



# The Oasis

June 2022

**Cross in the Desert UMC**

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

## Annual Conference 2022



The 2022 meeting of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will be held over several days in early June.

Clergy and Laity meetings will be held on Wednesday morning, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Plenary sessions will begin at 9 am on Friday and Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. These sessions will be a hybrid of in person and online, with the entire session live streamed at <http://www.dscumc.org/ac>. The memorial service and the ordination service will be held in person at First UMC, Mesa at 7 pm on Friday and Saturday, respectively. They will also be live streamed.

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# Pastor's Corner



After September 11, 2001, our family chose to defy the terrorists by not being afraid. School trips mostly came to an end as parents and administrators feared more attacks. My middle child lost a trip to Philadelphia to see Independence Hall. My oldest lost his eighth grade graduation trip to see a show on Broadway. But while I worked on finals, my husband took our children into the heart of Manhattan for holiday fun. When we can't change what has happened, we must choose defiance, we must choose to be certain our actions do not acquiesce to the status quo and the reactions desired by those who wish to hurt us and make us bow down before them. When people want us and others dead, we must choose life, even if the struggle kills us. Consider the people of Ukraine.

As I contemplate the recent shootings of innocent people, especially the children in Uvalde, Texas, I demand defiance. I demand that we quit acting like there is nothing we can do. I demand we quit offering our "thoughts and prayers" and begin offering action. I demand we call upon heaven AND earth to change things. Let us storm the gates of Heaven, yes, and demand God show us how to move forward even as we pray for comfort for the hurting. However, let us not pray for peace, because we need righteous anger to drive us to find ways of ending this senselessness. Also, let us storm the gates of congress and demand changes, not just in legislation, but in how they do business. Face it, if our leaders weren't at each other's throats and accepting of bad behavior, maybe people would stop thinking bad behavior is an acceptable way of dealing with problems and pain. And remember, we elected these people! We don't get to say "I didn't vote for them." We allow the negative campaigns to sway us. Quit reacting emotionally and demand well thought out, positive campaigns! And, I demand we quit saying these murderers are "insane" and that mental health resources are the only way to change things. Mostly, these people aren't "insane". They are angry, selfish, often hurting, always hateful.

We as a country are consumed with blood and fire, gun fire that is. But so are we Christians. However, as Christians we should be looking at the blood of grace, the sacrifice that came with forgiveness so that healing can occur and people can move forward into shalom. And we should be looking at the fire of the Spirit, which moves in mysterious ways to hold us accountable and to heal us with grace. This is the blood and fire of life, not death.

Pentecost is upon once again. Let us pray for a righteous fire of cleansing, healing, and positive change to move among us, energizing us for the work of God.



## Birthdays

Elizabeth Rall	June 1
Buck Ashcraft	June 3
Emily Martinello	June 4
Tyler Joy	June 5
Nancy Stein	June 5
Rosalie Wagner	June 5
Kathy Doyle	June 8
Ada Miller	June 12
Donna Cox	June 13
Roz Falkenhainer	June 13
Billy Pleake	June 15
Dinah Brooks	June 17
Tim Carlson	June 17
Kylie Clayton	June 18
Kate Flavell	June 18
Georgia McCormick	June 19
Barry Doyle	June 20
Charlotte Carroll	June 25
Alan Boyett	June 26
Debbie Ellis	June 27
Steve Ellis	June 30
Gene Fricker	June 30



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
Art & Dinah Brooks	June 30

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.

### ATTENTION GRADUATES!

It is that time of year again! Graduations are happening all over the country. Do you know, or are you, a recent graduate? From kindergarten to PHDs and all the tech schools too, if you are graduating, we want to know. Please contact the office with your information. Then watch for our Cross in the Desert Graduates List!



