



# The Oasis

November 2022

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

## Advent /Christmas/Epiphany Schedule

November 20<sup>th</sup> - Sunday at 3 pm – **Hanging of the Greens**

November 20<sup>th</sup> -Sunday at 5 pm – **Blue Christmas:** A service for those who are feeling blue, who don't feel like celebrating the holidays, who need a little quiet and encouragement. This is a healing service which includes anointing with oil.

November 27<sup>th</sup> -Sunday at 10 am – First Sunday of Advent: **Angel Visits** – Gabriel and the Doubting Priest

December 4<sup>th</sup> -Sunday at 10 am – Second Sunday of Advent: **Angel Visits** – Gabriel and the Believing Maiden

December 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday at 10 am – Third Sunday of Advent: **Angel Visits** – The Angel and the Dreaming Carpenter

December 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday at 10 am – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Christmas Cantata -- *What a Glorious Night*

December 24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday at 7 pm -- **Christmas Eve: Angel Visits** – The Angel and the Startled Shepherds

December 25<sup>th</sup> - Sunday at 10 am – **Christmas Around the Table**, including carol sing (in the Fellowship Hall)

January 1<sup>st</sup> - Sunday at 10 am – **Wesley Covenant Renewal Service**, a Methodist tradition for the new year, dating to 1780, and requiring a commitment from those in attendance, not to the church, but to the will of God in their lives.

January 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday at 10 am – **Epiphany: Angel Visits** – Listening to Dreams

Mark your calendar so you don't miss any of the Angel Visits!



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# Pastor's Corner



## A Different Look at Stewardship

For years now I have participated in stewardship campaigns that aimed to increase ministry, fulfill dreams for the congregation, raise money and volunteers, or just to keep the church doors open. Truly, it appears to human eyes, that Cross in the Desert is teetering on the brink, short of money and volunteers, and in our darkest moments we fear just a few small steps from closure. So, after prayer and meditation, it came to me we needed to look beyond outcomes and into the heart of our stewardship. We have given money and time, even through COVID. So, what were we missing? How can we best be stewards of our lives and of Cross in the Desert? I felt called to preach on the Prayer of Jabez. In case you missed it, here are the major points:

*And Jabez called the God of Israel saying,  
"Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory,  
that Your hand would be with me,  
and the You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!"  
So God granted him what he requested.*

Bless me/CITD indeed. In order to receive God's blessings, we must empty our hands. We have to quit holding on so tightly to what little we have so we can receive the greater gifts God desires for us.

Enlarge my/CITD's territory. We cannot be afraid that we are inadequate to the job God calls us to do. Each of us has abilities and God will not ask us to do what we are not suited to do. We must step out in faith. "The will of God will never lead us where the grace of God cannot keep us."

That Your hand would be with me/CITD. Not all bad ideas are against God's plan, and not all good ideas are part of God's plan. We must ask God's guidance, grace, healing, protection every step of the way, so that we may bear the fruit God asks of us.

Keep me/CITD from evil and pain. We live in a fallen world. Temptation and evil are always close by, nipping at our heels. Even the church and our fellow members can break our hearts. We must choose to return good for evil and love in the face of hate or apathy. Sometimes we must make the difficult choice. But no matter what, God is always with us, and the broken places become the open places where God can bless us.

So, how are we doing, people of Cross in the Desert? Can we pray this prayer and mean it? Are we ready to be blessed, to grow, to trust God with our church, and always choose love? The bigger question is, are we ready to commit to the above, or are we too tired? Stewardship is much more than numbers. It is the strength and commitment to work for what we care about.

*Pastor Galene*



Alice Easter	November 2
Liz Shelton	November 2
Karen Mischik	November 3
Romi Simons	November 5
Denise Arends	November 7
Tanya Fuqua-Abbas	November 11
Emily Nelson	November 12
Ruth Larson-Hummel	November 14
Nalia Ensign	November 15
Gena Martinello	November 16
Debbie Selleck	November 16
MJ Egbert	November 17
Bryan Crist	November 20
Gary Simons	November 21
Morgan Clayton	November 22
Bobbi Gamble	November 30

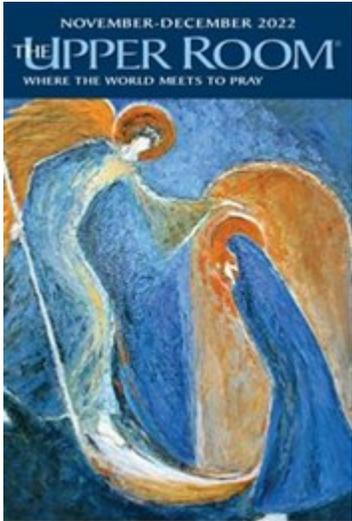
Dean & Morgan Clayton	November 4
Jack & Judy Smith	November 7

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.

**ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>  
AT 6 PM**

The annual meeting for Cross in the Desert will be held Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm, in the sanctuary. We will be welcoming Rev. Melissa Rynders, our new District Superintendent . This will be an All Church Conference, meaning all church members have a vote. It is also the business meeting of the church. We will be approving reports including removal of inactive members. It is also a time to discuss any business and future plans for our congregation.

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.



# Fall Fun Fest

was held October 29th. The campus hosted



a crowd of costumed characters looking for treats, which were in abundance! Everyone enjoyed hot dogs, popcorn, and of course lots of candy! The costume parade was fun, with many varied offerings, and there were a lot of creative juices flowing in the decoration of the trunks for Trunk or Treat!



Plan to join us on November 20 at 3:00 pm as we decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas!



## Sustainable alert

Submitted by Rev. Sharon MacVean

CITD's Women's Bible Study studied the book, [A Hopeful Earth](#). God said: I have given you every plant yielding seed and every tree with seed in its fruit—all on the face of the earth. And the beasts, the birds and things that walk on the earth—all this for food. Yet we find our over consumption, request for foods from fair distant places and inadequate stewardship has created disharmony and scarcity of food and increased poverty. Sometimes it even causes violence.

Hunger creates a great problem and is a sign that we are not in right relationship with one another, God and the earth. It can become so overwhelming that we begin to think global issues like hunger and poverty are unsolvable. What is important is for us to realize solutions begin with just a few working here and there for the common good, for changing habits, for asking different questions and for being brave enough to try new and different things. Farmers who produce our food struggle economically to provide more food for people around the world and some have faced a terrific drought this year. Let us honestly bless our food and where it comes from and how it comes to us. More sharing and less consumption will help us share our resources and provide food for more people. Let us all pray about world needs for food and not take our food for granted.



## CITD Financial Corner

Following up on what was mentioned in the last Oasis, August giving was the biggest of the year, but September was not looking good. September giving ended up being the lowest month we've had this year. Our overall giving continues to be a big concern.

As I mentioned in the Third Quarter Statement Letters, we were working on some additional funding options to help close the gap. SPRC applied to the Conference for Equitable Compensation help for 2022, and we received \$10,000 from Conference to apply to Pastor's salary. In addition, we requested and received a month's worth of expenses from Foundation in the amount of \$23,025. SPRC is also in the process of applying for Equitable Compensation for 2023.

Our Luminarias for All Saints Day is well underway. All proceeds from this will go toward paying Conference Apportionment.

If you have any questions or ideas, 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



**Did you know?** It takes \$6,325.00 per week for CITD to pay all the bills!

## *Advent Bible Study - The Angels of Christmas*

This Advent, Pastor Galene will lead a study on angels in the Christmas story, beginning November 29<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be two different times: Tuesday morning at 11 am via Zoom (this is the Women's Bible study) and Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall at 5:45 pm. Wednesday participants are encouraged to bring dinner with them if they are short on time during this busy season.

Angels in the Bible are messengers of God, bringing information and instruction to the recipients of the message. They often appear at significant moments in the story of God's people, insuring that people know the will of God and the hope of living into God's will.

# Prayer Corner

Dear Jesus “Light of the World” Our hearts are filled with joy as we pray and study your word and walk in our relationship with you. We love our world and pray for peace all over it. We pray with hurting souls for Ukraine and any Russians who don’t want this war or who don’t know about it. It is a huge tragedy and we pray the world will be able to stop it. O God, pour your power into those people and all of us to be able to bring peace and heal the suffering. Dear Lord we pray for all those with covid and other illnesses to receive help and healing. Be with our older people and help them with their suffering and disabilities We love our children who are precious gifts from you and pray for them to be safe and have a good year at school. Help those children who are sick, those with handicaps and those with families that damage them. We come to you with many needs for our church to bring in people and more funds and help us continue to be a safe and caring place for people. We are troubled by this negative cultural view of our churches and desperately seek answers as to how to reach out to people with love and provide hope and faith and comfort. You know what we need better than we do. Lead us and guide us to be the church on the hill with a light that shines for everyone.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Our Savior. Amen

