



The Oasis

June 2025

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

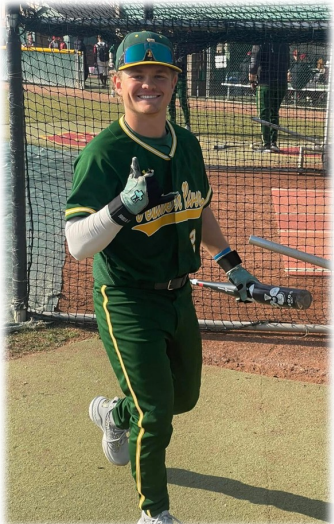
Congratulations to the Class of 2025



Virginia Sharp
Northwest Christian School
Great Granddaughter of Nancy Stein



Rylan Francis
Paradise Valley High School
Son of Aaron and Teresa Francis



Kolt Kurzman
Feather River College Quincy, CA
AA Degree
Grandson of Linda Lulkovich



Kat (Katie) Nelson
Horizon High School
Granddaughter of Lois Keel

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Pastor's Corner



Dear Beloved in Christ,

In a world often consumed by noise, division, and uncertainty, it's easy to lose sight of the simple yet profound message at the heart of our faith: love. Jesus's ministry was not just about preaching love; it was a living embodiment of love in action. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and embraced the outcast, demonstrating a radical compassion that challenged the norms of his time.

And what about our time? Aren't these physical, emotional, and spiritual needs still prevalent today? We see hunger not just in distant lands but in our own communities. We encounter loneliness and isolation in the digital age, even amidst constant connection. And we witness the pain of exclusion and prejudice affecting those around us.

Jesus's call to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34) is not a suggestion. It's a commandment. It's a call to engage with the world actively, see Christ's face in every person we meet, and extend compassion, especially to those who need it most.

As a church community, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Let us strive to live out His message of love and charity, not just in words but in deeds. Let us be a beacon of hope and healing in a world that desperately needs it.

I encourage you to reflect on how you can embody Christ's love this week. How can you provide comfort, support, and compassion to those around you?

Let us continue to pray for one another, to lift each other up in our struggles and joys. And let us not forget our commitment to live lives that reflect the love and compassion of Christ, lives that are worthy of the calling we have received.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Gina

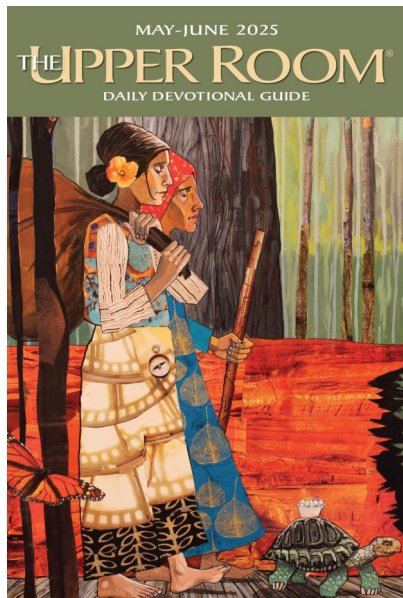


Tyler Joy	June 5
Nancy Stein	June 5
Rosalie Wagner	June 5
Tim Carlson	June 17



Wes & Wanda Picciotti	June 1
Jeff & Karen Bulkeley	June 5
Jeff & Linda Moore	June 8
Hank & Barb 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.



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.

New Lending Closet for Durable Medical Equipment Coming Soon

Have you noticed all the walkers, wheelchairs, etc. that seem to sprout up around our campus? Do you have similar equipment at your home that you no longer need? Have you or a loved one experienced a need for temporary use of some sort of medical equipment but didn't have what you needed?

To help our church members, as well as community members, a new lending closet is being set up to coordinate both the lending and receipt of donations of medical equipment. Maintaining a lending closet of medical equipment not only provides for unmet needs, but it helps care for our planet by giving new life to items that can be safely shared with others. Donated equipment should be clean and in good working condition. The following items are appropriate for donation:

Wheelchairs

Walkers

Canes

Crutches

Knee-rollers

Walking Boots

Shower Chairs

Toilet Risers

Other items may be accepted on a case-by-case basis

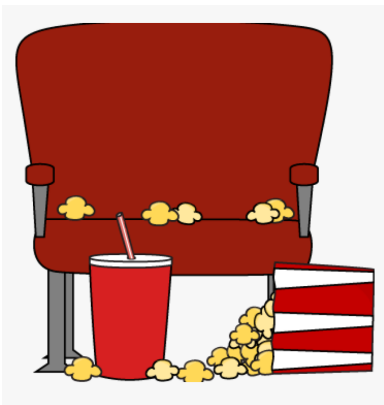
We ask that donations NOT be left at the church without approval of the lending closet coordinator. Each potential donation will be assessed to ensure it is clean, safe, and an item that is likely to be of use. The lending closet coordinator or designee will be available approximately once a quarter following worship to receive and assess potential donations. The first date for receiving donations will be June 22nd following worship. So, start checking your closet for items you have been planning to donate to the church and bring them on June 22nd.

