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FROM THE PASTOR: "CHRISTMAS EVE PLANS"

This year our entire Christmas Eve offering will go to help rebuild the Zion United Methodist Church in North Las Vegas. Zion U.M.C.

burned to the ground in the middle of the night on June 6, 2017. No cause has been determined at this time, but it seems suspicious when a church burns in the middle of the night. We have a connection to Zion U.M.C. since it is part of our Annual Conference.

Rev. Linda Stanley was appointed to start serving the church on July 1st and it burned down three weeks before she arrived. It also burned down as they were close to celebrating 100 years of ministry. The church is insured but the insurance policy will not fully cover the cost of replacing the building and all the contents.

In November the Administrative Council voted to select Zion U.M.C. for our Christmas Eve offering. Bishop Hoshibata announced our plans to help them during their worship service on Nov. 19th in which they celebrated 100 years in ministry to North Las Vegas. We hope to raise at least \$35,000 with our Christmas Eve offering. I hope you will join us in sending a message to Zion U.M.C. that hope is alive for them to rebuild from the ashes.

We encourage you to not only join us for worship on Christmas Eve, but to invite a friend to come with you. This year since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday we will combine all morning worship services into one 9:30am service. We will hold

three Christmas Eve Services that night. So our schedule on Christmas Eve day will be:

- ✝ 9:30am – Morning Worship
- ✝ 3:00pm – Family Christmas Eve
- ✝ 6:00pm – Christmas Eve with Choir
- ✝ 8:00pm – Christmas Eve with Choir

All evening worship services will include candlelight. I will see you on Sunday.

Grace and peace,

Fred



ADVENT SERMON SERIES

- ✝ Dec. 3 – That Was Your Doing?
- ✝ Dec. 10 – Heart of Joy
- ✝ Dec. 17 – When the Loss is Too Great
- ✝ Dec. 24 – It Is Time



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by Katharine Keller

"Our Mission is to grow disciples of Jesus Christ by studying and living the Word."

SIDEWALK SEASON BEGINS

by Barb Hopkins for Ken Hopkins, Director



Sidewalk Ministry began its new season on October 28th at Avalon Elementary School with 32 children guided by 10 adult Shepherds. The children,

ages 5-17, are picked up at their home around 9:15 by the church bus or van, delivered to the school grounds and taken home by noon.

On our first day together we gave a special "Hoorah" for Miss Sherry, thanking her for her past leadership. We are grateful for her guidance and continued involvement with this ministry. God has blessed the Sidewalk Ministry with many faithful volunteers who return year after year. Thanks to all!



The children recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lord's Prayer and the Christian Prayer at every gathering. An offering is always taken, the children have a lesson, then get a chance to put their prayers, praises and/or thanks in the "God Box"; and there is always lunch. We ask for your continued prayers with this ministry and welcome any new Shepherds who would like to make a difference in these children's lives. We meet, generally, three Saturdays a month. We encourage guest speakers, Christian performers and new ideas to enhance fellowship and expand horizons for these kids.

If you can volunteer in this ministry one Saturday a month from 9:00am—12:30pm, please contact me, Ken Hopkins, at (850)217-0594 / khop149612@yahoo.com, or Nancy Denman at (480)487-8601. All volunteers must undergo a background check.



PIONEER CLUB

...enjoyed some pumpkin carving and getting "ghoulish" this October!



"THE STAR" MOVIE



As of November 17th "The Star: The Story of the First Christmas" Movie is showing at local theaters. The Christmas story comes alive through Bo the Donkey and his friends. Find out how a donkey, a sheep, a dove and three wisecracking camels become unlikely heroes in the greatest story ever told. Kids will love the humor. Parents will appreciate the story. Everybody will love seeing the truth of God's Son coming to earth. Go online to watch the trailer – looks really good. And what a great way to start off the Christmas season! If you haven't seen it yet, make plans with your family to go.

BREAKFAST AT THE MANGER!



Saturday, December 2nd, from 9:30 – 11:00 we are serving French toast breakfast, there will be a short carol sing, a simple craft, the retelling of the Christmas story and sleigh rides! This is for the whole family, so

adults, please sign up with your children ASAP. Great way to begin the Advent season. If you have any questions, please contact Katharine Keller in the church office.

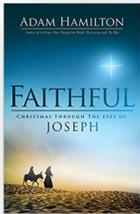
Confirmation

Confirmation is a 13-week course for youth 7th grade and older who wish not only to learn some of the fundamentals of our faith and Methodist heritage, but also become members of Gold Canyon United Methodist Church at the conclusion of the course. These classes begin in January and will meet on Sunday afternoons from 5:30-6:30 before youth group. Please let Katharine Keller know whether your youth will be participating as soon as possible so that enough materials can be purchased. At this point we have four interested individuals.

Kidz
Kanyon

*Be sure to check out the **Kidz Kanyon** Facebook page that highlights our GCUMC Children's Program and learn about upcoming events!*

UPCOMING ADVENT STUDY



During Advent 2017, we will study "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph" using video and discussion. We will consider who Joseph was as a village carpenter, the paternity question, raising a child not your own, and the journey to Bethlehem. There are two opportunities to be part of this study. It will be offered at 9:30 Sunday mornings during The Table Adult Ed sessions, beginning November 26 in the Esther Room of the Missions Center. If that does not work for you, we hope you will plan to come on Tuesday afternoons from 1-2 pm, also meeting in the Esther Room of the Missions Center. If you cannot attend this study, you might consider ordering the book, "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph," by Adam Hamilton.



ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS/READERS NEEDED



If you would like to light the Advent wreath during Advent as well as Christmas Eve Day, please contact Katharine Keller in the church office. We need readers now for Dec. 10, 17, 9:30 am on Christmas Eve morning and then at the 3, 6, and 8 pm Christmas Eve services. (Dec. 3rd is covered) A script will be provided the week you are assisting. Just a reminder, a small group may light the wreath, a family or even a couple of singles together – we invite all "configurations" of family to volunteer. Thank you in advance.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



On Wed., 12/6 at 7:00pm, we will hold a Remembrance Service in the Sanctuary. This is a service to remember loved ones who have passed away in the last year. Please call the Church Office to register the names of those to be remembered and your name (in case we need to verify spelling). Along with Scripture readings, hymns and prayers, we will be lighting candles for those who have gone before us. If you have any questions, please contact Katharine Keller in the Church Office.

CHURCH LADIES TAKE A HIKE!

Hiking South Mountain this time on the Pyramid Trail ...



... with brunch afterwards at Morning Glory Café.



WOMEN'S ONE-DAY WINTER RETREAT



Are you in need of a day at the beach? A day to slow down, wiggle your toes in the sand, and just bask in the warmth of the sun?

Every woman longs for a day like this – even those who live hundreds of miles from the nearest coastline!

Seaside Escape is a retreat where we women will slow down and enjoy time with other women and with God. It's an in-depth Bible study, a worship experience and an open invitation for us to draw closer together, to be still in God's presence, and to sun ourselves in His love.

