



FROM OUR PASTORS



Rev. Fred A. Steinberg, Senior Pastor

“CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US!”

The Happy Easter! This year, we warmly invite you and your family to join us at Gold Canyon United Methodist Church as we journey together through the powerful and meaningful worship experiences of Holy Week and Easter. Our schedule includes:

Palm Sunday – April 13

9:30am (Traditional) & 11:00am (Praise)– Rev. David Harriss
4:00pm (Country) – Rev. Fred Steinberg

Maundy Thursday – April 17

7:00pm – Rev. Gary Capen

Good Friday – April 18

7:00pm – Jeremy Brigham

Easter Sunday – April 20

6:00am Sunrise Worship – Pastor Katharine Keller
9:30am (Traditional) & 11:00am (Praise) – Rev. David Harriss
4:00pm (Country) – Rev. Fred Steinberg

Throughout the week, special music will enrich our worship, drawing us deeper into the sacred story of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Holy Week is the perfect opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to experience the joy and hope of Easter with you.

By the way—did you accept my challenge to read the Gospel of Luke this year? If you haven't finished yet, don't worry! There are still a couple of weeks left to complete this meaningful journey through Luke's telling of Christ's life and ministry.

This year's Easter offering will benefit the Rice & Beans Ministry in Costa Rica, an organization dedicated to providing educational resources, stable meals, community development, and sharing the love of Christ through service. You can support this impactful ministry by marking your contributions "Rice & Beans" or using a specially marked Easter offering envelope. For more information on this ministry, visit www.rabmin.org.

We look forward to celebrating the resurrection together. May you and your family be blessed abundantly this Easter season!

Grace and peace,



“...FOLLOWING JESUS... SERVING OTHERS”

Contact Us

6640 S. Kings Ranch Road
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
www.GoldCanyonUMC.org
Church Office 480.982.3776



Rev. David J. Harriss, Senior Pastor Designate

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

But (Jesus) emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death- even death on a cross –Philippians 2:7-8

The Lectionary epistle reading for Palm Sunday, April 13th, 2025, comes from Philippians 2:5-11 and it gives us a glimpse into what is forthcoming for Jesus Christ. As Jesus was coming into Jerusalem on a colt, some within the crowd were praising his holy name and (most likely) others were not. The Messiah's tragic triumphant entry into Jerusalem for the week of Passover was full of contradiction and reversal. The same crowd that was yelling out, "Hosanna in the highest; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" will soon be shouting, "Crucify Him!" The decisive Pontious Pilate will become indecisive. Brave Peter will become a timid liar, "I do not know this man." Joy will turn into sorrow. Happiness will turn into anger, and some will even weep at Christ's death. The triumphant entry of the Messiah will succumb to tragedy.

This same contradiction and reversal may be found in the ancient Palm Sunday hymn from Philippians 2:5-11. The Messiah, the anointed one, emptied himself. The one who means everything for the salvation of humanity chose to become nothing. The King of the world took the form of a slave. The prelude to this ancient hymn recognizes the humility of Christ. Many within the Jewish community thought that the Messiah would be a strong military type, who would come in and clean house. The Messiah would overthrow the Roman government with force and re-establish a Jewish regime in Judah and Jerusalem. This was not the case! Jesus Christ came into this world to serve the poor, the marginalized, those who needed healing. He came to re-establish the customs and understandings of the community by prioritizing love, grace, and mercy, not by imposing force. Christ came to serve humanity and not to be served by them.

The second portion of this ancient hymn moves from humility and death to exaltation and life. "Therefore, God highly exalted him and gave him and gave him the name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). This is also a glimpse of what we celebrate on Easter Sunday. Because of the death of Jesus Christ on Good Friday, we have resurrection on Resurrection Sunday. From humility and death to exaltation and life is quite the reversal of fortune.

With a Bible to life examination, this tells me that Christ can reverse my bad fortunes as well. Whatever we are dealing with this Lenten season, Christ can reverse our sadness to joy. Christ can reverse our anger to patience. Christ can reverse our feelings of helplessness and hopelessness to feelings of strength and encouragement. Afterall, if our Lord and Savior can reverse his own state of humility and death to resurrection, exaltation, and life, imagine what wonderful things he can do in your life and in mine.

AND A GRATEFUL SHOUT-OUT GOES TO...

...our terrific food bank volunteers and their directors, Larry Caywood and Margaret DeMar, who recently honored our Food Bank volunteers with an Pizza Appreciation Lunch!



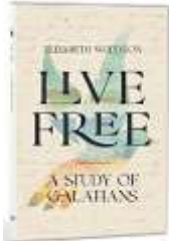


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pastor Katharine Keller

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

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY



Live Free: Everyone longs for freedom – the ability to live life to the fullest, unhindered by difficulty and pain. In this 8-session, verse-by-verse study on the book of Galatians, author and Bible teacher Elizabeth Woodson reveals how it is in the gospel alone that we gain what we desire – freedom from sin and freedom to experience the abundant life Jesus offers. Please join us on Wednesdays, beginning Wednesday June 18 through August 6th at 10am. There will be a sign up after Easter, so that Pastor Katharine can order books (\$25) for each participant.

