

First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

Hope, Joy & Love Rising



Cast-A-Net

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

OCTOBER 2025

275 North Halcyon Road Arroyo Grande, CA 93420 805-481-2692 www.WorshipWeekly.com



Words from the Pastor



Why do Methodist pastors wear Vestments, and what do they mean?

The wearing of vestments in the United Methodist Church is a practice rooted in our history. John Wesley was an Anglican priest, and the Methodists were a society of the Church of England things changed. In America, things changed, and because of the American culture and the rising democratic spirit. American Methodism became its own denomination. It was no longer part of the Church of

England. We still have those roots. Vestments are worn to help emphasize the importance of the worship service and minimize the focus on the individual leading it. They aren't just for show!

Recently we have seen it has grown in ecumenical importance. Many UMC and other protestant clergy have returned to their ancient roots in worship. Even younger people, such as our acolytes, are seeing the importance role of vestments in church.

For many years and still to this day, a black robe is worn. It is called a Pulpit Robe. You see John Wesley and others wore this type of robe. It would have white preaching tabs to symbolize the person was a preacher. It connects to the medieval university scholars, and the purpose was to communicate a learned sense of bearing and focus the authority of the Word of God being preached. Recently, we have seen the Pulpit Robe being replaced with a white alb coat.

The white alb is a symbol of one's baptism. It dates back to the early Christian church. It can be worn by anyone who has been baptized. The white color symbolizes purity and new life found in Christ.

The stole is a long, narrow band of fabric. It is a signal of ordination; it is only worn by ordained clergy. Elders and bishops wear the stole to signal they are ordained, and the stole represents the yoke of Christ, symbolizing the servant leadership of the minister. Deacons wear the stole on the left shoulder and fasten it at the right hip. The stole changes color according to the church seasons. Many times, we see our acolytes wearing them as a cincture. I do not wear a cincture because I do not have one. The cincture is a rope worn around the waist to hold the alb in place. It symbolizes the towel Jesus wore when he washed the disciples' feet, highlighting the call to servant leadership.

The colors change based on the church year, each with its own symbolism. White represents purity, joy, and celebration. We see it worn during Easter, Christmas, and for funerals. Purple/violet symbolizes penitence and reflection and is used during Lent and Advent. We will be using blue during Advent this year, which is an alternative color. Red signifies sacrificial zeal and the fire of the holy spirit. Usually used on Pentecost, during the season of Pentecost, and for ordination. Green is used during Ordinary Time and represents growth and hope. Ordinary Time sounds ordinary, but it is the time of the year of new life.

The final thing you see me wear is a pectoral cross. Now, in different denominations, it is reserved for different levels of people. Usually, it is for bishops. It is a visual marker and a constant reminder of their pastoral duty to the church. It is a symbol of office, and for some, it is a symbol that this is the pastor of this local congregation. It reminds us of Christ's sacrifice. It is a testimony of perusal devotion. Pope Frances was known to wear a simple silver cross he wore before becoming pope. For him, it served as a powerful symbol of his dedication to the poor and marginalized. I wear mine as a symbol of being the pastor and personally as a reminder of my call and charge to shepherd with love and humility.



We had a successful kickoff meeting of our youth ministry led by Pastor Wesley's friend Rev. Tim Olson. There was a good turnout of both young people and adult leaders. All are excited about this new ministry. Next meeting is in Criswell Hall on **Saturday, October 4**. 3:00PM for Adult Volunteers, 4:00PM for Youth, 5:00PM Burrito Bar for all. All 4th through 12th graders and adult volunteers are encouraged to attend. Come, have some fun, and help start this new program.

Fellowship Ministry

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. Paul and Anne Holden have researched this field trip. Check with them if you have questions. Be sure to sign up at the Connections Counter.

The **Movie** for the end of the month, October 26, will be The Haunted Mansion (Disney) at 4pm. Free movie, popcorn, candy and soft drinks. Sign up on the list on the Connections Counter.

