



The Oasis

April 2023

Cross in the Desert UMC

Where God's Love Transforms Lives, building a just and joyful community.



Rejoice

Easter Sunday
April 9

7:00 a.m. on the patio
10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

In This Issue.....

Pastor's Corner.....	2
Birthdays, Anniversaries.....	3
General News.....	4,8,10
Finance.....	5

Prayer Corner.....	6
UWF.....	7
Missions.....	9
Conference.....	11

Pastor's Corner

What does Easter mean to you?



As kids, we think of Easter baskets, colored eggs, treats of various kinds. Maybe most kids got chocolate bunnies, but we got large filled eggs, like you can get from Sees. We often got new clothes to wear to church. There is a picture of me as a little girl in a hat, and maybe even gloves. As I got older, I still loved dressing up for Easter, wearing hats, and maybe having brunch or such. But Easter also was about resurrection and new life. But I couldn't wear a hat because it looked odd in the choir loft. And brunch? There were usually too many worship services to have time to make it to brunch.

Now, I am a pastor, and Easter means a lot of work and getting up early for an early morning service. I worry about how to make Holy Week services flow into meaningful Easter worship. I worry about the effects of Holy Week on the office staff and musicians. But I also know there is more to Easter than that. Now I understand the Easter is not just a day, but a season that follows Christ's death and resurrection, where Jesus gives us one more chance to realize the importance of what has happened.

Do you realize how many Easter songs are in the hymnal? I have often divided them up and begun each worship service with one of them, even the ones most people don't know. Did you know the Old Testament lesson is replaced with lessons from the Book of Acts. Some years, I make sure to read every one. Since the Easter season ends with Pentecost and the creation of the Church, I am also fond of doing Creeds and Statements of Faith, preparing people for that great celebration.

This year, I find myself wondering if there is a symbol that accurately represents Easter. Most people don't know the difference between a crucifix and the empty cross, so the cross doesn't seem like a good symbol for Easter. The empty tomb sounds appropriate, but it is difficult to represent in pictures and symbols. Flowers, especially from bulbs, baby animals, even eggs all can all to mind new life, but seem very secular. What should we do to make Easter and its season come alive for ourselves and for those outside the church?

Perhaps there is no one good symbol for Easter, so maybe I should quit looking for it. There is a saying, "growth is the only evidence of life." Since Easter is about life, maybe the only real way of showing people Easter is by living lives of growth, courage, and joy. Maybe we represent Easter best when we come through hard and deadly times into a world we still believe holds beauty, hope and love. Maybe, just maybe, the best way of celebrating Easter is by living every day as fully as possible, and letting others find Easter in us.

Pastor Galene



Happy Anniversary

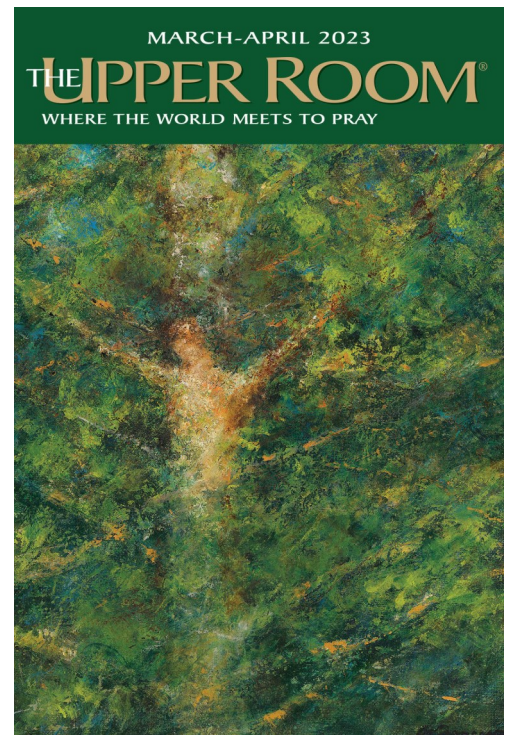
- Jack Robinson April 1
- Ray Roop April 2
- Denice Wilson April 2
- Elizabeth Robinson April 5
- Rachelle Skarr April 5
- Sharon MacVean April 6
- Connie Bruhn April 7
- Bunny Scott April 11
- Phyllis Sadler April 12
- Kathy Salmon April 13
- Millie Tobias April 13
- Drake Clayton April 14
- Bob Sanders April 14
- Jacob Keck April 15
- Celia Stober April 15
- Hank Hendrickson April 17
- Tony Menendez April 18
- Dave Delster April 19
- Katie Nelson April 19
- Daisy Pleake April 20
- Suzanne Hartley April 21
- Phillip Miller April 21
- Ada Thompson April 21
- Becky Gaylor April 22
- Rhonda Falknor April 23
- Sylvia Dick April 27
- Joseph Mischik April 29
- Naomi Mills April 30
- Jeff Moore April 30