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT



Ladies, be sure to save the date for our Women's Fall Retreat themed, *"Come to the Table,"* set for November 14-16 at the Franciscan Retreat Center, Scottsdale.

IT'S PURSE-N-AL!



Attention all ladies! If you have barely used or new purses sitting in your closet, we will be blessing women in the Hope Women's Center for Mother's Day by filling the purses with items, like ChapStick, small mirror, etc. Collection bins are in both building Lobbies in April to collect the purses and items, that include small hand lotion, individual ChapStick, pen, dental toothpicks, small notepad, mints, small tissue, tiny mirror, small round pill box. The last possible day to donate is APRIL 27th. On Sunday, May 4 the Children's Sunday School will fill the purses, and the next day the purses will be delivered to Hope Womens' Center, that was so excited about this idea...so check your closets and drawers, ladies! Please direct questions to Pastor Katharine.

FAT TUESDAY SPAGHETTI DINNER

Approximately 130 folks came out to enjoy a spaghetti dinner cooked by Mid Carlozzi and Jim Noe with United Methodist Women in Faith providing the bread and Congregational Life helping in the dining room. Donations to Project Help were over \$1,200. Thanks to all who came out and donated to a great cause!



VACATION BIBLE CAMP



Pastor Katharine is looking for a few good men and women who love children to be leaders in different roles for this week. This experience can only be offered if we have enough adults or teens. It is important that you let her know right away, since orientation is needed very soon. If you have any questions, please contact her (ladiebug1214@gmail.com or call the Church Office). There is a place for your gifts ... games, snacks, storytelling, small group leader!

SERMON SHOWSTOPPER



Pastor David Harriss unleashed “snow” and ice from under his coat in his sermon titled, “A Mountaintop Experience” on Transfiguration Sunday.



ORGAN STOP PIZZA CHURCH LUNCH

Approximately 90 members of our church family gathered at Organ Stop Pizza in March, and a great time was had by all... don't miss this annual outing next year!



DISCIPLE 1 GRADUATES

Congratulations to the recent graduates of our Disciple 1 Class, facilitated by Rev. Jim Gunn!



DISCIPLE 2 GRADUATES

Congratulations to the recent graduates of our Disciple 2 Class, facilitated by Tony Sisson!



WINTER VISITORS FOND FAREWELL TO PASTOR FRED, BETH & TIM

We had a full-house of “winter visitor church family” members who attended to wish Pastor Fred, Beth and a fond farewell. A video full of pictorial memories was shown, and everyone had the opportunity to share memories with others. Many thanks goes to our Reception Team who provided the wonderful refreshments!



Not much to report this month from the children and their families – IT'S SPRING BREAK! However, in April many children and parents will be serving at Feed My Starving Children in Mesa, so we will have pictures to share in May.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

Pastor Katharine Keller

GIRLS MATTER PERIOD



500 menstrual kits for girls in Africa were packed recently; 200 to follow soon after. Nine women will be going to South Africa on May 8th for 10 days to deliver said kits. They continue to interest more volunteers.

The driving motivation is the girls who receive the kits – they are so appreciative. The group will investigate if there are other locations to which they might distribute.

If you are interested in knowing more about this ministry, please contact Tammy Plaski (tplaksi@gmail.com).



RICE & BEANS

We are planning a week of ministry at Rice and Beans in Costa Rica January 10-17, 2026. An informational meeting for any who are interested in this mission trip is Wednesday, April 23rd at 1pm in the Missions Center. Your attendance does not mean you are committed to going but are just considering it. If you are unable to make this meeting, please contact Pastor Katharine.

STAY IN THE KNOW!

Scan to sign-up
for Gold Canyon UMC
communications
via email!



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, 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 A. Steinberg, Senior Pastor
RevStein78@gmail.com / (480) 982-3776

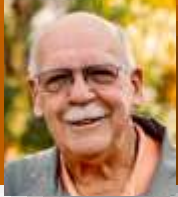
Rev. David J. Harriss, Senior Pastor Designate
DaviJon66@gmail.com / (520) 465-5415

Pastor Katharine Keller, Associate Pastor
LadieBug1214@gmail.com / (480) 888-5411

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor
GCapen@gmail.com / (919) 357-8474



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 the Church Office.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor



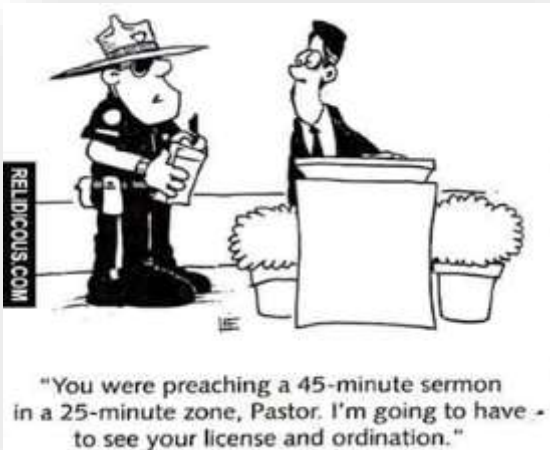
Writing this article is a bit different. We are still in the time of Lent and awaiting Easter. I find Lent to be a season in which we focus on those things we need to change, or as Pastor David has been speaking about, repentance or getting right with God. It's not something which we can do by any means. It's entirely up to the Grace, Forgiveness, and Love that comes from God.

