



The Oasis

May 2023

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

2023 Strategic Plan

By: Karen Bulkeley, Church Council Chairperson

I hope everyone has taken the opportunity to review the 2023 strategic plan posted in Fellowship Hall. Updates will be posted regularly, so take a look frequently to see the exciting things that the church is doing to help us achieve our mission which states: ***Cross in the Desert is a place where people meet to discover Christ, grow together, inspire hope and serve the community.***

The Church Council is working hard to move forward on the four ambitious goals set out during the strategic planning process at the beginning of the year. However, these leaders have a great deal on their plate already so we are relying on ALL persons interested in seeing CIRD thrive to step forward to help achieve our goals. Once you have reviewed the strategic plan, pray for guidance on how you can use your spiritual gifts to help achieve our goals. If you are hearing a calling to serve CIRD in new and different ways, please contact me to discuss your interests and ideas.

For more information about how the Church Council is working to achieve the goal to make our administrative activities more functional, see my article on Mission Possible on Page 10.

Blessed Holy Week



Top Row—Palm Sunday
Middle—Easter early service
Bottom—Easter in the Sanctuary



He Is Risen!

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Pastor's Corner



Random Thoughts During Easter Time

During the Easter season, we in the church celebrate new life. However, do you realize new life is another way of saying change? To be honest, I don't always celebrate change/new life. Sometimes I am resentful. How about you?

Vitality: from the Latin *vita*, meaning life

I think it was 2008 that the pastor of Prescott Valley UMC reported they couldn't pay her salary. She had to be moved and it appeared the Annual Conference was going to close the church. Church members pleaded for a chance at life. The bishop appointed a retired pastor there ¼ time. Today, they not only have a full time pastor, they have two retired pastors volunteering right alongside the regular members, keeping the church vital. Bet you didn't know both retired pastors served CITD: Rev. Gary Simons – 1978 – 1982, and Rev. Mel Munchinsky – 2008 – 2013.

When people who aren't attending the church right now ask if Cross in the Desert is going to close, is dying, or some other such anxious thoughts, respond: "Like people, I suppose all churches eventually die, but that day is not today! Come join us!"

The brief version:

Early Fall 2013: I fell down an up escalator, breaking a vertebrae and rupturing two disks in my lower back.

Late Spring 2014: my husband lost his job, the entire division terminated.

Spring 2015 – August 2015: One son in a major accident with medical and legal consequences. However, husband found job that summer. I tried to quit holding my breath.

May 2016: Asked for renewal leave in September. Approved by SPRC, but not by DS.

2018: move to Yuma. Couldn't sell house.

2019: move within Yuma. Finally sold house in Surprise at a loss.

2020: move to Phoenix during COVID. It was like we all lost our church family. I couldn't go to the hospital, to homes, do memorials, etc. I couldn't preach to real people.

So, after dealing with all this stuff, after being in ministry since August 1997, after wondering if I will ever feel normal again, I am finally taking a renewal leave. It is time for me to discover my next new life. I will be gone from April 26th until June 7th. I want to travel, go to museums, sit and listen to ocean waves, or the wind in the forest. Then, I look forward to seeing you all again with a smile on my face and a lightness in my step.

Pastor Galene



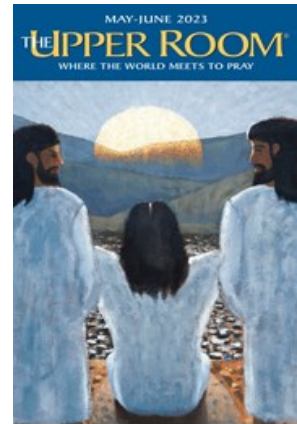
Happy Anniversary

Dave Pacchetti	May 2
Trevor Phillips	May 4
Sylvia Roper	May 4
Dee Ensign	May 5
Brian Moore	May 6
Trevor Myer	May 7
Art Brooks	May 8
Merrily Abels	May 12
Christina Moore	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
Kathie Hazen	May 25
Phillip Botts	May 26
Mary Ann Crist	May 26
Pete Thompson	May 26
Martha Bulkeley	May 31

Bob & Dorothy Sanders	May 22
Peter & Gena Martinello	May 24
Eric & Dee Ensign	May 31

We apologize if we have missed your special day. It means that the office does not have your 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.



