



Cast-A-Net

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

AUGUST 2026

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



Pastor's Page



We are off to a great new year! You may be wondering what classes I have left. I will be in my second year of Residency in Ministry classes. The first one will be at the retreat center in Sierra Madre, August 11 to August 13. Additionally, I will be starting my third and final Advanced Course of Study class to transfer. This will be a 10-week class starting in August. The class is United Methodist Doctrine, and it focuses on the origins, sources, concepts, and practices of Christian doctrine within the United Methodist Tradition of Christianity. I look forward to what the class holds and getting to share about it with you.

We have a very busy August ahead of us. We re-started our children's Sunday School class. The youth are looking forward to many events this month. On August 1st, is prayer labyrinth and Low Country Boil at Lucy and Elwood's. August 9th, is the a blessing of the new school year. August 15th is the North District Live, Laugh and Love event. I encourage all of you to

attend. The District has some amazing things planned. Further information is found elsewhere in this issue. On August 29th the youth are painting bowls as a fundraiser for the 5 Cities Homeless Coalition. Empty Bowls is a great program and I'm glad our students are going to help. That is just a few events happening this month! We also have staff appreciation, bingo, Arroyo Grande history walking tours, and many other events happening!

This week we received a check from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Someone who had passed away named the church as a designated beneficiary. We thank that family for their loved one's generosity. It was a great gift that blesses us as a church. I was reminded by someone that this would be a good opportunity to remind all of us that we too can make a difference in the same way. If you have named the church as a beneficiary, I would like to take a moment and, on behalf of the church, say thank you for your generosity and planning. Your gift will make a difference, a lasting difference.

As we head into autumn, as we remember the cooler nights, the smell of pencils, Friday night football, and the start of a new school year, take a moment and give thanks to God. I give thanks to God for all of you. You are a blessing to me. May we continue to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. May we continue to make a difference in the world and in the lives we encounter. You are loved, and you make a difference!

Rev. Wesley Thompson



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.

Saturday, August, 22. Bingo 5-7pm Save the date. There will be Pizza and lots of prizes and fun. \$20 per person, \$10 for 12 and under. Under 6 free.

Saturday, September 26 we will host the North District United Women in Faith with a Women's Soul and Care Retreat here. Save this date. We will be welcoming our North District sisters to share a wonderful time together. Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, November 6,7,8.Holiday Boutique
We need help from all of you to make this the best ever. We will have some kits available to take home and finish, starting Sunday August 9. These can be found on the UWF table in Crisswell Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry McGuire

UWF FOOD OUTREACH

Dorine made 3 beef casseroles, purchased lettuce and croissants. Jerry made red velvet cupcakes. Dorine and David delivered them on June 28th to Five Cities Homeless Collation (5CHC) in Grover Beach John, who is in charge of the food at that location called me to say that it was very much appreciated and liked by all.

Sandy Underwood has signed up to help with the food outreach. I will be making 3 chicken casseroles, purchasing lettuce and croissants. Patti Melsheimer did dessert for the next delivery to 5CHC on July 26.

If anyone is interested in being involved there will be a signup sheet on the UWF table in the Criswell Hall. Thank you to all that have helped me or signed up.

-Dorine Bolterman

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

The Bar B Q on July 5 was very well attended and so much fun. Food was delicious. Thank you to the Bar B Q cooks, Paul and Jack, for serving up great hamburgers and hot dogs. And thank to the many who brought salads and apple pies. We were well fed. Our judges for the Apple Pie Baking Contest: Marjorie Ott, Pastor Wes, and Bernie Hawkins did a very professional job and came together to decide the winner, Mary Jorstad.

Wednesday, August 5, 3:45, and Saturday August 15, 9:45, Arroyo Grande History Tour of the Village. Limited to a group of 10 on each day. The list is full. We are considering adding another date for those that missed out. Sign up on the waiting list at the connections counter in the Narthex.

