



FROM THE PASTOR: “DEBUNKING FOUR CHRISTIAN MYTHS”



As we journey together in faith, understanding and confronting the misconceptions about Christianity is crucial for our spiritual growth and witness. With this in mind, I am excited to announce our upcoming sermon series titled "Debunking 4 Christian Myths." This series, starting on January 7th, will explore and challenge common misconceptions that can hinder our relationship with God and our understanding of the Christian life.

- **Myth 1: Bad Things Don't Happen to Truly Godly Christians.** Many believe that being a truly godly Christian shields one from life's hardships. In our first sermon, we will explore how faith in God is not a safeguard against life's trials but a source of strength and resilience amidst them. We will delve into the biblical understanding of suffering and God's presence in our struggles.
- **Myth 2: Only Hypocrites Go to Church.** It's a common saying that churches are full of hypocrites. Our second week will confront this misconception head-on. We will discuss the nature of the church as a community of imperfect people seeking God, emphasizing the role of grace and transformation in our spiritual journey.
- **Myth 3: Becoming a Christian Means Giving Up All Fun & Following A Life of Rules.** The third week challenges the myth that becoming a Christian means giving up on fun and living a life constrained by rules. We will celebrate the joy and freedom found in Christ, exploring how Christian living is not about restrictive rules but about a relationship that brings true and lasting joy.
- **Myth 4: Miracles Don't Happen Anymore.** In our final week, we address the skepticism surrounding miracles in the modern age. This sermon will highlight testimonies and scriptural insights, affirming that God's miraculous work did not cease with the apostles but continues dynamically today.

Each sermon in this series aims to deepen our understanding, strengthen our faith, and equip us to engage with these common misconceptions in meaningful and informed ways. We invite everyone to join us in this enlightening journey, as we seek to grow closer to God and each other through a clearer understanding of our faith.

I look forward to seeing you each Sunday for this transformative series!

Grace and peace,

Contact Us

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pastor Katharine Keller

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

GRIEF SHARE



Our next GriefShare program (13 weeks) starts on Tuesday, 1/9, at 1pm in the Emmaus Room and is facilitated by Shirley Feather. The cost of the workbook is \$25. You don't need to sign up ahead of time, but we encourage you to let Shirley know if you are interested so we can have enough books. If you have questions, contact Shirley at (602) 214-3964.

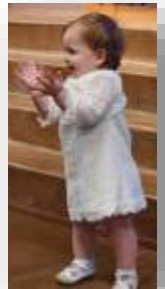
GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Many thanks goes to those who helped beautify our church for Christmas this year! You did an incredible job!



NOVEMBER BAPTISM

One-year old Lucy rejoiced with the rest of the congregation regarding her baptism.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Our annual Remembrance Service was held to remember those who've gone before us.



ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Following on the next page are photos of the Witucky and Hanson families, who served as some of our Advent Candle lighters/readers this year.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Approximately 900 people attended the 22nd Annual Christmas Concert... and the music was greatly enjoyed by all!



CRAFTY CHRISTMAS PHOTOS

Congregational Life sponsored a fun Sunday afternoon where a variety of Christmas crafts were created, cookies were decorated (and eaten)...complete with hot chocolate!





40 DAYS IN THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

BELOW: Members of the 40 Days in the Word Bible study served Thanksgiving breakfast to unhoused women at Victory Lutheran Church.



LEFT: Byron Singer helped to take wreaths out of boxes, getting ready for the Wreaths Across America ceremony on December 16th.



ABOVE: Also from our 40 Days in the Word Bible study three participants, Byron Singer and Debbie and John Mounkes, helped unbox wreaths before the ceremony on December 16th. Pictured here with Event Coordinator, Nancy Fassbender



Be sure to check out the photos on the previous two pages that include several of our children participating in worship of events!

Scuba Vacation Bible Camp this summer will be June 3—7. As soon as the curriculum arrives, Pastor Katharine would like to start planning. Please let her know if you can help either in the morning or for afternoon activities.





YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY

Valerie Hammons, Youth Ministries Director

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

On Sun., Dec. 3rd, we had a tremendous day! We had 9 youth at Sunday school, and then left for the "Feed My Starving Children" event in Mesa. We all donned hair nets and went to work! Together we packed 160 boxes (our table did 22), and 34,560 meals that will feed 94 kids for a year! Our senior high group worked loading the heavy boxes, constantly moving, keeping the stations filled. They were also in charge of cleaning the floors and areas. The rest of us took to our stations and scooped, filled, weighed, sealed and stuffed the bags of food for the children. We all got to go to the warehouse and pray for the food and children we were feeding. Great job Gold Canyon Youth!



Throughout December we continued our "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes" Grinch Sunday School lessons. On Sun., Dec. 10th we enjoyed a quick spaghetti lunch and headed out with Ms. Tressa Erickson from the Uncommon Grace Praise Team in the church van to Christmas carol at the homes of some of our Gold Canyon UMC members.



Sunday, Dec 17th was our Youth Holiday Party—complete with an afternoon of fun and games. There were crafts to make presents, lots of food

and music... and it was a great opportunity for them to get to know each other!



ON THE GOSPEL SIDE

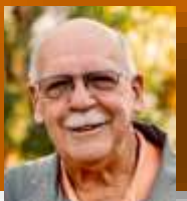
Dr. David Worley, Preaching Associate

Some people think the Old Testament is so old, it's outdated. But that is a mistake, I fear. Here's an example: As the New Year begins I thought of this passage of Scripture from Joshua 3:1-4. "Early in the morning Joshua rose and set out from Shittim with all the Israelites, and they came to the Jordan. They camped there before crossing over. At the end of three days, the officers went through the camp and commanded the people, 'When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, a distance of about two thousand cubits; do not come any nearer to it.'" (NRSVUE)

The new generation of Israelites were ready to cross over into the Promised Land with Joshua leading them forward to their new homes. The tribal leaders gave instructions for the people to keep their eyes fixed on the tangible sign of God's presence (The Ark) and follow the way they were led because they were pilgrims going to a new place by way of new paths.

Like them, as we begin 2024 we too are headed to our Promised Land of Heaven under the leadership of our Joshua, the Lord Jesus. (*Perhaps you remember that Joshua and Jesus are essentially the same name and mean "God is deliverance."*) Like they followed the Ark, we are to follow the Holy Spirit as He leads us because we face new uncharted territory since we, too, are pilgrims passing through this world (*see 1 Peter 2:11*). And it seems to me that we have never faced more confusing times and therefore need clear guidance as never before.

One of the best ways to ensure we keep to the path and keep heading to our homeland is to gather with God's people for public worship and instruction. So, we invite you to join us every Sunday at 4 pm in the Koinonia Room to praise, pray and hear preaching from Scripture. As you likely know, the word "koinonia" means fellowship or the sharing of common ground and that is our goal each Lord's Day to be like "fellows in the same ship" (*one way to remember the meaning of fellowship*) benefiting from one another's encouragement. Our service on the last day of 2023 will stay with the Christmas theme, since Epiphany is just six days later, and serve to point us onward with our eyes fixed on Jesus!



ON A PASTORAL NOTE

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor

It's difficult to believe that we are entering a New Year! It seems as if each year passes by more and more quickly. I know for some 2023 has been a very difficult year due to illness, loss of loved ones, friends and family. For others it's been a year of challenges, financial, moving, or other major issues. Yet even in all of this we are blessed, for God is with us and we are never alone. It is what drew Dian and me to Gold Canyon UMC for we have found a community of faith that is filled with love, compassion, a deep sense of faith and commitment to follow Christ. In doing so we care for one another through all of life's many challenges.

