



## FROM THE PASTOR: "CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP, LUMINARIES, CAMEL & NATIVITY"



This year we plan on releasing our Christmas Eve video worship service on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to worship using the video any time you wish. Even though our church budget is experiencing a shortfall due to COVID-19, we will still give away all our Christmas Eve offering. Since COVID-19 is still causing havoc on the lives and finances of people, our church has decided to make our COVID-19 Fund the recipient of the offering. The Easter offering brought in \$43,000 for the fund. As of this date we have spent it all to help people who are struggling as a result of the virus.

We were able to help 29 families with an average of \$1,400 spent on each family. In addition, the Pastor's Fund helped another four families. We were able to stop some families from being evicted or were able to pay utility or medical bills that the family couldn't handle because of their loss of income. We even helped a wife whose husband died from the virus. She wrote:

*"I am so thankful for the rent and utility help, Food Bank referral and the Fry's card for gas. Your help let me stay in my home while I try to get everything straightened out with social security and the banks. Sometimes I just have to scream. Then I pray. God bless your church."*

This year you won't be able to drop your contribution in the offering plate on Christmas Eve, so please clearly mark it "COVID-19 Help Fund" in the check memo.

On Christmas Eve from 5:00pm-8:00pm we will also light 1,000 luminaries around the church grounds and have a small living nativity with animals. Come see the candles and animals and the Holy family. Oh... and don't forget to see the camel! I will see you online on

Sunday.

Grace and peace,

*Fred*

## Contact Us

6640 S. Kings Ranch Road  
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118  
www.GoldCanyonUMC.org  
Church Office 480.982.3776  
ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org  
GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com

Fred Steinberg, Senior Pastor  
RevStein78@gmail.com

Food Bank 480.982.6789

## Celebrate Christmas

WITH GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VIRTUAL	<b>CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b>	DEC. 19 ☆ 3pm
VIRTUAL	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</b>	DEC. 24 ☆ 4pm
OUTDOOR	<b>LUMINARY &amp; NATIVITY DRIVE</b>	DEC. 24 ☆ 5pm-8pm



Watch virtual events online at:

- <http://goldcanyonumc.org/watch-worship-services-live/>
- [www.facebook.com/GoldCanyonUMC](http://www.facebook.com/GoldCanyonUMC)



"...FOLLOWING JESUS... SERVING OTHERS"



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & EVANGELISM

Pastor Katharine Keller

*"...Growing disciples of Jesus Christ and living the Word."*

### ADVENT STARTS THIS MONTH



We will not be worshipping in-house this Christmas, but will be videotaping different church families lighting the Advent Wreath on stage. We encourage everyone at home to make their own Advent wreath, and as you watch the worship services, light your own wreath at the same time. Please contact Pastor Katharine at [ladiebug1214@gmail.com](mailto:ladiebug1214@gmail.com) if you have questions about how to make a simple Advent wreath.

### WEEKLY ONLINE COMMUNION



Pastor Fay and Pastor Katharine will alternate officiating an approximate 10-minute weekly online communion celebration. There will be a separate link under the other worship services, and should you desire to take communion often, here is your chance. We will not offer this on the first Sunday of the month, when the Lord's Supper is celebrated in the regular worship services.

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



Our virtual Service of Remembrance will air at 7:00pm on Wednesday, December 9th (*change of date from November's newsletter*); and all names that have been submitted will be read. Please join us in remembering our saints, who have gone before us.

### CONFIRMATION



If enough 7th—12th grade students are interested, Pastor Katharine will begin Confirmation (13 weeks) in January 2021. At this point we don't know if it will be in-person, online or a hybrid model. If your student would like to participate, please let her know by emailing to [ladiebug1214@gmail.com](mailto:ladiebug1214@gmail.com).

### AMERICAN INDIAN CHRISTMAS



Roy Cook, *Opata-Oodham, Mazopiye Wishasha: Writer, Singer, Speaker* — Many Native American people found that the story of the European Christmas and Christ's birth fulfilled aspects of tribal prophecies and found the message to

be consistent with the truth that was handed down by their ancestors. Over time other social customs, that were introduced to them by the European missionaries have become adapted to the native cultures and are an integral part of Tribal Christmas traditions today, just as they are in most non-Indian homes.

#### *The First Native American Christmas Carol*

According to Huron tradition, a Jesuit missionary priest, Fr Jean de Brebeuf, around 1640-41, wrote their first Christmas Carol. The Huron built a small chapel of fir trees and bark in honor of the manger at Bethlehem.

*Aloki ekwatatennonten shekwachiendaen  
lontonk ontatiande ndio sen tsatonnharonnion  
Ouarie onnawakueton ndio sen tsatonnharonnion  
lesous ahatonnia!*

*Within a lodge of broken bark  
The tender Babe was found,  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin  
Wrapped His beauty 'round;  
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high:  
Jesus, your King is born,  
Jesus is born, In excelsis gloria.*

The animals at the manger were the Fox, the Buffalo and the Bear. The Huron also made a traditional tent of skins and their nativity figures were all dressed as Native Americans. This Huron Carol, originally written in the Huron language and later translated to French, has become a loved Canadian carol today.

### CANDY CANE POSTCARDS



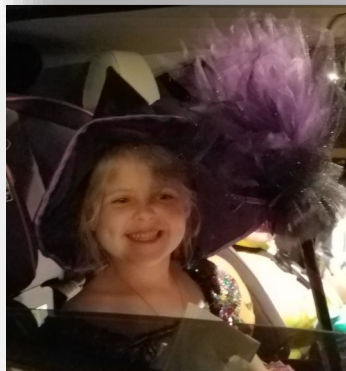
As of the second week of December we will have postcards available with the Candy Cane poem and church worship info PLUS a candy cane attached for you to hand out to neighbors, friends or



relatives. You may have as many as you want to share with kids and adults alike. Please call the Church Office to let us know how many you would like, and we will leave them on the bench outside the church office door for you to pick up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Katharine at [ladiebug1214@gmail.com](mailto:ladiebug1214@gmail.com)

## COMMUNITY HARVEST FESTIVAL

A fun evening was had and full of sharing special treats, a pumpkin and a smile, along with trick or treaters on Halloween night! Thanks goes to not only to all the volunteers on Halloween night that made the evening fun, but to all the folks who prepped ahead of time and all who donated candy. Team Outreach appreciates each and every one of you!



## VIRTUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Ladies retreated via Zoom on Fri., October 23rd and 24th with activities led by Pastor Fay, Pastor Katharine and Riechia Ralston. Above are a few photos taken during some of the Retreat activities.







## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Sherry Hussein

*"...Growing disciples of Jesus Christ and living the Word."*

Greetings to our awesome Church families. December 2020 is here, as many of us reflect on this past year, one thing is for sure...we have missed so many hugs! We were taught "new ways" to express ourselves, to show our compassion & love for one another. I am a "hugger" and enjoy hugging, and there's like nothing better than a "good hug" from a friend or loved one. Yes, to me... HUGS are Priceless! What do you replace a hug with? Smiles are wonderful, most always if you give a smile you get one back. How about a note or card in the mail "just dropping in" to say hello. A phone call or text message is nice. Face Time, Skype, or Zoom chats... even better. "I Love You", right up there with a hug... almost.