East District Prayer
Focus for May

**Wesley & Golden Gates
Community Centers, Phoenix**

Wesley Foundation at ASU, Tempe

UMOM New Day Center, Phoenix
Pastor Robin Lee

Justa Center, Phoenix
Rev. Geraldine Bast

MAY IS GRADUATION TIME!

Are you graduating, or do you have a family member who is graduating this year? We would like to recognize our graduates in June. Please notify the office of the graduate's name and school, and submit a picture if possible. Please let us know by May 25th.

Trustees Report Part 1

The Trustees have been extremely busy lately taking care of our campus. As you may be aware, we have a roof leak in our sanctuary. We prayed for rain and God delivered, but we don't need it inside! We sought out competitive bids for the repair, and have selected a bid to repair the south side of the roof. The bid was approved by Church Council, and has been forwarded to finance. We are anxious to get the roof repaired before monsoon to prevent any further interior damage. If you can help defray the costs, please contact the finance committee.

Trustees Report Part 2

Bill Bruhn, who has been our custodian since 2009, has retired due to health issues. The trustees are investigating replacement possibilities. In the meantime WE NEED YOUR HELP! We want to keep the campus welcoming and attractive, so we have compiled a list of easy tasks. If you can volunteer to help out, please contact Kevin Joy, or the church office. We would be most grateful!

- * Blow off, or sweep, sidewalks before service on Sunday
- * Clean glass doors to the Sanctuary before service on Sunday
- * Collect trash from the Sanctuary after Sunday service
- * Take out trash after Fellowship Time on Sunday
- * Check bathrooms to ensure adequate paper towels and TP
- * Take out bathroom trash
- * Vacuum Sanctuary and narthex

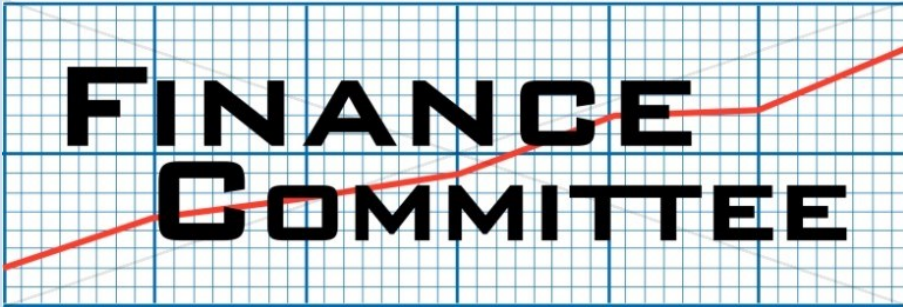


Updates from the CITD Foundation

We are pleased to announce that the CITD Foundation Board approved a request from the Church Council to provide a grant of \$23,000 to support the ministries of the church for the 2023 year. This money will help fund budget shortfalls as they occur during the upcoming months.

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: Pastor Galene Boyett, Kevin Joy, Suzy Zarkovich, Arvilla Jungman, Dave Delster, Linda Lulkovich and Jeff Bulkeley.

Jeff Bulkeley
CITD Foundation President



CITD Financial Corner

Year	Comparison General Giving YTD			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
2021 Actuals	\$ 19,770.18	\$ 22,786.24	\$ 24,963.31	\$ 67,519.73
2022 Actuals	\$ 18,674.22	\$ 19,242.73	\$ 18,845.90	\$ 56,762.85
2023 Actuals	\$ 17,810.63	\$ 14,713.79	\$ 16,068.93	\$ 48,593.35
2023 Budgeted Income	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 17,960.00	\$ 53,880.00

March was an improvement over February, but it was still under plan. It does look like Easter has April off to a good start so we will hopefully see improvement in April. We have reduced staffing expenses to some degree, and we have asked the Foundation for some additional help to make ends meet. As we noted before, we have fortunately been approached by a Pre-school that is interested in leasing space from us. This is not a done deal, but it is continuing to progress, just more slowly than both sides would like. If it does happen, this will certainly help us in the long run, but it will be somewhat of a transition as an initially reduced lease will be likely to compensate them for the initial investment.