Our response is to accept what God offers us with humility, gratitude, and a change in our Christ-centered life. Christ has taught us, lived for us, died for us, and risen for us. He defeated death, which no longer has the sting it once did. Of course, we grieve the loss of a loved one or friend, but we know that in our grief there is life—new life with Christ and the knowledge that one day we will be reunited. It also means that as we approach Holy Week, which leads us to Easter and the Resurrected Christ, we must experience the final days with Christ.

As Christians we are also disciples, and as disciples we experience the pain and suffering of this week, even though we know the outcome. We know that Christ is going to try and explain to his disciples why this must take place, that he is to be betrayed, arrested, convicted, crucified most horribly, and leave us for a little while. The original disciples didn't understand this, making it difficult for us to believe. In some ways we are perhaps a “doubting Thomas” that a



I KNOW he was really special. But
dead men don't come back.
He's standing behind me, isn't he...



man, both human and divine, could be put to death one day and three days later be raised from the dead. Yet that is our faith at work, our trust in a God who loves us more than we can comprehend. It's taking all the actions of Holy Week and knowing that, as we say in the communion liturgy, the mystery of faith: "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again."

If you have been reading the Gospel of Luke, as pastor Fred and David urged us to do, you should be at the point where Holy Week begins. It's a spiritual journey through Christ's life, death, and resurrection. I pray that in this Lenten season, you, as I have, will find a greater connection with Christ and the faith we profess and live. May the Lord be with you as we approach the beauty and glory of Easter morning.



...please send prayer requests to
GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com
or call the Church Office

In Remembrance

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

John (JD) DerHammer
Don Lindaman
Lynn Lindholm
Joan Pautvein
Linda Ripple

Celesia Salmon
Don Smith
Terry Staebell
Joy Veysey
Christine Wolfgram



YOUTH MINISTRY

Valerie Hammons, Youth Director

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

Thank you for considering investing in our youth and their experiences; you will be helping to foster a sense of shared spirituality, church family and ownership in the youth ministry!



Reservation on the Cheyenne River in South Dakota June 8—14

While every partnership and project looks different, our goal is to meet the tangible, physical needs of people living on the Cheyenne River. Usually this involves teams of students working on trailers and homes across the reservation. Students will have the chance to spend meaningful time with community members and leave their trip with a better understanding of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Last year we were able to take three students to Colorado... and this year we will be taking eight to South Dakota!

YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

APRIL 2025

Sun., 4/6	11am – 12pm	Youth Kite Day (FB Parking Lot)
	12 – 1:30pm	UMYF (YR)
Sun., 4/13	11am – 12pm	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12 – 1:30pm	UMYF (YR)
Sat. 4/19	1pm—2pm	Youth Easter Activity (S)
Sun., 4/20	11am – 12pm	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12 – 1:30pm	UMYF (YR)
Tue., 4/22	1:30pm	Earth Day Staff Lunch (in conjunction w/ UWF)
Sun., 4/27	11am – 12pm	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12 – 1:30pm	UMYF (YR)

SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY



Gold Canyon UMC is pleased to offer a Scholarship Program to our members who qualify for financial assistance. To receive consideration for funds, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be a member of GCUMC
2. Be a high school or GED graduate, or 18 years old
3. Must complete in detail a GCUMC Scholarship Application Form, and
4. Submit application along with written character references from a non-family member/teacher, and from the Pastor, or church staff member

Scholarship Application Forms are available from the Church Office and must be submitted to the Office Manager by 4pm on May 30th, 2025 together with corresponding reference letters/materials.

If you would like to speak to a Scholarship Ministry representative about contributing to the program, or would like additional information, please contact the Church Office.

Please support the GCUMC Youth Mission



\$100 or more donation includes
thank you note, pictures and youth
signed Shareholders Certificate.
Please mark your memo or envelope:
Youth Mission Trip
(\$1500 is the cost for one student).





EASTER LILIES 2025

Easter is April 20th... and you can now order Easter Lilies in honor or in memory of a loved one.

We are pleased to offer floral quality plants (18"-23" tall w/ 3-5 blooms) for \$15.00 each.

To order, please complete the below Order Form along with payment and:

- Make checks payable to "GCUMC" with "Easter Lily" in the memo section.
- Bring completed form with payment to the Welcome Center on Sunday or to the Church Office during the week.

Easter Lilies will be placed in the Sanctuaries for enjoyment during the Easter season. **You may take yours home after Easter Sunday.** A listing of those who purchased the lilies will be available in the May RoadRunner newsletter. Please contact Church Office with questions.



ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED IN CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, 4/7

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

☐ I am ordering a lily in Memory of:

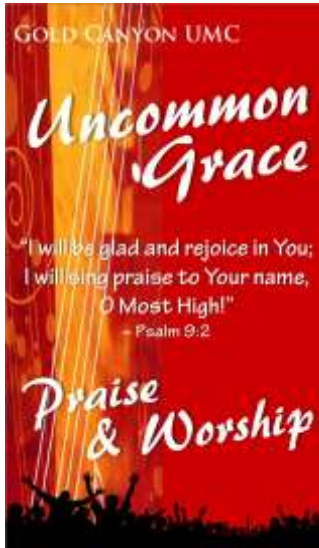
☐ I am ordering a lily in Honor of:

☐ Payment of \$15.00 for each is enclosed

TOTAL PLANTS: _____ TOTAL \$: _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: : _____



**Sundays at 11am
in the Koinonia Room!**

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

Contact David...
(DCBallardsAZ@gmail.com)
...if you are interested in getting involved with the Praise or Country music teams!



Sundays at 4pm in the Koinonia Room

Do you like to sing the old gospel hymns? Can you carry a tune? Consider singing at the Country Gospel Service.

Contact David Ballard:

480-760-3277 or dcballardsaz@gmail.com

Get involved!



For more info contact Ian in the Church Office
or IClasse@GoldCanyonUMC.org

NOT HEARING FROM US?

If you don't receive our weekly worship bulletin, monthly newsletter, or quarterly giving statement emails, you may have unsubscribed by accident. Please contact the Church Office to get back on the list! Don't be left out!





MUSIC NOTES

Dr. Ian Classe, Director of Music Ministries



Easter is almost here! After a season of pensive reflection, it will be wonderful to be able to celebrate the season of joy and resurrection. The music ministry is working diligently to be prepared for Holy Week, Easter, and beyond. My thanks go out to all who are participating in this important work. As of writing this article, another successful season of the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts Series has concluded. We had a number of fabulous artists and I received strong positive feedback from many attendees.

Some of you have asked about the status of the Choral Scholar Program, as well as the Organ Project. We're still accepting donations for both and I can report that we are funded for the year regarding the Choral Scholars. We're looking into setting up an investment fund so we can use market forces to build upon what has already been donated and upon future donations. We're looking forward to auditioning students for the fall semester at the end of summer.



The Organ Project is still proceeding slowly but surely and the committee intends to complete some final visits to organs and organ builders before making a final selection midyear. Upon that final selection, the committee will make a recommendation to the church's administrative council and we hope to proceed with more enthusiastic action moving forward.

As we get closer to summer, I'd like to invite those of you who have singing voices, but don't normally sing in choir, to consider joining the Chancel Choir for the few summer months. It's a great low-pressure opportunity as rehearsals will be shorter and the music a bit more accessible. Rehearsals are at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. It's a great opportunity to try out the Choir and see if it might be a ministry you might enjoy serving. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to reach out by phone or email.

Peace and best regards,

Ian





CARING CORNER

Kim Shroyer



if we out-perform our peers. If we grew up in an abusive home we may have constantly wondered if today we'd be hugged or slugged; our parents' responses to us were based upon how we acted or how we were perceived to have acted, and the mood was ever changing. We have tests for everything; to get out of high school, to enter college, or to obtain a professional license or certification. If we don't make enough money we can't buy certain foods, entertainment, or other niceties. When we experience grief, we must dig ourselves out of it, and people around us might judge us, expecting us to do it differently, or faster. These are all earthly expectations.

Let's contrast that with God's love. God doesn't love us based on performance (Thank God!). He is consistent. He doesn't hold grudges. He doesn't give us what we deserve. We can 'fail' repeatedly, and He is steadily and unflinching by our side. Did we earn this response from our Heavenly Father?

Of course we didn't! God sent His only son Jesus Christ to earth to walk our walk and save us from ourselves. Can you imagine how hard it must have been for Jesus to continue His walk on earth, knowing exactly where it was taking Him? His entire time here was moving toward the cross, toward a horribly painful death. But He knew what was beyond. The promise of His resurrection and everlasting life. And He did it all for us, so that we can know we are forgiven even before we are born! It is such a wonderful promise in this month of Easter, to know that, and to remind ourselves of the gift we've been given. The gift that we didn't have to earn, because Jesus did it for us.

That doesn't always make it easy for us to walk this walk on earth though. Writer and scholar C.S.

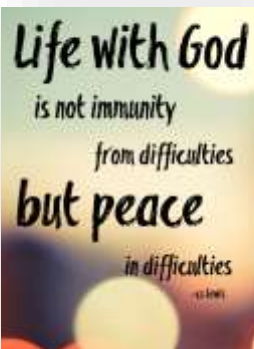
Lewis once said *"Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace within difficulties."* How do we find peace within our difficulties? There's no magical answer, as even with trust and faith in God we will have pain.