Our one-day retreat is Sat., 2/10 from 8:30am–3:30pm and this year we'll be gathering in the Koinonia Room for the day. Because we are "in-house," it will mean savings for you – only \$50 for materials, continental breakfast and a salad lunch! If you register with full payment before January 7th, you will receive a free CD of the Seaside Escape music. *(A bonus is that you can hear and learn our worship songs before the retreat!)*

There are many ways you can register: online through the church's website, the Registration Form on page 15 of this newsletter or in the Lobbies of either church building. Come join us for this time away and be refreshed in the process! Bring a friend and if you can, sponsor another participant. Contact Katharine Keller in the Church Office if you have questions.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2017



Thank you to the many helpers and people who donated items for this successful community-wide event!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



Janice Andreyka

Barbara Brown

Alicia Crowther

Marcy Hamstad

POSTAGE WITH A PURPOSE



Christ or "cute"? Each year the US Postal Service issues a distinctly Christian stamp. . These stamps could be considered miniature **Christmas** cards, but many other choices (*snowmen, poinsettias, gingerbread houses, Santa & Rudolph*) are also available. Sometimes the "cute factor" captures us and determines our choices. Is this a harmless thing or a serious "vote"?

If Christians don't choose the Christian Christmas stamp, will the Post Office still print them? The law of supply and demand says that our patronage matters. A person may not need that many Christmas postage stamps, but why not buy double what you'll use in December and use them throughout the year on bills and other non-personal mailings? The small things like the stamps we choose can be part of our witness to the world. By buying Christian Christmas stamps, we are voting for present and future issues of postage that reflects the true meaning of Christmas and helps keep Christ in the holiday with His name.





GCUMC Youth Group News

By Beth Steinberg, Youth Director



We had 22 teens who helped with the Harvest Festival. A BIG thank you to all of the youth who made this event so successful... You are the best!



WINTER RETREAT FEBRUARY 9—11, 2018!

7th-12- Grades: Winter Retreat Feb. 9-11, 2018 at UCYC Camp in Prescott, AZ. Live band, worship, games, speakers, break-out sessions, free time and fun! Come join other church youth groups for a great weekend!

Cost: \$150 Deposit of \$50 due now if youth want to attend!

*** DECEMBER EVENTS ***

- ✝ Serving lunch at the Genesis Project in AJ
- ✝ A fun night of Christmas caroling
- ✝ Annual Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange
- ✝ Preparing for the puppet show on Christmas Eve

Have a very Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Blessings... *Beth*

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY CLASS

(7th—12th Grades)

Sundays at 9:30am
in the Education Bldg.

Creative Bible lessons & discussions!

YOUTH GROUP

(7th—12th Grades)

Sundays 6:30pm—8:30pm
in the Education Bldg.

*Fun, faith-based programs
and fellowship!*

YOUTH CALENDAR — DECEMBER 2017

Sun., 12/3	Puppet Show Rehearsal YOUTH GROUP	5:30pm Sanctuary 6:30pm—8:30pm (Educ. Bldg.)
Sat., 12/9	GENESIS PROJECT 564 N. Idaho Rd., #5 (Serve a meal to the needy)	10:15am Meet at Church OR 10:30am Meet at Genesis 2:30pm Approximate return
Sun., 12/10	NO Puppet Rehearsal YOUTH GROUP CAROLING to SHUT-INS (Meet at church; taking church van/bus)	5:30pm—7:45pm
Sun., 12/17	Puppet Show Rehearsal YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY (Bring a wrapped "White Elephant" gift & munchies to share!)	5:30pm—6:30pm (Sanctuary) 6:30pm—8:30pm (Educ. Bldg.)
Sun., 12/23	Puppet Show Rehearsal	Time TBD (Sanctuary)
Sun., 12/24	PUPPET SHOW (3pm Christmas Eve Svc) NO YOUTH GROUP	Time TBD (Sanctuary)
Sun., 12/31	NEW YEAR'S EVE NO YOUTH GROUP	9:30am (We'll still have class)

2017-2018 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS SCHEDULE

12/09/17	Sat	3:00pm	16th Annual Choral Christmas Concerts ...with Bells, Brass, Timpani & Organ
12/09/17	Sat	6:00pm	16th Annual Choral Christmas Concerts ...with Bells, Brass, Timpani & Organ
12/15/17	Fri	7:30pm *	A Rocky Mountain Christmas ...with songs of John Denver sung by Jim Curry
12/24/17	Sun	3:00pm	Family Christmas Eve Service ...with Candle Lighting
12/24/17	Sun	5:30 & 7:30pm	Gift of Music ...½ hr of special Christmas music prior to Traditional Services
12/24/17	Sun	6pm & 8pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Services ...with Choir, Bells and Candle Lighting
1/12/18	Fri	7:30pm	George Dyer ...outstanding Tenor returns again from Branson, MO
1/19/18	Fri	7:30pm *	Shuffle ...a modern day ensemble delivering the unexpected... Be blown away!
1/27/18	Sat	9am-4pm	Gold Canyon Arts Festival ...free event by the Gold Canyon Arts Council
1/28/18	Sun	3:00pm	The Legacy Quartet World famous! Their 11 th appearance! Come early!
2/11/18	Sun	2:00pm	The Incredible Rice Brothers ...piano & cello virtuosi in a "must see" concert!
2/16/18	Fri	7:30pm *	Italian Saxophone Quartet ...internationally renowned, playing Bach to Broadway!
2/18/18	Sun	2:00pm	Arizona Cantilena Choir ...outstanding choir under Director Dr. Glenn Bennett
2/25/18	Sun	2:00pm	The Houser Gang in Concert ...with Ron, Tara and the gang. Come early!
3/4/18	Sun	2:00pm	Isabelle Demers, Organ ...in my humble opinion, she is the best in the world!
3/11/18	Sun	2:00pm	Erin Downey ...incredible solo handbell ringer – the best I've ever seen!
3/16/18	Fri	7:30pm *	Bryan Anthony ...Jazz singer? Pop singer? Broadway singer? Yes!
3/25/18	Sun	3pm-5pm	Eggstravaganza ...community family event – for everyone!
3/29/18	Thu	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service ...with special music by the Choir, and Communion
3/30/18	Fri	7:00pm	Good Friday Service: Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ ...Choir and solos
4/1/18	Sun	6:00am	Easter Sunrise Service ...in the north parking lot, with Communion
4/1/18	Sun	8am & 9:30am	Easter Festival Services ...with Choir, Handbells, Brass, Timpani and Organ
4/1/18	Sun	10:50am	Easter Praise Service ...with Uncommon Grace leading worship
4/1/18	Sun	5:00pm	Easter Country/Western Service ...with the Houser Gang
4/6/18	Fri	7:30pm *	Cavani String Quartet ..."brilliant and passionate performers"
4/15/18	Sun	3:00pm	Agape Brass Quintet & Ambiance Woodwind Quintet ...some of our own!

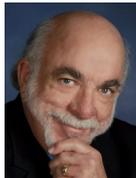
* Indicates a ticketed event for a fee presented by the Gold Canyon Arts Council's Canyon Sounds Series. Inquires and/or ticket information can be received via phone (480)983-2171 or online at www.gcac1.com. All other concerts are presented by the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church's Performing Arts Series and are open to the public at no charge as an offering will be received. We do ask that everyone please bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the Gold Canyon UMC Food Bank. Thank you for your patronage!

