



# The Oasis

August 2023

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

## Summer Slump?

It's hot! Hotter than any of us can ever remember! But that does not mean that things have stopped at Cross in the Desert. While many of you are still out of town, those of us enduring the heat may have noticed a few things going on around the campus.

If you have noticed everything is a little neater, please give a shout out to Dave Delster and the N.I.C.E. Guys, who have been weeding, raking, and cleaning the sidewalks. They have also helped repair irrigation leaks. The largest irrigation leak has been dug out and the broken pipe repaired.

If you have noticed the big pile of rocks by the Outreach Building, please thank the Wednesday GA Group. They had a load of free rock delivered, and will be spreading it as it gets cooler.

If you have noticed the new sidewalk leading to the kitchen door, please acknowledge Kevin Joy, and all the work that he does with the Scouting program here at CITD. The sidewalk is the result of an Eagle Project!

This you will notice! There is a lot of kid stuff in the room next to Fellowship Hall. Much of the summer has been spent moving, lugging, organizing and cleaning to empty out the Guthrie Building. It has taken a long time, but the building is ready for renovations to begin. Many thanks to everyone who helped over the weeks!

So what is happening to the kids? A temporary room in Fellowship Hall is getting set up for Children's Church/Sunday School activities while the renovations in the Guthrie Building are underway. Heather Foster is organizing this new area. Please thank Heather for her hard work. Talk to Heather if you are willing to help out occasionally on Sunday mornings with the Children's ministry.

(continued on Pg. 8)

### In This Issue.....

Pastor's Corner.....2

Birthdays, Anniversaries.....3

General News.....3,4,8,10

Finance.....5

Prayer Ministry.....6

UWF.....7

Missions.....9

Conference.....10,11

# Pastor's Corner



When a group of people came to John Wesley, the father of Methodism, and asked him how to grow their faith, he gave them the *General Principles of the United Societies*. The answers are summarized in Bishop Rueben P Job's book, "Three Simple Rules."

Do no harm.

Do good.

Stay in love with God.

Are you as struck as I am by the simplicity of this? What if everything we need to do grow deeper and more faithful to the call to bring love and hope to the world can be summed up in these three things rather than volumes of religious rules?

During the month of August, we will be looking at these concepts. We will take each one and ask ourselves these three questions:

What does that mean for me?

What does that mean for my community?

What does that mean for the world?

What we learn during our lives is not just meant for us, despite what we might have been told. Our gifts, talents, and love are meant to be used for the betterment of the world around us, and we must be good stewards of what we have been given.

For example, doing no harm can also mean treating ourselves kindly so that we can be who God created us to be for the world's benefit.

Join me in this journey of exploring the basics of how to show up as fully formed humans made in God's image!



<sup>1</sup>Job, Rueben P. 2007. *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*. Abingdon Press.



## BIRTHDAYS

Jewel Hood	August 2
Rhonda Mortenson	August 3
Peter Martinello	August 8
Dorothy Harlan	August 10
Kathy Hobbs	August 12
Melanie Konski	August 13
Jim Dukarich	August 16
Mary Nell Woodward	August 16
Ronan Cahill	August 18
Jeff Bulkeley	August 19
Blake Carlson	August 19
Karen Bulkeley	August 20
Augustine Gavini	August 20
Kian Francis	August 24
Judy Anderson	August 25
Linda Moore	August 25
Dwight Peck	August 26



*Happy  
Anniversary*

Pete & Marlene Thompson	August 3
Dave & Jeannette Delster	August 12
Junior & Dorothy Harlan	August 15
Ray & Arlene Roop	August 19

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

## Opportunities!

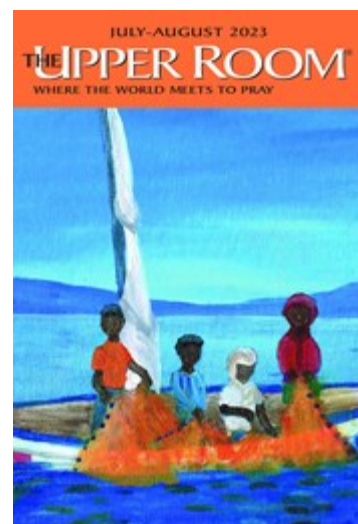
There are several ways for someone to participate on the worship team here at Cross in the Desert. Here are a few that require very little time commitment.

