



# The Oasis

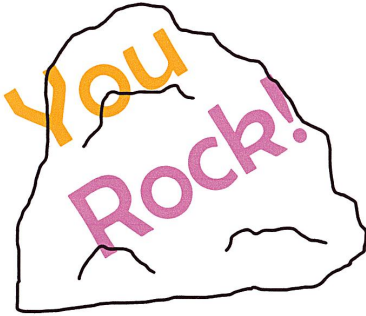
**August 2024**

**Cross in the Desert UMC**

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

## LEADERSHIP BOARD ANNOUNCES NEW RECOGNITION PROGRAM

By: Karen Bulkeley



Cross in the Desert is blessed with a large family of “doers”... individuals who are constantly getting things done without expecting anything in return. They love God and they love CITD.

The Leadership Board has decided to recognize a few of these folks for their exceptional dedication with the introduction of the *You Rock* award. This award provides us the opportunity to say

Thank You to those who are working behind the scenes to get work done day in and day out. It is not possible to recognize every single person for the work that they do, but we plan to honor one or two people approximately once a quarter to highlight a sampling of all the hard work that is happening on behalf of CITD both on campus and off.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please email Pastor Gina with the name of the person and the reason why you think they “rock” for CITD. Speaking of people who rock, we will miss Sophia Quinton, a member of the CITD Leadership Board and CITD webmaster who is moving out of state. She has been a wonderful member of our community, and we wish her well. Brooke Henry has agreed to step onto the Leadership Board to fill the vacancy. We are excited to welcome her into this leadership position and look forward to her many contributions.

### In This Issue.....

Pastor's Corner.....	2,3
Birthdays, Anniversaries.....	3
General News.....	4,5,8,10

Prayer Ministry.....	6
UWFaith.....	7
Missions.....	9
Conference.....	11

# Pastor's Corner



Dear Friends, Family, and Community,

Each of us is on a unique journey of faith, characterized by our own struggles, triumphs, and moments of divine revelation. Understanding who God calls us to be is not a one-time event but a continuous process of growth and discernment. It involves daily listening for God's voice in our lives and responding with courage and faith.

As individuals, this might mean exploring new spiritual disciplines, stepping out into new ministries, or simply offering our daily actions as a living testimony to God's love. Take a moment to ask yourself: Where in my life is God calling me to grow? What gifts has God given me that I am yet to explore fully? How might I serve more effectively with the love and power of God?

Similarly, as a church, we are called to be a beacon of light in our community. *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."* (Matthew 5:14). Our mission extends beyond our sanctuary walls, reaching out to support, uplift, and transform the lives of those around us. This sacred calling invites us to engage in acts of service, advocacy, and compassionate outreach. Whether through food drives, community events, or collaborative ministries, our mission is to reflect Christ's love in tangible ways.

## **\*\*Becoming a Light-Bearing Church\*\***

Our vision at Cross in the Desert UMC is to shine brightly with God's love, acting as a lighthouse in our community. This vision compels us to be proactive in our outreach and intentional in our discipleship.

The metaphor of light appears throughout the Bible, symbolizing guidance, hope, and the presence of God. When we choose to reflect this light, we offer hope to those who are struggling, guidance to those who are lost, and a tangible expression of God's love to everyone we encounter. Let us be steadfast in our commitment to living out this calling.

We encourage everyone to think creatively and compassionately about how we can meet the needs of our neighbors. Share your ideas and get involved in the ministries that resonate with you. Through our collective efforts, we can truly embody the Divine Light of Jesus and make a lasting impact.

(continued on page 3)



Jewell Hood	August 2
Rhonda Mortenson	August 3
Dorothy Harlan	August 10
Melanie Konski	August 13
Jim Dukarich	August 16
Mary Nell Woodward	August 16
Ronan Cahill	August 18
Jeff Bulkeley	August 19
Karen Bulkeley	August 20
Augustine Gavini	August 20
Kian Francis	August 24
Judy Anderson	August 25
Linda Moore	August 25
Dwight Peck	August 26
Shirley Buonauro	August 31

Pete & Marlene Thompson	August 3
Dave & Jeannette Delster	August 12
Junior & Dorothy Harlan	August 15
Ray & Arlene Roop	August 19

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.

