



The Oasis

March 2023

Cross in the Desert UMC

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



LENT

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*. We will share a simple supper of soup and bread.

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"

Sunday, April 9th: EASTER! Sunrise and regular services, confirmation

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Pastor's Corner



The cross looms large for me this Lenten season.

It is not enough that I am preaching on the seven last words of Christ. No, once again I find myself at the Redemptorist Center, with crosses, crucifixes, and the Way of the Cross ever present. I also visited San Xavier del Bac Mission, where the cross stood guard over all. There was a beautiful cross in the Madaras Gallery. And, in the Gallery in the Sun, I saw DeGrazia's Way of the Cross, currently on display.

We do not venerate the cross though. Rather, it is a visual reminder of our Christian faith. We don't kneel before the cross in worship. We kneel before it in reflection of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection. In fact, The Way of the Cross, or the Stations of the Cross as it is often spoken of, is not part of any liturgy or mass. It is a private devotion where we are expected to find ourselves and Jesus's place in our life. DeGrazia's first station shows Jesus as a condemned man, hands tied together, his head, crowned with thorns, hanging down. It is the look of any dejected person – anyone who has lost something valuable in their life, anyone who has been judged unjustly, anyone who is struggling under the weight of their current life. It is easy to see ourselves, our friends, or our loved ones in this picture. Station 2 shows Jesus with legs spread wide, trying to balance the cross and himself so he can walk. Whether it is through exercise or through struggle with our health, many of us recognize the stance. Station 4 is Jesus and his mother, their two bodies blending together, flowers and life surrounding them, the cross nothing but a symbol in the corner. Love has removed the terrible weight. But it was Station 12, where Jesus dies, that had me physically trying to reproduce the posture of Jesus. It shows Jesus bent forward, for he is no longer alive to hold his body up. The weight of his lifeless body strains his arms which, nailed to the cross, cannot follow his body as it falls towards the ground. I had never seen Jesus on the cross represented that way.

Amidst the horror of crucifixion, I also found resurrection. Did you know, if you follow the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem, you end up at an empty grave? He is not there. He lives! Death has to end in resurrection. DeGrazia adds a 15th Station, showing the resurrected Jesus, to be sure we realize this truth. However, it was a cross for sale in the San Xavier del Bac store that really surprised me. There I saw a cross with two Jesus's on it: the beaten and dying Jesus being held to the cross by the resurrected Jesus, whose arms were spread wide in love.

Tell me again why this is such a special time of year. Oh yeah, I suppose I just described it to you.

Pastor Galene





Noah Foster	March 2
Kathie McCarty	March 4
Dorothy Wilson	March 5
Raelynn Dudek	March 8
Brody Cahill	March 10
Vivian Gayner	March 12
Arlene Roop	March 12
Madhu Gavini	March 15
Ryder Huebner	March 17
Karen Lonon	March 21
Julie Wagner	March 21
Sally White	March 23
Sue Wilson	March 27
Carolyn Halloran	March 28



Happy Anniversary

Tom & Mary Botts

March 5

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.**

UWF SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 12

The United Women of Faith is active here at Cross in the Desert! On February 12 several members led the worship service. The message was “Who is My Neighbor? Legacy of Love”. During the service different members shared what their group/circle has done recently to show love to those in the community. Many in the congregation were unaware of all the things these ladies have accomplished!

President Ada Thompson shared that the entire CITD Unit is focused on providing feminine hygiene products to the nurses’ offices at several local middle schools. Why? - because a girl shouldn’t have to miss school because she can’t afford to buy hygiene products.

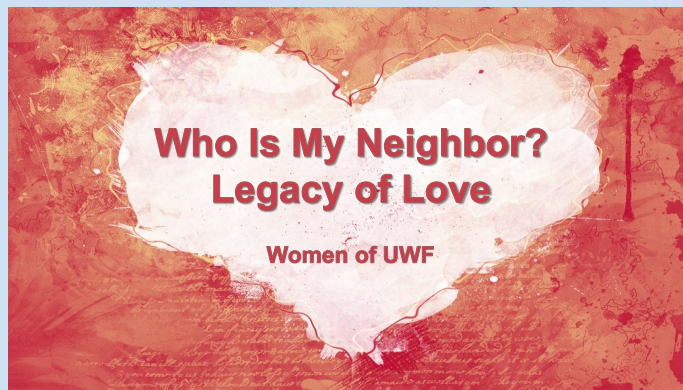
Gretchen Miller spoke on behalf of the Devotions and Dinner Circle. She shared how they buy Christmas gifts for children at The Wesley Center.

