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FROM THE PASTOR: "LIKES & DISLIKES ABOUT CHRISTMAS"

A 2013 poll done by Pew Research asked people what they liked or disliked the most about the Christmas holiday season. Here's a list of what people most look forward to at Christmas time:

1. 68% said spending time with family and friends
2. 11% mentioned religious services or religious reflection
3. 11% look forward to the Christmas "spirit" of joy and good will
4. 5% said music, decorations, and shopping
5. 4% look forward to the end of the Christmas season

Here's what the poll said we most dislike about the Christmas season:

1. 33% — the commercialism and materialism
2. 22% — the money and expense
3. 10% — the shopping and crowds
4. 5% — the hectic pace and bad moods of people
5. 2% — the pressure to go to church

Are you surprised by anything on this list? I would guess you might agree with most things on this list but I was surprised that only 11% of people look forward to "religious services or religious reflection." Especially when the season is all about Jesus' birth.

At our church we are preparing Advent and Christmas worship services that we hope you will look forward to attending. We are committed to make them the highlight of your Christmas this year. We also pray that you might take the opportunity to invite

family, friends or neighbors to worship with you. Did you know that people who don't attend church are more likely to attend a worship service for the first time on Christmas Eve?

This year we will mail out 15,000 invitation cards to our neighbors. We would expect to have about a 1% response. That means about 150 new people might attend. This is great. However your personal invitation to someone is far more effective. That invitation might be a turning point in their life. I will see you in worship with a friend or two.

Grace and peace,

Fred

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES "THE DIFFERENCE A BABY MAKES"

- ✝ 11/29 — Good News for the Shepherds
- ✝ 12/06 — Full of Grace
- ✝ 12/13 — A Dangerous Song
- ✝ 12/20 — Peace on Earth
- ✝ 12/24 — Christmas Eve
(3pm, 6pm, 8pm, 11pm)



"FOLLOWING JESUS, SERVING OTHERS"



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

by Katharine Keller

"Our mission is to bring the love of Christ and His teachings to learners of all ages on their spiritual journey, that they be transformed and thus positively affect our local and global communities."

SIDEWALK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Sherry Hussein Sidewalk Coordinator

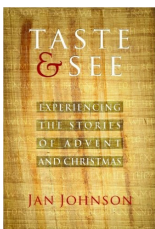
Sidewalk is an outreach ministry for children, held October through April. The volunteers from GCUMC act as "Shepherds", loving & nurturing the children through God's word. We invite you to join us one Saturday morning 10:00-11:30, at Avalon School, 1045 So. San Marcos Dr., A.J. This would be a great opportunity to "check out" our ministry. We are in need of more volunteers to help during lesson time, and as bus/van driver or rider (chaperon). We are currently looking to add on another driver for our ministry truck. If you could volunteer 1 Saturday a month, 9 a.m.- 12:30, please call Sherry Hussein, 480-529-9621.

We do serve lunch to the children, if you would be interested in providing lunch or baking goodies to go along with lunch, for one Saturday, please call Gail Crawford at 480-268-0918.

With December comes all that anticipation of the Christmas Holiday. We teach the children the true meaning of Christmas, through Bible stories leading up to Jesus birth. Many children will be Blessed by "The Angel Tree" Christmas gifting ministry.

Many thanks to all of GCUMC congregation for your continued support of Sidewalk Ministry. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers. GOD Bless you all. of Sidewalk!

ADVENT STUDY: "TASTE AND SEE"



Have you ever had your slumber interrupted by an angel? Have you ever struggled with a situation that marginalized you? Have you ever discovered that there was no room for you? Have you ever been a bystander,

observing communication that you did not understand?

Each week of our Advent study we will be entering the life and times and character of persons in the Christmas story with our sanctified imaginations. Through guided meditations we will attempt to think their thoughts and consider what their experiences as part of the first Christmas might have been. Your heart will be warmed and your understanding of the coming of the Christ Child deepened by participating in our four- week Advent study.

Fay Quanstrom will lead these meetings in the Koinonia Room from 1:00pm—2:00pm Tuesdays beginning December 1st. Come and develop a widened appreciation of the Advent and Christmas accounts. There is no charge for this class. If you are interested in signing-up, please call the Church Office or register on Sunday morning.

LAVENDER SPRINGS SPA

WOMEN'S WINTER 1-DAY RETREAT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016



Lavender Springs Spa is a retreat where women slow down and enjoy time with other women and with God. It's an in-depth Bible study of the book of Psalms, an unforgettable worship experience, and an opportunity to rest in God's faithfulness during the ups and downs of life.

We will be gathering at the Arizona Golf Resort in Mesa in the Garden Pavilion Room. We begin with continental breakfast at 8:30am and will finish by 3:30pm

Cost is \$75 per person, which covers a continental breakfast and lunch, and all materials. You do not need to bring a Bible, as individual workbooks are provided.

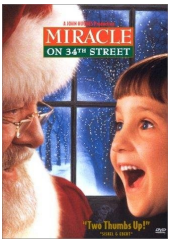
We are asking a \$25 non-refundable deposit when you register. If you cannot attend, but would like to send someone who ordinarily cannot afford to go, please talk to Katharine. Take time to relax, to make new friends, to worship, and to draw closer to God!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING



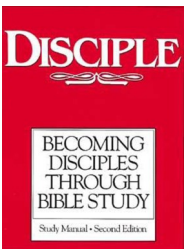
Can you believe it is already time to celebrate Advent? It is our tradition to begin our worship services during Advent with a short reading, prayer, and lighting of the candles for all four worship services (11/29, 12/6, 12/13 and 12/20) as well as all four Christmas Eve services. The readings will be provided. If you would like to be a wreath lighter — and "you" means a family with children, couples, two or three singles, a study group, etc.—please contact Katharine in the Church Office or speak with her after worship.

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT!



Our next Outdoor Movie Night is Fri., Dec. 18 to watch "Miracle on 34th Street." These outdoor movies are designed as events to which you can invite someone who doesn't normally attend church. In addition to popcorn during the movie, we will be celebrating Jesus' Birthday with cake and ice cream! Please remember to bring your own lawn chair!

DISCIPLE I HALF-YEAR STUDY



Beginning Wednesday, January 4th we are offering another DISCIPLE I class, but participants will only study the first half of the curriculum and the course will end on Wednesday, April 27th. The second half of the study will be offered in the winter of 2017. Your facilitator will be Mike Paul. Sign up sheets will be available the second week of December or you may call the office and express your desire to be in this class.

FIELD TRIP FRIDAY



In November we went to the Bass Pro Shop in Tempe where Mr. Quanstrom talked about the various animals and fish displayed in the shop, and we went to Red Brick Pizza afterwards for lunch. (Photo below)



On December 4th, we are going to Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior. Please RSVP to Katharine before then by calling the church office.

MONTHLY MINIONS: RILEY & REEGAN JONES



• Favorite Food:

- * Riley: Macaroni & Cheese
- * Reegan: Macaroni & Cheese

• Favorite Activity:

- * Riley: Gymnastics & Dance
- * Reegan: Playing "Enchanted Forest"

• What they like about church:

- * Riley: Learning about God
- * Reegan: I like when people sing

• What they think God is like:

- * Riley: He is nice and would be fun to play with. He would be a happy man.
- * Reegan: I think God is good and makes people safe and peaceful sing.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

"A" IS FOR ADVENT BOOKLETS

Pictorial Advent booklets drawn by the children and youth of GCUMC are available for pick-up at the Welcome Center.

PIONEER CLUB

Pioneer Club celebrated a spook-tacular Halloween!



KIDZ KANYON



Who says Sunday School isn't the place to learn about Jesus and still have fun? Be sure to check our Facebook page highlighting our GCUMC Children's Program. If you are on Facebook, just search for GCUMC "Kidz Canyon" to see what's trending from birth through 6th grade and view pictures of our activities.