A return visit to the **Tortoise Reserve** is November 15 at 11 am. It is free but a donation will be well appreciated. Lucy will host this event, contact her if you have any questions. Sign up at the Connections Counter.

The **Advent Workshop** will be held Sunday, November 30th. 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. We can always use craft volunteer leaders, just let us know if you are interested. Contact Gerry McGuire or Connie Clark.

A Casting call is out. We are looking for talented people and acts for our annual **Extravaganza Christmas Talent Show**. Contact Gerry McGuire or Cyndi Rohla. Set aside Saturday, December 13, 3-5 pm for our show.

Submitted by, Gerry McGuire

MISSION TEAM REPORT

Alternative Christmas is Coming October 26!

The Mission Team is planning a fun event for you on October 26th after each service. It is called an Alternative Christmas and will give you the opportunity to do advance Christmas shopping that will provide you with a unique Christmas gift to give your loved ones as well as support worthwhile non-profit organizations. Some of you may remember participating in this event last year. We anticipate having two non profit organizations on display with items to purchase and support their important work Heifer International and 5 Cities Homeless Coalition.

Our Covenant Missionaries



The Methodist Missionaries we are supporting this year are Katherine Parker working in Nepal, and Florence Ogugua Mefor working in Zimbabwe. Katherine has been in Nepal since 2013 working in community transformation through education, health, peace building, good governance and sustainable livelihoods. As of this writing Nepal is gradually returning back to normalcy after the worst unrest in decades and Katherine needs our prayers more than ever. Florence continues her work as a midwife at Old Mutare Hospital with significant challenges, including widespread resource shortages, understaffing and difficult conditions for patients.

World Communion Sunday, October 6

The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America established World Communion Sunday as a global, interdenominational event in 1940. Prompted by the impact of World War II, the Methodist Church received an offering on this Sunday for the *Fellowship of Suffering and Service*. It has evolved to where we are today, providing scholarships and leadership development opportunities for international students and U.S. racial-ethnic students who are pursuing advance degrees. Gifts not only make an impact in the lives of individual students, but also transforms the religious, social and civic communities in which they lead and serve around the world.

Please use the regular offering envelopes in the pew to donate to World Communion Sunday. Please write World Communion Sunday or UMCOR on the memo line of the check and on the envelope.

People's Kitchen

Your Mission Team prepared and served a hot meal for People's kitchen on September 29. This is done every month there are five Tuesday. We are blessed with many helpers who volunteer with the preparation and serving. In the month of July we had a number of youth helpers, who said this was the highlight of their summer.

Feed the Hungry Grant Received

Missions applied for and a received \$500 grant from a California-Pacific Conference of United Methodist Church to feed the hungry. This was thanks to the work of Dorine Bolterman and Sandy Underwood.

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:

Colton, Joe, Bodie, Lee & Elaine, John, Mark, Amanda & Son, Nathan, Jack, Alex, David, Judy, Karisa, Kerri, Shelley, Jack, Harper,

- Peace in Ukraine, Gaza, Somalia and worldwide
- Families and victims of recent shootings
- Morman Church in Michigan



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

Our Tea and Fashion Show was so much fun, and we had a full house. Delicious scones, sandwiches and desserts were made by our great UWF cooks and bakers. The fashion show really tickled our funny bone with the acting our models did. The best part is we collected a lot of money for the new Church Nursery. Thank you everyone. We're getting ready for the **Holiday Boutique, November 7,8,&9.** We are looking for new ideas and helpers. If you don't craft you can help us with pricing, setting up or working the days of the boutique. Sign up at the UWF table in Crisswell Hall. Everyone is welcome to come help. We have kits to pick up and take home and of course you can donate items like quilts, table runners, placemats, potholders, and you name it. We also accept vintage items to sell in our vintage corner.

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

Mary, Martha Esther Circle meets the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am in the McMillen Room. Next meeting we will have a potluck. Come eat with us! Joy Circle meets the third Tuesday of the month, 3-5 pm in members' homes. Check with Kerren Brown for more information. Daughters of Grace meets in the McMillen Room at 6:30 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. They are reading a book on the women of the Bible. Contact Susan Thronson.

