



CITD Team “Rocked the Block” with Winning Fund-Raising Year for UMOM!

The 2024 CITD team for the annual UMOM walk at the Phoenix Zoo was record-breaking. 13 team members raised \$1066, more than double the goal of \$500 and was recognized for the highest fundraising church group! Walkers gathered early for coffee, donuts, and a picture before hitting the paths at the zoo for a 1K walk. Frequent stops to see the animals who were out and about enjoying their breakfast made for a leisurely pace.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the team. Your contribution will help UMOM continue their work to end family homelessness. Special thanks to the following team members who made this a memorable year:

- Karen Bulkeley, Team Captain
- Jeff Bulkeley
- Karen Mischik
- Joey Mischik
- Wanda Picciotti
- Wes Picciotti
- Cassandra Picciotti
- Zach Picciotti
- Carla Whitmire
- Beth Bulkeley-Brown
- Nick Goodwin
- Allison Goodwin
- Maisie Goodwin



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Pastor's Corner



Dear Church Family,

As we enter the month of June, we need to reflect on what it means to truly love our neighbors. June is recognized as Pride Month, a time devoted to celebrating and uplifting the LGBTQ+ community.

Getting caught up in our beliefs and values is easy, but we must remember that we are called to love one another as Christ loves us. This means practicing compassion, empathy, and understanding toward those who may be different from us. As the Bible tells us in Galatians 5:14, "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself."

This year, a significant development has taken place within our denomination that aligns with this call to love. The recent United Methodist Church (UMC) General Conference substantially changed our stance on LGBTQ+ inclusion. The conference voted to adopt measures that not only affirm the full humanity of LGBTQ+ individuals but also support their full participation in the church's life. This includes ordination and the ability to be married in the church.

These changes mark a pivotal moment in our church's history, reflecting a more profound commitment to embodying the love and inclusivity that Jesus taught. The road to these decisions has not been easy and has involved much prayer, dialogue, and discernment. However, this direction aligns more closely with our understanding of God's inclusive love.

Let us use this month to reflect on how we can better support and uplift our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment within our church where all individuals feel loved and accepted for who they are. These new policies are not just institutional changes but an invitation to examine our hearts and actions.

Remember, our faith is not defined by who we exclude but by who we include. Following the example of Jesus in loving our neighbors unconditionally, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, is more critical now than ever.

May we grow in love and understanding as we journey towards a more inclusive and accepting community.

Blessings,

Pastor G



June

BIRTHDAYS

John Keck	June 2
Tyler Joy	June 5
Nancy Stein	June 5
Rosalie Wagner	June 5
Billy Pleake	June 15
Tim Carlson	June 17
Billie Albright	June 18



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Wes & Wanda Picciotti	June 1
Jeff & Karen Bulkeley	June 5
Jeff & Linda Moore	June 8
Hank & Barbara Hendrickson	June 12
Bill Moyer & Ada Thompson	June 12
Jim & Becky Bussey	June 25

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.

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 for more information.



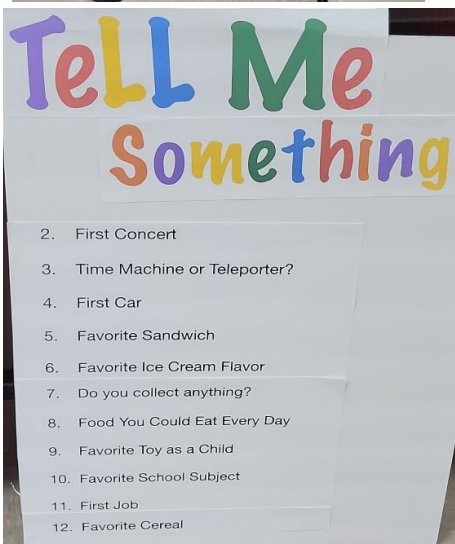
Class of 2024

Congratulations to Anthony Michael Robinson, who recently graduated from Paradise Valley Community College with an Associate Degree in Science and an Associate Degree in Arts. Anthony is the son-in-law of Gary and Romi Simons.