- Be a Greeter—A great way to get to know people as you welcome them to church! Contact Mary Nell Woodward for more information.
- Be an Usher—Contact Charlie Diller.
- Be a Liturgist—Read scripture during the service and assist the pastor. Contact the church office.
- Help in the Media Booth—Help with slides, sound or the camera. Contact Kevin Joy.
- Be a Communion Steward—Check on supplies and set up the elements on Communion Sunday. Contact the church office for more details.

**CAN YOU  
HELP?**

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 free to take one even if you can't donate.





The N.I.C.E. GUYS are back and are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with small service projects around the church campus. We work closely with trustees and at times will receive requests from them. Often times we find tasks that simply need some attention and coordinate with the group.

Regardless of your availability, this group is extremely flexible when we address some of these tasks. If this is something you might be interested in, please contact Dave at:

[d2jadclan@aol.com](mailto:d2jadclan@aol.com) or (602) 867-2672.

Some examples of the work we have done recently:

- Light weeding and raking; and playground maintenance
- Replaced sprinkler heads and helped locate irrigation leaks
- Cleaned utility yard
- Cleaning bird droppings and blowing leaves from walkways



## Trustees Report

The board of trustees has been hard at work this month. We had to have some repairs done on some of our A/C Units. Did you know that there are 17 A/C Units on our campus? There has been record breaking heat this summer, and some of the units have been struggling to keep us cool. We are actively searching for a company to provide preventative maintenance for the units on campus.

Our copier contract lease was expiring, and research was done to select a provider who would give us the best product for our needs. We signed a contract with Toshiba for a new 5 year lease, and our new copier was delivered on July 17th. Please contact the office if you use the copier and would like training on the new machine.

Thank you for bearing with us, and volunteering your help, as we searched for a new janitorial service. We have engaged TJ Pro Cleaners, and they will be starting on August 8th. They specialize in cleaning churches and come highly recommended by North Scottsdale UMC and Paradise Valley UMC. Cleaning will be done on Tuesdays.

We are still experiencing leaks in the irrigation system. The big leak near the patio has been repaired, but we have noticed smaller leaks. If you see a leak, please notify the office or one of the trustees.

# FINANCE COMMITTEE



## CITD Financial Corner

Year	Comparison General Giving YTD		
	Q1	Q2	Total
2021 Actuals	\$ 67,519.73	\$ 67,503.61	\$ 135,023.34
2022 Actuals	\$ 56,762.85	\$ 58,132.21	\$ 114,895.06
2023 Actuals	\$ 48,593.35	\$ 53,968.82	\$ 102,562.17
2023 Budgeted	\$ 53,880.00	\$ 53,880.00	\$ 107,760.00

We are running lower than planned on our income/giving, but we have also been running lower on expenses primarily due to the loss of our janitorial services and adjustments to our plans for staffing. Those latter adjustments have meant that the congregation and existing staff have had to pull extra duty, but efforts are underway to get some of those addressed soon.

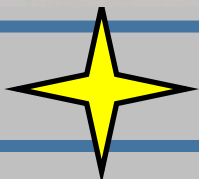
I've been reworking the budget for the second half of the year due to Pastor Gina only being ¾ time and making some slight downward adjustments to expected income/giving. Assuming we have no significant, unexpected changes to giving or to expenses and with the additional help we've had from Conference and Foundation, we're looking to break even for the rest of the year. That still leaves us not paying anything on Apportionment. We are planning to have another Luminarias event this year where the proceeds will go toward Apportionment.

We have signed a Letter of Intent with Global Minds Preschool. We're busy emptying out the Guthrie Building so they can begin work. Our current expectation is that the monthly lease will bring in \$4500/month or \$54,000/year. However, they estimate they will have expenses of about \$49,000 which we intend to pay back to them through a 50% rent reduction until that is paid back to them.