Sunday, August 30 - Free Movie Night 4pm "My Spy 2", starring Dave Bautista and Chole Coleman. Cia agent JJ and his stepdaughter unite to spoil a nuclear plot in Italy, while Sophie is on a Choir trip. The movie, popcorn and refreshments are free.

Saturday, 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 the church to carpool there.

Saturday, September 12, Dana Adobe in Nipomo. Meet at the church to carpool at 10:00. It's Heritage Day, with added fun and we will picnic.

September 13- Volunteer Sunday, there will be a catered lunch to honor all our church volunteers after second service.

Tuesday December 8 & Thursday December 17,
Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant tour. We have been approved as a group. However each person must sign up on-line individually. Visit our website: WorshipWeekly.com for the links
Dec. 8 tour appears to already be filled

Keep checking the connections table for other events.

Submitted by, Gerry McGuire

MISSION TEAM REPORT



Mission Team served 98 people at People's Kitchen on June 30. A big thank you to Christina, Grant and Faye Cuddy, Makiyah Thompson, Bob and Mary Jorstad, Evelyn Bradley, Dorine Bolterman, Mary Hawkins, Frank and Patty Williams for helping with food prep and serving. We will prepare food for People's Kitchen on Monday, September 28 at 1:30 and serving on Tuesday, September 29. Please join us.

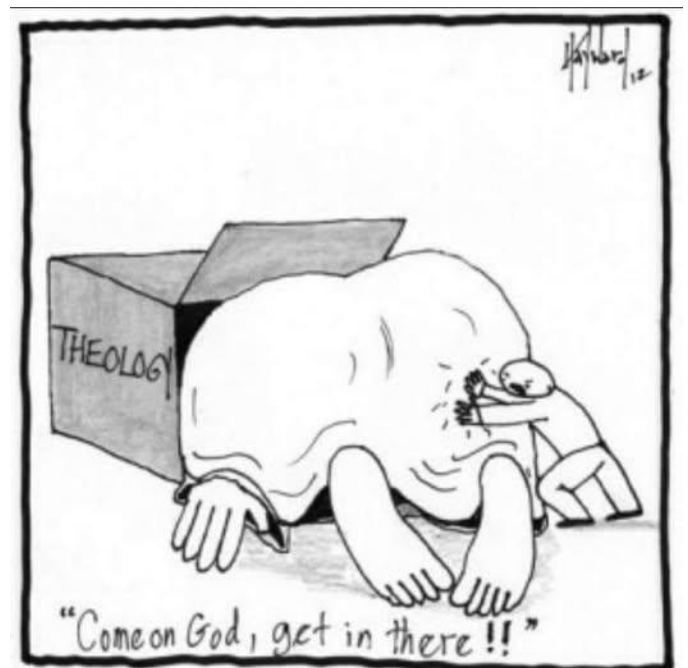
OLD PIANO FINDS A GOOD HOME



The old piano has found a new home with a young, upcoming musician from Santa Maria.

The piano was donated to the church many years ago. It still had its original \$250 price tag stenciled on the back! Since then, the piano has moved from the old choir room to Criswell Hall, before being stashed in the McMillen Room. The new owner played it in the parking lot while waiting for his dad to arrive with a truck.

Thank you to Karen Wise for helping the piano find its new home.



YOUTH GROUP

Rather than the planned outdoor activities, the Youth Group took advantage of Free Slurpee Day by walking down to the nearby 7-11. Discussion and dinner followed.



Upcoming youth events:

Sat. August 1: Labyrinth and a traditional southern Low Country Boil dinner at Lucy & Elwoods. Meet at church at 4PM.

Sat. August 15: District Youth and Family Event at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Oxnard, carpool from church at 7:30. Further information elsewhere in this Cast-A-Net

Sat, August 29: Youth Group will paint bowls to support Empty Bowls 2026 Fundraiser to benefit Five Cities Homeless Coalition. Meet at the home of Evelyn and Deb Bradley, at 4 pm!

