

Cast-A-Net

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

December 2025

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



Words from the Pastor

What kind of traditions does your family have this time of year? I think traditions during the holidays are part of what



makes it special. They provide that connection to the past that we all want. Traditions give us nostalgia, but sometimes they limit us. Traditions sometimes keep us from growing or trying new things. One year we visited some family and instead of a traditional Christmas dinner, they had enchiladas and seafood soup. It was fantastic!

Another thing about this time of year is that it isn't all cheer for everyone. It is a difficult time even with all the festivities. Let us be aware and remember this might be someone's first season without a loved one. It might be many years without a loved one. May we extend grace to people and show the love of Christ. May we share the peace Christ has given us with everyone. May we pay special attention and remember them as well. Many

churches have a Blue Christmas or a "Longest Night" service. This service is a time to reflect and remember those who have passed away and those who are struggling during this time of year. Keep them all in your prayers.

When someone comes to your mind pray for them, and if you can, stop and let them know. Send them a text saying "hi" or give them a call. Especially this time of year, it is easier to make those calls you might have been neglecting.

I hope that during this holiday season you can slow down and reflect on the great things God has done and the ways God has been faithful. I hope you have a season of excitement and wonder. I hope you connect with others. May your holiday season be filled with the Love of Christ, and may that give you the Joy and Peace to reflect and share Christ with those around you.

I hope this is the best holiday season for you!

Holiday Extravaganza Talent Show

Saturday, December 13, 3-5PM

Bring your family and friends
for fun and food.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Wednesday, December 24 4PM

Bring your family and friends!
We are trying an earlier time this year so you can
get an early start on Christmas festivities
and to assist those that don't drive at night.

A GOLDEN SUPRISE!



When Financial Secretary Jim Alquist was counting the offering a few weeks ago, a gold coin fell out of an unknown envelope. It was a Saint Helena 1/4 ounce gold coin! It is a generous gift as the coin contains over \$1000 of gold. The Finance Team greatly thanks the unidentified donor of this amazing coin. The Team decided to keep the coin as church property, until a special need arises.

Saint Helena is a British Territory and is one of the most remote islands in the world. It is located in the South Atlantic Ocean, some 1,200 miles west of Africa. Because it is so isolated, it is where the British exiled Napoleon after the Battle of Waterloo.

During the Age of Sailing the island was controlled by the British East India Company. It was an important stop where ships could replenish water and provisions, and was famous for its brothels and bars. At its peak over 1000 ships a year would stop there. With the coming of steamships and the opening of the Suez Canal it turned into an unimportant, forgotten backwater. Today it has fewer than 5000 residents. The economy is based on handouts from the British government, tourism and the sale of stamps and coins to collectors.

The 2022 dated gold coin has the nominal face value of £25, which is about \$33. Of course, it never trades at that. One side depicts Queen Elizabeth. The other is modeled after the 18th century British gold coin called a "Spade Guinea". The coin got the name because the depiction of the British coat of arms looks like a spade. The Latin legend "*DIRIGE DEUS GRESSUS MOES*" translates as "*May God Direct My Steps*". It is an excellent message for all of us to remember as we enter this new year.

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome 12 new members who joined Nov. 23.



Ellise Faith, Ellsworth Zxain, Michael and Edmelyne Campuno with sponsor Mary Hawkins



Pax, Aleander, Makiyah & Kristi Thompson with sponsor Jo Anne Napoles



Tricia Stewart



Sponsor Bobbi Merris with Terry Carver

Not Shown: Steve & Paulette Black transferred their membership to out congregation and will be presented at a later date.



BRING THE ADVENT ANIMALS TO BABY JESUS



It's our last youth group event of the year! The Youth Christmas Party & Progressive Dinner will be taking place on Saturday, December 6th from 4:00pm - 8:30pm. Meet at the church at 4:00pm and bring a wrapped White Elephant Gift (funny gift that costs no more than \$10) to exchange at our last location. Parents should plan to pick up their teenagers when we return to the church at 8:30pm. This event is for all students currently attending 6th-12th grade as well as all adult volunteers who have been attending the youth volunteer training with Pastor Tim. A completed 2025-2026 Medical Release Form is required from each student planning to attend. Please see Pastor Wes for the medical release form and then bring the completed form to the Progressive Dinner with you on December 6th! This is a great event to invite friends to!

