



The Oasis

September 2022

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

UWF UNIT MEETING

On August 6, Brittany Fonteno, President/CEO of *Planned Parenthood Arizona, Inc.* gave an excellent presentation for the United Women in Faith unit meeting. She highlighted the many services provided at the Arizona Health Center locations. Besides pregnancy/family planning, they offer routine yearly exams, Birth Control, STD diagnosis and treatment, and consultation on gender identity, sexual orientation and relationships. They do provide some services for men as well. The agency offers so much more than most people are aware! Because of the Supreme Court Decision and Arizona Attorney General follow up statement, Planned Parenthood has placed a hold on abortions in Arizona to protect the doctors, and other health care providers.

Those present were totally engaged and asked many questions following the formal address. Of particular interest during this election year are the actions of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, who are active at the State Capitol, and the existence of a list of endorsed candidates available on the Planned Parenthood Advocates website.



In This Issue.....

Pastor's Corner.....	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	3
General News.....	3,4,10
Finance.....	5

Prayer Corner.....	6
UWF.....	7
Children's Ministry.....	8
Missions.....	9
Conference.....	11

Pastor's Corner

Wednesday musings...

First, I would like to thank all of you for your concern about the church finances. We had better income in August than we've been having. It doesn't solve our problems, but every bit helps. I pray it can continue.

Second, I walked into my house Sunday after church to the sound of Simon and Garfunkel:

***So I'll continue to continue to pretend
My life will never end
And flowers never bend with the rainfall***

That song sums up the meeting we had after church. We had about 30 people stay and discuss safety issues on campus. On the other hand, about 30 left and didn't stay. And so many seemed to be missing from worship that day. What does this say about us? Are we just continuing to continue, never addressing the fact that churches are closing right and left since COVID? Attendance is down across many denominations. And we have the added problem that we have not taken care of our property properly since before COVID, let alone during and after. Lack of pruning is destroying all our trees this year. Lack of air conditioners has ruined numerous supplies for our kids' programs. How long are we going to pretend our life as a congregation will never end?

Money is not the problem. Leadership is. Leadership that is courageous. Leadership that is seeking God. If we are doing God's will, God will provide. When I went to seminary I hung up a sign that said:

The Spirit of God will never lead you where the Grace of God cannot keep you.

Our job is to walk in the Spirit and Grace of God. Then the money will come. So will more people. But we need about 20 people to become leaders or to return to leadership. The few leaders we have are working hard and have been very faithful. We have tried not to fearmonger and scream "we need more money" or "we need more people." Rather, we have looked for positive actions we can take. But this group is few and tired.

If we are to find new sources of income after losing Terros and its building; if we are to make new connections with our neighbors; if we are to grow rather than die; we need fresh ideas and excited people. We could change to a single board governance so we didn't need so many people in leadership. Nor would we need so many meetings, which would be a blessing to our busy people. We could take a sum of money out of the Foundation to fix up our campus and hire out new positions around online ministry needs. We could make the hard decision to risk everything for our future. Isn't it time, wouldn't Jesus approve, if we adopted the vision that says:

***"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely
in an attractive and well preserved body,
but rather skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other,
body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"***





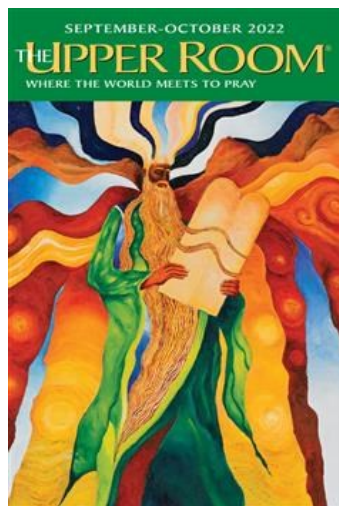
September BIRTHDAYS



Becky Bussey	September 1
Jane Fricker	September 3
Allison Goodwin	September 6
Hannah Falknor	September 9
Julie Lattin	September 12
Jack Smith	September 12
Tom Falknor	September 13
Lois Keel	September 30

Jonathan & Heather Foster	September 4
John & Kaitlyn O'Bryan	September 22

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.



ONE FLOCK CHOIR

One Flock Choir resumed rehearsals on August 31st, and they welcomed our new music director, Nicosia (Coco) Garrison. Now would be a great time to join the Flock, so call Coco if you are interested!

PRAISE TEAM

If you are interested in worshiping through praise music, please contact Music Director Nicosia (Coco) Garrison.

BELLS OF JOY

Bell rehearsals resume September 12th. Contact Julie Wagner for more information.

CHURCH WORKDAY
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10
9 AM UNTIL NOON
IT'S TIME FOR SAFER SUPPLY
CLOSETS!



NEWS FROM THE ROSE GARDEN

From Judy Smith, the Rose Guardian

Due to the rain and cooler temperatures, our 16 rose bushes have begun to make an early comeback, and should be trimmed.

Helpers are need to trim!

