

Cast-A-Net

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

MAY 2026

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



Pastor's Page

We live in a time when people know the best way to get power and to also stay in power is to cause division. Jokes have been made about whether our Methodists are really United. Yes, we are. The most recent Unification happened 58 years ago today. Happy Birthday

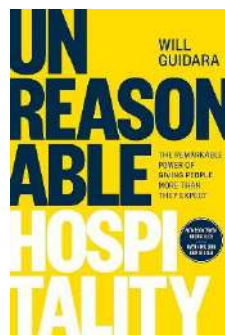


to the United Methodist Church April 23, 1968. We are United in our connectionalism with each other, meaning we are connected. Local churches are an expression of the church seen in the Annual Conference, our Annual Conference, California Pacific. We are connected to the other churches and members. We are United. Right now, the world might feel heavy and divided. We offer the message of hope. As used in Maundy Thursday services from a hymn in the 8th century, *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est*, "Where charity and love are, God is there." The kingdom of God is the kingdom of love, justice, and mercy, and we get to share with people so that they, too, can be kingdom citizens, and there is hope beyond the heavy and divided world we live in. We can work together to keep bringing unity to the world. Even in difficult moments, God's grace is present. Every time we gather, worship, and care for one another, we are sharing God's grace and making the world better.

So while United is a nod to the merging denomination, The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, it is also a reminder that we are to help the world be united. I think perhaps the best way is by showing Unreasonable Hospitality. We do a great job at this, and let's keep living this out. We provide a much-needed place of love and acceptance where all people can come and worship and serve God together. For more historical discussion, see the book The Methodist Experience in America.



Vol.1. I'm happy to discuss the issues and sadly the mistakes made during the schisms and reunifications. Additionally, I highly recommend everyone read the book Unreasonable Hospitality, by Will Guidara, while it is a book about running a



Michelin restaurant, it is an amazing book about hospitality and how that can look everywhere. I believe the local church should be one of the most unreasonably hospitable places for peoples core values if you want to think about it that way. We do a great job at this. Unreasonable hospitality is what we in the church world call grace.

Grace means being treated better than we deserve.

Rev. Wesley Thompson

TREASURER'S REPORT

The good news is that regular tithes and offerings are coming in about 2% over where they were last year at this time. The bad news is that our expenses are projected to be up about 11% over last year. We are looking at a significant deficit unless contributions pick up further.

Further bad news is that the Easter Offering came in about \$2,300 below plan. I suspect higher gas prices, economic uncertainty due to war in the Middle East, the gyrating stock market and Easter falling just before property taxes and income taxes coming due did not help. I am hoping a few more generous Easter contributions will trickle in. Please mark your check or envelope "Easter"

Thankfully our church has endowment funds to cover major capital expenses. Endowment funds largely covered the \$17K cost of our new heater, the new screens in the sanctuary, upgraded Wi-Fi system and the new nursery. 5% of the value of our unrestricted endowment funds are available each year for such projects. In addition, restricted endowment funds are used for feeding the hungry, supporting our overseas missionaries and other mission related projects. Without the generous support of those in the past that included our church in their final bequests, our church would have a difficult time of improving our facilities and supporting our missions today. Your generous support of our endowment funds will help assure that the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande will be able to serve future generations and our church's missions.

-Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer

Wisdom from the Bible

There is nothing better for mortals than to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in their toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God; for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Part of being part of a faith community is finding a place to serve. Being a volunteer is a way to connect and serve the church. We are all called to serve and be part of the faith community in some way. We would love for you to find your place. Here is a list of different areas we can use help. Some are easier than others, and some require a little training. We have a great church with wonderful volunteers. Many hands make a light load. We hope you consider where you could help out. One other thing, we also don't want people to feel like they have to serve in that one role forever. We want you to find the right role, and we also know sometimes that means trying different roles. We look forward to you finding your place in our faith community.

- > Sound board at Sunday services
- > Video camera operator for our or on-line service
- > Slide operator at Sunday services
- > Children's ministry helpers
- > Youth ministry helpers
- > Greeters
- > Ushers
- > Office help: assembling bulletins, mailings, and Sunday morning slide creation
- > Custodial help
- > After hours building lockup check

There are, of course, nominated positions too.

Please contact Pastor Wes to discuss where you might be able to help out.