UPCOMING YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

3:00pm - 4:00pm on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP:

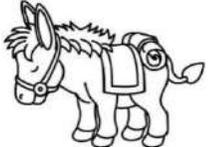
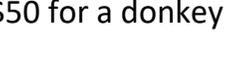
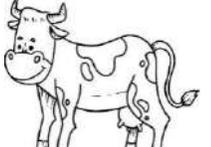
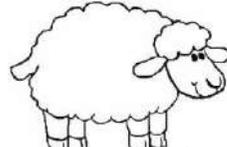
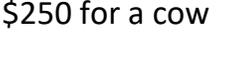
4:00pm - 5:00pm on Saturday, January 3rd, 2026
(with dinner following)



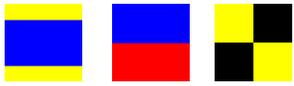
We had such fun and success with "Bringing the Advent Animals to Baby Jesus" in previous years that we're bringing them back. We need your help to bring the doves, cats, dogs, donkeys, sheep, cows, camels and

colts to the manger in Bethlehem to adore and worship the Baby Jesus. We are hoping for some angels who will contribute \$1000. Our goal for this year's Advent offering is \$6,500. The funds are an important part of our annual budget. Your contributions will help bring all the animals to Bethlehem. Please give generously. Mark your contributions "ADVENT" or specify which animal you would like to sponsor.

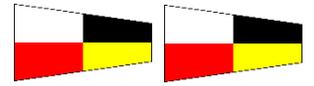
YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP BRING ALL THE ANIMALS TO BETHLEHEM:

-  \$10 brings a dove 
-  \$25 for cat or a dog
-  \$50 for a donkey 
-  \$100 for a sheep
-  \$250 for a cow 
-  \$500 for a colt
-  \$750 for a colt
-  \$1000 for an angel

Please mark your contribution 'ADVENT' or specify what you want to bring to the manger either on your check or offering envelope.



Happy 99th Birthday Del Hollinger



Like so many lovely things such as temperate weather, strawberries and fine wine, Del Hollinger is a product of the Central Coast. And, similar to Jesus' first four disciples, he is a sailor. At the very first opportunity, age 15, he joined the Sea Scouts, in Avila. He learned to row, sail, tie knots and all things maritime. Del also crewed (raced) on various boats.

As a Senior at San Luis Obispo High School Del took a course in Morse Code. This made him invaluable as a Radioman when he joined the U.S. Navy. In Asia, Del and another Radioman were in charge of all communications for five ships. Del operated three circuits at once: left ear, right ear and front! After World War II ended, he spent seven months in Mainland China.

After Asia, Del worked pushing a buggy of concrete to help build the Marsh Street Bridge in San Luis Obispo (S.L.O.) This motivated him to complete a Civil Engineering degree in two years. He worked for the California Division of Highways (the Division,) now known as Caltrans, in S.L.O. In 1951, Del was called back to Korea. Upon his return, he resumed working with Caltrans for the next 37 years. He worked on Highway 101, and managed 38 projects at once.

Del enjoys poetry. When the Division became Caltrans, resources were significantly decreased. Del gained notoriety for creating limericks. Del jokes that it may have limited his advancement.

“You asked me if I had anything to say,
I'll say anything, any old day,
It may not be important,
It may not be good,
But, I opened my mouth whenever I could.”

As a 21-year-old, Del built his first sailboat, a Geary 18', and named her Gismo. Years later, Del and his wife Hilde sailed out of Avila on an Erickson 29' named Foxy Lady to Hawaii. This extraordinary voyage was 20 days over and 30 days return. Flying fish would land on their foredeck. And a beautiful Orca came within 8 feet. Due to equipment, Del navigated by running fixes rather than dead reckoning. Del still owns a Geary 18'. He is a lifetime member of the San Luis Yacht Club.



