



The Oasis

August 2022

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

United Methodist Net Zero Campaign Launch

by [Billie K. Fidlin](#) | Jul 19, 2022 | [Earth Care](#)

All Christians are called to be stewards of the precious and beautiful world that God created and commissioned to our care. For many years, scientists have warned us that some of the practices of our modern lifestyle are changing and threatening life on our fragile planet. The Board of Global Ministries has been called to provide more funds than ever before for relief from natural disasters, and they created a special division called Earthkeepers to help make the situation known in United Methodist congregations. The hope is that informed individuals and churches can find ways to help decrease their own release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and help slow the global warming that will make drought, super storms, fire, flood and famine ever more devastating and costly.

The Desert Southwest Conference Covenant Council has given our newly re-activated Earth Care Task Force the responsibility of providing an action plan for our Conference to join other Annual Conferences and numerous general agencies of the United Methodist Church in working toward the goal of Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050 in our Conference facilities, homes, and churches. The Desert Southwest Conference Earth Care Task Force is beginning that task by providing all interested laity and clergy information, tools, and encouragement so that we can all work together to build a net zero emissions economy by 2050.

(continued on page 4)

In This Issue.....

Pastor's Corner.....	2	UWF.....	7
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	3	Children's Ministry.....	8
General News.....	4,5,10	Missions.....	9
Finance.....	5	Conference.....	11
Prayer Corner.....	6		

Pastor's Corner

Recently, I quoted Ann Weems in a sermon as an example of how we have replaced the joy of the Lord with rules.

*"What do we want to tell the children?
Shhh, sit down. Don't run in the church.
Jesus Christ says, comb your hair.
Jesus Christ says, sit on your chair.
Jesus Christ says, be polite.
Jesus says, do everything right!"*



How many kids have this impression of church? How many of us have this impression of church? Well, our impressions come from somewhere, so we probably learned these same things when we were a child in church, or from other members if we joined as an adult. What do we *really* want to tell each other?

People who are not physically in church have not been able to see the children during the children's time in church. We have only shown the slide while providing the audio. Some people learn a lot from children's time. But others want to see the kids, be entertained by how cute they are, pat themselves on the back because we have children in church. But for our children's safety, we need to keep their faces off the internet. So, we maintain an open livestream, but we don't show the children. No one wants their child's picture on some predator's computer. We want to tell our children we will keep them safe, so we will be making changes to support this in the next month or so.

What else do we want to tell the children? Miss Connie would like to get some children's Bibles and books for our kids. However, I remember our family's children Bible being scary as all get out. Next to a picture of Jesus on the cross would be the words, "Do you see this man? Is he being hurt? Is he in pain? He is allowing himself to be hurt because of you. He is being hurt because you and I sin. Isn't it wonderful?" Ok, maybe those weren't the exact words, but it is close. I learned at an early age that my actions were killing other people. Great message, huh? So the Bibles we get our children are very important. What seems ok to us, is not necessarily ok to our children. I had a 6th grader without a father decide to leave the church because her Sunday School teacher talked about how without the Father we can't be saved. Language matters. If you want to support Bibles for our children, give The CEB* Deep Blue Kids Bible from Cokesbury. The language is mostly inclusive, using humankind instead of mankind, and other similar language. Or, you can get a NRSV* version of The Adventure Bible or one of the other children's NRSV Bibles. The language is not as inclusive as the CEB, but at least, unlike some translations, our girls won't feel the world was made by a male God for men.

If we want people to feel welcomed and loved here at CITD, we need to be constantly assessing how others view us. The steps above will help our children, and us, as we move forward.

Pastor Galene

* CEB – Common English Bible, NRSV – New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

August

BIRTHDAYS



Jewell Hood	August 2
Daniel Rall	August 3
Peter Martinello	August 8
Jedidiah Wyner	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
Bill Cox	August 18
Carla Whitmire	August 18
Jeff Bulkeley	August 19
Blake Carlson	August 19
Breanna Lumba	August 19
Karen Bulkeley	August 20
Augustine Gavini	August 20
Kian Francis	August 24
Linda Moore	August 25
Dwight Peck	August 26
Norah Ensign	August 27
Jeremy Wyner	August 29
Shirley Buonauro	August 31

Pete & Marlene Thompson	August 3
Dave & Jeannette Delster	August 12
Alan & Galene Boyett	August 15
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 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 free to take one even if you can't donate.