NEW

**Members
Class**

Find Out More About Our Church

SUNDAY MAY 17

After 2nd Service

Includes lunch

Come explore membership in our friendly and growing church

See Pastor Wes or Kerren Brown for more information or to sign up.



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 new United Women in Faith directory is almost ready. Who knew that we'd be tearing our hair out just trying to collate it. The biggest thank you to Blanca and Joel in the office **for all the time and patience she and Joel put in for us. Thank You Blanca and Joel!**

Our annual Tea is coming up on May 9. It will be a flower theme, with lots of flowers. Brad Bettencourt will be lecturing on Flower arranging. Brad is the one that fixes the beautiful flowers on the altar each Sunday. We will be dining on a delicious array of tea sandwiches, scones, and special desserts. Invite your friends and family, up and purchase your tickets at the UWF table. Tickets are \$20. Sorry for the mistake, last month on ticket price, with current inflation and additional flowers. It's \$20.

Bingo will be August 15. Mark that down. Just don't leave town.

September 26 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. Contact Mary Thronson.

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

As we approach summer the congregation will have a lot of interesting and fun activities to look forward to.

Lucy's Labyrinth was enjoyed by many and flowed right into the Maundy Thursday supper, the Good Friday service and all the special activities of Easter.

Sun. May 3, 11:30 Taco Bar. After second service. Free. Sign up at the connections table.

Sun. Movie May 31, "My Spy" A comedy with two unlikely spies. Dave Bautista, as a CIA agent, is given the task of surveilling a family, only to be outsmarted and blackmailed by a precocious 9 year old, named Sophie(Chloe Coleman).

Sat. June 6 Tour of Bob and Scotts Garden.

Leave church 9:45, Tour 10 am.

Sat. June 17 The Red Wings Horse Sanctuary Tour was reschedule due to the weather. Carpool from church 9:30, Tour 10:30

Wed. August 5 3:45, and Sat. August 15 Saturday 9:45, Arroyo Grande History Tour of the Village.

Each tour is limited to a group of 10. That's why we have two tours scheduled.

Fri. 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.

Sat. September 12 a visit to The Dana Adobe for Heritage Day. Meet at church at 9:30 to carpool. We will be there at 10. The festivities are from 9:00 to 4:00. Come for the history, culture, dancing and maybe a picnic lunch.

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER AT SIX



OUR EASTER CELEBRATION

A joyful Easter celebration with inspiring services, wonderful music, two flower crosses, good food and an Easter egg hunt for adults put on by the youth. The youth also handed out flowers and youth dressed as the Easter bunny and Easter chickens gave Easter eggs to all. It was great fun for everyone.



YOUTH GROUP



The Youth Group has been busy! April activities included Snap, Crackle, Pop (ask Pastor Tim) and other fun and unusual games as well as a trip to In-N-Out Burgers. The Youth assisted in the Easter activities after second service, including completing the flower cross, handing out flowers and Easter eggs and putting on an Easter egg hunt for the adults.

Upcoming events:

May 15: ELT Scholarship Deadline

May 16: 3pm Leaders, 4pm Youth, 5:30pm dinner

June 13: Progressive BBQ Starting at church at 4pm

July 11: 3pm Leaders, 4pm Youth, 5:30pm dinner

August 1: Labyrinth and Low County Boil at Lucy and Elwood's. 4pm

August 15: District Youth Event in Oxnard, 10am to 3pm. See details elsewhere in the Cast A Net

We are selling books, games, toys and equipment that were used by our United Methodist Children's Center. Funds raised will help offset the costs of closing the Children's Center. Please invite your friends and family. Posters are available in the Narthex and Criswell Hall. Please distribute them around town.

UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S CENTER

YARD SALE!

FRI. & SAT. MAY 15-16
8AM-2PM

- **CHILDREN'S BOOKS**
- **GAMES**
- **TOYS**
- **BOOKCASES**
- **CHAIRS**
- **OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

275 N. HALCYON ROAD
ARROYO GRANDE

**AUG 2026 WE LAUNCH SEASON 2 OF
OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACADEMY**


Coming Soon

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACADEMY
Faith in an
ANXIOUS WORLD

SATURDAY • AUG 15TH • 10AM - 3PM
St. Paul's United Methodist Church (Oxnard, CA)

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

- ✓ Manage Stress & Anxiety
- ✓ Build Healthy Relationships
- ✓ Strengthen Your Faith
- ✓ Grow in Resilience & Leadership
- ✓ Find Community & Support




WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- ✓ Middle School
- ✓ High School

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- ✓ Interactive Games & Challenges
- ✓ Small Group Discussions
- ✓ Journaling & Reflection
- ✓ Take-Home Keepsakes
- ✓ Fun Entertainment with Snacks!