Gary & Romi Simons April 10

We apologize if we have missed your special day. It means that the office does not have the information. Please notify the office if we need to update your information.

Have you been looking for a devotional? Did you know that *The Upper Room* is available in the narthex. Regular and large print versions are available.

A small donation is appreciated if you are able, but feel



UWF Unit Meeting March 11

The UWF Unit Meeting on March 11 continued the information stream surrounding Women's Health, and that of young students in our schools. Many teenagers has their education interrupted because they miss classes due to lack of appropriate feminine hygiene products. The UWF is focusing this year on providing some of our middle schools with period products.

To further accomplish this goal they sponsored a speaker for the unit meeting, Patti Grossman from *Go With the Flow*. Patti explained how her organization is helping by providing period products, and information about *Go With the Flow* was distributed at the meeting.

Visit <https://gowiththeflowaz.org/> to learn more information or to make a donation to the group. They are also looking for support for Senate Bill SB1675, sponsored by Senator Mitzi Epstein, which requires schools serving students in grades six through twelve to provide period products in all bathrooms. Contact your state legislator to indicate your support for this bill.

Mary Nell Woodward gave a devotion, and after the program the attendees enjoyed a salad luncheon.



Speaker Patti Grossman from *Go With the Flow* (left), and Mary Nell Woodward (right).



FINANCE COMMITTEE



CITD Financial Corner

Year	Comparison General Giving YTD		
	Jan	Feb	Mar
2021 Actuals	\$ 19,770.18	\$ 22,786.24	\$ 24,963.31
2022 Actuals	\$ 18,674.22	\$ 19,242.73	\$ 18,845.90
2023 Actuals	\$ 17,810.63	\$ 14,713.79	
2023 Budgeted Income	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 17,960.00

For the first time in a few years our January Income was close to Budgeted Income. We have switched to using a monthly basis for giving instead of using a per Sunday basis – i.e. ignoring whether it is a 4-Sunday or 5-Sunday month. The last couple of years, January giving was poor even for a 4-Sunday month even though they were 5-Sunday months. So, 2023 seemed to be off to a better start, but now it looks like February has caught that January effect. I certainly hope that March looks much better and gets us back on course.

We were originally looking at a deficit of \$45,000 for the year. If March does not look better, it's going to have a significant impact on us. We are continuing to adjust our costs as the year progresses, and we are making some progress there. At the same time, we are looking to add other sources of revenue to help with this shortfall. We are not in a unique position. Many other churches are dealing with the same challenges we are. As we noted before, we are participating in the Church Cartography Project, and we have fortunately been approached by a Pre-school that is interested in leasing space from us. This is not a done deal, but this is exactly the kind of thing that the Church Cartography effort is all about.

Today, Pastor Galene and I met with the Pastor and another staff member/church member at Cross Roads United Methodist Church. We are hoping we can continue to share ideas to mutual benefit.

I again appreciate that many of you have remained faithful in your giving. Thanks, again, for your prayers and financial support. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me.