Our Pledge *We, the agencies of The United Methodist Church, pledge to **achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 across ministries, facilities, operations, and investments** and to leverage the gifts of our connection putting equity and justice at the center as we build a net-zero emission economy by 2050.*

WHAT DOES NET ZERO MEAN?

Put simply, net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests.

WHY IS NET ZERO IMPORTANT?

To prevent the worst impacts of climate change and preserve a livable planet, global temperature increase needs to be limited to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Currently, the Earth is already about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s, and emissions continue to rise. To keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C — as called for in the Paris Agreement — emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.

HOW CAN NET ZERO BE ACHIEVED?

Transitioning to a net-zero world will require transforming how we produce, consume, and move about. Replacing polluting coal, gas and oil-fired power with energy from renewable sources, such as wind or solar, would dramatically reduce carbon emissions.

Unsustainable Living Alert

Most people know the story about the people gathered on the hillside and the 2 loaves and 5 fishes that were gathered up in baskets. Jesus provided food for the people. This article is taken from the book, A Hopeful Earth, studied by the Women's Bible Study at Cross in the Desert. The lesson from Jesus is that as we all share there will be enough. Sometimes though an incident like this horrifying attack and war on the Ukraine can have a large impact on food availability. Between our text and an agriculture trade magazine, we realize that sometimes peoples and countries face hunger and not enough food and other supplies. A report from Eurasia Group and Devry BV shows that wheat production and exports will be reduced by 35% from Ukraine and affect countries such as Africa greatly with starvation. Our authors describe this situation as one **of sin**-God has created the earth as a place with enough. In our own country, prices will continue to rise and some people will not have enough or even starve. What can we do as Christians? Being very careful with the food we buy and use will help. Planting gardens, even in plastic buckets or other ways will help us reduce the amount we buy. Donating to food banks and ministries that help provide food for people is a major way we can help others so they too can experience a God that provides for everyone. We can pray that this war ends and that all can share as the people did who gathered on the hillside with Jesus.

Submitted by Rev. Sharon MacVean



CITD Financial Corner

As we're all aware, the last couple of years have brought many changes and stresses to all kinds of institutions across the world. Many churches have suffered, and we have not been immune to those pressures. While we have done our best to maintain things on a status quo basis to continue our Christian mission in our community, we've seen declining attendance and giving. This past year our pledges indicated concerns for this year, but we also have many that do not pledge even though they give significantly to the church. We had hoped that as things got more back to normal, we would see a return to better times. Therefore, we budgeted giving to be about the same as the end of last year. Unfortunately, our hopes were not realized.

While our expenses are down from what we budgeted, our giving is down even more. Our expenses have exceeded giving by over \$15,000 year to date. We had some buffer in our General Fund to handle some of that shortfall. The buffer is now depleted. We had also prepared a rainy-day fund in case this time would come. We are now using some of those funds to pay expenses, so we are on borrowed time. In addition, we did not budget and have not paid Apportionment this year. We wanted to let you know that unless we address our giving side, then we will have to take efforts to reduce our expenses.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support. If you can contribute to our shortfall, then it would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or have ideas to help, 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

Regretfully we have had to cancel this year's camping trip to Flagstaff! The O'Leary campsite is closed due to the wildfires in the Flagstaff area. Karen attempted to find an alternate location, but all other group campgrounds in the cooler country were fully booked.



Want to escape the heat, but don't like camping? Make a hotel reservation in Flagstaff & join the campers during the day!

Camping Ministry

Registration is now open! **Aug. 12-14** we are going camping in cool Flagstaff! See Karen Bullock for more info. No experience necessary.