No experience necessary!

Simple instructions will be given. Please bring your own gloves and clippers.



Sustainable alert

A 2020 report from Can Manufacturers Institute shows that more than 80% of aluminum cans are turned back into beverage containers compared to 59% of glass bottles and 13% of plastic bottles. Recycling aluminum requires just 5% of the energy required for such work. Atlanta-based Novelis, the largest aluminum company in the world, plans to far exceed the 80 billion cans it already recycles every year. This is good news for the planet. A rate of 90% would eliminate 1.3 million tons of landfill materials and reduce CO 2 emissions by 12.1 million metric tons. This leads to cleaner cities where people enjoy better health and a shared sense of purpose. And it has economic benefits.

Submitted by Rev. Sharon MacVean



CITD Financial Corner

This afternoon the Pastor and I were meeting to discuss our upcoming Stewardship drive. While a big part of that is about our financial giving estimates which helps us plan our budget, Stewardship is really so much more than that. It's far too easy to get focused on it just being financial gifts.

Our role as good stewards involves our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We've had a strong prayer ministry for many years. When I look around our church, I see people who faithfully attend. I also know we have a group of people who faithfully participate via online options. I feel that those who participate do faithfully financially support our church to the best of their ability. I see people who perform many different roles in our church with their variety of talents. I see people witnessing to what their lives as Christians mean to them both within the church and in the broader community. I see people welcoming others into our church. We've always been known as a friendly church. I see a group of very special people who I know are also good stewards in our broader community. I am grateful to be a part of this church.

I want to thank all of you for the many ways that you support Cross in the Desert.

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!

Prayer Corner

O Holy Lord, our God, we praise you for being the God of us all. Thank you for being there for us even when we feel alone and abandoned. In Isaiah, you promised that you had chosen us and we had nothing to fear as you would always be with us. We pray for unity among our groups our neighborhoods, our churches and our nation. Bring an end to these destructive divisions. We pray for an end to this terrible attack of Russia on the Ukrainian people. There has been too much murder and destruction of cities .

We pray for the peace of God to prevail. Dear God we pray for those who are sick and suffering. We pray for those in grief, in fear, and for families and marriages. May the children be provided with education and all the things they need to grow into strong good faith-filled people. May we come to understand that we will have different ideas and opinions –that is what our nation was led to believe was the best way of life. Be with those suffering from drought and bring rain to those areas. Thank you for our freedoms and may we protect them. Thank you for all of our blessings and joys.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean



East District Prayer

Focus for September

Arizona Korean UMC, Phoenix

Rev. Chan Hong Kim

**Cross in the Desert UMC,
Phoenix**

Rev. Galene Boyett

Chandler UMC

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester

Dayspring UMC, Tempe

Rev. Jeffrey Proctor-Murphy

Rev. Joel Bullock

Rev. Shirley Wells



United
Women
in Faith

September Meetings of UWF

September 1	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
September 8	Outreach Circle	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
September 15	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>Plantation Shudders</i> by Ellen Bryon		
September 20	Devotions and Dinner	6:30 pm	Contact Gretchen M.
September 22	Mary Martha Circle	6:30 pm	Contact Mary Nell W.

BLESSINGS BRING JOY

The Outreach group learned about writing down blessings as a way to give yourself a new attitude of hope and joy in a session presented by Pastor Sharon.

Writing down blessings, even simple items such as water in your house and food to eat remind us of the blessings from God. We tend to pray for things to be fixed or people healed, but starting with blessings in our prayers helps us and better connects us with God. One way to start is to write a blessing for each letter of the alphabet, starting with "A". That seems simple, but is a mighty spiritual way of connecting to God, and filling us with a balanced sense of who we are and what we have been given.

SAVE THIS DATE!

Saturday, November 12th

UWF is planning a Cook-Out and Dessert Auction

Start looking for your favorite dessert recipes and planning to make your most tempting creation for the auction. See if you can create a recipe that will top the \$100 Pecan Pie!



CHILDRENS' MINISTRY

What a fun time we've had learning about Noah building an ark and all he had to do to obey God. As Noah built an ark, we learned how to build an igloo! I talked to the kids about how the ice blocks are used, and how it is important to get the sides just right to build a sturdy house. We used egg cartons to build our igloo.

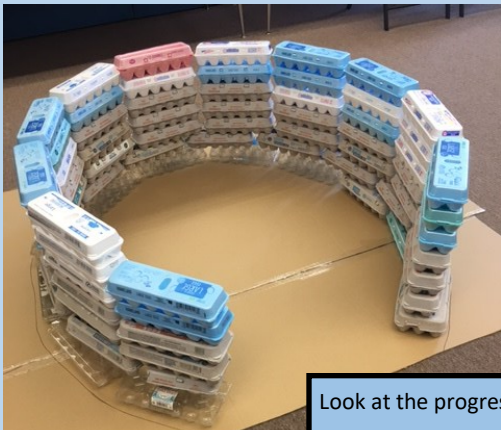
Our topic during the month of August has been kindness. The children have joined in the discussions, and shared with me the outcomes when they went back to their classrooms on Mondays. We made a treasure box, added the names of all of their classmates, and then drew a name out each day. The task was to focus on one child at a time to be kind to. They are still talking about showing kindness in their schools.