In 2024 we will be facing new challenges, hopes, and dreams for the future of our church family and community we serve. I pray that in all that we do and share we will feel surrounded by God's Love, Grace, and Peace.

Blessings and Happy New Year,

Gary





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...

Steve Sibell
Carole Wilcox
Cora Wilterdink





CARING CORNER

Kim Shroyer

THE GIFT



Depending upon the Bible version you search, there are 100 – 200 plus times that the word hope is mentioned. And let's not forget the well over 1000

times peace and rest are used synonymously with hope; or the thousands of other promises written to spark our hope. Below are just a handful of some of them I like.

¹¹ "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." [Jeremiah 29:11]

¹⁰ "For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you." - Isaiah 54:10 NRSV

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:28-30 NRSV

⁶ "Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you." - Deuteronomy 31:6 NRSV

How do we take those words of encouragement, promise – and hope – and turn them into having real hope in our daily lives? Sometimes it seems a little hard to get out of our own way. In early December Pastor Fred preached a sermon on *Hope*. He told the story of a young girl at the airport, in tears and devastated because she had lost her plane ticket and had no money to get home. She finally stood up, after several hours, to go eat with kind strangers who offered to buy her a meal. And to her surprise she'd been sitting on her ticket the whole time!

Pastor Fred aptly reminded us that often during times of despair, we are sitting on our hope, it's right there, waiting to be discovered, but we aren't looking in the right places. He further told us that when our hope fails us, God is with us...and about that time his prop up there behind him that said "HOPE", fell over onto the table. Hilarious timing amidst his sermon, how fitting

that was. What a reminder to us to stay strong in our faith!

Although not hilarious to us at all when it happens, there are times in our lives when our hope falls. Our faith, thus our hope, wavers. But as Pastor Fred said, "*Hope is the fuel that powers faith forward... unless Hope is re-kindled, you are dead before you die*".

One of my favorite Christmas movies is *Fallen Angel*. A mother tells her young blind daughter about the wonderful Christmas they are going to have, describing the trip as "*Maine is going to be full of 'live over' days, days so wonderful you want to live them over.*" Have you ever had "live over" days? Would you like more? When the candle of hope was lit in church this past Sunday, my husband looked at me and whispered "And in order to keep Hope, it's our job to keep the candle lit."

That was a reminder to me that in this new year it's up to me to remember to look for hope in unusual places, not to sit on it and totally miss it, to keep the candle lit...to discover more "live over" days! Remember, today is a gift, that's why it's called the present.

If that doesn't sound doable to you right now, 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.

²⁴ "For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." ~ Romans 8:24-25 [NRSV]



MUSIC NOTES

Dr. Ian Classe, Director of Music Ministries



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful, family and fun-filled, inspiring Christmas. First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas concert this past December, we very much enjoyed presenting it to you and thank you so much for your generous support! As we're now in the peak season here at Gold Canyon UMC, I hope we'll see you at more of our upcoming musical events! There are a number of things of interest coming up in the next few months.

First of all, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be presenting the Hutchins Consort on **Friday, January 12th at 7:00pm. The Hutchins Consort** is a group of consummate musicians who perform on eight-scaled violins designed and built by famed luthier Dr. Carleen Hutchins. The instruments are the first successful attempt to create an acoustically balanced set of instruments that sound truly like violins across the entire musical range and provide a unique musical and artistic experience! Tickets are available from goldcanyonarts.org/tickets, the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce, or Robin Rotella Team Realtors.

The "Sunday Sounds Series" will resume this month on **Sunday, January 14th after the 9:30 service**. You'll hear a variety of organ music and there will be an opportunity to discuss the organ project, the pipe organ, and music in general. As always, you're encouraged to find a seat that sounds best to you!