Thanks

It's hard to say good-bye and thank everyone we have known in the church since starting to come here 20 years ago. Everyone is so loving and caring. Fred for his sermons, Fred & Beth for 20 years of friendship. Joel & Donna Hurley for all their visits and prayers and friendship. The Prayer Shawl ministry for the lovely shawl they gave me. GCUMC Ladies who came to see us and brought us a goody basket. Dr. Worley & wife for food and him for visits and communion... and Diane Wenger for food also.

Wally & Fay Quanstrom for prayers and especially Wally for keeping us in order during the services. Plus, all the love and support from the Twins and Leo. We've watched Brooke & Zack grow up and now they tower over us! So many to list, we just appreciate you all so much and thanks for the group hugs!

Jenny & Peggy Tippie



MUSIC NOTES

Douglas J. Benton
Director of Music Ministries



December is finally here! The turkey is all gone, the pies are all gone and the cranberry sauce is all gone! Now we get to celebrate the most incredible event of all time – the Birth of the Christ!

We hope you are planning on coming to our **16th Annual Choral Christmas Concerts** on **Saturday, December 9** at **3:00pm** and again at **6:00pm**. Featured, of course, are the **Chancel Choir, Canyon Carillon Handbells, Agape Brass Quintet, Cello, Flute, Oboe, Organ, Piano, Timpani and Triangle** (but *not* like the guy on TV!). Special guest artists again this year are the incredible **Rice Brothers – Chris and Johnny!** Both of these outstanding virtuosi will be playing both Piano and Cello. Special music will be sung by **Don Engbrecht, Cindy & Wade Hoff, Marty Robison** plus some others.

This is an excellent opportunity to invite your family, friends and neighbors to our church for an afternoon or evening (or both!) of great music of the Christmas Season! These concerts are open to the public at no charge as an offering will be received. The proceeds will go to ensure the financial success of our *Performing Arts Series* this year. We do ask everyone to please bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the *GCUMC Food Bank*. These concerts will be on LiveStream.com, so let your family and friends out of town know so they can watch either live, or later. Our website gives directions on how to access Live Stream. What a great way to share your church with your family, friends and neighbors. Indeed, they will be very glad you did!

As you know by now, the **GCUMC Orchestra** is back at it again. If you have played an instrument in the past, please consider joining us! **Rehearsals** are **Wednesday evenings** from **7:00pm – 8:00pm** in the **Music Room**. Dust off your instrument and come join us. We really have a lot of fun making music together!

Our **Canyon Carillon** handbell team can always use more experienced ringers. If you are interested in ringing with us, give me a call at the church, or come up to the organ after services and let's talk. We have more fun than we probably should have. But, that is what happens with music in general, and handbells in particular!

Our **Chancel Choir** can always use more singers. What a great way to share your musical talent! No audition is necessary. All we ask is that you can sing on pitch and read music at least a little. I will take care of

everything else. We **rehearse** on **Thursdays** from **6:30 – 8:00 pm** in the **Music Room**.

If you are interested in working with our excellent Praise Team, **Uncommon Grace** or singing with **One in the Spirit**, our Country/Western group, please contact **David Ballard**, Associate Director of Music, for more information.

I pray that your Christmas Season will be filled with love, great music, sharing of blessings and all good things. "God bless us, everyone!"

Doug

The Performing Arts Series of
Gold Canyon United Methodist Church
Presents the 16th Annual

Choral Christmas Concerts

Saturday, Dec. 9, 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm



Tuba,
Oboe,
Cello,
Flute,
Piano,
Organ,
Timpani,
Trumpets,
Trombone,
French Horn,
Rice Brothers,
Mens Chorus,
Agape Brass,
Chancel Choir,
Canyon Carillon,
Women's Chorus,
Wade & Cindy Hoff,
Baritone, Don Engbrecht,
Free and open to the public
No charge – Offering Received
Bring a non-perishable food item
For the Gold Canyon UMC Food Bank



...Sunday mornings at the 10:50am Praise & Worship Service!

Together we'll lift our hearts, souls and spirits... and you'll be sure to feel uplifted and energized when you leave afterwards!

It's a great way to start off the week!



Country News from Bob

I have a sermon title coming up December 10th at the Country Western service that asks the question, “Are you ready for Christmas?” That’s just 2 weeks before the big day, which might make it sound like a foolish question. I guess it could be for some folks, but only once in my life have I been one of those who had all Christmas cards mailed and all gifts purchased and wrapped before that date.

I will admit that with the ages of all but my great grandchildren, shopping is much easier. It’s called Gift Cards! However, the stress seems the same. I still have to get Christmas cards in which to mail them and buy stamps (Keep in mind that while I have only 3 grown kids, they have provided me with 10 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren).

Even at my advanced years I find myself sufficiently busy with work related tasks that getting ready for Christmas isn’t simple. Of course, the same holds true for preparing for the real Christmas—the birth of Christ and focusing on His central importance in my life. Gifting Him means keeping Him at the top of my “to do” list and reaching out to others in His name.

Are you ready for Christmas?—Especially the real one? I’m working on it.

Peace and Joy,

Bob Deits

Please note: *Because Christmas Eve lands on Sunday this year, there will be no 5:00pm Country Western service on December 24. There will be multiple evening services in the sanctuary from which you can choose.*



HOW CAN WE HELP?



MindMenders provides support for caregivers of Alzheimer's and other dementia-disease patients and meets on the **2nd & 4th Friday of each month at 10:00am** in the **Education Building**. *For more info, contact Nancy at (480)982-3686.*



Cancer Support Group provides spiritual support, love, friendship and a helping hand to cancer patients, caregivers and their families and meets weekly on **Wednesdays at 11:00am** in the **Emmaus Room**. Contact Dee Ashe at (480)685-7175 or deenashe7580@gmail.com.



Emotional Wellness Support Group is intended for those who have completed the “Emotional Wellness” class, and provides tools for self-understanding and helping others, as well as those who are suffering from depression. If you wish to attend, but have not yet taken the class, please contact Fay Quanstrom fay.quanstrom@gmail.com.



Grief Support Group is for those who have experienced a major loss such as the death of a loved one or divorce. The leader of the group, Rev. Bob Deits, has been working extensively with these issues for 36 years and addresses them in his book, *Life After Loss*, now in its 6th edition. The book chronicles the loss of his wife, June, and is now available in the office for \$14.00. Please accept Bob’s invitation to attend the Grief Support group he leads every **Monday from 1:00pm—2:00pm** in the **Education Building**. For questions or to speak with Bob privately, you may call him at (602)615-6634.



Prayer Chain Ministry Please email prayer requests to gcumcprayers@gmail.com.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

by Dr. David Worley



Four pastors are on-call to make visits to members and friends of Gold Canyon UMC. Please feel free to call the church office at (480)982-3776 and one of the pastors will respond to your request. After hours, you may call or email one of the pastors directly:

✝ **Rev. Fred Steinberg**
Senior Pastor
revstein78@gmail.com
480.982.3776

✝ **Rev. Bob Deits**
Associate Pastor
rdeits@cox.net
602.615.6634

✝ **Rev. Fay Quanstrom**
Associate Pastor
fay.quanstrom@gmail.com
480.458.8420

✝ **Dr. David Worley**
Director, Congregational Care
dWorley3@gmail.com
970.821.5404



If you know someone in the congregation who is hospitalized, ill at home and/or needs prayers of the community, please let one of the pastors or the church office know so they can be included on the prayer list.

