



The Oasis

February 2023

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

Introducing the Cross in the Desert 2023 Strategic Plan

By Karen Bulkeley

On January 7 over 25 people showed up to help CITD plan for 2023. There was lots of energy in the room and everyone brought forth their hopes and dreams for the future of our church. The result is an ambitious strategic plan to guide us through 2023. Creating these goals and objectives is just the beginning. Our staff, committees, and individual volunteers will all need to be focused on completing tasks and tracking progress to ensure we are accountable to the church and making progress toward each of these goals. Starting in March, this plan and our progress toward meeting the goals will be posted in Fellowship Hall. In order to truly make progress however, it will take EVERYONE who loves our church to be engaged in living out our vision and mission and committing to serving the church through prayers, presences, gifts, service and witness. If you don't currently have a place to serve at CITD, please prayerfully consider how best God can work through you, using your gifts, to help make these goals a reality. If you would like to learn more about how you can help us achieve these goals, please see Karen Bulkeley or Pastor Galene.

CITD MISSION

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

CITD VISION

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

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Pastor's Corner



Friends, have you heard about the Church Cartography Project?

Cross in the Desert has been accepted into the Church Cartography Project. We will be working with a mentor and other selected churches to “map” our church buildings and grounds, as well as our church hopes, dreams and desires.

The United Methodist Church has recognized that churches whose funding is based solely on tithes, and whose outreach is based solely on giving to others, cannot survive economically. We need outside income. We need partners in mission and ministry to help fund the projects.

Church Cartography will help us do that. We will look at our resources of location and of energy/people, and we will form a plan and make connections that can help us become a better version of ourselves. By cleaning up and repurposing our buildings and grounds, we make space for others to join us in our space. We will balance our need for income with our need for mission to create something new and sustainable.

By working with partners and writing grants, we can make big changes in our facilities without the cash required when doing things by ourselves. One church has already received a grant of \$200,000 to revitalize a preschool. What would we do with \$200,000?

Money doesn't grow on trees, as the saying goes. So first, we need some people to help us reimagine our space while also reimagining our ministry. Could Guthrie become a preschool again? Or with change, office space? Or with other changes, a space for adult education like classes for GED, child rearing, budgeting, or music. Or perhaps the junior high or gaming room needs to change? Or maybe we need to reach out to the homeless in the area? Or maybe we bring in support groups for grandparents raising their grandchildren, or an exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Some churches are looking to build low income housing. Maybe we need to put in a meditative garden, with a labyrinth and maybe a fountain or pond. Or perhaps we need a pickleball court. What have you been dreaming about?

Come dream and do with the Cartography Taskforce. We need your dreams, visions, and research. Contact me or Eugene O'Bryan.

Pastor Galene



FEBRUARY Birthdays

Nancy Moller	February 2
Karen Cahill	February 4
Faith Doyle	February 7
Dave Harlan	February 10
Karma Quammen	February 11
Eric Huebner	February 12
Emily Lumba	February 12
Robert Rall	February 13
Chris Vaughan	February 15
Sherry Lindman	February 16
Pam Dukarich	February 19
Dean Clayton	February 20
Cathy Milford	February 21
Jack Harvey	February 22
Maisie Goodwin	February 26
Dorothy Sanders	February 26
Bradleigh Foster	February 28



Happy Anniversary

Joe & Karen Mischik	February 14
Barry & Kathy Doyle	February 17
Curt & Heather Robinson	February 24

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.

Would you like to get involved with helping your church? There are several opportunities available that have a minimal time commitment. Check with Pastor Galene, or the office, for more details.



- ◆ **Children's Church needs volunteers! Can you help one Sunday a month?**
- ◆ **Can you put out the driveway banners on Sunday Morning? Or take them down?**
- ◆ **How about changing the sign on 32nd St. sometime on Monday or Tuesday?**
- ◆ **Communion steward - needed once a month to check on supplies and prepare the elements on Communion Sunday.**

Coming Soon: LENT!

Sunday, February 19th: We will be celebrating Mardi Gras, also known as Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, Carnival, etc. This is the final burst of joy before the sacrificial Lenten season begins. So wear your purple, green and gold, come in beads and glitter if you want, and celebrate the life-giving joy of the Lord.