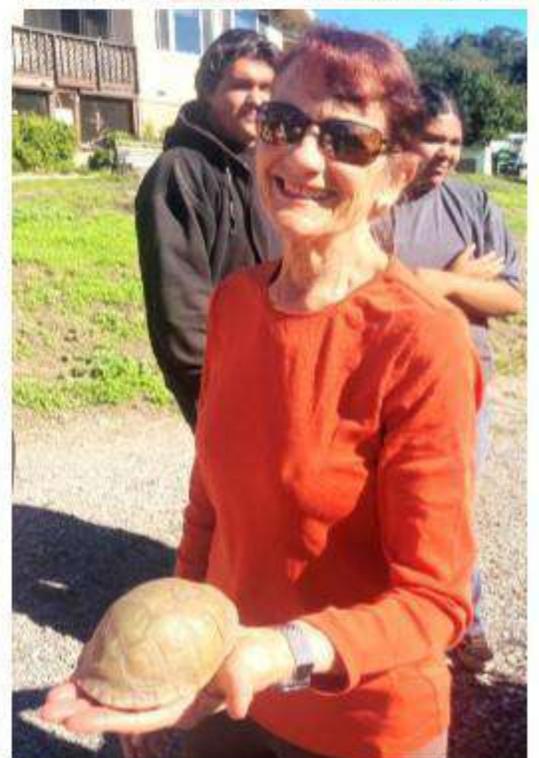
Del has always recognized the importance of physical activity. He and Hilde enjoyed dancing, including tango, jitterbug, rumba, and square dancing, which they did for decades around the country. He continues to do 75 pushups every morning in addition to other exercises. And, he is once again walking two miles daily at an impressive pace!

In 1960, when 33 years old, Del moved to Shell Beach. He became a member of the Shell Beach Methodist Church. When the church closed in April 2006, Del joined the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. He deliberately became an usher in order to meet people. Del served as Head Usher for ten years. When you see him, you can ask Del about his missionary work in Papua New Guinea

Del and Hilde enjoyed 63 years of marriage. Their Christmas celebration included various German traditions such as stollen. Since her death on Christmas Eve 2015, Christmas has been a very hard time for Del



**TURTLE & TORTOISE
RESCUE of
ARROYO GRANDE**





UWF BOUTIQUE





United
Women
in Faith

The **Holiday Boutique** as usual was a great success. How could it not be with so many wonderful helpers, making things during our craft workshops. Dorine, Leona, Janice, Pam, Claudia, Michelle and Mary T. We had so much fun together. We thank the many who made things at home: Karen and her jams, (she was making them as fast as we sold them). Her granddaughters planted succulents for us. Kristi made wreaths that were popular and so pretty. We had donations from Edna from Ventura, Sandy between her trips (pottery items) and of course Susan, who made so many clever things. Special thanks go to those helping to set up and take down: Joyce, Leona, Mary T, Irene, Susan, Dennis, and Bob T. It really does take a lot of people to put this on and also a lot of customers. Thank you all! An unofficial tally shows close to \$5,000. Wow! Our recipients of our donations are going to be so happy! We will send checks to the Children's Center, 5 cities Homeless Coalition, Captive Hearts and Oceano School.

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

Mary, Martha Esther Circle meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am in the McMillen Room. We will not be meeting in November and December.

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

Daughters of Grace will be meet 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. The next meeting is January 14.

Sew And Sews Meet every Tuesday in the McMillen 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 meets 3rd Friday, in the library, at 10:30. Contact Judy Leonard or Patti Melsheimer for a book if interested.

MISSION TEAM REPORT

The Mission Team finished our Alternative Christmas. We collected \$1,865 for supporting Heifer International, and \$325 for 5Cities Homeless Coalition we sold jewelry for our Missionary to Nepal.