CHURCH LADIES ADVENTURE CLUB

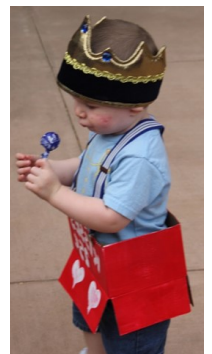
The ladies have been on the go! In November, the Ladies attended a Chuck Wagon gathering in Chandler and had a great time. Check out the Church Calendar for upcoming CLAC events... and join us!



HARVEST FESTIVAL PHOTOS



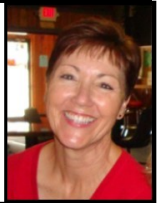
Thanks to so many of you who donated your time and materials to make the community event a success!





GCUMC Youth Group News

By Beth Steinberg, Youth Director



Upcoming Youth EVENTS

Sun., 12/6	NO Puppet Show Rehearsal YOUTH GROUP	6:30pm—8:30pm	Education Building
Sun., 12/13	Puppet Rehearsal YOUTH GROUP CAROLING to SHUT-INS	5:30pm—6:30pm 6:30pm—8:30pm	Sanctuary (We'll take the Church van)
Sun., 12/19	GENESIS PROJECT (Serve a meal to the needy) 564 N. Idaho Rd., Ste #5	10:15am—2:30pm	Meet at the Church at 10:15am or at Genesis at 10:30am; Back to church around 2:30pm
Sun., 12/20	No Puppet Rehearsal YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY (Bring wrapped White Elephant gift & munchies)	6:30pm—8:30pm	Education Building
Sun., 12/23	Puppet Rehearsal	12:30pm	Sanctuary
Thurs., 12/24	PUPPET SHOW—CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	3:00pm	Sanctuary
Sun., 12/27	FLIPSIDE BOWLING ALLEY 4874 S. Val Vista Dr.—Gilbert Cost: \$16.00 (2 hours) Bring \$\$\$ for Frost Gelato	1:15pm—6:00pm	Meet at church 1:15pm (or Flipside at 2pm), play until 4pm, then go to San Tan Village; Back to GCUMC 6pm



YOUTH MINISTRY

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY CLASS

(7th—12th Grades)

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

Education Building

Creative Bible lessons & discussions!

YOUTH GROUP

(7th—12th Grades)

Sunday nights 6:30pm—8:30pm

Education Building

Fun, faith-based programs and fellowship!

A NOTE FROM BOB

We are in the middle of the time of year that is great fun for most people, and great pain for many of those who have lost a loved one in the past year—or longer.

All of the ads on TV are typically about happy families or couples. I have listened to people in grief support groups tell how much they dread this season for the past 37 years.

If you are not fully enjoying the season, you aren't alone and you certainly aren't the first.

It is important to get focused on the real Christmas and not the secular world's "Xmas." The birth of Jesus tells us God came into the world to be with us up close and personal—and God has never left. God is with you always. If you can't celebrate anything else, that is enough to give you hope for the new year that is just around the corner.

Your pastors are available to you for prayer and counsel. The worship services are always uplifting. It's true that the hymns and familiar Christmas Carols stir emotions. They were intended to do that. It's okay. A song never makes you cry. It opens the door to allow sadness that is already there to come out and be expressed—and that's a good thing. No one has ever been hurt by crying. Like all pastors, I have had to do more than a few funerals for people who would not cry.

Our grief support group meets at the church in the Education Building every Monday, 1-2 PM. I would be glad to welcome you.

Peace and joy,

Bob Deits



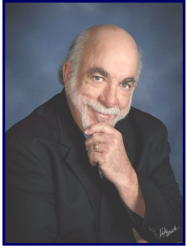
POSTAGE ON PURPOSE



Christ or "cute"? Each year the US Postal Service issues a distinctly Christian stamp. Recently this stamp has shown a classic Virgin and Child painting or, as in 2012, a portrayal of the Holy Family. These stamps could be considered miniature **Christmas** cards. However, a variety of other choices (*snowmen, poinsettias, gingerbread houses, Santa & Rudolph*) are also available. Sometimes the "cute factor" captures us and determines our choices. Is this a harmless thing or a serious "vote"?

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

MUSIC NOTES by Doug Benton



December, the most beautiful time of the year, the happiest time and perhaps the most “melodiest” time of the year! Everywhere we go there are songs people are singing or whistling or listening to that brings a smile, a memory, and, hopefully, a sense of happiness. For many, though, this can be a time of sadness reflecting on the loss of a loved one, or a time of frustration while shopping, etc.. During this time, I hope you will continue to look in the mirror after waking up and perhaps wishing that person looking back at you a “Very Merry Christmas!” This will at least get you started on a happy note! I also hope you will be aware of people whom you can positively impact with a smile, a “Merry Christmas” greeting and/or a random act of kindness!

This month we offer our **14th Annual Choral Christmas Concerts** on **Saturday, Dec. 12, at 3:00pm and 6:00pm**. Featured will be the **Chancel Choir**, **Canyon Carillon** (Handbells), **Chanters** (men’s chorus), **Women’s Chorus**, and **Agape Brass Quintet**. Also, soprano **Cindy Hoff** will sing the beloved **Ave Maria** of Bach/Gounod, and baritone **Don Engbrecht** will sing his special rendition of **The Birthday of a King** plus solos by **Gary Ackerson** and **Wade Hoff**.

This is the biggest event we have all year. These concerts are open to the public at no charge as free will offerings will be received. We hope you will bring your family, your friends and your neighbors for an afternoon or evening of some great music – carols old and new, and even a special recipe for Fruitcake! If you have the option, I suggest you come at 6:00 as there are usually a few more seats available at that concert. Both concerts do fill up quickly so be sure and come early. Doors will open on hour prior to each concert. Everyone is asked to please remember to bring at least one non-perishable food item per person for the GCUMC Food Bank – the need is great!

Also note the **Christmas Eve Services** described elsewhere. The Music Ministries will once again present our annual **Gift of Music**, a half-hour of special music at **5:30 and 7:30**, prior to the **6:00 and 8:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**.

✝ **Intro to Handbells** a new, beginning handbell choir, will begin in January on Tuesday, **Jan. 12** in the Sanctuary from **5:15-6:15 pm**. This new group will be directed by longtime ringer and director,

Julie Burzlaff, who rings with the Canyon Carillon. This is open to anyone who wants to learn about handbells and try their hand at it. If you can read music at least a little, this is a big help. If you have any questions, please call Doug at the church and I’ll put you in touch with Julie. Come check this out! You will really enjoy learning to ring - I promise!

✝ **Pipes for the Organ:** Mark Anderson, the man who voiced our organ, and has installed more pipes with Rodgers Organs than anyone else, has given us a new Pipe Casework drawing that is much more interesting and fits our space better than the old design. Next step is to take this to our committee then to the Administrative Council – hopefully with a realistic, approximate cost. The drawing includes four ranks (sets) of actual wind-blown pipes to be added to our 3-manual Rodgers digital organ. I am very excited about this project! We have found a way to keep the Handbells behind – and closer – to the Choir, with the organ above and behind the bells, mixing the real, wind-blown pipes with the electronic speakers. This will create a very broad sound while actually reducing the volume, since the sound will no longer be focused out of the very small opening that it is now. Finally, the Organ, Bells and Choir will be projected together as one instrument. The pipes themselves are limited to the lower pitches so there will be no “screechy”, high pitched pipes blowing into the heads of the Choir! Thanks to all of you who have donated – and continue to donate – to this fund!

Take time to enjoy the holidays, spending time with family, friends – and God! “And as Tiny Tim observed, ‘God bless us, everyone!’”

