



The Oasis

July 2024

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

Update from the CITD June Leadership Board Meeting

The Leadership board is busy taking care of church business: Finalizing documents that reflect church policies and guide the Leadership Board. Updating the strategic plan using reports from work crews, congregation, Pastor and various groups.

We had a special guest, Pastor Michael Eaton, to consult with us about how to ensure efficiency with the one board model.

ALOHA! CITD will be receiving \$3500 from a very old property loan in Hawaii. Long story is who knew? Answer: Finance team. They luckily searched, located, identified and acquired. The money will split with 1/2 going to apportionments and 1/2 for campus needs. With this in mind and with full transparency, we want to let our congregation know that though we are meeting budgeted needs, CITD has not made apportionment payments for 2024 to date. **Giving has been less than was expected. Currently \$7000 less than expected since Jan 2024.**

There is a renewed energy for congregational care and many opportunities to serve others. The Care Committee will be out and about this fall. Caring for our church family and supporting specific needs.

The Global Minds Preschool is still trying to work out issues with the City of PHX.

The Leadership Board's monthly meetings are public and open to all. Meeting dates are published on the website in the church calendar. Due to board members travel schedules, meetings are often conducted via ZOOM. The link can be found in the church calendar on the date and is given in the weekly "What's Happening" emailed on Fridays.

The next Leadership Board meeting is July 23rd at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join.

"Aloha au I ko'u'ohana halepule",

Love my church family,

Wanda Picciotti, Leadership Board member

In This Issue.....

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

Prayer Ministry.....6
 UWFaith.....7
 Missions.....9
 Conference.....10,11

Pastor's Corner



Embracing the Horizon: A Journey of Hope and Anticipation

Dear Beloved Congregation,

I am filled with a profound sense of expectation and hope as we move into the year's second half. The ebb and flow of life within our church community reflect the enduring faith that sustains us. This faith is the very essence of moving forward and embracing the future.

We serve a God of seasons, a God of new beginnings and bountiful harvests. With this divine assurance, we look towards the second part of the year not simply with optimism but with a certainty that good things are on the horizon.

Our collective journey as a church is poised to embark on new and revitalizing ventures. We are planning great things, beloved. These plans are not simply activities to fill our calendars; they are opportunities for us to grow closer as a community, serve with more significant impact, and glorify God in all we do.

****Anticipate in Service:**** We will continue to expand our outreach programs, finding ever more effective ways to serve those in need and to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

****Anticipate in Worship:**** Our worship experiences will be enriched with new music and arts, inviting each heart to connect with God in profound and moving ways.

****Anticipate in Fellowship:**** New fellowships and small group initiatives will be launched, providing deeper connections and spiritual growth as we share life's journey.

****Anticipate in Teaching:**** Expect enriched teaching series that will delve into the depth of scripture and the practical application of its truths in our daily lives.

We are called to be a people of hope through all these impending endeavors. We must remain resilient in our faith, persevere through change, and support one another in love. *We are called not to passive waiting but to active anticipation, where we prepare the ground for the good things God is bringing into our lives.*

Let us be united in this season of preparation and anticipation. May we commit to actively participating in the story God is crafting in our community. I urge everyone to consider where God might call you to step up, step out, and be a beacon of His love and hope.

Together, *Pastor G*



Beverly Ashcraft	July 2
Diane Ingold	July 2
Fran Kirk	July 3
Curt Robinson	July 5
Marlene Thompson	July 8
Charlotte Osborn	July 9
Wendy Pleake	July 11
Suzy Zarkovich	July 11
Rod Gaylor	July 16
Gina Pollard	July 16
Gretchen Miller	July 20
Tom Botts	July 23
Heather Foster	July 23
Margaret Bridgewater	July 25
Jeannette Delster	July 26
Junior Harlan	July 26
Mary Tassi	July 30

Dave & Rosalie Wagner

July 5

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.

Are you able to help out with some simple jobs around the church? Be a Nice Guy or Gal. Contact Dave Delster at d2jadclan@aol.com for more information.



MISSING!

Have you seen me?

Where am I hiding?

Community Coffee

Have you taken advantage of attending Community Coffee Time with Pastor Gina? It is a relaxed informal time of sharing. Come and get to know each other and share ideas for church activities. It can be the birthplace of new ideas and projects!

Community Coffee - First Wednesday of the Month at 32 Shea, 10626 N. 32nd St

Community Coffee PM (AKA Pie Night) - Quarterly at the Village Inn, 4040 E. Bell Rd



Happenings at Annual Conference

Read all about it on page 10-11



CITD Event Opportunity - attend *God's Favorite* by Neil Simon

Don Bluth Front Row Theatre

8989 E Vía Linda #118, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Wednesday August 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Tickets are \$31. See/call/text Eugene O'Bryan at 602-363-4115

Successful Long Island businessman Joe Benjamin is a modern-day 'Job' with a demanding wife, ungrateful children and wise-cracking household employees. He credits all he has to his love for God. Then he is visited by Sidney Lipton, a.k.a. A Messenger from God with a mission: test Joe's faith and report back to "the Boss". He informs Joe that God and Satan have made a wager that no amount of suffering would ever lead Joe Benjamin to renounce his faith. The jokes and Tests of Faith fly fast and furious as Neil Simon spins a contemporary morality tale like no other in this hilarious comedy. A light-hearted and yet very poignant modern story of a man who has everything and loses it all before finding what is truly important.



