



# The Oasis

October 2024

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday October 13 3:00-5:00 pm

This is a community event—be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!

Join us for a blessing of your pets by our clergy!

All pets must be leashed or safely confined please.

### COME TO THE PAW-ty FEATURING



Find out about custom pet portraits



Remember your beloved at the Rainbow Bridge Memory Table



### Open House

#### Global Minds Preschool

#### 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 Beloved Community,

For much of the rest of the country, the vibrant colors of autumn begin to paint their surroundings, and the cool breeze signals the transition from summer to fall. We are still grappling with sweltering temperatures in Arizona, and we dream of cooler times. We are reminded of the ever-changing seasons of life. Just as nature undergoes transformation, so too are we called to reflect, renew, and respond to the needs around us.

## **Embracing the Change of Seasons**

The beauty of fall is a testament to God's incredible design—a time when creation itself prepares for rest and rejuvenation. It's a period that invites us to slow down, take stock of our spiritual lives, and prepare our hearts for the season ahead.

During this time, I encourage each of you to consider the following:

**Reflection:** Take a moment to reflect on the past seasons of your life. What lessons has God taught you? How have you grown, and where might you feel called to grow further?

**Renewal:** Use this time to renew your commitment to your faith and to our community. Just as the trees shed their leaves, let us shed any burdens or distractions that keep us from fully embracing God's love and purpose for our lives.

**Restoration:** Pay attention to the areas of your life that need God's healing touch. Whether it's relationships, a challenging situation, or a personal struggle, let us seek God's guidance and restoration.

## **A Time for Actions in the Church and Community**

As we appreciate the beauty of this season, let us not forget our calling to be active participants in God's work. The changing seasons are a perfect metaphor for our new opportunities to serve and bless others.

Here's how we can engage in meaningful action together:

**Community Outreach:** This fall, let's recommit to our outreach programs. Whether volunteering at the local food bank, participating in our neighborhood clean-up events, or joining our efforts to support people experiencing homelessness, there are numerous ways to make a tangible impact.

**Discipleship and Education:** Join our Bible study groups, attend the dinner discussions, and invite friends to theater nights. These are great ways to engage your neighbors and friends. These gatherings are vital for our spiritual growth and help us stay connected as a faith community.

(continued on pg 3)



# October Birthdays

Jerry Hobbs	October 2
Jen Foster	October 5
Jeannine Diller	October 11
Carol Monsma	October 14
Bill Moyer	October 19
Mary Botts	October 23
Laura Burton	October 27
Jan Wickliffe	October 29

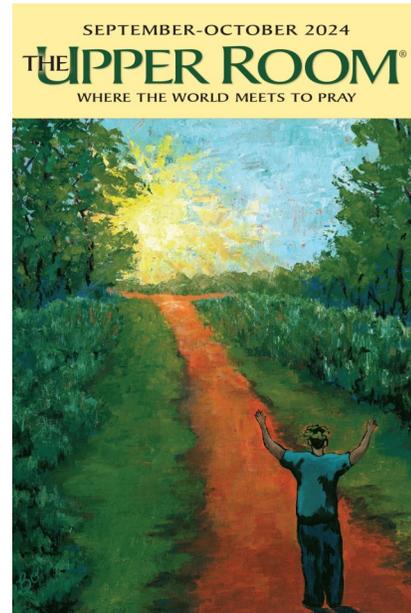


Tim & Jen Foster	October 1
Tom & Rhonda Falknor	October 21
Steve & Karen Cahill	October 23

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.



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**Caring for Creation:** As we witness the splendor of God's creation during this season, let's also take proactive steps to care for the environment. Look for information about how we can be better stewards of the planet.

**Community Care:** Fall can be a particularly challenging time for many. Please reach out if you or someone you know is going through a tough season. Our care team is here to provide support, prayer, and encouragement.

We have many ways for you to get involved in reaching out to our community. Come and join one of the ministries taking steps to help folks be more involved. Getting involved with the Missions, Care, or Property Care teams is a great way to get to know others and do good in the world!