In His service,

Eugene O'Bryan, Chairperson
 CITD Finance Committee
 Home: 602-788-0742
 Cell: 602-363-4115
 eobryan@cox.net

Did you know? It takes \$6,325.00 per week for CITD to pay all the bills!

Prayer Corner

Dear Almighty God,

We are so grateful for your love, and for sending your son to be our Savior. May the Holy Spirit guide us, give us courage and grant us your peace. May this Easter season help all of us to grow closer to you, O God. We are so grateful to live in this country and not have war in our neighborhoods. Please help and heal all those who have the covid virus and may it lessen in our country. Thank you God for our children and youth. Bless them and protect them. All of us pray that this crazy violence on our streets and in our homes cease, and may people calm down and enjoy the life they do have. Continue to provide ways for people to receive their life-giving medications. We pray for more shelter for the homeless and for the economy to slow down. Pour your Holy Spirit and your guidance on our Congress, people and our leaders. We pray their first focus will be for the people they represent and that selfishness and greed will lessen. Easter means that we spread kindness and love to others and may that happen in a mighty way this year. We pray for the people of Ukraine and all the people of Africa who will not receive the crops that feed them. Bless our hearts and fill us with kindness for each other. In Jesus name. Amen.

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean

PRAYER NOTES Rev. Sharon A. MacVean

Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote about prayer
More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.

Pete Greig in his book on a simple guide to prayer tells us
“the best advice I ever received about how to pray was this:
Keep it simple, keep it real, and keep it up.”

Sometimes keeping it up is the hardest thing when it seems like we are getting no answer—I find that it be true in my experience. Then somewhere and some time I experience a thought, a whisper, some kind of change and then I realize I did get an answer. Often it is not what I expected. Keeping it simple avoids getting into complicated or intense in a way that is not helpful. Keeping it real means we can share our feelings, even anger and God will listen. Every prayer counts and we are not called to be perfect with words but to be real.

East District Prayer **Focus for April**

Casa Grande UMC,
Casa Grande
Rev. Mark Lansberry

Wesley UMC, Phoenix
Rev. Sylvia Harris

White Mountain UMC,
Show Low
Pastor Amy Kalm





United
Women
in Faith

April Meetings of UWF

April 6	UWF Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
April 13	Outreach Circle Meeting	10:30 am	
	Meet to carpool to Caanan in the Desert		
April 13	Mary Martha Circle	6:30 pm	Kathleen's House
April 15	<i>Junque in the Trunk</i> Parking Lot Sale		
April 18	Devotions & Dinner	6:30 pm	
April 20	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> by Robin Kimmerer		
April 21	Devotions and Dinner	6:30 pm	
April 26	Palm Lakes Village Circle	2:00 pm	

Junque in the Trunk

Coming April 15th! 8:00 am until Noon

Start saving up saleable items and/or crafts.

Rent your space in the church parking lot in Fellowship Hall
on April 2 or 9th

On April 15th—Just pull into your space,
open your trunk and join your friends for a
community sale.

You keep all of your profits!

You can bring tables to set up, if you like.
Be sure to have your own bags and change as well.





Cross in the Desert is Working Towards Partnering with Global Minds Preschool

Recently, Cross in the Desert was contacted by Adam Maynard of Global Minds Preschool and Academy. Global Minds is located in Scottsdale and teaches young children Mandarin and Spanish, since it is easier for children to learn foreign languages. They are ready to expand to another location and have asked to rent Guthrie.

There are many spaces available for preschools and daycares, but not many with good playground space. This is what led Adam to look at churches, finally leading him to Cross in the Desert. While Guthrie is an older building, our playground space is modern and needs little modification besides fencing more appropriate for a modern preschool. Meanwhile, Guthrie itself is a well designed building, though it is in need of maintenance and some modifications.

Global Minds is willing to make necessary improvements for compliance with current preschool rules, as long as we are willing to apply the cost of those improvements towards their rent. This would delay income to the church, but once improvement costs are paid back, the church would receive an estimated \$4,000 per month. Details and inspections are still being worked out.

