



FROM THE PASTOR: "CHRISTMAS PLANS"



Get ready to deck the halls because the most wonderful time of the year is almost here! Our church is thrilled to announce not one, but two Christmas Eve services at 4:00pm and 6:00pm on December 24th, featuring the angelic voices of our choir and the jingling of bells. You won't want to miss our candlelight rendition of Silent Night, where we'll celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. I will give a special message titled

"Heart of Christmas: Love." So, grab your loved ones and friends and join us for this special occasion.

But wait, there's more! Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, we're combining our morning worship into one blended service at 9:30am, where Dr. David Worley will share a message in the Sanctuary.

To really get you in the holiday spirit, mark your calendars for our Christmas concert on Saturday, December 9th at 3pm. It's going to be a musical extravaganza with performances from all our musical groups, including our talented chancel choir, Uncommon Grace praise band, and the ringing of bells.

And here's some really exciting news: our church is donating all of the Christmas Eve offerings this year to the Genesis Project in Apache Junction to help buy food for those in need. We're aiming to raise \$30,000, so every little bit counts. Many of our church members are involved in this wonderful ministry, which serves over 250 lunches a day, so we know that our donations will make a huge impact in our community.

So come one, come all, and let's make this Christmas one to remember. We can't wait to see you on Sunday! !

Grace and peace,

Fred

Contact Us

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



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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pastor Katharine Keller

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

ADVENT STUDY



The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch. Join Pastor Katharine as she facilitates a video study by Matt Rawle, who explores how the Grinch's heart grew three sizes, how Christmas saved the Grinch, and then asks the question – Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes

our lives? Let's look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. This 4-week series begins Wed., November 29. Please note that this class will be offered in the morning at 10am and at 6pm. Sign-up is preferred for materials to be prepared, but there is no charge for this class.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



Remembrance Service on **Wed., December 6th, 2023 at 7:00pm** we will be remembering those whom we've lost since last year's

Remembrance Service on December 7, 2022. Please register the name(s) of your deceased to churchoffice@goldcanyonumc.org by December 1st, 2023. Although email is preferred, if you don't have access to a computer, please call the Church Office (480)982-3776 and ask for our Church Administrator.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP



Pastor Katharine is looking for volunteers to help lead VBC early next summer. She is also considering offering a "specialty" activity each afternoon for those students who wish to stay for lunch and into the afternoon. If you are interested in any aspect of this adventure with children, please let Pastor Katharine know. We will have our first meeting sometime in January 2024.

"EMPTY BOWLS"



Pastor Katharine is looking for potters for a special event called "Empty Bowls" which we would like to hold in February 2025.

Please contact her as soon as you can with names or if you, yourself, do pottery. This event has been postponed until 2025 because it takes almost a year to have over 100 bowls made!

GREENING OF THE CHURCH



If you like putting up Christmas trees and decorating rooms with swags and such, please join us on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. We anticipate we will be finished by 10:30am-11:00am. Many

hands make light work and our decorating in both buildings goes rather quickly if there is a lot of help! Please let Pastor Katharine know if you can help.

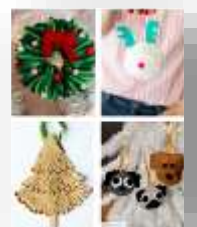
ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING



If you, your family, or friend would like to light the Advent candle/stand or do the reading at one of the worship services during Advent, please contact Pastor Katharine in the Church Office. Dates/Times are: • Sundays in Advent (Dec. 3, Dec. 10, 17) at the 8am,

9:30am, 11am & 4pm worship services • Christmas Eve at the 9:30 morning service and 4pm or 6pm worship services • First come, first served. We love to have different voices representing the congregation, so please call her and request your spot as soon as you've decided.

CRAFTY CHRISTMAS



Congregational Life is sponsoring a fun Sunday afternoon to create a variety of Christmas crafts while enjoying decorating Christmas cookies and drinking hot chocolate. This all happens on **December 10th from 1-3 p.m.** in the Missions Center. This is a free event,

but we ask you to please sign up. Please direct questions to Pastor Katharine.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Forty-five people showed up to pack lunches for the unhoused coming to Genesis!



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Thirty-five women enjoyed Christian fellowship, worship, teaching, yoga, crafts, games and good conversation. As always, it was very uplifting!



Fall Women's Retreat 2023



In the next set of photos, the kids give helping hands to packing lunches for the unhoused coming to Genesis.



