



The Oasis

September 2024

Cross in the Desert UMC

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

Coming Soon – New Capital Campaign!

The Capital Campaign Committee is off and running with the creation of the theme and logo. We are excited to share with you **TOGETHER WE CAN**.

It is apparent that our church home needs some refreshment as well as remediation of some very costly items. Many of the issues are not visible but are costly to remediate and costly to the budget since we are supporting old technology. State-of-the-art improvements will result in savings.

We are excited to step up to **refresh, restore, and remediate** our church home so we can recreate a beautiful, welcoming environment of peace that we all seek in our place of worship. We are looking forward to sharing more information about the campaign in service with you later this month. Please be thinking of ways you can participate with your time, talents, and treasures.

TOGETHER WE CAN...

Yes, we can!

The opportunities are endless.

In His service,

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



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Pastor's Corner



Dear Beloved Community,

As the election season draws nearer, it's not uncommon for emotions to run high, worries to surface, and anxieties to multiply. Amid this challenging time, I am writing to remind you of the steadfast foundations of our faith, which call us to uphold a spirit of sanity, peace, and unwavering trust in God's plan.

During such times of heightened tension, we must be particularly mindful of the fruits of the Spirit, as outlined in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These virtues serve as a divine compass, guiding us through the stormy seas of political discourse and societal division.

Love compels us to see beyond our differences and recognize the inherent dignity in every person. Joy anchors us in the profound assurance that God reigns, no matter the outcomes of worldly events. Peace surpasses our understanding and guards our hearts and minds, enabling us to be beacons of calm and assurance in turbulent times.

Patience encourages us to listen actively and engage in constructive dialogues. Kindness and goodness prompt us to act with empathy and integrity, offering a hand of friendship to those who may think differently. Faithfulness reminds us to trust in God's sovereignty, ensuring that our actions and words reflect our deep trust in His provision.

Gentleness steers us away from harsh rhetoric, striving instead to understand and embrace others with a tender heart. Lastly, self-control empowers us to manage our reactions, fostering environments where meaningful and respectful discussions can thrive.

Beyond these personal virtues, we are also called to embody the principles of justice, mercy, and humility, as proclaimed in Micah 6:8: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." These principles are paramount as we navigate the complexities of the electoral process.

Justice calls us to advocate for fairness and integrity, uplifting the marginalized and giving voice to the voiceless. Mercy requires us to extend grace and understanding, even to those we strongly disagree with. Humility reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God, and our actions should reflect a Christ-like demeanor, recognizing our own limitations and the vastness of God's wisdom.

As your pastor, I encourage you to stay rooted in these spiritual fruits and principles. Let us be known as a community that exemplifies love, cultivates peace, practices patience, operates in kindness, commits to goodness, remains faithful, expresses gentleness, and exercises self-control. Let us also be advocates for justice, champions of mercy, and humble followers of Christ, trusting in God's guidance as we approach this crucial time.

In grace and peace,

Pastor G



Becky Bussey	September 1
Cindy Tigges	September 2
Jane Fricker	September 3
Allison Goodwin	September 6
Hannah Falknor	September 9
Ellen Odart	September 10
Jack Smith	September 12
Tom Falknor	September 13
Lois Keel	September 30

September 29th is T-shirt Sunday!

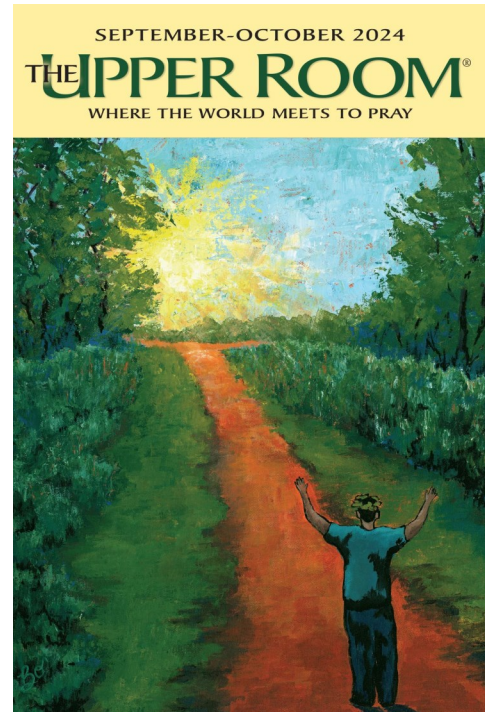
Let's have some fun. On Sunday September 29th, wear a T-shirt to church. It can be your favorite team, your favorite school, or cause. This will be a great way to get to know each other better!