GAZEBO REPAIRED AND PAINTED

A big Thank You to David, Irene, Pax and Xander for repairing and painting the Gazebo in the courtyard in time for our Independence Day celebration.



July 5 Independence Day celebration in the courtyard

Great food, lively music, apple bobbing, cornhole and lots of fun! Apple pie baking contest won by Mary Jorstad.





Helen Gugeler and Margaret visited her old friends at Sew and Sews while picking up Don's things from his memorial service. The video of Don Gugeler's memorial service is available at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6KpHfIIAy8 or <https://t.ly/ecwWz>

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:

Leroy, Tim, Wendy, Gracie, Alice, Bud, Nan L, Dorine B, Marilyn B, Doris D, Gary, Barbara, Isabella, Lee F, Lee E, Ron, Elaine, Linda, Emery Phil M, Sandy W, Russell S, Bert K, Joe M, Carlos V, Lydia V, Nallo V, Rosario R, Lupe C, Carmen G, Linda H, Mark J, Cristy V, Eddie S, Barry, Chad, Dennis, Alina L, Alex, Harper, Carolyn, Jack, Stephen G and Colton



SCAM ALERTS!



The number of scamming e-mails and texts has increased tremendously over the past few months. Always be alert, be suspicious and think twice before responding to any e-mail or text, even if it seemingly comes from a familiar source. Scammers can fake a text or e-mails origin.

Your points at Kroger/Ace/Costco/Walmart, etc. are not expiring today. It is a scam!

No one is giving you free stuff. It is a scam!

That free gift that is already on its way to you, it isn't. If it was they would not need your information. It is a scam!

AAA is not giving you a free roadside kit. It is a scam!

USPS does not need your address. The Post Office does not know your e-mail address when someone sends a package.

FedEx or UPS are not apologizing for delaying or losing your package, and is certainly not giving you an iPad, iPhone or anything else. If the e-mail does not address you by name and include a tracking number it is a scam!

Blue Cross, Blue Shield, etc. are not offering you plan alternatives at this time.

Avoid answering political surveys - they don't care about your opinion; they just want your personal information and your money.

Look at e-mail and website addresses very carefully. Scammers will often substitute the number "0" for the letter "O" or insert an extra period after a name when trying to imitate a legitimate company.

Never, ever, give out gift card information by phone, e-mail or text. There is a 99.9% chance it is a scam. If you want to provide a gift card, give physical gift card.

RETIRED TREASURER'S REPORT



After serving as Treasurer and Finance Chair for 18 years I am leaving the positions in good hands while I move onto other endeavors around the church. JoAnne Napoles is taking over as Treasurer. David Anderson is our new Finance Chair.

I am happy to report that we finished our fiscal year ending June 30 with a modest \$8,918 surplus. This is a LOT better than the budgeted deficit I forecasted last year. We have a wonderful, generous, congregation that responded to our needs. Overall stewardship was up 8% over last year, which is remarkable considering that some generous givers passed in the previous fiscal year. Our finances have also been helped by additional income from the Friendly Neighborhood Band concerts, renting Criswell Hall to Arroyo Grande Parks and Rec one day a week for their knitting and crocheting class and increasing the rent on our empty lot. In keeping with Book of Discipline guidelines, the Endowment committee allocated some of the income from the Parsonage Fund to be used to help offset the pastor's housing allowance. This next fiscal year looks challenging due to many price increases. Dave is diligently working up a budget for our next Fiscal Year.

- Joel Anderson



Wisdom of John Wesley

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

"If doing a good act in public will excite others to do more good, then 'Let your light shine to all.' Miss no opportunity to do good."

"Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God."

"Cleanliness is indeed next to godliness."

"The church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples."

"Prayer is where the action is."

"The neglect of prayer is a grand hindrance to holiness."

"Singing is as much the language of holy joy as praying is of holy desire."

"Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength."

"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences."

"People who wish to be offended will always find some occasion for taking offense."

"Christianity is essentially a social religion and that to turn it into a solitary religion is indeed to destroy it."

"What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace."

"Gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can."

"The best of it is, God is with us."

Back to School is Cool Event:



Sunday, August 9 during the 10:30 service we will be blessing our upcoming school year.

All are welcome to participate. Students, learners, teachers, support staff, custodians, secretaries, volunteers, and anyone that has a child, friend, or neighbor that is committed to learning this school year.

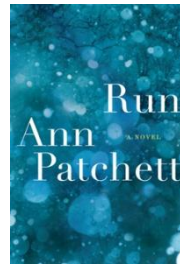
We will be blessing the backpacks, laptops, and school supplies for our students and teachers. Bring along a special school item that we can bless that will go with you each day to school. Those that are present will receive a small gift in addition to the blessing to carry with their school supplies. If your learner can't be present in person, please share this blessing and let them know we are praying them through their school experience.

Children and Youth Sunday School will continue to meet each Sunday after the Children and Youth Moment during the 10:30 service.

Parents or guardians should register their children at the Connections Table before the beginning of the 10:30 service. Children and youth will be asked to come forward for the Children and Youth Moment during the service. The children and youth will be invited to attend Sunday School in classrooms 114, and 215. The teachers will guide the students to their classrooms after the Children and Youth Moment. At the end of the service, parents are asked to pick up their children from their classrooms. Youth will be dismissed on their own.

The Nursery is open for babies and toddlers under 3 years of age during the 10:30 service.

AUGUST UWF BOOK SELECTION



On Friday, August 14th the UWF Book Club will meet at 10:30 A.M. in the church library to discuss Run, a novel by Ann Patchett. This intriguing story describes the impact of a stranger who puts her life in danger by saving the life of a young man. She had been secretly watching the family which included a white son and adopted twin black brothers. As the story unfolds it illustrates what family is and the depth of parents' love for their children whether they are adopted or given away.

See Judy Leonard or Mary Whitson about purchasing a copy of Run

COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Library News

Maybe you have wondered what some folks are reading from our library. Here are some recent titles that have been checked out.

- No Wonder They Call Him the Savior by Max Lucado
- The Origin of Satan by Elaine Pagels
- Long Range Planning
- Fiction series by Karen Kingsbury
- Nurse
- The Death of Money
- The Great House of God by Max Lucado
- With You All the Way by Max Lucado (from the children's section but wonderful for anyone)
- Chief Sarah, a story of Sarah Winnemucca's fight for Indian rights

Happy reading!
Joyce Singelman



Held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1800 C St. Oxnard.
Our Youth Group is attending. Car pool from our church leaving at 7:30.
\$15 per person, \$10 for children under 12. Includes lunch.
Please register in advance using QR code or
<https://form.jotform.com/garthgilliam/live-love-laugh-2026>
Volunteer helpers needed. Please contact Pastor Wes for more information.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Youth Group Labyrinth & Low Country Boil at Lucy & Elwood's 4pm
2 8:30AM Informal Service 10:30AM Traditional Service Children's Sunday School Kickoff	3 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	4 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 7PM Trustees MMR 7:30 PM Big Band CH	5 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Fellowship Ministry, L 4PM AG History Gentle Walking Tour 5:30PM Worship Team MMR	6 11:00AM Chair Yoga CH	7 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	8
9 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service Back to School Blessing	10 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	11 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 7:30 PM Big Band CH	12 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM UWF Steering Committee, L 1:30PM Mission Team MMR	13 10:30AM Staff Parish, MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 11:30 AM Nominations Committee, MMR	14 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec MMR	15 10AM AG History Gentle Walking Tour Live, Love & Laugh Youth and Family Event in Oxnard carpool from church 7:30AM
16 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Worship Service	17 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	18 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga 3PM Joy Circle, 5:30PM Finance MMR 7:30 PM Big Band	19 9AM Church Work Morning 2PM Church Council MMR	20 11AM Chair Yoga CH	21 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH 10:30AM UWF Book Club L	22 5PM-7PM Bingo Night: Pizza & Prizes \$20 adults, \$10 youth, under 6 free
23 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional Staff Appreciation Sunday after both services	24 4:30PM Communications L 6PM Gerry's Quilting CH	25 9AM Tai Chi CH 10AM Sew' N Sews MMR 11AM Chair Yoga CH 7:30 PM Big Band CH	26 9AM Church Work Morning 10AM Mary, Martha, Esther Circle MMR	27 11AM Chair Yoga CH	28 10AM Knitting & Crocheting Parks & Rec CH	29 4PM-6PM Youth Group Empty Bowls @ Evelyn & Deb's home
30 8:30AM Informal Worship Service 10:30AM Traditional	31 6PM Gerry's Quilting 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