Sew -N- Sews meets every Tuesday in the McMillen Room from 10 until 2. 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 and we need knitters and crocheters.

Book Club meets the 3rd Friday in the library at 10:30. Contact Judy Leonard for a book if interested.

Holiday Craft Workshops, meets each Thursday through October 10-2 in the McMillen Room. We need you!

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry McGuire

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our current fiscal year that started July 1 looks to be difficult. The budget approved by Church Council shows a projected deficit of over \$9000. We lost some significant contributors in the past year and expenses are increasing, some quite substantially.

We are engaging in new ministries. We restarted our Youth Program and young people are becoming increasingly involved in our programs. We just finished remodeling the new nursery for infants and toddlers. It is located just off the narthex in the old Choir Room. This will make it easier for families with young children to join us at Sunday services. Attendance is up at both services. An improved hearing aid system and a new campus wide wireless internet system have been set up. Plans are underway to expand other ministries and make further improvements to our campus.

Ministries and improvements take money. That is where I need your help. If everyone pitches in, we can cover the \$9000 deficit. If we have 10 new members that each donate \$20 a week, the deficit will be more than covered. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us. If 20 of our existing members increase their weekly giving by just \$5 a week (about the price of a Starbucks coffee), the deficit will be more than covered. These both are do-able. Please do **your** part so we can continue to grow the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande and support the social and the spiritual needs of our community and throughout the world.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

THE MANDOLIN

About a year ago, a member of our church got a request from a friend in Valley State Prison in Chowchilla requesting a mandolin for their ecumenical praise band. They thought a mandolin would improve the musical performances at their church services. A mandolin was purchased and repaired. Because of prison regulations, it could not be sent to or from an individual. Instead, the instrument was sent from our church to the prison ministry. Due to paperwork and inspections, it took eight months before it was delivered. We recently received a nice letter thanking us for the mandolin. The instrument can now be checked out by prisoners, allowing them to practice in their cells and play at their frequent church services.

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 for both services.
Please contact Mike Coho
- Photographer needed for 2nd service.
- Youth Volunteers, See Pastor Wes
- Singers needed
Contact Choir Director, Tricia Stewart
- Bell Ringers needed
Please contact Leonard Lutz

October, 2025 UWF Book Club

Selection: The Lonely Hearts Book Club



On October 17th the UWF Book Club will meet at 10:30 A.M. in the library to discuss the novel, *The Lonely Hearts Book Club* by Lucy Gilmore. In this heartwarming story a young librarian, Sloane, develops an attachment to a contentious patron, Arthur, who delights in insulting her. When he doesn't show up for awhile, she reaches out to him. Understanding his loneliness, she starts a new book club. This club draws in other lonely souls who share the special place that books have in their hearts. Their newfound friendships connect them and give them more joy in their lives. We welcome you to join us for the book discussion. You can purchase a copy of *The Lonely Hearts Book Club* at the Monarch Book Store in Arroyo Grande or online. See Judy Leonard or Mary Whitson if you need assistance.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study

Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent

Meets on

Tuesdays at 1:00 pm 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!

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
Oct 05	Joe Brown	Joyce Singleman
Oct 12	Mary Thronson	Nancy St. Laurent
Oct 19	Susan Thronson	Patti Melsheimer
Oct 26	David Beard	Michelle Richardson

Friends of the Children's Center Year- End Giving Campaign for 2025

Help make a difference in a child's life. You or someone you know can make a one-time donation or become a monthly sponsor by visiting www.agumcc.org, clicking the GIVE NOW Button, or using the QR code.



WOMEN'S TEA AND FASHION SHOW



Double breasted suit by Mary Hawkins



Maid of Cotton Connie Clark, Kathi McGuire modeling 10 carat Diamond necklace with Pencil Skirt, Gerry McGuire in Sack Dress.