The GCUMC Performing Arts Series will also continue this month on **January 21st at 2:00pm** where we will be featuring esteemed American concert violinist **Andrew Sords** with celebrated collaborative pianist **Elizabeth DeMio**. DeMio has performed as soloist with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Veracruz and the Orquesta de la UNAM in Mexico, and her appearance with Cleveland's Blue Water Chamber Orchestra resulted in the Plain Dealer's Donald Rosenberg declaring - "a superb interpreter of Mozart". She has appeared in over 100 concerts annually and performs frequently with renowned soloists such as David Requiro, Massimo La Rosa, and Andrew Sords. Sords himself maintains a heavy schedule of touring with his piano trio and as soloist with orchestras. His performances have been cited for combining visceral virtuosity and ravishing tone, while international critics have endorsed Sords as "a fully formed artist" (Kalisz-Poland News), "utterly radiant" (Canada's Arts Forum), and "exceptionally heartfelt and soulful" (St. Maarten's Daily Herald). Sords has performed overseas with the National Symphony of Guatemala, as well as in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, and numerous other venues with concerti by Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Bologne, Wieniawski, and others. It will certainly be a star-studded event here in Gold Canyon, so be sure to arrive early to get your seats. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the concert.

If you are still hankering for arts and music by the end of January, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be hosting the annual **Gold Canyon Arts Festival** on **Saturday, January 27th from 9:00am to 4:00pm** on the Gold Canyon UMC Campus. It is a one-day event featuring a juried art show, musical groups performing throughout the day and a variety of food vendors. Last year, over five thousand people attended to peruse the art work of 85 artists and to listen to five musical groups. Many participating artists say this is the best one-day art show held in the state. Admission and parking are free so come enjoy a great day.

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 great new year!

Ian





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA LIST 2023

Many thanks to all who purchased poinsettia(s) in honor of or in memory of loved ones this year (names below). They add so much beauty and color to our worship spaces! A special thanks goes to Dave Ballard, Tressa Erickson, John Ewing, and Lori Allard who kept the plants watered!

NAME	IN MEMORY OF	IN HONOR OF
Frank Annin	Karen Annin	
Anonymous	Carol Ann Gordon	
Patrick Braatz	Dale & Carla Braatz	
Bob Burgi		Jenelu Burgi
Mary H. Dudley, MD	Nancy Lee McGoron (sister)	
Janice & Barry Eddy	Damon Eddy (son)	
Edna Fanucchi	Fred Fanucchi	
Michelle Halbig	Cecile & John Halbig	
Jane Hansgaard	Charmaine Lehman, Gladys Anderson	
Phil & Sue Kench	Loved Ones	
Bill & Kathy King	Bridgette King	
Mark Lindeman	Dorothy & Ray Lindeman	
Carol & Bob Luse	Our parents, (Luse & Peterson)	
Richard & Patti Messmer	Our parents	Our children
Maryl Metheany	John & Sandy Metheany, close friends	
Fred Miller	Nancy Miller	
Randi Olson	Lt. Col. Byron & Ruth Olson, Ron Olson	
Fred Potter	Jeff Viall & Linda Potter	
Diane & Al Rasmussen	Daniel Rasmussen	
Kalleen & George Sanders	Our son, Stan	
David Schmer & Connie Richardson	Jean Schmer	Larry Richardson
Byron & Ashley Singer, Whitney & Steve Toll	Gayle Singer	
Wayne & Mary Siebert	Paula Kissner	
Scott & Cindi Smith	Kitty Smith (mother)	
Maria Staab	William Staab	William Rang
Ivan A. Tellez Islas		Severo & Gelita Tellez
Carol Thomas	William Thomas	
Beverly Toppin	James S. Toppin	
Jennifer Wegner	Gerald Kraus	
Todd Williams Family	Doreen & Douglas Williams	
Reta Wilson		All those who've been so supportive





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 **\$3,791,92!** It's easy to do... just stop by (or call) the Church Office or visit the Welcome Desk on Sunday if you need help!

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

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

FOOD BANK



The volunteers at the GCUMC Food Bank ministry extend their best wishes to all in the New Year!