Love and blessings to all of our family in Christ,

Doug

Douglas J. Benton
Director of Music Ministries



*Sounds
of The
Season*

2015-2016 PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

10/25/15	Sun	3–5pm	Harvest Festival for kids, families and the entire community
11/08/15	Sun	2:00pm	10th Annual Celebration of Veterans & Returning Warriors
11/13/15	Fri	7:30pm	* Footworks outstanding dance ensemble!
12/12/15	Sat	3:00pm	14th Annual Choral Christmas Concert with bells, brass, harp
12/12/15	Sat	6:00pm	14th Annual Choral Christmas Concert with bells, brass, harp
12/24/15	Thu	3:00pm	Family Christmas Eve Service with Candle Lighting
12/24/15	Thu	5:30pm	Gift of Music half-hour of special Christmas music
12/24/15	Thu	6:00pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Candle Lighting
12/24/15	Thu	7:30pm	Gift of Music half-hour of special Christmas music
12/24/15	Thu	8:00pm	Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Candle Lighting
12/24/15	Thu	11:00pm	Christmas Eve Service with Communion and Candle Lighting
1/08/16	Fri	7:30pm	George Dyer outstanding tenor from Branson, MO
1/10/16	Sun	2:00pm	Theater for the Thirsty Christian drama troupe
1/15/16	Fri	7:30pm	* Four Freshmen Yes – <i>THE</i> Four Freshmen!!!
1/23/16	Sat	9:00-4:00	Gold Canyon Arts Festival Free by Gold Canyon Arts Council
1/31/16	Sun	2:00pm	The Legacy Quartet Southern Gospel and so much more
2/09/16	Tue	5–7pm	Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner for entire families and community
2/10/16	Wed	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service with Choir, communion and ashes
2/12/16	Fri	7:30pm	* Fandango spicy mix of Latin, Spanish and Classical sounds
2/14/16	Sun	2:00pm	Kiriku Handbell Ensemble from Japan – the finest in the world!
2/23/16	Tue	7:30pm	NAU Shrine of the Ages Choral one of the best in the USA!
2/28/16	Sun	5:00pm	Houser Gang in Concert our outstanding Country/Western family
3/04/16	Fri	7:30pm	* Metales M5 Brass unique brass quintet from Mexico
3/06/16	Sun	2:00pm	The Incredible Rice Brothers piano/cello virtuosos return again!
3/13/16	Sun	2:00pm	Gene Lowry outstanding jazz pianist (and preacher) in concert!
3/20/16	Sun	3–5pm	Eggs-Stravaganza for kids, families and the entire community
3/24/16	Thu	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Service with the Choir and Communion
3/25/16	Fri	7:00pm	Good Friday Service Choir sings Dubois' <i>7-Last Words of Christ</i>
3/27/16	Sun	6:00am	Easter Sunrise Service in the north parking lot
3/27/16	Sun	8, 9:30am	Easter Festival Services with Choir, Handbells and Agape Brass
3/27/16	Sun	10:50am	Easter Praise Service with <i>Uncommon Grace</i> leading worship
3/27/16	Sun	5:00pm	Easter Country/Western Service with the <i>Houser Gang</i>
4/01/16	Fri	7:30pm	* Franc D'Ambrosio outstanding Broadway tenor in concert
4/17/16	Sun	2:00pm	Interfaith Choral Festival at Our Savior Lutheran Church

* Indicates a ticketed event for a fee, sponsored by the Gold Canyon Arts Council Canyon Sounds series. All other concerts are sponsored by the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Performing Arts Series and are open to the public at no charge though a free will offering will be received. We ask that everyone please bring at least one non-perishable food item for the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church Food Bank.



GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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 480-982-3776 ♦ www.goldcanyonumc.org

PASTORAL & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Joel Hurley, Coordinator of Pastoral Care



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

✝ **Rev. Fred Steinberg, Sr. Pastor**

revstein78@gmail.com
480.982.3776

✝ **Rev. Bob Deits, Assoc.**

bobnjune@cox.net
602.615.6634

✝ **Rev. Fay Quanstrom, Assoc.**

fay.quanstrom@gmail.com
480.458.8420

✝ **Rev. Joel Hurley, Assoc.**

joelhccjl@gmail.com
602.291.0464

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

DO YOU LIVE ALONE?



Over 350 of our congregation live alone. If you live by yourself and would appreciate a "well check" phone call each day, please indicate your interest by stopping at the Welcome Center and signing in. The Pastoral Care Team is in the process of developing a contact system of contact for those who would like this kind of check-in. At this point the plan is that you would receive a quick "how are you" phone call, including a brief prayer or Scripture verse to warm your heart and speak to your soul. This concept is in the early stages of development at this time. By signing the list at the welcome center desk you will help the team assess the interest and need for a daily call.



MIND MENDERS



... is a support group for caregivers of Alzheimer's and other dementia disease patients and **meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday each month at 10am in the Education Building.** Join us! *Contact Jeanette Lunstead at 480-671-9888 or the church office for more info.*

CANCER SUPPORT



... provides spiritual support, love, friendship and a helping hand to cancer patients, caregivers and their families. The group meets weekly on **Wednesdays at 10:30am** in the **Emmaus Room.** Contact Dee Ashe at (480)924-5483, (480)685-7175, or send an email to her at deenashe7580@gmail.com.

GRIEF SUPPORT



... is for those who have experienced a major loss such as the death of a loved one or divorce. The leader of the group, Rev. Bob Deits, has been working extensively with these issues for 36 years and addressed them in his book, *Life after Loss*, now in its 5th edition. Please accept Bob's invitation to attend the Grief Support group he leads every **Monday from 1:00pm—2:00pm in the Education Building.** For questions or if you wish to speak with

If you have
recently moved to a new home,
you are welcome to request a home blessing.

Call (480-458-8420)

or email (fay.quanstrom@gmail.com)

Rev. Fay Quanstrom to schedule.

✠ *God Bless Our Home* ✠



GLOBAL MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Fay Quanstrom, Associate Pastor

"...We will strive to be a church that serves our community and the world, realizing and sharing the satisfying and abundant life Christ brings to all people."

"The world is my parish." – John Wesley



The GCUMC Global Missions Committee hosted Fred Curry of Rice and Beans Ministry in Costa Rica along with two national workers, Loly Quiros and Rosi Rivera, who accompanied him at their annual Global Missions Brunch. After a delicious meal prepared by Colette Bos, Fred, Loly and Rosi shared their vision and passion with us. Although Costa Rica is the richest country in Central America, many live on extremely meager

incomes, with one job frequently supporting an extended family or more. Rice and Beans is a not-for-profit that ministers to housing and food needs in the poorer neighborhoods of Alejeula province. After the staff has completed demographic surveys and consulted with local schools and agencies, neighborhoods are chosen for food distribution. Teams deliver 2 kilos each of rice, beans, masa, and dry milk to make two gallons to homes as an expression of Jesus' love for them. With the help of interpreters the team then offers to pray with recipients of the food. Only very rarely does anyone decline the offer for prayer! The people name their requests, the team joins hands with a circle of those who live in the home and they pray for the requests, asking God's blessing on the people. They then walk to the next home. Three home Bible study groups have developed from these recent contacts. As leadership becomes available more groups will be started—one more way to share Christ.

Another aspect of Rice and Beans Ministry is home improvement work. As food is delivered and from other contacts the staff learns of acute needs such as roofs, sturdy walls, floors, and accessibility ramps. This type of construction meets vital needs as well as builds personal relationships and opportunities to share the love of Christ.

Rice and Beans work teams also offer Vacation Bible School and help children attend school by furnishing uniforms, shoes, and school supplies to those who would not be able to attend without these basics. They send a big, special thank you for the 444 school uniforms they were able to buy because of the generous Easter offering GCUMC shared with them. That's 444 children who were able to attend school because of your help. Thank you to each of one who shared so generously!

