



Cast-A-Net

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

JUNE 2026

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



Pastor's Page



One might wonder what that number means and why a pastor's article starts with it. It could mean a great many things. However, in this context, it represents the 12th Cast a Net article I've written. Hard

to believe we are approaching a year. It has been quite the year, and it has been wonderful. First, I want to tell all of you thank you for so many things. Some of you know of the difficult circumstances we had before coming here. You and this church have been and continue to be a healing place for my wife and kids. Being a pastor here is a joy, and I brag about this church and how great you all are. I love being a pastor. I love being your pastor. We have such an amazing church!

We have an exciting year to look forward to, goals to stretch us, goals to inspire us, and goals to help us connect people to the mission and ministry of the church. We are rooted in being Methodist. Our Three Simple Rules, as John Wesley charged us are: Do No Harm, Do Good and, Stay in Love with God. Our ultimate charge is to glorify God, love our neighbors and serve our community. We are going to be working on those things, finding ways to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously.

We will call upon people to take a greater role in the church in various ways. I could list the various ways we need help. Let me say it this way, there are things and ways we need everyone, such as: Prayer, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. It will be hard work, and the outcome will be worth it. Our growing children and youth ministries are an example. Lives are being changed. We don't know the origin of the quote, "The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is today." We are going to work on planting trees and leaving a legacy for future generations. Part of that is serving today, part of it is stewardship, and part of that is saying, "Yes, we can!"

The church we build today is the church that vitally impacts the world tomorrow, making the world better for all people. We have the responsibility to pave the way

and set a great foundation for future ministry. Yes, we can and we will! The Best is Yet to Come!



Rev. Wesley Thompson

Church Council Report



The Church Council met on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. The Council is composed of the chairs of the various committees that help govern the church. At our May meeting, Pastor Wes led a discussion of how to set goals, organize and plan for the future of our church. He encouraged each committee to set Five SMART Goals for 2026! A SMART goal must be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Based. The goals fall into the categories of wisdom, health, favor with God, favor with humanity and they should also all have some fun worked into them!

Kerren Brown reported that she will be holding a second meeting for prospective members on Sunday May 31 immediately after second service. Patty and Frank Williams reported the Missions Committee has been in contact with both our missionaries and will be posting their newsletters on the bulletin board in Criswell Hall. (Be sure to look for them!) Steve Gillian reported the ELT committee is awarding two scholarships to our college student members. Gerry McGuire reported the UWF's Mother's Day tea was very well attended and everyone enjoyed Brad Bettencourt's floral demonstration. Jim Alquist reported funds from the Endowment Fund have been distributed to several missionary programs and the African University. Pastor Wes reported that the Children and Youth Program is going forward quite successfully! Mary Thronson has accepted responsibility for the Children's Sunday School program, Cristy Thompson is supervising the Nursery, and the Youth program is growing under the direction of Tim Olsen.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities, please see Pastor Wes or me!

Patti Melsheimer, Chair

Treasurer's Report

We are coming to the end of our Fiscal Year, which ends June 30. Though giving is up this year, expenses are up even more so we anticipate ending the year in a deficit. I hope everyone could give a little extra in June so we can end the year in the positive. This will help us continue and expand the new ministries of our church and start new programs. Unlike most churches we do not run an annual pledge campaign. Instead, we rely on our members to contribute regularly and as needs arise.

This past year we started a successful and growing youth group and opened our new nursery. Worship attendance and membership have increased. We serve at People's Kitchen, support local missions and help fund two overseas missionaries. Improvements were made to the sound and hearing assistance systems, new video screens were added to improve the worship experience and a new heater was installed to keep us warm in winter. Fellowship Ministry has sponsored a number of fun trips and activities that engage members and provide the opportunity to invite potential new members. We need YOUR help to continue to expand the ministry and activities at our wonderful church.

Many banks now offer automatic bill paying. You can set up your regular contribution to the church to be paid automatically on a certain day of the month. Most banks offer this service at no charge, and unlike credit cards or on-line giving service, it is at no charge to the church, so the full amount goes directly to our Church and its ministries.

If you need to take a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, you can gain substantial tax savings by making the distribution directly to our church or another charitable organization. Qualified Charitable Distributions count as part of your required minimum distribution but they are not taxable and are not included in your Adjusted Gross income. People who are 70½ can transfer up to a maximum \$111,000 from their traditional IRA. We would all be overjoyed if someone contributed the maximum. See your tax advisor for all the detail.