FOOD WITH FRIENDS

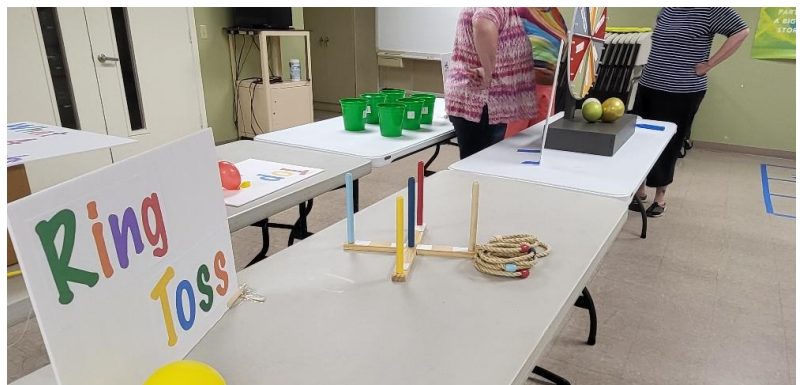
The Food with Friends potluck group had “Fun at the Fair” on May 18th! After sampling our version of fair foods (corn dogs, “turkey” legs and other delicacies), we amused ourselves with a variety of midway games—with prizes! Lots of popcorn and cotton candy were at the ready.

Many thanks go to Rhonda Mortenson and Cathy Milford for planning all of our fun and innovative gatherings! We are taking the summer off, but be sure to join us in the fall for more fun and fellowship.



Lots of games on the Midway!

Ring Toss, What a Catch, Birdie in the Box, Top Races, Ball in the Bucket, Spin the Wheel and Tell Me Something



CITD Event Opportunity - attend *God's Favorite* by Neil Simon

Don Bluth Front Row Theatre

8989 E Vía Linda #118, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Wednesday August 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Tickets are \$31. See/call/text Eugene O'Bryan at 602-363-4115

Successful Long Island businessman Joe Benjamin is a modern-day 'Job' with a demanding wife, ungrateful children and wise-cracking household employees. He credits all he has to his love for God. Then he is visited by Sidney Lipton, a.k.a. A Messenger from God with a mission: test Joe's faith and report back to "the Boss". He informs Joe that God and Satan have made a wager that no amount of suffering would ever lead Joe Benjamin to renounce his faith. The jokes and Tests of Faith fly fast and furious as Neil Simon spins a contemporary morality tale like no other in this hilarious comedy. A light-hearted and yet very poignant modern story of a man who has everything and loses it all before finding what is truly important.



Cross In the Desert Children's Ministries

A big thank you to families and kiddos at CITD who 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 in the Sanctuary 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 viewing of worship.

The last Children's Church will be on Sunday May 26th. For the summer, children of all ages will worship with their church families in the Sanctuary. It is our hope that Children's Church will resume in August/September.

Unfortunately, CITD will not have Vacation Bible School, (VBS) on campus 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.

Miss Heather has enjoyed Sundays with the kids, learning Bible teachings and supporting church activities.

We are grateful to CITD kiddos and families for their support and participation.

Have a safe and fun summer.

Heather, Jonathan and Wanda

Prayer Corner

LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS....

Memorial Day is the unofficial but widely accepted start of summer. When the kiddies look forward to the end of the school year and adults look forward to a vacation, somewhere cooler.

More importantly, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance honoring those who have died serving their country in military service. All those who have given their lives that we might live in a free country. It's been said that freedom is not free. Indeed, it comes at a great cost. Thank God for their sacrifice. Jesus said: "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends". (John 15:13)

Remember, too, those who have fought a different kind of war, a spiritual war and given their lives in faithful service and witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have been severely persecuted, even killed for their faith. Thank God for their faithful testimony. Jesus told us that, "In the world, you shall have tribulation..." (John 16:33)

Most importantly, on Memorial Day and every day remember to thank the Lord for His sacrifice. Jesus gave His life to pay our debt. He has given us abundant life and the gift of His Holy Spirit. Jesus promised us, "...I have overcome the world". John 16:33

Walk worthy,

Abba Father, your loving devotion reaches to the heavens and your faithfulness to the clouds. We come to you with gratitude for all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice that we may have the freedom to worship you, love you, honor you and enjoy you forever. Amen

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

East District Prayer Focus for June

Bishop Carlo Rapanut & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference

Chaplains, counselors & Staff of the East District

Staff & Churches of the West District, North District, & South District

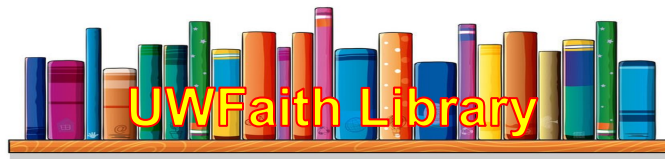




United Women in Faith

June Meetings of UWFaith

June 6	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
June 13	Mary Martha Circle	4:00 pm	Kathleen's house
June 18	Devotions & Dinner	5:30 pm	Chompie's
June 20	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>The Comfort of Crows</i> by Margaret Renkl		
June 27	UWFaith Outreach	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall



Book of the Month - *Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky* by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond

Learn about the fascinating history of the color blue. It was once considered a sacred color, and was very difficult to produce. Blue was the color of royalty and of religious importance. Learn more about this once sacred color that we now wear every time we put on a pair of jeans.