KIDS KORNER

All during the month of November our word was FAITH. We learned about the faith Abraham and Sarah needed to move from their homeland when God said "Go where I send you." They also had to have faith that God's promise of having a child in their old age would come true. Have you ever had a hard time having faith?

In the next two photos, families worshipped together on October 29th with children taking some leadership roles!





YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY

Valerie Hammons, Youth Ministries Director

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

Our Youth Group prepared and shared a meal together prior to helping with the Community Service Project of preparing bag lunches for Genesis. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of young people!

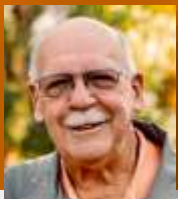




ON THE GOSPEL SIDE

Dr. David Worley, Preaching Associate

My second cousin put up her Christmas tree not too long after Halloween. She anticipated criticism for starting the season so early, but explained that because her Mom with whom she was very close died this past year, putting up the tree was a source of comfort and sweet memory to help alleviate her grief. I encouraged her decision. Several other people have noted on how valuable their holiday traditions seem especially important this year. I think part of this urge is because the world is so troubled we look for a place of hope, comfort and joy. For those of us, including my second cousin, who are believers, Christmas is all of that and more. We celebrate not just as an annual occurrence, but as a confirmation of the wondrous news of Advent. What joyous news that Jesus, God's Son and our Savior, has come to this earth to reveal the Father, show us how to live and die for sins after which He rose again to pronounce victory in His name! We have every reason to celebrate. As we gather each Sunday of Advent for our 4 pm worship service, we will rejoice in song and word. I intend to help us focus on the meaning of our Lord's incarnation by thinking about Christmas in the Gospels. Some may respond, "Well, where else would you look?" Actually, there are many places in Scripture we could see the blessed story pictured, prophesied and proclaimed but the Gospels present the story with unique credibility and equally distinctive perspectives. We welcome YOU to join us each Sunday in December as we rejoice in the good news of Christmas!



ON A PASTORAL NOTE

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor

As we enter the season of Advent with Christmas just around the corner, I would like to look at this season with a slightly different twist. As Pastor Fred has been preaching a series on the Ten Commandments, I must admit that the one commandment I seem to miss each time I try to list them is commandment #4: keeping the Sabbath Holy and finding rest. Perhaps it's because I have always, as a pastor, worked on the Sabbath.

Advent is a season of preparation for the celebration of our Savior's birth. A time when we sing such familiar hymns as #196 in our Hymnal: "*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus.*" Yet, it's also a time of year in which we find ourselves perhaps busier than at any other time of year. Shopping, parties, work, decorating our homes, trimming the Christmas tree, taking care of the day-to-day things and last of all trying to fit in a time of holy rest. Somehow, we don't take the time to reflect one of the most important commandments – "keeping the Sabbath Holy." It means being mindful of our need to spend time with God, in prayer, scripture and meditation. In the first verse of the hymn, we sing: "Come thou long – expected Jesus, born to set thy people free, from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart."

I would like to ask you in this Advent season to take the time rest, to rest in God's word and promise. To spend time in prayer and ask the Lord to set us free from what is sometimes seen as "the rat race of getting everything done." Perhaps if we spent more time with the Lord each day, we would find that everything that needs to be done gets done with less stress and worry.

I pray this Advent will offer you a time of blessing and reflection on the "Real Reason for the Season." "Come thou long – expected Jesus!" Blessings and Merry Christmas!





PASTORAL & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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 Steinberg, Senior Pastor

RevStein78@gmail.com / (480) 982-3776

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor

GCapen@gmail.com / (919) 357-8474

Pastor Katharine Keller, Associate Pastor

LadieBug1214@gmail.com / (480) 888-5411

Dr. David Worley, Director, Preaching Associate

DWorley3@gmail.com / (970) 821-5404

Caring for others in the GCUMC fellowship of believers is shared by clergy & lay caregivers. In addition to the pastoral staff, trained Lay **Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs)** share a ministry of loving spiritual care: visits, prayer, Holy Communion, music, meals, errands and more. You are invited to join the **Congregational Care Ministry** by contacting the Church Office.

PRAYER REQUEST

...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...

Joyce Blakenbaker

Kathy Bonilla

Myra Cuning

Helen Flowers

Geraldine Graham

Danny Johnson

Doug Keller

Wayne Lichtenberg

Linda Norton

Carol Miller

Roderick Smith

Doris Sovde

Vanzee/Dickersons

Linda Vinluan



Merry Christmas to all from the Gold Canyon UMC Staff!



CARING CORNER

Kim Shroyer



We're all broken in some way, shape or form, yet we are still individual, "whole" people!

