



ATASCADERO UMC

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Sun., Jan. 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday/
Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Sun., Jan. 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sun., Jan. 19, 2025

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

Sun., Jan 26, 2025

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21



The Dexter Family Invites You to a 100th Birthday Celebration

Rosemary Dexter will turn 100 on January 7. We will be celebrating that auspicious day as a community on Sun. Jan. 5, in Dexter Hall during Coffee Time after worship. Please come and join us in recognizing a life well and long-lived. Rosemary requests no gifts, but she would be honored with your participation in her birthday wish to raise \$100K for the ALF Food Pantry.

You may search for Rosemary Dexter on GoFundMe.com, or take a self-addressed envelope for ALF Food Pantry (on the counter in the Narthex, or the table in Dexter Hall). We hope to see you on Jan. 5.

Connect with us ONLINE

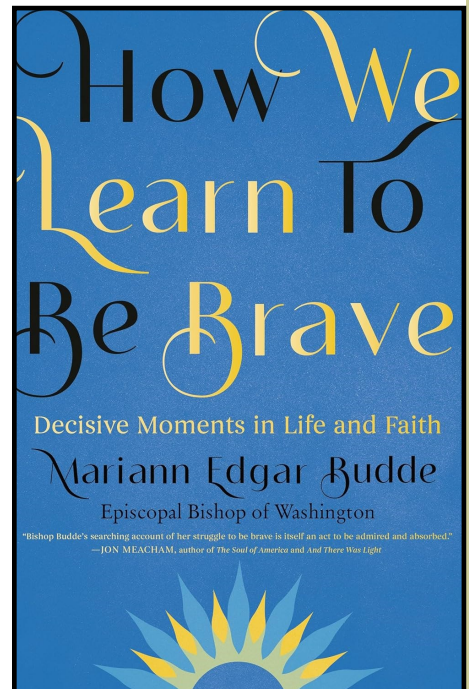


@AtascaderoUMC

Class on Being Brave Begins in January

Mariann Edgar Budde is an Episcopal Bishop in Washington DC who took a stance in June 2020 that required a great deal of courage. She has now written a book to offer guidance on making such courageous decisions. She does not always recommend action; sometimes, after thoughtful consideration and prayer, we may choose NOT to act, or NOT to move. But we hope to encourage you to join us if you are thinking about making a change or taking an action or a stance, and want to use this process to help with the decision.

Please join us as we explore new ideas and situations that are certainly going to pop up in 2025. The class is four sessions, beginning Thursday, Jan. 16 to Feb. 6 from 5– 6:30 p.m. Talk to Chris Parker-Kennedy (805-459-9750) if you have questions.



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AUMC Mission Statement

We are a family of diverse individuals committed to love and acceptance and called by God to be open to many points of view. We seek to be an extended family for all people, regardless of age, race, ethnic origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic situation, marital status, physical or mental ability. We offer support, fellowship, and worship, equipping those who hunger for wholeness to live and love courageously as disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We believe our diversity is a blessing which strengthens persons to serve, and commit ourselves to Christian service in our community and in the life of the larger church.

Recent Attendance

(In-person/YouTube & Facebook views)

Nov. 24 - 82/68

Dec. 1 - 90/83

Dec. 8 - 85/52

Dec. 15 - 86/65



Pastor Michelle's Article

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"

Revelation 21:5a (NRSV)

Happy New Year! Some of my favorite New Year's Days were spent alone on a Southern California beach, looking at the vastness of the ocean and watching (and listening to) wave after wave crash on the shore. Reminded in almost every sense of the infinity of God, I would open my journal and write of my place in God's world and of my dreams and plans for the new year.

The practice of making New Year's Resolutions seems to be much less popular today than when I was younger. It is probably more likely that people will say that they don't make resolutions because they never keep them, which feels like a loss to me. Of course, we can live without the practice of making resolutions, but the motivations underlying resolutions are crucial: identifying priorities, preparing with intention, living with hope. We cannot live without those.

The disappointments and challenges of life can make it difficult to maintain our hope. We who have been able to live in control and with voice, who are able to use our talents and skills to make at least a small part of our world make sense, who live in comfort and safety – we are distressed and discouraged when we are blindsided and confused and unable to know the future with the certainty of the past. We might be beginning 2025 with feelings of sadness and dread.