But Elisabeth Elliot (missionary, speaker and author), who suffered great hardship in her life, often quoted the poem, *Do the Next Thing*. The poem in part says, *"...Do the next thing, many a questioning, many a fear, many a doubt, hath its quieting here. Moment by moment, let down from Heaven, time, opportunity, and guidance are given. Fear not tomorrows, child of the King, trust them with Jesus, do the next thing... Strong in His faithfulness, praise and sing. Then, as He beckons thee, Do the Next Thing..."*. The poem emphasizes focusing on the immediate task at hand and trusting in God's guidance, rather than worrying about the outcomes. By focusing on the immediate task and trusting in God, it suggests individuals can find peace and purpose in their lives, even amidst hardship.

Jesus' walk to, and death on, the cross is the greatest representation of that we have ever seen, isn't it?! Author, teacher and preacher, Francis Chan, said – *"We never grow closer to God when we just live life. It takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness."* Jesus didn't just live life, He was deliberate and attentive to all around Him, performing miracles and making believers on His way to the cross.

Focus this Easter season on shedding worry and fear, and deliberately and attentively focusing on doing the next thing. Trust that God has your back and love and forgive others along the way, without making them earn it. If this is overly difficult for you, please **reach out to one of GCUMC's 4 Pastors, who are adept at listening!** 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 on Sunday morning, (or emailed to you prior to Sunday worship), in the church office or the Pastoral and Congregational Care page of this newsletter.

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.— Ephesians 4:32 [NRSV]





LOCAL MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

SCRIP BUS & VAN FUND



Your continued participation in the SCRIP programs at Bashas and Frys grocery stores who support GCUMC's bus and van programs is so appreciated! It's easy to do... just stop by (or call) the Church Office or visit the Welcome Desk on Sunday if you need help!

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



Go online to link your Fry's VIP Card to their Community Rewards program and choose GCUMC (A#TS438), and they will contribute 3% of your purchases to GCUMC!

FOOD BANK



Gold Canyon UMC held a fundraiser for the Food Bank on February 9th called "Empty Bowls." Three church members, who are potters, plus their friends, donated approximately 300 handmade bowls for sale at \$10 each. Those who purchased the bowls were also entitled to a cup of soup to go. Purchasers were more than generous and together we raised \$4,195 for the Food Bank... which is probably a record donation amount from a single day event! Way to go, Pastor Katharine, you are a power-fund-raiser!



Spotlight on Volunteers: Aileen Joyce

Originally hailing from Lorain, Ohio, a small city on Lake Erie, Aileen Joyce has been living in the Gold Canyon area for about a quarter of a century. Aileen has a son and a grandson in the East Valley area, and her hobbies include knitting and crocheting, as well as going to the gym for fitness classes a few times per week. Aileen

also loves animals and she is currently owned by a cat name Mellie.

Aileen worked in insurance for many years in Ohio, as well as in Southern California. Once it was time to retire, she felt that she needed to keep busy and fill the time void that work had filled for many years. Just



by chance, someone suggested that she try volunteering at the church's food pantry, which at that time, was located in a mere room at the church. More than seven years later, Aileen is still a constant at the food bank. When asked what drew her to the food bank, she states, "I needed to keep busy after retiring, and there was such a need in the community, as there still is, for what the food bank provides." Whatever duties were necessary to do at the food bank, Aileen has done them – from bagging donated food, sorting donated items, to running the carts to the clients. Aileen and her friend, Noreen, are the "Friday Sisters" who work every Friday together at the food bank. Concurrently, but until just recently, Aileen had been volunteering in the church kitchen every Sunday morning.

When asked about a memorable experience she's had while volunteering, she recounts a time when, as part of the client processing, she greeted a drive-up client. The man rolled down the window of his truck and asked her, "Why do you have blue hair? The Lord didn't make you with blue hair!" To which she smiled and quipped, "Do you know about the free will that God gives us? Well, that's my free will at work, and I like it!" Upon return visits, the man did not mention hair color.

We are so thankful for Aileen and her positive and steady presence every Friday at the food bank. We couldn't think of a better way to start the weekend – by giving to others and bringing a smile to their faces. Thank you, Aileen!

STITCHES UNLIMITED QUILTERS

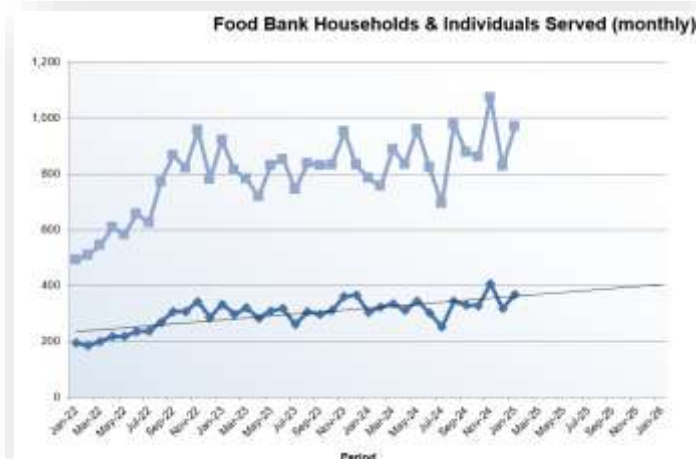
Gold Canyon Golf and RV Resort Annual Golf Tournament in February yielded three jam-packed pick-up truck loads worth of food items (plus cash donations). This is one of the biggest annual food drives/fundraisers for our Food Bank, and is greatly



appreciated!)