By mid-June, Individuals may access the lending closet, located in the church office area, and check out needed items by completing the borrowers sheet found in the closet. When the borrower is finished with the item, they should return it to the lending closet to the designated return area. The coordinator will assess and clean each returned item to ensure it is ready for use again.

In addition to loaning equipment from the lending closet, wheelchairs will be staged in strategic locations around campus for use in emergencies. These wheelchairs will be identified as non-loaners and a staging area for them will be indicated with a small sign. Wheelchairs should remain in the designated locations and should not be moved unless needed for an emergency.

If you have questions about the lending closet, please contact Karen Bulkeley.

Summer Saturday Movies



Back by popular demand—Summer Saturday Movies. Mark your calendar to join us in the youth room (comfy couches) for fun and fellowship. Rhonda Mortenson would love to hear from you if you have a favorite movie suggestion!

June 28	3:30 pm
July 19	3:00 pm
August 16	3:00 pm
September 13	3:00 pm



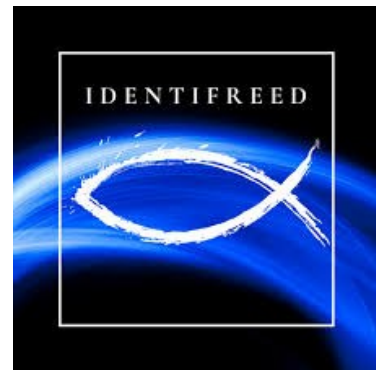
June 1 is Orange Bag Pickup Sunday

Be sure to pick up an orange bag to fill with groceries for the PV Food Bank.

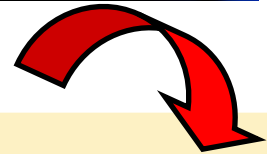
June 8 is Orange Bag Return Sunday

Bring your filled bag to church and place up by the altar. Your Missions Team will be delivering them to the Food Bank

Please place any donations of clothing or hygiene supplies in the labeled bin in the lobby of Fellowship Hall.



An opportunity to advocate for our community—don't miss it!



Kristin invites you! Postcards & Pancakes Party

- ✓We'll be writing postcards to our elected officials—whether with words of encouragement or calls to action—while enjoying fresh pancakes hot off the griddle.
- ✓All supplies provided.
- ✓Come hungry and ready to share your voice!



Prayer Corner

LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS -

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

The subject of prayer can be an endless topic for Christians desiring to grow in their relationship with the Lord. Entering into prayer is not just a matter of disciplining ourselves to pray on a regular basis. The Lord wants us to grow in our understanding of what it means to take time with him in prayer as we engage him seeking to understand what God wants of us and how he wants us to respond to him.

In the Gospel of Matthew we find the disciples asking Jesus, "Lord teach us to pray." Jesus responds by saying, "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you." (Matthew 6:5-6)

We are given the astonishing privilege of entering into the very throne room of God, to have an audience with the Great King; to enter free of fear into the inner sanctuary. In this room, "...we are raised up with Christ and seated with Him in the heavenly realms..." (Ephesians 2:6), and called to enter into the very presence of the Almighty God, the Creator of all that is, whose greatest and all-consuming desire is to love us without limits!

It is our choice to access and receive his gifts or refuse our greatest treasure and possession. He awaits his beloved in the secret chamber, in the exclusive closet. We make the decision whether to embrace him or to remain at a distance; to engage our King or to settle for less than he offers. Jesus makes a promise to those who open the door, "And your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:6). God himself is our great reward what could possibly be more important and worth the investment of our time?

WALK WORTHY

Almighty God, who sees and knows all that is done in secret, help us make it the priority to go alone into our closet and seek you. It is what our hearts and souls cry out for yet the flesh can be so distracted by the noise and busyness of the world. May we remember the First Commandment, You first, above all. For when we know that, all else will fall into place. All glory and honor and praise is yours, glorious God. In the awesome name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

East District Prayer Focus for June

Bishop Rapanut & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference

Chaplains, Counselors & Staff of the East District

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



Register on Eventbrite,
link in the Oasis or on
our Facebook page

Free to attend,
donations accepted.