Thanks, again, for your prayers and financial support. I really feel like we're starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel from where we've been. 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 \$5610.00 per week for CITD to pay all the bills!

# Prayer Corner

Dear loving nurturing Creator God, the Father of us all. We come to you in our summer heat and ask for patience and encouragement. We pray for those people who are on the streets or somehow not able to find good shelter in this the hardest time of the year for us here in the desert. Keep us calm whether driving or in family situations or at the store. May your Spirit of love and hope spread among us. Help us encourage each other and help us step up and continue to worship and work or shop.

Thank you, dear Jesus, that we have a new pastor to lead us into building our church up and expanding our ministries. We pray to touch lives with your love, O God. We pray for an end to wars, particularly the one in Ukraine. We pray for our streets and our people to be more willing to stop violence and offer places of hope and love for all our people. We offer prayers for those who are sick and struggling with health or work or financial situations. We pray for those who are in grief for losing a loved one or for other great losses.

You have promised to walk with us and help us and we are grateful. Please take care of each one of us and provide for families wherever possible. Keep our churches strong during these complicated times.

Make us truly your disciples spreading love and healing around our world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean

## PRAYER NOTES

Rev. Sharon A. MacVean

### A MODEL FOR PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer can be found in Mathew's and Luke's Gospels. Its roots are in the Hebrew prayer forms of the synagogue. It is similar to the standing prayers that made up the central ritual of the synagogue service. Jesus learned to pray as a child and New Testament scriptures reflect how often Jesus prayed alone and with his followers.

Prayers can be said in groups and as rituals and in worship services.. Prayers can be said in person for another person. Prayers can be said in solitude turning to God for comfort, understanding and direction. It's not so important to have good holy words as to having words that come from our hearts. As human beings, Jesus encourages us to approach God as a loving nurturing parent.

(taken from Jesus and Prayer by Abena Safiyah Fosua)

## East District Prayer Focus for August

### **Dayspring UMC, Tempe**

Rev. Jeffrey Proctor-Murphy  
Pastor Michael Long  
Rev. Shirley Wells

### **Desert Mission UMC, Scottsdale**

Rev. James Wiltbank  
Rev. Robert Payne

### **First UMC, Mesa**

Rev. Jeff Lust

### **Song of Life UMC, Queen Creek**

Rev. Sylvia Harris





United  
Women  
in Faith

### August Meetings of UWF

August 3	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
August 10	Outreach Circle Meeting	11:00 am	Fellowship Hall
	Shopping for layettes and going out to lunch		
	Mary Martha Circle	not meeting in August	
August 15	Devotions & Dinner	6:30 pm	Picazzo's Healthy Italian Kitchen, 4669 E. Cactus Rd
August 17	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>House on Lowell Street</i> by Linda Kearn		
August 23	Palm Lakes Village Circle	2:00 pm	Contact Judy S.

As United Women in Faith we face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.

United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children, and youth - from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.

School is about to begin. Cross in the Desert UWF will continue to supply feminine hygiene products to the three middle schools along the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street corridor. Join us as we address the issue of period poverty. There will be a basket in Fellowship Hall to collect donations of sanitary napkins, which we distribute monthly during the school year.

Thank you!





Do you love to praise God through music? Get involved with the music ministry here at Cross in the Desert! Rehearsals will be starting back up in September.

If you are interested in vocal or praise music, please contact Mary Tassi for more information.

If you are interested in learning about handbells, please contact Julie Wagner.

(continued from pg. 1)

Have you noticed that even though we have not had janitorial service since the end the April, the campus looks pretty darn good. Please thank the Trustees, who have carried the burden of emptying trash, stocking supplies, cleaning bathrooms, and cleaning floors in the interim. We are pleased to announce that, effective August 8th, we will be welcoming TJ Pro Cleaners to our campus. They will be doing a thorough cleaning once a week. They specialize in cleaning church campuses and clean several churches in our area.

