



**What's Happening with the Leadership Board?      By: Karen Bulkeley**

Have you ever heard the expression “trying to fly the airplane while you’re still building it?” Sometimes that is how it feels getting the Leadership Board up and running. Leadership Board members are simultaneously ensuring that the important business of CITD continues while refining the mechanisms of our new board. Here are just a few of the exciting things the board has been working on over the past few months.

1. A campus inventory was completed to ensure we have a thorough accounting of our assets in the unlikely occurrence of a catastrophic event. Pictures of everything are now “in the cloud” so they are accessible if needed.
2. A physical safety walk through of the campus was done and quite a few issues were identified. To achieve a fully safe environment a three-pronged strategy will need to be implemented:
  - a. Volunteers will be recruited to work on smaller but urgent projects that were identified which do not require large outlays of money.
  - b. Plans are being made to identify opportunities to raise funds to tackle larger, more expensive projects (details below).
  - c. A Safety Task Force will be implemented to address ongoing concerns that require additional planning, resources, or ongoing monitoring. If you would like to participate in this task force please contact me or Pastor Gina.
3. A Capital Campaign will be launched soon to raise funds for larger projects to address both safety issues as well as wear and tear. Stay tuned for more information.
4. As CITD rebounds from COVID-19 and looks to the future, so many of you have stepped up to ask what you can do to meet the needs of our church and serve our community. The Leadership Board will be implementing a program to recognize and thank volunteers, especially those who do so many of the behind-the-scenes jobs with few people knowing about their hard work and commitment. Stay tuned to learn who are first “YOU ROCK” recipients will be. Please contact me or Pastor Gina if you have thoughts on which unsung heroes should be honored.

Remember: Leadership Board meetings are open to all. You are encouraged and welcome to attend meetings to learn about all of the exciting work that is happening and express your thoughts on future plans.

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# Pastor's Corner



Dear Members of the Faithful CITD,

As the United Methodist Church's General Conference unfolds this week, our congregation eagerly awaits the outcomes. This General Conference is a testament to our collective search for God's guidance as we navigate complex and diverse perspectives within our faith community. *Regardless of the resolutions and decisions that come forth, one constant remains – our call to unity in the love of God.*

## Holding Together in Love

Ephesians reminds us to "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). This wisdom holds profound relevance for us today. As members of one body, our unity is not founded upon unanimous agreement on every issue but on our shared love for Christ and each other. Our discussions may be vigorous, and opinions may vary, but let us not forget that we are bonded by something far more significant – our call to love all humanity with the LOVE and MERCY we receive from God.

## Respectful Dialogue

The General Conference is a forum for respectful dialogue and decision-making. It represents the diversity of our church – culturally, theologically, and geographically. This diversity is a strength, not a weakness. In our conversations, both inside and outside the church walls, let us seek to understand before seeking to be understood. As we reflect on the resolutions made, let's do so with grace and compassion, upholding each other's dignity and worth as sacred.

## A Commitment to Mission

Our mission remains unchanged: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our unity is instrumental in this mission. It is not just about agreement but also about the commitment to work alongside each other despite differences. As we move forward, let us recommit ourselves to serve, love, and witness, remembering that our actions may be the only gospel some people read.

## A Prayer for Unity

As we process the outcomes of the General Conference, may we turn to the One who can unify us in spirit and purpose. Let us pray for a spirit of peace and reconciliation to pervade our hearts and our church. May we be a living example of Christ's love, demonstrating that it is possible to stand united even amidst diversity.

(Continued on next page)



|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Dave Pacchetti   | May 2  |
| Brian Moore      | May 6  |
| Merrily Abels    | May 12 |
| Heather Robinson | May 13 |
| Jerry Hartley    | 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

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)

#### In Closing

Let us walk into the future with hope, trusting in God's unchanging hand. May we be signposts of unity, shining light into the world that sorely needs it. In all of this, our love for one another will testify to the work of God in our midst.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:35.

As we reflect on the events of the UMC General Conference, may our hearts cling to the truth that we are one in the Spirit, one in the Lord. And let our earnestly nurtured unity be a beacon of His love and grace to all.

