



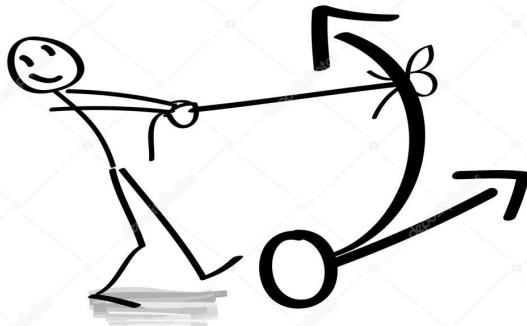
# The Oasis

May 2026

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

TIME FOR  
CHANGE



SERVICE TIME  
WILL CHANGE  
TO 9:00 AM ON  
MAY 17TH

Our new pastor, Pastor Tu'ulauena Lolohea, will begin at Cross in the Desert UMC on July 1, 2026. Pastor Tu'ulau will be working 1/2 time here, and is also assigned to work 1/2 time at Mission Bell UMC on West Bell Road. Currently both churches celebrate worship at 10:00 am. This obviously created a problem! The pastors and leadership boards decided, after thoughtful discussions, that Cross in the Desert will move worship to 9:00 am and Mission Bell will move their worship service to 11:00 am. In order to be prepared for Pastor Tu'ulau's arrival, we are changing our worship time to 9:00 am on May 17th to accustom ourselves to the change. We wouldn't all want to be late on his first Sunday!

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# Pastor's Corner



Dear Cross in the Desert Family,

As we continue our "Rooted and Growing" sermon series, I've been reflecting on what it means to be truly grounded in faith during seasons of change.

Think about the mighty saguaro cacti in our desert. They withstand scorching heat, fierce winds, and long droughts because of their extensive root systems that anchor them firmly in place. Without those roots, the first monsoon storm would topple them.

The same is true for us as believers and as a church family.

We live in a world of constant change—job transitions, health challenges, family dynamics, evolving worship styles, and cultural shifts. It's easy to feel unsteady when so much seems uncertain.

But here's the good news: **God remains unchanging.**

Hebrews 13:8 reminds us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." While everything around us may shift like desert sand, our foundation in Christ is solid rock. When we sink our roots deep into Scripture, prayer, worship, and community, we develop the spiritual strength to weather any storm.

I want to share something important: **Cross in the Desert is not built on any single pastor—it's built on YOU, the faithful people who make up the body of Christ in this place.**

Pastors come and go. In the United Methodist tradition, we understand this rhythm well. But the church—the true church—is the people who gather in Jesus' name, who serve their neighbors, who worship together, and who carry forward God's mission generation after generation.

Christ is the foundation, and you are the living stones being built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5). The strength of Cross in the Desert has never been about who stands in the pulpit—it's about the faithful men and women who fill the pews, teach our children, visit the sick, serve meals, pray fervently, and love this community well.

Your faithfulness—your commitment to Christ and to one another—is what makes Cross in the Desert strong. No matter what changes come, no matter who your pastor may be in the future, you are the church. And when you remain rooted in God's unchanging love and truth, this body of believers will continue to flourish.

Let's keep growing together—rooted in Christ, reaching toward heaven, and standing strong as the people of God.

*Rev. Gina*



# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Brian Moore	May 6
Merrily Abels	May 12
Christina Malone	May 12
Heather Robinson	May 13
Kevin Joy	May 17
Garrett Carlson	May 18
Wanda Picciotti	May 18
Elizabeth Weir	May 21
Kathie Hazen	May 25
Phillip Botts	May 26
Mary Ann Crist	May 26
Pete Thompson	May 26
Martha Bulkeley	May 31

Isaac & Brooke Henry	May 16
Bob & Dorothy Sanders	May 22

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.



The *Upper Room* makes a perfect devotional, so be sure to pick one up today. It is available in a large print version as well as a regular print compact version that is perfect for pocket or purse.

A small donation is appreciated if you are able, but feel free to take one even if you can't donate.



There is a Chrysalis Flight scheduled for July 10-12 at Christ Community United Methodist Church in Avondale. Chrysalis is for teens age 14-18. Questions Contact Mary Ann Crist or [azemmaus.org](http://azemmaus.org).

# Holy Week at Cross in the Desert

## Palm Sunday



**Hosanna!**

## Maundy Thursday

Combined service with Cross Roads UMC

Rev. Gina Pollard and Rev. Joshua Warner



In commemoration of the Last Supper we did Hand Washing and served Holy Communion.





# Good Friday



Good Friday was also a combined service and was held at Cross Roads UMC. The service was led by Rev. Deontez Wimbley, Rev. Gina Pollard, and four other clergy. Rev. Deontez gave a very animated and meaningful message entitled "Was It For Crimes?"