Questions?
Email: northdistrict@calpacumc.org



SATURDAY • AUG 15TH • 10AM - 3PM

Church Council Report

Everyone at Church Council agreed that the Easter service and the egg hunt afterwards were a great success! What fun to have the young people hiding the Easter eggs and the adults hunting for them! Thanks to all that helped make this event so successful!

Speaking of the Children and Youth programs, Pastor Wes explained that the agreement with Pastor Tim Olsen, will be extended so that he can continue to give leadership to this new group.

Kerren Brown reported that her Membership Care Committee will be holding membership classes soon for all prospective members. All interested should

**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE
INTER-GENERATIONAL
LIVE, LOVE, LAUGH FESTIVAL**

North District & Cal-Pac United Methodist Church Family & Friends

There is Always Time to:
LIVE, LOVE & LAUGH
even in an Anxious World!

SAT • AUG 15TH • 10AM - 3PM
A DAY OF FUN FOR ALL AGES!

LEARN • PLAY • EAT • CONNECT • COMPETE • CREATE

<p>ENTERTAINMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMEDIAN • LIVE JAZZ & RAP ARTIST • TAIKO DRUMS SHOW 	<p>GAMES & SPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATER BALLOON FIGHT • LASER TAG & VIDEO GAME TRUCK • PICKLEBALL • BASKETBALL & MORE! 	<p>GOOD FOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STREET TACOS • FATBURGER TRUCK • HAWAIIAN ICE & CHURROS
<p>LEARNING & WORKSHOPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PARENTING SEMINAR • YOUNG ADULT FINANCE CLASS • KIDS' CRAFTS & GODLY PLAY 		

BUILD COMMUNITY • MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

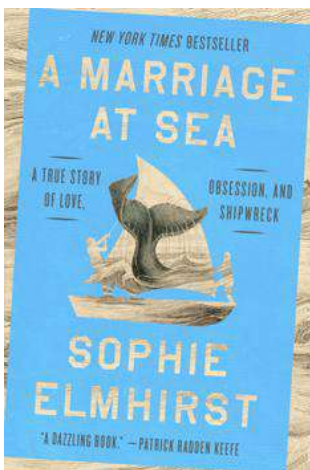
SATURDAY • AUG 15TH • 10AM - 3PM

contact either Kerren or Pastor Wes.

Many thanks to the members of the UWF Mary, Martha, Esther Circle who gave the kitchen a “deep cleaning”! Thanks to all these hard-working women!

Gerry McGuire reported that plans for the use of the rooms vacated by the pre-school are developing. It is hoped that there will be at least 1 classroom devoted to elementary school age children and one for preschoolers. The folks from both the SLO United Methodist church and the local Lutheran Church have been invited to take items they can use for their pre-school programs.

May UWF Book Club Selection:

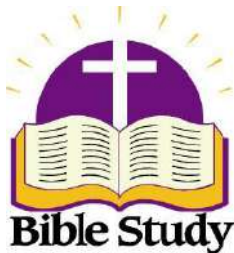


On Friday, May 15th, the UWF Book Club will discuss the true story of a married couple capsized at sea. Marriage at Sea by Sophie Elmhirst describes how the couple, Maurice and Maralyn, decide to quit their jobs and sail away on a dream trip. Unfortunately their trip meets a tragic end about a year later when a whale capsizes their boat. They learn that they have to survive in a rubber raft with little hope of a rescue. During the experience they encounter the difficulties of getting along with each other as well as the changes in each other. We will discuss Marriage at Sea

on Friday, May 15th at 10:30 A.M. in the church library. You are invited to get a library kit copy of the book from Judy Leonard.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Facilitated by Nancy St. Laurent
Meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm
in Criswell Hall



Bible Study

The Group is currently studying
"Breaking The Code" by Bruce Metzger
Books are available from Nancy
All are welcome to join us!