GCUMC's 2016 Mission Work Team will leave January 16 to work again with Rice and Beans for a week. Contact Fay Quanstrom right away if you would like to learn more or to be part of this opportunity.

✝ Designate a Gift When You Can't Go Yourself

GCUMC's Global Missions Projects are part of UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief, and the Global Advance ministries. They are:

- Rice and Beans Advance #3021052
- Personal Energy Transportation (PET) Advance #982665
- Genilma Boehler, Missionary at UBL Advance #3021277
- Fellowman International (Honduras)
- International Disaster Response Advance #982450 (for emergency relief where help is most urgently needed)



To donate to UMCOR, please write your check to GCUMC and write "UMCOR Advance ##### (fill in appropriate number)" on memo line. 100% of donation goes to those affected. 100% of UMCOR Advance designated gifts go directly to the specific ministry.

stephen **NEVER BIGGER THAN THE CREATOR**

I recently read a book entitled *The Last Gunfight*. It's a good story of the old west, southern Arizona, Tombstone and the Earps, that appears to be pretty grounded in historical fact.

In one portion the story discussed the re-establishment of a lawful Texas Ranger force after the civil war and Reconstruction; during which time the Texas Rangers had lost their way. They went down the wrong path, losing their original lawful and honorable purpose and descending into lawlessness.

As a retired police officer, the below statement by author Jeff Guinn really resonated with me:

"All officers of the law are creatures of it, and a creature cannot become bigger than a creator and whenever an officer undertakes to set himself up as superior to the law or superior to the citizens, whose servant he is, his usefulness as an officer ceases."

I read that statement a couple of times, pondered it, and later came back to it. It resonated with me for a greater reason – how very much the phraseology parallels us as humans in relationship to God. Let's look at it a little more carefully and see if you see something similar to what I saw...

"All officers of the law are creatures of it"

(The officers are us and "it" is God)

*"a creature cannot become
bigger than a creator"*

(We are the creature, God the creator)

And the last half of that phrase hits the home run...

"and whenever an officer undertakes to set himself up as superior to the law or superior to the citizens, whose servant he is, his usefulness as an officer ceases."

(The officer is us, and the law or the citizens? Yes, you have it, God)

My oh my, how often we do this! We worry, try to take complete control, take the reigns and go solo to make things happen. We can get lost in the

day to day, forget whose servant we are, and risk losing our usefulness.

This Christmas season, take time to reflect upon the beauty of Christ's birth. Remember that our heavenly father is the one in control, and with that comes a blessed promise for each and every one of us.

Be a friend, a companion, an ear, a helping hand to someone during this glorious season. If you or someone you know needs an impartial and non-judgmental ear, then you might consider asking for a Stephen Minister. Allow a walk with a fellow Christian to carry you into the New Year.

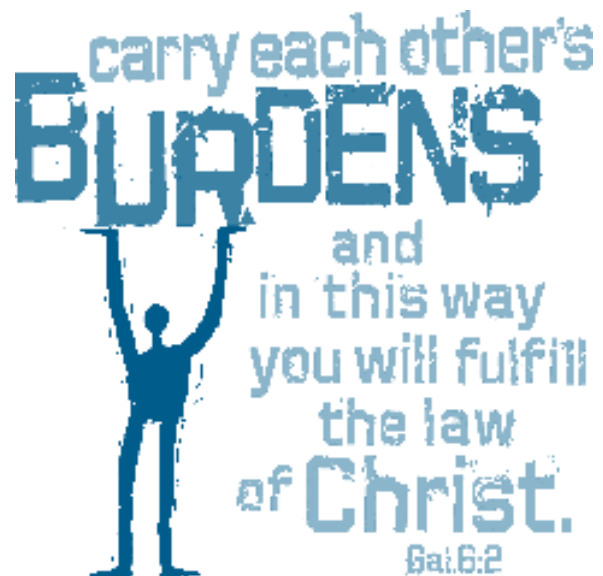
You may make a confidential request to a Stephen Leader by emailing a Leader at: stephen.ministry.gcumc@gmail.com, calling 480-283-4861, or checking the box beside "Desire a Stephen Minister" on the Sunday morning attendance pad.

by Kim Shroyer,
on behalf of the Stephen Ministry Team



6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

~ Luke 2:6-8 (NRSV)





“TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!”

Not everyone feels this way about the month of December, there is so much to do to prepare for family, friends & church events. Last month we talked about stress, and this month I will give you just a few tips to help you truly enjoy this sacred holiday called Christmas.



1. **Prioritize your time.** Make a conscious decision this year to reduce the amount of events you participate in so you can truly enjoy the ones you do. Well- chosen activities reduce stress and the rat race of being spread too thin.
2. **Remember to participate in your “usual” healthy exercise activities or if needing to start try walking for 15-30 minute every day or attending your exercise class.** It’s crucial for a healthy heart and brain and reduces stress. You want to be at your best and this can help you achieve and maintain a clear head and a joyful spirit.
3. **Drink plenty of water** – Mix it up a bit by adding fresh fruit such as lemon or orange slices, adding the fruit may also help speed up your metabolism. Hydration is crucial year round in Arizona especially.
4. **Boost your Immune system by eating garlic** as it increases production of disease fighting white blood cells. Take supplemental Vitamin C up to 500mg -1000 mg twice day especially if you are not a fresh fruit juice drinker or restricted due to certain medications or diabetes.
5. **When going to parties peruse the food table before you ever put a bite of food on your plate.** Then determine what you want and just take a small amount. Savor each bite and truly enjoy it. You will be able to keep your caloric intake manageable and this will lessen the stress of...I have to Lose ? pounds after the first of the year oh my!
6. **Be sure to get adequate sleep during the holidays.** It is crucial for your Immune system and the ability to function at your very best. To prepare for more restful sleep try these three things: An hour before bed; Jot down any last minute things you forgot for the next day. It releases your mind from focusing on all those things and helps you relax; You may want to try a drink of 2 ounces of Tart Cherry juice in 6 ounces of Seltzer TWO hours before bed. Tart Cherry is rich in Melatonin; Wear an eye mask to block out any extra light- even a small sliver of light can stimulate your nervous system and disrupt your sleep.
7. **Spend some time in meditation, prayer and read scripture and devotional material related to Christmas.** Who and What is the Real reason for the Season? What a gift God gave us- His only Begotten Son.

Blessings of Health & Wellness,
Susan Malloy RNBSN GCUMC Parish Nurse

**Merry
Christmas**

SCRIP BUS & VAN FUND



Did you know Bashas', Albertsons and Fry's help non-profit organizations — like GCUMC — by giving us a rebate on all purchases made when you use their cards **that are obtained from and/or connected to GCUMC**? The money earned helps pay for the church bus and van (*gas, licenses, maintenance, insurance, etc.*), and we've already raised \$144,000 from these grocery store programs! After expenses are covered, the balance of the funds goes toward **the purchase of a covered structure to protect these vehicles.**

- ⇒ **Albertsons** (1% rebate) offers a key tag you swipe each time at checkout.
- ⇒ **Smile.Amazon.com** donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the GCUMC SCRIP Bus & Van Fund whenever you shop on AmazonSmile... same selection... same prices! Just go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0621002>
- ⇒ **Bashas'** (6% rebate) **Community Support Cards** can be purchased (cash or check) from the church in denominations of \$20, \$50 or \$100, and be used at all AZ store locations, including AJ's Fine Foods and Food City. When the card balance gets low (shown on store receipt), you can reload it at the Customer Service Desk or at the register **before** your order is rung up (up to \$500) using cash, credit/debit card.
- ⇒ **Fry's VIP Card** (up to 3% rebate) Register your VIP card online with GCUMC's affiliation #80092, or you can come to the Church Office and we'll be glad to help. It all adds up! **(Please remember to renew your Fry's VIP card online if you haven't already!)**



Support GCUMC when you shop this Christmas!