(continued from page 2)

### **\*\*Prayerful Reflections\*\***

To continually align ourselves with God's purpose, I invite you to join in prayer and reflection this month. Here are a few prayer points to guide you:

1. **\*\*Pray for Discernment\*\***: Ask God to reveal areas in your life where you can grow and serve Him more faithfully.
2. **\*\*Pray for Courage\*\***: Seek the strength to step out in faith, embracing new roles or challenges in your journey.
3. **\*\*Pray for Our Church\*\***: Lift up Cross in the Desert UMC, asking God to bless our ministries and outreach efforts as we strive to shine in our community.
4. **\*\*Pray for Our Community\*\***: Intercede for our neighbors, especially those facing hardships, so that they may experience the hope and compassion of Christ through our actions.

Remember that our journey of becoming who God calls us to be is a lifelong adventure filled with grace and transformation. As individuals and as a church, we are co-creators with God, bringing God's kin-dom closer with every act of love and service.

May God's light shine ever brighter through us this season and always.

Blessings and Peace, *Pastor G*

## Dinner and Dialogue—August 29th at 6:00 pm

Join us for an engaging "Dinner and Dialogue" evening at Cross in the Desert UMC on August 29, 2024, at 6:00 PM. This free event includes a delicious dinner and a thought-provoking dialogue on "Voting For the Common Good." The presenter is Lisa L. Derrick

As we gather to share a meal, we'll delve into discussions about the impact of our votes on the community, exploring how informed and compassionate voting can drive positive change. This event is an excellent opportunity to engage with fellow community members, share perspectives, and gain deeper insights into the importance of civic responsibility.

Please call the office at 602-992-1960 to RSVP.



Lisa L. Derrick

Lisa L. Derrick is an experienced spiritual director dedicated to guiding individuals on their spiritual journeys. With a background in counseling, educational psychology, interfaith traditions, and theology, she offers personalized, multicultural guidance.

Her journey began with a profound spiritual awakening, inspiring her to help others connect with their inner selves and the divine. She developed her skills in active listening, discernment, and diverse spiritual practices through a decade as an instructor for the Education for Ministry program, training at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Lisa uses her passions, gifts and skills in providing a safe, non-judgmental space for exploring spiritual questions and experiences, integrating mind, body, and spirit. She supports individuals and groups through life transitions, clarity-seeking, and deepening spiritual practices with empathy and wisdom.

Beyond spiritual direction, Lisa leads workshops on Benedictine Spirituality, writing spiritual autobiographies, mindfulness, Centering Prayer, and spiritual growth in the workplace. She fosters spiritual community and helps individuals discover their inner richness. Lisa has been an oblate at Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in Phoenix, AZ since 2016 and was recently appointed as 1 of 3 Oblate Directors for the monastery community.

A lay Canon of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, Lisa has served on its governing board and the Arizona Faith Network, chairing their Theological Dialogue Commission. Retired but she remains active in community health equity projects, she practices contemplative prayer, studies sacred texts and explores diverse faith traditions creatively and through world-wide travel. Her life's calling is to embody her grandfather's wisdom: "To know God is to know God's people...all God's people."



Are you able to help out with some simple jobs around the church? Be a Nice Guy or Gal. Contact Dave Delster at [d2jadclan@aol.com](mailto:d2jadclan@aol.com) for more information.



## **Saturday Afternoon at the Movies**

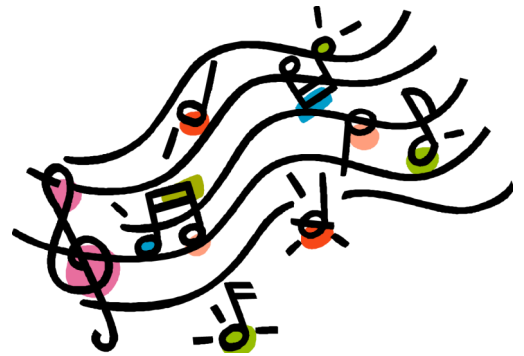


Join us on August 10th at 3:00 pm as we enjoy a family friendly movie, complete with popcorn and snacks. We will meet in the youth room with surround sound and comfy couches! Don't miss this opportunity for fun and fellowship.