In addition, if you or someone you know within or beyond our parish would like a friendly visit, a listening ear, or a home-cooked meal, please let us know. Caring for others in the GCUMC fellowship of believers is shared by clergy & lay caregivers. In addition to the pastoral staff listed below:

- ✝ **Stephen Ministers**, highly-trained lay people, provide quality, confidential, Christ-centered support to those experiencing grief, illness, divorce, etc.
- ✝ Trained Lay **Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs)** share a ministry of loving spiritual care: visits, prayer, Holy Communion, music, meals, errands and more.

You are invited to join the **Congregational Care Ministry** by contacting Rev. Fay Quanstrom, or **Stephen Ministries** by contacting Katharine Keller.

THE POWER OF GROUP PRAYER

Wednesdays from 11:45am—12:45pm in the Koinonia Room, we meet for group prayer because we believe that while praying individually is most important, group prayer has dramatic benefits for those who pray and for those for whom we pray.

Jesus promises in Matthew 18:20 *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”* There is a special presence of the Risen Lord when we gather for group prayer. In recent Wednesday meetings we’ve certainly sensed His presence as we pray for one another and the needs on our prayer list and on our hearts individually.

Acts 2 records an example of the power of group prayer when on the Day of Pentecost, as the Holy Spirit was given, the followers of Jesus experienced a divine demonstration of His manifest presence. They were in that hour filled with the Spirit and personally significantly impacted. Further, those who were nearby were motivated to inquire about the unusual events of that day and heard Peter share the Gospel. Many became followers of Jesus at that time and the promise Peter declares extended to generations to come.

Group prayer, then, not only impacts us personally, but also others. Acts 12 records the story of Peter’s arrest and the measures King Herod took to ensure that he was unable to escape. Yet, the story records in verse 5, *“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.”* Incredibly, an angel appeared and freed Peter. When Peter showed up at Mary’s house where people were praying and knocked on the door, the people did not believe it when Rhoda, who answered the door, said it was Peter knocking. Although they were praying, they were astonished at his arrival. God still likes to surprise us by allowing us to see answers to our prayers! Although we may not always see dramatic results outlined in this story, prayer impacts others in ways that we may not be able to see. Tennyson’s poem about prayer phrases it beautifully:

*“More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.”*

You are invited to join us any Wednesday for our prayer and healing time. Come experience the power of group prayer.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

Fay Quanstrom, Associate Pastor



GCUMC EXTENDS ITS MINISTRY EAST AND SOUTH



The Exodus Road

During Lent, large black paper chains and plaintive faces of young people reminded us of the plight of individuals trapped in sex trafficking and “employment” slavery. Traffickers exploit vulnerable, impoverished people who are offered “jobs” that turn out very differently from what they have been told. Trapped in these situations, the enslaved have little hope. The Exodus Road works with local authorities, investigates, and conducts surveillance and raids to free people from being exploited in this way. It can be dangerous. There is much to celebrate when the raids are successful!

Our Gold Canyon UMC Easter offering was designated for The Exodus Road ministry. We have received the report of what was accomplished with our gifts of 36,640.38. Our gift funded **nine** rescue missions! These missions resulted in the freeing of 7 minors, both boys and girls, and 17 adult women, and the arrest of 35 traffickers. Further, one male massage parlor was shut down.

In operations in rural India the Exodus Road’s team of investigators worked for 13 days to build a case before conducting the raid with police. The team when in with intel that five women were being exploited at the hotel-based brothel. When they arrived, however, operatives found just three women. The two victims from Bangladesh had disappeared. After an hour of searching the five-floor hotel, the team located the two women locked in the hotel basement. Police arrested two traffickers. In India most survivors are moved to government care after a raid. The Exodus Road’s social workers follow up with those who are rescued, to assist with their legal process, if necessary, and help them transition into freedom.

Thank God for the part we have played in the significant work of The Exodus Road!



The GCUMC team is preparing for the annual trip to Costa Rica from January 13-20. We ask your prayers for the team, the staff, and for those who will benefit from the ministry we are able to do through construction and food delivery while “in country.” This mission trip is one more way that the ministry of GCUMC is extended to people’s good and God’s glory!

Our Global Missions also includes Fellowman International and Mobility Worldwide. Watch for updates on these

ministries in next month’s *Road Runner*.



WEEKLY PERSONAL PRAYER & HEALING TIME

If you would like someone to pray with you one-on-one about any matters, please remember that there are people ready to help lift your needs to the Lord in prayer every Wednesday from 11:45am—12:45pm in the Koinonia Room.

This is not a worship service, but an opportunity to stop by for prayer ministry and then continue on with your day.

STEPHEN MINISTRY INVITATION

Stephen Ministry is a program of our congregation that equips lay persons to provide distinctively Christian one-on-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances (death of a loved one, divorce, critical medical concern), both in our congregation and community.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry; those receiving care can be sure that their identity and what goes on in the caring relationship will remain private.

We are now signing up persons who would like to go through the excellent comprehensive training. We will begin classes in January of 2018 and will conclude with commissioning in early May. First step is to fill out an application form, then have an interview with Katharine Keller. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Katharine in the church office. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to be trained.



PARTY OR PAIN

It is once again that wondrous time of year that we often look forward to with child-like enthusiasm and wonder. That time of year that for Christians represents the birth of hope, grace and love and a great change for the entire world.

It is also a time when, on our calendar, the year is ending. We may be relishing in successes from this past year and looking forward to the next with excited anticipation. Or, we may be sad about some of the happenings of this prior year and not overly excited about the new, as some of our struggles may continue or even become exacerbated.

During this season some end up on the extreme end of party or pain, but the truth for most of us is that we have lived life long enough that there is a mixture of emotion. We have had our share of experiences that have in many ways shaped who we are today. Those experiences have come in all shapes, sizes and content.

Pastor Rick Warren referenced the germination of the jack pine tree of North America in one of his recent daily devotionals - The jack pine seeds are in the cones so tightly that they won't come out unless intense heat comes along. It'll melt the resin, then the seed drops, and then it germinates. Without heat, it wouldn't happen. The same is true with us. In order to grow we must feel the heat, in order to learn we must feel failure, in order to progress we must take a step or two backward at times in our lives.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote on the topic of seeking fulfillment and satisfaction in earthly endeavors, other than God:

“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has already been, in the ages before us. The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance of people yet to come by those who come after them.” — Ecclesiastes 1:9-11 (NRSV)

Although if we aren't careful, we can take the book of Ecclesiastes to be depressing, Solomon's real goal was to warn of the lack of fulfillment to be found in anything other than God – and to teach that true fulfillment comes from understanding that what we are doing is part of God's purpose for our life.

The trials in our lives are certainly akin to the heat of a forest fire. If we trust God through the fire we come out stronger on the other side, and sometimes new and better versions of ourselves are “born” so to speak. Winston Churchill said – Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it. There is much wisdom to be gained from this statement. We have not really invented significantly new ways to suffer, or to be joyous, through the years. The locations, names, dates and times just change.

The critical element is how we respond to our experiences. Even when we don't understand the purpose of the fire we are going through, God has one. If we don't understand it today, odds are that we will tomorrow, or next year, or five years from now, when we are supposed to.