Amazon donates when you shop at smile.amazon.com.

amazonsmile



IT'S ALMOST TIME TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Believe it or not - **it's time to order your Christmas Poinsettia** in honor or in memory of a loved one. We are pleased to offer a 3-plant floral quality poinsettia for only \$14.00 each.

Please complete the Order Form below and include payment for each poinsettia ordered and:

- Make **checks payable to "GCUMC"**, noting "**Poinsettia**" in the memo section.
- Mail to Gary Stemple, 8295 E Sweet Acacia Dr., Gold Canyon, AZ 85118-6998
- Place the form and payment in the offering plate, or leave it in the Church Office to Gary's attention.

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

POINSETTIA ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 13th



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

☐ I am ordering a poinsettia in Memory of:

☐ I am ordering a poinsettia in Honor of:

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

TOTAL PLANTS: _____ **TOTAL \$:** _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

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

Orders must be received by December 13th.

Remembrance Service

Light a candle for those you've loved and are in God's hands

December 9th
from 7pm–9pm  **in the Sanctuary**

Light a candle for those you've loved and are in God's hands. If you would like to participate, please call or visit the Church Office to register the name(s) of the person(s) to be remembered by 12/7.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

We need to take care of our caregivers! Would you be interested in forming a support group for caregivers? Several are interested in forming a support group that would meet regularly to encourage those who are caring for another. If you are interested in the formation of such a group or would like to be a part of the planning process, please call Carl Charette at (480) 288-4852, Myrna Eshelman at (480) 216-3038 or Joel Hurley at (602) 291-0464.



Thanks to all of you this month. We so appreciate your participation in so many ways! As you read this, the Angel Team is busy at work!



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

(Prayers encouraged daily)

1. Purchase Bashas' cards for \$20 by Dec. 13 at the Information Table.
2. Donate checks/cash for Food Boxes, Hams, or shopping by Dec. 13. We will shop for you! Food delivered.
3. Bring donated cookies /sweet delights for adopted Christmas Mission families Dec. 6, Dec. 13, or to party on Dec. 18.
4. Return all tags with unwrapped gifts. Attach the tags to items by Dec. 13.
5. **Wrapping Party: Dec. 18—1:00pm**
(Scissors and Tape Required)

The Performing Arts Series of
Gold Canyon United Methodist Church
presents the 14th Annual
Choral Christmas Concerts
Saturday, Dec. 12th, 3:00pm and 6:00pm



*Tuba,
Piano,
Organ,
Timpani,
Trumpets,
Trombone,
French Horn
Agape Brass,
Chancel Choir,
Canyon Carillon,
Women's Chorus,
Soprano Cynthia Hoff,
Baritone Don Engbrecht,
Chanters Mens Chorus,
Free and open to the public
No charge—Free Will Offering
Bring nonperishable food item
For the Gold Canyon Food Bank*



6640 South Kings Ranch Road, 1 block North of Hwy 60
(Walgreens on the corner)



✝ Do you sing and/or play an instrument? Do you have a passion for worship music? If so, the **Uncommon Grace Praise Team** needs YOU! If you are interested, please send an email to: ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

✝ Can you offer your time and efforts for one Sunday service each month? **HOSPITALITY TEAM** Volunteers are needed for the 8:00, 9:30 and 10:50 services. Please call the Church Office if you can help!



✝ **Welcome Center:** We are always looking for smiling faces, a warm personality and a helping heart to staff our Welcome Center at the 8am and 9:30am services. Especially when winter visitors have returned, the Desk gets delightfully busy! Training is provided, and it's helpful if you can do once a month... but your service will be welcomed whenever you can assist! Please contact Katharine in the Church Office.



✝ **Sunday Coffee Fellowship Goodies:** Ever notice the yummy platters of fresh fruit & cheese, and sweets to accompany our coffee during Sunday Coffee Fellowship? **Everyone is always welcome to enjoy this plethora of goodies;** although there is no charge, your contributions are important to the continuance of this hospitality. Please help keep this aspect of our Team Outreach welcome alive with your contribution.



✝ **Funeral/Memorial Reception Servers:** Needed to set-up/serve at Memorial Receptions (we already have an active list of food donation volunteers). Please contact Marilyn at 480-288-1963 if you can assist this invaluable ministry that helps families in their time of need.



MEMORIES FROM...

Mary Ann Warren, GCUMC Choir Director for 10 Years

"I think we had seventeen singers when I started directing the Choir in the school where we were meeting. We practiced in a small office in a nearby strip mall, where a piano was stored that someone had donated to the church. God had a purpose for this church, and He was always there when we needed Him!

God led me to Nancy Virden. I was singing in the Mountainbrook Village Voices at that time. We had a substitute pianist fill-in for the Choir, and she was so good! I immediately went over after rehearsal and asked if she would help me build a choir at the United Methodist Church. We both loved a challenge and she came to our first rehearsal in the office and stayed with me for the ten years that I directed. When fun we had building the church choir and music department together!

Because we had no money for choir anthems, for two years I brought music from my church in Elko, NV, where I had been a Director for many years, and they were happy to share with us.

I will never forget Miracle Sunday when a few people believed God was with us, and we raised the money to purchase the land for the church. Later we began our first United Methodist building.

The Choir grew quickly, and we added an extension to the stage and gave our first Christmas Concert, where we sang three times to a packed church. We were a proud music family that loved singing for God and our congregation. Soon Pastor Fred was preaching several services and the devoted choir sang for all three of them. I have many happy memories of those growing years!

MINISTRY & MISSION

Updates

HIKING MINISTRY

Jim Riedel, Hiking Ministry Leader



This ministry not only lifts you physically, but lifts you spiritually, as well. Being out in God's world of nature can be very uplifting, and we can also help you talk through things in your life if you feel like sharing.

We have had people who participate in our group, who are not members of our church, declare how friendly and wonderful our group really is. So, come on, anyone can join in!

In the beginning of the hiking season, I choose light and easy trails, as everyone is out of shape. Although schedules are available, unless you have been on these trails, you won't know how difficult they are. We also advise everyone via the weekly church bulletin as to the difficulty level of each hike. We hike at various locations on the east side of the valley (like the Superstitions) and sometimes north and southeast of Gold Canyon (north along Hwy 87 & the Superior area). Some of us occasionally like taking on more special and endurance hikes together such as hiking to Canyon Lake from east of the Lost Dutchmen State Park area.

The hikes can be interpretative, teaching one about the desert plants and animals that live there. Generally the hikes are of 3—5 mile ventures, sometimes more and are as short as 3 hours, and as long as 5+ due to travel time, which is why we ask everyone not to plan appointments or other gatherings for the day. We hike at the rate of the slowest hiker to keep together while doing established trails some flat (easy) and some of medium hiking ability. We generally meet at the southern Gold Canyon Church parking lot at 8:00am and commute to the trailhead and, depending where you live, one can meet right at the trailhead.

Equipment to bring is 2-3 liters of water, a snack or lunch, good hiking shoes (boots), layers of clothing, a jacket & gloves (depending on the temperature), wide hat, sun screen, any other items

you may need such as any medications or walking sticks, sunglasses, and a light knapsack to put it all in. We look forward to seeing you at future hikes!

GENESIS PROJECT



Your \$200 donation (\$400 if filing jointly) to Genesis Project gets you a dollar-for-dollar tax credit on your Arizona Tax Return. If you already have an AZ Tax Liability, at least equal to the credit amount, then giving is at no cost to you! Arizona's Helping the Working Poor Tax Credit is in addition to any credit you may already receive from donations to a public or private school.