Are you a social media buff? If you are, you will notice that Cross in the Desert is putting itself out there! Please thank Phillip Botts for showing the world who we are at CITD!

So summer slump? I don't think so!

**Join us on Sunday October 1 from 3:00-5:00 pm**





# MISSIONS

## New Mission Project - We Hope You Can Help!



During the month of August, we are collecting items for *Project Humanities*, a non-profit that provides clothing and hygiene items for the unhoused on the Human Services Campus in Downtown Phoenix.

**Urgent Needs** include summer clothing for adults - shorts, tops, dresses (no skirts), adult pants of all sizes, and new adult men's underwear.

**Always needed are** - reading glasses, backpacks, shoes, hygiene items (toothpaste, dental floss, disposable razors, toothbrushes, and deodorant), and WATER.

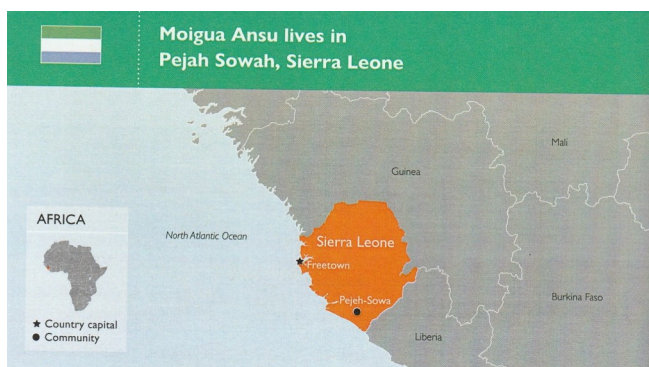
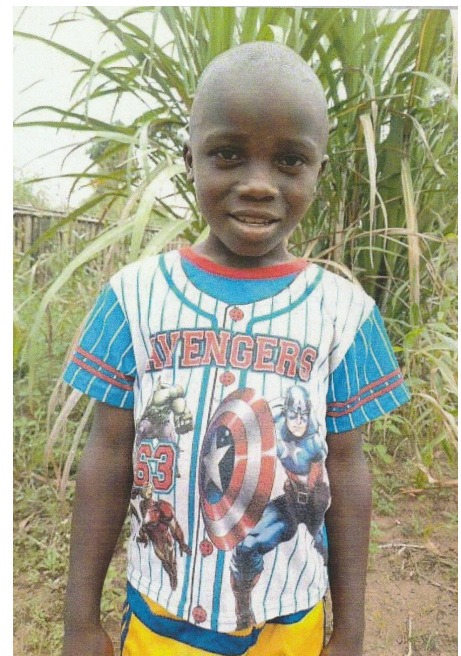
Please bring any donations to the designated area in Fellowship Hall, or to the office during the week. Thanks!

## Meet Our New World Vision Child!

Hi! My name is Moigua Ansu Lume. I am 9 years old and I live in Pejah Sowah, Sierra Leone, in western Africa. I live with my parents, and I am an only child. Both my father and mother are farmers. They are struggling to meet our family's needs.

I go to school and my favorite part of school is reading.

Thank you for sponsoring me! You are helping to make big things happen for my community.



# Upcoming Camp Events

DSC Mingus Mountain Camp:

**NEW!** UMC Fall Family Camp Weekends: September 22-24 & October 13-15

**NEW!** Women's RESToration Retreat: October 9-12

Winter Camp 2024: January 13 – 15 More information coming soon, so until then – save the date!

**UMC FALL FAMILY CAMP WEEKENDS**



September 22-24, 2023  
October 13-15, 2023

**What are these weekends?**  
We know that many of the UM Churches in the Desert Southwest Conference enjoy time together, away from the hustle and bustle. These retreat weekends are designed for those churches who may not have the folks to warrant renting out all of camp but still want to enjoy the creation and community on Mingus Mountain.