"... God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and

said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" ³⁴ Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." ³⁵ The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God... ³⁷ For the word of God will never fail." Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her. ~ Luke 1:26-37 [NLT]

The angel Gabriel told Mary she would name her child Jesus. Jesus was a Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua and was a common name meaning "the Lord saves." Just as Joshua had led Israel into the Promised Land, so Jesus would lead His people into eternal life.

God created us in His image, but at the time He sent Christ to earth, we had sorely disappointed Him. We were not reflecting His image and He needed to remedy that. Still, this was not an ideal situation for Mary. She stood to lose her fiancé, her reputation, the security of her situation, her entire life. **But through her son would come the world's only hope.**

What would you have done if you were Mary? Whew, I've asked myself that a few times, and I must say I fail in the answer every time. The beautiful thing is, that's okay...my failure is okay! Not only is it accepted, God expects it. He sent Jesus Christ because man was

broken. His life, and death, on earth put the crayons back together for each of us. We know we are asked to make God-honoring choices and are prompted to confess and ask for forgiveness when we don't. God knows we are broken. He just expects us to believe in Him, acknowledge Him, and our belief in Him. We have the ultimate hope!

Martin Luther King Jr. said "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." That quote strikes me particularly strongly this time of year, and I think of Jesus Christ. How easy is it these days, as Christians, to avoid attention? How easy is it to sit in the back of the church, then leave for lunch? How easy is it for us to sit and grumble about the state of affairs in our world, yet offer no solution? How easy is it for us to be silent when something needs to be said? How easy is it for us to avoid things that matter? What if Mary had been silent?

Our broken crayons were put back together by Jesus Christ. How will you spread the word about someone who matters so much? Consider professing your faith to a neighbor, asking someone to join you for Christmas Eve service, tell your story of ups and downs and hope in life to someone else.

If you need help yourself before you can share with others, consider **reaching 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.





MUSIC NOTES

Dr. Ian Classe, Director of Music Ministries



By the time you're reading this, Advent has likely begun or will start soon, meaning Christmas and the end of the year is just a few short weeks away! I hope everyone has had a great year and will make the next one even better. As we get into 'the season' where most of our winter residents have returned, there's a lot of musical activity upcoming.

First of all, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be presenting **The Four Freshmen** on **Sunday, December 3rd** at **7:00pm**. A talented vocal quartet blending more modern open harmonic jazz arrangements with the sounds from the big band era, the Freshmen will be singing holiday classics as well as some of their favorite hits. Tickets are available from goldcanyonarts.org/tickets, the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce, or Robin Rotella Team Realtors.

Next in early December, GCUMC will open the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts Series with our annual **Christmas Concert** on **Saturday, December 9th** at **3:00pm**. The concert will be available both in person and online, but I encourage you to come in person for a better acoustical and community experience. Seats are limited so be sure to arrive early! Concert music this year will feature most of GCUMC'S performing groups from choir to bells to band as well as the Sonoran Brass Quintet, guest instrumentalists, and stunning soloists. The concert is free-admission but a free-will offering will be received to support our music ministries and the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts Series as a whole. If you are able, please bring a non-perishable food item for the GCUMC Food Bank as there are always those in need at Christmas. We hope to see you there!

The **"Sunday Sounds Series"** will be on hiatus this month as the music ministry prepares for the Christmas Concert as well as the multiple Christmas Eve and Advent services; it will however return in the New Year in January on Sunday, January 14, 2024. To hear some Christmas organ music, be sure to attend the annual Christmas concert as well as Christmas Eve services!

Speaking of Christmas Eve, as usual, the music ministry will participate in the **Christmas Eve services** at **4:00** and **6:00pm**. There will be a short, 10-15 minute hymn-sing featuring some of your favorite Christmas carols prior to each service, so arrive early to get a good seat and sing some of your favorites with family and friends.

Upcoming in January, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be featuring the **Hutchins Consort** on **January 12th** at **7:00 p.m.** and the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts series will be hosting American concert violinist Andrew Sords with celebrated collaborative pianist Elizabeth DeMio on **Sunday, January 21st** at **2:00 p.m.** Stay tuned to our website for more information regarding upcoming concerts and events.