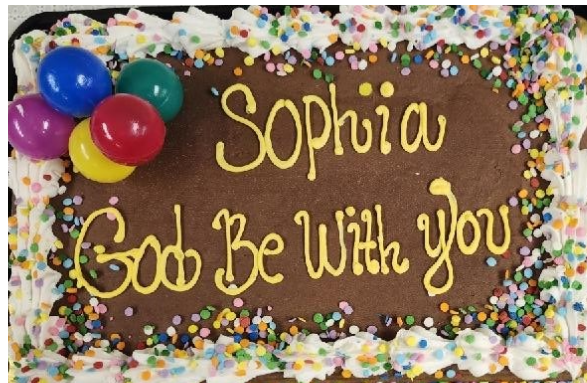
## **One Flock**

One Flock Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday August 21 at 7:00 pm. Please contact Thomas Hartwell if you are interested in singing with the group!



## **We will miss you, Sophia!**

During Fellowship Time on July 28th, we said good-bye to Sophia Quinton. Sophia served CITD on the Leadership Board. She also served as Webmaster. Her computer skills were valued and appreciated when our website moved to a new domain. She is moving to San Antonio, Texas.



# Prayer Corner

## LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS....

Is kindness underrated? Do we equate it with just being nice or pleasant? Is it mainly about smiling, getting along, and not ruffling feathers? The Bible presents very different thoughts on kindness.

When Paul spoke to the church in Corinth he shared the trials and suffering he endured for the sake of the gospel and told of the God-produced spiritual fruit in his life (2 Corinthians 6:1–13). And guess what? Kindness made his list of spiritual fruit. “You want proof I’m an apostle?” he said, in effect. “Okay, here it is: I’m kind.”

Kindness reflects the heart of Christ. If we open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit and we ask him to produce in us kind hearts that overflow through kind lips, God will help us make a conscious effort to be kind. Then more of God’s love will flow through our lives enabling us to spread kindness anytime, anywhere to anyone.

Kindness goes deeper than being outwardly nice. It is also being gentle in our inner, private thoughts—catching ourselves forming critical, negative judgments and nipping them in the bud. The best way to do that is to turn a negative thought into a prayer for that person.

Kindness is no small thing. Kindness is powerful. Are we kind? Are we generously inclined toward those around us, or do we think and speak harshly to, or about, them? Paul’s words should make us wonder how we’re doing.

Father, God, help us to be more like you. Help us to show the same kindness to others that you show to us every day. Help us to remember to just be kind for everyone is having a hard time. In the mighty name of Christ we pray. Amen.

## WALK WORTHY

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

### East District Prayer Focus for August

Dayspring UMC—Tempe  
Rev. Jeffrey Procter-Murphy  
Pastor Michael Long  
Rev. Shirley Wells

Desert Mission UMC—Scottsdale  
Rev. Michael Patzloff

First UMC —Mesa  
Rev. Stephen Persons Parkes

Song of Life UMC—Queen Creek  
Rev. Sylvia Harris





United  
Women  
in Faith

## August Meetings of UWFaith

August 1	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
August 8	Mary Martha Circle	Canceled	
August 15	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>Home Is Not a Country</i> by Safia Elhillo		
August 20	Devotions & Dinner	6:30 pm	North Mountain
	Brewing Company, 522 E. Dunlap		
August 22	UWFaith Outreach	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall
August 24	Unit Meeting—DVD on Tribal Justice, Breakfast available	9:00 am	Fellowship Hall

### UWFaith - book of the month

*Home Is Not a Country*, by Safia Elhillo

In this novel in verse, Elhillo writes about what home really means, and Nina's struggle to find her place in an unfamiliar and sometimes unwelcoming new country. "It's a tapestry of life in small moments, and the revelations we have about our pasts over time."

Join us for discussion of *Home Is Not a Country* via ZOOM on August 15 at 10:00 am. You can find the link in the weekly *It's Happening* eNewsletter. We hope to see you there.

## Unit Meeting Saturday August 24th

9:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Breakfast will be available

The topic will be Tribal Justice

Junque in the Trunk is coming! Start saving up your saleable items!

Saturday November 9

Watch for details!