Rev. Sharon MacVean

## East District Prayer Focus for November

### **Gold Canyon UMC**

Rev. Fred Steinberg  
Pastor Katharine Keller  
Rev. Fay Quanstrom

### **Grace UMC, Mesa**

Rev. Sharon Pajak

### **Journey UMF, Maricopa**

Pastor Gary Williams

### **Paradise Valley UMC**

Rev. Dorothea Escobedo-Frank  
Pastor Lauren Coffman





United  
Women  
in Faith

## November Meetings of UWF

November 8	Election Day, please vote. Please check out the candidates and issues before voting. If you are uninformed on a candidate or issue you can leave it blank.		
November 10	Outreach Circle Meeting	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
November 10	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
November 12	Cook-out & Dessert Auction	5:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
November 15	Devotions and Dinner	6:30 pm	Contact Gretchen M.
November 17	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom

Book: *Sensible Shoes (Book 1)* by Sharon Garlough Brown

## UWF COOK-OUT AND DESSERT AUCTION

### DID YOU KNOW?

**1 in 5 girls miss school because they can't afford feminine hygiene products. This lack leads to a big gap in educational opportunities and often causes young women to drop out of school because they fall so far behind.**

**Come join United Women in Faith for some fun and fellowship as we help our**

**neighborhood community address this problem.**



**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH AT 5:00 PM**

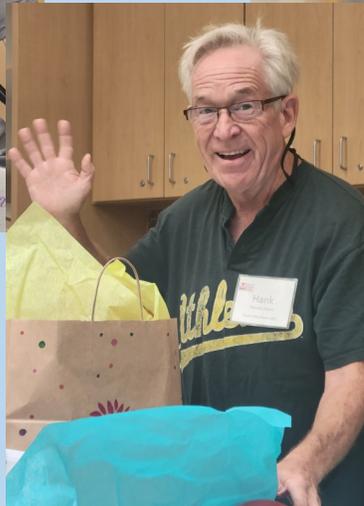
**Tickets are \$5.00/Person or \$10.00/Family**



**Come to Fellowship Hall and enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers with the fixings. Then stay to bid on a delicious dessert! We have some great bakers in our group. Proceeds from the auction will go to supplying sanitary/hygiene supplies at Greenway Middle School.**

## Arizona Helping Hands Mission Project

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, eight volunteers toured the Arizona Helping Hands facility at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and Thunderbird to learn more about the work they do to help Arizona's foster children. So far in 2022, they have helped over 3000 children in foster care by providing beds/cribs, foster footlockers, birthday dream bags, back to school supplies, clothing, and foster home safety equipment free of charge to licensed foster parents and kinship caregivers. After touring the warehouse full of donated supplies that they receive from both individual community members as well as corporate donors, the CITD volunteers prepared birthday bags for foster children celebrating their birthdays this month. Each volunteer "shopped" for a child and picked out several age-appropriate books along with 3-4 gifts. The volunteers then wrapped the gifts and arranged them in large, colorful gift bags that had been decorated by other volunteers. Case managers or caregivers submit the children's names and provide information on their likes and interests and gifts were picked out as best as possible to make the child's/youth's birthday dreams come true. The staff were especially thankful for the box of gifts for teen boys donated by our congregation. As we toured the warehouse, we noted huge boxes of gifts for toddlers and school-aged children. However, gifts available for teens were in very short supply so our donations will be used and appreciated. If you would like to learn more about donation and volunteer opportunities with this organization that is located within our community, visit their website at: [www.azhelpinghands.org](http://www.azhelpinghands.org)





## It's time to start your 2022 Christmas Shopping!!!

### Shop through Missions and help CITD make a difference!

How does buying a gift card from the Missions team make a difference? The funds raised from the sale of gift cards helps to support CITD's International Missional presence. We support a World Vision child Maman Lawali Maman in Niger, Africa.

We also send funds in support of our Sister church in Litoměřice, CZ, and missionary Brian Reynolds in Vienna, Austria.