Daisy Parades modeling Tube Top and Clam Digger Pants



Makiyah Thompson with Aline Skirt and Pillbox Hat

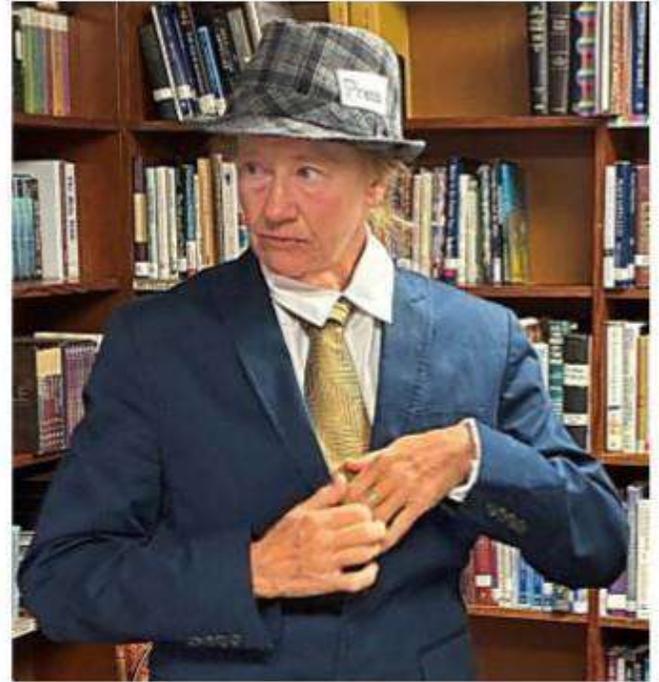




Patti Melsheimer models Ruffles



Kathi McGuire eats Patti's Ruffles



Famed New York Fashion Photographer Nan Lippitt



Patti Williams models Turtle Neck Sweater



DISTRICT YOUTH ACADEMY

The District Youth Academy was held at our church and on the beach. It was an event the participants will long remember, for more than one reason. Eight students from our church participated, along with



another 40 youth and adults from local area churches and from Southern California. The event started with a pizza lunch served by our members in Crisswell Hall to the local area participants. Our Youth Program organizer, Rev. Tim Olson provided games and entertainment while waiting for the bus bringing the Southern California participants, which was delayed due to a traffic jam on the 101. Pizza was served to the hungry bus riders upon their arrival. Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank gave an inspiring message on "belonging" (the theme of the event) and "finding your place".



Then it was on to the beach, with the bus and all. Students broke into small groups and all were highly engaged in discussions related to "belonging" and "where do I fit?". Of course, there was plenty of time to play in the surf or just hang out before hot dogs and s'mores were served.