- **Family Friendly**
- **We will watch *Inside Out***
- **Popcorn**
- **Bring other snacks to share**

Save the Date
Saturday July 27th
3:00 p.m.



Prayer Corner

LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS....

Matthew 24:5-6

This past month has certainly been one of celebrations. We celebrated Memorial Day in remembrance of all veterans who died in active service for their country. Then we recognized D-day on June 6th when we recognized the greatest turning point for the allies during WWII. We recognized June 19th as Juneteenth know as Freedom Day and finally Americans most celebrated Patriotic day of all, July 4th Independence Day.

We remember George Washington as the brave leader of the American Revolution and the first President of the United States. Washington's final recorded words were, "Don't be afraid". To be sure, there was reason to be afraid on the day George Washington died. Fearful experiences certainly lay ahead for the country he loved.

Don't be afraid. We see that phrase often in the Holy Scriptures. Don't be afraid. God himself says it to Abraham in Genesis, Angels tell the shepherds at Christ's birth and Jesus himself tells his disciples in Matthew, to name a few. Don't be afraid.

Today, we also live in frightening times. It seems almost daily there are more and more reasons to be frightened. Events beyond our control in Asia, the Middle East and indeed the World. But, if we are committed to Christ and believe in him and his teachings then we know there is no reason to be afraid. We know God's got this and we can share the good news with those who might be fearful of what the future holds. "Don't be afraid."

Walk worthy. And may God bless America. Amen.

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

East District Prayer Focus for July

Arizona Korean UMF—Mesa
Rev. Sang Jae Lee

Chandler UMC—Chandler
Rev. Candace Lansberry

Cross in the Desert UMC—Phoenix
Pastor Gina Pollard

Desert Chapel UMC—Apache Junction
Pastor Philip Tesarek





United Women in Faith

July Meetings of UWFaith

July	Leadership Team	No meeting this month
July	Mary Martha Circle	No meeting this month
July 16	Devotions & Dinner	6:30 pm The Parlor Pizzeria 1916 E. Camelback
July 18	Bookworms United	10:00 am Zoom
	Book: <i>Lead From The Outside</i> by Stacey Abrams	
July 25	UWFaith Outreach	11:30 am Fellowship Hall



Mission u goes virtual in July

The Adult Virtual Mission u opens on Friday, July 19, at 3:00 PM and Saturday, July 20, at 10:00 AM on Zoom.

REGISTER

Virtual Study for Adults: <https://dscumc.org/event/mission-u-2024-virtual/2024-07-19/>

Study Materials:

The Adult Study is *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher

The curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Order here: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11156&catid=2175>

Please purchase your study book prior to Mission u. To order, contact Mission Resource Center at 800-305-9857 or order online with the links supplied above.

The Study Leaders:

The Virtual Adult Study will be facilitated by Reverend Sherry Brady. [Click here to learn more about the study leaders.](#)

Contacts:

Billie Larime, Dean, bklarime@yahoo.com
Lorraine Shaw, Assistant Dean, ladyinsurance@att.net
Lois Downin, Registrar, Homers210@cox.net



UWFaith is collecting school supplies for Wesley Center. Kathleen Boos and President Judy Smith (AKA the school supply lady) are shown here announcing the project on May 19th. Please bring your donations to the church by July 15th. There are collection boxes located in the narthex and in the Fellowship Hall entry area.

School starts soon!

Bring by July 15th

Wesley
Community & Health Center

BACK TO SCHOOL

Supply Drive

ITEMS NEEDED:
Backpacks, Pencils, Pencil Cases, Pens, Line Paper, Folders, Binders, Highlighters, Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, Sharpeners, Glue, Glue Sticks, Erasers, Scissors, Rulers, Composition Books, Index Cards

***Hygiene :**
Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Hand Sanitizer, Kleenex

Golden Gate
1625 N. 39th Ave.
Phoenix AZ 85009
Call Maria Luz 602.518.7062

Collection Period
May 15th - July 23rd

MISSIONS

July 14 is Gift Card Sunday

The Missions Committee continues to sell gift cards during fellowship time on the second Sunday of every month. Don't forget to bring cash or your checkbook to stock up on gifts for friends and family, as well as gift cards for places where you normally shop or eat. The profit from these sales goes to mission projects.



Fry's Community Rewards Program

Did you know that CITD is included in Fry's Community Rewards Program? If you do not have your Fry's V.I.P. card linked to Cross in the Desert, please talk to us at the Missions Table or ask Karen Mischik for more details.



PV COMMUNITY Food Bank

Summer is always a difficult time at the food bank! There are fewer food drives with schools being out for the summer, and many people escape the heat to a closer locale. But people are still hungry! Please remember to add items to your shopping list for the food bank. Shop the sales! Often things are BOGO—so get the one you need and give the extra one to the food bank. The donation cart is conveniently located in the church lobby. Let's reach out to our neighbors.