Cancelled

Prayer Corner

Dear living Holy Spirit, May your Spirit fill our lives and our church. We turn to Jesus Christ to know what we are to be and how we are to do. Build up our church and bring us people who are searching, those who already have faith and those who need healing and comfort. Help us stand firm in our loyalty to our country that you established to be a place of freedoms. There is so much division right now and blaming. Jesus lead your people to practice forgiveness and to take responsibility and stop blaming. Life is precious and we love the gift God has given us. Grant us the courage to see that our schools are stronger and do a better job with our children. Help us be agents of love and caring. May the joy of being your child flow from us at church out to others so that they can see and come to believe. Thank you God for the beautiful music that blesses us and our pastor and volunteers and church workers. We praise you God for all that we have and our freedom to worship you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean



East District Prayer

Focus for August

Central UMC, Phoenix

Rev. Brandon Gilmore

Pastor Flor Granillo

Crossroads UMC, Phoenix

Pastor Deontez Wimbley

North Scottsdale UMC

Rev. Christopher Wurpts

Rev. Leah Bergstrom

Scottsdale UMC

Rev. Jamie Booth



United
Women
in Faith

August Meetings of UWF

August 4	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
August 6	Unit Meeting	10:00 am	Fellowship Hall
August 11	Outreach Circle	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
August 16	Devotions and Dinner	6:30 pm	Contact Gretchen M.
August 18	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
Book: <i>Threading My Prayer Rug</i> by Sabeeda Rehman			
August 18	Mary Martha Circle	6:30 pm	Contact Mary Nell W.

August 6 —10:00 am—Unit Meeting in Fellowship Hall.

“A Timely Topic”

Guest Speaker—Brittany Fonteno from Planned Parenthood
Please bring a sack lunch. Beverage and dessert will be provided.
Donations of feminine hygiene products will be collected.

INFANT LAYETTES

It's time to help babies and their families!! For many years, Cross In The Desert has donated onesies, diapers, hats, socks, burp cloths, blankets, etc. I believe last year, we prepared over 40 layettes, collected diapers and other items. When loaded for delivery, the car only had room for a driver, thanks to our generosity.

Thanks to Jeannine Diller for coordinating this project and creating “baby layettes” in gallon ziplock bags. How can we help? Shop for next to new items at Goodwill and garage sales, create blankets, crochet hats, booties, hand mittens without thumbs, etc. Blankets can be crocheted with a tight stitch or by using flannel and hemming it. One year, someone crocheted edging on the blankets. Watch for Jeannine's day to pack the ziplock bags.

Blankets are usually about 45 inches square, but the need is great, so any size is welcomed. Some of us even make quilt-style baby blankets with flannel fabric scraps.

We deliver these items in early Fall to Tanner AMC Chapel. The Mission Women in their church have the connections to deliver our gifts to reliable agencies, across Arizona, helping many families.

Thank you in advance, Suzanne Hartley, Phoenix Church Women United

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry Wish List

The beginning of the school year often has sales on school supplies. If you shop the sales you can stock up on all sorts of goodies. Children's Ministry has a wish list—you can donate anything on this list, or see Miss Connie for more information.

Glue Sticks, regular size

Craft Acrylic paint, sets or single size/color and Small Paint Brushes

Play Dough—small single personal use size only

Markers, Colored Pencils, and Crayons—new or gently used

Plastic Beads for stringing—any color

Craft Ideas and Supplies

Elmer's Glue, large and small

Canvas Bags, medium and small (Dollar Store or Hobby Lobby)

Pencils and Erasers

White Paper

Plastic Spoons, Napkins, and paper cups (child size)

Snacks—gummy bears, chips, crackers, juice

Tablecloths—blue, white or yellow plastic from the \$ store.

DVDs—Children's DVDs such as Veggie Tales

CDs of Children's Songs



Copyright Homemade-Preschool.com

Confirmation Classes

Pastor Galene will begin Confirmation Classes in September.

The general idea is to meet twice a month – one a study session and one an activity. Confirmation is scheduled for Easter 2023. For more information, or to assist, please contact Pastor Galene.

MISSIONS

What is the most visible missional need in our community? How can we, as a faith community, help the people who are begging on the street corners and sleeping at the bus stops? There are many people in our community who are homeless and/or underserved. How can we educate ourselves about the services available out there? Check out the information available through 211arizona at <https://211arizona.org/>.

What is 2-1-1 Arizona?

The 2-1-1 Arizona Information and Referral Services program was founded in 1964 as Community Information and Referral Services and incorporated as a private, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization in 1979. Solari acquired the program in 2017.

2-1-1 Arizona Information and Referral Service operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week and every day of the year. Live-operator service is available at all times in English and Spanish and assistance is available in other languages via real-time interpreter services.

