



# The Oasis

May 2022

Cross in the Desert UMC

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



## WALK THE WALK TO END

### HOMELESSNESS May 14th

Want to participate in the UMOM Walk to End Homelessness? Here's how you can help.

1. Go to [UMOM.Org/walk](http://UMOM.Org/walk), search for Cross in the Desert to join our team and sign up to walk with us.

2. Can't walk, but want to make a donation? You can do one of the following:

a. Go to [UMOM.Org/walk](http://UMOM.Org/walk), search for Cross in the Desert and make a donation to our team, or

b. Give a cash or check donation to a team member at the Missions Table on Sunday mornings.

Have questions? Contact Karen Bulkeley at [ksbulkeley@gmail.com](mailto:ksbulkeley@gmail.com) for more information.

## 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](mailto:dinahbrooks@cox.net)

### In This Issue.....

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Pastor's Corner.....         | 2   |
| Birthdays/Anniversaries..... | 3   |
| General News.....            | 4,5 |
| Finance.....                 | 5   |
| Prayer Corner.....           | 6   |

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| UWF.....           | 7   |
| Missions.....      | 8,9 |
| Coming Events..... | 10  |
| Conference.....    | 11  |

# Pastor's Corner

We in the Church who have witnessed the resurrection every year since childhood, and therefore have no fear of the darkness of trial, torture, and death, knowingly say to each other, "It is ok that the disciples locked their doors in fear after Jesus' crucifixion. They had reason to fear." However, this is to deny that we have fears and locked doors too.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer states:

"Strange, that again and again, precisely in the hour we most ardently hope for Jesus' presence, we lock the door to him in fear of many other things. But far more wonderful, that Jesus does not let himself be hindered by those locked doors. The resurrected one does not let himself be held up by humanity on his way to humanity."

I am not saying that we should not lock our doors and try to keep our people and belongings safe. But I will say that most congregations provide no alternative way to meet Jesus except Sunday morning worship. Few churches have an outdoor chapel where people can go to pray and find peace in their day. We have a wonderful courtyard with benches, but what do we do to invite people to come and spend time there? Our basketball hoop gets more action/visitors than our courtyard.

However, the better point Bonhoeffer makes is that Jesus is not prevented from finding us even by locked doors. Isn't that wonderful! Even when we lock Jesus out, God out, the Holy Spirit out, the Trinity will still find us. As the Psalmist states:

Where could I go to get away from your spirit?  
Where could I go to escape your presence?  
If I went up to heaven, you would be there.  
If I went down to the grave, you would be there too!  
If I could fly on the wings of dawn,  
stopping to rest only on the far side of the ocean—  
even there your hand would guide me;  
even there your strong hand would hold me tight!

Perhaps the reason for the Easter season, and its tales of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, is to remind us that hope exists in the midst of fear, exists in the midst of locked doors and locked hearts. Even when we lock God out, God is still with us, and anything is possible.



|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Dave Pacchetti   | May 2  |
| Shari Homyock    | May 3  |
| Sylvia Roper     | May 4  |
| Dee Ensign       | May 5  |
| Brian Moore      | May 6  |
| Art Brooks       | May 8  |
| Merrily Abels    | May 12 |
| Christina Moore  | May 12 |
| Ben Whitmire     | May 12 |
| Heather Robinson | May 13 |
| Jerry Hartley    | May 15 |
| Dan Miller       | May 15 |
| Kevin Joy        | May 17 |
| Garrett Carlson  | May 18 |
| Wanda Picciotti  | May 18 |
| Elizabeth Weir   | May 21 |
| Phillip Botts    | May 26 |
| Mary Ann Crist   | May 26 |
| Pete Thompson    | May 26 |
| Martha Bulkeley  | May 31 |

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Burt & Laura Burton     | May 14 |
| Bill & Donna Cox        | May 15 |
| Bob & Dorothy Sanders   | May 22 |
| Dave & Carla Whitmire   | May 23 |
| Peter & Gena Martinello | May 24 |
| Eric & Dee Ensign       | May 31 |
| Jeremy & Jessica Wyner  | May 31 |

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.