Joel Anderson
Acting Treasurer



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 directory is here. Thank you to Sandy Underwood for the data entering, Blanca and Joel for the printing, and Mary Thronson, Mary Hawkins, Patti Melsheimer and myself for the research in past records. This unit goes back to 1948 and has been meeting continuously since that time. Even in Covid times we figured out how we could continue to communicate. That says a lot for our United Women in Faith for our unit and our church, when many groups have folded around us.

Our Tea was enjoyed by many. I received many compliments from attendees for the food and especially for Brad's wonderful demonstration and talk on flower arranging. A good time was had by all, and there were some happy women who went home with some beautiful arrangements.

Bingo will be August 22. Save the date. There will be Pizza.

September 26 we will host the North District United Women in Faith with a Women's Retreat, here. We don't have to travel. More information to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry McGuire

Library News

Once a month or so, library books will be coming to Criswell Hall fellowship tables! They have been well received on recent Sundays. I hope you will pick one up and take a look. The library has a wonderful selection of children's story books, biographies, fiction, devotionals and fun facts. There are even some binders of World War II memories written by our church members! These are unique to this library.

Happy reading,
Joyce Singelman

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

We have a great variety of tours and events coming up. Keep checking the connections table to sign up.

The Taco Bar was successful. We had many people join us for our Tres de Mayo Luncheon. The Tacos and entertainment were wonderful.

Red Wings Horse Sanctuary in Paso Robles was rescheduled to Saturday, June 27th due to weather.

Saturday, June 6 Encore Tour of Bob and Scott's Garden. Carpool from church at 9:45 for 10:00 tour.

Sunday, June 28 Free Movie Night 4:00 "*Remarkably Bright Creatures*" While working at a small-town aquarium, a widow (Sally Field) bonds with a clever giant Pacific octopus and an adrift young man (Lewis Pullman) in this moving drama as she discovers the true mystery of the disappearance of her son.

Sunday, July 5 Bar-B-Q after second service On the Patio. Plans are coming together so set the time aside. Hot dogs, hamburgers, watermelon, corn on the cob and apple pie will be served.

Wednesday, August 5, 3:45, and Saturday, August 15 9:45: Arroyo Grande History Tour of the Village. Limited to group of 10 on each day. The list is full. Check back maybe we can add another date for those that missed out.

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

Saturday, September 12, 9:30-4. Dana Adobe Heritage Day. History, culture and enjoying it all with your friends from First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande. Plans may include a picnic lunch.

Submitted by, Gerry McGuire

BLESSINGS OF THE SHAWLS

For the past year, Janice Moore has been working diligently with the Sew and Sews to replenish our inventory of hand-knitted or crocheted shawls/lap robes for the Shawl Ministry. We now have a nice supply of shawls/lap robes ready to be blessed by the congregation. Pastor Wes will lead this blessing the first Sunday of June. These items will be placed on the prayer rails at the alter. After you come forward to take the Communion Elements, you are invited to stop by any one of the shawls/robes to offer a personal blessing.

Many blessings are prayed over each stitch from the beginning to end of every shawl/robe. These are available to you at no cost as a gift for someone you know who is in need of comfort or solace, or a time of celebration or joy. Prayer shawls are helpful when someone is undergoing medical procedure(s): as comfort after a loss, in times of stress. If you have a special request to have a shawl/robe made for someone, please contact Janice.

Janice will be available to record the tag number of the shawl/lap robe(s) you have selected to take to someone you know who may benefit from this blessing. If any of you are interested in joining the Shawl Ministry, the Sew and Sews meet in the McMillen room every Tuesday morning. Janice will meet you there and get you started! -- Kerren Brown

OUR NEW NURSERY IS NOW OPEN!



Janice Moore's great-granddaughter Priscilla was the first to enjoy our new nursery. It is located just off the Narthex. Nursery care is provided during the 10:30 service.

Mission Team

Our church helps support two overseas missionaries: Florence Mefor serving in Zimbabwe and Katherine Parker in Nepal.

Florence Mefor is a veteran nurse-midwife who for over 20 years has served in Zimbabwe. She transformed maternity care by establishing daily food programs for expectant mothers at the Mutambara and Old Mutare Mission Hospitals. Her work drastically reduced maternal mortality and improved nutrition for over 100 mothers, ensuring safe delivery options. Maternal and infant mortality dropped significantly. Old Mutare reported zero maternity ward deaths in 2025. This milestone is a direct result of the clinical and nutritional standards Florence implemented.

UPCOMING PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Everyone welcome to come and help.

Monday June 29 Food Prep in the church kitchen.