### Save the Dates!

October 5, 2024

East District Annual Celebration – North Scottsdale UMC

October 26, 2024

UWFaith Conference Annual Celebration – St. Mark's UMC, Tucson

**Lots of fun stuff coming—Mark your Calendar!**



**Stone Creek Golf Club Hosts Lura Turner Homes' 29<sup>th</sup> Golf Tourney**

**Lura Turner Homes' 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament is Friday, September 20 at Stone Creek Golf Club, 4435 E. Paradise Village Parkway, S., Paradise Valley.**

**Early bird registration is \$125 per player if paid by Sept. 6; \$150 after Sept. 6. Online registration is at [www.luraturnerhomes.org](http://www.luraturnerhomes.org).**

**All proceeds benefit adults with special needs who live at Lura Turner Homes, a Phoenix non-profit founded in 1965 by Methodist deaconess Lura Turner. Deadline: September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Questions? Please call Max McQueen, 602-943-4789.**



**Sunday October 13 3:00-5:00 pm**

**in the courtyard**

**Plan to come and bring your pets to be blessed**

**Rainbow Bridge Memory Table**

**Foothills Animal Rescue**

**Donnie's Doggy Desserts**



## MISSIONS

### August 11 is Gift Card Sunday

The Missions Committee continues to sell gift cards during fellowship time on the second Sunday of every month. Don't forget to bring cash or your checkbook to stock up on gifts for friends and family, as well as gift cards for places where you normally shop or eat. The profit from these sales goes to mission projects.



### Fry's Community Rewards Program

Did you know that CITD is included in Fry's Community Rewards Program? If you do not have your Fry's V.I.P. card linked to Cross in the Desert, please talk to us at the Missions Table or ask Karen Mischik for more details.



## PV COMMUNITY Food Bank

Summer is always a difficult time at the food bank! There are fewer food drives with schools being out for the summer, and many people escape the heat to a closer locale. But people are still hungry! Please remember to add items to your shopping list for the food bank. Shop the sales! Often things are BOGO—so get the one you need and give the extra one to the food bank. The donation cart is conveniently located in the church lobby. Let's reach out to our neighbors.



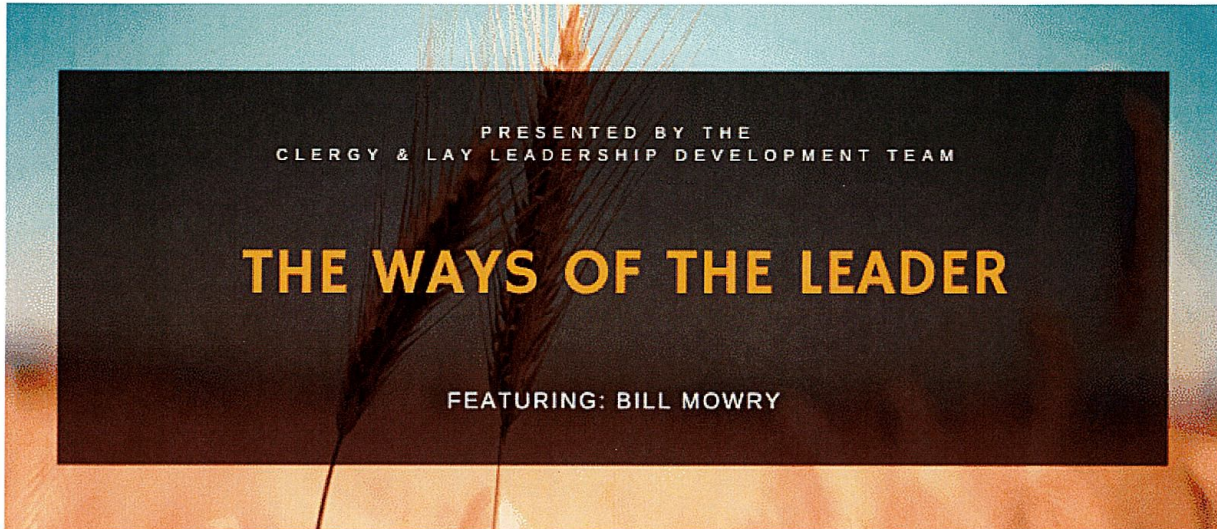
Compassionate • Human • Innovative

Please join the Missions Committee as we volunteer our services at The Foster Alliance on Tuesday, August 6, from 1-3 pm. The work is very easy, but it will bring a great deal of fulfillment to your heart. See Karen Mischik or call her at 480-980-0286 if you have any questions.