If you hear of workdays to clean out Guthrie and the Fellowship Hall, this is so we can make space in Fellowship Hall for our children, until Guthrie is ready for children to return there. Once the preschool passes inspection, we can share the space, using it on Saturday and Sunday, while the preschool uses it during the week.

Please pray for both Cross in the Desert and Global Minds as we work towards hosting open houses over the summer, with the grand opening the beginning of August.

MISSIONS



Life Line Screening at CITD

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on **Wednesday, May 17, 2023**, at Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.



Fry's Community Rewards

A big thank you to everyone who supports Cross in the Desert through the Fry's Community Rewards Program. Our rewards check from last quarter totaled \$90.89.

If you are not currently participating and wish to enroll, please see Karen Mischik or pick up instructions at the Missions table after church. You pay nothing to activate your donations.

Once you link your VIP Card to CITD, all you have to do is shop at Fry's and swipe your card.

The Vitalant
Bloodmobile will be
here at Cross in the
Desert on Sunday
June 11. Plan to take
advantage of this
opportunity to help
save lives.





Marion J. Ashley
March 27, 1926 - January 17, 2023

Celebration of Life
Friday, May 19, 2023 at 1:00 pm

Cross in the Desert
United Methodist Church
12835 N 32nd Street,
Phoenix, AZ 85032

Family and friends are invited to gather afterward at the Church for a light reception and sharing of remembrances.

Mark your calendar

Annual Conference is June 15 –17
Please contact the pastor if you are interested in attending.

We will be starting the Annual Conference Mission Project soon, so stay tuned!



Do You Like Baseball? Do You Like Music?

The Diamondbacks have announced their Faith and Family Night for 2023. It will be held on August 25th against the Reds, and followed by a post-game concert by Zach Williams.

While anyone can purchase tickets, if we want to attend as a church, we need someone to be the contact person for this event. Please contact the pastor if you are interested.



Life Line Screening is May 17th.
Don't miss this opportunity to take care of your health!

Desert Southwest Conference News

Bishop Installed

With great joy, the Desert Southwest Annual Conference installed our new bishop -- Bishop Carlo Axibal Rapanut – on Saturday, March 11, 2023 at St. Matthew UMC in Mesa. For the first time since arriving, Bishop Carlo was able to introduce his family. The first bishop of the Desert Southwest Conference, Bishop Elias Galvan participated, along with former DSC clergy member, now bishop, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank of the California Pacific Annual Conference. The day's offering went to support the church planting fund of Bishop Rapanut's home church, Baguio City First United Methodist Church, in the Phillipines. The installation service is available through the Annual Conference website at dscumc.org/event/bishops-installation-service.



Messages From Our Bishop

Bishop Carlo is recording messages for the people of the church. The first video, about experiencing Holy Week with all our senses is already available. The second message, an Easter message, will be available April 5. Go to DSCUMC.org/worship for the link.

Conference Contacts

Bishop

Carlo A. Rapanut

Bishop's Assistant:

Julie O'Neal joneal@dscumc.org

Conference Lay Leader

Alberta Farnsworth

East District Superintendent

Melissa Rynders

Assistant: Cynthia Holly cholly@dscumc.org

East District Lay Leader

Trinity Donovan

Director of Communications

(Assistance with technology)

Christina Dillabough

cdillabough@dscumc.org



Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church
12835 N. 32nd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85032
Phone: 602-992-1960
E-mail: citd@crossinthedesert.org
Website: <https://www.crossinthedesert.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrossintheDesertUMC>



Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

Pastor

Rev. Galene Boyett

pastor@crossinthedesert.org

Lay Leader—vacant

Coordinator of Children’s Ministries

Vacant

Youth and Technology Coordinator

Kevin Joy

Administrative Assistant

Julie Wagner

citd@crossinthedesert.org

Financial Secretary

Alice Easter

finance@crossinthedesert.org

Building and Grounds Concerns

Please contact the office by phone or email so the Trustees may be notified