Mary Nell Woodward represented the Mary Martha Circle, and told us how simple it is to prepare vanity kits for Shoebox Ministry.

Arvilla Jungman from Outreach Circle showed all the components of the layettes that are made for the babies of needy mothers.

Judy Smith announced the formation of a new circle at Palm Lakes Village. Please contact her if you are interested in joining them.

At the conclusion of the service, Ada presented a Special Mission Recognition Award to Judy Smith.



Gretchen Miller, Ada Thompson



Ada Thompson speaking, with Pastor Galene Boyett, Arvilla Jungman and Gretchen Miller



Mary Nell Woodward, Ada Thompson

Judy Smith shows the pin presented to her as a Special Mission Recognition Award, with Ada Thompson. Congratulations Judy, and thank you for your years of service.





CITD Financial Corner

I know we've mentioned the Church Cartography Cohort a few times. I'm going to try to give a little overview of this effort.

Cross in the Desert applied and was accepted into a consulting arrangement provided through our Conference. The Pastor and I have begun meeting with the consultant online along with six other Phoenix-area United Methodist churches and two others outside our area.

We are not the only church dealing with issues in giving vs. the expenses to maintain, let alone, expand our programming. This consultant worked with a United Methodist Church in Texas that was dealing with a shrinking congregation and a large campus to maintain with much of the campus not being used, or only on Sunday mornings. The main theme is that we can no longer depend on just tithes and offerings to meet our needs. This effort will help us in getting creative in ways to increase our income from other sources. Many other churches have taken this same approach. This may mean that we'll need to make some adjustments to accommodate those other sources, but it gives us great hope in raising additional funds to meet and hopefully exceed our expenses. Many churches have also been able to benefit from grants as part of these efforts. For example, a White Mountain United Methodist in Show Low was able to obtain a \$200,000 grant for their preschool.

We already have a few people who have agreed to participate in this effort. If this is something of interest to you or you have ideas of your own, please 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

Dear Holy and Just God. Our world seems to be in turmoil in many places. We pray that you care for your people everywhere. May those who are evil, severely mentally ill and of a mean temperament be deterred from their actions which injure and kill others. We pray for the violence to end in our own country. We pray for people of the Ukraine who have been viciously attacked by that kind of evil and greed. We pray for the thousands of people killed in the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. We pray for those who are without food in Africa and other places around the world. Dear Jesus shine your light upon these people and move us all to offer what help we can. We pray for our churches which are struggling to continue to offer your message of love and forgiveness. We lift up to you all those who are suffering from illness and are at the end of their life journey. May they know your love them and that you walk with them. We pray for the children and youth that they receive good parental care and grow to be good citizens. We pray for those going through grief and those who live with loneliness. God, guide our pastors and church leaders in this difficult time so that we can continue to offer your love and forgiveness and healing. Amen.

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean

PRAYER NOTES

Rev. Sharon A. MacVean

Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished a disciple said to him, "Lord teach us how to pray". Jesus gives them, and us, *The Lord's Prayer*. Praying can be easy or complicated or short or long. Pete Greig wrote "A simple guide to prayer for normal people". He put how to pray in four units in a circular pattern beginning with – **PAUSE** (clearing the mind of other things so to be quiet for a few moments (of course this does not work while driving or with bullet prayers). Then to **REJOICE** that God loves you and for good things in your life. **ASK** - It is Ok to ask God for anything good or positive or helpful and to pray for others who are sick or in need of prayer or your own pain or illness. Lastly, **YIELD** - Take a moment to let it go to God. God may respond in a whisper, a voice, a dream or a thought that you know are different than your own thinking. A woman became upset and worried about her pastor who might be moved to another church. She prayed and got the thought "wait and see", which she knew was not her tendency. Her tendency was to be anxious and worried and so she knew this thought came from God and she was able to feel peaceful while she waited. Some people pray at the start of the day, and others in the evening as a review of the day. It is important to keep it up and develop your faith in God and Jesus Christ.