Jonathan & Heather Foster

September 4

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.

Dinner and Dialogue—September 26 at 6:00 pm



Join us for an engaging "Dinner and Dialogue" evening at Cross in the Desert UMC on September 26, 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

CARE MINISTRY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 28, 9:00AM-NOON

Please join us in Fellowship Hall to discuss how best to serve and care for those in our congregation and neighborhood. This meeting is open to all who have been, or are interested in, taking care of our congregation, community and creation. Please contact Rhonda Mortenson with any questions.



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



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.

Saturday Afternoon at the Movies

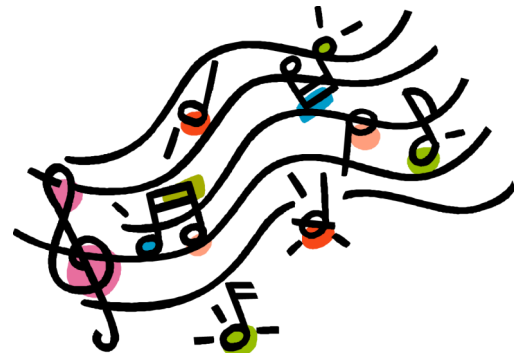


Join us on September 21st at 3:00 pm as we enjoy a family friendly movie, complete with popcorn and snacks. We will meet in the youth room with surround sound and comfy couches! Don't miss this opportunity for fun and fellowship.



One Flock

One Flock Choir rehearsals have resumed. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the choir room. Please contact Thomas Hartwell if you are interested in singing with the group!



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....

"And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating what he had done." Genesis 2:3

It's Labor Day! Hard to believe the last official day of the summer season is here. For many Americans it is a day off from work, a chance to cook-out and hang-out.

A day off from labor was not a new concept when President Cleveland signed a bill into law designating the first Monday in September "Labor Day" in 1894. As we Judeo-Christians know, this concept of a day of rest was first declared by God. God showed us by resting the seventh day after creating the world and He deemed the day of rest holy. He didn't call it Labor Day - He called it the Sabbath.

Sabbath is not a day of tribute to workers, it's a day of tribute to their Maker. It's a day to rest our body while renewing our mind by making the focus of the day our Maker and our relationship with Him. The Sabbath should put our focus on the opportunity to meet with God.

What does your Sabbath typically look like? Are you truly focused on God, beyond perhaps an hour or so of worship at church?

We are created in God's image and he modeled for us a way of life that makes sense for how we are created. At the end of each day, stop. Refresh yourself by taking time to think a bit about your day and to notice where God was in it and where you were blessed. And after six days, take a whole day off and spend it pausing and reflecting on how really great and good God is. God gives us seven days a week, we can give him at least one.

Dear Lord, we want to honor You by practicing Sabbath rest. Show us how to live this way. Meet each one of us in our time of contemplation, reflection and worship. In Jesus mighty and sacred name we pray, Amen.

Elizabeth Weir, S.D.

East District Prayer Focus for September

North Scottsdale UMC—Scottsdale
Rev. Christopher Wurpts
Rev. Leah Bergstrom

Paradise Valley UMC—Paradise Valley
Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester
Rev. Loye Ashton

Payson UMC - Payson
Rev. Linda Larsen





United
Women
in Faith

September Meetings of UWFaith

September 5	Leadership Team	3:00 pm	Zoom
September 12	Mary Martha Circle	4:00 pm	
September 17	Devotions & Dinner	6:30 pm	
	The Tamale Store, 15842 N. Cave Creek		
September 19	Bookworms United	10:00 am	Zoom
	Book: <i>State of Terror</i> by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny		
September 26	UWFaith Outreach	11:30 am	Fellowship Hall

UWFaith - book of the month

Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World, by Vivek H Murthy, MD

Dr. Murthy argues that loneliness is the underpinning to the current crisis in mental wellness and is responsible for the upsurge in suicide, the opioid epidemic, and the overuse of psychiatric medications. The 19th Surgeon General will address the importance of community and connection and offer practical solutions to this overlooked epidemic. (from Goodreads)

This book is available at the Phoenix Public Library.

UWFaith East District Annual Celebration

October 5, 2024 at North
Scottsdale UMC

Registration Forms will be
available soon!

East District

United Women in Faith
Want to:

"Spice It Up"!

