



# The Oasis

June 2023

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

## 2023 Strategic Plan Update

By Karen Bulkeley

Many exciting things are happening at CITD in the pursuit of completing the four goals of our 2023 Strategic Plan. This month I would like to focus on the following goal: **Identify and assess suitable goals to meet congregational needs, both individually and corporately.**

Caring for each other is a strength of CITD. We help each other with supportive phone calls, offers of rides, and celebrations of milestones. However, there is always more that can be done and recently several members have stepped up to do even more. The Welcome Team will be meeting weekly to take time to reach out to members we haven't seen in a while, visitors in worship, and homebound members. This work is designed to lift up those who are contacted and will give the pastor and members information on the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of those who are part of our community. Additionally, notes are being sent to homebound members by members of United Women in Faith to let these individuals know that we are praying for them and care about them. Also, the Dinner and Devotions UWF group is preparing "Busy Bags" for children to use during worship. This is a concrete way to serve our young people and say that we are glad you are in worship and we welcome you here. It is exciting to see so many groups and individuals stepping up when a need is identified and saying "send me".

Tasks as simple as writing a brief note or making a couple of phone calls each week can make a huge difference in the life of our congregation. If you haven't yet found a way that you can contribute to the success of the 2023 Strategic Plan, please review the plan that is posted in Fellowship Hall and prayerfully consider how you can serve.

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**East District**  
Desert Southwest Conference  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 14, 2023

Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church  
12835 N 32<sup>nd</sup> St  
Phoenix, AZ 85032-6517

Dear Members and Friends of Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church,  
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

After a time of consultation and prayer, Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut has discerned that there will be a change in appointment at your church. Bishop Rapanut intends to appoint Rev. Galene Boyett to serve a two-point charge as Pastor at Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church in Surprise, AZ less than full-time and Sunrise United Methodist Church in Phoenix, AZ, less than full-time, effective July 1, 2023. Rev. Boyett will continue to serve as your pastor through June 30, 2023.

Pastor Galene has faithfully served Cross in the Desert throughout a pandemic, learning quickly new ways to engage people when they can't gather. She has walked alongside this community in love and grace as together you have grown and served your community. I know you will find ways to thank her for her ministry among you as she prepares to enter her new appointments and you prepare for your new pastor.

Knowing that Pastor Galene will be leaving, I am now pleased to share with you that Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut intends to appoint Pastor Gina Pollard to Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church, less than full-time, effective July 1, 2023. Pastor Gina has gifts for creating community and engaging in new ways to bring people and events into the church. She has a passion for connecting with people, working collaboratively towards the goals of the church and empowering people to become who God has created them to be.

The Bishop and Cabinet are praying for you during this time of transition. We pray you will know and feel God's presence and peace in all that you do.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Melissa Rynders  
Missional Strategist & Superintendent

cc: Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, Rev. Javier Olivares, Rev. Galene Boyett, Pastor Gina Pollard

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*Happy Anniversary*

Elizabeth Rall	June 1
John Keck	June 2
Buck Ashcraft	June 3
Tyler Joy	June 5
Nancy Stein	June 5
Rosalie Wagner	June 5
Kathy Doyle	June 8
Theodore Dudek	June 12
Ada Miller	June 12
Billy Pleake	June 15
Dinah Brooks	June 17
Tim Carlson	June 17
Kylie Clayton	June 18
Georgia McCormick	June 19
Barry Doyle	June 20
Alan Boyett	June 26

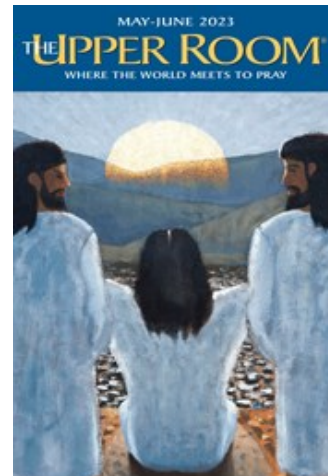
Wes & Wanda Picciotti	June 1
Jeff & Karen Bulkeley	June 5
Jeff & Linda Moore	June 8
Hank & Barb Hendrickson	June 12
Bill Moyer & Ada Thompson	June 12
Dan & Gretchen Miller	June 14
Peter & Amanda Dudek	June 18
Jim & Becky Bussey	June 25

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.

