



Cast-A-Net

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



April 2026

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

PASTOR'S PAGE

We have arrived at the end of Lent. In just a few short days, at the dawn of April 5th, we celebrate the Resurrection. As we move into the season of Eastertide, may we be Resurrection people. Death is not the last work. Easter means a new start for



all of us. To get there, we have to travel through the last valley of Lent. This week, we have Maundy Thursday Soup at Six. Traditionally this service contains things such as celebrating the eucharist and/or foot washing. We are going to have a meal together, just like Jesus and the disciples. We will eat and join in fellowship. Comeback the next day and travel through the final hours of Jesus life. As we reflect on Jesus' last hours, it reminds us of the trials and difficulties we face. It may seem like Friday night, but Sunday is on the way! As the song Happy Day exclaims, "The greatest day in history, death was beaten, you have rescued me, sing it out: *Jesus is Alive!*"

I will continue to share this over and over I love our church. We have great leadership! They all work together and do a great job helping us have a wonderful faith community. It reminds me of the different parts of the body. They are all important, but the sum of the parts is greater than the whole. Each of our parts makes up the whole of our faith community.

Many wonderful things are going on and wonderful people are making a difference. We have many ways for people to connect. Make sure you check out the Connections table for the sign-ups for the different events happening. We have some really fantastic things coming up. As wonderful as this is, I believe the best is yet to come. We have more on the horizon, lives to impact, to make the world a better place and ways to serve. I do truly believe every one of us can and do make a difference in the world.

Thank you to each of you who makes a difference in the faith community here and beyond.

Rev, Wesley Thompson

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES - BRING YOUR FRIENDS - DETAILS INSIDE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6PM Soup and Salad Supper

GOOD FRIDAY

6:30PM Tenebrae Service

EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 Easter Service with Praise Band

10:30 Easter Service with Chancel Choir

Refreshments, Easter Bunny and Fun after both services. Easter Egg Hunt for adults after 2nd service.

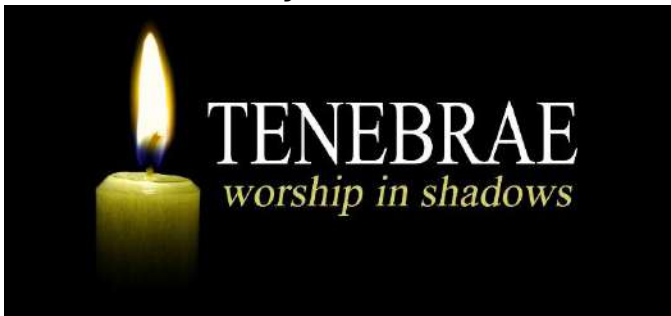
Join us in our Holy Week Faith Journey



Maundy Thursday, also called Holy Thursday, commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples. The name stems from the Latin mandatum (commandment), referring to Jesus' commandment given at the Last Supper "love one another as I have loved you".

We will celebrate Maundy Thursday with a simple soup and salad supper at 6:00, so that we may enjoy each other's friendship and remind us to follow Jesus's commandment to "love one another".

Good Friday Tenebrae Service



The Service of Tenebrae, or "Shadows," is based on a twelfth-century late night/early morning service and is an extended meditation on the Passion of Christ. Scripture narrating the events of Jesus' last week on earth, is read from the gospels interspersed with the extinguishing of candles until the only candle remaining on the altar is the Christ Candle. A bell tolls 33 times to honor the thirty-three years of Jesus' life on Earth. The Christ Candle is then carried out of the sanctuary and worshippers depart in silence. It is a way of remembering Jesus and honoring Jesus' Passion.

Our Good Friday Tenebrae service will be a simple service starting at 6:30 with the passion narrative from one of the gospels, two or three passion hymns and no homily. The scripture is the message as we honor Jesus' life in worship. The service will conclude at sunset.



He IS Risen!