Tuesday June 30 Serving food. Leave church 11am.

Thank You to the Wise Family!



A BIG Thank you to the Wise family who carried out a major clean-up of our Children's Center. They hauled out no longer usable equipment, worn out toys and assorted junk so we can prepare the classrooms for new uses.

MEET DAISEY PAREDES OUR CAST-A-NET YOUTH REPORTER



My name is Daisey Paredes. I'm sixteen years old, and I'll be a junior at Nipomo High School after this summer. My mom, Michelle Paredes, and my grandma, Nancy St. Laurent, started going to the First United Methodist Church of Arroyo Grande in 1987, just a few years before my parents got married. They got married in 1992, in the very sanctuary where I, along with my six siblings, was baptized. I don't talk about myself very often because there isn't a lot to say other than what I'm interested in, which is listening to music, walking, camping and writing. I love writing stories. I'm not too fond of writing essays at school, but I've gotten a lot better at it. At least these days, I can actually conclude an essay instead of quitting on the second paragraph. Something else you should know about me is that I have a rabbit. Her name is Bianca, and she's so precious! She's got the softest, whitest fur you've ever seen, and she's so friendly! She's also huge. Another thing about me is that I have two nephews and four nieces, including the little baby on the way from my only sister, Victoria. The other kids love the rabbit, especially Lilly, who gets so excited around her. It's nice to see if you can get past the nagging fear that she's going to squeeze Bianca due to her overwhelming affection and love for her soft fur. One final thing I wanted to say is that I'm so happy to be reporting for the Youth Group and using something I enjoy to help the church!

Daisey Paredes

YOUTH MINISTRY



May 16th was a cozy Saturday for Youth Group in the upstairs classroom of the church. The afternoon was enjoyed with two games of Swap, which is a card game won by the player who can get rid of all their cards before their opponents. The first round was won by me, Daisey, but only due to the kindness and generosity of Makiyah, who sort of let me win, before winning the second round herself. It was an intense game, but the key is to pay close attention to the cards of those around you, or else you could end up with a lousy hand when it comes time to "Swap!" After that, we took a few minutes to write down the names of any friends or acquaintances who may not attend church or may be considering leaving their church, and we thought carefully about how we could share our faith with them. We then said grace before heading down to enjoy a lovely dinner of hotdogs and tater tots, but not before saying grace a second time, as requested by the wonderful ladies who prepared all of the delicious food for us! Thank you, by the way!

Next youth event is Progressive Barbeque:

Saturday June 13, starting at the church at 4pm.

Help with People's Kitchen:

Monday June 29 Food Prep in the church kitchen.

Tuesday June 30 Serving food. Leave church 11am.

Daisey Paredes

TACO BAR

Food and fun followed by the Mexican Hat Dance



MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY

Women were given roses.



WOMEN'S TEA

Good food, great friendships and flower arrangement class by Brad





YARD SALE

Liquidation of
Children's Center's
toys, books,
equipment and
office supplies

Bargains galore
had by all.

Thank you to all the
volunteers that made
it happen!



June UWF Book Club Selection



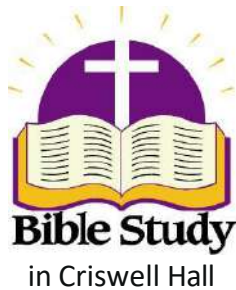
Imagine the life of a female physician and her midwife friend in 15th Century China. In this historical fiction novel, Yunxian was raised by her physician grandmother who taught her about women's illnesses and treatments. Following her grandmother's teachings, Yuxian practices the Four Examinations of Chinese medicine – looking, listening, touching, and asking.

Unfortunately, Yunxian is bound by tradition and an arranged marriage not to help out other women with their medical issues. The power of the women's friendship helps them to break down the barriers set up by old traditions.

Judy Leonard.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

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



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
June. 07	Joe Brown	Priscilla Alquist
June. 14	Lucy Jacob	Patti Melshimer
June. 21	Elwood Hyden	Judy Leonard
June. 28	Sharon Roemer	Michelle Richardson

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:

Marj. Eddie, Barry, Chad, Dennis, Alice, Cristy, Harper, Colton, Michael, Ryan, Alina, Pam, Alex, Robert, Jan, Tina, Mark, Lovella, Lydia, Lupe, Rosario, Nallo, Susan, Haws, Drew, Carolyn, Jack, Stephen and Lamar.