Pastor Galene's assignment here at CITD ends on June 30. We will be sad to see her leave, but wish her well at her new churches. Please be thinking about how you will express your appreciation to Galene for her three years with us. Plans for a goodbye gathering in the works, so watch emails for details!



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.







Rev. Sharon MacVean baptizes Kathie Lynn Hazen on May 21



For Memorial Day, Cross in the Desert honored those who fought and died to guarantee our freedom to worship as we choose.



## Trustees Report

May has been a busy month for the Trustees. We have signed a contract for the repair of the sanctuary roof, and the repairs should start soon.

Plans to refurbish the Guthrie Building, in conjunction with Global Minds Preschool, continue slowly due to the delay in a required fire inspection. Now the inspection is completed and we know what upgrades must be done.

Unfortunately some repairs were necessary in May—you know those pesky maintenance dollars that you can't see, but have to be spent. The main circuit breaker for the Outreach Building failed, and has been repaired. Repairs were also necessary on the A/C unit for the main Fellowship Hall room.

All the trustees are working to maintain our campus in a well kept and appealing manner. Please notify the office if you see something that needs attention.

## Updates from the CITD Foundation

We are pleased to announce that the CITD Foundation Board approved a request from the Church Council to provide a grant of \$14,500 to support the repair of the sanctuary roof. This money will supplement the amount raised by the congregation.

This brings the total amount granted for the year to support the ministries of the church to \$37,500.

If you have any questions about the role of the CITD Foundation in the life of CITD, please feel free to reach out to any board member: Pastor Galene Boyett, Kevin Joy, Suzy Zarkovich, Arvilla Jungman, Dave Delster, Linda Lulkovich and Jeff Bulkeley.

Jeff Bulkeley, CITD Foundation President

# FINANCE COMMITTEE



## CITD Financial Corner

Year	Comparison General Giving YTD				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
2021 Actuals	\$ 19,770.18	\$ 22,786.24	\$ 24,963.31	\$ 22,905.45	\$ 90,425.18
2022 Actuals	\$ 18,674.22	\$ 19,242.73	\$ 18,845.90	\$ 21,048.65	\$ 77,811.50
2023 Actuals	\$ 17,810.63	\$ 14,713.79	\$ 16,068.93	\$ 25,157.85	\$ 73,751.20
2023 Budgeted Income	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 71,840.00

April was a very good month for General Giving. In fact, it was the best month we've had since 2021. We had a decent Easter Offering which helped, and it was also a five Sunday month with the very last day being a Sunday. This does appear to have affected May Giving, but we'll have to see the final result. This has put us slightly ahead of the Budget for the year so far.

Even with the Giving situation, we are still dependent on additional support. May is a three-payroll month. We did receive \$23,000 from Foundation to help with monthly expenses, which will help significantly. We have also reduced staffing expenses to some degree – some of it planned and some unplanned, but that has helped the expense side of things. Overall, this is making the rest of the year look more promising than at the beginning of the year.

As of this writing, we have received \$2450 towards the roof repair. Any additional help will be greatly appreciated.

We are making good progress with Global Minds Preschool, but some preliminary work has taken longer than planned. They are currently planning on opening next January.

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 loving God, Holy Father and Christ our Savior, be with us in this changing season. Guide us to keep ourselves firmly resting in you and your love of us. Sometimes we become discouraged and we pray that we learn and know that you walk with us on all days.

We pray for our church, Cross in the Desert, that it will stand strongly as a Christian church of God in the United Methodist tradition. Help us know that we are truly children of God. Give us the courage to continue to step out in faith. We know that churches have gone through struggles many different times. Help us stay strong and move forward. We choose in your name to be diverse in economics and race and any other way you call us to be. We pray for those who are ill and those in grief. Be with our leaders and volunteers as they work to build up your church. Help us with our children's ministry to grow and be here for the needs of children. Help us reach to our neighborhood and visitors. Help us follow your plan for us and to pray for your mercies. Bring to us any who need hope in their lives. Grant to us your blessings and your power to transform us. In Jesus name, Amen

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean

## **PRAYER NOTES** Rev. Sharon A. MacVean

The Examen can be a simple way of taking time to remember your day and think of the things that you said or did and the things other people maybe had done to you.