Now that we've said our farewell to 2023 we can share a more accurate view of the families and individuals we served throughout the year and their demographics. Approximately 10,000 individuals were served during all documented visits in 2023, representing a 25% increase over 2022. We anticipate a further increase in 2024 based on the pace of applications received at year-end. During 2023, there was a noticeable increase in food assistance requests from single-person households — primarily elderly and from very large extended family units.

For those who are unfamiliar with the GCUMC Food Bank ministry, the infrastructure of the Food Bank comprises about one-third of the Mission Building and includes restaurant-quality walk-in refrigeration, and preparation and storage areas. The Food Bank is operated by 45 volunteers (including managers), and each week approximately 100 hours of volunteer time is required to maintain a seamless operation. The Food Bank is primarily supported by food and cash donations from the local community.



GCUMC Food Bank clients are allowed to visit the Food Bank twice per month. Once a client registers, their data is entered into the computer system, and they are provided with provisions based on the characteristics of their

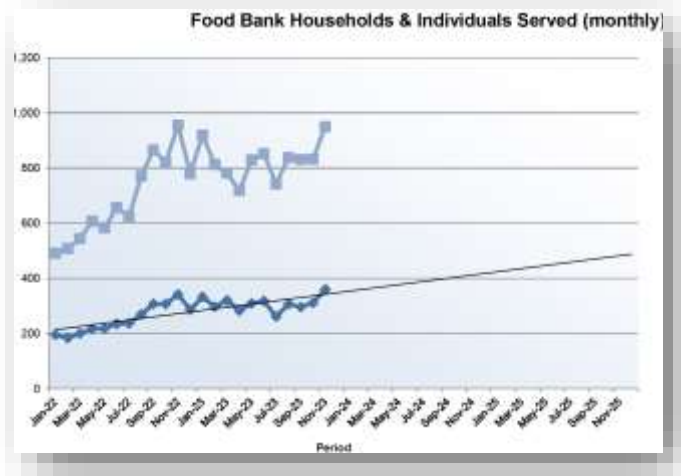
family unit. For example, a family with 2 adults and 2 children is typically provided the following basics:

- One TEFAP bag (federal government provided food assistance) – it varies but might contain rice, beans, pasta, tuna, nuts, etc.
- One bag of our community donated staples - typically some combination of canned goods (beans, fruit, meat, tomato products, vegetables, soup), pasta, side dishes, macaroni and cheese, ramen and miscellaneous donated goods
- One bag of frozen meat, milk and bread purchased with community cash donations

moandjoem@aol.com or (602)284-2826.

- Peanut butter and cereal, as available
- Produce (when received in reasonable condition)
- Bottled water (summer only)

The Food Bank is indebted to the generosity of our local benevolent organizations, HOAs and businesses that conduct food drives, our local grocery stores, local residents and of course, our congregation. We wish there was no need for what we do... but until that day comes, we thank all of our donors for their generous support of this ministry!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



We have completed another successful season of participating in the building and funding of a Habitat home here in the East Valley. The dedication of the Pelosi home at 3710 S. Roosevelt St. has been delayed due to infrastructure issues with the city of Tempe. We will keep you posted.

Our church has now joined forces with the Southeast Valley Lutheran Coalition, which has started building their 28th home. It will be the 18th build Gold Canyon UMC has helped build since 2007.

The project is a new build in the Don Carlos area of Tempe, the same area where we built this last winter/spring season. The SEVL Coalition is very well funded and has already raised about half of the funds needed for the build. We have pledged to contribute \$10,000 again this year, and hope to exceed that goal.

Please consider donating to this project as part of your Christmas season giving. Please make your check out to Gold Canyon UMC and specify Habitat in the memo. Thanks so much for your ongoing support of this ministry.

Questions? Please contact Joe and Maureen Morton at

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH(UWF)



United
Women
in Faith

Gold Canyon United Methodist women, please join us at our East District Leadership Training Workshop (and January meeting) on January 20, 2024, 9am, Tempe First United Methodist Church. There will be training for each leadership position as well as a breakout session for members who want to participate.