Sometimes we are surprised that we can find encouragement and reassurance in the book of Revelation. As John's vision reminds us with light and beauty, God renews all. There is no limit and no end to God's creative energy. No limit and no end. Let us find new strength and hope in John's vision, and raise our heads and look with anticipation and expectation to what God will do in this world, and in this AUMC community, and in us.

Remember how we encourage and support each other in the life of community. You are invited to be part of the cultivation and nurture of hope among us in the life of the church; in Sunday Worship and in other opportunities:

New Year's Eve prayer: Before beginning your celebrations, come to church at 6:30 p.m. and pray for the year ahead. Bring your prayer requests, and bring your hopes and dreams.

Midweek Morning Prayer: Let AUMC be a praying community of faith. Starting on Wednesday, January 8, we will gather weekly for prayer starting at 7 a.m. We will be in the Sanctuary until 8 a.m. but you are free to leave as you need to before then.

How We Learn to Be Brave: Beginning later in January, our Supper and Study will focus on this book by Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Bishop of the Washington Diocese. The book is not simply about having the courage to dare or act in difficult circumstances, but also how we navigate the challenges of life with grace, clarity, and strength.

I am ever thankful for this opportunity to share this part of the journey with you. In 2025 may we continue to discern, dare, and develop as followers of Jesus Christ together, living faithfully with compassion and creativity in a world of change and challenge.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Michelle

Finance—Year End and Beyond

We don't know how AUMC's year will end financially, but December, more often than not, has been a good month for AUMC. At end of November, AUMC's deficit is \$8,674, some or all may be covered by December income.

To date, pledges for 2025 amount to \$251,000. With our other income sources, total estimated income for 2025 is \$285,000. The budget for 2025 is \$374,000, 4.3% more than 2024. We are short of a balanced budget by \$88,000. The fact that we have a deficit is not surprising; the church has been operating with a deficit budget for several years. It has been masked by substantial donations by persons unknown. However, the \$88,000 budget deficit for 2025 is quite shocking. Why? What happened? One, the congregation is smaller; two, expenses keep going up; and three, we sent out 124 pledge letters and received 61 replies. Pledged dollars are \$42,000 less than last year. That is the reality for AUMC and many other churches today.

Earlier this year we received \$18,376 from Nancy Boydston's estate; we turned that into a six-month \$20,000 CD. There were rumors that we might be receiving some additional money from Nancy's estate, but had no idea from what or how much. When her house was sold, we received a percentage of the sale. AUMC received \$141,000, not a misprint, that's six figures. We also have set aside \$12,500 from Alice Wirth's estate. So, after all has been said and done, AUMC has \$158,000 in available cash.

So, what's the problem? Take \$88,000 of this available cash to fill the budget gap, leaving \$70,000 to invest in the 2026 budget. That's one option, but then what? We cannot depend on special gifts to sustain the church financially. We have a \$374,000 budget but can only afford \$285,000. The current finances of AUMC are not sustainable. The question is how to best use this available cash. There are other options, and we have some time to plan our financial future before it smacks us in the face.

Rev. John Woodall is the CEO of the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation, an organization helping create solid financial foundations for churches. In March, Rev. Woodall is to come and speak to the congregation and Finance Committee about how to adapt to changing times, strategic financial planning, exploring new ways to generate income, and more.

The Finance Committee would welcome any questions or comments you may have. We plan to ask for input from the congregation in an all-church meeting in the near future.

We Pray for Each Other Joys

- ♥ Thanksgiving for the hard work of the choir – particularly for the amazing choir concert.
- ♥ Thanksgiving for Pastor Michelle's sermon on Sunday.