It is a way of reviewing your day with God using a simple version of an ancient prayer written by the Jesuits centuries ago. Peter Griegg wrote that it is an extraordinarily powerful tool for confession, reconciliation, And personal transformation. He wrote this in his book, *How to Pray*. It involves steps for self-reflection. It can be complicated or a person could follow Peter Griegg's simplified version. He has named these:

Replay

Rejoice

Repent

Reboot or Release.

Replay is a simple reflection or even journal entry as to the day.

Rejoice is to express praise to God for good things.

Repent is to ask or give forgiveness.

Release—give to God or forgive yourself and have a clean slate for the next day..

A person can ask themselves questions such as Where was God when that happened? Where was God in that person's behavior? Where was God for me when that happened? Where was God at that moment of pain-either physical or emotional? Peter Griegg says that it is almost impossible to recall the details of most days unless we work through them

Chronologically. It is by remembering that we start to see how present God is in our lives. Some people find it helpful to go back through journals and see the changes.

## **East District Prayer** **Focus for June**

**Bishop & Staff of the Desert  
Southwest Conference**

**Chaplains, Counselors, & Staff of  
the East District**

**Staff & Churches of the West  
District, North District, and South  
District**





United  
Women  
in Faith

### June Meetings of UWF

June 1	UWF Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
June 8	Outreach Circle Meeting	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
June 8	Mary Martha Circle	4:00 pm	Celia's House
June 15	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>She Has Her Mother's Laugh</i> by Carl Zimmer		
June 20	Devotions & Dinner	6:30 pm	Islands, 21002 N. Tatum Blvd.
June 28	Palm Lakes Village Circle	2:00 pm	Contact Judy S.

### **MISSION U INFORMATION—REGISTER NOW!**

Adult **Virtual** Mission u - Friday, June 23 at 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 24, at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Mission u **in-person** 2023

Prescott UMC, 505 Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301

Friday, July 21, 12:30 p.m. check in

Saturday, July 22, 8:00 a.m. light breakfast

**REGISTER:**

In-Person Event: <https://dscumc.org/secure/2023-mission-in-person-registration/>

Virtual for Adults: <https://dscumc.org/secure/2023-mission-u-virtual-adults/>

Virtual for Youth: <https://dscumc.org/secure/2023-mission-u-virtual-youth/>

**Adult Study: Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation by Riva Tabela**

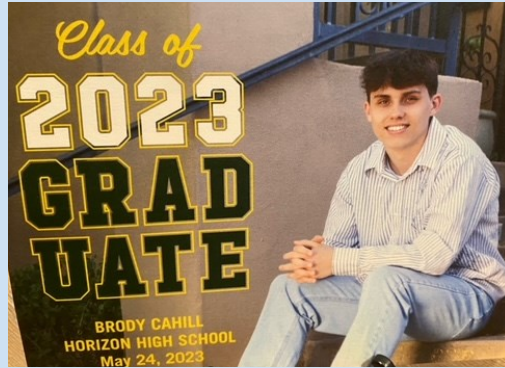
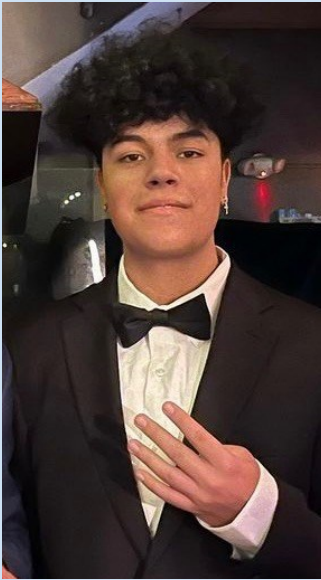
**Youth Study: Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom by Rachel Mosher**

Please purchase your study book prior to Mission u. To order contact Mission Resource Center at 800-305-9857 or order online at: <http://www.umwmissionresources.org/>



# CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023!



Sanjay Biswanath (left) Westview High School, Beaverton, OR

Brody Cahill (center) Horizon High School

Ronan Cahill (right) East Valley Institute of Technology

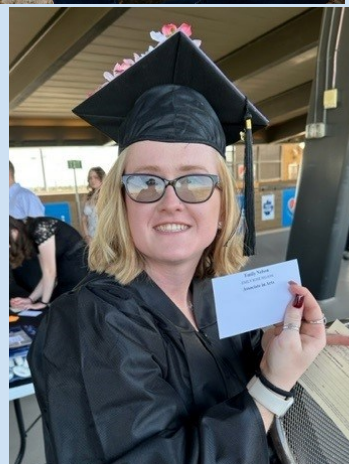


Haley Falknor (left) Paradise Valley Community College

Kian Francis (right) Paradise Valley High School

Emily Rose Nelson (left) Paradise Valley Community College

Tyler Pallante-Bulkeley (right) Shadow Mountain High School





# MISSIONS

## Annual Conference Mission Project

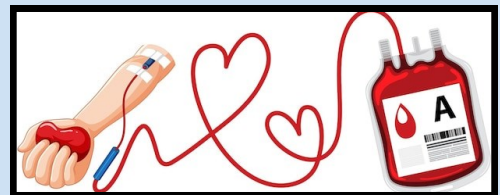


This year's annual conference is being held June 17-17 at the Mesa Convention Center, or online.

Each year during annual conference all the churches are asked to participate in a mission project. This year we are asking for monetary donations to aid those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Please make checks payable to CITD and write "annual conference project" on the memo line.

The Vitalant Bloodmobile will be here at Cross in the Desert on Sunday June 11 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Plan to take advantage of this opportunity to help save lives. You may make appointments online at [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org).



## Missions Committee Gift Card Sales

The CITD Missions Committee continues to sell a variety of gift cards with a percentage of our sales going to support our mission projects. Beginning in June, we will be selling gift cards on the second Sunday of each month, rather than every Sunday. We appreciate your support and invite you to stop by the Missions table on June 11.

Do you need a Father's Day gift? We have Starbucks, Amazon and others.





Thanks to Jeff and Chris, who have shared special music with us while our *One Flock Choir* has the summer off! If you have ever wanted to sing a solo or small group selection, we have opportunities available during the summer months. Contact Mary Tassi to book your date.



Special thanks to Rev. Sharon MacVean (left), and Pastor Philip Teserek (right), as they presented the message during Pastor Galene's leave.



Did you know that the Desert Southwest Conference has a full slate of summer camps for children and youth entering first grade all the way to graduating seniors in high school? In addition to age-specific camps, specialty camps for Grandparents/Grandchildren; art, leadership and missions are on the schedule. Camp Mingus has been a special place for United Methodists in Arizona for over 70 years and, each year, new generations of children and youth discover the magic of summer camp at Camp Mingus.

It's not too early to register, and scholarship information is available on the website. By the way, volunteer counselors and nurses are always needed too! To learn more visit [2023 Sessions | Mingus Mountain \(mingusmountaincamp.org\)](https://www.mingusmountaincamp.org)

# Desert Southwest Conference News

## Annual Conference

The regular session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church will meet on June 15-17, 2023, in a hybrid format: in person at the Mesa Convention Center or online. Information is now available at <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference>.



The theme this year is **#WeAre: Wrestling, Engaging, Rising**, based on the story of Jacob in Genesis 32 and 33, and the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus in Luke 22-24. To say that the past year was difficult is an understatement, for we have been in an extended, extremely challenging season that spans more than three years.

- *The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be with us, and while we are slowly coming out of it, we are certainly grappling with its long-term effects in multiple facets of our personal and communal lives.*
- *Systemic racism and white supremacy continue to plague our society and our church and harm our BIPOC siblings.*
- *While scheduled for May 2024 after numerous postponements, the continued delay in holding the 2020 General Conference continues to bring harm to our LGBTQIA+ siblings.*
- *The disaffiliation of churches from our ranks and the misinformation and disinformation that has accompanied some of these conversations has adversely affected our connection and our witness.*

As a result of these and other concerns, our church is splintering, and our relationships are frayed and falling apart. Many are feeling isolated, disconnected, and alone. Trust towards each other is low.

And so, our theme is a prayer and a declaration that **we are**, as a covenant community of faith, coming together to continue **wrestling** with our current realities and concerns in order to begin **engaging** in conversations that will lead to healing and wholeness so that we may together be on a path towards **rising** to face the new day that God invites us all to with hope and joy!

## 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)





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Website: <https://www.crossinthedesert.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrossintheDesertUMC>



## Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Galene Boyett

[pastor@crossinthedesert.org](mailto: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](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