Mission u 2024

United Women in Faith

The in-person Adult and Youth studies will be at Payson UMC, 414 N Easy St #4414, Payson, AZ 85541.

Friday, June 21, 9:30 AM check-in and Saturday, June 22, 8:30 AM light breakfast.

The Adult Virtual Mission u opens on Friday, July 19, at 3:00 PM and Saturday, July 20, at 10:00 AM on Zoom.

REGISTER

In-Person Adult and Youth Studies: <https://dscumc.org/event/mission-u-2024/2024-06-21/>
Virtual Study for Adults: <https://dscumc.org/event/mission-u-2024-virtual/2024-07-19/>

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Study Materials:

The Adult Study is *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher

The curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

Order here: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11156&catid=2175>

The Youth Study is *Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-Dom* by Nica Sy

In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, or interdependent relationship. The youth curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kin-dom.

Order here: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11287&catid=2175>

Please purchase your study book prior to Mission u. To order, contact Mission Resource Center at 800-305-9857 or order online with the links supplied above.

The Study Leaders:

Our study leaders for the adult in-person study are: Reverend Sherry Brady, Pastor at Duncan UMC, and Lois Downin, member of United Women in Faith at First UMC. Our study leader for the youth in-person Study is Pastor Nicholas Grainger, Pastor at Hope UMC. The Virtual Adult Study will be facilitated by Reverend Sherry Brady. [Click here to learn more about the study leaders.](#)

If you are attending the in-person study, be prepared to have a great weekend of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Please Bring:‘

PLEASE WEAR A NAME TAG YOU HAVE FROM SCHOOL, WORK, CHURCH, ETC. for our icebreaker!

- Water & Coffee cup **with lid**
- Your Name Badge
- Face Mask, if so desired
- Study book
- Pen/Pencil
- Notebook
- Sweater or Shawl
- Money for Thank Offering and/or Mission Giving
- Emergency Health and Emergency Contact Information.

Hotel Information:

We have a reserved block of rooms at Best Western – Inn of Payson 301 S Beeline Hwy, Suite A, Payson, AZ 85541
Phone: (928) 474-9800. Cost is: Standard Two Queen Beds (max. four people) \$189.99 + tax or Deluxe Two Queen Beds with a sitting area (max. five people) \$229.99 + tax. These rates are for 1 or 2 adults per room. Additional adults will be \$10. The cut-off date for securing a room at this rate is 5/31/24. After this date, rates will increase. Call the Hotel directly referencing the United Women in Faith group to book your rooms. Rooms are available on both floors, and there is an elevator. Complimentary Wifi, free hot buffet breakfast, and parking.

Contacts:

Billie Larime, Dean, bklarime@yahoo.com

Lorraine Shaw, Assistant Dean, ladyinsurance@att.net

Lois Downin, Registrar, Homers210@cox.net

MISSIONS

June 9 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.