*Pastor G*



We are off to a good start in our Together We Can Capital Campaign with over \$125,000 received, approved, and pledged which is 58% of our goal, and we've still not heard from most of you.

Please consider giving what you can whenever you can even if you don't feel you can commit to a pledge. One-time gifts or just giving a little when you are able will make a difference. Just \$25/week through October, November, and December would be \$325 which with the matching grant would become \$650.

Pledging obviously gives us a better forecast, though. Pledging and giving \$100/month from October 2024 through December 2026 becomes \$2700 and with the matching grant becomes \$3000. Every little bit really does help! You can also start your pledge in the future. Some have said they can't commit anything this year but could for 2025 and 2026. You can indicate that on your pledge form.

Thanks so much for your support so far. Together We Can accomplish this!

In His service,

Eugene O'Bryan, Chairperson  
Together We Can Capital Campaign  
Home: 602-788-0742  
Cell: 602-363-4115



**The Prayer Team would like for you to join us in prayer from Labor Day to Election Day.**

We want to be in prayer for Cross in the Desert UMC supporting our staff, capitol campaign, volunteers and groups.

We want to be in prayer for our country so we can make wise choices in the November elections from President down to our local school boards. Maybe you know someone running for office. As Christians we need to be a catalyst to bring dialog back to our communities.

Questions ask Ray Roop or Mary Ann Crist





## Church Conference October 20 at 3:30 pm

Please plan to attend and have your voice heard. We will celebrate what has happened this past year in the life of Cross in the Desert and look forward to the year to come.

## Dinner and Dialogue—October 24 at 6:00 pm



Join us for an engaging "Dinner and Dialogue" evening at Cross in the Desert UMC on October 24, 2024, at 6:00 PM. This free event includes a delicious dinner and a thought-provoking dialogue. Watch for more information about the topic and presenter

## It's Baby Layette Time!

Would you like to help with baby layettes? From now until **October 20th** we are collecting items to put together layettes for the newborns of needy mothers. The layettes will be taken to local hospitals where they will be distributed. Monetary donations are appreciated if you prefer not to shop. See Jeannine Diller with any questions, or to donate.

### Needed Items—3 month size

Sleepers with feet

Onesies (both short and long sleeved)

Flannel Baby Blankets

Diapers (#1 up to 14 lbs. or newborn)





# Prayer Corner

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

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

**MATT. 14:3-4** For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. For John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

John was thrown into prison and ultimately beheaded because he said something Herod didn't like. Would we be that brave today? Or are we afraid to speak the truth so as not to offend anyone or are we so weak that we bow to political correctness?

Granted, our culture has changed a great deal since John's time. It's changed a great deal in our own lifetime. Think of all the things that have changed in the last 100 years or 50 years or even 25 years.

But, there is one thing that never changes. - **GOD** - God's word is as true now as it was in John's time. God declared universal values to the world and He desires all people to follow them.

In the Scriptures there are 7 issues that God says are important and therefore since they are important to him then they best be important to us. Although, there is probably something here to offend everyone, here we go - Sanctity of Life; Sexual values; Holiness of marriage; Caring for the poor/need; Religious liberty; Strangers in the land; Creation-care - being good stewards. So, what do you think? Are these just political issues for Christians to avoid? Will Christians be crashing the party to speak the truth about these issues?

All of the above were first God's issues that have been politicized. God wants us to talk about them. He wants us to share his values whether we are asked to or not. Don't be afraid to speak the truth. And if we aren't sure what that truth is - that's okay - it's right in that dusty book on your shelf called the Bible. Just pick it up, look at the little concordance in the back and we can get God's answer to everything.

With our National Election quickly approaching, following is a little something John Wesley had to say about politics and elections. Putting it in context, in Wesley's time only 1 in 10 men could vote and certainly no women but the quote is still meaningful today:

*October 6, 1774: I met those of our society who have votes in the ensuing election, and advised them*

- 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy*
- 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and*
- 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.*

Can you imagine how pleasant elections would be, if we all followed Wesley's advice?