When you see or talk to someone you haven't been in contact with for a while, be sure to give them your "full attention", acknowledge what they are saying, express your concern, care, compassion, as appropriate for that conversation. A smile and a "God Bless You" can also be priceless. We want to hold strong onto our connectedness, as humans, as Gods' people.

During this Advent season we look forward with anticipation in celebrating the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It's like the ultimate Birthday party, Christmas! Once we have quieted ourselves in preparation for the Advent season, we can reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Sharing something I liked from [www.imom.com](http://www.imom.com), "7 ways your family can celebrate The True Meaning of Christmas". "Create a Jesse Tree, write a letter to Jesus, set up a child friendly nativity, host an old fashioned carol sing, plan a movie night, tour a living nativity, read the real Christmas story", can find that in Luke 2:1-20. Celebrate the reason for the season. Keep Christ the focus of Christmas. Now... that's truly priceless! Love and blessings, Ms. Sherry

## SIDEWALK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Sidewalk Children's Outreach Ministry serves Apache Junction area children. We started on Saturday, Nov. 14th, meeting from 10:00-11:00 a.m., at the Desert Chapel UMC campus. There were 3 adult "Shepherds" and 6 children in attendance on our 1st day resuming the ministry program. Many of

the families live near our meeting site, therefore we have asked the parents to transport their children on Saturday mornings. In past years we would start up with about 30-35 children. This is our 17th year of Sidewalk, and we are very grateful to our GCUMC congregation for their continued support in blessing this children's outreach ministry. If you would like to know more about Sidewalk Children's Ministry, please contact Sherry Hussein, (480) 529-9621, or Bev Stout, (480) 926-6479.

## MIDWEEK MOUNTAINEERS



Midweek Mountaineers is our weekly Wednesday program for students from 1st-6th grade, and is open to children from GCUMC, their friends, and other children in our community.

This program is spiritually uplifting, and fun, we include a Bible lesson, music, trivia games, and more. Midweek Mountaineers has been meeting online since mid-September.

The children receive weekly lesson packets in the mail, and parents receive an email with the zoom link. Please contact Sherry Hussein for more details, at [sheriffsherry2000@gmail.com](mailto:sheriffsherry2000@gmail.com) or call 480-529-9621. Be sure to watch for updates that will be posted in the weekly bulletin. For more info, please contact Sherry Hussein at [SheriffSherry2000@gmail.com](mailto:SheriffSherry2000@gmail.com) or (480)529-9621.







## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL & MORE



Our Preschool & Elementary Sunday school classes resumed in-person on Sunday, Nov. 15th with six children attending at 9:30am and four children attending at 10:50am. The children made Thanksgiving cards that were given to residents at Aurora Place Assisted Living in Apache Junction. It was wonderful to see the children and the parents/grandparents!



Sunday, Nov. 29th was very special, as we celebrated the First Day of Advent. Many of the children will continue receiving packets in the mail that contain Bible lessons and fun activity pages, and we will be continuing our Zoom chat sessions also.



Please contact Sherry if your children or grandchildren are interested in attending "in-person" Sunday school classes. As of date, we are limited to small groups of 10

maximum, which equates to two (2) adults and eight (8) children for both the 9:30 or 10:50 classes. For more information or to sign-up, please contact Sherry (480) 529-9621 or [sheriffsherry2000@gmail.com](mailto:sheriffsherry2000@gmail.com)

## THANKSGIVING BLANKET DRIVE SUCCESS!



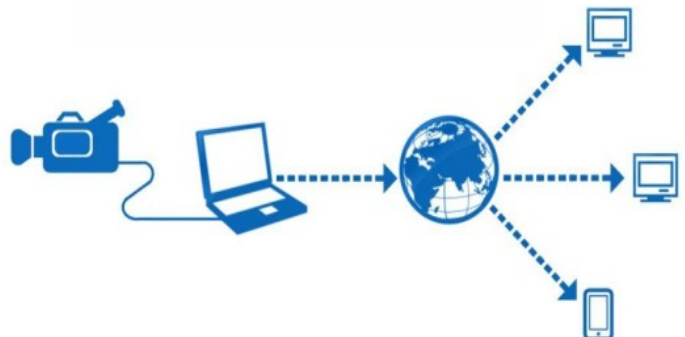
A big thank you to all the people from our Church family that donated blankets in November. God Bless you for your generosity of spirit. More than 90 blankets were donated, and they were given out to people in need at Genesis, Desert Chapel UMC, and The Salvation Army in Apache Junction. By November 6th our Arizona nights were getting cold, especially for someone sleeping outside, and 20 blankets & 2 sleeping bags were delivered to Genesis. The remaining blankets were divided between the 3 ministries serving people that are homeless or in need. That was truly a wonderful Thanksgiving blessing to so many people!



You can easily watch our live and archived worship services!

To view, go to:

- <http://goldcanyonumc.org/watch-worship-services-live/>
- ([www.facebook.com/GoldCanyonUMC/](https://www.facebook.com/GoldCanyonUMC/))







## YOUTH GROUP

Linda Clise, Youth Director

*"...Growing disciples of Jesus Christ and living the Word."*

### BACK IN PERSON!

Youth Group has started to meet in person again! We now have two groups since we can only meet in groups of 10 or less. So far we have met three times and have had so much fun! It was great to be together again (socially distanced, of course) and to visit in person. We had a pumpkin carving party one week, a corn hole tournament another, and we played minefield, too! It is also great to just be outside playing volleyball as well.

Rick has painted the youth room a beautiful blue; Riechia and Tim Ralston donated some lovely furniture and I am now reworking the décor. We are all anxiously awaiting when we can use the room again.

Bible study is a hybrid style — some in-person and some online — and it has worked well. We are still having Friday night game nights online because I want to be sure that everyone has an opportunity to connect. There is even a student in California who attends online!

All of our work wouldn't be possible without the generous donations of our shareholders! I so appreciate all of the continued support — especially during these "different" times.

Blessings, Linda

To participate online with Zoom,  
send an email to:  
[LindaKTClise@gmail.com](mailto:LindaKTClise@gmail.com)



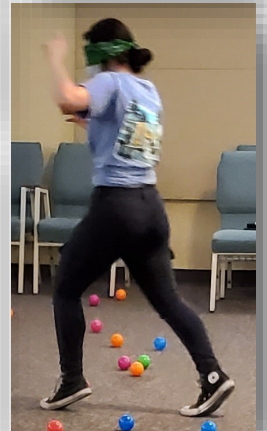
### Youth Group

(Fun & faith-based programs & fellowship  
for 7th—12th grades)

**Thursdays at 6:30pm**  
Bible Study (Hybrid)

**Fridays at 6:30pm**  
Netflix Movie Party

**Sundays at 6:30pm**  
Youth Group (In person; need  
reservation)







## MUSIC NOTES

Dr. Ian Classe, Director of Music Ministries



Season's Greetings! Christmas is just around the corner as we move into Advent. May we be filled with love and joy as we come to celebrate the Savior's coming and birth, particularly during these challenging times!

I hope you enjoyed seeing and hearing the first of our small choral ensembles in worship at the end of November, as well as the return of the Praise Service.