How do I file for the credit? You or your accountant complete a simple form, which is included with materials provided by the State of Arizona to all state tax filers, and send it along with your state tax return. For your convenience, 1) tax credit forms are available at the Welcome Center and Church Office, or 2) contributions can be made through the Genesis Project website: www.GenesisProjectAZ.com.

At the moment, Genesis needs sleeping bags, jackets, gloves and hats, as the weather is turning colder... Thanks so much for your help!

FOOD BANK

Janice Workman, Food Bank Volunteer



For many years the practice of bringing non-perishable foods for the food bank when attending a concert at our church has greatly helped to keep a constant supply of food for the needy we serve each week.

The Gold Canyon Arts Council Canyon Sounds Series, the GCUMC Performing Arts Series and our Christmas Concerts provide a double benefit to so many in our community. The programs provide a

variety of cultural events while in a secondary way provide a service of replenishing our food bank.

So when attending a concert... **PLEASE BRING A CAN TO THE CONCERT!**

STITCHES UNLIMITED OR QUILTS FOR ST. ANDREWS CLINIC



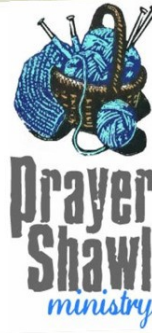
Many thanks to everyone who contributed quilts and worked at cutting squares, putting kits together, ironing, sewing bindings and toiletry bags. We had a great response and were able to send 125 plus quilts and 80 toiletry bags to St. Andrews Clinic in October.

We are already at work on projects for the next trip in March. We have many quilts basted and ready for quilting, and our quilt kit box is overflowing. Stop in and get a kit or two to work on at home if you cannot stay. Our kits are simple A-B-C style, not bigger than 40"x 60," and include pre-cut fabric along with directions. You can return the finished top and we'll add the batting and backing.

Come join us on the last Tuesday of the month! We begin at 9:00am and work until around 2:00pm, with time-out for lunch (bring your own.) We usually use domestic sewing machines on which to quilt by stitching in the ditch, meandering, or "x-ing" across the squares. If you don't quilt, but can use a sewing machine, iron, or use a rotary cutter — or like to play with fabric scraps and colors, we can find a job for **you!** Remember Matthew 25:40: "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" For questions or more info call Bonnie Becker at (480) 250-9652.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The ladies who have returned, along with those who live here all year, have begun to meet again to make prayer shawls. We meet the first and third Thursdays from nine to eleven in the Sea of Galilee Room. Shawls can be crocheted or knitted, from soft yarn. Sizes and other information is available from the group. When completed, we lay our hands on the shawls and pray for the recipients. They are delivered by church staff or committee members to people who are seriously ill, grieving, or needing comfort.

We always appreciate new members who want to join us, and who enjoy meeting new friends. For information, please call Nancy Miller at (563)927-3732.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WINTER 2016 PROJECT



We are looking forward to participating in building a home with a family in Chandler this winter as part of our membership in the Superstition Coalition of Churches in the East Valley. We will know more about the exact location and the family in the next month or so.

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

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

homeowner. These hard-working, deserving families are able to achieve their dream of an affordable home that they actually own.

We are excited about our opportunity to be part of this special ministry again. We are looking for volunteers to work on a couple of Saturdays in the January-March time frame, and also for volunteers to prepare and deliver lunch to the work crew on those days. We are really in need of about 20 generous donors who would be willing to contribute \$100 toward our goal of \$8000. Of course gifts in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Please mark your check memo for Habitat for Humanity, or make your contribution online at www.GoldCanyonUMC.org.

We will keep you posted as plans develop. Thanks for your ongoing support of this ministry!

Joe and Maureen Morton

602-284-2826; MoandJoeM@aol.com

HONEY-DO HOME REPAIR



Our volunteers are experienced in a wide range of areas and are giving of their talents to make people homes comfortable and safe. Some of our volunteers are winter residents from all over the country, while others are full-time area residents. Many are retired and some are still working. If you or someone you know is need of our services, contact John and Nancy Hill (907) 232-8203 or goldcanyonhoneydo@att.com. If you want to join our group of Honey Doers, let us know and we will put your name on the list!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS

Can you believe it's already time to celebrate Advent? It's our tradition to begin our Sunday worship services during Advent with a short reading, prayer, and lighting of the candles for all four worship services (dates are 11/29, 12/6, 12/13 and 12/20), as well as all four Christmas Eve services. The readings will be provided. If you would like to be a wreath lighter—and "you" means a family with children, couples, two or three singles, a study group, etc.—contact Katharine in the Church Office.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." ~ Philippians 4:6



May we help you? If you or someone you know within or beyond our parish would like a friendly visit, a listening ear or a home-cooked meal, please let us know. Caring for others in the GCUMC fellowship of believers is shared by clergy & lay caregivers.

✠ Rev. Fred Steinberg, Sr. Pastor
revstein78@gmail.com / 480.982.3776

✠ Rev. Bob Deits, Assoc.
bobnjune@cox.net / 602.615.6634

✠ Rev. Fay Quanstrom, Assoc.
fay.quanstrom@gmail.com / 480.458.8420

✠ Rev. Joel Hurley, Assoc.
joelhccjl@gmail.com/ 602.291.0464

✠ **Stephen Ministers**, highly-trained lay people, provide quality, confidential, Christ-centered support to persons experiencing grief, illness, divorce and other difficulties.

✠ **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 or Stephen Ministries by contacting one of the Pastors.



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Fellowship Class: Meets Sundays at 8:00am in the Education Building.

Bible Banter: Meets Mondays at 9:00am for coffee and stimulating conversation at Common Grounds Café to discuss ways in which we can live as faithful Christians in today's world.

CARING FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Church Ladies Adventure Club: A variety of monthly events are planned for "adventuresome" ladies from September through May.

Desert Diners: Groups of 8 people (couples and/or singles) that take turns hosting a meal once a month.

Men's Group: Fun, food and fellowship while doing a variety of activities and venues.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Children's Books: A mission that provides reading material to Food Bank clients using donated books as gifts to encourage children to read.

Citrus Gleaning Team: In January volunteers glean citrus unwanted by homeowners for donation to the United Food Bank.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

One in the Spirit: This group leads music at the Country Service on Sundays at 5:00pm.

Uncommon Grace: This contemporary Christian Praise Team leads worship at the 10:50am Praise Service, singing current songs you hear on the radio!

To get involved with these or any other groups listed in this Newsletter, contact the Church Office, and we'll connect you with the appropriate individual!

SMALL groups

AN INVITATION

If you would like to be a part of a small group that shares struggles and joys of the Christian journey, please complete this form and place in the Offering Plate.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



JOIN US ON
CHRISTMAS EVE



WE ARE SAVING A CANDLE FOR YOU
FOUR CANDLELIGHT SERVICES... ONE GLORIOUS STORY

3pm

Family Candlelight Service

with Christmas Pageant & Puppet Show

6pm & 8pm

Candlelight Service

with inspirational Message & Chancel Choir

11pm

Candlelight Service

*with inspirational Message & Holy Communion
(all are welcome)*

GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6640 S Kings Ranch Rd

(North of Hwy 60 in Gold Canyon)

480-982-3776 • www.goldcanyonumc.org

**Childcare available at all services*



CHURCH CALENDAR & KEY

BP = Back Patio EB = Education Bldg
 ER = Emmaus Rm K = Kitchen
 KR = Koinonia Rm MR = Music Rm
 NAR = Noah's Ark Rm S = Sanctuary
 SoG = Sea of Galilee YR = Youth Rm