We will celebrate Christ's resurrection with joyous worship services. Our Easter celebrations will include special refreshments and visits by the Easter Bunny and Easter Chicken handing out eggs with surprises between services. Bring the kids, grandkids and great grand kids. The youth are putting on an Easter Egg hunt for the adults after Second Service. Bring your parents and grandparents. It will all be lots of fun!





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our new United Women in Faith directory is almost ready to publish. There has been a lot of research into past records because not everything was recorded. It was important to us to have records as accurate as possible since the last directory was published in 2018. Covid was responsible for much of the delay due to lack of records and not publishing the directory during the years since. Now we are on track. Something new for United Women in Faith: Dorine Bolterman has consented to serve as our Mission chair. She is working on getting together a group of volunteers to fix meals in our church kitchen for the Five Cities Homeless Coalition. If you can give your time once a month talk to Dorine or Gerry. This would only be fixing the meals, not serving, so it would only be about 2 hours. This is great community service. We have our annual Tea coming up on May 9. It will have a flower theme with lots of surprises. There will be a special presentation by Brad Bettencourt on flower arranging. We are planning tea sandwiches, special desserts and of course tea. Invite your friends and family, sign up and purchase your tickets at the UWF table after Easter. Tickets are \$15. Bingo will be August 15. Mark that down. Just don't leave town.

September we will host the North District United Women in Faith with a Women's Retreat here.

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.

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 Circle, meets in the Library Room at 5:30 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Thronson.

Sew And Sews Meets every Tuesday in the McMillen Room from 10 until 1:30, bring a sandwich if you want to stay for lunch. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is led by Janice Moore. We need knitters and crocheters.

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

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Things are shaping up for a great Spring for our congregation with a lot of interesting and fun activities.

Our Pancake Breakfast did so well that it was decided that it would fund the Cinco de Mayo Taco Bar making it free for all.

The March 13th Etto Pasta Factory Tour and lunch, was attended by 20. It was very informative and tasty.

The March 28th Labyrinth at Lucy's House was well attended and spiritually enlightening for many.

April 5, Easter Sunday. We will be hosting the Hospitality Time at our church. Look for lots of good seasonal things to snack on and a visit from the Big Bunny and his two friends. They may even be giving out special eggs. Youth will put on an Easter Egg hunt for adults after 2nd service.

Saturday, April 11, Red Wings Horse Sanctuary. Leave church at 9:30 for 10:30 tour in Paso Robles. It is free, however a donation is encouraged to help them continue their work.

Sunday, April 26, Free movie night, 4:00 "*I Can Only Imagine 2 - Mercy Me*" A sequel to "*I Can Only Imagine*" that continues the story.

Sunday, May 3, Taco Bar. After second service. There will also be Tamales and entertainment. Free. Sign up at the connections table.

Saturday, June 6 Encore Tour of Bob and Scotts Garden. Leave church at 9:45 or meet there at 10

Wednesday Aug 5 at 3:45, and **Saturday Aug 15 at 9:45, Arroyo Grande History Tour of the Village.** Limited to group of 10 on each day.

Friday, September 4 Plantel Nursery Tour in Santa Maria. They grow vegetable transplants and do automated planting of these at farms. We will meet at 9:20 at church to carpool there.

As always, it's a good idea to sign up at the Connections table to assure yourself of having a place. Submitted by Gerry McGuire

SCAM ALERTS



A scammer has gotten hold of e-mails of many church members and sent out e-mails in the name of Pastor Wes asking for help in obtaining gift cards.

Anytime you get a request for a gift card there is about a 99.9% chance it is a scam. **Ignore it and delete it.** Pastor Wes, church members, the IRS, the sheriff, Microsoft or any other government agency or company will NEVER e-mail or phone you asking for gift cards. If you get such a request DELETE IT. If you think it might be legitimate, don't respond to the e-mail. Phone the person or organization using the phone number you have on file or look up at their website. DO NOT use the phone number the scammer put in their e-mail.