Despite this year's strange circumstances, our church is maintaining our tradition of annual Christmas concerts. We've postponed our Christmas concert this year a week, so we'll be presenting the 19th Annual GCUMC (Virtual) Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 19th at 3:00pm instead of December 12th. You can either stream the concert at 3pm or watch whenever is convenient for you from our website or Facebook. Normally, I'd say arrive early, but this year you can enjoy with a hot cup of coffee or cocoa from the comfort of your own home! Music this year will feature a number of small music groups comprised of choir members, bell ringers, country and praise musicians, as well as instrumentalists. There should be something for everyone, from traditional carols to new Christmas arrangements. The concerts are free and open to the public.

As always, GCUMC-hosted concerts are free admission, but we will be receiving a free-will offering if you're inclined to help out. Our Christmas concert in particular usually helps out with funding other concerts moving forward. You may donate either through the church website or by mail. I hope you'll join us on December 19th to enjoy some holiday music. If you have any other questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to call or email any time. Stay safe, stay healthy, and I hope to see you all soon.

Peace and have a merry Christmas season,

*Ian*



### ROADRUNNER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please send your content for the  
**JANUARY Roadrunner**  
 via email to [ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org)  
**no later than 8:00am, Mon., 12/7/2020**

**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  
 the Roadrunner Assembly Team,  
 the Friday Bulletin Assembly Team...  
 and many other **treasured** volunteers!*



## GLOBAL MISSIONS

Fay Quanstrom, Associate Pastor

### GLOBAL MISSIONS IN THE DAYS OF COVID-19

Through the GCUMC Budget as well as with designated gifts we support three Global Missions and four missionaries—Rice and Beans Ministries (Fred Curry, missionary to Costa Rica and Brazil), Fellowman International (Lisa Armstrong, founding missionary, directing mission in Honduras from Kansas), and Mobility Worldwide (Sandra and Delbert Groves, missionaries in Zambia). Their work continues!



The **Rice and Beans** staff on location in Costa Rica has used the limitations imposed by Covid-19 to develop creative ways of doing ministry. The team of local talent, recruited and directed by Missionary Fred Curry, includes specialists in construction, accounting, and social work, but their energy and abilities extend beyond their disciplines. When visiting mission work teams (like Gold Canyon!) have been unable to travel to Costa Rica, the local needs continue, so the Costa Rican team has planted large vegetable gardens. This has provided plants and produce to sell or to distribute freely to needy families and individuals. Thus, nudged by both restrictions and need, new outreach methods have developed.



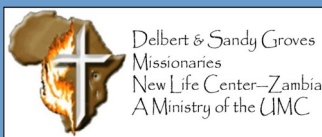
**Fellowman International** continues to send medical teams into villages to serve those who are too ill to travel. Because of the virus, the Honduran government has granted funds and supplies to FMI for the work in remote, underserved areas, extending the staff's ability to share the love of Christ with people in great need.



**Mobility Worldwide** has moved to larger quarters in Columbia, Missouri, and continues to construct personal energy transportation devices (PETs), which are then shipped partially assembled in containers to countries where they have been requested. These sturdy carts are constructed using solid rubber tires and common materials, making them long-lasting and easy to repair. With a PET children and adults who are otherwise unable to walk can regain their mobility and participate fully in the life of their community. They can attend church and school and even put their cart to use in earning a living.



Gold Canyon United Methodist Church supports these Global Missions:







## ON THE COUNTRY SIDE

Dr. David Worley

Geography – not a subject many people like I suspect. In fact, the National Geographic Society describes most Americans as geographically illiterate. But, place matters as we all know from our own lives. Where we come from, where we live now and where we have been are all important aspects of our personal experiences.

Geography also matters in the Bible. As we pay attention to it we are reminded that Bible is rooted in history. We also gain hints into the deeper meaning of the Scriptures. In our Advent series this year I want to invite you to something of a geographical study. Now I don't mean we will study Bible maps, but rather we will ask one central question, "Why Bethlehem?" Why was Jesus born there? What does the geography of his birthplace tell us about Him?

Please join us as we pursue what is for me a fascinating study; I hope you will find it so, too.

### A PASTORAL NOTE



Here I sit at my computer in the first days of November wondering where the time went! Perhaps for many these past

months have crawled by, but for others I suspect you feel as I do. At the same time, understandably, we can all say, "I'll be glad to bid this year goodbye." As some put it, "I can't wait until New Year's 2021 so that I can say that hindsight is really 2020."

We live in dark days just now. But it was the same when Jesus was born. One scholar calls the year Jesus was born "a most violent year." Herod was a bloodthirsty leader who terrorized and murdered his own family as well and newborn baby boys as we learn in Matthew. Rome ruled harshly and there was great political unrest. Divisiveness loomed everywhere and even in religious circles the factions within Judaism faced off with one another. There was also great social unrest and crime. (See <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/a-most-violent-year-the-world-into-which-jesus-was-born/10097496>).

Sound familiar? Yet into this darkness we read the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned." Matthew describes the inception of Jesus' ministry with these words. And don't forget the light of the star of Bethlehem that shone brightly as a testament to the One who is the "light of the world" cradled in a Bethlehem manger. Advent celebrates the coming of the True Light (see John 1) darkness notwithstanding.

So, although we may wish to bid this year goodbye, let's not rush past Advent with all of its promises that lighten the deepest darkness. Let us celebrate that which truly matters and "live as children of the light." Light the tree! String the outdoor lights! Burn candles! Celebrate The Light!

### HOLY LAND TRIP (\$3,498) RESCHEDULED JANUARY 4-17, 2022



The Holy Land trip with Pastor Fred & Beth was rescheduled to January 4—17, 2022 due to the coronavirus.

If you've already paid your deposit, it can be left on file and you'll automatically be moved to this new trip date. If you'd like to withdraw from the trip, please contact Educational Opportunities and they will fully refund your deposit. Those who have paid their initial deposit will not need to pay the second deposit until July of 2021. All trip details remain the same and new brochures will be available in the future.

Pastor Fred would be glad to answer questions or email you a brochure if you contact him at [revstein78@gmail.com](mailto:revstein78@gmail.com) or leave a message with the Church Office.



## PASTORAL & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Rev. Fay Quanstrom, Dr. David Worley, Pastor Katharine Keller

### PASTORAL CARE

Our Pastors are on-call to reach out to members and friends of Gold Canyon UMC. If you know someone in our congregation who is hospitalized, ill at home, needs a listening ear and/or prayers of the community, please send an email to [GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com](mailto:GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com), call the Church Office at (480) 982-3776, or contact one of the pastors directly so they can be included on the prayer list.



**Rev. Fred Steinberg, Senior Pastor**

[RevStein78@gmail.com](mailto:RevStein78@gmail.com) / (480) 982-3776

**Rev. Fay Quanstrom, Associate Pastor**

[Fay.Quanstrom@gmail.com](mailto:Fay.Quanstrom@gmail.com) / (480) 458-8420

**Pastor Katharine Keller, Associate Pastor**

[LadieBug1214@gmail.com](mailto:LadieBug1214@gmail.com) / (480) 888-5411

**Dr. David Worley, Director, Congregational Care**

[DWorley3@gmail.com](mailto:DWorley3@gmail.com) / (970) 821-5404

Caring for others in the GCUMC fellowship of believers is shared by clergy & lay caregivers. In addition to the pastoral staff, 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.