Wednesday, February 22nd at 7 pm: Come join your brothers and sisters for the call to celebrate a holy Lent. Ashes will be imposed at the end of the service.

Thursday, February 23rd at 6 pm: Lenten Bible Study begins, and follows on Thursdays through March 30th. We will be studying William Willimon's book: *Thank God It's Friday: Encountering the Seven Last Words from the Cross*. It is highly recommended that those attending purchase the book. If you let the office know before the 15th, we can order a book for you. The cost ranges from \$10 to \$18, paperback or Kindle.

Sunday, February 26th: We begin the sermon series on *Thank God It's Friday* with "The First Word: Preemptive Forgiveness".

Sunday, March 5th: "The Second Word: Today? Paradise!"

Sunday, March 12th: "The Third Word: Family Values"

Sunday, March 19th: "The Fourth Word: Into the Darkness"

Sunday, March 26th: "The Fifth Word: Thirsty"

Sunday, April 2nd: Palm/Passion Sunday, "The Sixth Word: Complete"

Thursday, April 6th: Maundy Thursday worship, details to follow

Friday, April 7th at 7:00 pm: Good Friday, "The Seventh Word: Our Lives are Not Our Own"

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Pastor Galene baptizing Rhonda Mortenson and her mother, Cathy Milford, on January 29.

New Members (from left) Jeff Quammen, Frances Kirk, Cathy Milford, and Rhonda Mortenson.

FINANCE COMMITTEE



CITD Financial Corner

We are dealing with preliminary numbers for 2022 Year-end, but these should be close:

Year	Comparison General Giving YTD				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
2018	\$ 88,701.95	\$ 89,491.78	\$ 93,563.83	\$ 111,663.60	\$ 383,421.16
2019	\$ 88,058.98	\$ 83,230.97	\$ 76,976.77	\$ 88,063.80	\$ 336,330.52
2020	\$ 78,320.66	\$ 71,304.06	\$ 67,175.68	\$ 74,134.88	\$ 290,935.28
2021	\$ 67,519.73	\$ 67,503.61	\$ 69,373.22	\$ 73,876.02	\$ 278,272.58
2022	\$ 56,762.85	\$ 58,132.21	\$ 58,017.25	\$ 59,813.56	\$ 232,725.87

We ended up paying 2 ½ months' worth of Apportionment, but that was with Conference covering one month and our Luminarias event covering a large portion of a half of a month. The other month was basically covered by extra giving in December and giving back some of our extra support. Even with this very reduced contribution to Apportionment, we were still short on income to meet our other expenses by about \$35,000. Conference gave us \$10,000 in Equitable Compensation that went toward Pastor's compensation. Foundation also provided \$23,025.

Pledges for 2023 are down from 2022, but not near as much as the slide from 2021 to 2022. For 2023 we have 35 Pledges for \$132,928 compared to 43 Pledges for \$139,102 for 2022. We are continuing to look at expenses and will be participating in the Church Cartography Program to identify more opportunities for raising money from external sources. We will be receiving \$10,000 in Equitable Compensation for 2023, but we are currently looking at a shortfall of about \$45,000 at it currently stands. This is obviously very concerning. Please pray for the ministry needs of Cross in the Desert to be met.

I again appreciate that many of you have remained faithful in your giving. Thanks, again, for your prayers and financial support. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me.

In His service,

Eugene O'Bryan, Chairperson
 CITD Finance Committee
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 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

Dear merciful and loving God and Christ our Savior, We place our lives, our church and our pastor in your hands. Guide us to follow your plan, read Holy Scripture, and pray every day. Remind us that we are called to love and help others and to take care of our sacred places of worship, Christian fellowship and education. We pray for our children and youth, and seek to be a safe place for more children and youth and all those who seek to find you or to grow stronger in their faith walk with you. Thank you God that we have been gifted to live in this precious country with freedom to worship openly with trained and ordained pastors. Thank you for our democracy even with flaws. We pray for those countries ruled by dictators and ruthless and greedy people. We pray for those who are ill and suffering. We pray for those who have lost loved ones including Roz F. and Marion A. May your Holy Spirit be with, and lead, each one of us. In Christ's name. Amen