Another scam going around is URGENT UPDATES. You get a message on your computer or phone that you must install an update immediately or you will not be able to access your files or something terrible will happen to your phone or computer. IGNORE IT. It is a scam to gain access to files on your computer. Legitimate updates do not have to be installed immediately like they once were. Depending on the update it will either be installed automatically at night (typical of Apple) or next time you turn off your computer (typical of Microsoft).

Remember - always be suspicious, always double check. **THE SCAMMERS ARE OUT TO GET YOU!**

BECOME A SPY FOR OUR CHURCH!



The Communications Team is always looking for fresh ideas from other churches. When visiting other churches be sure to pick up copies of their bulletins, newsletters, prayer cards, etc. You may leave them in the Communications Box in the office or give to Joel Anderson.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND SPONSORS

I am noticing new faces coming to our Worship Services each week and many who are returning with consistency. Welcome!! I think you are feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit in our congregation and a welcoming spirit among us. We are preparing for our next New Membership orientation meeting on May 17th. The class will introduce you to all the “ins and outs” of membership, campus life and opportunities to further your worship and service desires within our church and community. There will be a signup sheet at the Connections Table in the Narthex for those interested in becoming members of our church. Current members who would like to become a sponsor are encouraged to attend. Sponsors stand beside incoming members and act as resources during follow up. Pastor Wes or Kerren Brown are available to answer questions or help guide you with your decision.

Blessings and prayers for you during this decision time.

-Kerren Brown



**VIDEO CAMERA,
SLIDE AND
SOUND BOARD
OPERATORS
NEEDED AT BOTH SERVICES**

No experience necessary.
Youth welcome.
See Pastor Wes

Mission Team Report

March was our month for People's Kitchen. We prepared casseroles on March 30th and served on March 31st. If anyone is interested in helping, in the future please let us know. We serve on the fifth Tuesday of the Month.



giving, and praying for our Native American brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Little Pink Houses of Hope is planning their breast cancer retreat in this area, which will be held October 25-31. One of the ways that they care for their breast cancer patients and their families during retreat week is by providing home cooked meals or sponsored dinners. These shared meals offer more than nourishment. They create space for connection, comfort, and rest during what is often a very challenging time. The Mission Team, with help from any interested church members have volunteered to provide a meal. More info to follow when we know the exact day.

March 15 was UMCOR Special Sunday. April 19 is Native American Special Sunday, a time to recognize the contributions of Native Americans to our faith and communities. Through your generosity, we support Native-led ministries to provide scholarships for Native American students pursuing the ministry, and fund impactful programs that empower Native communities. Join us in celebrating,

LABYRINTH PRAYER WALK



A prayer labyrinth is a spiritual journey. It is a physical and mental meditation method that has been used in Christianity and other cultures for hundreds of years. The labyrinth has a single, winding path leading to the center, then leads out again. Though everyone follows the same path, not everyone has the same journey. Some meditate as they walk, some pray silently at each turn, some sing some recite a prayer aloud as they walk. Walking the labyrinth is a way of connecting to God and centering oneself. About 16 people from our church enjoyed walking the two labyrinths at Lucy and Elwood's house, followed by fellowship and refreshments.



ETTO PASTA FACTORY TOUR



What an enjoyable, educational and delicious outing! Thirteen members and friends joined the Fellowship Ministry tour of the Etto Pasta Factory, Market and Pasta Bar in Paso Robles. The tour started off in the Etto Pasta Museum. It includes pasta making equipment that has been around long enough that Thomas Jefferson had one just like it. That was followed by excellent, short videos explaining the history of the firm and how the pasta is made. The owners spent considerable time traveling in Italy where they fell in love with the delicious pasta. Unable

to find similar products in the United States they started their own pasta factory! Participants then got to see the pasta actually being produced. The ingredients are simple, organic semolina durum wheat and water. Ingredients are mixed and extruded through bronze dies, giving the pasta a naturally rough texture that holds sauce beautifully. Next came a delicious pasta lunch at the Etto Pasta Bar. And everyone came away with a box of pasta to cook up at home. It was a wonderful day of fun, friendship and fellowship!