Before you move on to the next article, there is also quick update on the organ project. The organ committee elected a new vice-chair last month and inducted a new member as well to further flesh out our committee. Furthermore, the committee will be hosting an organ ambassador orientation on **December 11th** at **2:00pm** in the choir room and on zoom, open to any who would be interested in joining the team. Just to reiterate what an ambassador does: These are people who have been educated about our project and will reach out to our congregation and greater community to inform and encourage them in regards to the pipe organ project with the intention of generating further interest and buzz. We hope to move forward in the New Year with more significant fundraising as well as analysis and selection of incoming proposals from organ builders, culminating in signing a contract with a desired builder.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or just want to talk music, feel free to reach out to me by email or phone. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Peace and best regards,

Ian



2023-2024 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

11/17/23	Fri	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: Mirari Brass Quintet... <i>one of the country's finest brass ensembles!</i>
12/03/23	Sun	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: The Four Freshmen... <i>America's most enduring vocal group!</i>
12/09/23	Sat	3:00pm		22nd Annual GCUMC Christmas Concert ... <i>featuring all our music ministries</i>
12/24/23	Sun	4:00pm		Christmas Eve Worship ... <i>Join us for worship w/ candlelight!</i>
12/24/23	Sun	6:00pm		Christmas Eve Worship ... <i>Join us for worship w/ candlelight!</i>
01/12/24	Fri	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: The Hutchins Consort... <i>a premier string group!</i>
01/21/24	Sun	2:00pm		Andrew Sords ... <i>an American violinist who has performed worldwide!</i>
01/27/24	Sat	9:00pm		GCAC Arts Festival... <i>a much-anticipated community celebration!</i>
02/04/24	Sun	3:00pm		Legacy Quartet ... <i>Southern Gospel and much more!</i>
02/09/24	Fri	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: Mariachi Garibaldi de Jamie Cuellar & Dancers... <i>music & dance</i>
02/14/24	Wed	7:00pm		Ash Wednesday Worship ... <i>join us as we begin the journey through Lent</i>
02/25/24	Sun	2:00pm		Brett Valliant... <i>concert & theatre organist to benefit GCUMC Pipe Organ Fund</i>
03/03/24	Sun	2:00pm		The Rice Brothers ... <i>both are virtuoso pianists and cellists</i>
03/08/24	Fri	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: Quarteto Nuevo... <i>merges genres w/ organic feel that packs a wallop!</i>
03/17/24	Sun	2:00pm		Dave & Daphne... <i>Nashville entertainers</i>
03/22/24	Fri	7:00pm	*	GCAC Concert: Barbara Padilla... <i>exceptional classical-crossover singer</i>
03/24/24	Sun	8 & 9:30am		Palm Sunday Worship ... <i>join us as we begin the journey through Lent</i>
03/24/24	Sun	11:00am		Palm Sunday Praise Worship ... <i>join us as we begin the journey through Lent</i>
03/24/24	Sun	4:00pm		Palm Sunday Gospel Worship ... <i>join us as we begin the journey through Lent</i>
03/28/24	Thu	7:00pm		Maundy Thursday Worship ... <i>special service with communion and ashes</i>
03/29/24	Fri	7:00pm		Good Friday Worship
03/31/24	Sun	6:00am		Easter Sunrise Worship ... <i>in north Parking Lot facing the Superstitions</i>
03/31/24	Sun	8:00 & 9:30		Easter Celebration Worship ... <i>Christ is Arisen with Brass, Bells and Choir</i>
03/31/24	Sun	11am		Easter Praise Worship ... <i>Uncommon Grace leads our Praise of the Risen Lord</i>
03/31/24	Sun	4pm		Easter Sunset Worship ... <i>our Gospel celebration of Christ Alive</i>

* 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!



LOCAL MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

SCRIP BUS & VAN FUND



Your continued participation in the SCRIP programs at Bashas and Fry's grocery stores who support GCUMC's bus and van programs is so appreciated! In 2023 SCRIP raised over **\$3,786,92!** It's easy to do... just stop by (or call) the Church Office or visit the Welcome Desk on Sunday if you need help!



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!

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS MISSION



If you are interested in finding out where you can help in this important annual mission, contact Jane Hayes or GCUMC Office. Cash donations for this mission to help cover expenses for food boxes, gift cards, clothing, and toys should be marked "Angel Tree." Our Angel Trees will only have gift cards to purchase and return to the Church Office or Welcome Center. Cash donation envelopes will be on all trees during the Mission and will be turned into the Welcome Center, Office, or collection plate. If you desire, Thank You cards can be made to give to friends and family in lieu of gifts. Keep an eye out for the Christmas trees that will be set-up right after Thanksgiving!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH(UWF)



United
Women
in Faith

Reverend Julius Keller was born in Richmond, Indiana which is located on the Ohio-Indiana border. His father was a highly successful lawyer and his mother was a talented school teacher. However, his mother didn't work while they lived in Richmond. She was a stay-at-home Mom

tending to Julius and his sister who are only 15 months apart. Sadly, when Julius was three and his sister was barely two their father died suddenly and unexpectedly three days before his thirty-fifth birthday. Their mother moved them to the nearest big city which was Cincinnati, Ohio. She resumed her career as a language arts school teacher where she became an icon in the community. A few years later his mother remarried and they began attending Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Reverend Keller has been a member of the United Methodist Church for over 60 years!