### New Vision Statement

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

### New Mission Statement

*Cross in the Desert is a place where  
people meet to discover Christ, grow  
together, inspire hope and serve the  
community.*

# Re-Launching Cross in the Desert with Extravagant Hospitality

By: Karen Bulkeley, Re-Launch Committee Chairperson

Many churches, including Cross in the Desert, consider one of their greatest qualities to be that they are a “friendly church”. Being a friendly church is good. However, do we see ourselves as “friendly” simply because we have established relationships within the church and find our own needs are met through interactions with people with whom we have established relationships over the years? Are we truly welcoming strangers among us?

Flourishing churches go beyond “friendly” and instead practice extravagant aka radical hospitality. What is the difference? Churches who practice radical hospitality go beyond passively warmly welcoming visitors. Instead, they demonstrate a genuine interest in establishing a relationship with persons outside the faith community. This applies not to just individuals who show up on Sunday morning. It means this passion is carried forward with our neighbors, the people in line behind us at the grocery store, the person who serves your meal at a restaurant, and the person who sits in the cubicle next to us at the office. Individuals recognize this type of hospitality as genuine and unexpected. They realize that this person/church really cares about them!

It takes a lot of work and courage to practice extravagant hospitality. It is easier for some people than others. As more and more people come out of their homes after over 2 years of some level of isolation, they are looking for connections and truly meaningful relationships.

While there are many strategies that should be taken to become a church that thrives through radical hospitality, here is ONE simple strategy we all can do: Follow the Rule of Three. Talk only to persons you don’t know (or don’t know well) for the first three minutes after worship ends. This is when people without connection may choose to leave. If you find this to be outside your comfort zone, step out in faith to introduce yourself and then find someone else they may not know to draw them into the conversation. Together you can easily fill up three minutes welcoming and getting to know someone new!

Watch for more information and opportunities to learn about practicing radical/ extravagant hospitality over the next few months.

If you would like to learn more about CITD’s relaunch efforts, please feel free to contact me at [ksbulkeley@gmail.com](mailto:ksbulkeley@gmail.com).

(Resources: Five Practices by Fruitful Congregations. Bishop Robert Schnase.



### **CITD Financial Corner**

April giving and the expenses vs. income was better than budget for the first time this year. Easter certainly played a part in that, but it's at least some positive news.

As you know, our Trustees have been working very actively to improve our campus. Currently, there are four efforts underway that we are working to fund. We believe we have 3 of them covered. The 4<sup>th</sup> of these efforts is to replace flooring in the sanctuary building. Although we still have details to work out, I wanted to give you a heads-up that Church Council approved a plan which includes using existing Memorial Funds as well as doing a Memorial Fund Drive. Part of that plan is to include putting the names on a plaque. Please be in prayer and help us in supporting that effort. More details will follow in June.

Thanks for your continued prayers and financial support. 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

### **UNSUSTAINABLE LIVING ALERT**

The most significant and straightforward way to make a difference for the world is to plant and care for a tree. Trees contribute to the environment. They take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, which improves the air quality and helps the climate. They help prevent ground erosion, filter the air, can give off up to 35% oxygen and help reduce the temperature in the desert. They conserve water, hold back run-off and preserve soil. They return moisture to the air and help form rain clouds. Trees help stabilize the planet's ecosystem and help our health. Trees in the US provide 18.3 billion in annual value of air pollution removal. Of course, some trees are used for the wood and are useful for buildings and other projects. Let us stop putting in cactus and the kind of plants that require a great deal of water and talk to nurseries about the kind of trees best in the desert and which do not require as much water. Trees are very important to our lives so let us consider planting a tree.



# Prayer Corner

Dear Lord, We come to you after Easter and ask that you fill us with faith in Jesus Christ and in your Word. Sustain us in a world that often does not know you and makes it difficult to remain in your presence. You spoke to us in Isaiah and told us, *"I am the Lord, your God who says to you , Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you."* Dear Christ pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we will continue to trust you and believe in you. Listen to our cries and give us the strength to continue to "love you and love our neighbor as ourselves" no matter what is happening in our world. Be with those who are sick in health and those who are in grief and those who struggle to be good parents as well as provide for their families. We pray every day that the war of Russia against the Ukraine will diminish and stop. We pray for all people who are in need of clean water and food and low income housing. We praise you for all our missionaries and those who work together in mission to help those who are in need. Help us build bridges where there are now divisions, even in our own United Methodist Church and our United States government. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean



## 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, & South District

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.