2-1-1 Arizona operators will help individuals and families find resources that are available to them locally, throughout the state, and provide connections to critical services that can improve – and save – lives, including:

- Supplemental Food and Nutrition Programs
 - Shelter and Housing Options
 - Utilities Assistance
 - Emergency Information and Disaster Relief
 - Employment and Education Opportunities
 - Services for Veterans
 - Healthcare, vaccination and health epidemic information
 - Addiction Prevention and Rehabilitation Programs
 - Re-entry help for ex-offenders
 - Support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- A safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional domestic violence

2-1-1 Transportation Hotline

2-1-1 Arizona is proud to offer a variety of free transportation options to the community through our 2-1-1 Transportation Hotline. After determining the option that best suits your needs, please call the 2-1-1 Transportation Hotline at 1-855-345-6432, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, to schedule your ride!

Upcoming Events

Join One Flock Choir during Fellowship Time on Sunday August 7th, as we say Goodbye and Godspeed to our Director, Amy Burns and her team. Amy, and her husband Chris, are relocating to Whidbey Island, Washington.

Let's show them all how much we have appreciated them during their time with us at CITD!



IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE ONE FLOCK CHOIR TO RESUME REHEARSALS!

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE WATCH THE WEEKLY EMAILS,
OR CONTACT JULIE WAGNER OR MARY TASSI



**HANDBELL REHEARSALS RESUME
IN SEPTEMBER**

COME JOIN THE FUN

AND FELLOWSHIP

MONDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 PM

**CONTACT JULIE WAGNER FOR
MORE INFORMATION**

Desert Southwest Conference News

Welcome Our New East District Superintendent



Rev. Melissa Rynders was born in Provo, Utah and grew up in various parts of Utah, Arizona, and Southern California. The daughter of two United Methodist Pastors, Melissa spent most of her life in the Desert Southwest Conference. After participating in several conference Boards, including the Conference Council on Youth Ministries; The Strategic Planning Committee; Covenant Council; and The Young Adult Conference Committee; Melissa felt a call into ordained ministry. Upon completion of her Bachelor of Arts in Education at The University of Arizona, Melissa moved to Claremont, CA to pursue her Masters of Divinity at Claremont School of Theology. One of the reasons Melissa chose to attend Claremont was so that she could be closer to her soon-to-be husband, Rob Rynders. Rob and Melissa met while working as staff members for Sierra Service Project, a service organization for youth and young adults, and both decided to go to Claremont to pursue their calls into ministry.

After graduating from Claremont in 2005, Melissa worked at Desert Skies United Methodist Church (Tucson) as their Ministerial Intern and Director of Youth Ministries. Melissa then spent the next six years at her first appointment at North Scottsdale United Methodist Church, followed by one year as the Lead Pastor of what came to be known as The Bridge. After that she spent three years as the associate at First UMC Phoenix before moving to be the pastor of Sanctuary UMC in Tucson for 5 years. She recently completed one year as the senior pastor of Catalina UMC before moving into this role of East District Superintendent. Her husband Rob served as the United Methodist Campus Minister for Arizona State University, started City Square UMC, in downtown Phoenix, and now works as a Financial Planning Associate. They are blessed to have two sons, Colby, 14 and Zachary, almost 11.

Outside of serving the church, Melissa enjoys dancing, musicals, making things on her Cricut and hanging out with her family and friends. Melissa is also an avid coffee lover, so make sure to take the time to get to know her over a good cup of coffee at your local coffee shop. Melissa and her family look forward to getting to know the people, pastors and churches of the East District, and being in ministry together.

Conference Contacts

Bishop

Grant Hagiya

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



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Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

Pastor

Rev. Galene Boyett
pastor@crossinthedesert.org

Lay Leader—vacant

Coordinator of Children's Ministries

Connie Bruhn

Youth and Technology Coordinator

Kevin Joy

Administrative Assistant

Linda Moore
linda@crossinthedesert.org

Financial Secretary

Alice Easter
finance@crossinthedesert.org

Communications—Dinah Brooks

Music Department

For information contact Pastor Galene, Mary Tassi, or Julie Wagner

Employee Issues

Contact Wanda Picciotti, or another member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Building and Grounds Concerns

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