Julius graduated from high school at the age of 17 and began attending college at Ohio University four days later. His goal was to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather who were very prominent lawyers. After graduating from college he attended law school at The Ohio State College of Law in Columbus, Ohio. Upon graduation Reverend Keller relocated to Chicago, Illinois where he developed an expertise in the field of housing discrimination law for 23 years. However in 2002, he responded to a calling from God and entered seminary at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Prior to entering seminary, the District Superintendent in the West Ohio Conference asked if he would consider pastoring Lockbourne United Methodist Church. He agreed to accept that appointment and began as their pastor in June, before he started his seminary career in August of 2002.

Reverend Julius Keller met and married Katharine while in seminary. In their blended family, they have four adult aged daughters and their spouses, two adult aged sons and their spouses, eight grandsons and three granddaughters. When he graduated from seminary, they were recruited by the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church to come to Gilbert, Arizona and plant a church. Reverend Julius Keller founded Living Water United Methodist Fellowship and served as their pastor until 2015. He was appointed to Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church where he served as senior pastor until he retired on June 30, 2020. Julius also served on the Board of Ordained Ministry for eleven years and was the Chair of the Board from 2016 to 2020. In retirement, Reverend Keller has enjoyed mentoring teenagers as well as some adults during their life journeys!

DECEMBER MEETING & PROGRAM

Please join us for a program by Reverend Julius Keller, Saturday, Dec 16, 10:30am in the Mission Center for a program on "Mentoring At-Risk Youth." For more information, email susanblyons@gmail.com.



Queen Esther, Mary Magdeline & Ruth from last moth's "Grateful Hearts Program



Members of the Culinary Circle served a Thanksgiving meal at the Hope Women's Center, Apache Junction, November 9. From left: Jean Ruchala, Dian Capen, Carol Johnson and Ann Owens



Carol Johnson and Dian Capen with Linda Rinzey, Manager of Hope Women's Center, Apache Junction.

READING PROGRAM

Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth, edited by Reginald Blout and Virginia Lee, a United Women in Faith, Education for Mission selection. Children face many tough situations today: broken immigration policies, hunger, school shootings, human trafficking and conscription as child soldiers in wars

worldwide. **Let Your Light Shine** discusses how we can play a vital role in keeping hope alive by engaging in our own work of justice for and with children. Contributors include Marian Wright Edelman, Founder of the Children's Defense Fund.



Mary Ann Davenport and Susan Lyons attended the annual Art Walk for Hope to End Human Trafficking, Phoenix Dream Center, Sat Nov 4. The paintings were completed by youth and adults who have been sex trafficked and are healing at the Dream Center. Mary Ann is looking at one of the many paintings at the Art Walk.

UPCOMING DATES

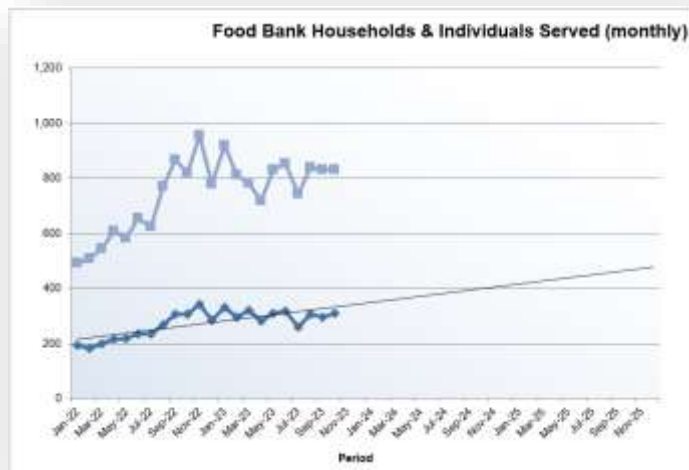
- **Reading Program**, Wed, 12/6, Mission Center, 10 AM, contact Peggy Kinder for information, p.kinder@mchsi.com.
- **Esther Circle** meets every Fri, at 10 AM. contact Dian Capen, djkcapien@gmail.com
- **Matthew 25 Pen Pal Prison Ministry**, Zoom meeting, contact Cherie Creel for more information, cheryljunec@icloud.com
- **Leadership Meeting**, Tue, 12/12, 10 AM, Mission Center, for more information, susanblyons@gmail.com
- **Culinary Circle**, Thur, 12/14, Christmas Cookie Exchange, contact Peggy Kinder for more information, p.kinder@mchsi.com
- **General Meeting**, Sat, 12/16, 10 AM fellowship and 10:30, meeting begins, Mission Center. Program: Reverend Julius Keller presents "Mentoring At Risk Youth". Contact susanblyons@gmail.com for more information.