Larry and Margaret were invited to the Center Stage Church's Men's Breakfast to give a presentation on the GCUMC Food Bank on Feb. 22. The breakfast was well-attended, our presentation was well-received, and we fielded a lot of great questions. Center Stage Church remains a very consistent source of donations for the Food Bank. Not only that, but we have some stellar volunteers from said organization helping us out!

Would your community like to have a food drive to benefit the GCUMC Food Bank? Please let us know - we can facilitate it!



Halfway through Lent the GCUMC Stitches Unlimited group reflects on our Lenten journey so far, giving thanks to God for our opportunity to recommit and deepen our service to others. This winter we've made and donated quilts to several organizations: House of Refuge (5), Winged Hope (5), and Visions Senior Living of Apache Junction (12). It's wonderful to watch people feel the embrace of God's love when they receive a quilt. So, as we approach Easter, instead of simply basking in the joy of singing "Jesus Christ is risen today!", we promise again to let Easter joy permeate our lives throughout the rest of the year. You're welcome to join us in this service to others on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9am—2pm in the Missions Center, Barnabas room. (Bring your lunch.) If you can't make it during the week, contact the church office and we'll figure out a way for you to participate.



Matthew 25:40 ~ Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)



United
Women
in Faith

Many of us of a certain age have heard the above chant primarily in airports and on public streets where devotees were dancing and handing out flowers. The Gold Canyon UWF visited the International Center for Krishna Consciousness on March 6 and learned a great deal more about this sect of Hinduism. Krishna Consciousness had its origin in 1600's India, but was brought to the U.S. by A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, who compiled their sacred text, the Bhagavad Gita, in 1966. Krishna Consciousness is a monotheistic philosophy with Krishna being another name for God. They believe that all living



creatures are incarnations of God. They practice their faith and desire to connect with Krishna through communal chanting and dancing. Krishna Consciousness adherents follow four basic rules: 1) a diet abstaining from animal products, 2) avoidance of any type of intoxicant (alcohol, tobacco, and drugs), 3) no gambling, 4) no illicit sexual relations (outside of marriage). Our visit consisted of an informational presentation by Lilyette, their Chair of Education, followed by a 30-minute service in which we learned to chant and dance. We were then treated to a delicious vegetarian lunch. Many thanks to Patricia at the Krishna Temple for arranging our visit and being such a great Hostess.



Sitting Down for our Vegan Lunch

The “Roll Down Justice” Caring for the Earth and our Neighbors concluded March 7, 2025. It was a 9-week study that was facilitated by the members of the group. Thanks to Rita for all her hard work.



The March Blood Drive was very successful exceeding the goal at 31 units. Thanks to all who participated in the important mission. We are planning another drive perhaps in July.



UWF Gospel Gleam Team cleaned the rooms in the Education Building on March 3, and 10, 2025. Thanks to all for all their hard work! The team plans to continue helping to keep our classrooms and kitchen bright and clean.

Upcoming Dates:

- April 6, 2025 will be the Spring Bake Sale with proceeds to benefit UWF Global and Local Ministries. All women of the church are welcome to participate in this worthwhile project. Hope to see you all between services. Contact Carol caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com.
- UWF Reading Program meets monthly on the first Wednesday in the MC at 10am. Come to the meeting, choose a book to read, and return to the next meeting to discuss with the group. More info; contact Jane Hansgaard@msn.com.
- **November 2025:** Mission Trip to Frontera de Christo—Our 2nd trip to this border ministry in Aqua Prieta.

GIRLS MATTER PERIOD



Our missions partner, Girls Matter Period (www.GirlsMatterPeriod.org), will return to South Africa May 8-20 to take much-needed education and hygiene kits to over 1,000 school-age girls. To prepare for this outreach, GCUMC volunteers make washable/reusable kit components. Sewing and non-sewing volunteers are needed in the Barnabas Room on the fourth Thursday of each month between 9am—12pm. For mor info, contact Tammy Plaski at (920) 779-0359 or GirlsMatterPeriod@gmail.com.

Traveling to South Africa is more than an extraordinary adventure; it will have long-lasting (maybe even eternal) effects on the people we serve! Blessman Int'l (www.BlessmanInternational.org) is hosting the outreach team to accomplish big things for the people of Limpopo Province. contact Paula Blessman (paula.girlsmatter@gmail.com or (319)560-7623) for more info.