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,

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY



Draft version will be available in May

Please review your information and picture in Criswell Hall after services to make sure it is all correct.

YOU are the final proof reader!

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
May. 03	Joe Brown	Joyce Singleman
May. 10	Susan Thronson	Rossalyn Clauson
May. 17	Mary Thronson	Nancy St. Laurent
May. 24	David Beard	Rose Ann Steiner
May. 31	Deb Bradley	Carolyn Anderson

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!

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.



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 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	2 Youth Group 3PM Leaders 4PM Youth 5:30PM Dinner 11:00AM Kathleen Farrell Memorial Service
3 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service Taco Bar after 2nd service HAPPY MOTHERS DAY	4 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	5 5AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Bible Study CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7PM Trustees MMR 7:30 PM Big Band CH	6 9AM Church Work Morning 6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal,	7 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR	8 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	9
10 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	11 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	12 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1PM Bible Study 1:30 PM Finance, L 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band CH	13 9AM Church Work Morning 10 AM UWF Steering Committee L 1:30PM Mission Team MMR 5:30PM Daughter's of Grace Circle L 6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal S	14 9AM Tai Chi CH 10:30am Staff Parish MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 11:30AM Nominations L 5PM Bell choir HR	15 8am-1pm Church Yard Sale 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH 10:30AM UWF Book Club L	16 8am-1pm Church Yard Sale Youth Group 3PM Leaders 4PM Youth 5:30PM Dinne
17 8170AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service 11:45 New member class	18 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	19 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1PM Bible Study 1:30PM Finance L 3PM Joy Circle 5PM Bell Choir HB 7:30 PM Big Band	20 9AM Church Work Morning 2PM Church Council MMR 6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, S	21 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR	22 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	23
24 / 31 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service 11:45 New Member Class 4PM Free Movie Night "My Spy" CH	25 4:30PM Communications L 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	26 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	27 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Mary, Martha, Esther Circle MMR 6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, S	28 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR	29 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	30

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

District Superintendent:

Rev. Garth Gilliam

HOSPITALITY HOSTS



May 03 Mary, Martha, Esther

May 10 Membership Care

May 17 Mission Team

May 24 Staff Parish

May 31 Nominating Committee

June 7 Trustees

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



05/02 Hilary Henderson

05/03 Joey Mendez

05-03 Elise Capuno

05/03 Susan Coho

05/03 Joann Napoles

05/08 Karen Wise

05/12 Judy Neufeld

05/14 Stacy Inman

05/15 Bob Jorstad

05/16 Doris Douglas

05/18 Vinnie Paredes

05/20 Janine Williams

05/22 Paul Jacob

Did we miss your birthday? If so, please contact the church office and we will be glad to add your birthday to our monthly birthday list.

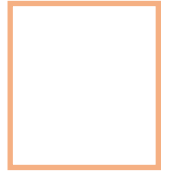


NEXT TIME WHEN I PREACH ON TITHING, DON'T SING 'JESUS PAID IT ALL' AS OUR INVITATIONAL HYMN



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

May 2026

Upcoming Events

- Sun. May 3 Taco Bar, after 2nd service FREE
- Sat. May 9 Women's Tea, 11:30 - 1:30 Tickets \$20
- Fri. May 15 ELT Scholarship Application Deadline
- Fri-Sat May 15-16 Church Yard Sale 8am-2pm
- Sat. May 16 Youth Group. 3pm Leaders, 4pm Adults, 5:30pm dinner
- Sun. May 17 New Member Class, 1st session, after 2nd Service.
- Sun. May 31 New Member Class, 2nd session, after 2nd Service.
- Sat. Jun. 6 Scott and Bob's Garden Tour, Leave church 9:45, Tour 10am
- Sat. Jun. 13 Youth Group, Progressive BBQ starting at 4:00 at church
- Sat. Jun. 27 Red Wings Horse Sanctuary, Leave church 9:30 Tour 10:30
- Mon. Jun. 29 People's Kitchen, Food Prep, Kitchen, 1pm
- Tue. Jun. 30 People's Kitchen, Food Serving, Leave church 11am
- Sat. Jul. 11 Youth Group. 3pm Leaders, 4pm Adults, 5:30pm dinner
- Sat. Aug. 1 Youth Group: Labyrinth & Low Country Boil at Lucy & Elwoods, 4PM

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.