FOOD BANK



The volunteers of the GCUMC Food Bank want to extend our warmest wishes to all of you for the Christmas holiday! It is hard to believe we are at the end of another year. At the food bank it has been a challenging year with respect to keeping our inventory in line with the surmounting need for assistance. That was particularly true during this blistering hot summer when the population and food collection decreased (as always), but food insecurity seemed to increase for many elderly individuals and families that remained behind.

We look forward to the upcoming concerts and events that will help us create an inventory for sustaining the needs of our client base. Please consider dropping off some canned goods, etc. when you attend the many scheduled events and church services. Of course, if it is more convenient, you can always drop off contributions at the back door of the food bank any Monday-Wednesday-Friday between 9AM-12 noon. Everyone's contributions make a difference... and are greatly appreciated! Blessing to you all!



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It is time to order your Christmas Poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. We are pleased to offer a 3-plant floral quality poinsettia for only **\$25.00** each. Please complete the Order Form below and include payment for each poinsettia ordered and:

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

Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuaries for enjoyment during the holiday season. **You may take yours home after the Christmas Eve services.** A listing of those giving poinsettias will be in the January Roadrunner. Supply limited (25).

**POINSETTIAS ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th**

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

☐ I am ordering a poinsettia in Memory of:

☐ I am ordering a poinsettia in Honor of:

☐ Payment of \$25.00 for each is enclosed

TOTAL PLANTS: _____ TOTAL \$: _____

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

Orders must be received by Friday, 12/15



DECEMBER CALENDAR

(Calendar is subject to change;

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

Fri Dec 1	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)	9:30am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
Sat Dec 2	9:30am	Greening of the Church	10:30am	Angel Tree Family #s Set-Up (Welcome Ctr)
Sun Dec 3	All day	First Sunday of Advent	10:30am	Organ Mini-Concert Series (S)
	8am	Traditional Worship (S)	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)	1pm	Crafty Christmas (MC)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)	1pm	Youth Christmas Caroling (Offsite)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)	Mon Dec 11	All day Angel Tree (Receiving/Staging; Sanctuary/Bldg)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)		1pm Yoga (MC-B)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)	Tue Dec 12	All day Angel Tree (Receiving/Staging; Sanctuary/Bldg)
Mon Dec 4	7pm	GCAC CONCERT: The Four Freshmen (S)		9am GriefShare (ER)
	9am	GCAC School Workshop (S)		9am Stitches Unlimited (MC-B&Patio)
	1pm	Yoga (MC-B)		10am GC Garden Club (MC-E)
	6:30pm	Coffee with the Pastor (MR)		1pm DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
Tue Dec 5	9am	GriefShare (ER)		1pm GriefGroup Re-Connect (ER)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)		2pm CLASS: The Chosen (MC-B)
	2pm	CLASS: The Chosen (MC-B)		3pm Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)		5pm Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)	Wed Dec 13	All day Angel Tree (Receiving/Staging; Sanctuary/Bldg)
Wed Dec 6	7:45am	MTG: Dinosaur Mtn Networking (MC-E)		7:45am MTG: Dinosaur Mtn Networking (MC-E)
	10am	MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)		10am MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)
	10am	UWF Reading Program (MC-B/Patio)		10:30am Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)		11am Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)
	11am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)		1pm DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B)		1pm DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)		2:45pm MTG: GCAC (MC-S)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)		3:30pm DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)		
	7pm	Remembrance Svc (S)		
Thu Dec 7	1pm	Girls Matter. Leadership & Training (MC-B)		
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)		
	7pm	AA (MC-B)		
	7:30pm	Christmas Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)		
Fri Dec 8	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)		
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)		
Sat Dec 9	8am	PEO Mtg (MC-B)		
	3pm	21st Annual GCUMC Christmas Concert (S)		
	3pm	22nd Annual GCUMC Christmas Concert (S)		
	4:30pm	Choir Christmas Dinner (KR/K)		
Sun Dec 10	8am	Traditional Worship (S)		
	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)

GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thu Dec 14	5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	All day	Angel Tree (Receiving/Staging; Sanctuary/Bldg)
	9am	Lions Club Mtg (MC-M)
	1pm	"Read It & Reap" Book Club (MC-S)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
Fri Dec 15	7pm	AA (MC-B)
	All day	Angel Tree (Receiving/Staging; Sanctuary/Bldg)
	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sat Dec 16	All day	Angel Tree Gift Distribution/P/U (Sanctuary Bldg)
	10am	MTG: UWF (MC-B/Zoom)
Sun Dec 17	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
	5:30pm	Staff Christmas Party (MC-B)
	1pm	Yoga (MC-B)
Mon Dec 18	1pm	Yoga (MC-B)
Tue Dec 19	9am	GriefShare (ER)
	10am	MTG: UWF (MC-TBD)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	2pm	CLASS: The Chosen (MC-B)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
Wed Dec 20	7:45am	MTG: Dinosaur Mtn Networking (MC-E)
	10am	MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	11am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
Thu Dec 21	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-B)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
Fri Dec 22	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
	All day	Christmas Eve
Sun Dec 24	8am	UG Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	4pm	Christmas Eve Svc
	6pm	Christmas Eve Svc

Mon Dec 25	All day	Christmas Day / OFFICE CLOSED
Tue Dec 26	All day	OFFICE CLOSED (Christmas)
	9am	GriefShare (ER)
	9am	Stitches Unlimited (MC-B)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	2pm	CLASS: The Chosen (MC-B)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
Wed Dec 27	7:45am	MTG: Dinosaur Mtn Networking (MC-E)
	10am	MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	11am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
Thu Dec 28	9am	Angel Trees Take-Down (Lobbies)
	9am	Girls Matter. (MC-B)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-B)
Fri Dec 29	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sun Dec 31	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	9:30am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)

ROADRUNNER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please send content for the
JANUARY 2024 Roadrunner
 via email to ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

NO LATER THAN 8am on Monday, 12/11/2023

Weekly Bulletin & Flower Orders

12pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday Service



NOVEMBER 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 Anniversary!

Palmer, Charlie & Lori 12/01
Hammond, Lynda & Kevin 12/10
Thomas, Mary & Bill 12/11
Worley, David & Debra 12/11
Erickson, Todd & Tressa 12/13
Linton, Diana & John 12/14
Nefzer, Kathy & Rick 12/15
Ingram, Bob & Pam 12/16
Gibson, Dianna & James 12/19
House, Dottie & Richard 12/19
Davenport, Brian & Mary Ann 12/20
Nuss, John & Kathy 12/20
Carlozzi, Mid & Noreen 12/22
Moyer, Carla & Bob 12/23
Schuler, Connie & Phalen 12/23
Hosler, Gary & Mary Lou 12/26
Johnson, Leila & Richard 12/27
Greenlee, Kay & Bill 12/29
Lindaman, Carol & Don 12/29
Gunn, Jim & Sue 12/30
Brooks, Deborah & Mark 12/31
Fridlund, Ed & Jo 12/31

Happy Birthday!

Graham, Andie 12/01
Scott, Peggy 12/01
Wenger, Diane 12/01
Wilcox, Carolyn (Carol) 12/01
Kissner, Dale 12/02
Roberson, Terry 12/02
King, Kathleen (Kathy) 12/03
Raffurty, Larry 12/03
Blank, Laureen (Lori) 12/04
Bermele, Sharolyn (Shari) 12/05
Capen, Gary 12/05
Rhine-Walker, Jennifer (Jen) 12/05

Walsh, Judy 12/05
Johnson, Carol 12/06
Palmer, Charlie 12/06
LeRoy, Randal (Randy) 12/07
Miller, John 12/07
Waytenick, Karen 12/07
Boldt, Kathy 12/08
Hollingsworth, Carol 12/08
Sohocki, Dena 12/08
Molzen, Geneva 12/09
Robison, Marty 12/09
Broz, Linda 12/10
Brogren, Neil 12/11
Classe, Ian 12/11
Raffurty, Anita 12/11
Biggs, Jerome (Jerry) 12/12
Graves, Samuel (Bob) 12/12
Lemmon, Margaret (Meg) 12/13
Ritenour, Marcia 12/13
Tabor, Gerald Lynn (Lynn) 12/13
Green, William (Bill) 12/14
Houser, Ron 12/14
Keller, Katharine 12/14
Sisson, Anthony (Tony) 12/14
Tabor, Ilene 12/14
Tucker, Paula 12/14
Acevedo, Carol 12/15
Newton, Doris 12/15
Twa, Mary Gay 12/15
Jameson, Suzanne 12/16
Pepin, Jeff 12/16
Smith, Jeanine (Jeanie) 12/16
Toole, John 12/16
Hill, Nancy 12/17
Kinder, Peggy 12/17
Morton, Joseph (Joe) 12/17
Hicklin, Kathy 12/18
Serrine, Kathleen (Kathy) 12/18
Walker, Robert (Rob) 12/18
Hager, Diana 12/19