Disaster struck when it was time to leave! The bus got stuck in the soft Pismo Beach sand. The bus was eventually rescued by what Pastor Wes called the "Tow Tank". It was huge. Those traveling back on the bus finally got on their way, though they did not arrive home until the wee hours of the morning. It was a fun, engaging, spiritual, and definitely memorable event for all those involved.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>Abbreviation Legend</u></p> <p>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</p>			<p>1 9AM Church Work morning CH 10AM Fellowship Committee L 6:30PM Worship Committee PS</p>	<p>2 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10Am Holiday Craft MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell Choir HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal S 7:30 PM Big Band Rehearsal CH</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Youth Program 3 PM Adults 4PM Youth, 5PM Burrito Bar</p>
<p>5 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service</p>	<p>6 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH</p>	<p>7 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Adult Bible Study CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7PM Trustees</p>	<p>8 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM UWF Steering committee L 1:30PM Mission Team MMR 6:30 Daughter's of Grace MMR</p>	<p>9 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10Am Holiday Craft MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell Choir HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal S 7:30 PM Big Band Rehearsal CH</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service</p>	<p>13 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH</p>	<p>14 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Adult Bible Study CH 1:30 PM Finance L 2:30PM Endowment 5PM Bell Choir HB</p>	<p>15 9AM Church Work Morning 2PM Church Council MMR</p>	<p>16 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10Am Holiday Craft MMR 10:30AM Staff Parish PS 11AM Chair Yoga CH 3:30 Children Center Board 5PM Bell ChMMRoir HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir S 7:30 PM Big Band CH</p>	<p>17 10:30AM UWF Book Club L</p>	<p>18 10:30AM Tour of the Price House</p>
<p>19 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service 3:PM Big Band Fall Concert</p>	<p>20 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH</p>	<p>21 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Adult Bible Study CH 3PM Joy Circle 5PM Bell Choir HB</p>	<p>22 9AM Church Work Morning</p>	<p>23 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10Am Holiday Craft MMR 10:30AM Staff Parish PS 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell Choir HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir S 7:30 PM Big Band CH</p>	<p>24 11AM Nominations Committee PS</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service Alternative Christmas after both Services 4PM Free Movie: Haunted Mansion</p>	<p>27 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH</p>	<p>28 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Adult Bible Study CH 3PM Joy Circle 5PM Bell Choir HB</p>	<p>29 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Mary Martha, Esther Circle MMR</p>	<p>30 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10Am Holiday Craft MMR 10:30AM Staff Parish PS 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell Choir HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir S 7:30 PM Big Band</p>	<p>31</p>	

The Friendly Neighborhood



Big Band

FALL CONCERT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2025

3:00 P.M.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF ARROYO GRANDE**

275 NORTH HALCYON, ARROYO GRANDE

FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS WELCOME

DONATIONS BENEFIT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARROYO GRANDE

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

Covenant Missionaries:

Katherine Parker, Nepal

Florence Ogugua Mefor, Nigeria

Bishop:

Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

District Superintendent:

Rev. Garth Gilliam

Children's Center (Preschool):

Director: Madrigale Quagliano

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 805-381-2223

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

Oct 05 Endowment/ELT

Oct 12 Mission Team

Oct 19 Trustees

Oct 26 Staff-Parish



10/01 Jenna Moore

10/02 Kerren Brown

10/05 Daisey Paredes

10/05 Roger Sperling

10/06 Marcella Roan

10/13 Lori Ford

10/13 Ruth Mandac

10/16 Ian Beard

10/22 Rose Ann Steiner

10/29 Lila Anderson

10/29 Rebeca Avila

10/30 Katelyn Thompson

10/31 Mary Hawkins

**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 WI-FI NETWORK FUMC GUEST

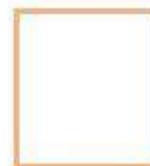
Password: united methodist church
(all lower case with spaces)



First United Methodist Church

of Arroyo Grande

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



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Find us on Facebook at United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande

www.facebook.com/fumcag

October 2025

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sat. Oct. 04 | Youth Program 3PM Adults, 4PM Youth, 5PM Burrito Bar |
| Sun. Oct. 05 | World Communion Sunday |
| Sat. Oct. 18 | Tour of the Price House, 10:30 |
| Sun. Oct. 19 | Big Band Fall Concert 3:00PM Sanctuary |
| Sun. Oct. 26 | Alternative Christmas after both services |
| Sat. Nov. 1-30 | Children's Center See's Candy Fundraiser |
| Fri-Sun. Nov. 7-9 | Holiday Boutique |
| Sat. Nov. 15 | Turtle & Tortoise Rescue, carpool from church at 10:45 |
| Sun. Nov. 16, 23 | Noisy Offering (Spare change for Turkeys) |
| Sun. Nov. 30 | Advent Crafts Workshop and Lunch After 2nd Service |
| Thu. Dec. 11 | Children's Center Christmas Program 6 PM |
| Sat. Dec. 13 | Christmas Extravaganza 3-5PM |
| Mon. Dec. 29 | People's Kitchen Food Prep 1:30, |
| Tue. Dec. 30 | People's Kitchen Food Delivery 11:00 |

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.