A Note of Thanks from the Wise Family

Dear United Methodist
Church Congregation,

We want to Thank You for all your prayers each week for Colton Wise. Many of you already know he was diagnosed with Leukemia in 2024. He went through many treatments to no avail. In September he had a bone marrow transplant

He is still recovering but is now considered "in remission". I'm sure that is due to all the continuing prayers by so many. We just pray for this to be his final treatment and this awful disease to stay gone.

Again... Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
 Love, Karen & Steve Wise + Colton + Dad - James

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	2 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 1PM Bible Study CH 5PM Bell Choir HB 7PM Trustees MMR 7:30 PM Big Band CH	3 9AM Church Work Morning 6:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH 5PM Bell choir HR	5 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	6 10AM Scott & Bob's Garden Tour
7 8:30AM Informal Service 10:30AM Traditional Service Blessing of the shawls both services ELT Scholarships award both services	8 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	9 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	10 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Steering Committee l 1:30PM Mission Team MMR	11 11AM Chair Yoga CH 10:30AM Staff Parish MMR 11:30AM Nominations Committee MMR 5PM Bell choir HR	12 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	13 4pm Youth Group Progressive BBQ
14 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	15 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	16 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1PM Bible Study 5PM Bell Choir HB 5:30pm Finance MMR 7:30 PM Big Band CH	17 9AM Church Work Morning 10 AM UWF Steering Committee L 1:30PM Mission Team MMR	18 10:30PM Staff Parish MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 11:30AM Nominations L 5PM Bell choir HR	19 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH 10:30AM UWF Book Club L	20
21 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service 	22 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	23 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 1PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Big Band	24 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Mary, Martha, Easter Circle MMR 2PM Church Council 5:30PM Daughter's of Grace Circle L	25 9AM Tai Chi CH 11AM Chair Yoga CH	26 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	27 10:30AM Red Wings Horse Sanctuary Tour leave Church @ 9:30AM
28 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional 4:00 Free Movie "Remarkably Bright Creatures"	29 1pm People's Kitchen, Food Prep 4:0PM Communications L 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	30 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	Abbreviation Legend CH-Criswell Hall HR-Handbell Room #115 K-Kitchen L-Library Room #123 MMR-McMillen Room #113 PS-Pastor's Study S-Sanctuary			

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

Webmaster: Jamie Foster

Choir Director:

Tricia Stewart

Praise Team Director:

Mike Clark

Pianist/Keyboard: Dennis Eiler

Handbell Choir Director:

Leonard Lutz

Bookkeeper: Kelli Stein

Worship Video Editor:

Susan Thronson

Covenant Missionaries:

Katherine Parker, Nepal

Florence Mefor, Zimbabwe

Bishop:

Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank

District Superintendent:

Rev. Garth Gilliam

HOSPITALITY HOSTS

June 07	Trustees
June 14	Worship Team
June 21	Endowment
June 28	Communications
July 05	Daughters of Grace Circle
July 12	ELT

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



06/04	Mike Reineke
06/05	Jim Steiner
06/07	Ray Douglas
06/07	Makiyah Thompson
06/14	Paulette Black
06/15	Janice Moore
06/16	Dennis Eiler
06/17	Steve Shrefler
06/19	Connie Clark
06/19	Gloria Johnson
06/21	Evelyn Bradley
06/21	Joyce Singelman
06/23	Sandy Underwood
06/24	Tricia Stewart
06/25	Nan Lippitt
06/26	Aaron Dickison
06/26	James Wise
06/27	Dee Anna Shrefler
06/28	Bobbi Merris
06/29	Maureen Rose

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

FRIENDLY KITTY NEEDS A NEW HOME

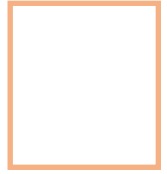
Contact Blanca in the Church Office
for details.



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

June 2026

Upcoming Events

- 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
- Sun Jun. 28 Free Movie Night: *Remarkably Bright Creatures* 4pm
- Mon. Jun. 29 People's Kitchen, Food Prep, 1pm
- Tue. Jun. 30 People's Kitchen, Food Serving. Leave church 11am
- Sat. Jul. 11 Youth Group. 3pm Leaders, 4pm Youth, 5:30pm dinner
- Sat. Aug. 1 Youth Group: Labyrinth & Low Country Boil at Lucy & Elwoods, 4PM
- Wed Aug. 5 Arroyo Grande History Walking Tour 4pm, leave church 3:45
- Sat Aug. 15 Arroyo Grande History Walking Tour 10am, leave church 9:45
- Sat. Aug. 15 District Youth and Family Events in Oxnard, 10am - 3pm.

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.