APRIL CALENDAR

(Calendar is subject to change;

For more info, please visit www.GoldCanyonUMC.org or call the Church Office)

Tue Apr 1	-	-
	9am	GriefShare (ER)
	9am	MTG: Food Bank Staff (MC-M)
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
Wed Apr 2	10am	Lenten Class (MC-E)
	10am	UWF Reading Program (MC-B/Patio)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	Lenten Class (ER)
Thu Apr 3	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
Fri Apr 4	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sat Apr 5	10am	GriefShare Dove Release (Patio)
Sun Apr 6	8am	UWF Bake Sale (Patio)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Apr 7	-	-
Tue Apr 8	9am	Gold Canyon Garden Club (MC-E)
	9am	GriefShare (ER)
	9am	Stitches Unlimited Quilters (MC-B&Patio)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
Wed Apr 9	10am	Lenten Class (MC-E)
	10am	MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC-M)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	Lenten Class (ER)
Thu Apr 10	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
Fri Apr 11	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sat Apr 12	7am	Community Market (S Pkg Lot)
	8am	MTG: PEO (MC-B)
Sun Apr 13	All day	Palm Sunday
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)

MAIN CAMPUS

EB = Education Bldg.

ER = Emmaus Rm

K = Kitchen

KR = Koinonia Rm

MR = Music Rm

NAR = Noah's Ark Rm

P = Patio

S = Sanctuary

SoGR = Sea of Galilee Rm

WR = Wesley Rm

YR = Youth Rm

MISSIONS CENTER

MC-B = Barnabas

MC-E = Esther

MC-M = Martha

MC-S = Stephen

(Calendar is subject to change;

For more info, visit

www.GoldCanyonUMC.org

or call the Church Office)

	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Apr 14	-	-
Tue Apr 15	All day	Tax Day
	10am	MTG: UWFaith Leadership Team (MC-TBN)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	3pm	MTG: GCAC (MC-S)
Wed Apr 16	10am	Lenten Class (MC-E)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	Lenten Class (ER)
	6pm	MTG: Finance Sub-Committee (MC-B)
Thu Apr 17	All day	Maundy Thursday
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
	7pm	Maundy Thursday Worship (S)
Fri Apr 18	All day	Good Friday
	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
	7pm	Good Friday Worship (S)
Sat Apr 19	All day	Holy Saturday
	7am	Community Market (S Pkg Lot)
Sun Apr 20	All day	Easter Sunday
	6am	Easter Sunrise Worship (N Parking Lot)
	7am	Easter Sunrise Breakfast (Patio)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)

ROADRUNNER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please send content for the
May 2025 Roadrunner
 via email to

ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

BEFORE 8am on Monday, 4/14/25

Weekly Bulletin & Flower Orders

12pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday Service

	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Apr 21	All day	OFFICE CLOSED / EASTER MONDAY
Tue Apr 22	9am	Stitches Unlimited (MC-B)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
Wed Apr 23	10am	MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC-M)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
Thu Apr 24	9am	Girls Matter Period (MC-B)
	1pm	CLASS: Ruth Bible Study (ER; CLOSED)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
Fri Apr 25	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sat Apr 26	7am	Community Market (S Pkg Lot)
	8am	MTG: PEO (MC-B)
Sun Apr 27	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)

11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
11am	Praise Worship (KR)
11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
12pm	UMYF (YR)
3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Apr 28	-
Tue Apr 29	3pm Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
Wed Apr 30	10:30am Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	4pm Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)



2024-2025 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

04/13/25	Sun 8 & 9:30am	Palm Sunday Worship ...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun 11:00am	Palm Sunday Praise Worship ...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun 4:00pm	Palm Sunday Gospel Worship ...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/17/25	Thu 7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Worship ...special service with communion and ashes
04/18/25	Fri 7:00pm	Good Friday Worship
04/20/25	Sun 6:00am	Easter Sunrise Worship ...in north Parking Lot facing the Superstitions
04/20/25	Sun 8:00 & 9:30	Easter Celebration Worship ...Christ is Risen with Brass, Bells and Choir
04/20/25	Sun 11am	Easter Praise Worship ...Uncommon Grace leads our Praise of the Risen Lord
04/20/25	Sun 4pm	Easter Sunset Worship ...our Gospel celebration of Christ Alive

* 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)493-6731 or online at www.GoldCanyonArts.org.
 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 ask that everyone please bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the GCUMC Food Bank —
 and is always in need of cereal, tuna, Ramen, Saltines and macaroni-n-cheese. Thank you for your patronage! -

6640 South Kings Ranch Road • Gold Canyon, AZ 85118 • (480)982-3776 • www.GoldCanyonUMC.org

Updated 12/12/2024



APRIL 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!

Epler, Peggy 04/01
Gersonde, Jeff 04/01
Kraft, Becky 04/01
Lundberg, Betty 04/01
Steinberg, Fred 04/01
Dybwad, Gay 04/02
Wehle, Taylor 04/02
Schoeff, Rose 04/03
Kinder, Elizabeth 04/04
Marifjeren, Lorna 04/04
Parkison, Rick 04/04
Cunningham, Mona 04/05
Fratt, Bob 04/05
Rolf, Vern 04/05
Dulaney, Janet 04/08
Harbaugh, Jan 04/08
Wachter, Sharon 04/08
Campbell, Frank 04/10
Glasgow, Jo 04/11
Lester, Yvonne 04/12
Cooke, Teresa 04/13
Deitch, David 04/15
Killorn, Bid 04/15
Digerness, Nancy 04/16
Togstad, Keith 04/16
Barks, Tucker 04/17
Oehlers, Tami 04/17
Weber, Mary 04/17
Evans, Dennis 04/18