**East District Prayer**  
**Focus for May**  
 Wesley & Golden Gates  
 Community Centers,  
 Phoenix  
 UMOM New Day Center,  
 Phoenix  
 Justa Center, Phoenix



Pick up the latest issue!

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.



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? 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 [Summer Camp | Mingus Mountain \(mingusmountaincamp.org\)](http://Summer Camp | Mingus Mountain (mingusmountaincamp.org))

### UNSUSTAINABLE LIVING ALERT

The women's Bible study at CITD has read *The Living Earth* and has learned about many issues that are the result of how we live. We have been learning how and what to do to make changes for the creation God gave us. Lack of water is a root cause of conflicts when it becomes a scarce resource. The drought in East Africa caused people to suffer and lose their resources for food, livestock and other vegetation. This has caused fighting between groups. In America, we often take fresh clean water for granted. Who should own and manage water resources is a major issue. Usually governments do to provide equity. Cities and states are beginning to turn this over to private companies whose sole goal is to raise money for stockholders. We need to be aware and involved. In our own homes and lives, there are many small things we can do to reduce our intake of clean water. Some people are turning yards into desert or using artificial turf. Little things like turning the water off while soaping up in the shower or while brushing your teeth make a difference. Let us become knowledgeable about water and what we can do to protect and preserve it.



## CITD Financial Corner

March giving was about the same as February, but April giving is up. It was helped by a couple of Terros payments and Easter giving. We are significantly behind last year. We are also running behind where we budgeted, but we have some buffer to help get us through for a bit although we are not paying on Apportionment.

I am hopeful that our new music, and all the efforts being made by our Trustees, will allow us to start to turn things around. Trustees still have more plans on improving our campus, and we'll be doing our best to figure out how we can financially support that.

I want to thank you 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

### 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.*

# Prayer Corner

Dear Heavenly Father, Christ our brother and Savior, and the Holy Spirit our guide, we come to you with the joy of resurrection. We walked through the last events of Christ's life with the Holy Supper, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. May we remember to pray as Jesus Christ did -every day and for every situation and person in need. We walk close to you O Christ and do our best to offer our story of faith to others. May they come to know the joy and peace and hope that comes from you. We live with the promise of your steadfast love and care for us. Nothing and No one can offer to us what you do each day. We have concerns for people among us who are ill, for those grieving a loss, and for protection and care of our precious children. We lift up to you the horrible destruction and death that is being caused by Russia on the Ukraine. Those precious people are fighting to save their country which is being destroyed and many adults and children killed. We lift our hands, hearts, and prayers against this evil. May it end soon and these people be able to rebuild their country. Be with us as we work to keep our congregation strong and stand for Christ in our neighborhood. In Christ's name we pray

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean

## **PRAYER SEMINAR SUCCESS**

Sara Beekman of "Stop to Pray" gave a seminar April 2 sponsored by the prayer committee. She encouraged us to talk about our faith experiences and to pray at all times and in all ways...always from the heart.

The United Women in Faith provided coffee and refreshments and helped with set up and welcoming for the event.



Speaker Sara Beekman (second from left) with members of CITD's prayer team Ray Roop, Mary Ann Crist and Sharon MacVean.



# United Women in Faith

## May Meetings of UWF

|        |                      |                                |                 |
|--------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| May 5  | Leadership Team      | 3:00 pm                        | Zoom            |
| May 12 | Outreach Circle      | 10:00 am                       | Fellowship Hall |
| May 12 | Mary Martha Circle   | Check weekly email for details |                 |
| May 17 | Devotions and Dinner | Contact Gretchen M for details |                 |
| May 19 | Bookworms            | 10:00 AM                       | Zoom            |

Book: The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd

**Thank you to everyone that donated to the Shoebox Mother's Day purse Drive!**

## 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.

# MISSIONS

## SUPPORT MISSIONS AT CROSS IN THE DESERT BY PURCHASING GIFT CARDS

The Missions Team at Cross in the Desert has resumed the sale of gift cards. They are available on Sunday mornings after the service, or may be purchased during the week by contacting the church office. We accept cash or check only.