MELFRED BORZALL FACTORY TOUR



Thank you Dick Melsheimer for an amazing tour and an incredible Santa Maria barbeque lunch.

FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BIG BAND CONCERT



A fun afternoon of lively music was enjoyed by all. A wide variety of tunes was played, ranging from Count Basie to Blazing Saddles to My Fair Lady as well as beautiful singing by Kathryn Loomis. Watch for announcements of their upcoming concerts.





United Women of Faith honor Lorie Ford



Paul, Kent & Jack on their regular monthly walk on the beach. They also do monthly walks on the Bob Jones Trail. Say Hello when you see them.

YOUTH GROUP!



**Next Youth Group Saturday, April 4
3:00 Leaders, 4:00 Youth, 5:30 Dinner
In -N-Out Burger excursion planned**

ELT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FALL, 2026

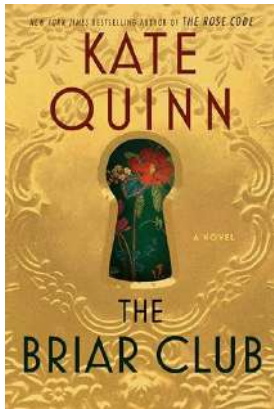
Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship applications will be available online (www.worshipweekly.com) and in the church office beginning in April. The purpose of this scholarship is to help deserving United Methodist students enrolled in accredited universities, college, and technical schools defray the cost of their education.

Only students who are or have been active participants in the Arroyo Grande First United Methodist Church may apply. Graduating high school seniors must include letters of recommendation as well as a high school transcript with their completed applications. Returning college students will need to provide a college transcript but are not required to submit letters of recommendation. Students may apply for this scholarship more than once if they have maintained a minimum 2.5 GPA in their college work.

The completed application with required attachments must be turned into the church office by May 15th. Everett Lee Taylor Scholarship recipients will be announced in early June. Scholarship checks will be given to recipients upon proof of registration in Fall, 2026 college classes.

If you would like to be considered for an ELT Scholarship, please submit a completed application by May 15th.

April UWF Book Club Selection:



The UWF Book Club will meet on Friday, April 17th to discuss The Briar Club, an intriguing historical fiction story by Kate Quinn. In this story a group of women live in a rundown boarding house in Washington, DC during the 1950's McCarthy era. When a mysterious widow moves into the attic room, she begins hosting weekly dinner

parties. Eventually everyone starts sharing their secrets until an unexpected act of violence occurs. Then they start questioning who is the enemy in their midst.

Come join us to discuss The Briar Club on April 17th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. See Judy Leonard to get a copy from a library book club kit.

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!

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
Apr. 05	Joe Brown	Judy Leonard
Apr. 12	David Beard	Patti Melshimer
Apr. 19	Sharon Roemer	Carolyn Anderson
Apr. 26	Debra Bradley	Michelle Richardson

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at public speaking? If so, we have just the volunteer position for you! We always welcome new members and the old ones too, to try their voice as a Liturgist!

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:

Harper, Colton, Ann, Arla, Lamar, Sean, Carlo, Armando, Cole, Cristy, Sherry, Jack, Natalie Jocelyn Stephen, Rosario, Nallo, Ted Michael, Carmen, David, John, Mark, Emilio Jonathan, Carol, Danny, Helen

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

We are wrapping up the new church photo directory, but are still missing pictures from a few members and regular attendees

If you did not get your photograph taken after service, you may still submit one by e-mail to FUMCAGCommunications@gmail.com

Deadline is Sunday, April 11.

Please include your names, address, phone numbers and e-mails.


