

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Weekly Events:

|              |                                                         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon. 4:30pm  | Communications, Library                                 |
| 6:00pm       | Gerry's Quilt Class, Criswell Hall                      |
| Tue 9:00am   | Tai Chi, Criswell Hall                                  |
| 10:00am      | Sew 'n Sews, McMillen Room #113                         |
| 11:00am      | Chair Yoga, Criswell Hall                               |
| 7:30pm       | Friendly Neighborhood Big Band Rehearsal, Criswell Hall |
| Wed. 9:00am  | Church Work Morning                                     |
| 10:00am      | Mary, Martha, Esther Circle, McMillen Room #113         |
| Thu. 9:00am  | Fast walking & Tai Chi, Criswell Hall                   |
| 11:00am      | Chair Yoga, Criswell Hall                               |
| Fri. 10:00am | Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Recreation, Criswell Hall |
| Sat. 4:00pm  | 4pm –6pm Youth Group Empty Bowls at Evelyn & Deb's home |
| Sun. 8:30am  | Informal Worship Service                                |
| 10:30am      | Traditional Worship Service                             |
| 2 - 4pm      | Movie Night My Spy                                      |

**HOSPITALITY:** Today hosted by Staff Parish  
August 30<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Trustees

| ATTENDANCE                             |      |       |               |       |       | STEWARDSHIP           |
|----------------------------------------|------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| WEEK                                   | 8:30 | 10:30 | IN-<br>PERSON | VIDEO | TOTAL | Weekly Needed \$7,740 |
| July 26                                | 34   | 56    | 90            | 26    | 116   | \$6,777               |
| Aug 02                                 | 35   | 87    | 122           | 29    | 151   | \$7,504               |
| Aug 09                                 | 45   | 68    | 113           | 10    | 123   | \$11,825              |
| Aug 16                                 | 43   | 72    | 115           | 14    | 129   | \$8,349               |
| YTD Received: \$54,401                 |      |       |               |       |       | YTD Needed \$50,099   |
| Our Fiscal Year runs July 1 to June 30 |      |       |               |       |       |                       |

**Assisting in today's service – Pastor:** Rev. Wesley Thompson  
**Liturgist:** Judy Leonard, **Organ:** Brad Bettencourt, **Piano/Keyboard:** Dennis Eiler, **Sound Tech:** Adrian Paredes, **Video:** Susan Thronson  
**Special Music:** Cross Traffic, **Song Leader:** Tricia Stewart.



**First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande**  
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Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
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WorshipWeekly.com



August 23, 2026

10:30 am

**Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors**  
**The People of The United Methodist Church**



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| PRELUDE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | “Holy, Holy”                   | By. Jimmy Owens | SPECIAL MUSIC | “Blessed Be The Lamb” | Cross Traffic |
| INTROIT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | “All The Praise”               | Cross Traffic   | SCRIPTURE     | Matthew 16:13-20      |               |
| CALL TO WORSHIP*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [Liturgist] In a world where powerful people make decisions to lift themselves up and cast others aside, how does God teach us to use our power?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [All] God teaches us to protect the vulnerable, resist the oppressors, and persist in doing good.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [Liturgist] In a world where power means might, how does God show us what power means?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [All] God shows us through the midwives’ daring, Peter’s truth-telling, and Jesus’ humility.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [Liturgist] In a world where power is held over people’s heads, how does God exercise power?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [All] God exercises power with the oppressed, with the outcasts, with the poor and downtrodden.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [Liturgist] Beloved, we gather to recognize our world as it is and to grow as disciples and imitators of Christ. So, how will you use your power today?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [All] We will side with the vulnerable, build community in the margins, and love all of our neighbors with the exuberant and all-encompassing love of Christ. Amen.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| OPENING HYMN*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” | No. 110         |               |                       |               |
| WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| OPENING PRAYER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| [All] O God, Sustainer of all life and Creator of the universe, you set us aside to be leaders, so help us see things as they are and not only as they affect ourselves. Grant that we may have a wise and modest estimate of our own powers and live in full contact with all things high, true, and good. Teach us our failings and our faults; give us courage to acknowledge them and, by your grace, enable us to overcome them. Lift us above the unstable currents of our self-will and establish us on the rock of your purposes. Be to each of us the secret stay and the inner guide of our lives. May your Spirit dwell in us more and more, that your peace which exceeds all understanding may possess our hearts and minds. Amen. |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
| STAFF APPRECIATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                |                 |               |                       |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                |                 |               |                       |               |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| CHILDREN AND YOUTH MOMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                   |                 |
| We invite all children and youth to participate in this intergenerational time of learning about Jesus.                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                   |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Mary Whitson, Proclaimer          |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Christina Cuddy, Youth Teacher    |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Mary Thronson, Children’s Teacher |                 |
| O God, we thank you for blessing us with the gift of children. May they learn the stories of Jesus. May we share their joy. Amen.                                                                                                                                                                |                                   |                 |
| A TIME OF PRAYER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |                 |
| Call to Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | “Jesus, Name Above All Names”     | TFWS #2071      |
| Prayer/Lord's Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                   |                 |
| Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | “Jesus, Name Above All Names”     | TFWS #2071      |
| SERMON:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                   |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Who do you Say Jesus is?          |                 |
| OFFERING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                   |                 |
| Call to Stewardship and Mission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                   |                 |
| Offertory                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | “I Need Thee Every Hour”          | By Robert Lowry |
| Doxology/Prayer of Dedication*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                   |                 |
| CLOSING HYMN*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                   |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | “One Bread, One Body”             | No .620         |
| BENEDICTION*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                   |                 |
| [All] God calls us to use our power wisely and in the service of those the world has disempowered. May God bless us with the courage to notice injustices in the world and the perseverance to keep showing up with God and one another as we empower one another to set the world aright. Amen. |                                   |                 |
| RESPONSE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | “One More Opportunity”            | Cross Traffic   |
| POSTLUDE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | “Christus Victor”                 | Cross Traffic   |
| *Please stand as able                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                   |                 |



**Today's Flowers Are In Memory Of  
Family and Friends of Bobbi Merris  
From Mike Harrod & Terry Carver**



**Today's Flowers In Honor Of  
Cristy Van Hook  
Happy Birthday  
From Lamar Van Hook**

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

**13** Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

**14** “Some say John the Baptist,” they answered. “Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.”

**15** “What about you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?”

**16** Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

**17** “Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven.

**18** And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it.

**19** I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

**20** Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

UPCOMING EVENTS :

- Fri. Sep 4

Plantel Nursery Tour, Santa Maria, 10am, Meet at church 9:20
- Sat.Sep12

Dana Adobe History Day. Carpool from church at 9:30
- Sun. Sep13

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday after 2nd service. Includes lunch and games.
- Sat.Sep 26

District Women's Retreat at our church
- SunOct 4

Friendly Neighborhood Band Concert, 3PM
- Sun.Oct 25

Alternative Christmas Boutique, after both services
- Mon. Oct 26

Little Pink Houses of Hope Dinner
- Nov 6-8

Boutique
- Sat.Nov14

John Lindsey presentation on El Nino. 10:30
- Sun. Dec6

Friendly Neighborhood Band Concert 3pm
- Tue. Dec 8

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.1pm, Advance on-line signup required.
- Thu, Dec17

Alternate date: Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. 1pm, Advance on-line signup required.