East District Prayer Focus for March

Sun Lakes UMC, Sun Lakes
Rev. Marvin Arnpriester

**The Fountains, A UMC,
Fountain Hills**
Rev. David Felten

Tongan UMC, Mesa
Rev. Timote Piukala





United
Women
in Faith



March Meetings of UWF

March 2	UWF Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
March 9	Outreach Circle Meeting	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
March 9	Mary Martha Circle	6:30 pm	
March 11	UWF Unit Meeting	10:00 am	Fellowship Hall
March 16	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>Horse</i> by Geraldine Brooks		
March 21	Devotions and Dinner	6:30 pm	
March 22	Palm Lakes Village Circle	2:00 pm	

UWF UNIT MEETING

SATURDAY , MARCH 11 AT 10:00 AM

Come and hear guest speaker Patti Grossman from *Go With the Flow*. Learn about this organization and how they address providing menstrual supplies to schools in Phoenix and Tucson.

Lunch will be served after the meeting. Tickets are \$5.00 per person, and support the nurses' offices at Shea, Greenway, and Vista Verde Middle Schools.

Junque in the Trunk

Coming April 15th!

Start saving up saleable items and/or crafts.
Rent a space in the church parking lot on April 15.
Just pull into your space, open your trunk and join your friends for a community sale.

You keep all of your profits!

You can bring tables to set up, if you like.

Be sure to have your own bags and change as well.



What's Happening Around CITD?

Updates from the CITD Foundation

In February, the CITD Foundation Board met to organize for the 2023 year. Members of the board include: Pastor Galene Boyett, Kevin Joy, Suzy Zarkovich, Arvilla Jungman, Dave Delster, Linda Lulkovich and Jeff Bulkeley.

Officers were elected as follows: Jeff Bulkeley – President, Dave Delster – Vice President and Linda Lulkovich – Secretary/Treasurer.

The Board will be meeting in the future to determine our activities for the year. If you have any questions about the role of the CITD Foundation in the life of CITD, please feel free to reach out to any board member.

Jeff Bulkeley
CITD Foundation President

MOVING FORWARD INTO 2023



The Trustees met in February to elect officers, and to plan projects for the coming year.



The officers are:

Kevin Joy—President

Tim Carlson—Vice President

Julie Wagner—Secretary

A project being considered soon is the removal of the grass around the entrance to the Guthrie Building. This would save on the watering and mowing of grass, and help prevent “critters” like termites from entering the building.

We are still exploring options for replacing the soiled and worn carpet in the sanctuary.

We continue to chase down water leaks on the campus, and have successfully reduced the water bill by several hundred dollars monthly.

And the best news is—the heat has been restored to the Library/Kitchen area. The problem was finally diagnosed, and a faulty circuit board has been replaced!

The Trustees need everybody's help—if you see an issue on the campus, please let us know (especially water leaks/broken sprinkler heads). If you see something, say something!

MISSIONS

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.

Please plan to give generously to support this mission of the United Methodist Church when the special offering is taken on UMCOR Sunday.

Don't forget the Food Bank! You do not have to wait for a special food drive to share with your needy neighbors. There is a shopping cart located in the narthex where you can drop off your non-perishable donations anytime!

Also, if you shop at Fry's—check out the Community Rewards section on your account. You can link your card to Cross in the Desert, and we will receive a small donation every time you shop. Ask any member to the Missions Committee for help in signing up.



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 MARCH 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.

The Vitalant
Bloodmobile will be
here at Cross in the
Desert on Sunday
June 11. Plan to take
advantage of this
opportunity to help
save lives.

vitalant[®]
Blood Donation

Desert Southwest Conference News

Save the Date
MARCH 11

 **BISHOP'S INSTALLATION SERVICE**
11:00 AM (MST)
ST. MATTHEW UMC
2540 W BASELINE RD
MESA, AZ 85202

 **Desert Southwest Conference**
The United Methodist Church

The Episcopacy Committee of the Desert Southwest Conference invites you to the Service of Installation of Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut on Saturday, March 11th at 11:00 am at St. Matthew United Methodist Church (2540 West Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ 85202) with a reception following the service.

The service will be available via live stream, and Zoom with closed captioning services, for those who prefer to join using those methods.

RSVPs are necessary for all modalities <https://dscumc.org/2023-bishop-installation-service-registration>

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 has been added to that list.

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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Website: <https://www.crossinthedesert.org>
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