United Women in Faith
East District Leadership Training
Reaching Out for Community
Saturday - January 20, 2024 - 9:00 AM
Tempe First UMC - Tempe, AZ
Cost \$15.00

If you want to learn about United Women in Faith, this is the program for you. The program this year is centered on the theme of "Reaching out for Community." United Women in Faith is a caring and welcoming community of women - spreading the mission of UWF is what we'll learn how to do on January 20th.

There will be a light breakfast, and reading certificates and other unit awards will be distributed before having breakout sessions and lunch. We'll have a bell quartet from Grace UMC after lunch. Come and learn how to create and nurture our community of women.

We will carpool from the Mission Center. Deadline for registration is January 16. If you want to attend, contact Beth Cadman, ED Registrar, edumwomen@gmail.com for questions or susanblyons@gmail.com.



Pictured from left: Susan Lyons and Carol Johnson, Gold Canyon United Women in Faith, Senia Braaksma, principal, Four Peaks Elementary School, Kerri Mortenson, math specialist and Mindy Carney, kindergarten teacher.

Proceeds from the November 19 Baked Goods and

Cheese Ball sale bought over \$900 of school supplies for Four Peaks Elementary, Apache Junction. "Thank you so much for the school supplies. We are having a Winter Festival Family Night this week. We do crafts, read and give away books and other festive items. There is a concert by the kindergarten students this year. The items you donated go toward our craft projects as well as to the teachers for their classes," Senia Braaksma, principal.



Beverly Locke, volunteer coordinator, Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, Victory Lutheran Church talks about the women who stay at the shelter. She spoke at the November 18 UWFaith meeting.



Beverly Locke and volunteer Sherry Schoneman answer questions about volunteer opportunities at the Interfaith Homeless Shelter for women, Victory Lutheran Church.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE

Arizona Charitable Tax Credit!

GENESIS PROJECT
Serving the Hungry and Homeless

You can donate up to \$421 for individuals and \$841 for joint filers and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona State Taxes!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Reading Program**, Wed, 1/3, Mission Center, contact Jane Hansgaard, hansgaard@msn.com for more information.
- **Esther Circle**, every Friday morning at 10 AM, contact Dian Capen, dkcapen@gmail.com.
- **Leadership Team**, Tues, 1/16, 10 AM, Mission Center, susanblyons@gmail.com for more information.
- **General Meeting**, Saturday, 1/20, Tempe UMC, 9 AM.
- **Culinary Circle**, contact Carol Johnson for information, caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com.
- **Matthew 25 Pen Pal Prison Ministry**, Zoom meeting, Cherie Creel, cheryljune@icloud.com.
- **Frontera de Cristo Presentation** by participants who went on mission trip to a border ministry, Sat., Feb 17.



2023-2024 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

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



JANUARY CALENDAR

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

Mon Jan 1	All day	OFFICE CLOSED (New Years)
Tue Jan 2	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	2pm	CLASS: The Chosen (MC-B)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	MTG: Gold Canyon Community, Inc (MC-E)
Wed Jan 3	10am	MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)
	10am	UWF Reading Program (MC-B/Patio)
	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 Jan 4	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-B)
Fri Jan 5	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
Sat Jan 6	All day	Epiphany
	9:30am	De-Greening of the Church
Sun Jan 7	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Jan 8	1pm	Yoga (MC-B)
Tue Jan 9	9am	9am Stitches Unlimited (MC-B&Patio)
	10am	GC Garden Club (MC-E)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)
	2pm	CLASS: The Chosen (MC-B)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	5pm	Gospel 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)