# United Women in Faith

## June Meetings of UWF

June 2	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
June 9	Outreach Circle	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
June 9	Mary Martha Circle	Contact Mary Nell W. for details	
June 16	Bookworms	10:00 AM	Zoom
	Book— <i>When Others Shuddered</i> by James Janosz		
June 21	Devotions and Dinner	Contact Gretchen M. for details	

## SAVE THE DATE!

July 30—10:00 am—Unit Meeting in Fellowship Hall.  
There will be a guest speaker.  
Bring bottled water and a sack lunch.

## Mission U Registration

**June 24-25 – In-person** (limited to 60 attendees)

Red Mountain UMC, 2936 N. Power Rd., Mesa, AZ 85215

**July 22-23 – Virtual**

Great news— COMMUNITY is God's desire for us! Please join us at Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be!

This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia. Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13? Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and intergenerational than ever— with curricula for youth, children and adults focused on the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. **The curriculum is available onlineonline.**

**[UMW: eCommerce Website \(umwmissionresources.org\)](https://umwmissionresources.org)** The book is \$10, plus shipping.

Who Can We Be Together? All are welcome to attend! Men, Women, Youth!

Join us for the Fellowship & Inspiration. Our Study Leaders: Rev. Rula Colvin and Rev. Pam Wagner.

Register at <https://dscumc.org/united-methodist-women-draft/mission-u/> started March 24.

# CELEBRATE KIDS THIS SUMMER!

Wow, it is so nice to see many of you back in church and bringing your littles back. There are several activities that will be going on this summer! Instead of a 5 day straight VBS program, we will spread out the fun during the summer and end with a back to school party.

Not all of the dates have been decided yet. Please watch for our flyers and news in our weekly calendar that goes out. If you have any questions, email me at [bruhn.connie@gmail.com](mailto:bruhn.connie@gmail.com) or see me personally.

Last Sunday we had 10 in attendance, let's get this number up and as it does, I have several special surprises to give to your children. In order for them to receive these, they **must be up front during Children's Moment to get their ticket.** If your child does not come on Sunday, please know they will not have a ticket. It is not to just receive a prize, but to show the church how much you have all changed and you always seem to encourage us as well. So, see you in church and **NOT in Guthrie until I walk you over.**

Connie R Bruhn

Coordinator of Children's Ministries

Rock Garden – Painting, & adding special stones.

Prayer path. Pictures and Snacks.  
Outdoor fun.

On a Sunday 10-11am

A Saturday @ the Park

9 – 11am

Games, Play time and Snacks



Water Day, on a Saturday 8 – 10am

Water Balloons, Slip & Slide and Bubbles to chase.

Bring dry clothes, towel.

Music & Praise Camp

Guthrie 9-11am



Craft Day 8-10am on a Saturday!  
On the Patio (inside if too hot).

Crafts, Snacks, Otter Pops.

Scavenger Hunt on Playground and Campus

On a Friday from 9 – 10:30am.

Otter pops & snacks

Movie Night in Guthrie, on a Friday 5:30 – 7:30

Movie, popcorn, snacks bring a box to sit in for your very own drive-in experience



On a Friday @ 9-11 am—**And God said** - - (I'm pretty sure) **BUILD AN IGOO!** Save and bring your foam egg cartons. We will experience a little of what it was like to build when God asks us to build. It can be instructions to build an ark or an igloo, we will do an igloo!



# MISSIONS



## Walk the Walk to End Homelessness

Thank you to everyone who supported the CITD team at the annual UMOM Walk to End Homelessness held at the Phoenix Zoo on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The CITD team consisted of Jeff and Karen Bulkeley and Nick and Allison Goodwin with baby Maisie. Additionally, the team met up Karen's mom, creating FOUR generations in attendance! With your generous support we raised over \$575 to support homeless families.