## Clergy and Lay Leadership Development News

Reminder to Register For: Leadership Talk “The Ways of Leaders”  
August 12, 2024



The Clergy and Lay Leadership Development team will host this leadership talk via Zoom featuring *Mr. Bill Mowry*, on Monday, **August 12, 2024**, at **7 pm (MST)**.

*Bill Mowry* serves with Navigators Church Ministries in Columbus, Ohio. His passion is to help leaders build Great Commission cultures marked by intentionality, relationships, creativity, and generations of disciplemakers.

In “The Ways of the Leader”, he unpacks four competencies for everyday leaders in churches, ministries, communities, and businesses.

Resource suggestion: “The Ways of the Leader” , author: Bill Mowry

ISBN: 978-1-64158-669-6

LSM Introduction to Lay Ministries: the Basic Course at Prescott Valley UMC,  
August 23-24, 2024  
Aug 23, 2024 06:00 pm

LSM Introduction to Lay Ministries: the Basic Course at Prescott Valley UMC,  
August 23-24, 2024  
Aug 24, 2024 09:00 am

# Desert Southwest Conference News

**Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut's New Assignment: A Catalyst for Growth and Unity**  
by [Christina Dillabough](#) | Jul 17, 2024 | [Conference Newsletter](#), [East District Newsletter](#)

On July 13, 2024, during the 2024 Western Jurisdiction Conference in Spokane, WA, [Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut](#) was assigned to the [Desert Southwest Conference](#) in the [Western Jurisdiction](#) and the [New Mexico Annual Conference](#) in the South Central Jurisdiction. This milestone transition is a unique opportunity to embrace growth, collaboration and an opportunity for a fresh approach to ministry.

## **The Context**

The two geographical areas include multiple time zones and churches in Arizona, California, the Navajo Nation, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, and Utah. This assignment will be a new experience for both areas to share a bishop across jurisdictional lines.

## **Addressing Concerns with Confidence**

Understandably, there are worries about how this dual assignment might impact the time and attention our bishop can dedicate to each Conference. Bishop Carlo intends to be physically present for both of his new assignments. Still, his first covenant was with his wife and God. Let us focus on prayer for Bishop Carlo and his family in this phase of his leadership. But let us also remember what he has said many times: He does not do this work alone. Bishop Carlo honors, trusts, and values the work of the Conference Lay Leader, Conference Boards/Commissions/Committees, and the collaborative efforts of his cabinet and staff. Neither Conference will be left unattended.

## **Preserving and Enhancing Conference Identities**

Bishop Rapanut understands the importance of maintaining the distinct cultural and spiritual heritage of the Desert Southwest and New Mexico Conferences. His approach is not to merge identities but to celebrate and uplift them. Bishop Rapanut aims to strengthen each Conference's unique identity by fostering mutual respect and understanding while promoting unity and shared purpose. What a beautiful shift this will be as we get to know each other and learn new ways of ministry from each other.

## **A Future of Hope and Possibility**

Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut's assignment is not just a logistical change but a call to embrace a future filled with hope and possibility. This transition will call for our entire leadership to listen, pray, and find ways to ensure concerns are addressed, our identities are preserved, and our ministries are strengthened. This is a time to come together, to support one another, and to embark on a journey of shared mission and ministry.

As we welcome this new way, let us do so with open hearts and minds, ready to embrace the opportunities. Together, we can create a vibrant and dynamic future for both the Desert Southwest and New Mexico Conferences, united in our commitment to serve and uplift our communities in the spirit of faith, hope, and love.

## **Conference Contacts**

### **Bishop**

Carlo A. Rapanut

### **Bishop's Assistant:**

Julie O'Neal [joneal@dscumc.org](mailto:joneal@dscumc.org)

### **Conference Lay Leader**

Alberta Farnsworth

### **East District Superintendent**

Melissa Rynders

Assistant: Jeannine Marinoni

[jmarinoni@dscumc.org](mailto:jmarinoni@dscumc.org)

### **East District Lay Leader**

Trinity Donovan

### **Director of Communications**

(Assistance with technology)

Christina Dillabough

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**Cross in the Desert UMC Staff**

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Youth and Technology Coordinator  
Kevin Joy

**Administrative Assistant**

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

Music Director  
Thomas Hartwell

**Financial Secretary**

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

**Building and Grounds Concerns**  
Please contact the office by phone or email so  
the Property Team may be notified