	6:30pm	Financial Peace University (ER)
Wed Jan 10	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)
	2:45pm	MTG: GCAC (MC-S)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
	5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
Thu Jan 11	9am	Lions Club Mtg (MC-M)
	1pm	"Read It & Reap" Book Club (MC-S)
	1pm	Women's Study (TBN; Feather)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-B)
Fri Jan 12	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
	7pm	GCAC CONCERT: The Hutchins Consort (S)
Sat Jan 13	8am	PEO Mtg (MC-B)
Sun Jan 14	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	10:30am	Sunday Sound Series (S)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)

GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)		1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)		3:30pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
Mon Jan 15	1pm	Yoga (MC-B)		5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
Tue Jan 16	10am	MTG: UWF (MC-TBD)	Thu Jan 25	9am	Girls Matter. (MC-B)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)		1pm	Women's Study (TBN; Feather)
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)		6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)		7pm	AA (MC-B)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)	Fri Jan 26	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	6:30pm	Financial Peace University (ER)		11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
Wed Jan 17	10am	MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)		5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)	Sat Jan 27	9am	Gold Canyon Arts Festival (Campus/K)
	11am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)	Sun Jan 28	8am	Traditional Worship (S)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B)		9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)		9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)		9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)
	5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)		11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)
Thu Jan 18	1pm	Women's Study (TBN; Feather)		11am	Praise Worship (KR)
	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)		11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
	7pm	AA (MC-B) Fri		12pm	UMYF (YR)
Jan 19	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)		3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)		4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Sat Jan 20	10am	MTG: UWF (MC-B/Zoom)	Mon Jan 29	1pm	Yoga (MC-B)
Sun Jan 21	8am	Traditional Worship (S)	Tue Jan 30	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)		1pm	GriefShare (ER)
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)		3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)		5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)		6:30pm	Financial Peace University (ER)
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)	Wed Jan 31	10am	MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)		10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	12pm	UMYF (YR)		11am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)
	2pm	CONCERT: Andrew Sords & DeMio (S)		1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)		1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)		3:30pm	DISCIPLE 1 (ER)
Mon Jan 22	1pm	Yoga (MC-B)		5:30pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	6:30pm	MTG: Admin Council (MC-B)			
Tue Jan 23	9am	Stitches Unlimited (MC-B)			
	1pm	DISCIPLE 5 (MC-E)			
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)			
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)			
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)			
	6:30pm	Financial Peace University (ER)			
Wed Jan 24	10am	MTG: Superstition Mtn Astronomical (MC-M)			
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)			
	11am	Healing & Prayer Time (ONLINE)			

ROADRUNNER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

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

NO LATER THAN 8am on Friday, 1/12/2023

Weekly Bulletin & Flower Orders

12pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday Service



JANUARY 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!

Campbell, Frank & Sandy 01/01
Voorhees, Deb & Steve 01/08
Miller, Christine & Mike 01/09
Steinberg, Beth & Fred 01/09
Gaulke, Donald & Norma 01/10
Elieff, Helen & Jim 01/11
Fratt, Genie & Bob 01/12
Keller, Julius & Katharine 01/15
Ballard, Carol & David 01/18
Johnson, Woody & Carol 01/19
Burhans, Judy & Lyle 01/22
Ramacher, Don & Marcielle 01/23
Elco, Jackie & Jim 01/25
Rolf, Jayne & Vern 01/25
Paone, Albert & Ellen 01/29

Happy Birthday!

Kitchens, Chester Lee (Lee) 01/01
Knight, Clara 01/01
Karr, Janet 01/02
Lenz, Kathleen (Kathy) 01/02
Parson, Ronal (Ron) 01/02
Holbrook, Sonia 01/04

