon

ARROYO GRANDE HARVEST FESTIVAL PARADE



It's time once again for the Harvest Festival Parade in Arroyo Grande. It was so much fun we want to be in the parade again this year. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025, 10:00. We'll be carrying signs and the large Methodist Church banner. The parade route is just one mile through Arroyo Grande Village. The Children's Center will be in the parade also. There are plans for the Praise Team to provide music. Everyone is welcome to participate. Sign up in the Narthex. Any kind of costume is fine. We're looking for a "John Wesley" to be in the parade again this year! Please join us as we celebrate and advertise our church.

Contact Rose Ann Steiner

Fellowship Ministry

The **Movie** for the end of the month, September 28, will be Superman at 5pm. Free movie, popcorn, candy and soft drinks. Sign up on the list on the Connections Counter.

We look forward to a visit to the **Luffa Farm** September 12, at 10:30. There is a \$5 charge per person. It is located near Willow Road in Nipomo. Sign up at the Connections Counter in the Narthex.

The **Price House of Pismo Beach** is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at 10:30.

The 1893 Price Anniversary House is the home of the founder of Pismo Beach, John Michael Price. It is the oldest building in Pismo Beach.

A return visit to the **Tortoise Reserve** is November 15 at 11 am. It is free but a donation is well appreciated.

Put November 30th on your calendar for the **Advent Workshop**. Those who participated last year really had a good and meaningful time. A light lunch will be served after second service, followed by Christmas crafts. This event gets us off to a great start to the Christmas season.

Submitted by Gerry McGuire



ATTENTION ALL SINGERS WE WOULD LOVE YOU JOIN OUR CHOIR Thursdays 6:30 to 8:30PM

All those who can carry a tune are invited to join the choir. We start rehearsals on Thursday's in the sanctuary. Rehearsals run 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

Liturgists



Date	8:30	10:30
Sept. 07	Joe Brown	Dave Anderson
Sept. 14	Lucy Jacob	Rosslyn Clauson
Sept. 21	Sharon Roemer	Carolyn Anderson
Sept. 28	Susan Thronson	Judy Leonard

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

Sep 07 United Women of Faith

Sep 14 Membership Care

Sep 21 Fellowship Ministry

Sep 28 Worship Team



9/06 Mike Coho
9/08 Generoso Mandac
9/10 Jinna Gillean
9/12 Jonathan Thompson
9/13 Sally Weitkamp
9/14 Alice Addison
9/16 Bob Thronson
9/18 Jan Treat
9/22 John Emery
9/23 Macie Mendez
9/29 Clair Jacob

**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.**

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

NEW CAMPUS WIDE WI-FI NETWORK

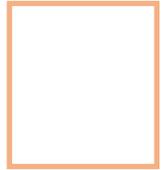
Network: FUMC GUEST

Password: united methodist church
(all lower case with spaces)



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

September 2025

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|----------|----------|---|
| Sat. | Sep 06 | Youth Program Kickoff 1-8pm |
| Fri. | Sept. 12 | Loofa Farm Tour, Carpool Church at 10:10 |
| Sat. | Sept. 13 | Women's Tea and Fashion show 11:30-1:30 |
| Sat. | Sept. 20 | North District Young People's Academy 1:00-8:00pm details |
| Sat. | Sept. 27 | Harvest Festival Parade |
| Sun. | Sept. 28 | Friends & Family Fellowship 1-4pm San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church |
| Sun. | Sept. 28 | Free Movie Night 5PM Superman |
| Mon. | Sept. 29 | People's Kitchen Food Prep 1:30, Kitchen |
| Tues. | Sept. 30 | People's Kitchen Food Distribution 11AM carpool from church |
| Sat. | Oct. 18 | Tour of the Price House, 10:30 |
| Sun. | Oct. 26 | Alternative Christmas |
| Fri-Sun. | Nov.7-9 | Christmas Boutique |
| Sat. | Nov. 15 | Turtle & Tortoise Rescue, Carpool from church at 10:45 |
| Thu. | Dec. 11 | Children's Center Christmas Program |
| Mon. | Dec. 29 | People's Kitchen Food Prep 1:30, Kitchen |
| Tues. | Dec. 30 | People's Kitchen Food Distribution 11AM carpool from church |

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.