Compassionate • Human • Innovative

Please join the Missions Committee as we volunteer our services at The Foster Alliance on Tuesday, August 6, from 1-3 pm. The work is very easy, but it will bring a great deal of fulfillment to your heart. See Karen Mischik or call her at 480-980-0286 if you have any questions.

Desert Southwest Conference News



2024 Annual Conference Update

The 40th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference (DSC), which was held at the Tucson Convention Center from June 13 to 16, 2024, has adjourned, but the work is not done. The historic session's theme was "Making a Way," with supporting scriptures Isaiah 43:18-19 and Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14. Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut presided over the session and offered a stirring Episcopal Address where he challenged the body of the Annual Conference to work towards healing and wholeness. He emphasized that the work begins with individuals, then towards healthy churches so that we can actively seek the welfare of the world. The laity session included electing a new Conference Lay Leader. Alberta Farnsworth, the incumbent Lay Leader, was re-elected.

Two churches reached their faithful completion this year on June 13, 2024. Those churches were:

- Bowie Community UMC – Bowie, AZ, after 117 years of fruitful ministry.
- Central UMC – Phoenix, AZ, after 150+ years of fruitful ministry.

On June 13, 2024, the service of memorial was officiated by Rev. Katherine Tang. Rev Mel Munchinsky and Rev. Sharon MacVean were remembered at the service.

On June 14, the DSC delegation offered a presentation about their experience as delegates, which also explained much about the historic 2020 General Conference in 2024 and the work still to be done. The apology statement from General Conference was read in its entirety by Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut. Also on June 14, 2024, there was a retirement celebration honoring 15 good and faithful servants, including Rev. Galene Boyett.

On June 15, 2024, Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, gave the keynote address, speaking on our Methodist history and encouraging us to be more 'vile' as we renew our ministries and faith. Her presentation recording is available for download at <https://dscumc.org/ac>. The day also included a presentation from Arizona Justice for Our Neighbors, a partner ministry of the Desert Southwest Conference, on immigration and anti-racism to help inform and educate us on how we may respond to and aid these individuals. Then, Rev. Katie Sexton of the Arizona Faith Network gave a presentation on heat relief and cooling centers and how congregations can get involved. That evening, Bishop Karen Oliveto of the Mountain Sky Conference preached at the commissioning and ordination service on June 15, 2024, at Catalina UMC with Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut. Those persons are:

- Ordained as Elders: Sylvia Harris, Diamond Pate
- Commissioned as Provisional Elder: Lauren Coffman
- Commissioned as Provisional Deacon: Kayla Flannery Johnson
- Recognition of Orders: Chan Hong Kim

Closing worship was held on June 16, 2024, with Bishop Carlo Rapanut officiating and baptizing Timote Amanaki Ielei lotu Lolohea. Then, together with the District Superintendents each appointment was announced.

(excerpts taken from full report by Christina Dillabough, Director of Communications DSC)



Bishop Carlo celebrating his 50th birthday with his wife Radi, and sons Caleb and Titus!



Memorial Service

IN MEMORIAM	
Brummet, Don**	June 25, 2023
Deits, Robert (Bob)**	May 30, 2024
MacVean, Sharon**	February 10, 2024
Munchinsky, Miloslav (Mel)**	December 15, 2023
Ray, Robert**	November 14, 2023
Smith, Roger**	November 1, 2023
Still, William (Billy)**	July 18, 2023
Woodcock, Larry**	January 26, 2024



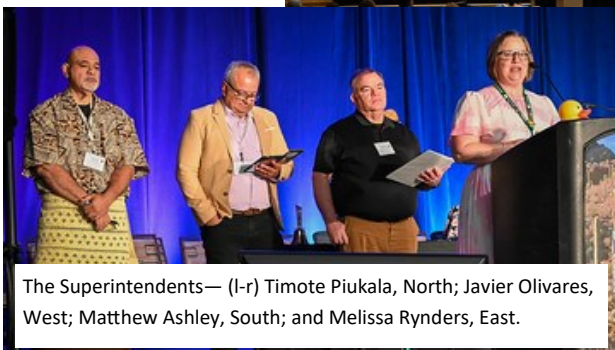
Pastor Gina and Lay delegate Romi Simons in working sessions



Ordnation Service



Kayla Flannery Johnson, PD; Diamond Pate, FE; Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut; Sylvia Harris, FE; Lauren Coffman, PE; Chan Hong Kim



The Superintendents— (l-r) Timote Piukala, North; Javier Olivares, West; Matthew Ashley, South; and Melissa Rynders, East.



Family of Timote Amanaki Ielei Iotu Lolohea

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: Jeannine Marinoni

jmarinoni@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

Pastor Gina Pollard
pastorgina@crossinthedesert.org

Administrative Assistant

Julie Wagner
citd@crossinthedesert.org

Financial Secretary

Alice Easter
finance@crossinthedesert.org

Youth and Technology Coordinator
Kevin Joy

Music Director
Thomas Hartwell

Building and Grounds Concerns
Please contact the office by phone or email so
the Property Team may be notified