Wilson, Don 01/04
Zabel, Darlene 01/04
Digerness, Bruce 01/05
Virden, Nancy 01/05
Daigle, Sharon 01/06
Richardson, Connie 01/08
Igo, Betty 01/09
Mulry, Kathleen (Katie) 01/09
Bowman, Judith 01/12
Johnson, Leila 01/12
Palmer, Charles (Charlie) 01/12
Beebe, William (Bill) 01/13
Miller, John 01/13
Berry, Myra 01/14
Bressler, Kent 01/14
Schoeff, Gary 01/14
Listman, Claudia 01/15
Mogharbel, Karen 01/15
Tirrito, Janine 01/15
Burhans, Lyle 01/16
Hollingsworth, Glen 01/16
Hanson, Renee 01/17
Nefzer, Richard (Rick) 01/18
Schwartz, Myrtice (Ann) 01/18
Collins-Mitchell, Lauren 01/19

Larson, Sharon 01/19
Wion, Carol 01/19
Brendel, Cathy 01/21
Hammond, Lynda 01/21
Miller, Sally 01/23
McLeod, Suzanne 01/24
Mogharbel, Abed 01/24
Carpenter, Tim 01/25
Parsons, Phillip (Phil) 01/25
Allensworth, Jacquelyn (Jaci) 01/26
Caywood, Larry 01/26
Gray, Phyllis 01/26
Kitchens, Cheryl (Chery) 01/26
Nelson, Bill 01/26
Todd, Armor 01/26
Todd, Patti 01/26
Enevold, N Jeffrey (Jeff) 01/27
Niemann, Marlene 01/27
Seebaum, Bernie 01/27
Scharringhausen, Fred 01/28
Feather, Shirley 01/30
Walker, Barb 01/30
Wehle, Carol 01/30
Barks, Kaity 01/31
Kies, Sherry 01/31



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please be sure introduce yourselves!



Gary & Sue Clem



Janet Nyfeler



Deb Baier



Marge & Keith, Maetzold



Janet Griffith



Paul & Susie Robinson

I ♥ MY
CHURCH



CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE

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

- Romans 13:8 (NIV)

NOVEMBER	2020			2021			2022			2023		
	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Building Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Bldg/FH Fund	Worship All	General Fund	Bldg/FH Fund	Worship All
	112670	38226	8816	112621	31620	5982	92193	14583	6281	124568	15002	6205

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; \$1,077,178 raised)
- Pipe Organ (\$183,138 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](https://twitter.com/goldcanyonUMC)



GLOBAL MISSIONS



The support provided by you through GCUMC helps to bring a brighter future, a happy new year, to those who are served by our missions and missionaries. Lisa Armstrong (Honduras), Fred Curry (Costa Rica, Brazil, US), those working undercover (undisclosed location), and **Mobility Worldwide** share the love of Christ in locations of special need. **Fellowman International** provides health and dental services, as well as agricultural sustainability projects like protein production (chicken, eggs and pork) and community gardens to assist those living in the remote mountain areas of Honduras. Food parcels including eggs and fresh produce are delivered by **Rice and Beans** in Costa Rica and Brazil. RabMin also supports students with school supplies and uniforms. Mobility Worldwide provides hand-powered carts around the world to those who would otherwise be marginalized by their physical limitations and inability to self-transport.



Working undercover, medical workers share God's love through their services and in private conversations whenever possible. In many ways and in many places God's name will be glorified in the New Year through these continuing outreach efforts.

FRONTERA DE CRISTO MISSION TRIP



Seven of us took an extraordinary and exploratory trip to Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta. Under the caring direction

of Mark Adams and his wife, Miriam Escobar, we were immersed into their multifold ministry as we learned about borders in general, prayed at the wall, talked with migrants in a shelter, joined in the weekly community prayer vigil on the street, where we named those who had died in the desert, shared Bible study with the Frontera de Cristo staff and another Bible study with a group from CATPSIC – a drug rehab center of “addicts helping addicts” under “The Tree of Life” in the desert, trudged a mile through the desert, and much more. We were humbled by the ministries of a variety of faiths as they serve with hearts of compassion those escaping violence and corrupt authorities.—submitted by Pastor Katharine Keller



Praying at the border wall

Prayer vigil near the border entry, remembering migrants who have died in the desert





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

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