Order forms and vendor lists will be available at the Missions Table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays after service, or may be obtained by notifying Julie Wagner at [julie.wagner@cox.net](mailto:julie.wagner@cox.net). Orders will be taken from 11-6 to 12-4.

### November 6th has been designated as a Day of Prayer for Ukraine by our Annual Conference.

Rev. Mel Munchinsky has information in the Desert Southwest Conference Newsletter <https://dscumc.org/blog/2022/10/17/november-6th-day-of-prayer-for-ukraine/> where you can access video discussions with Ukrainian clergy. Donations for refugee relief to **UMCOR Advance 14053A** are encouraged and appreciated.

### LAYETTE MINISTRY

A great big thank-you to everyone who helped with the baby layettes. There will be a lot of happy moms and babies. We were able to assemble 54 complete 0-3 month layettes. There were also lots of extra larger sized onesies, sleepers, blankets and 4 boxes of extra diapers. All these items will be a blessing to needy mothers and their newborns.

God Bless you all

United Women of Faith

Cross in the Dessert UMC



# COMING EVENTS

## Save the Date Strategic Planning Session January 7, 2023

- EVERYONE IS WELCOME
- SHARE YOUR IDEAS TO MOVE CITD FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE
- HELP US IDENTIFY SHORT- AND LONG-TERM GOALS FOR CITD
- DEVELOP PLANS FOR ACHIEVING THE IDENTIFIED GOALS

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS

**Save the Date!**  
**UWF Christmas Tea**  
**December 11**  
**3:00 pm**



**EMPTY NESTERS**  
AN ADULT GROUP FOR ALL AGES

**November - 19** potluck and program  
**December 17** Christmas program  
Meat dish provided, bring sides.

Fun and fellowship as we meet in Fellowship Hall at 6 :00 pm. It's a great way to get to know people and visit with long-time friends.



# Desert Southwest Conference News

## November 6TH – Day of Prayer for Ukraine

by [Rev. Mel Munchinsky](#) | Oct 17, 2022 | [Conference Newsletter](#), [Featured-News](#)

*“Our gracious Lord, bring an end to violence, hatred and discord in our communities and also in Ukraine. Restrain the feet of those who rush into war and the finger poised to pull a trigger. Guide all those in positions of power to do good rather than create evil violence. Bring to leaders’ minds and hearts the reality that their decisions greatly impact the personal lives of many who they do not know.*

*Help leaders, and also us, to see your face in the faces of innocent people who have homes, families, jobs and joys which this war has taken away from them but peace can restore.*

*We pray for an end to the deep insecurity and mistrust on all sides, and call on leaders to build trust, based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity.*

*Now is a time in which past harm should be acknowledged and addressed so that new partnerships can be envisioned.*

*We pray for and call on our leaders of Russian and Ukraine to have the courage to take small, verifiable, and independent steps toward peace.*

*Now is time to invest in conflict resolution, diplomacy, and international cooperation — not more weapons which only escalate tension in the region.*

*Lord, we ask for your comfort with those who are suffering in ways that we cannot even start to contemplate.*

*Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not.*

*Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them.*

*Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them.*

*Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.*

*Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world.*

*Make us a people who love not only our children but those in Russia and Ukraine who are confused by all this violence.*

*We as that You will disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control.*

*Lord, we plead, we cry out loud – for peace! May ‘your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ Amen.”*

*Rev. Mel Munchinsky, Eurasia/Central Asia Partnership Coordinator for Global Ministries*

The Western Jurisdiction gathers in Salt Lake City from November 2-5. The team will work to share updates as delegates mark significant transitions, consider legislation, and elect three new episcopal leaders to serve The United Methodist Church.

The Desert Southwest Annual Conference is currently served by Bishop Grant Hagiya as interim bishop following the retirement of Bishop Robert Hoshibata. The conference is in the transition process for a new bishop as of January 1, 2023.



### 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

Melissa Rynders

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)



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



## Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

### Pastor

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

Lay Leader—vacant

Coordinator of Children's Ministries  
Connie Bruhn

Youth and Technology Coordinator  
Kevin Joy

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

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

### Financial Secretary

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

Communications—Dinah Brooks

### Music Department

Music Director — Nicosia Garrison  
Bell Choir Director—Julie Wagner  
One Flock Choir Accompanist—now accepting  
applications for a substitute position

### Building and Grounds Concerns

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