Robertson, Judy 12/19
Bolster, Patricia (Pat) 12/20
Farnham, Pat 12/20
McAuliffe, William 12/20
Kirkpatrick, Georgia 12/22
Jacobsen, Ken 12/23
McAuliffe, Claudia 12/23
Warth, Holly 12/24
Brooks, Deborah 12/25
Halsted, Vern (Butch) 12/25
King, William (Bill) 12/25
LeQuire, Steve 12/25
Miller, Christine (Chris) 12/25
Starks, Craig 12/25
Gilbreath, Dawn 12/26
Cartney, Kay 12/27
Lambert, Lester (Les) 12/27
Malloy, Michael 12/27
Schenck, Joyce 12/27
Tonole, Don 12/27
Parson, Barb 12/28
Brendel, Don 12/29
Schuler, Connie 12/29
Barks, Niels 12/30
Clise, Linda 12/30
Waechter, William (Bill) 12/30
Adams, Dalton 12/31
Hall, Joie 12/31
Hosler, Gary 12/31
Manbeck, Jerrilyn (Jerri) 12/31





CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE

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

- Romans 13:8 (NIV)

OCTOBER	2020			2021			2022			2023		
	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Fellowship Hall	Worship All
	62260	21200	7238	93266	23075	7087	85300	26639	5754	99187	16542	6525

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 that will better enable us to fulfill our mission as a church:

- Fellowship Hall (\$3 Million needed; \$981,526 raised)
- Pipe Organ (\$181,543 raised)
- Artificial Grass Play Area (\$35,000; completed)
- Building Fund Loan (Paid off 2022)
- Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows (Completed 2022)
- Loop Hearing Assist System \$48,000 (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

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Prayer Chain		GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com

 www.facebook.com/goldcanyonumc

 @goldcanyonUMC



GLOBAL MISSIONS



In May the Church Office received a letter from Mobility Worldwide we would like to share with you which read...

"Dear GCUMC,

You've helped more women thrive in their communities. People come in different sizes with different conditions. This very small woman in Kenya received our Small Crank Mobility Cart. Thank you for your check for \$42,185.92. Your gift also assisted us in receiving match this spring. Together we will continue to help women take care of themselves and their families Thank you for your very generous partnership since 2012!"

Helping Mothers be mobile,

Janet, Volunteer



FUN-N-GAMES

HIDDEN PICTURES

In the manger to the right, can you find...

- 3 stars
- 2 bells
- 1 angel
- 3 crosses
- 1 staff
- 2 candles





BITS-N-BYTES

Get involved!



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

Not plugged in yet?...



If you haven't already, complete and submit a Time & Talents Sheet — available in the Lobbies of either building or the Church Office. We have many areas from which you can select and connect... and it's a great way to make new friends! To see areas where you can get involved, visit:
<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/mydashboard/ablegroups.aspx>

GOLD CANYON UMC

Uncommon Grace

"I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your name,
O Most High!"
— Psalm 9:2

Praise & Worship

**Sundays at 11:00am
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!

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, send an email to "ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org" with "**AccessACS**" in the subject line and we'll email you login instructions. You can also view our Church Directory on your phone using the ChurchLife app!

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!



STAY IN THE KNOW!

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





GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6640 S Kings Ranch Road, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Phone: 480.982.3776

Fax: 480.671.0028

Email: ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org

Web: www.GoldCanyonUMC.org

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Permit No. 64

WORSHIP SERVICES

- ✝ 8am & 9:30am TRADITIONAL (Sanctuary)
- ✝ 11am PRAISE (Koinonia Room)
- ✝ 4pm COUNTRY (Koinonia Room)

(Childcare available at 8am, 9:30am and 11am services)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 (Education Building)
- 9:30am Youth Sunday School (Education Building)
- 11:00am Children Sunday School (Education Building)

Addressee or Current Resident