Tai Chi Classes



Senior Exercise is now doing Tai Chi on Tuesday and Thursday at 9 am in Criswell Hall. Come and check our class out. We are using videos at this point. We are looking for a leader to help us further our knowledge and skills.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURADAY
Abbreviation Legend CH-Criswell Hall HR-Handbell Room #115 K-Kitchen L-Library Room #123 MMR-McMillen Room #113 PL-Parking Lot PS-Pastor's Study S-Sanctuary			1 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Fellowship L 5:30PM Worship Team PS 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, S	2 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR 6PM Maundy Thursday Soup, Salad Supper	3 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH 6:30PM Good Friday Tenebrae	4 Youth Group 3PM Leaders 4PM Youth 5:30PM Dinner
5  8:30AM Informal Easter Service 10:30AM Traditional Easter Service	6 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	7 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Bible Study CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7PM Trustees MMR 7:30PM Big Band CH	8 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM UWF Steering Committee L 1:30PM Mission Team MMR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal,	9 9AM Tai Chi CH 10:30am Staff Parish MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 11:30AM Nominations PS 5PM Bell choir HR	10 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	11
12 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	13 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	14 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1PM Bible Study 2PM PM Finance, MMR 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band CH	15 9AM Church Work Morning 2PM Church Council MMR 5:30PM Daughters of Grace L 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal S	16 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR	20 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH 10:30AM UWF Book Club L	18
19 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	20 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	21 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1PM Bible Study 3PM Joy Circle 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30PM Big Band	22 9AM Church Work Morning 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, S	23 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR	24 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	25
26 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service 4PM Free Movie Night "I Can Only Imagine 2"	27 4:30PM Communications L 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	28 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Bible study 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band CH	29 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Mary, Martha, Esther Circle MMR 6:30PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal S	30 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR		

Meet Our CHURCH STAFF

Church Office: 805-481-2692

E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com

Website:

www.WorshipWeekly.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/fumcag

You Tube Worship Videos:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc6e32x5>

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Thompson

E-mail: wes.thompson@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Blanca Estela Placencia

E-mail: fumcag@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Jamie Foster

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

Bishop:

District Superintendent:

Rev. Garth Gilliam

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

Apr 05 Fellowship Ministry

Apr 12 Finance

Apr 19 Endowment

Apr 26 Joy Circle

May 03 Mary, Martha, Esther

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



04/01 Jack Cuddy

04-02 Andrea Mendez

04/04 Paul Holden

04/06 Patti Melsheimer

04/07 Deb Bradley

04/07 Kristi Thompson

04/08 Grant Cuddy

04/08 Shirley Werling

04/15 Mary Jorstad

04/21 Pax Thompson

04/24 Ryan Odom

**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.**

LEGACY GIVING

Please consider Legacy Giving in your future plans. This can be done through your financial advisor or with the assistance of the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation. Brochures are available at the Connections Table in the Narthex. You may contact them directly at 626-568-7347 or on the web at www.cpumf.org to help create your own personal or family legacy.

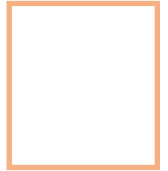
Hope, Joy & Love Rising



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

April 2026

Upcoming Events

- Thu. Apr. 2 **Maundy Thursday Soup Supper**
6pm
- Fri. Apr. 3 **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** 6:30
- Sat. Apr. 4 **Youth Group**, 3pm leaders,
4pm Youth, 5:30pm dinner
- Sun. Apr. 5 **Easter Sunday Services**, 8:30 &
10:30am
- Sat. Apr. 11 **Red Wings Horse Sanctuary**,
Leave church 9:30
- Sun. Apr. 26 **Free Movie Night**, "*I Can Only
Imagine 2, Mercy Me*"
- Sun. May 3 **Taco Bar**, after 2nd service
- Sat. May 9 **Women's Tea**
- Sat. Jun. 6 **Scott and Bob's Garden Tour**,
Leave church 9:45, Tour 10am
- Wed. Aug. 5 **Arroyo Grande History Walk**
- Sat. Aug. 15 **Arroyo Grande History Walk**
- Sat. Aug. 15 **Bingo Night**

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.