We are bound together in Christian Fellowship; let that bond be our witness and strength today and always.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor G

# UW Faith Spring Tea

On Sunday April 14 the ladies and their guests enjoyed tea, desserts and fellowship. The program spotlighted the *Trafficking Outreach Center* and *Identifreed Attic*. The speaker was Pastor Carrie Bradley, who shared her personal story and how it led her to found the organization, which reaches out to provide resources for women who are escaping trafficking, domestic violence and addiction. Following the presentation there was a Style Show featuring clothes purchased at *Identifreed Attic* for \$2.00 per item. Sales from the thrift store, located at 32nd St. and Thunderbird, support the outreach program.



Pastor Carrie Bradley



**Style Show**  
 Carol Monsma  
 Moderator (above)  
 Our Lovely models (l to r)  
 Jeannine Diller  
 Ada Thompson  
 Carolyn Halloran  
 Mary Nell Woodward

# We had a great time at the Prom!

## Good food, good music, great dancing!

The Food with Friends Potluck on April 20th was a great party. After we had our fill of the yummy dishes that were shared, the music started and the dancing commenced! Rhonda Mortenson acted as the DJ for the occasion and was able to find favorites for all the attendees from different eras. A favorite was the twist, and there were several slow-dance favorites.



Go Carol!

Twist again—like we did last summer! Ok—it was a few summers ago!



Go Millie!



**Join us for the next party!**

**FOOD WITH FRIENDS POTLUCK**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18 AT 5:00 PM**

**IT'S TIME FOR THE FAIR—FOOD AND GAMES!**

Bring a dish to share and your own table service.

No child care provided.

Any questions? Contact Rhonda Mortenson





# Prayer Corner

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

The 2024 Olympics are coming this summer from Paris, France. All those young people from all over the world who have worked so hard to be there for just one chance to win a goal they set for themselves 10-20 years ago working 24/7 to attain it and to have their moment in the sun. Exciting!

Winners are a determined bunch. They set goals for themselves and push themselves toward those goals. Do we have the same determination to strive for the higher goal that Paul talks about? Will we commit to Paul's goal of "pressing on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Jesus Christ, is calling us"? Reaching that goal depends on us and our partnership with the mighty God.

If we want to grow in Christ, let's make sure we're in the race--that we know Christ has laid hold of our life and saved us from sin. Let's make sure we have the right attitude--that we haven't arrived, but we're in the life long process of moving ahead. And, give it the proper effort--focusing on the goal of being like Christ, and doing everything in light of that high calling.

There once was a mountain climber whose epitaph read, "He died climbing." That ought to be true of every Christian.

Walk worthy.

We turn to you, our God and thank you for loving us just as we are. You fill us with your love and goodness because you created us. May we bring life to our world and may you be satisfied with us. In Christ's mighty name, Amen

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

**East District Prayer Focus for May**  
**Wesley & Golden Gates Community Centers—**  
**Phoenix**

**Wesley Foundation at ASU —Tempe**

**UMOM New Day Center—Phoenix**

**Justa Center—Phoenix**

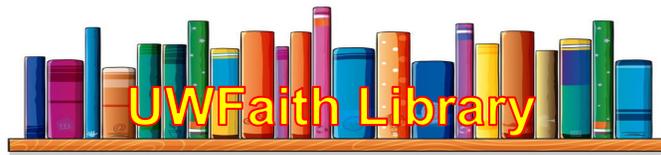




United Women in Faith

### May Meetings of UWFaith

|                                      |                    |                    |                 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| May 2                                | Leadership Team    | 3:00 pm            | Fellowship Hall |
| May 9                                | Mary Martha Circle | Not meeting in May |                 |
| May 16                               | Bookworms United   | 10:00 am           | Zoom            |
| Book: <i>Pachinko</i> by Min Jin Lee |                    |                    |                 |
| May 21                               | Devotions & Dinner | 5:30 pm            | Island Kitchen  |
| May 23                               | UWFaith Outreach   | 11:30 am           | Fellowship Hall |



New to the UWFaith library:

*Ida B, the Queen: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells*, by Michelle Duster

Ida B. Wells was a journalist, suffragist, and an anti-lynching crusader. She was born enslaved in 1862. In 2020 she won the Pulitzer Prize for her reporting on the violence being perpetrated against African Americans. The grant was bestowed upon the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting. If you want to learn more about this determined, courageous woman, check out *Ida B, the Queen* in the Fellowship Hall library.