In September we will be teaching the story of the vine and the branches. We will be joining with the rest of the church in this study, as Pastor Galene is doing a sermon series on John 15:1-8. We will use the teachings from Children's Moment, as well as stories and crafts in class, as we learn to be disciples of Jesus.

We have been talking for several weeks about fire drills & other emergency drills, and will begin to practice them once a month. The children are important to all of us and keeping emergency practices in place is a huge need right now. Signs will be up and extra training given.

Guthrie is a happy place to be during Children's Church! If you want to get involved as a volunteer, we will give you information on the training needed and requirements.

Connie Bruhn, Coordinator of Children's Ministries



Look at the progress on our igloo!



Ready for Children's Moment




Crafts are fun!

MISSIONS


FOOD DRIVE
SEPTEMBER 10 FROM 9-10 AM

Drop off your donations for the Paradise Valley Community Food Bank at the truck in the south parking lot.



LIFE LINE SCREENING
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12

Missions is sponsoring Life Line Screening. This is an opportunity to get a series of tests to evaluate your cardiac health at a very reasonable price of \$149. Be sure to pick up a pink flyer for all the details




Have you ever wondered what happens to the food that you donate to the food bank?

The Missions Committee is arranging for tours of some of our mission partners. The first tour is at the Paradise Valley Community Food Bank!

September 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Please call the office to reserve your spot (602) 992-1960.

Take a look at the inner workings of the facility, and see what volunteer opportunities are available.

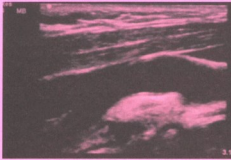
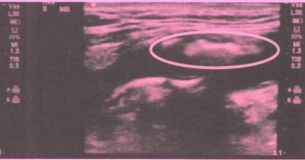


LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

Take a step toward staying **Healthy & Active**

Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to provide a more thorough look at your health.

Be Smart: Do More For Your Cardiovascular Health

No Plaque Buildup	Plaque Buildup
	

Advanced ultrasound technology looks inside your arteries for signs of plaque buildup. That's why **9 out of 10 cardiovascular doctors** support preventive screenings for those with key risk factors.*


Adults age 50+ and those 40 and older with one or more risk factors for cardiovascular disease should be screened. *Key Risk Factors include: High blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, smoking, family history.

We are coming to your neighborhood.
Where: Phoenix - Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church
Sponsored By: Cardiovascular Institute of Scottsdale
When: Wednesday, October 12, 2022

To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call 1-800-324-1851 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HS

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

LLSA.SOCIAL/HS



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.

COMING IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- ✓ TRUCK OR TREAT
- ✓ SCAVENGER HUNT
- ✓ ALL-AGES COSTUME PARADE



FALL FUN FEST

SAVE THE DATE
10-29-22 5:00-6:30

TO DO LIST:

- INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY & NEIGHBORS
- DECORATE TRUNK
- BUY CANDY
- PLAN YOUR COSTUME
- STAY-TUNED FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

EMPTY NESTERS

AN ADULT GROUP FOR ALL AGES

October 15 - potluck and program
November - 19 potluck with Arizona native Kathleen Boos sharing some personal Arizona history

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.



UWF

COOKOUT AND DESSERT AUCTION
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12TH 5 PM
SAVE THE DATE—DETAILS LATER!



dessert
AUCTION



Desert Southwest Conference News

SAVE THE DATE: ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST AT 6 PM

The annual meeting for Cross in the Desert will be held Monday, November 21st at 6 pm, location to be announced later. 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 that is facing our congregation, such as a new mission statement, a decision to sell property, or any other major change. Nothing like that is planned at the moment, but keep tuned for more information.

MEET OUR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT!

The District Superintendent always leads our annual meeting. This year we welcome Rev. Melissa Rynders. We need to find a way to give her a special welcome that proclaims who we are as a congregation. Put on your thinking caps, and get back to the pastor if you have questions or ideas.

Chair people and Team Leaders—Be aware of due dates:

Since Pastor Galene will be taking time off in November, reports from the committees will be due Thursday, November 3rd.

OPEN HOUSE

East District Welcome for our new D.S. Melissa Rynders is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 2 at St. Matthew UMC in Mesa. More details will be shared as they become available.

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



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—On medical leave
Linda Moore
linda@crossinthedesert.org

Temporary Administrative Assistant
Julie Wagner
citd@crossinthedesert.org

Financial Secretary

Alice Easter
finance@crossinthedesert.org

Communications—Dinah Brooks

Music Department

Music Director — Nicosia Garrison
Bell Choir Director—Julie Wagner
One Flock Choir Accompanist—Mary Tassi

Building and Grounds Concerns

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