Gently used clothing donated by church members was taken to People's Kitchen and St. Barnabas Thrift Shop weekly.

Mission team members helped with the Children's Center clean up after repairs and remodeling of classrooms. The fifth Tuesday in December will be our turn to provide a hot meal for the homeless at the People's Kitchen again. Members and volunteers prepare nutritious casseroles for 65 people on Monday December 29 and deliver them Tuesday December 30.

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

The **Movie** for the end of the month will not be shown in December due to the holidays.

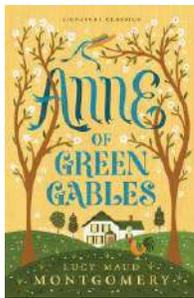
The Holiday Extravaganza Talent Show is in the process of gathering more acts and planning. Contact Gerry or Cindy Rhola if you'd like to be included. This congregation has lots of talent, we need to know who you are. Just Remember to put this on your calendar, Saturday, December 13 at 3pm.

Factory Tour on Wednesday February 25th at Melfred Borzall with Dick Melshiemer. Melfred Borzall is a pioneer in horizontal directional drilling tools. Please meet at the church parking lot at 9:20 am or at Melfred Borzall located 2712 Airpark Dr, Santa Maria, CA 93455 at 10 am. Participants must wear long pants and closed toed shoes we will be in a factory. The tour is 2 hours long with a possibility of lunch. To learn more please check out the Melfred Borzall website for videos of the drills and a history of the company. There is a maximum of 24 people for this tour, the deadline to register is Sunday February 22. For questions contact Lucy Jacob at 805 503 9397.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURADAY
	1 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	2 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1PM Adult Bible Study CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7PM Trustees 7:30 PM Big Band	3 9AM Church Work Morning Fellowship Ministry 10AM L 5:30PM Worship Team, Pastors Office	4 9AM Senior Exercise CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell Choir HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal S	5	6 4-8:30PM Youth Progressive Dinner CH
7 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service 3:00PM Friendly Neighborhood Big Band Concert	8 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	9 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Adult Bible Study CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band CH	10 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM UWF committee L 1:30 PM Mission Team MMR 6:30 PM Daughters of Grace MMR	11 9AM Senior Exercise CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell Choir HR 6PM Children's Center Christmas Program S	12	13 3PM Christmas Extravaganza Variety Show
14 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	15 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	16 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1:30PM Finance L 3:00 Joy Circle 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band CH	17 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Steering Committee 2PM Church Council	18 9AM Senior Exercise CH 10:30AM Staff Parish PS 11AM Chair Yoga CH 3:30PM Children's Center Board MMR 5PM Bell choir HR 6:30PM Chancel Choir	19 10:30am UWF Book Club L 11:00am Nominations committee PS	20
21 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	22 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	23 9AM Senior Exercise 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Adult Bible Study CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band CH	24 Christmas Eve Service: 4PM 	25 	26	27
28 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	29 1:30PM People's Kitchen Food Prep 4:30PM Communications Library 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	30 9AM Senior Exe CH 10AM Sew' N Sew 11AM Chair Yoga 11AM People's Kitchen Food Distribution 1PM Adult Bible CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band	31 10AM Mary, Martha Esther Circle, MMR 	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		

December UWF Book Club Selection



Our December book, Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery, is a classic that has been enjoyed by children and adults for many years. Anne is an 11-year-old orphan who has not had a permanent home since the death of her parents. She is sent by mistake to the Green Gables farm where they are expecting her to be a boy. Anne makes a place for herself through her grit and passion for belonging.

This uplifting story is one which readers will enjoy as Anne engages us in her exploits. What a perfect Christmas book! Join us for our discussion on Friday, December 19th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. You can borrow a book from the library or see Judy Leonard or Mary Whitson to get your own book.

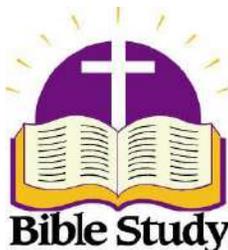
Library News

The library is open on Sundays from 9:30 to 12:00. Come into browse, check out a book or just chat with me. Our shelves are filled with some wonderful books!