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
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 loving and mighty God. Thank you for sending Jesus to save the world from worshipping pagan idols, and from having too many rules to Jewish life but not offering hope or love. Christ not only brought new messages of how to live in the light of God but gave himself in death and resurrection. Easter brought joy for all of us, and a new way of believing and living. We struggle to stay on the path Christ brought to our world. So we pray for God to fill us with the love and the courage and the hope to carry on his work in spite of violence and evil. Grant your guidance and love to our congregation so that we can carry on in the worship and work for you. God loves each one of us and our congregation and we are grateful. We pray for those who are ill or in the hospital. We pray for those who are grieving the lost of a loved one. We pray our children to have safety and help as they go to school. Let us walk in your light and share that light and love with others. We pray for our country to find better ways of dealing with conflict and greed. Grant us all the courage to continue to walk in the light of Christ. In the name of Jesus, Amen

Prayer written by Rev. Sharon MacVean

PRAYER NOTES Rev. Sharon A. MacVean

Brother Lawrence wrote

There is not in the world a way of life more sweet, nor more delightful than continues conversation with God.

As a middle-aged injured soldier, Nicolas Herman joined the Carmelite monastery in Paris and took the name of Brother Lawrence in 1651.

People still read his words for inspiration and guidance in the Christian life. For almost 500 years Brother Lawrence has been inspiring people to stay focused on God's presence in their everyday lives. "Even the smallest remembrance will always please God".

A simple guide for prayer and focusing on God is SAS.

S stands for surrender

A stands for asking for help

S stands for serving others

How do we help each other let go and surrender to the power and love of God? Simple conversation with others and with God and Jesus Christ will help us do this.

It takes daily prayer and asking for God's help.

Where do we go to ask for help? Asking God in prayer is powerful. In asking others, choose people who will listen and not judge and only offer advice or help when asked.

Offering comforting and kind words is always helpful.

Serving others can be as simple as greeting people at worship or making coffee for a group or even helping put a roof on a building to be used for a ministry.

Something as simple as taking food to a family in grief is serving others.

We build our relationship with God and our faith strengthens when we pray, help another, or read scripture to deepen our faith.



United
Women
in Faith

May Meetings of UWF

May 4	UWF Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
May 11	Outreach Circle Meeting	10:30 am	Fellowship Hall
May 11	Mary Martha Circle	6:30 pm	Kathleen's House
May 16	Devotions & Dinner	6:30 pm	Contact Linda M.
May 18	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>Once Upon a Wardrobe</i> by Patti Callahan		
May 24	Palm Lakes Village Circle	2:00 pm	Contact Judy S.

Thank you to everyone who supported Junque in the Trunk! Proceeds will go to UWF Missions.



Canaan in the Desert

Outreach Circle visited
Canaan in the Desert
on April 13, 2023



Cross In the Desert Children's Ministries

A big thank you to families and kiddos who came to church and enjoyed Children Church activities/ lessons. We want to share with all congregants that Children's Church will not be held during the summer. **CITD as a church family is welcoming all children to attend Worship Services this summer.**

We will have busy bags for children to use. Please have your child pick up any left-over parts and take the bags home after service. There will be rockers, books and a few toys in the Narthex to be used if needed. Sermons can be heard and the glass wall allows for being a part of worship.

The last Children's Church will be on Sunday May 28th. For the summer, Children of all Ages will worship together. It is our hope that Children's Church will resume in August/September. Unfortunately, CITD will not have VBS this summer, we encourage our families with children to look for other local Vacation Bible School opportunities and take advantage of the fun and fellowship.

Since February, together we have enjoyed applying biblical teachings into our everyday life.

Miss Heather and Miss Wanda are grateful to CITD kiddos and families for their support and participation.

Have a safe and fun summer. Look forward to seeing you in church.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS!