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean

PRAYER NOTES

Rev. Sharon A. MacVean

Our English word prayer derives from the Latin which relates to precarious, which has a meaning about life is precious. We pray about things that are important to us, or precious. As a pastor, I have heard people thinking they have to use special religious words or prayers that sound like those in our worship service or those a pastor might say. This is a misunderstanding. God will hear any of the words we utter. To feel closer to God, it often works well if person has a special chair or place to pray, and if possible, a quiet place. Most people find that God speaks quietly or even as a whisper or a thought deep in their being. Prayer is something that cannot be proven like a science experiment. Yet, prayer has gone on for thousands of years and most religious ceremonies or different religions have prayer included in them. Some people feel they cannot say it well enough. I have personally found some of those simple prayers to touch my heart the most. There are books and there are guides but do not minimize prayers from your heart. Praying daily is the most effective way to pray.

East District Prayer Focus for February

Desert Mission UMC, Scottsdale

Rev. Anthony Tang
Rev. Robert Payne

Desert Foothills UMC, Phoenix

Rev. Kristen Hansen

Dayspring UMC, Tempe Rev. Jeffrey Procter-Murphy

Rev. Joel Bullock
Rev. Shirley Wells





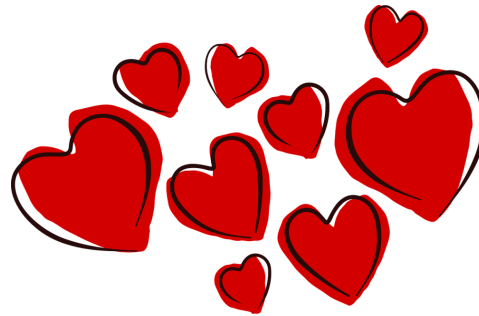
United
Women
in Faith

February Meetings of UWF

February 2	UWF Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
February 9	Outreach Circle Meeting	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
February 9	Mary Martha Circle	6:30 pm	
February 16	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>A Fall of Marigolds</i> by Susan Meissner		
February 21	Devotions and Dinner	6:30 pm	



Sharing the love with Nurse Elva at Greenway Middle School (left) and Nurse Andrea at Shea Middle School (right).



Want to know more? Join us on March 11 at 10 am

Hear a speaker from *Go With the Flow* - a local organization supplying period products to low income women.

Junque in the Trunk

Coming April 15th!

Start saving your saleable goods!

Stay tuned for more information next month.



Have you heard
about the new circle
in Palm Lakes
Village?

Contact Judy Smith
to learn more about
it.



(continued from pg. 1)

GOAL

Establish and implement a strategy for financial stabilization so that our current obligations and programs are driving our finances instead of our finances driving our obligations and programs and to set ourselves up for the future and needs of Cross in the Desert. Due 12/31/23.

OBJECTIVES

Actively participate in Cartography program sponsored by DSC.
Implement short-term strategies to fill financial gaps.

GOAL

Create a structure of accountability, effectiveness, and simplicity in order to facilitate joyful service to Christ, each other and our community. Due 12/31/23.

OBJECTIVES

Explore feasibility of implementing the Simplified, Accountable Leadership Structure (One Board Model)
Align our paid positions with our priorities.

GOAL

Identify and assess suitable actions to meet congregation needs, both individually and corporately. Due 12/31/23.

OBJECTIVES

Rebuild children & youth ministries.
Increase educational opportunities for children, youth and adults.
Create coordinated system for visitation of homebound/ill members/constituents.
Identify opportunities to collaborate with other churches in the community on programs, worship, education, etc.

GOAL

CITD will become visible in the community by identifying and assessing suitable actions to embrace community opportunities. Due 12/31/23.

OBJECTIVES

Create a welcoming, recognizable, and safe campus.
Identify a church-wide mission focus.
Create a CITD brand.
Identify supports that CITD can host or provide for community members.

MISSIONS

We received a message from our sister church in Litoměřice, Czechia. This was written by their pastor Filip Jandovsky. Our support is appreciated by their congregation, and their school is growing.



Hello our friends in US, we received your wonderful Christmas Card /it took 4 weeks of traveling here to

Czech 😊 thank you very much for your interest about our Church and activities, we have now about 24 kids in kindergarten and 13 kids in our school. We also started Mothers center for small babies and kids. Also hosting 2 refugees from Ukraine in our Church building, so we are quite busy. Thanks God for all opportunities and possibilities to work and serve. Thanks for your prayers, hope you are also doing good, may God bless you and keep you...

pastor Filip and UMC Litoměřice flock

UMCOR Sunday is March 19!



WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY?

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to provide hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. UMCOR Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. The special offering on this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance. It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. By covering the operational cost on UMCOR Sunday, you equip the organization to respond when hope and safety is needed most. You strengthen the ministry and secure our ability for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere.

Cross in the Desert UMC



WE'RE HIRING

CHURCH NURSERY WORKER

Looking for someone to provide dependable, safe, secure and nurturing care to children while at our church, ages 0-4 years in a clean environment

Responsibilities:

- Provide age-appropriate care which includes:
 - feeding
 - changing diapers
 - escorting to the bathroom
 - maintaining a safe environment
 - holding or sitting with children
 - cheerfully interacting with games, stories, play and prayer
- Polite, friendly, and courteous to all children, parents, and volunteers
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to 10:00am morning service. Hours include 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM, \$20/Hr. You will be given the option to work other church events as well.
- Stay until Children are secured with a responsible adult named on child's registration form.
- In the event of emergency, notify the parent via the communication system.
- Straighten the room and clean/sanitize any toys/equipment before leaving.
- Will report to the Pastor

Qualifications:

- Experience in caring for children between ages 0-4 with the ability to adapt and interact with a variety of personalities.
- At least 18 years of age
- Satisfactory completion of background check and drug screening
- Must present results of current Tuberculin (within 1 year) and current immunizations
- Satisfactory completion of CPR and first aid training for infants & children
- Must adhere to United Methodist Church Child Protection Policy Guidelines (Safe Sanctuaries).
- Have 3 references.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR GALENE AT 602-992-1960

Cross In The Desert UMC | 12835 North 32nd Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85032
602-992-1960 | <https://crossinthedesert.org>



Do You Like Baseball? Do You Like Music?

The Diamondbacks have announced their Faith and Family Night for 2023. It will be held on August 25th against the Reds, and followed by a post-game concert by Zach Williams.

While anyone can purchase tickets, if we want to attend as a church, we need someone to be the contact person for this event. Please contact the pastor if you are interested.

EMPTY NESTERS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18

6:00 PM

Join us for fellowship and a potluck meal

Bring a dish to share, and your own table service

Adults only—no childcare is provided.

JOIN US FOR

Chow
Down
with the
Choir!

the
Habit
BURGER GRILL

ALL DAY!

10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 13



Join the choir for delicious charburgers, sandwiches, salads and shakes!

PRESENT
THIS FLYER

when you order and The Habit will donate 20% of the receipts to the One Flock Choir!

See you Monday at The Habit!

4575 E. Cactus
(SW corner @ Tatum, in front of Hobby Lobby)



4685298

Desert Southwest Conference News



Bishop Carlo Rapanut was elected Bishop in November 2022, and was assigned to the Desert Southwest Conference effective January 1, 2023. He engaged in a prayer run in December to spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically prepare for the responsibilities of leadership in the Desert Southwest Conference, and to count down his transition from the land of the midnight sun to the valley of the sun. For the whole month of December, he prayerfully ran or biked a mile for each of the faith communities and ministry settings in the DSC. He prayed for Cross in the Desert during a five mile run on day 23.

WHAT IS THE CLEAR OPENINGS LIST?

If you get the conference emails, you may be seeing information on the Clear Openings List. This is basically a list of churches who are understood to be without a pastor as of July 1, 2023. Clergy can then pray about whether or not they are called to fill the position, and then contact the Bishop and Cabinet, requesting consideration for that position.

At the request of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, with the approval of Pastor Galene and the Church Council, Cross in the Desert is going to be added to that list.

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023

BISHOP'S INSTALLATION SERVICE

Time and location to be announced



Conference Contacts

Bishop

Carlo A. Rapanut

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

Vacant

Youth and Technology Coordinator

Kevin Joy

Administrative Assistant

Julie Wagner

citd@crossinthedesert.org

Financial Secretary

Alice Easter

finance@crossinthedesert.org

Communications—Dinah Brooks

Music Department

Music Director — Nicosia Garrison

One Flock Choir Accompanist—Mary Tassi

Bell Choir Director—Julie Wagner

Building and Grounds Concerns

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