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

Tue Dec Nov 1	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	1pm	Advent Study (KR)
	5:30pm	One in the Spirit/Houser Gang Rehearsal (KR)
	5:30pm	Team Outreach (ER)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon Bells Rehearsal (S)
Wed Dec 2	6:45pm	Beliefs 101 (ER)
	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
	6pm	Financial Peace University (KR)
	6pm	Food Bank Evening Hrs
	6pm	Food Bank Evening Hrs
Thu Dec 3	9am	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	9am	Prayer Shawl Ministry (SoG Rm)
	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	5:30pm	Chanters Men's Chorus (MR)
	6:50pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Fri Dec 4	7pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	3pm	Hearts & Hands Mtg (SoG)
Sat Dec 5	5:30pm	AA (ER)
	3pm	Church Ladies Adventure Club Outing (Offsite)
Sun Dec 6	10am	Sidewalk Ministry (Offsite)
	8am	Sunday Morning Bible Study (ER)
	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	8:30am	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:50am	Praise Worship (KR)
	10:50am	Pre-K Children's Sunday School (NAR)
	1pm	Choir Christmas Dress Rehearsal (S/MR)
	5pm	Country Worship (KR)
Mon Dec 7	6:30pm	Youth Group (7th-12th grade) (YR/ER /K)
	9:30am	Bible Banter (Offsite)
	12:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	1pm	Grief Support Mtg (SoG Rm)
	3pm	Stephen Ministry (ER)
	6pm	Reserved (KR)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoG Rm)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (ER)

Tue Dec 8	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	1pm	Advent Study (KR)
	5:30pm	One in the Spirit/Houser Gang Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	Trustee Mtg (Pastor Fred's Ofc)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon Bells Rehearsal (S)
Wed Dec 9	6:45pm	Beliefs 101 (ER)
	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
	6pm	Financial Peace University (KR)
	7pm	Remembrance Svc (S)
	7pm	Remembrance Svc (S)
Thu Dec 10	9am	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	5:30pm	Chanters Men's Chorus (MR)
	6pm	Choir Christmas Dress Rehearsal (S/MR)
	7pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
Fri Dec 11	10am	Mind Menders (ER)
	10am	Piano Tuning (S/MR)
Sat Dec 12	5:30pm	AA (ER)
	10am	Sidewalk Ministry (Offsite)
	3pm	Choral Christmas Concert (S/MR)
Sun Dec 13	6pm	Choral Christmas Concert (S/MR)
	8am	Sunday Morning Bible Study (ER)
	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	8:30am	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:50am	Praise Worship (KR)
	10:50am	Pre-K Children's Sunday School (NAR)
	5pm	Country Worship (KR)
	6:30pm	Youth Group (7th-12th grade) (YR/ER /K)
Mon Dec 14	9:30am	Bible Banter (Offsite)
	12:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	1pm	Coffee With the Pastor (MR)
	1pm	Grief Support Mtg (SoG Rm)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoG Rm)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (ER)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (ER)
Tue Dec 15	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	1pm	Advent Study (KR)
	5:30pm	One in the Spirit/Houser Gang Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon Bells Rehearsal (S)
	6:45pm	Beliefs 101 (ER)
Wed Dec 16	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
	6pm	Financial Peace University (KR)
Thu Dec 17	9am	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	9am	Prayer Shawl Ministry (SoG Rm)
	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	5:30pm	Chanters Men's Chorus (MR)
	6:50pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR)
Fri Dec 18	7pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (ER)
	7pm	Family Movie Night! (Patio)

Sat Dec 19	10am	Sidewalk Ministry (Offsite)
Sun Dec 20	8am	Sunday Morning Bible Study (ER)
	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	8:30am	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:50am	Praise Worship (KR)
	10:50am	Pre-K Children's Sunday School (NAR)
	5pm	Country Worship (KR)
	6:30pm	Youth Group (7th-12th grade) (YR/ER /K)
Mon Dec 21	9:30am	Bible Banter (Offsite)
	12:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	1pm	Grief Support Mtg (SoG Rm)
	3pm	Stephen Ministry (ER)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoG Rm)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (ER)
Tue Dec 22	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	1pm	Advent Study (KR)
	5:30pm	One in the Spirit/Houser Gang Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon Bells Rehearsal (S)
Wed Dec 23	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
	6pm	Financial Peace University (KR)
Thu Dec 24	All day	Christmas Eve
	9am	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	3pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Family w/ Puppet Show)
	5:30pm	Chanters Men's Chorus (MR)
	5:30pm	Gift of Music (S)
	6pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Choir & Orchestra)
	6:50pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR)
	7pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	7:30pm	Gift of Music (S)
	8pm	Christmas Eve Svc (Communion)
	11pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Fri Dec 25		Christmas Day (OFFICE CLOSED)
	10am	Mind Menders (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (ER)
Sat Dec 26	10am	Sidewalk Ministry (Offsite)
Sun Dec 27	8am	Sunday Morning Bible Study (ER)
	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	8:30am	Uncommon Grace Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children & Youth Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:50am	Praise Worship (KR)
	10:50am	Pre-K Children's Sunday School (NAR)
	5pm	Country Worship (KR)
	6:30pm	Youth Group (7th-12th grade) (YR/ER /K)
Mon Dec 28	All day	OFFICE CLOSED (Christmas)
	9:30am	Bible Banter (Offsite)
	12:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	1pm	Grief Support Mtg (SoG Rm)
	7pm	Al-Anon (SoG Rm)
	7pm	CoDA Mtg (ER)
Tue Dec 29	9am	Stitches Unlimited (ER & SoG)
	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)

	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	5:30pm	One in the Spirit/Houser Gang Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	Canyon Carillon Bells Rehearsal (S)
Wed Dec 30	8:30am	Newsletter Team (MR)
	9:30am	Music Library Activities (MR)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER)
	5pm	Pioneer Club (ER)
Thu Dec 31	All day	New Year's Eve
	9am	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	9am	Prayer Shawl Ministry (SoG Rm)
	9am	Yoga-Regular (KR)
	10:15am	Yoga-Gentle (KR)
	11:15am	Yoga-Chair (KR)
	5:30pm	Chanters Men's Chorus (MR)
	6:50pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR)
	7pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)



LOST & FOUND

We have a "Lost & Found" box in the Church Office... If you think your missing item may be with us, stop by!

WATCH GCUMC SERVICES LIVE!



For livestreaming of the 8:00am & 9:30am services, go to www.livestream.com (a few minutes before service)

- ⇒ Click on "Watch" and "Search Events &Accounts..." and type in "Gold Canyon United Methodist Church"
- ⇒ Select GCUMC under "Accounts"
- ⇒ You can also view past services on the webpage.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

January Roadrunner — 8am, Monday, 12/7/15

Weekly Bulletin — 12pm Wednesdays

Your GCUMC Publications are brought to you by Riechia Ralston, Dee Ashe and Georgia Kirkpatrick with help from the Friday Bulletin Team, the Roadrunner Assembly Team, and many other treasured volunteers.



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!