On April 23, the congregation welcomed our newest members, Rylan Francis and Karma Quammen. Rylan and Karma faithfully attended several weeks of classes, where they learned about Methodism, church history, and heard testimony from other church members. Rev. Galene Boyett was assisted by Kevin Joy, Youth Director, and Rhonda Mortenson, during the class sessions.



MISSIONS



Life Line Screening at CITD

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on **Wednesday, May 17, 2023**, at Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.

Annual Conference Mission Project

This year's annual conference is being held June 17-17 at the Mesa Convention Center, or online.

Each year during annual conference all the churches are asked to participate in a mission project. This year we are asking for monetary donations to aid those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Please make checks payable to CITD and write "annual conference project" on the memo line.

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. You may make appointments online at www.vitalant.org.





Marion J. Ashley
March 27, 1926 - January 17, 2023

Celebration of Life
Friday, May 19, 2023 at 1:00 pm

Cross in the Desert
United Methodist Church
12835 N 32nd Street,
Phoenix, AZ 85032

Family and friends are invited to
gather afterward at the Church
for a light reception and sharing
of remembrances.

Mission Possible?

- **Do you believe in the Mission of CTD?**
- **Do you want the Mission to succeed?**
- **Do you want to free more people at CTD to make disciples for Jesus Christ?**

If your answer is yes to any of these questions, then you will want to learn more about how we can accomplish our mission by exploring how we might do the business of CTD differently.

Join us at one of the following meetings to learn about the **Simplified, Accountable Structure** (aka One Board Model) and discuss if this model is right for CTD.

Potluck + Meeting: May 7th (after worship)

Zoom Meetings: May 11th - 2:00PM

May 24th - 7:00PM

Go therefore
and make
disciples
of all the
nations

**THE
GREAT
COMMISSION**



For more information, see any
Church Council member.

[https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/846203
?pwd=Y3ZFZjkwdVErZnBqSIRLemQ
1dVU5QT09](https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/846203?pwd=Y3ZFZjkwdVErZnBqSIRLemQ1dVU5QT09)



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? In addition to age-specific camps, specialty camps for Grandparents/Grandchildren; art, leadership and missions are on the schedule. Camp 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 [2023 Sessions | Mingus Mountain \(mingusmountaincamp.org\)](https://www.mingusmountaincamp.org)

Desert Southwest Conference News

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

With this letter, I hereby call the regular session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church to meet on June 15-17, 2023, in a hybrid format: in person at the Mesa Convention Center or online. Information is now available at <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference>. I especially call your attention to the due dates for registration and other submissions and invite you to please abide by these to aid in the continuing work of planning the conference and prevent undue stress on our staff and volunteers. I trust you will do this as beloved members of our covenant community.

Our theme this year is **#WeAre: Wrestling, Engaging, Rising**, based on the story of Jacob in Genesis 32 and 33, and the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus in Luke 22-24. To say that the past year was difficult is an understatement, for we have been in an extended, extremely challenging season that spans more than three years.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be with us, and while we are slowly coming out of it, we are certainly grappling with its long-term effects in multiple facets of our personal and communal lives.

- *Systemic racism and white supremacy continue to plague our society and our church and harm our BIPOC siblings.*
- *While scheduled for May 2024 after numerous postponements, the continued delay in holding the 2020 General Conference continues to bring harm to our LGBTQIA+ siblings.*
- *The disaffiliation of churches from our ranks and the misinformation and disinformation that has accompanied some of these conversations has adversely affected our connection and our witness.*

As a result of these and other concerns, our church is splintering, and our relationships are frayed and falling apart. Many are feeling isolated, disconnected, and alone. Trust towards each other is low. And so, our theme is a prayer and a declaration that **we are**, as a covenant community of faith, coming together to continue **wrestling** with our current realities and concerns in order to begin **engaging** in conversations that will lead to healing and wholeness so that we may together be on a path towards **rising** to face the new day that God invites us all to with hope and joy!

I am so excited to be with all of you for what will be my first ever annual conference session to preside at as bishop and my first with you! May the Holy Spirit work in our minds and our hearts, even now, as we prepare for this important work of holy conferencing.

Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

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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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

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Financial Secretary

Alice Easter

finance@crossinthedesert.org

Building and Grounds Concerns

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