# Easter Sunday—He Is Risen!



Sunrise Service



10:00 am

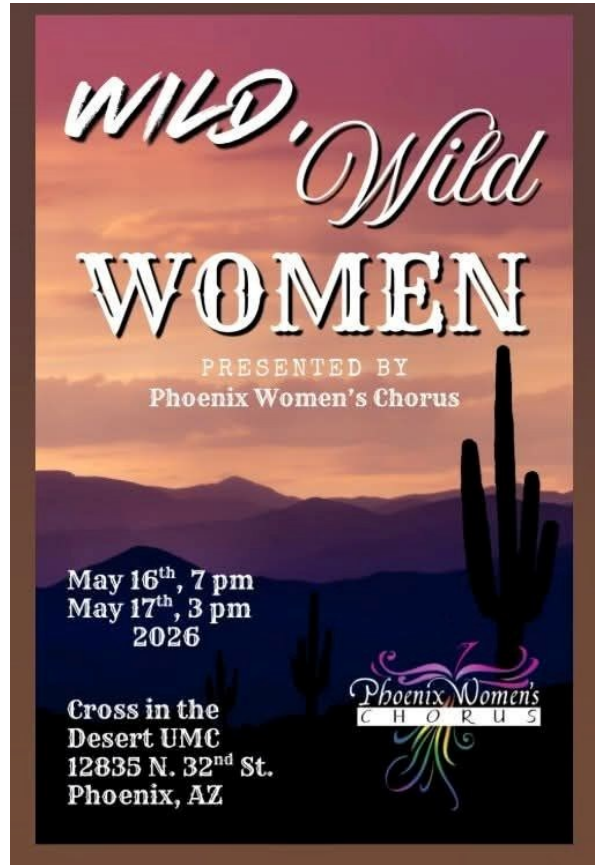


*Alleluia!*

And the Easter bunny came to Fellowship Time!



Phoenix Women's Chorus is returning to CITD for their spring concert. Be sure to get your ticket at <https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/pwc/events/1774>. Rev. Gina will be singing with the group at this concert, so you wouldn't want to miss that!



# PRAYER

## LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

### READ LUKE 10:38-42

Martha hosted a party for Jesus and His disciples in Luke 10. While she was cooking food, taking out the trash, picking up plates and stressing herself out, her sister Mary was sitting there connecting with Jesus. Perhaps Martha had asked Mary for help a few times before she complained to Jesus. "Lord, it's not fair that my sister just sits here while I do all the work. You agree, right?"

In verse 41-42, Jesus said, "My dear, Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details. There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it and it will not be taken away from her. She has the best part."

God is less concerned with our busyness in making sure things get done than with our interaction with Him. Doing Kingdom work is a good thing, but it needs to come after we've spent time in His presence, sitting at Jesus' feet. The First Commandment is clear about who and what comes first.

How often is God trying to get our attention, calling our name, but we can't hear Him because we've got things to do, people to see and our minds are racing with ideas for what's coming next.

Let's be reminded of Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know I am God." The Psalmist's message from God goes out to all of us who run full speed all the time.

How many mistakes have been made because we didn't listen? How many blessings have we missed out on because we were too busy to hear Him? God cares about our ability to slow down and encourages us to stop and listen. Chances are you'll hear God calling your name.

### WALK WORTHY

Almighty and glorious God, come. Be with us. Help us to slow down and listen for your voice. We long to hear you call our name and bless us with your holy words. May we remember our busyness is only here today and gone tomorrow and that you are the one and only Everlasting God. In the sacred name of Jesus we pray. Amen

#### East District Prayer Focus for May

**St. Paul's UMC —Globe**  
Pastor Jeremy Brigham

**Sun Lakes UMC—Sun Lakes**  
Rev. Jennifer Lambert  
Rev. Chan Hong Kim

**The Bridge UMC—Phoenix**  
Rev. Jamie Booth

PRAY  
*without ceasing*  
1 Thessalonians 5:17



**United Women in Faith Unit Celebration**

**Join us, Saturday May 2** at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall for our Unit Celebration. Come and help us to party and celebrate the good work we do for women, youth, and children as we fellowship. There will be a lite Continental Breakfast. We will have games.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Leadership Team** will meet Thursday, May 7 at 10 am in the CITD library.

**Mary Martha** will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at 9:30 am in the CITD library with a program from the UWFaith Program Book.

**Devotions and Dinner** will meet at Vegan and Vine, 502 E Thunderbird, on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 pm.

**Bookworms** will meet on Thursday, May 21 at 10:00 via ZOOM. The book for May is **The Book of Hope** by Jane Goodall. You can find the link in "It's Happening Here." Join us for a lively discussion. New readers are always welcome!