And the beautiful thing about this cyclical process of life here on earth is that there is almost always someone around who has experienced something similar, who “has been there”, who can offer some insight, and/or an understanding ear. And sometimes, because we trusted God in our journey through the fire, he is able to use us as a light for others.

Food for thought this Christmas season: If you are closer to the pain end of the scale than the party end, consider asking for a Stephen Minister to reach out to you. This is a fellow Christian who can listen, possibly assist in providing perspective, and above all support you while maintaining complete confidentiality. Or if you find yourself nearer the other end of the scale, with life experience and energy to give back to others right now, consider stepping out to become a Stephen Minister by signing up for the class beginning in January.

Reach out for either by emailing stephen.ministry.gcumc@gmail.com, or check the box beside “Desire a Stephen Minister” on the Sunday morning attendance pad.



MINISTRY & MISSION

Updates

GENESIS PROJECT



The next two months, tax credit time, are critical to the Genesis budget, and this year has brought new challenges and opportunities. Meals served are expected to outpace last year's 61,000 as we see more elderly folks in need. Additionally, Genesis has partnered with

United Way and the city of Apache Junction to establish the Genesis Project resource center which offers access to many different service agencies i.e. United Way, Social Security, Arizona Works and many others.

The Genesis Project volunteers continue to be the strength of the organization. Without them and the financial support of the community we would not be able to continue this important ministry. Please consider the Genesis Project for your tax credit charitable donation. Contributions can be made online at www.GenesisProjectAZ.com, and forms are also available at the Welcome Center.



that any business would celebrate and would probably think of expanding or franchising. The question was: how can we continue to meet the needs of so many as they unfold? Recently our Church was fortunate enough to have purchased a 6,700 sq. ft. building across the street from our church campus. That building is now our Mission Center, and it provided us with a new 2,000 sq. ft. facility.

With this new facility we certainly will be able to keep providing assistance to those in need and to grow if needed. Our success is primarily due to the support of a loving church and the 45 volunteers that work so hard to keep the Food Bank running five days a week. We are also blessed by a thoughtful community, both the United Food Bank and the Midwest Food Bank, local businesses, organizations and other churches that continually provide support.

Divine intervention also takes place on a regular basis; we witness it all the time!

Normally, as with any Food Bank, we will run out of spaghetti sauce or toilet paper. Within five minutes someone will stop in with a donation of just that particular item. Guess what just happened as I was writing this article! Dan Gray was trying to call Terry Burris to see if he could get some baked goods from Bashas'. Our baked goods shelves were empty! He could not reach Terry at his home or on his cell phone. Why? Because Terry and his wife Ruth, without knowing, were on their way here from Genesis in Apache Junction with a bin full of baked goods for our Food Bank! It happens all the time. I enjoy pointing it out to our volunteers and watching their reactions. These occurrences magnify the pleasure of serving the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church's Food Bank mission and our community.

We all volunteer our time and consider that our pay is from the joy and opportunity to help others. We look forward to the future to help and provide aid where ever possible. Please remember those who are not as fortunate as you this upcoming holiday season .

FOOD BANK

by Jeff Downing, Food Bank Manager



The Gold Canyon United Methodist Church has had a Food Bank for over 22 years. This Food Bank began operating from a closet with a few cans of food, one day a week. Shortly after retirement in 2005, I had an opportunity to become manager of this mission.

Our business, if you will, is to provide emergency food supplies for those individuals or families in need - to provide them with temporary assistance that might ease their burdens. With the economic conditions at this time in our country and state, we continued to grow every year.

Since 2007 the Food Bank worked from a 15'x35' room which presented many challenges. From this small space we served 1,370 bags of food in 2009 and grew to serving 8,890 bags of food in 2016. This is a growth rate

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



We are looking forward to building in Tempe this winter as part of our membership in the Superstition Coalition of churches in the East Valley. The location is the same as last

year, near the Loop 101 and Apache Trail. It will be a new build and part of a set of duplexes. It is the only East Valley build this winter so we are pleased to be part of it.

Habitat homes give families the opportunity to have a stable, safe place they can live for the long term. These families have often been moving from place to place, from one tiny, cramped apartment or trailer in a bad neighborhood to another, which is especially difficult on the children.

This special opportunity does not come easy. Families are put through a rigorous education program; learning how to budget their money, make low cost repairs, and what to watch out for in the maintenance of their new home. There is the sweat equity too, which means they must complete 400 hours of work on the actual build of their home. All this hard work results in a better understanding of what it takes to be a homeowner. These hard working, deserving families are able to achieve their dream of an affordable home that they actually own.

We need volunteers to work on 1/27 and 4/14, and volunteers to prepare and deliver lunch to the work crew on those days. Donations are needed to meet our goal of \$10,000. Please make checks payable to GCUMC with "Habitat for Humanity" in the check memo. You can also donate using your phone's ChurchLife app or online at www.GoldCanyonUMC.org.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support of this ministry. For more info, contact Joe and Maureen Morton (602)284-2826 / MoandJoeM@aol.com.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



United
Methodist
Women

The Christmas Season is here! The wondrous birth of our Lord took place on a night in Bethlehem, but had been planned by God from the beginning. From Abraham to Jesus, there were 42

generations! The birth of Jesus had been predicted in scripture in the books of Isaiah and Micah, as well as others. What a gift He would be! We, the United

Methodist Women of GCUMC, prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we decorate trees, bake cookies, and purchase gifts, we



must remain mindful of Jesus – the Greatest Gift of All! We prepare by making room for Jesus in our hearts, our homes, and our lives. How Joyous is the Season of his birth! UMW is focused on mission and being "the hands and feet of Jesus". We call on all women to reach out to the poor, the lonely, and the suffering at this time. We call on them to give the gift of themselves, both at Christmas and throughout the year.

At our December UMW meeting, we will celebrate Jesus's Birth by making "Birthday Bags" for the people in our community who come to our Food Bank. We will make packages which will allow these families to celebrate Jesus's Birth as well as the births of their family members with packages which contain a box of cake mix, frosting, birthday candles, and other items to make the day special.

The theme of our November UMW meeting was "World Thank Offering: The Sacred Space of Sharing Food." World Thank Offering is an annual program throughout UMW and a special time when women express gratitude for personal blessings and share with a grateful heart. The Thanksgiving table centerpiece was built of food donations for the Food Bank and monetary offering envelopes that go directly to UMW National in support programs for women, youth, and children who are less fortunate. Social justice and environmental concerns relating to healthy food, clean water, and healthy and just farm practices were part of the program. Since there are many shared meals of importance described in the Bible, we were each given the opportunity to describe a personal and meaningful meal – one that even changed us.

We invite all the women of GCUMC to attend our December meeting to celebrate the birth of Jesus:

Date: December 16th

Time: 10:00am Social gathering
10:30am—11:00am Meeting

Place: Barnabas Room of the Missions Center

Please contact Carol Johnson (602)750-2008 with questions.





MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It is time to order your Christmas **Poinsettia** in honor or in memory of a loved one. We are pleased to offer a 3-plant floral quality poinsettia for only \$14.00 each. Please complete the Order Form below and include payment for each poinsettia ordered and:

- Make checks payable to "GCUMC", noting "Poinsettia" in the memo section.
- **Please bring completed form with payment to the Welcome Center on Sunday or to the Church Office during the week.**

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuaries for enjoyment during the holiday season. **You may take yours home after the Christmas Eve services.** A listing of those giving poinsettias will be available during Christmas Eve services.