Concerns

- ♥ For our church sponsored missionary, Priscilla Jaiah.
- ♥ For a person having joint replacement surgery on their hand.
- ♥ For David, with pneumonia.
- ♥ For John, and all those who lost loved ones this year.
- ♥ For Tim, on the death of his wife, Beth.
- ♥ Continued prayers for Patti's friend, Donna.
- ♥ For those with estranged family relationships.
- ♥ For Diane, who was diagnosed with breast cancer.
- ♥ For Wayne, with non-hodgkins lymphoma and his wife, Barbara.
- ♥ For Allana – healing.
- ♥ For the Lord family, particularly Linda and Janet, on Jim's death.
- ♥ For Davina's brother, Simon, in the last stages of liver cancer.
- ♥ For Bob H with throat cancer.
- ♥ For Bob A.
- ♥ For Lori, recently diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder.
- ♥ Continued prayers for Scott M.
- ♥ Continued prayers for Jack.
- ♥ For Maggie's brother, Douglas.
- ♥ For Megan.
- ♥ For Patti O's sister, Kathy.
- ♥ For Sarah's Aunt Kathy.
- ♥ For the people of Ukraine.
- ♥ For Denver.
- ♥ For Beth's sister, Patti.
- ♥ For Philip W.
- ♥ For Lynn M. in the last stages of life from pancreatic cancer.
- ♥ For Chad, who is experiencing mental stress.

Pledge Report as of 11/30/24

	Received YTD	Budgeted YTD	Difference
Pledges:	246,467	268,811	-22,344

January, 2025

January Birthdays



Every week throughout the month

Adult SS. 8:45 AM (LL)	Monday Book Discussion 9:30 AM (MFH)	Joyful Noise Bells 7 PM (FH)	Midweek Prayers 7 AM (LL)	Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Thurs AA Book Study 7 PM(LL) Clarinets Rehearsal 7 PM(FH)	Fri. AA 5:30 PM (LL)	Sat AA 12 noon (LL)
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		31 Prayer for the New Year 6:30 PM (S)	1 Church Office Closed	2	3	4 Family B/day cele- bration Noon (FH) Sisters 9:30 AM (TBA)	Nancy Buck 01/06 Rosemary Dexter 01/07 Terri Rombold-Smith 01/07 Paul Burton 01/07 Joan Crother 01/09 Mia Wooten 01/09 Dianne Gross-Giese 01/10 Carol Wilson 01/13 Susie Gill 01/15 Jim Pobst 01/20 Barbara Springer 01/22 Christopher Twaddle 01/25 Susan Armstrong 01/28
5 Holy Communion Rosemary's 100th birthday celebration Coffee Hour (FH)	6	7 Tuesday Bible Study 9:30 AM (MH)	8	9	10	11	
12	13 Finance Mtg. 7 PM (LL)	14 Tuesday Bible Study 9:30 AM (MH)	15	16 Bravery Class 5 PM	17	18 Sisters 9:30 AM (TBA)	
19 Town Hall Mtg. 11:45 AM (FH)	20 Church Office Closed	21 Tuesday Bible Study 9:30 AM (MH)	22	23 Prayer Shawl Ministry 10 AM (LL) Bravery Class 5 PM	24	25	
26	27 Ad Council 7 PM (LL)	28	29	30 Bravery Class 5 PM	31		

(LL) = Lombard Lounge
 (FH) = Fellowship Hall
 (S) = Sanctuary
 (LH) = Little Home
 (MH) = Maitzen Home
 (SS) = Sunday School Rooms
 (TBA) = to be announced
 (PH) = Park Home
 (MFH) = Fertschneider Home
 (DS) = Shepard Home

Library RoundUp – January 2025

A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.
—Andrew Carnegie.

Greetings AUMC Friends,

With all the recent year-end holiday festivities, our church library has been fairly quiet. Our Church however has been very active, and I hope you were able to attend some of the wonderful events that were offered in December. Personally, I think the Choir Christmas Concert was a highlight. The top notch caliber of talent we have here is truly astounding!

With these shorter days and colder nights, we encourage you to visit our library and seek out a good book or video from the thoughtfully arranged shelves, or even a puzzle from the back hall. Additional reading options are on the cart in the Narthex, which is nearby the box of free books for taking.

We'd like to extend our deep gratitude to Jeannie, who has given another year of excellent library stewardship in which she keeps it interesting, pertinent, inviting and fun. I've really enjoyed working with her, and respect her dedication to our library. In 2025 we hope to have some new willing hands come forth to take over a few library tasks so she can have more time to enjoy her family.

In closing, I've enjoyed writing this little column over this past year while getting acquainted with the wonderful fellowship here. It's given me the opportunity to be of service, and I appreciate you reading my monthly updates.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2025 new year!