Aug. 02 Mary, Martha, Esther
Aug. 09 Mission Team
Aug. 16 Nominating Committee
Aug. 23 Staff Parish
Aug. 30 Trustees
Sept. 06 Worship Team

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

Liturgists

Date	8:30	10:30
August. 02	Joe Brown	Carolyn Anderson
August. 09	Youth	Elise Capuno
August. 16	Sharon Roemer	Joyce Singelman
August. 23	David Beard	Judy Leonard
August. 30	Lucy Jacob	Patti Melsheimer



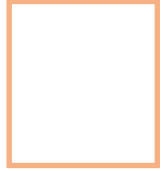
08/01 Tina Moore
08/02 Priscilla Alquist
08/02 Jacqueline Ridge
08/04 Rosslyn Clauson
08/07 Patty Williams
08/08 Nancy St. Laurent
08/10 Gerry McGuire
08/10 Frank Ridge
08/10 Joshua Thompson
08/11 David Avila
08/12 John MacKeen
08/13 Bill Gerrish
08/15 Robert Underwood
08/17 Nancy Gerrish
08/18 Ellsworth Capuno
08/19 Carol Gary
08/20 Nancy Burns
08/22 Dorine Bolterman
08/23 Joe Brown
08/23 Frank Williams
08/24 Peter Paredes Jr.
08/24 Cristy Van Hook
08/26 Niki Raetz
08/27 Jacqui Burns
08/27 Sharon Roemer
08/28 Peter Paredes

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.



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

August 2026

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
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| Sat. | Aug. 1 | Youth Group: Labyrinth & Low Country Boil at Lucy & Elwoods, 4pm |
| Sun. | Aug. 2 | Children & Youth Sunday |
| Wed | Aug. 5 | Arroyo Grande History Gentle Walking Tour, 4pm behind Cafe Andreini leave church 3:45 |
| Sun. | Aug. 9 | Back to School Blessing Sunday |
| Sat | Aug. 15 | Arroyo Grande History Gentle Walking Tour, 10am behind Cafe Andreini leave church 9:45 |
| Sat. | Aug. 15 | District Youth and Family Events in Oxnard, 10am - 3pm. |
| Sat. | Aug. 22 | Bingo & Pizza Night. 5-7pm |
| Sat. | Aug. 29 | Youth Group: Paint Empty Bowls fundraiser at Evelyn and Deb Bradley's home, 4:00 |
| Fri. | Sep. 4 | Plantel Nursery Tour, Santa Maria, 10am, Meet at church 9:20 |
| Sat. | Sep. 12 | Dana Adobe History Day. Carpool from church at 9:30 |
| Sat. | Sep. 26 | District Women's Retreat |
| Mon. | Oct. 26 | Little Pink Houses of Hope dinner |
| Fri-Sun. | Nov 6-8 | Holiday Boutique |
| Sat. | Nov. 14 | John Lindsey presentation on El Nino. 10:30 |

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.