The Kingdom is among you

Drawing Closer to God and One Another

**Mission u 2024**

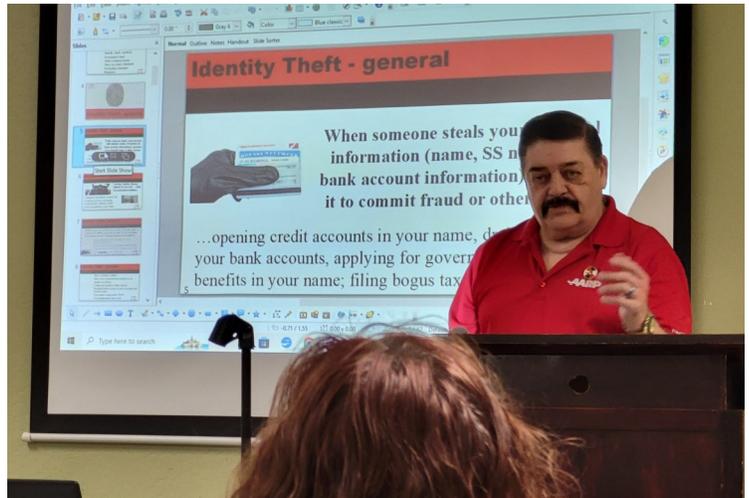
United Women in Faith

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.

## DINNER AND DIALOGUE

Dinner and Dialogue on April 18 featured discussion on a very timely topic—SCAMS. Gary Snyder, a volunteer from the AARP Fraud Watch Network, gave us many examples of how to recognize a scam, whether received by email, phone, mail or any other method. Whether they are just after your money, or intent on stealing your identity, being exposed to fraud can be a very frightening experience. Gary's presentation, and the conversation with the attendees, provided very useful information on how to protect yourself.



**Be sure to join us for the next Dinner and Dialogue!**

**Thursday May 30th at 6:00 pm**

**Our speaker will be Kate Flavell**, who is currently serving as an Adjunct Professor at Grand Canyon University in the College of Education, where she teaches a course on Social Justice for Educators. She is also involved in the Christian Ashram movement in Arizona. Her topic will be *"Social Justice Today - What He Said"*



Are you able to help out with some simple jobs around the church? Be a Nice Guy or Gal. Contact Dave Delster at [d2jad-clan@aol.com](mailto:d2jad-clan@aol.com) for more information.

Are there any graduates in your family this spring? Please notify the office so we can honor them!



The 72-hour Emmaus weekend has been described as a short course in Christianity. It enlivens people to the reality of Christ's love and presence in a way that leads the individual to greater action in witness for Christ. It is designed to make Christ known in the world and equip the participants with the tools and resources they need to keep the freshness and enthusiasm received on the weekend. Walks are planned for Flagstaff.

Men's Walk 261 July 18-21

Women's Walk 262 July 25-28

Lay Director Scott Mathe

Lay Director Julie Vlieg

**If interested contact the church office or Mary Ann Crist**

May 15<sup>th</sup> is coming fast for the go forward date

# MISSIONS

## May 12 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.



Compassionate • Human • Innovative

Missions Committee service project was held at The Foster Alliance on Monday, April 29, from 1-3 pm. We prepared birthday gift bags for foster children. Watch for the date of our next visit and join in the fun, especially if you enjoy being creative!