This month's highlight is the Mitford series by Jan Karan, very heartwarming and fun to read! A special new addition to our library is the Mitford Snowmen, a Christmas story.

Joyce Singelman

TUESDAY 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!

Christmas Concert

The Friendly Neighborhood



Big Band

Guest Vocalists

Tricia Stewart Dave Anderson

Sunday, December 7th, 2025

at 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

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
Dec. 07	Joe Brown	Patti Melsgeuner
Dec. 14	Lucy Jacob	Barbara Reineke
Dec. 21	Elwood Hyden	Nancy St. Laurent
Dec. 28	David Beard	Carolyn Anderson

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, Ann, Mike, Tiffany Tracy, Carmen, Rosario, Ernest, Willy, Jason, John, Mark, Harper, Desmond, Nathan, Jack, Joe, Bodie, Lee, and Elaine, Mark, Harper, Jack, Joe, Jack, Bodie, Lee, Elaine.

GOD BLESS LITTLE HARPER



She is now at Ronald McDonald House and doing better. Thank you everyone for your prayers. Please continue to pray for her.

WELCOME AALIYAH RAE MENDEZ



Daughter of Carina Mendez
Great Granddaughter of Blanca Placencia
Born Nov. 7, 2025

Poinsettia Order Form



This is your opportunity to help provide poinsettias to brighten our church and the lives of our shut-in members.

Please print your dedication clearly.

Thank you for your generosity.

IN HONOR or IN MEMORY OF
(please circle one)

Each poinsettia plant is \$15.

Payments should be made to FUMCAG

Memo line on check or envelope: Poinsettias

Please put payment and this completed form in an offering envelope and place the offering plate or drop your envelope with form at the church office by Monday morning, December 12.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Office use only:

Cash _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

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:

Position open

Choir Director:

Tricia Stewart

Praise Team Director:

Mike Clark

Pianist/Keyboard: 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 Quaglino

E-mail: agumcc@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 805-381-2223

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

Dec 07 Endowment /ELT

Dec 14 Trustees

Dec 21 Mission Team

Dec 28 Fellowship Ministry

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



12/01 Judy Heiney

12/03 David Beaman

12/05 Stephen Wise

12/07 Michael Balster

12/08 Adeline Bottorff

12/09 William Russell

12/10 Michael Clarck

12/13 Nancy Sperling

12/13 Deborah Lewis

12/16 Susan Thronson

12/17 Julia Burns

12/20 David Beard

12/24 Kent Unsworth

12/27 Cyndee Rohla

12/27 Joseph Leonard

12/27 Jed Moore

12/30 Scott Trees

12/30 Susana Jones

**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.**

Please consider year end gifts to your church

There can be significant tax advantages in giving appreciated stock or donating Required Minimum Distributions from an IRA account directly to the church. Talk with your tax advisor for detail.

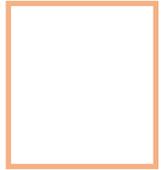
Hope, Joy & Love Rising



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

December 2025

Upcoming Events

- Sat. Dec. 6 Youth Program, Progressive Dinner 4:00-8:30PM
- Sun. Dec.7 Friendly Big Band Concert 3:00PM
- Thu. Dec. 11 Children's Center Christmas Program
- Sat. Dec. 13 Christmas Extravaganza 3-5PM
- Wed. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 4PM
- Mon. Dec. 29 People's Kitchen Food Prep 1:30PM
- Tues. Dec. 30 People's Kitchen Food Distribution 1 carpool from church at 11AM
- Sat. Jan. 3 Youth Training for adults 3PM
- Sat. Jan. 3 Youth Group with dinner 4PM
- Sun. Jan. 25 Free Movie Night 4PM
- Wed. Feb. 25 Melfred Borzall factory tour, 10AM
Leave church at 9:20AM

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.