### "PRAYER & PRAYING NOW" - REV. FAY QUANSTROM



**Weekly Pastoral Prayer**, a regular part of the Sunday Worship Service, raises the joys and concerns of the congregation and provides a pattern for individual, devotional prayer.

**Prayer Requests** can be made by using the website communication link or by calling the Church Office, Rev. Fay Quanstrom, Dr. David Worley or Pastor Katharine Keller. The Prayer List is updated weekly and printed in the worship bulletin, which you are encouraged to view, print, and use. People

are counting on our prayers! Requests first appear in the "This Week" section, then move to the "Other Concerns" section the second week, before rotating off the list. Resubmissions are welcome. Names continue to be listed under the "Hospice" section as long as the person remains in that care. Those listed on the "Cancer" list continue until removal is requested. The "Cancer" list is going to be updated to facilitate pastoral care outreach. To add the name of anyone who is not on the GCUMC roll to the cancer list, contact info must also be provided. If you currently have a friend or family member on the cancer list, please send that person's contact information to Pastor Fay <[fay.quanstrom@gmail.com](mailto:fay.quanstrom@gmail.com)>. The "Ongoing Needs" section will remain on page two of the list.

**Prayer Wall** is always available within the Prayer Garden and you are welcome to stop by any time. A container with paper and pencils awaits your use. Write your confidential prayer request; then fold the paper and insert it into any crevice in the half-wall behind the Jesus sculpture. Be reminded that God hears the cries of our hearts and responds them.

**Prayer Walk** is available anytime during daylight hours. You are welcome on campus even though the buildings are closed and we are meeting as we normally do. Simply mask and maintain social distance while enjoying the campus during these cooler days. Stop at the display box to the far right of the office door to pick up the Prayer Walk directions. Walk and pray around the campus using the prompts that are provided, concluding your walk at the Prayer Garden. You might enjoy extending your walk around the parking lot perimeter. Walk and pray! It's a blessed pairing of disciplines.

*We honor the lives and memories  
of these members and friends,  
as well as their families and friends  
who have recently passed...*

Mike Bonestell  
Mary Ruth Huston Diel (IL)  
Charles Eugene Dillon (TN)  
Dorrie Serrine

*In Remembrance*





## CARING CORNER

Kim Shroyer

### H.O.P.E.

Oh joy of joys! It's December, Christmas month. The time to celebrate the birth of our Savior. A month we look forward to all year long.

Don't we love the song titles we see and hear at this time of year – "Joy to the World," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Mary's Boy Child," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"? But what do those really mean? To me the lyrics of those songs solidify another phrase we also see quite often – "Jesus is the Reason for the Season!" If ever there was a year to look forward to "the season", and to search a little more deeply for what "the reason" is, it's this one! To do so let's look to scripture:

*<sup>8</sup>Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup>Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

~ Luke 2:8-14 [NKJV]

The coming of the Christ Child brought Joy, Promise, Hope, Love, Saving Grace. Every year at Christmas time we celebrate these things, giving gifts to loved ones, representing those the wise men gave to our Savior:

*<sup>9</sup>...and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup>And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ~ Matthew 2:9-11 [NKJV]*

But, for many of us, this year's celebration may come with a bit of apprehension, in that we just don't quite know what to expect...our celebrations may look a little different...we may be anticipating some disappointment...we may not see people we normally see...we may be fearful of circumstances in our lives...we may be a little angry...or sad...we may be missing some normal Christmas traditions...

It may just be me who's had my head in the sand for the past several decades, but I have never seen the below acronym

until a few weeks ago – H.O.P.E. = Hold On Pain Ends. Hhhmmmm, amazing don't you think? It makes perfect sense, what else would be a better acronym for the word Hope? Maybe this year has been tougher than many...but what better year to focus on the true meaning of Christmas?! I also recently saw a quote by Theodore Roosevelt that intrigued me – "Comparison is the thief of joy." My simplistic analysis of it tells me it is saying that we will never find joy in today, or the here and now, if we are constantly comparing it to something that 'was' or something that 'might have been.' It's a reminder to hang on to the Hope and Joy provided to us by Jesus' birth.

This year I am challenging myself to live in the here and now, to seek out the joy, promise, hope, love and saving grace brought to us with the birth of Christ Jesus on that Christmas long ago. If you could use a little help meeting that challenge for yourself, or surpassing some of the pain of this year, ***please remember that at GCUMC we are blessed with 4 pastors who are there for you. Let them help.*** They minister to members and friends of Gold Canyon UMC. Please simply call the church office at 480-982-3776 and one of them will respond to your request. After hours, you may call or email one of the pastors directly. You will find their contact information in the bulletin (currently emailed to congregants prior to Sunday on-line worship services), church office or the Pastoral and Congregational Care page of this newsletter.

*<sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ~ Phillipians 4:6-7 [NKJV]*



### Prayer Chain Ministry

Please email prayer requests to  
[gcumcprayers@gmail.com](mailto:gcumcprayers@gmail.com).



## MINISTRY & MISSIONS

### SCRIP "BUS & VAN FUND"



**YOUR** reported participation in the scrip Bus Van Ministry has continued to support the bus and van program so that going forward we will be ready to roll! **Your** most recent quarterly reported participation in the programs to support our Bus & Van Fund was:

• Bashas	\$358
• Fry's	\$193
• Amazon Smile	\$120
• Designated Gifts	\$ 0
• Grand Total	\$671

*Note: Figures are as available at the time of inclusion deadline.*

Thank you for your continued support!

**amazon smile** if you haven't done it already, be sure to link your Amazon account to **Smile.Amazon.com** and choose Gold Canyon UMC as your charity organization. Amazon donates 0.5% of the cost of your eligible purchases to our SCRIP Bus & Van Fund whenever you shop—the same selection—same prices! Just go to:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0621002>.

**Great news...** AmazonSmile customers can now support GCUMC in the Amazon shopping app on mobile phones (iOS & Android)! Follow the below instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations to support our Bus/Van Fund.



- Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
- Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into 'Settings'.
- Tap 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

**Bashas'** When you shop at any Bashas' store for food, gift cards or prescriptions and use their rechargeable card purchased here at the Welcome Center or the Church Office, GCUMC receives a 6% charity gift from Bashas.'

Link your Fry's VIP Card online to Fry's Community Rewards program and choose GCUMC (Account #TS438), Fry's then will contribute 3% of your purchases to our church!

Thanks again for supporting the Bus/Van Fund. Please contact Jan Daniels (480)540-7454 with any questions.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Country Club.

We are looking forward to participating in building a home with the Rodriguez family in Mesa this winter as part of our membership in the Superstition Coalition of churches in the East Valley. The location is 447 W. 1st Ave., near Broadway and

#### Meet the Future Habitat Homeowners:



Raymara was born and raised in Mesa, Arizona and works as a hospice Certified Nurse Assistant. She helps the patients with their daily activities and helps to make their end-of-life journey as comfortable as possible. Her daughters, Sienna and

Arianna were born in 2012 and 2014 and the family currently lives with Raymara's parents, with mother and daughters sharing a small bedroom. All five family members share a bathroom. While Raymara loves her parents and the neighborhood they live in, it is crowded and what was supposed to be a temporary living situation has become long-term. Raymara is looking to build the independence and stability of owning her own home for her and her daughters. Raymara heard about Habitat through a friend who encouraged her to apply. Now that she is a part of the program she is looking forward to activities like painting in their new home and going to the park in their new neighborhood. She looks forward to building new memories with her daughters, such as their quinceañeras and many more. She wants to raise her girls in an environment where they can do well in school, and feel safe and secure. Raymara knows that



with the help of Habitat it's possible.