Saturday
6.7.25
Self-care Soundbath
10am - 11am
Cross in the Desert

To enhance your experience,
bring your favorite pillow
and blanket.

Infuse these items with the
high vibes of our sound
healing session, creating a
cozy sanctuary where you
can fully relax and soak in
the healing energies.

New Series

Bible Study for the Busy

*No prep but your heart.
No homework but living the Word.*

Online Thursdays at
7:00pm

- First session is June 5th
- Register for or share the Zoom link found in the Oasis or on our Facebook events.
- Study is 7-8 pm with an optional half hour “parking lot” fellowship afterwards.

The graphic for the Bible Study for the Busy series features a calendar, a smartphone with notification icons, a clock, and an open Bible on a wooden surface.

Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest Conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 12-15, 2025. Please be in prayer for the conference and for our delegation—Pastor Gina Pollard, Romi Simons, and Rhonda Mortenson.

Pastor Gina will be commissioned as a Provisional Elder on Saturday, June 14th. The preliminary agenda shows the service scheduled for 7:00 pm Las Vegas time. You can visit the conference website at dscumc.org for live stream links.



AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME



United
Women
in Faith

June Meetings of UWFaith

June 5	UWF Leadership Team—Zoom	10:00 am
June 12	UWF Outreach—Fellowship Hall	10:30 am
June 17	Devotions & Dinner—Flamingo Palace 350 E. Bell Rd.	6:30 pm
June 19	Bookworms United - Zoom Book " <i>An Unfinished Love Story</i> " by Doris Kearns Goodwin	10:00 am



UWF Spring Tea



The UWF Spring Tea and Fundraiser was held on Sunday, May 18. The ladies were asked to bring teapots that had a story, and several ladies had fascinating stories to share about the history of their teapots. Teapots of all sizes and shapes adorned the tables. Some “getting to know you” games were played, and there were several ladies who wore a hat for the best hat competition. The prizes were flowers, and teapots! Kathie Hazen’s hat was judged to be the award winner.



Save the Dates: October 4, 2025 – East District Celebration, Payson UMC
October 25, 2025 – Conference Celebration, Willowbrook UMC, Sun City

MISSION U 2025



PRACTICING HOPE TOGETHER

July 17-19, 2025

Join us at Mission U as we learn about “*Practicing Hope Together*”. This theme will explore the hope that emerged within a small community of followers after the resurrection of Jesus that changed the world. Out of so much confusion and fear following the crucifixion of Jesus, grew a “Resurrection People” steeped in hope who began living out their faith in powerful ways.

How do we understand hope as followers of Christ? Is it merely optimism despite what we witness all around us or is it something deeper than that? This theme begins with the resurrection appearances of Jesus to explore how these people were changed and the actions that followed (Acts). What does it mean to be “resurrection people” in the 21st century, and what can we learn and apply to our own lives from the accounts of people who encountered Jesus after his resurrection? This study will explore what it means to have hope in God even when things seem to be falling apart.

The Adult Study is – Practicing Hope by Tabatha Holle – The curriculum will explore hope, particularly when hope seems hard to find. The curriculum asks questions such as: What is hope in the face of neofascism? What is hope in a time of genocide? How do we imagine a future for the next generation as our planet grows hotter by the season? What tools do we have to face these hard realities? How does Christ teach us to embody hope when our backs are against the wall?

This study’s purpose is to allow all of our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions (refugia), hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent (rest), and hope that is possible even when we transgress (repair).

Purchase your Book here: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11781&catid=2526>

Registration closes on July 11, 2025. Note: No late registrations can be accepted. NO refunds after the deadline, the registration may be transferred. Contact Lois Downin at homers210@cox.net to transfer registration.

SCHOLARSHIPS are available from both your District and Conference United Women in Faith. Please contact your treasurers for information and to apply.

Hotel Information

To get a Hotel Registration form: <https://dsc-reg.brapp.com/MissionUInPerson2025>. We have a reserved block of rooms at **Best Western, 6201 N. Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ 85704.**

Call the Hotel directly at: **(520) 297-8111** and mention **MISSION U** and request the first floor. There is a complimentary hot buffet breakfast and social hour.