Oh, glorious and gracious God, we need your guidance and wisdom. Our country and its people are hurting and scared. Help us to take seriously what you take seriously. Help us to put personal feelings aside and follow you in all things. May we be strong and speak the truth according to your word. Oh, mighty God, bless America. Amen.

### East District Prayer Focus for October

Song of Life UMC—Queen Creek

Rev. Sylvia Harris

Spirit of Joy UMC—Coolidge

Pastor Tracy Perry

St. Matthew UMC—Mesa

Rev. Joel Bullock



United  
Women  
in Faith

## October Meetings of UWFaith

October 3	Leadership Team	3:00 pm
October 5	East District UWFaith Annual Celebration North Scottsdale UMC, 11735 N. Scottsdale Rd	8:30 am
October 10	Mary Martha Circle	4:00 pm
October 12	Unit Meeting @ The Joy Bus Diner	9:00 am
October 15	Devotions & Dinner Hula's Modern Tiki, 5450 E. High St #101	6:30 pm
October 17	Bookworms United (on Zoom) Book: <i>Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites Us into the Sacred</i> by Robin Wall Kimmerer	10:00 am
October 24	UWFaith Outreach Meeting in Fellowship Hall to assemble layettes	11:30 am

**Our next unit meeting is Saturday, October 12. We will be going to the Joy Bus Diner, which is a nonprofit restaurant that provides meals to homebound cancer patients at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast. It is located at 3375 E. Shea. After we have breakfast, we will then bring some of their large lunch bags back to the church to decorate as a group project.**



**October 26, 2024  
UWFaith Conference Annual Celebration  
St. Mark's UMC, Tucson**

Join us for a Celebration of Food, Faith and Fellowship! The United Women in Faith Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration will be on October 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Magee Campus, Tucson, AZ. We are planning a great celebration and are grateful to St. Mark's for hosting us.

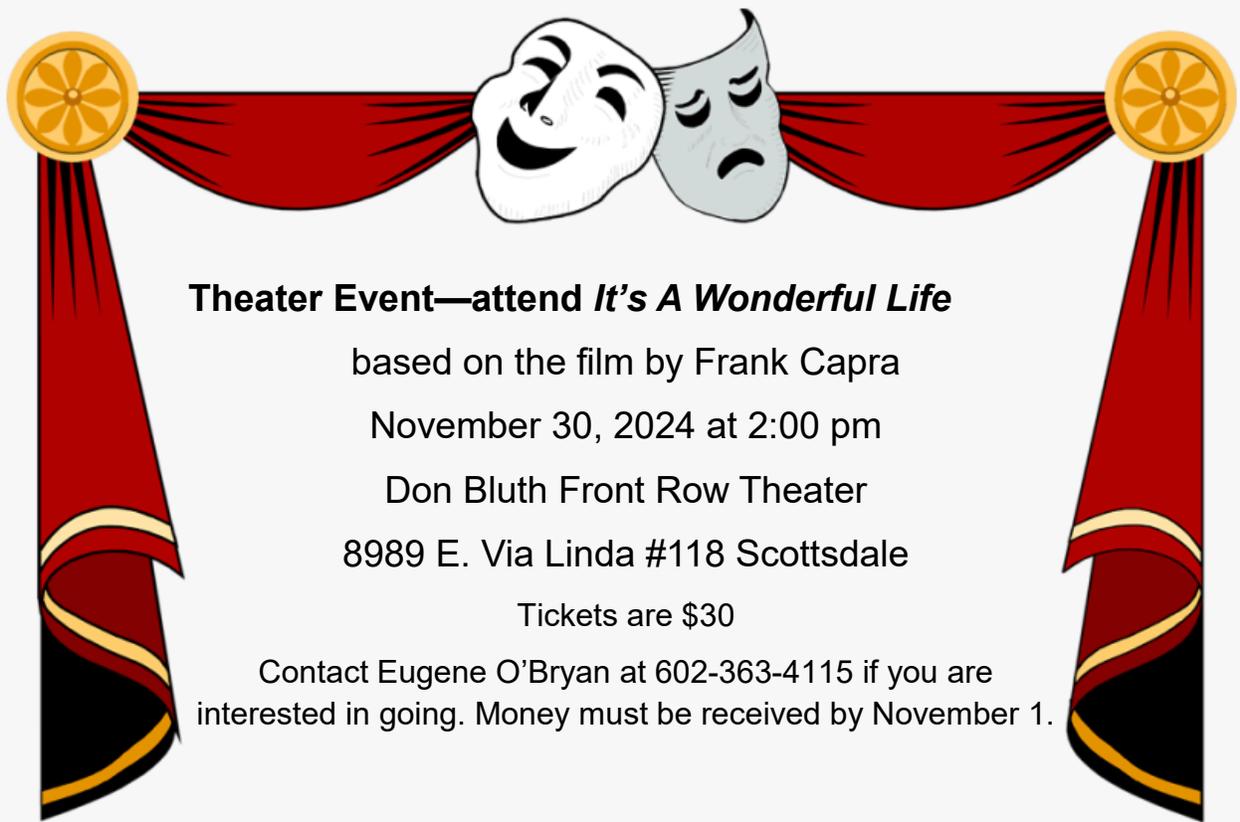
Our guest speaker will be Rev. Jamie Booth who will be talking about how churches can become involved in their community. Our mission project for the food bank will be breakfast foods. Think of things like shelf-stable milk, breakfast bars, dried fruit besides cereal.