### 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.

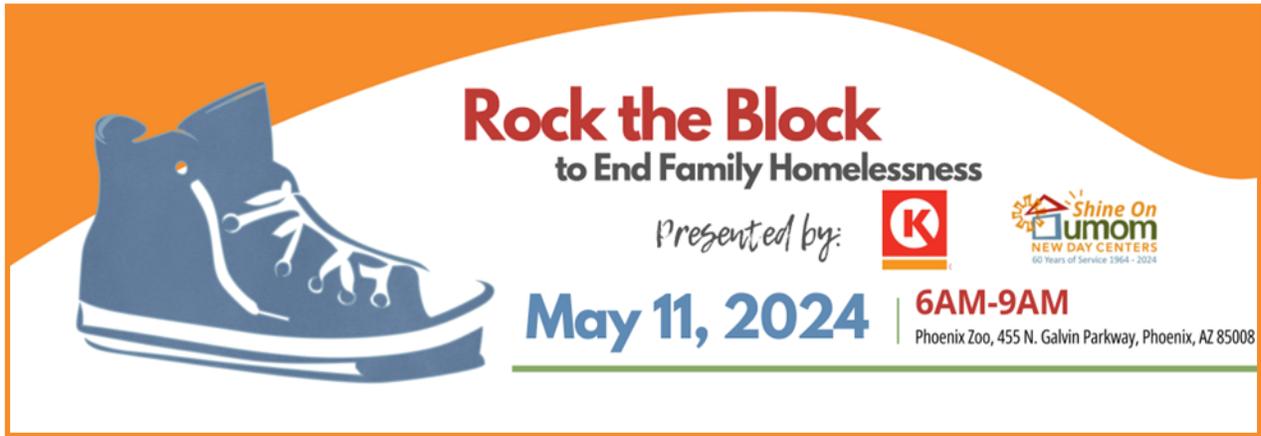


## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024 MISSION PROJECT



This year's mission project will focus on support for churches engaged in asylum and border mission. The location of these churches is not publicized to the general public due to the possibility of threats to those locations. Monetary donations will support the **Asylum Aid and Border Ministries Fund**. Item donations will be received by *The Inn*.

Please watch for announcements regarding how CITD will support the project this year.



## How to Participate

Help UMOM celebrate 60 years by making this the most successful walk to end homelessness! CITD has a long history of supporting UMOM, so let's make another big impact this year. Here's how you can help:

### Walk the Walk

1. Register at [UMOM.org/walk](https://UMOM.org/walk) and join the Cross in the Desert team
2. Gather donations from family and friends (donations can be made on the website or you can collect cash or checks)
3. Show up on May 11<sup>th</sup> and walk the zoo. All registered walk participants get to spend the day at the zoo at no extra cost!

### Donate

1. Provide a cash or check donation during church at the Missions Table.
2. Go online to [UMOM.org/walk](https://UMOM.org/walk), find the Cross in the Desert team and make your donation. (You can also search by team captain, Karen Bulkeley.)
3. Provide a cash or check donation directly to a member of the CITD team.

Questions? See Karen Bulkeley for more information.



# Desert Southwest Conference News



After more than 150 years of faithful service to the people of Phoenix and the greater United Methodist Church connection, **Central United Methodist Church** has made the difficult decision to close its doors.

The congregation voted on Sunday, April 21, to close based on their leadership's recommendation after using the faithful path process in consultation with their District Superintendent, *Rev. Melissa Rynders*, and their pastor, *Rev. Brandon Gilmore*.

The decision will be formalized during the Desert Southwest Annual Conference in Tucson, Arizona this summer.

In its rich history, **Central United Methodist Church** was responsible for planting several United Methodist Churches in the Desert Southwest Conference, including Paradise Valley UMC, and Mission church in Isinya, Kenya. Central UMC also established the Deaconess Hospital, now known as Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona as well as Wesley Community Center and United Methodist Outreach Ministries. "Phoenix is a better community and the lives of countless individuals have been enriched because of the ministry of Central United Methodist Church, including their decision to be a reconciling congregation," said East District Superintendent, *Rev. Melissa Rynders*. "We know this decision was a difficult one for the congregation to make. The core of our faith as United Methodists is that we believe in death and resurrection. While the ministry of Central United Methodist Church has come to its faithful completion, we know that new ministry will rise out of the legacy and faithfulness of the people of Central UMC."

*"As our siblings at Central UMC have discerned that they have come to the end of their life cycle as a congregation, we celebrate the ways that they have faithfully completed their mission and ministry through the years. We will actively discern what God is calling us to do next in that part of the city of Phoenix."*

*Bishop Carlo. A Rapanut*

## Conference Contacts

### Bishop

Carlo A. Rapanut

### Bishop's Assistant:

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### 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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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrossintheDesertUMC>



## Cross in the Desert UMC Staff

### Pastor

Pastor Gina Pollard

[pastorgina@crossinthedesert.org](mailto:pastorgina@crossinthedesert.org)

### Financial Secretary

Alice Easter

[finance@crossinthedesert.org](mailto: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

Julie Wagner

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