*"I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart! I have no words to express how thankful I am for the great opportunity. Thank you!"*

- The Rodriguez Family Raymara and Children: Sienna and Arianna

Please pray for this ministry and consider donating money or time to this effort. Please mark your check memo for "Habitat for Humanity", or make contributions online at [www.GoldCanyonUMC.org](http://www.GoldCanyonUMC.org). Thanks so much for your ongoing support! For more info, contact Joe and Maureen Morton (602)284-2826 or [MoandJoeM@aol.com](mailto:MoandJoeM@aol.com).

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



*Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"*

John 4:28-29.

### World Thank Offering: The Give & Take of Gratitude

Every November, the Gold Canyon United Methodist Women has joined with other UMW's around the nation and the world in giving thanks and donating our gifts of gratitude. The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundant grace. When we share our gifts and they are combined with the gifts of others, our contributions make possible the support of National Mission Institutions and international projects and partners to meet the physical and social needs of women, children and youth.

This past year we were invited to give monthly using our World Thank Offering cans, which suggested donations based on our blessings. Just as the Samaritan woman expressed her gratitude in sharing the news of the Messiah, we are called to share all that we have with others: our faith, our kindness, our love, our empathy, our grace, our compassion, our financial blessings. As we enter the Christmas Season, we can express our gratitude for the arrival of our Savior through this opportunity to share.

If you have been using the World Thank Offering cans this past year, you can send your donation to Joy Bliss at: 8278 S. Rocky Peak Court, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118. If you would like to begin using the World Thank Offering can this next year, you can use this suggested offering plan:

- **December:** 25¢ for each rug in your home
- **January:** 25¢ for each door in your home
- **February:** 10¢ for every coffee/tea mug in your

home

- **March:** 50¢ for every TV in your home
- **April:** 25¢ for every clock in your home
- **May:** 10¢ for every can of vegetables in your home
- **June:** 10¢ for every table in your home
- **July:** 10¢ for each pair of shoes you own
- **August:** 25¢ for each pillow in your home
- **September:** 50¢ for each phone you own
- **October:** 25¢ for each rug in your home
- **November:** 10¢ for each picture on the walls in your home



If you would like a World Thank Offering can, contact Carol Johnson at [caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com](mailto:caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com) or (602) 750-2008.

The Gold Canyon UMW continues to meet every Monday from 10:00am—11:00am on Zoom. A link to join is provided in our weekly bulletin. We invite all women to attend! Our Culinary Circle meets every one to two months. We will be having a small group lesson on making a hot Asian Pasta and fried egg rolls on December 2 starting at 11:30am. There is a limit of 10 people. If you are interested, contact LaVia Merrick at [lmerrick72@msn.com](mailto:lmerrick72@msn.com). We will utilize current COVID-19 guidelines.

## COVID-19 FUND UPDATE



*Submitted by Colette Bos.* Since March 2020 we have used the donations to the Easter/COVID-19 Fund to help 33 families. We have used all the money that was donated at that time, as well as money that was donated later and designated for COVID-19 relief. Thank you for the privilege of being the steward of your donations and for giving hope and relief to those who need our help. What a wonderful congregation we are.

Many people ask if they can repay the help we give them. I ask them to simply say thank you by sending me a text or email with a thank you to the congregation so the people who donate to these funds can hear from them. Here is a sampling of some we have received.

**Barbara—Adoptive mother of 2 children with special needs. Work hours cut to 10 per week:**

*"I don't know what to say. Thank you for my car repair. Thank you for helping with my mortgage and telling me about your food bank. I would have had very little left for food for 2 weeks. I don't know what I would have done without your help. I would love to pay you back by volunteering. Please let me know when you are able to have people volunteer again."*

**Drew—4 family members moved into an apartment together to save on expenses. He lost his job, found a new job but couldn't pay his share of rent and utilities:**

*"Thank you so much for your help. I appreciate this more than I can say. You definitely helped me get back on my feet. God bless you and thank you so much."*

**Jamie—Single woman lost her job due to pandemic and finally found a part time job:**

*"Thank you so very much. I appreciate all the help you've given me. You can't even imagine how grateful I feel right now. I was in such a dilemma and didn't know what I was going to do. I have been in this duplex for 3 years and never missed a rent payment. My landlord has been very understanding but he has to make the mortgage payment. So again, thank you to everyone at your church who gave to this fund. With all my heart."*

**Amanda—College student and granddaughter of GCUMC member:**

*"Thank you so much for the financial help during this pandemic and the sickness that I had. It is greatly appreciated by me and my grandparents. Your church has been a blessing to me and many more families. God bless you all."*

*(Continued on page 18)*

Our UMW Reading Program had a book check out/check in on November 17 at the Missions Center. If you are interested in checking out or returning one of our books, you can still do that by contacting Peggy Kinder at [p.kinder@mchsi.com](mailto:p.kinder@mchsi.com) or Carol Johnson at [caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com](mailto:caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com). We can also provide you with a list of books available.

Merry Christmas to all! We look forward to a wonderful 2021 and hope to be able to meet in person soon! -  
*Submitted by Carol Johnson*

## FOOD BANK



The GCUMC Food Bank volunteers have distributed over 220,000 pounds of food products in 2020. Your donations of non-perishable items and financial support have made this possible. This year has been a challenge to say the least, but our Food Bank volunteers continue to do amazing work under difficult conditions. We are blessed to have such wonderful support. Blessing and thanks to all!

## GENESIS PROJECT



As we headed into the beautiful Arizona winter, the temperatures got cooler and our beloved snowbirds returned! Everywhere you go you see our population growing and know our winter friends have arrived home. At Genesis Project it is no different! As temperatures dropped, we saw many more homeless who had traveled back down to the valley from Northern areas where they took refuge from the summer sun and we are serving record numbers each day. In October alone our meal count went up 23% over September!

November brought us the joy of Thanksgiving and a wonderful traditional feast was served to our guests. We are especially thankful for the generosity of those at GCUMC who selflessly choose to support our mission to feed, clothe and hydrate the hungry and homeless! With your contributions we have been blessed to continue providing services in a COVID-conscious way amid the pandemic and ensure that anyone in need of a hot meal has one available.

As 2020 comes to a close, we would like to humbly request that you consider our ministry for your tax-deductible year end donation. Genesis Project is a Qualifying Charitable Organization that allows Arizona taxpayers to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for joint filers. Thank you!





## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

*If your name is missing, or you find an error, please call the Church Office.  
We truly don't mean to make mistakes or to leave anyone out!*

### *Happy Birthday!*

Chung, Andie 12/01  
 Scott, Peggy 12/01  
 Wenger, Diane 12/01  
 Wilcox, Carolyn (Carol) 12/01  
 Kissner, Dale 12/02  
 Roberson, Terry 12/02  
 King, Kathleen 12/03  
 Raffurty, Larry 12/03  
 Walker, Jerry D 12/03  
 Blank, Lori 12/04  
 Halsted, Dorothy (Dort) 12/04  
 Bermele, Sharolyn (Shari) 12/05  
 Capen, Gary 12/05  
 Fyfe, Angie 12/05  
 Walsh, Judy 12/05  
 Johnson, Carol 12/06  
 Palmer, Charlie 12/06  
 Vogelgesang, Robert (Bob) 12/07  
 Waytenick, Karen 12/07  
 Boldt, Kathy 12/08  
 Hollingsworth, Carol 12/08  
 Kalik, Katelin 12/08  
 Molzen, Geneva 12/09  
 Robison, Marty 12/09  
 Bradley, Elva 12/10  
 Broz, Linda 12/10  
 Shroyer, Caleb 12/10  
 Anderson, James 12/11  
 Brogren, Neil 12/11  
 Classe, Ian 12/11  
 Raffurty, Anita 12/11  
 Warren, Mary Ann 12/11  
 Biggs, Jerome (Jerry) 12/12  
 Graves, Samuel (Bob) 12/12  
 Lemmon, Margaret (Meg) 12/13  
 Ritenour, Marcia 12/13  
 Tabor, Gerald Lynn (Lynn) 12/13  
 Anderson, Don 12/14  
 Clark, Sharon 12/14  
 Green, William (Bill) 12/14  
 Houser, Ron 12/14  
 Keller, Katharine 12/14  
 Rhoton, Hannah 12/14  
 Sisson, Anthony (Tony) 12/14

Tabor, Ilene 12/14  
 Tucker, Paula 12/14  
 Acevedo, Carol 12/15  
 Newton, Doris 12/15  
 Twa, Mary Gay 12/15  
 Jameson, Suzanne 12/16  
 Pepin, Jeff 12/16  
 Smith, Jeanine (Jeanie) 12/16  
 Toole, John 12/16  
 Velock, Cheyenne 12/16  
 Hill, Nancy 12/17  
 Keast, Darrell 12/17  
 Kinder, Peggy 12/17  
 Morton, Joseph (Joe) 12/17  
 Shoop, James 12/17  
 Hicklin, Kathy 12/18  
 Serrine, Kathleen (Kathy) 12/18  
 Crowther, Alisha 12/19  
 Robertson, Judy 12/19  
 Sawyer, Tom 12/19  
 Bolster, Patricia 12/20  
 Farnham, Pat 12/20  
 Flowers, Helen 12/20  
 McAuliffe, William 12/20  
 Kirkpatrick, Georgia 12/22  
 Jacobsen, Ken 12/23  
 McAuliffe, Claudia 12/23  
 Rhoton, Heather 12/24  
 Warth, Holly 12/24  
 Brooks, Deborah 12/25  
 Halsted, Vern 12/25  
 King, William (Bill) 12/25  
 LeQuire, Steve 12/25  
 Miller, Christine (Chris) 12/25  
 Starks, Craig 12/25  
 Anderson, Becky 12/26  
 Gharavi, Danna 12/26  
 Gilbreath, Dawn 12/26  
 Smith, Alice (Charlene) 12/26  
 Brown, Barbara 12/27  
 Cartney, Kay 12/27  
 Lambert, Lester (Les) 12/27  
 Malloy, Michael 12/27  
 Schenck, Joyce 12/27  
 Tonole, Don 12/27  
 Lundberg, Joseph 12/28

Schuler, Connie 12/29  
 Cabrinha, Peggy 12/30  
 Clise, Linda 12/30  
 Waechter, William (Bill) 12/30  
 Adams, Dalton 12/31  
 Hall, Joie 12/31  
 Manbeck, Jerrilyn (Jerri) 12/31

### *Happy Anniversary!*

Palmer, Charlie & Bachler-Palmer 12/01  
 Lambert, Alice & Les 12/02  
 Koch, Karl & Bobbie 12/03  
 Nunn, Kevin & Lynda Hammond 12/10  
 Thomas, Mary & Bill 12/11  
 Worley, David & Debra 12/11  
 Linton, Diana & John 12/14  
 Kalik, Adam & Katelin 12/15  
 Nefzer, Kathy & Rick 12/15  
 Ingram, Bob & Pam 12/16  
 Yoder, Bill & Gail 12/18  
 Gibson, Dianna & James 12/19  
 House, Dottie & Richard 12/19  
 Davenport, Brian & Mary Ann 12/20  
 Fast, Jim & Shirley 12/20  
 Nuss, John & Kathy 12/20  
 Twa, Mary Gay & Jack 12/21  
 Carlozzi, Mid & Noreen 12/22  
 Moyer, Carla & Bob 12/23  
 Schuler, Connie & Phalen 12/23  
 Gerst, Leo & Lois 12/24  
 Crow, Robert & Jenny 12/27  
 Johnson, Leila & Richard 12/27  
 Brown, Barbara & Vernon 12/28  
 Lemmon, Harley & Meg 12/28  
 Greenlee, Kay & Bill 12/29  
 Lindaman, Carol & Don 12/29  
 Gingrich, Gary & Joyce 12/30  
 Gunn, Jim & Sue 12/30  
 Brooks, Deborah & Mark 12/31  
 Fridlund, Edward (Ed) & Jo 12/31





# DECEMBER CALENDAR

(Calendar is subject to change;  
For more info, please visit [www.GoldCanyonUMC.org](http://www.GoldCanyonUMC.org) or call the Church Office)