**What are the basics?**  
We've structured the rates to meet the needs of all types of churches!

Churches can rent out a retreat cabin for \$3,200 for the weekend, a \$500 deposit per retreat cabin is due within 21 days of booking (all usual cancellation policies apply)-this includes:

- Heavily discounted pricing! For the regular price of 18 people, you get the following:
- Retreat Cabin Accommodations for up to 30 people (6 rooms, sleep 5 per room)
- Meals for up to 30 people: Saturday Breakfast-Sack Lunch on Sunday
- Archery available for all on site Saturday from 9:30-11:30
- Big zipline available from 2-4pm on Saturday,
- Campfire worship with s'mores at 7:30 on Saturday night led by camp staff

Rustics, VIPs and the Nurse's Cabin are available at special rates, too! Contact Patricia Pegram at [ppegam@dscumc.org](mailto:ppegam@dscumc.org) for more information.




**RESToration**

Monday, October 9th-Thursday, October 12th

Join us for this retreat--be filled with rest, and gain strength and perspective for the future.

Sue Conklin, licensed clinical social worker, and Sheila & Bekah Segien from Connect with Horses will lead us in equine experiences to engage with exploratory inner work. Assisted by Cat Holbert, Trained Coach and experienced facilitator, we'll offer guided meditations, conversations, art therapy tools, and opportunities for self-care.

The cost for this event is \$525  
Broken down, that's \$225 for food and lodging (3 nights/8meals)  
and \$300 for program fees

Financial assistance is available through Mingus Mountain; email Cat Holbert at [cholbert@dscumc.org](mailto:cholbert@dscumc.org) to inquire for scholarships

Registration opens July 15th--space is limited

Rest. Learn. Grow. For Women by Women.



# Desert Southwest Conference News



We have the final accounting of donations turned in to our Conference Treasurer, Matt Kuss, for the 2023 Mission Projects. You'll remember we had three areas of focus this year: Ukraine Relief, RIP Medical Debt, and Disaster Relief for Turkey/Syria. Our grand totals are as follows:

- Ukraine: \$14,180.32
- RIP Medical Debt: \$11,332.82
- Turkey/Syria: \$10,822.86
- **Grand total of \$36, 336!**

Rev. Dr. Khalif Smith, Desert Southwest Conference's new Director of Connectional Ministries, was appointed at the 2023 Annual Conference with a start date of July 1, 2023.

*"I look forward to serving the Annual Conference as the Director of Connectional Ministries, where I believe that my gifts for building community, passion for social justice, and adaptive leadership skills will be used to steward the vision of our incredible Conference. I believe my history of serving in leadership as a bridge builder will help me to strengthen the connections within the ministries of the Annual Conference and the connections to the Jurisdictional Conference, General Conference, and the World."*

*Rev. Dr. Khalif Akil Smith Sr.*



Do you want to learn more about becoming a Lay Servant? Sign up for the Basic Course.

**LSM Introduction to Lay Ministry: The BASIC Course at North Scottsdale UMC, Aug 25-26, 2023. Registration deadline is August 18.**

## Conference Contacts

### Bishop

Carlo A. Rapanut

### Bishop's Assistant:

Julie O'Neal [joneal@dscumc.org](mailto:joneal@dscumc.org)

### Conference Lay Leader

Alberta Farnsworth

### East District Superintendent

Melissa Rynders

Assistant: Cynthia Holly [cholly@dscumc.org](mailto:cholly@dscumc.org)

### East District Lay Leader

Trinity Donovan

### Director of Communications (Assistance with technology)

Christina Dillabough

[cdillabough@dscumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:citd@crossinthedesert.org)  
Website: <https://www.crossinthedesert.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrossintheDesertUMC>



## Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

### Pastor

Pastor Gina Pollard

[pastorgina@crossinthedesert.org](mailto:pastorgina@crossinthedesert.org)

Lay Leader—vacant

Coordinator of Children’s Ministries

Vacant

Youth and Technology Coordinator

Kevin Joy

Administrative Assistant

Julie Wagner

[citd@crossinthedesert.org](mailto:citd@crossinthedesert.org)

Financial Secretary

Alice Easter

[finance@crossinthedesert.org](mailto:finance@crossinthedesert.org)

Building and Grounds Concerns

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