Revis, Lynn 04/18
Svoboda, Bev 04/18
Crane, Linda 04/21
Lester, Jim 04/21
Warren, Harry 04/22
Whitmore, Sandi 04/22
Hanshaw, Judy 04/24
Ellis, Caren 04/25
Enevold, Connie 04/25
McNutt, Deborah 04/25
Bos, Colette 04/26
Williams, Barbara 04/26
Witucky, Michelle 04/26
Arquisch, Duri 04/27
Bennett, Sharyn 04/27
Fitzgerald, Gracie 04/27
Morawa, Hannah 04/27
Krstyen, Michelle 04/28
McDaniel, Marilyn 04/28
Steckley, JoAnn 04/28
Wehle, Peter Francis 04/28
Downing, Jeff 04/29
Holmes, Dean 04/29
Kench, Phil 04/29
Bjorklund, Alice 04/30
Nunn, Kevin 04/30
Ralston, Tim 04/30

Nelson, Lee & Joni 04/07
Nelson, Jack & Marcia 04/07
McCauley, Don & Kay 04/08
Kench, Phil & Sue 04/10
Wiff, Bette & Tom 04/11
Kennedy, Barbara & Tom 04/13
Lampsa, Roy & Tamara 04/15
Christ, SuzAnne & Dick 04/16
Elek, Deane & Tim 04/17
Fitzgerald, Chris & Susan 04/18
Rewerts, Jerry & Glass, Carol 04/20
Mintert, Frank & Zenith 04/20
Eddy, Barry & Janice 04/21
Daniels, Brad & Jan 04/27
Mahar, Nanci & Rob 04/29
Watters, Scott & Ortega-Watters, Monica 04/30
Thacker, Jerry & Ruth Ann 04/30

Happy Anniversary!

Daigle, Bob & Sharon 04/04
Carpenter, Tim & Trudy 04/07



ACCESS ACS

Add/update your photo and contact info — and more using GCUMC's online directory, AccessACS!

If you aren't using it, but would like to, email:

ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

with "**AccessACS**" in the subject line and we'll send you login instructions. You can also view our Church Directory on your phone using the ChurchLife app (*if you already have it*) or through your phone's browser!

Thank you

With my upcoming retirement date of April 30th just around the corner, I wanted to include a brief personal note in this month's Roadrunner. After serving as GCUMC's Office Manager for the past 10 years, I've been honored to work beside very special people whom I call family. I treasure every one of you, along with our volunteers and congregation, and will very much miss being in the Office. May God bless you and the people of GCUMC...

Love, Ricchia Ralston



CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE

“Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another.”

- Romans 13:8 (NIV)

February	2022			2023			2024			2025		
	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Bldg/FH Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Bldg/FH Fund	Worship All
	180124	415014	7858	150706	326051	10257	178694	55568	7510	106240	19461	4353

Please note when requesting IRA donations be sent directly to the church from your financial institution, please be sure to request they include your name either on the check or on the stub. We often receive checks with no identification and due to privacy laws, we are unable to ascertain who should be provided an acknowledgement.



To give to Gold Canyon UMC beyond your pledge to the General Budget or Building Fund, below are Wish List items (#s as of January-end) that will better enable us to fulfill our mission as a church:

- Fellowship Hall (\$3 Million needed; \$1,806,956.08 raised)
- Organ Fund (\$241,644.40 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200K needed; \$0 raised)
- Playground Shade Structure (\$55,243 needed; \$0 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200,000 needed)
- Building Fund Loan (Paid off 2022)
- Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows (Completed 2022)



Electronic giving is a great way to make contributions, including recurring and additional/special gifts.

- ✚ **AccessACS:** Very easy to set-up/modify 1-time/recurring donations; Call Church Office for info.
- ✚ **eGiving:** www.GoldCanyonUMC.org and click “Make Donation” button. This link now takes you to AccessACS electronic giving, a secure site.
- ✚ **TEXT** your gift by sending “goldcanyonumc” to 73256 and follow screen instructions.



GIFTING YOUR HOME... ... is a practical way to reduce the size of one's estate

... reduces taxes ... simplifies life for heirs and executor (personal rep)

... eliminates the hassle of having home on the market ... helps reduce the church's debt

... can be done through a lifetime estate, allowing a person to continue living in the home.

CONTACT US

Senior Pastor	Rev. Fred A. Steinberg	RevStein78@gmail.com
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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

WORSHIP SERVICES

- ✝ 9:30am TRADITIONAL (*Sanctuary*)
- ✝ 11am PRAISE (*Koinonia Room*)
- ✝ 4pm GOSPEL (*Koinonia Room*)

(Childcare available at morning worship services)

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Children's Sunday School classes are held in the Education Building. Please bring your child(ren) to church with you, where they will be escorted to Sunday School, and you can pick them up after the church service.

- 9:30am Children Sunday School (*Educ Bldg*)
- 11am Children & Youth Sunday School (*Educ Bldg*)
- 12pm Youth Praise Band & Fellowship (*Educ Bldg*)

Addressee or Current Resident