Tue Dec 1	12pm	Angel Tree (North Doors)	Wed Dec 9	9am	Stitches Unlimited (B&Patio-MC)
	2pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ONLINE)		9:30am	GC Garden Club (Esther-MC)
	2pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ONLINE)		2pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ONLINE)
	6pm	***SUSPENDED*** One in the Spirit Reh (KR)		2pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ONLINE)
	6pm	Trustees Mtg (ONLINE)		6pm	***SUSPENDED*** One in the Spirit Reh (KR)
	6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)		6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	6:30pm	Youth Bible Study (Hybrid)		6:30pm	Youth Bible Study (Hybrid)
Wed Dec 2	7pm	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)		7pm	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Music Librarians (MR)	Thu Dec 10	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Music Librarians (MR)
	11am	Cancer Support Group (ONLINE)		11am	Cancer Support Group (ONLINE)
	11:30am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)		11:30am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 3 (ONLINE)		1pm	DISCIPLE 3 (ONLINE)
Thu Dec 3	5pm	***SUSPENDED*** Wranglers for the Lord (KR)		5pm	***SUSPENDED*** Wranglers for the Lord (KR)
	6pm	Midweek Mountaineers (ONLINE)		6pm	***SUSPENDED*** Mtg: Vista del Corozon HOA-DRC (S-MC)
	9am	***SUSPENDED*** Prayer Shawl Ministry (S-MC)	Fri Dec 11	6pm	Midweek Mountaineers (ONLINE)
Fri Dec 4	11am	Online Chat w/ Pastor Fred		7pm	Remembrance Svc (ONLINE)
	6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Choir Rehearsal (Music)		11am	Online Chat w/ Pastor Fred
	10am	***SUSPENDED*** Mtg: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (E-MC)	Sat Dec 12	1pm	***SUSPENDED*** Gold Canyon Arts Council Mtg (S-MC)
Sat Dec 5	5:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** AA (ER)		6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Choir Rehearsal (Music)
	6:30pm	Youth Games (ONLINE)		10am	***SUSPENDED*** Mind Menders (ER)
	All day	UMW (KR/K)	Sun Dec 13	10am	***SUSPENDED*** Mtg: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (E-MC)
Sun Dec 6	10am	***POSTPONED*** Mtg: GC Coordinating Council (S-MC)		5:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** AA (ER)
	10am	UMW Christmas Tea (KR)		6:30pm	Youth Games (ONLINE)
	8am	Traditional Worship (ONLINE)	Mon Dec 14	9am	PEO Mtg (E-MC)
Mon Dec 7	9am	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)		8am	Traditional Worship (ONLINE)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** "The Table" Adult Discussion Grp (E-MC)		9am	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Traditional Worship (ONLINE/S)	Tue Dec 15	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** "The Table" Adult Discussion Grp (E-MC)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Youth Participate in Worship (S)		9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Traditional Worship (ONLINE/S)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Youth Sunday School (YR)		9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Youth Sunday School (YR)
	9:30am	Children Sunday School (KR)		9:30am	Children Sunday School (KR)
	10:50am	***SUSPENDED*** Praise Worship (KR)		10:50am	***SUSPENDED*** Praise Worship (KR)
	10:50am	Children's Sunday School (KR)		10:50am	Children's Sunday School (KR)
	3:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Country Music Rehearsal (KR)		3:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Country Music Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Youth Group (on campus)		4pm	Youth Group (on campus)
	5pm	Country Worship (ONLINE)		5pm	Country Worship (ONLINE)
	6:30pm	Youth Group (on campus)		6:30pm	Youth Group (on campus)
	9am	Bible Banter (ONLINE)		9am	Bible Banter (ONLINE)
Tue Dec 8	10am	UMW Mtg (ONLINE)		10am	***SUSPENDED*** UMW Leadership Committee (SoGR)
	1pm	***SUSPENDED*** Grief Support Mtg (ONLINE)		10am	UMW Mtg (ONLINE)
	6pm	SPRC Mtg w/ DS		1pm	***SUSPENDED*** Grief Support Mtg (ONLINE)
	7pm	***SUSPENDED*** AI-Anon (SoGR)		7pm	***SUSPENDED*** AI-Anon (SoGR)
	7pm	***SUSPENDED*** CoDA Mtg (ER)		7pm	***SUSPENDED*** CoDA Mtg (ER)
	7pm	Charge Conference (ONLINE)		9am	DISCIPLE II (ZOOM)
	9am	DISCIPLE I (ZOOM)		2pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ONLINE)



# GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

	2pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ONLINE)		11am	Online Chat w/ Pastor Fred
	6pm	***SUSPENDED*** One in the Spirit Reh (KR)		3pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Family w/ Puppet Show)
	6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)		5:30pm	Gift of Music (Sanctuary)
	6:30pm	Youth Bible Study (Hybrid)		6pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Chancel Choir)
	7pm	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)		6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Choir Rehearsal (Music)
Wed Dec 16	8am	***SUSPENDED*** Newsletter Team (MR)		7:30pm	Gift of Music (Sanctuary)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Music Librarians (MR)		8pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Chancel Choir)
	11am	Cancer Support Group (ONLINE)	Fri Dec 25	All day	Christmas Day (OFFICE CLOSED)
	11:30am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)		10am	***SUSPENDED*** MindMenders (ER)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 3 (ONLINE)		10am	***SUSPENDED*** Mtg: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (E-MC)
	5pm	***SUSPENDED*** Wranglers for the Lord (KR)		5:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** AA (ER)
	6pm	Midweek Mountaineers (ONLINE)		6:30pm	Youth Games (ONLINE)
Thu Dec 17	9am	***SUSPENDED*** Prayer Shawl Ministry (S-MC)	Sun Dec 27	8am	Traditional Worship (ONLINE)
	11am	Online Chat w/ Pastor Fred		9am	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Choir Rehearsal (Music)		9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** "The Table" Adult Discussion Grp (E-MC)
Fri Dec 18	10am	***SUSPENDED*** Mtg: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (E-MC)		9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Traditional Worship (ONLINE/S)
	5:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** AA (ER)		9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Youth Sunday School (YR)
	6:30pm	Youth Games (ONLINE)		9:30am	Children Sunday School (KR)
Sat Dec 19	10am	***SUSPENDED*** UMW Mtg (B-MC)		10:50am	***SUSPENDED*** Praise Worship (KR)
Sun Dec 20	8am	Traditional Worship (ONLINE)		10:50am	Children's Sunday School (KR)
	9am	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)		3:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Country Music Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** "The Table" Adult Discussion Grp (E-MC)		4pm	Youth Group (on campus)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Traditional Worship (ONLINE/S)		5pm	Country Worship (ONLINE)
	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Youth Sunday School (YR)		6:30pm	Youth Group (on campus)
	9:30am	Children Sunday School (KR)	Mon Dec 28	9am	Bible Banter (ONLINE)
	10:50am	***SUSPENDED*** Praise Worship (KR)		10am	UMW Mtg (ONLINE)
	10:50am	Children's Sunday School (KR)		1pm	***SUSPENDED*** Grief Support Mtg (ONLINE)
	3:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Country Music Rehearsal (KR)		7pm	***SUSPENDED*** AI-Anon (SoGR)
	4pm	Youth Group (on campus)		7pm	***SUSPENDED*** CoDA Mtg (ER)
	5pm	Country Worship (ONLINE)	Tue Dec 29	2pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ONLINE)
	6:30pm	Youth Group (on campus)		2pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ONLINE)
Mon Dec 21	9am	Bible Banter (ONLINE)		6pm	***SUSPENDED*** One in the Spirit Reh (KR)
	10am	UMW Mtg (ONLINE)		6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	1pm	***SUSPENDED*** Grief Support Mtg (ONLINE)		6:30pm	Youth Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	***SUSPENDED*** AI-Anon (SoGR)		7pm	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)
	7pm	***SUSPENDED*** CoDA Mtg (ER)	Wed Dec 30	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Music Librarians (MR)
Tue Dec 22	9am	***SUSPENDED*** Stitches Unlimited (B-MC)		11am	Cancer Support Group (ONLINE)
	2pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ONLINE)		11:30am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)
	2pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ONLINE)		1pm	DISCIPLE 3 (ONLINE)
	6pm	***SUSPENDED*** One in the Spirit Reh (KR)		5pm	***SUSPENDED*** Wranglers for the Lord (KR)
	6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)		6pm	Midweek Mountaineers (ONLINE)
	6:30pm	Youth Bible Study (Hybrid)	Thu Dec 31	All day	New Year's Eve / OFFICE CLOSED
	7pm	***SUSPENDED*** UG Rehearsal (KR)		11am	Online Chat w/ Pastor Fred
Wed Dec 23	9:30am	***SUSPENDED*** Music Librarians (MR)		6:30pm	***SUSPENDED*** Choir Rehearsal (Music)
	11am	Cancer Support Group (ONLINE)			
	11:30am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)			
	1pm	DISCIPLE 3 (ONLINE)			
	5pm	***SUSPENDED*** Wranglers for the Lord (KR)			
	6pm	Midweek Mountaineers (ONLINE)			
Thu Dec 24	All day	Christmas Eve			
	9am	***SUSPENDED*** Days for Girls (B-MC)			