POINSETTIAS ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

I am ordering a poinsettia in **Memory of:**

I am ordering a poinsettia in **Honor of:**

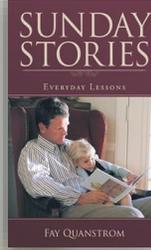
Payment of \$14.00 for each is **enclosed**

TOTAL PLANTS: _____ TOTAL \$: _____

Please call the Church Office at (480)982-3776 with any questions.

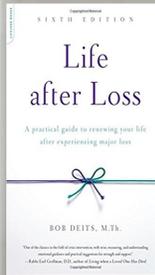
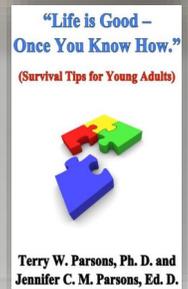
Orders must be received by December 10th

THE BOOK SHELF



"*Sunday Stories: Everyday Lessons*"... by Rev. Fay Quanstrom is a collection of children's stories illustrating how Scripture truths "live" in the life of a child. Available on Amazon, Kindle, Nook, and in the Church Office & Welcome Center. For more info, go to www.FayQuanstrom.com.

"*Life Is Good—Once You Know How*" by Terry Parsons & Jennifer Parsons is an uplifting gift for young adults, or grandchildren in your family who might be struggling to find their "niche". Available on Amazon, Kindle, and Nook. Check it out!



"*Life After Loss: A Practical Guide to Renewing Your Life After Experiencing Major Loss*" by Rev. Bob Deits is the go-to resource for anyone suffering a major loss, by helping to find positive ways to put together a life that is necessarily different—but equally meaningful. Available on Amazon and in the Church Office.



You can watch our 8:00am, 9:30am and 10:50am worship services LIVE by going to www.Livestream.com/accounts/11627355. Be sure to click on "FOLLOW" so you'll be notified any time GCUMC is streaming live — which makes it even easier! Weekly sermons can also be viewed on our website, our Facebook page, or at www.vimeo.com/goldcanyon.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

9:30am—Blended Worship

3:00pm—Kid-Friendly w/ Christmas Pageant & Puppet Show

6:00pm & 8:00pm—Traditional Worship w/ Choir & Message



*Childcare available at all services
6640 S KINGS RANCH RD
(North of Hwy 60 in Gold Canyon)
480.982.3776 • www.GoldCanyonUMC.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

ACCESS ACS

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Is **YOUR** information correct in the Church Directory?
 Would you like to update your photo?
 Would you like to set-up/modify online giving?

You can do that and much more using GCUMC's online directory, AccessACS! If you aren't already using it, but would like to, just send an email to "ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org" with "AccessACS" in the subject line and we'll send you an email with login instructions.

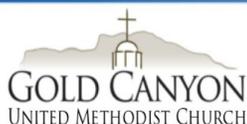
You can also view the Church Directory on your phone using the Church Life app!
...Get connected!



WISH LIST

Want to give back to GGUMC beyond your pledge to the General Budget or Building Fund? Below are Wish List items that will better enable us to fulfill our mission as a church:

- Missions Center Remodel \$380,000 (\$284,319 given so far)
- Startup Funds for New Church Multi-Site Launch
- Playground - \$20,000-40,000
- Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows near ceiling - \$105,000 (\$3,000 per panel)
- Building Fund Loan Payoff
- Missions Center Loan Payoff
- Organ Pipes
- Parking Lot Loan Payoff (Done Oct 2017)
- Bus/Van Garage (Completed in March)



WOMEN'S 1-DAY RETREAT

Registration Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

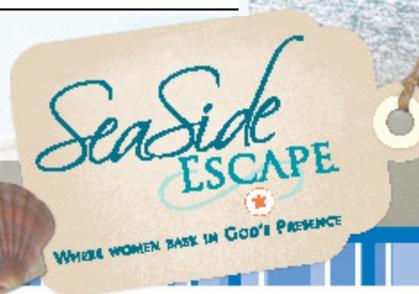
Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Allergies/Special Needs/

Dietary Restrictions? Yes No Please explain: _____

SAT., 2/10—8:30AM—3:30PM IN THE KOINONIA ROOM



Permission to photocopy this resource from Group's Seaside Escape Women's Ministry Retreat granted for local churches. Copyright ©2011, 2017 Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, CO.



Thu Dec 7	9am	Class: "Experiencing God" (ER)
	9am	Prayer Shawl Ministry (S-MC)
	6pm	Christmas Dress Rehearsal (S)
Fri Dec 8	10am	Mind Menders (ER)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	5:30pm	AA (ER)
Sat Dec 9	8am	PEO ES Chapter Mtg & Christmas Fundraiser (B-MC)
	10am	Youth at Genesis Project
	3pm	16th Annual Choral Christmas Concert (S/MR)
	6pm	16th Annual Choral Christmas Concert (S/MR)
Sun Dec 10	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	8:30am	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	"The Table" Adult Sunday School (E-MC)
	9:30am	Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:50am	Children's Sunday School (NAR)
	10:50am	Praise Worship (KR)
	5pm	Country Worship w/ One in the Spirit (KR)
	5:30pm	Youth Group Caroling to Shut-Ins
Mon Dec 11	9am	Angel Team Sorting Day & Luncheon (KR)
	9:30am	Bible Banter (ER)
	10am	UMW Leadership Committee (SoGR)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 4 (ER)
	1pm	Grief Support Mtg (SoGR)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoGR)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (Youth)
Tue Dec 12	8am	Hiking Ministry (Offsite)
	9am	Stitches Unlimited (B-MC)
	1pm	Advent Study: "Faithful" (E-MC)
	4pm	DISCIPLE 5 (ER)
	6pm	One in the Spirit Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon (S)
	7pm	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
Wed Dec 13	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10am	Emotional Wellness (Martha-MC)
	10am	Gold Canyon Arts Council Mtg (S-MC)
	11am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	11:45am	Healing & Prayer Time (KR)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
	7pm	Orchestra Rehearsal (MR)
Thu Dec 14	8am	Angel Team Wrapping Party (S)
	8am	Angel Tree (KR)
	9am	Class: "Experiencing God" (ER)
	9am	Lions Club Mtg (SoGR)
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Fri Dec 15	8am	Angel Tree (KR)
	1pm	Reserved (S)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	5:30pm	AA (ER)
	7:30pm	GCAC Concert: A Rocky Mountain Christmas
	9pm	Reception: Rocky Mtn Christmas Concert (KR)
Sat Dec 16	All day	Angel Team Delivery/Pick-Up Day
	8am	Angel Tree (KR)
	10:15am	UMW Mtg (B-MC)
Sun Dec 17	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	8:30am	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	"The Table" Adult Sunday School (E-MC)
	9:30am	Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)

MAIN CAMPUS		MISSIONS CENTER	
EB	= Education Bldg	B-MC	= Barnabas-Missions Ctr
ER	= Emmaus Rm	E-MC	= Esther-Missions Ctr
K	= Kitchen	M-MC	= Martha-Missions Ctr
KR	= Koinonia Rm	S-MC	= Stephen=-Missions Ctr
MR	= Music Rm		
NAR	= Noah's Ark Rm		
P	= Patio		
S	= Sanctuary		
SoGR	= Sea of Galilee Rm		
WR	= Wesley Rm		
YR	= Youth Rm		