We are asking the
women attending the
Annual Celebration on
October 5th at
N. Scottsdale UMC
for donations of spices.

These spices will be donated to
the food pantry at 1st Mesa
UMC. The Donation Box will be
at N. Scottsdale UMC.

Contact: Toni Kirch with any
questions at 602-677-5702!

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.](#)

Please note that there are some rooms reserved at the Best Western on 6201 North Oracle Road, Tucson (Phone 520-297-8111). Rooms have to be reserved by September 24, 2024, and there is a limited number of rooms with two queens. The rate for UWFaith is \$79 plus tax.

Lots of fun stuff coming—Mark your Calendar!



Stone Creek Golf Club Hosts Lura Turner Homes' 29th Golf Tourney

Lura Turner Homes' 29th 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.

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 17th.

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



Sunday October 13 3:00-5:00 pm

Invite all your friends and neighbors



Pet adoption event—come and find a new friend!



Visit Nicole's table to get homemade goodies for your fur baby! She offers a wide variety of treats and takes orders for custom cakes.

Visit Jessica's table to find out how to get a custom portrait of your pet.



Visit the Rainbow Bridge Memory Table

Enjoy a treat from Yahweh Ice!



MISSIONS

September 8 is Gift Card Sunday

The Missions Team continues to sell gift cards during fellowship time on the second Sunday of every month. Our next sale date is September 8. 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. We are also part of 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.



Remember that the shopping cart in the church lobby is for your non-perishable donations to the Paradise Valley Community Food Bank. Pick up a couple of items the next time you are shopping! Let's fill it up!



A **BIG** thank you to everyone who donated money to our Sahuaro Elementary tee shirt drive. We collected a total of \$1,259, which will provide 105 tee shirts in 3-4 classrooms. Your generosity is so appreciated!

Life Line Screening - Friday, October 11



There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions. These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor. We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site Friday, October 11, 2024, at Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church to conduct these valuable screenings. These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/Hc>.

See the Life Line Flyer on page 10

Blood Drive - Saturday, November 9



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

Prayer to Support Our Mission Partner in the Czech Republic

By Ray Roop

Pastor Mel introduced us to the Litoměřice UMC some years ago. We have been supporting them with \$1,000/year in recent years. They are helping Ukrainian refugees as part of their ministry.

The church was founded in 1921 after three days peaching in the YMCA. In 1923 they bought a house which used to be a liquor pub to be used as a church. The opening service was based on 2COR 6:16, "For we are a temple of the living God," and the members of Litoměřice UMC try to fulfill this. Besides worship services there are home groups, sport events for kids and teen agers, and local mission work with a maternity center, kindergarten and prison. The preacher is Filip Jandovsky.

Please lift up the congregation for continued inspiration and blessing in their worship and outreach programs.

Thanks to Karen Mischik for supplying the information on Litoměřice UMC.



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
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease 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.

Desert Southwest Conference News

PRAYER VIGILS FOR PEACE



As a show of Christian Unity and a plea for Peace during the election season, seven Christian denominations in Arizona are teaming up for a series of three prayer services.

We invite and encourage all to attend these services and to promote peace throughout this season. .

Vigils

September 9: Faith Over Fear 4:45 pm	Our Lady of the Angels Church (5802 E Lincoln Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253) Located in the Franciscan Renewal Center
October 14: Harden Not Our Hearts 6:00 pm	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (1200 N Campbell, Tucson, AZ)
November 4: Loving Our Neighbor 12:00 pm	Sun City Christian Church (9745 Palmeras Dr., Sun City, AZ)

Hosted by:

The Rev. Dr. Jay R. Hartley, Regional Minister and President
[Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) in Arizona](#)

The Rev. Deborah K. Hutterer, Bishop
[Grand Canyon Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)

The Rev. Dr. Brad Munroe, Pastor to the Presbytery
[Grand Canyon and de Cristo presbyteries](#)

The Right Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall, Episcopal Bishop
[Episcopal Diocese of Arizona](#)

The Most Rev. John P. Dolan, Bishop
[Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix](#)

Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut
[Desert Southwest Conference, United Methodist Church](#)

Rev. Dr. Toni Hawkins, Conference Minister
[Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ](#)

Conference Contacts

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Carlo A. Rapanut

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Conference Lay Leader

Alberta Farnsworth

East District Superintendent

Melissa Rynders

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East District Lay Leader

Trinity Donovan

Director of Communications
(Assistance with technology)

Christina Dillabough

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