Cost is: Standard 2 queen beds (max 4 people) **\$80.99** + tax. There are 2 ADA rooms with either a single king or single queen for the same rate. Cut off date to secure a room at this discounted rate is **6/17/2025**. After this date, the rooms will be released and you may have to pay a higher rate.

Reach Out to The Community

It's time to start watching for sales on school supplies. It's hard to believe that school starts in August. Please have your donations to the Wesley Center Supply Drive to the church by July 21st, and place in the labeled bins in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.



Wesley
Community & Health Center

BACK TO SCHOOL

Supply Drive

ITEMS NEEDED:

Backpacks, Pencils, Pencil Cases, Pens, Line Paper, Folders, Binders, Highlighters, Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils, Sharpeners, Glue, Glue Sticks, Erasers, Scissors, Rulers, Composition Books, Index Cards

***Hygiene :**
Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Hand Sanitizer, Kleenex

Golden Gate
1625 N. 39th Ave.
Phoenix AZ 85009
Call Maria Luz 602.518.7062

Collection Period
May 28th - July 21st

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Desert Southwest Conference

The United Methodist Church

HISTORICAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CULTURAL CAMPUS EXPANSION



AI-generated composite image. Not an actual photo of current site.

Phoenix, AZ—The Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church, Phoenix Art Museum, and Phoenix Theatre Company announce a landmark collaboration to embark on a 99-year lease of the existing Central United Methodist Church property located at 1875 North Central Avenue in Phoenix. The partnership, now entering its final negotiations, will ensure the preservation of the historic church property located adjacent to the shared cultural campus occupied by the Theatre Company and Museum while providing for an opportunity to expand parking availability for cultural patrons and to expand the historic cultural campus at the northeast corner of Central Avenue and McDowell Road. The long-term lease provides for the care of the church sanctuary to remain accessible to the community, and enables the Theatre Company and Museum to revitalize the property to expand cultural offerings in the region. The Conference, Theatre Company, and Museum have retained the services of Gensler to create a strategic vision for the future of the campus. The three organizations will communicate more extensive details regarding future plans for the campus in the coming months.

"The planned lease creates a foundation for generational impact, allowing for programming, performance, education, and public engagement that will uplift the spirits of creativity and inclusivity for decades to come," said Vincent VanVleet, executive director of Phoenix Theatre Company.

"This lease cements our collective vision for a vibrant, collaborative arts campus that not only honors the legacy of the space but also ignites new opportunities for creativity, accessibility and shared community. It's a rare and powerful moment to build something today that will serve generations tomorrow."

"This extraordinary partnership allows us to shape a cultural ecosystem where art, performance, and the city's spiritual heritage intersect. This collaboration represents and reflects our deep belief that collaboration is essential to sustaining and enriching the cultural fabric of Phoenix, while ensuring a meaningful and positive visitor experience and increasing access to visitors from across the county and beyond," said Jeremy Mikolajczak, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum.

The Central United Methodist Church has been a neighbor to the Phoenix Civic Center, the campus that includes Phoenix Theatre Company, Phoenix Art Museum, and previously, Central Library. The Civic Center was made possible through the donation of 6.5 acres located at Central and McDowell by Marie Bartlett Heard and Dwight B. Heard, who envisioned a civic center that would serve as the cultural heart of the growing city. Phoenix Theatre Company, originally Phoenix Little Theatre, was founded in 1920, and moved to its present location in 1924. The Phoenix Civic Center municipal cultural complex was first established in its current form in 1951 with the opening of Phoenix Theatre Company's mainstage theatre. Phoenix Art Museum completed construction and first opened on the site in 1959. The history of the Central United Methodist Church spans across three centuries. The first Protestant church in Phoenix, the congregation first met under mesquite trees along the Salt River, before moving to a building in 1904, an expanded campus near Downtown Phoenix in 1926, and finally to its present home since 1950. In 2024, the congregation concluded its service, following the official vote of closure by the Desert Southwest Annual Conference. Since that time, the Desert Southwest Conference has explored a new path forward to preserve the campus's rich heritage, and to utilize the campus to continue to enrich the lives of its community. The result of those efforts culminates in the announcement of this forthcoming partnership.

"This partnership is a reflection of what's possible when faith, arts, and community come together," said Rev. Rachel Gilmore, Director of New and Vital Faith for the Desert Southwest Conference. "It honors the legacy of Central United Methodist Church while reimagining its future as a sacred and creative gathering place for generations to come."

Conference Contacts

Bishop

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Conference Lay Leader

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East District Lay Leader

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(Assistance with technology)

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