*(Calendar is subject to change;
For more info, visit
www.goldcanyonumc.org
or call the Church Office)*

Dec 1	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	5:30pm	AA (ER)
Sat Dec 2	9:30am	Breakfast at the Manger (KR)
	12pm	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal (S)
Sun Dec 3	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	8:30am	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	"The Table" Adult Sunday School (E-MC)
	9:30am	Children Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	9:30am	Youth Participate in Worship (S)
	10:50am	Children's Sunday School (NAR)
	10:50am	Praise Worship (KR)
	5pm	Country Worship w/ One in the Spirit (KR)
	5:30pm	Youth Puppet Show Rehearsal (S)
	6:30pm	Youth Group (7th-12th; EB)
Mon Dec 4	9:30am	Bible Banter (ER)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 4 (ER)
	1pm	Grief Support Mtg (SoGR)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	4pm	Stephen Ministry (SoGR)
	6:30pm	You & Your Spiritual Gifts (S-MC)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoGR)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (Youth)
Tue Dec 5	7am	Hiking Ministry (Offsite)
	1pm	Advent Study: "Faithful" (E-MC)
	1pm	Coffee with the Pastor (MR)
	4pm	DISCIPLE 5 (ER)
	5:30pm	Team Outreach Mtg (MR)
	6pm	One in the Spirit Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	Trustees Mtg (S-MC)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon (S)
	7pm	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
Wed Dec 6	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10am	Emotional Wellness (Martha-MC)
	11am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	11:45am	Healing & Prayer Time (KR)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
	7pm	Orchestra Rehearsal (MR)
	7pm	Remembrance Svc (S)

	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:50am	Children's Sunday School (NAR)
	10:50am	Praise Worship (KR)
	5pm	Country Worship w/ One in the Spirit (KR)
	5:30pm	Youth Puppet Show Rehearsal (S)
	6:30pm	Youth Group Christmas Party (7th-12th; EB)
Mon Dec 18	9:30am	Bible Banter (ER)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 4 (ER)
	1pm	Grief Support Mtg (SoGR)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	4pm	Stephen Ministry (SoGR)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoGR)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (Youth)
Tue Dec 19	8am	Hiking Ministry (Offsite)
	1pm	Advent Study: "Faithful" (E-MC)
	4pm	DISCIPLE 5 (ER)
	6pm	One in the Spirit Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon (S)
	7pm	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
Wed Dec 20	8am	Newsletter Team (WR)
	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10am	Emotional Wellness (Martha-MC)
	11am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	11:45am	Healing & Prayer Time (KR)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
	7pm	Orchestra Rehearsal (MR)
Thu Dec 21	9am	Class: "Experiencing God" (ER)
	9am	Prayer Shawl Ministry (S-MC)
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music)
Fri Dec 22	10am	Mind Menders (ER)
	1pm	Yoga (B-MC)
	5:30pm	AA (ER)
Sat Dec 23	TBD	Youth Puppet Show Rehearsal (S)
Sun Dec 24	All day	Christmas Eve Calendar
	9:30am	"The Table" Adult Sunday School (E-MC)
	9:30am	Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	3pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Family w/ Puppet Show)
	5:30pm	Gift of Music (S)
	6pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Chancel Choir)
	7:30pm	Gift of Music (S)
	8pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Chancel Choir)
Mon Dec 25	All day	Christmas Day / OFFICE CLOSED
	9:30am	Bible Banter (ER)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoGR)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (Youth)
		<i>Merry Christmas</i>
Tue Dec 26	All day	OFFICE CLOSED
	All day	Angel Tree Trees Down
	7am	Hiking Ministry (Offsite)
	9am	Stitches Unlimited (B-MC)
	4pm	DISCIPLE 5 (ER)
	6pm	One in the Spirit Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon (S)
	7pm	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)

(Calendar continued on page 19)

SCRIP BUS/VAN PROGRAM

Bashas'

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

FOOD STORES
Fry's

Remember... the funds earned from the SCRIP Program purchase gas, licenses, insurance and maintenance on our two vehicles used to bring people to our church and take our Youth to events like the annual Mission trip. Have you seen our new covered structure that helps to protect our vehicles from the Arizona sun and heat?

Also, remember... the SCRIP Program costs those using it absolutely nothing! All you have to do is use any —or all—of the below methods to do your shopping! Bashas', Fry's and Smile.Amazon.com help non-profit organizations—like GCUMC—by giving a rebate on purchases. The Bashas & Fry's Shoppers cards must be **obtained from and/or be connected to GCUMC.**

⇒ **Smile.Amazon.com** donates 0.5% of  the price of your eligible purchases to the GCUMC SCRIP Bus & Van Fund whenever you shop on AmazonSmile—same selection—same prices! Just go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0621002>

⇒ **Bashas' (6% rebate) Community Support Cards** can be purchased at the Welcome Center or Church Office in denominations of \$20, \$50 or \$100, and used at all AZ store locations, including AJ's Fine Foods and Food City. When the card balance gets low (*shown on store receipt*), you can reload it at the Customer Service Desk or at the register **before** your order is rung up (up to \$500) using cash, credit/debit card.



⇒ **Fry's VIP Card (up to 3% rebate)** Register your VIP card online with GCUMC's affiliation #80092, or you can come to the Church Office and we'll be glad to help.



For more information, visit the Welcome Center between worship services on Sunday morning, the church office during the week, or call Betty Rolley (480)380-0147 to learn how YOU can participate!

It all adds up... and the best thing is that it doesn't cost you a penny to participate... It's a WIN-WIN!

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!

Andie Chung 12/01
 Ryan McClung 12/01
 Peggy Scott 12/01
 Diane Wenger 12/01
 Dale Kissner 12/02
 Terry Roberson 12/02
 Kathleen King 12/03
 Larry Raffurty 12/03
 Dorothy Halsted 12/04
 Judith (Judy) Monk 12/04
 Sharolyn (Shari) Bermele 12/05
 Gary Capen 12/05
 Shirley Eby 12/05
 Angie Fyfe 12/05
 Judy Walsh 12/05
 Judy Donovan 12/06
 Carol Johnson 12/06
 Lisa Kinzel 12/06
 Charlie Palmer 12/06
 Barbara Hardesty 12/07
 Robert (Bob) Vogelgesang 12/07
 Kathy Boldt 12/08
 Katelin Kalik 12/08
 Karen Annin 12/09
 Geneva Molzen 12/09
 Marty Robison 12/09
 Elva Bradley 12/10
 Linda Broz 12/10
 Caleb Shroyer 12/10
 James Anderson 12/11
 Neil Brogren 12/11
 Anita Raffurty 12/11
 Mary Ann Warren 12/11
 Bob Graves 12/12
 Judy Campbell 12/13
 Nathaniel Gingrich 12/13
 Bambi Hutnak 12/13
 Margaret (Meg) Lemmon 12/13
 Marcia Ritenour 12/13
 Gerald Lynn (Lynn) Tabor 12/13
 Don Anderson 12/14
 Sharon Clark 12/14
 William (Bill) Green 12/14
 Ron Houser 12/14
 Katharine Keller 12/14
 Hannah Rhoton 12/14
 Ilene Tabor 12/14
 Paula Tucker 12/14