Registration is now open. Registration form - [United Women in Faith Annual Celebration at St. Mark's UMC - Magee Campus, October 26, 2024.](#)



**FOOD WITH FRIENDS is back!**  
**Saturday October 19th**  
**At 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**

It's time to get together again for a meal and fellowship!  
Bring a favorite dish to share and your own table service.  
Just a reminder that childcare is not available.  
Any questions? Please contact Rhonda Mortenson.



**Theater Event—attend *It's A Wonderful Life***

based on the film by Frank Capra

November 30, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Don Bluth Front Row Theater

8989 E. Via Linda #118 Scottsdale

Tickets are \$30

Contact Eugene O'Bryan at 602-363-4115 if you are interested in going. Money must be received by November 1.

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.



# MISSIONS

## October 13 is Gift Card Sunday

The Missions Team 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. While there are approximately 20 different brands in stock, listed below are some of the merchants who provide greater rebate percentages. If you like to shop or eat at these establishments, please consider stopping by the Missions table on October 13.



Merchant	Percent Earned by CITD
Bath & Body Works	12%
Macy's	10%
Outback Steakhouse	10%
Longhorn Steakhouse	8%
Olive Garden	8%
Panera Bread	8%
Red Lobster	8%

**LIFE LINE SCREENING**  
*The Power of Prevention*

### You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

**Where:** Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church  
**When:** Friday, October 11th

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

Trusted by over 10 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend:** Anyone over the age of 40

**Special Pricing for \$159**

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening    • Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening    • Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Plus a FREE Hypertension Screening

**4 ways to book your appointment...**

Scan here:

Call 888-814-0466  
and use promo  
code: HSCA001

Visit  
LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA

Text the word  
"circle" to  
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.  
Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

## Life Line Screening Friday, October 11

### Blood Drive - Saturday, November 9

Vitalant will have their mobile blood donation unit parked at CITD from 8 am until noon on November 9. If you or someone you know would be willing to give the gift of life, please put this date on your calendar.





Apportionment giving is based upon the desire to meet the needs of God's family NOT just in our neighborhoods, but around the world. Apportionments are also based on our need to give in order to be spiritually healthy, complete children of God.

We send the Apportionment funds out of our blessing that Christ might be known in transformative ways. Apportionments provide avenues for giving so that we can be strong local

churches & annual conferences and a strong connection throughout the world as we seek to be in mission and ministry together. The funds demonstrate our connectedness to one another, to God and to the body of Christ.

Apportionments are the way that congregations are connected to the conference and the world. Apportionments are used to fund the global mission and witness of our church, to help provide the necessary structure to respond in moments of crisis locally, nationally, internationally, and to develop and nurture the leaders we need today and tomorrow.