Shoebox

justa
center
We Expect Miracles

GMS Greenway
Middle School

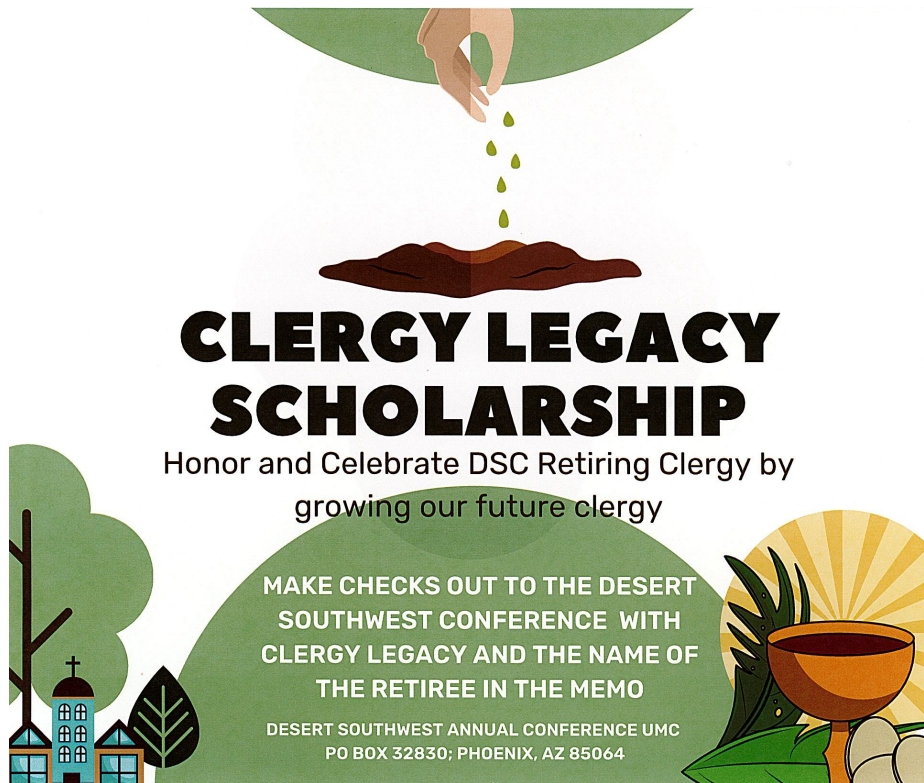
SMS Shea
Middle School

Don't forget about the donation bins located in the Fellowship Hall lobby!

Shoebox Ministry—Donations of hygiene items like shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, and socks are always needed.

Justa Center — Toilet Paper, Cleaning products, books, pens, coffee supplies

Period Poverty— Sanitary napkins for the middle schools (No tampons)



Dear Church Leaders,

On behalf of the Board of Ordained Ministry, I announce the forthcoming retirement of your previous clergy member, Rev. Galene Boyett.

To honor and celebrate the contributions and commitment of retiring clergy, the Board of Ordained Ministry has developed the Clergy Legacy Scholarship to support students pursuing ordination. We are thankful for all the clergy who have served our conference and we are deeply committed to the future ordained clergy that will continue to serve. The Board of Ordained Ministry is contributing a gift in honor of each retiree this year, and we hope you will join us.

This investment will be another resource to ensure access to our connection for all future clergy members. We hope you will all celebrate the legacy of retiring clergy with us.

We welcome the members of your congregations to contribute to this fund to celebrate retiring clergy who made a significant or personal impact on their lives. The Committee anticipates awarding our first scholarship in 2025 after growing the fund into a sustainable investment fund.

Please donate to the Clergy Scholarship Fund at the Desert Southwest Conference to honor a retiring clergy. Checks can be written to the conference with the Clergy Legacy Scholarship and the name of the honored clergy in the memo field. I've attached a flyer for you to share with your congregation.

Blessings to all,

Rae Lathrop

Board of Ordained Ministry Scholarship and Grants Committee Chair

Desert Southwest Conference News



General
Conference
FAQ

UPDATES FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Regionalization Passes by 78% - This means that while we will remain united by our shared doctrine and theology, this legislation will allow each area of the world to do ministry in its own context.

Full Communion with Episcopal Church Approved—This will allow for the sharing of clergy and recognition of sacramental rights. (Awaiting Episcopal Church Vote)

Lower Annual Conference Apportionments—U.S. Annual Conferences will be asked to pay lower apportionments compared to what was passed at the 2016 Conference. The base rate for 2025 and 2026 will be 2.6%, a decrease from the current rate of 3.29%.

First Black Female President of the Council of Bishops— Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference, is the first black woman in the history of the worldwide denomination to be elected president of the Council of Bishops.

First Native American Bishop to Preside at General Conference—Bishop David Wilson, resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference was elected the first Native American Bishop in a historic election in 2022, and thus became the first bishop to preside at a General Conference in our history!

40 Year Ban on Gay Clergy Lifted—With a 93% approval rate, General Conference voted to remove the ban on ordination of clergy who are “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.” In addition, delegates voted that superintendents are not to penalize clergy or churches for holding—or refraining from holding—same sex weddings.

Social Principles Revised—General Conference delegates supported a revision of the Social Principles in the Book of Discipline that deletes the phrase “the practice of homosexuality...is incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Deacons Granted Sacramental Authority— Deacons can now offer Holy Communion and conduct baptisms where they have been appointed to serve, whether that is a church, outreach ministry or mission.

Conference Contacts

Bishop

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Bishop’s Assistant:

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Conference Lay Leader

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East District Superintendent

Melissa Rynders

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Trinity Donovan

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Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

Pastor

Pastor Gina Pollard

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Financial Secretary

Alice Easter

finance@crossinthedesert.org

Lay Leader—vacant

Music Director

Thomas Hartwell

Coordinator of Children's Ministries

Vacant

Youth and Technology Coordinator

Kevin Joy

Building and Grounds Concerns

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

Administrative Assistant

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