If I purchase a gift card, how does that help the church? It helps us reach out and help others! The funds raised by gift card sales are used to sponsor a child in Africa through World Vision, to send monetary support to the Reynolds family, our Missionary Family in Vienna, and to provide financial support to our sister church in Litoměřice, CZ.

How does the church raise money through gift cards? We purchase gift cards from a broker who offers the cards at a discount. When you buy that \$10 Starbucks card, we receive 4.5% of that value, that \$25 Bath and Body Works card earns us 17%, and most of the restaurant cards earn 8-13%.

Why is this a good time to buy gift cards? Mothers Day is May 8, and graduations are soon upon us. Stop by the Missions Table during Fellowship Time and do your shopping.



Donations for the Paradise Valley Community Food Bank at the Easter Eggstravaganza totaled 263 pounds of food and goods.

Vitalant had 16 successful donations.

**Way to go CITD!**





## HELPING UKRAINE

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

We have received a newsletter from the United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic, *Helping Ukraine*.

Many of the churches are reaching out in support of the Ukrainian refugees. The most recent newsletter highlights the sacrifices being made by churches in the Czech Republic as they reach out to help the Ukrainian refugees. The churches are housing the families in church attics and Pastor's apartments, and are providing food and financial. They are also providing worship opportunities for the refugees, who are becoming involved in the life of the host congregations by their participation.

### 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.

**The Long Journey**

Scholarship Funding for  
DACA/Undocumented Students

**Annual Conference  
Project 2022**

Desert Southwest Conference  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Photo by Kathleen Barry, United Methodist Communications

We will be starting our collection in support of this year's Annual Conference Project soon! Watch the weekly emails for more details.

# Upcoming Events



## *Empty Nesters*

The next meeting of Empty Nesters will be held on May 21st at 6:00 pm.

Cub Scout Pack 226 held its Blue and Gold Banquet in the CITD Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 28, 2022. Every scout made their rank.

They will be holding The Pinewood Derby on **May 12th** at 6:30 pm in the Outreach Building!

Let cheer on our Scouts!



## Camping Ministry Save the Date

Camping  
is Fun!  
Join me!



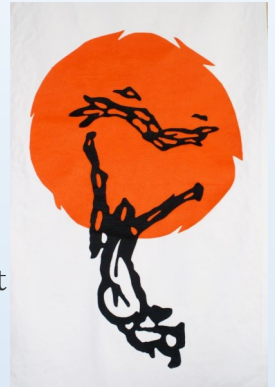
The annual CITD camping trip is scheduled for August 12-14, 2022! Watch for registration information this summer.

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

## A Journey into the Heart of Christ: Spiritual Healing and Justice (September 18-23, 2022)



This year's Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation is a response to two of our greatest needs: a desire to deepen our life with God and a longing for justice. Too often, the Church is split between those who pray and those who march. The reality is that the contemplative and the prophetic need each other. Without contemplation, those advocating for justice grow weary and cynical. Without prophetic awareness, those who pray become complacent and self-serving. We need both dimensions in order to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Developed in 1983, the Academy is a retreat model that brings head and heart together. The balanced rhythm of gathering and solitude restore our sensitivity to ourselves and others. Faculty lectures are brief and focused, allowing time for integration and discovery.

To learn more about the Academy for Spiritual Formation, go to the Upper Room's website (<https://academy.upperroom.org/>). Scroll through the list of "Shorter Academies" and you'll see that you're part of a global effort to reach lay and clergy in many places.

To register for Arizona's Five Day Academy for Spiritual Formation, go to our Conference website (<https://dscumc.org/arizona-five-day-academy/>). Registration deadline is August 15, so hurry to reserve your spot.

For more information, contact Jerry Haas ([jndhaas@gmail.com](mailto:jndhaas@gmail.com)). Note that this event is for lay and clergy. Scholarships are available.

## 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