See you in the Pews. Katherine Porebski



**2025 RISE Event
on the Calendar**

On Sat., March 8, the Justice and Mission Committee will be having our Rise Against Hunger Event. RISE brings us nonperishable food, and we pack 10,000 bags. This food is then distributed all over the world where people are in desperate need of food. It takes us about two hours, and we need 45 people to do this work. Nearer to the date, we will be taking sign-ups for working, and we will be collecting funds to help pay for the food we will be packing. If you have any questions about this event, talk to Dave Small or myself at church.

Maggie Fertschneider

Time to Make Prayer Shawls!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 4th Thursday of each month to knit or crochet our prayers into beautiful shawls to be given to people in times of distress. So much prayer goes into the making and giving of the prayer shawls. It is always a joy to see the comfort they bring to those who need to be reassured they are not alone.

Always make sure a prayer shawl would be welcome and then ask any of us or Kathy, to help pick it out. Make sure you have a color that the receiving person would like.

What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship, so is prayer to the soul.

Corrie Ten Boom

Praying that all is well with you.

Join us Thurs., Jan. 23 10 a.m. - noon in the Lombard Lounge. Jeannie, Joan, Linda, Sarah, Jeanne, Janet P. and Deborah.



Rejoice in the Beloved always. Again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Beloved is near."

Philippians 4:4-5

Sisters of the Heart

Saturdays, January 4 & 18

9:30-11 AM

Location: tbd

Contact Jan at

maitzenj@gmail.com

Or 805-423-8222



The Beloved is not near in the future, but near to your heart, now.

The Beloved, born into danger and conflict,

Dead and raised from all madness, Has your back. Guards your joy.

And shows you the way.

Dare to be gentle in a rough world.

In such a manger, the child comes.

Steve Garnaas- Holmes, www.unfoldinglight.net

**ATASCADERO UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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Bishop: Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo
-Frank

Supt: Rev. Garth Gilliam

Pastor: Rev. Michelle Park

Choir Director: Donald Dexter

Organist: Dr. Luanne Fose

Accompanist: Sharon Cooper

Bell Choir Director;
Marylu Weaver Meagher

Director of Communications:
Darren Thomas

MIX Coordinator:

Office Manager: Kathy Hansen

Nursery Care: Olivia Martin

Ministers: People of the Church

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Atascadero, CA
Permit No. 61

Return Service Requested

Next
Newsletter
Deadline: 1/27/25

We are on the Web!
www.atascaderoumc.org

Sunday Schedule

Live-Stream Service

10 AM

In-person or
live-streamed online at
the AtascaderoUMC
YouTube Channel or on
Facebook.

In-person Worship

service
(10 AM)

COVID protocols in
place:

- Masks Optional
- Self Screen



Thank You from the Salvation Army!

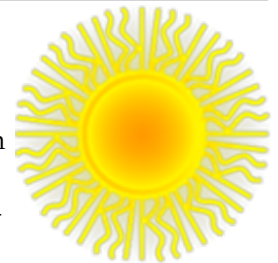
We had 71 AUMC friends from ages 2 to 90 plus family-friendly dogs that helped with our 96 hours of bell ringing for Salvation Army. Happiness to those who committed to sign up, gathered to ring, sing, or play an instrument to gather funds for those less fortunate. Thank God for those with the wisdom to help. Here's to the light in each and every one of us.

The Salvation Army has shared with me that because of all of you: The ATASCADERO SALVATION ARMY office will remain open serving families in Santa Margarita, Pozo, Templeton, Creston, California Valley, and Atascadero. To get help from the Utility Assistance, Rental Assistance, Rapid Re-Housing Program, Homeless Prevention Programs, Operation School Bell, Angel Tree Program, and or to have food delivered once a month, please call Elise 805-835-5521. Documents will be required; drivers' license, birth certificate, utility bill etc. An interview is also required to receive help.

THANK YOU to all the willing volunteers for continuing to support this needed community program for 40+ years.

**Blessings of the Season
from Paloma Community Garden**

May you find rest and hope in the shortest days, and comfort in the darkness and cold; Remember that the light returns slowly, the savior came as an infant, and that seeds need time to germinate. This year is likely to be a year of many changes. May you pay attention and speak your truth. May you find bird nests in the barren branches and return to them regularly to watch for downy heads and listen for small chirps as the leaves and the warmth return. Best wishes for 2025.



Barbara Rose, Head Gardener