Heinauer, Diane 12/01
 McClung, Ryan 12/01
 Roberson, Terry 12/02
 King, Kathleen 12/03
 Halsted, Dorothy 12/04
 Monk, Judith (Judy) 12/04
 Weidner, Nick 12/04
 Eby, Shirley 12/05
 Fyfe, Angie 12/05
 Walsh, Judy 12/05
 Donovan, Judy 12/06
 Johnson, Carol 12/06
 Kinzel, Lisa 12/06
 Palmer, Charlie 12/06
 Brannan, Jean 12/07
 Hardesty, Barbara 12/07
 Torres, Dominic 12/07
 Torres, Jonathan 12/07
 Vogelgesang, Robert (Bob) 12/07
 Boldt, Kathy 12/08
 Kalik, Katelin 12/08
 Mitchell, Beverly 12/08
 Annin, Karen 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
 Warren, Mary Ann 12/11
 Graves, Bob 12/12
 Campbell, Judy 12/13
 Coad, Shirley 12/13
 Gingrich, Nathaniel 12/13
 Hutnak, Bambi 12/13
 Lemmon, Margaret (Meg) 12/13
 Ritenour, Marcia 12/13
 Tabor, Gerald Lynn (Lynn) 12/13
 Anderson, Don 12/14
 Green, William (Bill) 12/14
 Houser, Ron 12/14
 Keller, Katharine 12/14

Rhoton, Hannah 12/14
 Tabor, Ilene 12/14
 Tucker, Paula 12/14
 Acevedo, Carol 12/15
 De Remer, Jane 12/15
 Foreman, Pamela (Pam) 12/15
 Newton, Doris 12/15
 Twa, Mary Gay 12/15
 Jameson, Suzanne 12/16
 Pepin, Jeff 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
 Holland, Tammy 12/18
 Serrine, Kathleen (Kathy) 12/18
 Robertson, Judy 12/19
 Sawyer, Tom 12/19
 Thibodeau, Taylor 12/19
 Flowers, Helen 12/20
 McAuliffe, William 12/20
 Leet, Kay 12/21
 Van Noy, Mary Faith 12/21
 Kirkpatrick, Georgia 12/22
 Kilbo, Melvin 12/23
 Jacobsen, Ken 12/23
 McAuliffe, Claudia 12/23
 Haines (Gardner), Edna (Eddie) 12/24
 Rhoton, Heather 12/24
 Brooks, Deborah 12/25
 Halsted, Vern 12/25
 King, William 12/25
 LeQuire, Steve 12/25
 Miller, Christine (Chris) 12/25
 Stemple, Gary 12/25
 Gharavi, Danna 12/26
 Pennington, Robert 12/26
 Smith, Alice (Charlene) 12/26
 Malloy, Michael 12/27
 Schenck, Joyce 12/27
 Tonole, Don 12/27
 Flowers, Howard 12/28
 Lundberg, Joseph 12/28
 Schuler, Connie 12/29
 Madzey, Cherie 12/30

Owen, Todd 12/30
 Waechter, William (Bill) 12/30
 Adams, Dalton 12/31
 Hall, Joie 12/31
 Manbeck, Jerri 12/31
 Plale, Alice 12/31

Happy Anniversary!

Bachler-Palmer, Lori 12/01
 Osgood, Donald & Gladys 12/01
 Palmer, Charles (Charlie) 12/01
 Gavin, Gordon & Donna 12/02
 Koch, Karl & Roberta (Bobbie) 12/03
 Charette, Carl & Gloria 12/10
 Nunn, Kevin & Lynda Hammond 12/10
 Thomas, William & Mary 12/11
 McNamee, Brett & Colette 12/13
 Linton, John & Diana 12/14
 Kalik, Adam & Katelin 12/15
 Nefzer, Rick & Kathy 12/15
 Ingram, Bob & Pamela 12/16
 Criswell, E G (Cris) & Bev 12/17
 Yoder, Bill & Gail 12/18
 House, Richard & Dottie 12/19
 Nuss, John & Kathy 12/20
 Steinkruger, Terry & Ruth 12/20
 Twa, Preston (Jack) & Mary Gay 12/21
 Bargman, Glenn & Carmean 12/22
 Calihan, Ray (Pat) & Lillian 12/22
 Carlozzi, Emiddio (Mid) & Noreen 12/22
 Brannan, Thomas & Jean 12/23
 Schuler, George (Phalen) & Connie 12/23
 Gerst, Leo & Lois 12/24
 Phillips, Victor & Lorraine 12/24
 Pennington, Robert & Nina 12/26
 Crow, Bob & Virginia 12/27
 Mitchell, Darrell & Beverly 12/27
 Owen, Todd & April 12/27
 Heinauer, Wayne & Diane 12/28
 Lemmon, Harley & Meg 12/28
 Bills, Bob & Jill 12/29
 Lindaman, Don & Carol 12/29
 Callantine, Ronald (Ron) & Peggy 12/30
 Gingrich, Gary & Joyce 12/30
 Brooks, Mark & Deborah 12/31
 Paddison, John & Jeanne 12/31

If your name isn't on this list (or you know of someone who should be), or if you find an error, please call the office with the information. We truly don't mean to make mistakes or to leave anyone out!

DONATIONS & ATTENDANCE

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

OCT	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2015	2015	2015
	General	Building	Worship All	General	Building	Worship All	General	Building	Worship All	General	Building	Worship All
1st	16445	6016	716	19033	8009	646	18219	6719	694	21861	7588	792
2nd	20314	18631	895	12663	12663	730	12065	4314	721	16244	5612	810
3rd	12454	11732	889	12930	12930	868	12895	5584	837	16514	8225	883
4th	16194	4613	1049	13334	6274	1023	9555	2238	1083	13264	4093	1106
5th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	66407	40992	3547	57960	23217	3267	52734	18855	3335	67884	25518	3591

*Help support **Team Outreach...***

**GCUMC
COFFEE MUGS!**



2 FOR \$10

Available at the Info Desk or Church Office!

ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS



As the pace of life speeds up, electronic giving is a great way to make contributions! Please note, if you use any type of electronic payment system to satisfy your pledge and you change your pledge, you must also make the change to your electronic payment provider. Please call the Church Office with questions.



REMINDER: GCUMC Directories are available for \$10 in the Church Office or at the Welcome Center on Sundays. Please let the Office know if any of your info needs to be updated!

Also available are all-occasion church cards:

- Package of 12 for \$10
- Checks should be made out to GCUMC



Available at the Welcome Center

Wish List

Want to give back to Gold Canyon United Methodist Church beyond your pledge to the General Budget or the Building Fund? Listed below are some items that will better enable us to fulfill our mission as a church:

- ✝ Koinonia Room Stage Lighting—\$22,000
- ✝ Bus/Van Garage
- ✝ Playground - \$20,000-40,000
- ✝ Stained Glass for upper Sanctuary windows - \$105,000 (\$3,000 per panel)
- ✝ Building Fund Loan Payoff (2015: Prepaid \$52,000)
- ✝ Organ Pipes
- ✝ Food Bank Building - \$200,000



GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Phone: 480-982-3776

Fax: 480-671-0028

Email: churchoffice@goldcanyonumc.org

Web: www.goldcanyonumc.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Apache Junction, Arizona

Permit No. 64

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Associate Pastor	Joel Hurley	joelhccjl@gmail.com
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Facility Care Taker	Rick Ceynar	
Financial Secretary	Georgia Kirkpatrick	
Nursery Care Giver	Sherry Hussein	
Parish Nurse	Susan Malloy	
Pianists	Carol Ballard Linda Jones Marty Robison Nancy Virden	
Treasurer	Cris Criswell	
Volunteer Coordinator	Jane Hayes	
E-mail Prayer Chain		gcumcprayers@gmail.com

 www.facebook.com/goldcanyonumc

 [@goldcanyonUMC](https://twitter.com/goldcanyonUMC)

Addressee or Current Resident

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

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

- ✝ 8:00am Adult Fellowship Class
- ✝ 9:30am Children
- ✝ 9:30am Youth
- ✝ 10:50am Children

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00am & 9:30am

TRADITIONAL ~ Sanctuary

10:50am

PRAISE ~ Koinonia Room

5:00pm

COUNTRY ~ Koinonia Room

(Last Sunday of the Month Only in June, July & August)

Childcare Provided at ALL Services



Please help GCUMC Save Postage!

Make the switch and receive your Roadrunner Newsletter by email! You can even have it sent to multiple emails in the same household! Just fill out the below and place your completed form in the offering plate, mail it to us, or turn it into the church office. You can also email your request to churchoffice@goldcanyonumc.org.

1. **Name** _____ and _____

E-Mail _____

2. **Name** _____ and _____

E-Mail _____