*If you are a Facilitator/Teacher/Leader of a class  
or small group and would like to start meeting  
with your group online, please contact the Church Office  
to set-up your online meeting space!*

(Continued from page 14)

**Molly—Single mom of one, hours cut due to pandemic, who was having trouble paying summer electric bill and feeding a teenager:**

*"I just want you to know how thankful I am to everybody that makes it possible to help people when they are struggling like me. Thank you for paying my past due electric balance and for the Fry's cards for food and gas. I pray every night for the church in Gold Canyon, and the food bank and the work that you are doing. God bless everyone. I hope you all know how special you are to families like me."*

**Sheila—Mother of 1 teenage son who was furloughed for 3 months then returned to work at only 20 hours per week. She needed help with electric bill, rent and internet payment for online school:**

*"I can't believe that you don't even know me but were like family for me. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me and my son get through these hard times. If it weren't for your help my son and I would of been looking for a shelter. We are very grateful and so blessed that you reached out to help us. We cannot thank you enough. Thank you & God Bless."*

**Brandon—Single man who moved his mother in with him so he could look after her then lost his job at a restaurant due to pandemic. They needed a new water heater and help with rent after a series of unexpected medical bills for his mom:**

*"Thank you so much for helping me and my mom. I am feeling so relieved and my mom was so stressed. We can make it with my part-time job and mom's social security but I just couldn't get up the money for that water heater, rent and her prescriptions. And thank you for the booklet about resources. We'll be going to your food bank and the free produce place for sure. God bless your church."*

**Nunez family of 4—Evicted and had nowhere to go:**

*"Thank you so much for your help with the trailer and letting us put some of our things in your storage. I'm sorry we took so long. It was so emotional. Thank you for helping us with emergency housing for a few days so we could figure out what to do and for the Fry's cards for food and gas. No one will rent to you with an eviction and we only have part-time jobs. But we'll figure it out. We can't express our gratitude, how grateful we are for your kindness to us."*

**Gabriel family of 4—Truckdriver whose hours were cut due to pandemic and his wife had to quit her part-time job to stay home while children did online school:**

*"It's crazy how you can be doing great one minute then the next your whole life is turned upside down. We were okay for a few months using our savings but then*

*everything got worse and we had no way to earn more income. Please thank your church for help with the rent, and electric bill and the Fry's cards for food. I hope they know what a blessing they are to our family."*

**Jennifer—Daughter of church members:**

*"To my parents' church, I am truly moved by your generosity to me. My mom always told me I need a church family, especially since I don't have any family living close to me. I want to thank the church for helping me. You have greatly touched my heart. Thank you so much for your generosity. God bless your church."*

**Scott—Veteran with PTSD who lost his job due to the pandemic. Needed help with rent, utilities and car registration so he could keep looking for work:**

*"I appreciate the help the church has extended to me as I try to get back on my feet. It took a lot of stress from me to have my living expenses caught up. And I went to the food bank today. It was an amazing amount of food. What a blessing. I took a part-time job as a truck driver and I am working with the Genesis resource center as you suggested to get some referrals from them for veterans. Please thank the folks at your church who donated to this fund to help people like me."*

**Reverend [ ]—Pastor at a UMC in our District:**

*"We are so grateful for the help from your church at this time of great stress for my family and our small congregation. Please extend to your congregation our heartfelt appreciation for their generosity. They are truly examples of the love of Christ and the connection we have as brothers and sisters in Him. We will uplift them in our prayers."*

**Alicia—Mother of 2 who works in a school cafeteria:**

*"Me and my family are truly grateful to God for putting good amazing people like you in our path. Our electric bills were so high this summer, I couldn't keep up. Thank you for help with that, and for the food bank referral and for help with my car repair so I wouldn't miss work. I am so beyond grateful. God bless you all."*

**Francisco—Father of a family of 4 whose hours as a mechanic were greatly reduced due to pandemic:**

*"I have never received help from anyone my whole life. It was very hard to ask for help. My wife and I work very hard but you can't work when there is no work to get. Thank you to your church very much for help with the rent and electric bill and car registration. I'm really glad my friend told me about your church. If you ever need help with landscaping, I used to do that. My son and I would be glad to come work at the church to say thank you."*





## CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE

*"Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another."*

*- Romans 13:8 (NIV)*

October	2017			2018			2019			2020		
	General	Building	Worship All	General	Building	Worship All	General	Building	Worship All	General	Building	Worship All
	84182	85453	5493	68530	21935	4724	71831	25768	5088	62260	72326	7238

### 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:

- Loop Hearing System: (\$48,000; \$1,425 given so far)
- Fellowship Hall (\$2.4M; \$675,393 given so far)
- Stained Glass for upper Sanctuary windows (\$150,535 given so far; \$2,725 per 2'5"x 2'8.5" panel + scaffolding)
- Organ Pipes: (\$127,473 given so far)
- Building Fund Debt Payoff (\$788,139/\$222,000 prepaid in 2019)



Electronic giving is a great option to use in making contributions, including recurring contributions and additional/special gifts.

- ✚ AccessACS: Very easy to set-up/modify 1-time/recurring donations; Call Church Office for info.
- ✚ eGiving: [www.GoldCanyonUMC.org](http://www.GoldCanyonUMC.org) and click "Make Donation" button. This link now takes you to AccessACS electronic giving.
- ✚ TEXT your gift by sending "goldcanyonumc" to 73256 and follow screen instructions.



### HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GIFTING YOUR HOME TO GCUMC?

- ✚ ... it's a practical means of reducing the size of one's estate.
- ✚ ... it simplifies life for one's heirs and executor (personal representative).
- ✚ ... it eliminates the hassle of having one's home on the market.
- ✚ ... it reduces one's taxes.
- ✚ ... it helps reduce the church's debt.
- ✚ ... it can be done through a lifetime estate, allowing a person to continue living in the home.

## ACCESS ACS



You can add/update your photo and contact info — and so much more using GCUMC's online directory, AccessACS! If you aren't already using it, but would like to, send an email to [ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org) with "AccessACS" in the subject line and we'll email you login instructions.

You can also view the GCUMC Church Directory on your phone using the ChurchLife app!



## GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6640 S Kings Ranch Road, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

**Phone:** 480.982.3776

**Fax:** 480.671.0028

**Email:** ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

**Web:** www.GoldCanyonUMC.org

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Permit No. 64

### WORSHIP SERVICES

✝ 8:00am	TRADITIONAL (Online)
✝ 10:50am	PRAISE (Online)
✝ 5:00pm	COUNTRY (Online)

### 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 (Koinonia Room)
✝ 10:50am	Children (Koinonia Room)

Addressee or Current Resident

### STAFF

Senior Pastor	Fred A. Steinberg	RevStein78@gmail.com
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Associate. Pastor	Katharine Keller	Ladiebug1214@gmail.com
Director, Congregational Care	Dr. David Worley	DWorley3@gmail.com
Director, Music Ministries	Dr. Ian Classe	Ian.Classe@gmail.com
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Director, Children's Ministry	Sherry Hussein	SheriffSherry2000@gmail.com
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Director, Audio/Visual	Chris Benjamin	BenjiDoesTheArt@gmail.com
Pianists	Carol Ballard Andie Chung Marty Robison	

Prayer Chain GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com



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