\*\*\*\*\*



Mission u  
 In person - July 16-18 at Trinity Heights United Methodist – 3600 Fourth St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004  
[Click Here for in person registration](#)  
 Registration deadline July 9  
 Virtual via Zoom - August 4-6  
[Click Here for virtual registration](#)  
 Registration deadline July 28

This year’s theme will explore times in the Bible when people experienced "God with us," especially times that involve God “calling” people to a particular action or way of being. Through these stories we will explore what these experiences can teach us about God and what God desires for this world and the ways we move through it.

**HOTEL INFORMATION for in person**

We have a reserved block of rooms at the Days Inn by Wyndham, 3601 East Lockett Rd, Flagstaff, Arizona. Use this link to book your room: [Click here to book](#) There is a complimentary hot buffet breakfast provided.

All rooms must be reserved by July 1st to receive the discounted group rate.

Select the correct dates on the reservation page to receive these discounted rates. · Rates are: \$110 weekday / \$165 weekend (plus taxes)

Questions, Lorraine Shaw, Mission u, Dean, [ladyinsurance@att.net](mailto:ladyinsurance@att.net)

Clair Hart, Mission u, Assistant Dean, [hartcd89131@gmail.com](mailto:hartcd89131@gmail.com)



Submitted by Arvilla Jungman

Since 2006, Justa Center has solely focused on homeless seniors. It is the only resource and day center serving seniors experiencing homelessness in the Phoenix area. Justa Center provides essential support and services such as benefit assistance, transportation, and finding permanent housing for homeless adults 55 and older.

Roughly 1 in 3 older adults aged 65+ are economically insecure. Disappearing pensions, rising cost of housing and inadequate retirement benefits are leaving more older Americans financially behind. Extreme temperature in Phoenix exacerbate the challenges faced by homeless seniors. Homelessness is not a choice, but a result of unfortunate circumstances.

The needs for Justa Center are many. We have the opportunity to share in the work that Justa Center does by contributing from this list of needs for the Resource and Day Center. Drop items from the following list into the basket labeled "JUSTA" in Fellowship Hall entrance. Carol Monsma will deliver our donations when we collect enough items.

Their wish list includes:

Coffee, Sugar packets, individual creamers

Paper towels, Toilet paper, Facial tissues, Laundry pods, Garbage bags

Shampoo / body wash, Razors, men & women

Reading Glasses, Sun Glasses

New socks and underwear men LG-XXXL

New socks and underwear women 5-10X

# Can you help?



One of the comments we hear from people when you ask them to describe how they feel about CITD is that *"it feels like family"*. It seems like that for many of us, but times have come when some of our family needs some help! Congregational Care is always looking for people who are willing to share their time. Have you looked at the back of the yellow card recently? You can indicate areas where you may feel called to pitch in. Right now we have those who are needing transportation for worship services and medical appointments. If you might be available to help with rides, please indicate on the yellow card or contact Cathy Milford at 602-390-6661. Cathy has the availability lists and pairs people up.

There are other opportunities to help with worship services, fellowship time, etc. indicated on the back of the yellow card. There may be something there that would be a perfect fit for you. Just indicate on the yellow card or contact the office at 602-992-1960.



# Desert Southwest Conference

The United Methodist Church

Desert Southwest Conference Board of Camping and Retreats supports the ministries of Camp Potosi Pines and Camp Mingus Mountain.

I'm excited to share that this year's summer camps are being offered at 50% off for the first 100 campers who register.

Grace and peace, Andrea Polyak  
Desert Southwest Conference  
Board of Camping and Retreats

This is a great opportunity for children, grandchildren and their friends! The discount only applies to the first 100 campers, so apply right away if you are interested.

## MINGUS

Summer Camp

MENU

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### PROGRAMS

- Outdoor Cooking.....\$Free
- Flint&Steel = Fire ..... \$Free
- Mingus Mountain Jewelry .....\$Free
- Ropes&Adventures .....\$Free
- Mingus Mountaineering.....\$Free

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### ACTIVITIES

- Shelter Building .....\$Free
- Archery/Slingshots ..... \$ Free
- Treasure Hunting.....\$Free
- Night Hikes /Stargazing .....\$Free
- Fishing..... **\$Free**



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### WEEKS

Mini + Traditional (All Ages) **June 28th - July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Night Owls (Elem/Jr+Sr.High) >>>> **July 12 - 17<sup>th</sup>**



**CONTACT: EGOWAN@DSCUMC.ORG**

POTOSIPINESCAMP.ORG

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## 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:** Christina Dillabough

cdillabough@dscumc.org

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrossintheDesertUMC>



### **Cross in the Desert UMC Staff**

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**Administrative Assistant**

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

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Alice Easter  
[finance@crossinthedesert.org](mailto: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