The basic idea behind apportionments is that local congregations send some of the money they collect to accomplish things that are either beyond their ability to do as individual congregations or that can be done more effectively or efficiently together. Apportionments allow the church to produce goods and services funded by all for the benefit of all – collective goods.

Apportionments denote an understanding that the purpose of the church is not just to care for its own members but also to reach out beyond itself to engage with the world, to minister to the world, to be in mission to the world.

**Apportionments are not to be considered “special gifts,” but rather, they are similar to our tithes that we give to our local church.**

Connectional Giving demonstrates our connectedness to one another, to God and to the body of Christ. The connections of the church are more than institutions; the connections are the means God uses to convey grace to the world. It is one of the founding ideas that the United Methodist Church was built upon. Participating in connectional giving helps us to be in mission with people and congregations around the world - giving every church, regardless of size, a larger mission footprint.

When we give, we have the power and potential of a scale of impact that no single church could have on its own.

**Apportionments allow us to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.**

With over 12 million members working in 136 countries, The United Methodist Church's global reach is made possible through these 7 funds: [World Service Fund](#), [Episcopal Fund](#), [Ministerial Education Fund](#), [Black College Funds](#), [General Administration Fund](#), [Africa University Fund](#) and [Interdenominational Cooperation Fund](#).

[The Advance for Christ and His Church](#) (The Advance) is the United Methodist program for designated mission giving and serves as the leading conduit that allows churches, individuals and organizations to support missionaries and projects throughout the world in order to strengthen and sustain one another.

*excerpt from a story by Anne Maria Gerhardt, Director of Communications, [Northern Illinois Annual Conference](#)*

United Methodist Church Giving is about people working together to accomplish something bigger than themselves. In so doing, we effect change around the world, all in the name of Jesus Christ. To read stories about the generosity of United Methodists click [here](#).

# Desert Southwest Conference News

## How would John Wesley vote?

by [DSC Communications](#) | Sep 25, 2024 | [Conference Newsletter](#)

[The United Methodist Board of Church and Society](#) isn't trying to tell you who to vote for, but the folks there definitely want you to think it over carefully, with the help of information they are providing about United Methodist values.

On Nov. 5, Americans will elect a president, as well as some members of Congress and state legislatures, governors in 11 states and judgeships. There also are ballot measures to consider.

“(Church and Society’s) mission is not to take positions on any election,” said [the Rev. Kendal L. McBroom](#), director of civil and human rights at the denomination’s advocacy agency. “United Methodists are more than welcome to become better acquainted with the [Social Principles](#) and juxtapose those with the campaign platforms.

“Individuals (should) make their vote from their conscience and faith, holding to the fact their votes are, in fact, sacred.”

The board released its [Voter Toolkit: “Sacred Votes — A Guide to Election Participation, Justice and Social Transformation”](#) on Sept. 4, with tips on how United Methodists can do their civic duty in line with the denomination’s priorities as set forth in its Social Principles. The toolkit was compiled by Church and Society, the [Baltimore-Washington Conference](#) and [United Methodist Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century](#)

John Wesley, Methodism’s founder, spoke out against the exploitation of poor people, slavery and other abuses. While the Social Principles are not church law, they are intended to represent “the prayerful and earnest efforts of the General Conference to speak to issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation that is in keeping with the best of our United Methodist traditions,” according to the preface in the document adopted by the 2024 General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

“We share the stances that the church has voted on and adapted — be that criminal justice, reparations, education reform, civic engagement and all of those things,” McBroom said.

Other issues addressed include urging the government to effectively tackle poverty, climate change, physical and mental health care, addiction, war and promotion of civil and human rights.

It is illegal under IRS rules for the church to endorse specific candidates.

Full article available <https://dscumc.org/blog/2024/09/25/how-would-john-wesley-vote/>

### Conference Contacts

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**Director of Communications**  
(Assistance with technology)

Christina Dillabough

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### **Cross in the Desert UMC Staff**

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Kevin Joy

**Music Director**  
Thomas Hartwell

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