Carol Acevedo 12/15
 Pamela (Pam) Foreman 12/15
 Doris Newton 12/15
 Mary Gay Twa 12/15
 Suzanne Jameson 12/16
 Jeff Pepin 12/16
 John Toole 12/16
 Cheyenne Velock 12/16
 Nancy Hill 12/17
 Darrell Keast 12/17
 Peggy Kinder 12/17
 Joseph (Joe) Morton 12/17
 Tammy Holland 12/18
 Kathleen (Kathy) Serrine 12/18
 Judy Robertson 12/19
 Tom Sawyer 12/19
 Patricia Bolster 12/20
 Helen Flowers 12/20
 William McAuliffe 12/20
 Kay Leet 12/21
 Mary Faith Van Noy 12/21
 Georgia Kirkpatrick 12/22
 Ken Jacobsen 12/23
 Claudia Mc Auliffe 12/23
 Edna (Eddie) Haines (Gardner) 12/24
 Heather Rhoton 12/24
 Deborah Brooks 12/25
 Vern Halsted 12/25
 William (Bill) King 12/25
 Steve LeQuire 12/25
 Christine (Chris) Miller 12/25
 Craig Starks 12/25
 Gary Stemple 12/25
 Becky Anderson 12/26
 Danna Gharavi 12/26
 Dawn Gilbreath 12/26
 Gary Molzen 12/26
 Robert Pennington 12/26
 Alice (Charlene) Smith 12/26
 Kay Cartney 12/27
 Lester (Les) Lambert 12/27
 Michael Malloy 12/27
 Joyce Schenck 12/27
 Don Tonole 12/27
 Joseph Lundberg 12/28
 Connie Schuler 12/29
 Peggy Cabrinha 12/30
 Linda Clise 12/30
 Todd Owen 12/30
 William (Bill) Waechter 12/30

Dalton Adams 12/31
 Ron Bentley 12/31
 Joie Hall 12/31
 Jerrilyn (Jerri) Manbeck 12/31
 Alice Plale 12/31

Happy Anniversary!

Charles Palmer & Lori Bachler-Palmer 12/01
 Donald & Gladys Osgood 12/01
 Greer (Alice) & Lester (Les) Lambert 12/02
 Karl & Roberta (Bobbie) Koch 12/03
 Carl & Gloria Charette 12/10
 Lynda Hammond & Kevin Nunn 12/10
 William (Bill) & Mary Thomas 12/11
 David & Debra Worley 12/11
 Brett & Colette McNamee 12/13
 Diana & John Linton 12/14
 Kathy & Rick Nefzer 12/15
 Adam & Katelin Kalik 12/15
 Bob & Pamela Ingram 12/16
 Bev & E.G. (Cris) Criswell 12/17
 Bill & Gail Yoder 12/18
 Dottie & Richard House 12/19
 John & Kathy Nuss 12/20
 Ruth & Terry Steinkruger 12/20
 James & Mary Ann Davenport 12/20
 Jim & Shirley Fast 12/20
 Preston (Jack) & Mary Gay Twa 12/21
 Lillian & Ray (Pat) Calihan 12/22
 Emiddio (Mid) & Noreen Carlozzi 12/22
 George (Phalen) & Connie Schuler 12/23
 Leo & Lois Gerst 12/24
 Robert & Nina Pennington 12/26
 April & Todd Owen 12/27
 Robert (Bob) & Jenny Crow 12/27
 Harley & Margaret (Meg) Lemmon 12/28
 Carol & Don Lindaman 12/29
 Kay & William Greenlee 12/29
 Gary & Joyce Gingrich 12/30
 Deborah & Mark Brooks 12/31
 Edward (Ed) & Jody (Jo) Fridlund 12/31
 Jeanne & John Paddison 12/31



If your name is missing, or you find an error, please call the Church Office with the information.

We truly don't mean to make mistakes or to leave anyone out!

CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE

"Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another." - Romans 13:8 (NIV)

OCT	2014			2015			2016			2017		
	General	Building	Worship									
1st	18219	6719	694	21861	7588	792	23011	10835	1397	21238	7006	968
2nd	12065	4314	721	16244	5612	810	11211	8174	1324	9741	3308	852
3rd	12895	5585	837	16514	8225	883	19471	7895	1244	18961	5187	1083
4th	9555	2238	1083	13264	4093	1106	14504	4181	1336	15647	2800	1243
5th	-	-	-	-	-	-	12351	2698	1828	16971	4490	1347
TOTAL	52734	18855	3335	67884	25518	3591	80548	33782	7129	82557	22790	5493

ROADRUNNER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

January Roadrunner

Please send content via email to

ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

by 8:00am, Monday, 12/11/17

Weekly Bulletin & Flower Orders

12:00pm on the Wednesday of week to be listed

GCUMC Publications are brought to you by Riechia Ralston, Debra Worley, Carol Lindaman and the Roadrunner Assembly Team, as well as the Friday Bulletin Assembly Team... and many other treasured volunteers!

(Calendar continued from page 15)

- Wed Dec 27 9:30am Music Library Activities (MR)
- 10am Emotional Wellness (Martha-MC)
- 11am Cancer Support Group (ER)
- 11:45am Healing & Prayer Time (KR)
- 1pm DISCIPLE I (ER)
- 1pm Yoga (B-MC)
- 7pm Orchestra Rehearsal (MR)
- Thu Dec 28 9am Class: "Experiencing God" (ER)
- 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)
- Fri Dec 29 1pm Yoga (B-MC)
- 5:30pm AA (ER)
- Sun Dec 31 All day New Year's Eve
- 8am Traditional Worship (S)
- 8:30am Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
- 9:30am "The Table" Adult Sunday School (E-MC)
- 9:30am Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)
- 9:30am Traditional Worship (S)
- 10:50am Children's Sunday School (NAR)
- 10:50am Praise Worship (KR)
- 5pm Country Worship w/ One in the Spirit (KR)

If you think we may have your missing item, stop by the Church Office!

LOST & FOUND

Electronic giving is a great way to make contributions! Please remember if you use any type of electronic payment system to fulfill your pledge and you change it, you must also make the change to your electronic payment provider. Forms are available in the Church Office or can be emailed to you.



thank you 

...so much for the privilege of serving you on staff for the last three years and for the blessing of being a part of the GCUMC congregation for over 19 years! The Prayer Plaque and your kind words upon our retirement encourage us on our faith journey. See you in church! ~ Joel and Donna Hurley



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WORSHIP SERVICES

- ✝ **8:00am & 9:30am** **TRADITIONAL** (*Sanctuary*)
- ✝ **10:50am** **PRAISE** (*Koinonia Room*)
- ✝ **5:00pm** **COUNTRY** (*Koinonia Room*)
*(Last Sunday of the month only
in June, July & August)*

(Childcare available at all Services)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School classes begin in the Worship Service with their families. Children are led to their classes after the Children's Message.

- ✝ **9:30am** **Children**
- ✝ **9:30am** **Youth** (*7th—12th*)
- ✝ **10:50am** **Children**

Addressee or Current Resident

STAFF

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