### Help Missions Everyday!

Easy ways to support Missions include

- ◆ Donate to the Food Bank—watch the sales and purchase extra to share when you see a bargain. Deposit in the shopping cart in the narthex.
- ◆ While you are shopping those sales at Fry's, be sure that community rewards are linked to Cross in the Desert on your Fry's card.
- ◆ But I shop on Amazon! - That's easy! You can link your Amazon Smile account to Cross in the Desert.
- ◆ Oh, and by the way, you can purchase Amazon gift cards at the Missions Table on Sundays after church. We also have restaurants and other stores for in-person shopping. Cash or check only please.



### HOW CAN WE HELP UKRAINE?

We can help the Ukrainian refugees by donating to UMCOR Advance #14053A . We can help the Methodist churches in the Czech Republic as they help refugees by donating to UMCOR Advance #00399A.

# Upcoming Events

## HELP SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT CITD!

*Do you have an hour a week to help tell the community about our church?*

*We have TWO opportunities:*

1. Online content research
2. Take event pictures with your cell phone

**It's easy!**



**TO LEARN MORE:**

*dinahbrooks@cox.net*



## Arizona Summer Christian Ashram

The Franciscan Renewal Center

5802 E Lincoln Drive

Scottsdale, AZ 85253

**July 8-10, 2022**

For more information:

Contact Kate Flavell 951-515-5176

[kateflavell@gmail.com](mailto:kateflavell@gmail.com)

## Camping Ministry Save the Date

Camping  
is Fun!  
Join me!



The annual CITD camping trip is scheduled for August 12-14, 2022! Watch for registration information this summer.

Don't want to camp, but want to escape the heat? Make a hotel reservation in Flagstaff and join us during the day. The campsite is less than 30 minutes north of town!

Contact Karen B. at [ksbulkeley@gmail.com](mailto:ksbulkeley@gmail.com) for more information.

# Desert Southwest Conference News

## CHURCH MEMBER ASSIGNED TO LEAD CONGREGATION



On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, a letter from our District Superintendent, Rev. Susan Brims, was read to the congregation. It stated, in part:

“Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the Risen One. An important ministry of the church is to nurture people in their journeys of faith. One of your members has been growing in faith at your church and has responded to God’s call to serve. It is my joy to share with you the news that after prayerful discussion I intend to assign Gary Simons as the Lay Person Assigned, serving St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Globe, Arizona, less than full time, effective July 1, 2022.

I know that Gary has felt a call to pursue pastoral ministry for quite some time. I ask that you join me in praying for him as he takes this new step of faith. I am also aware that Gary has had important roles to play at your church and ask that as you prepare to release Gary to his new congregation that you find appropriate ways to bless him in his journey.”

Congratulations to Gary and his wife, Romi. Let’s bless them both as they move into a new phase of their life.

## Conference Contacts

### Bishop

Grant Hagiya

### Bishop’s Assistant:

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

### Conference Lay Leader

Alberta Farnsworth

### East District Superintendent

N. Susan Brims

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

Rev. Galene Boyett  
[pastor@crossinthedesert.org](mailto:pastor@crossinthedesert.org)

### Financial Secretary

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

Lay Leader—vacant

Communications—Dinah Brooks

Coordinator of Children's Ministries  
Connie Bruhn

Youth and Technology Coordinator  
Kevin Joy

### Music Department

One Flock Choir Director/Praise Team Leader—  
Amy Burns

Administrative Assistant—On medical leave  
Linda Moore  
[linda@crossinthedesert.org](mailto:linda@crossinthedesert.org)

Bell Choir Director—Julie Wagner

Temporary Administrative Assistant  
Julie Wagner  
[citd@crossinthedesert.org](mailto:citd@crossinthedesert.org)

One Flock Choir Accompanist—Mary Tassi