



## FROM OUR PASTORS



Rev. Fred A. Steinberg, Senior Pastor

### “PASSING THE BATON”

The imagery of “passing the baton” is powerful. It is often seen in a relay race, where one runner firmly places the baton in the hand of the next, trusting them to carry it forward. It symbolizes continuity, teamwork, and hope for the future. As we transition from my leadership to Pastor David Harriss's new, Spirit-led leadership, we have our own baton to pass.

On Saturday, March 1st, at 9:00am, we will hold a special Changeover Zone Workshop/Meeting in the Education Building to guide our congregation through this important change. It will be a time to honor my ministry and warmly welcome Pastor David into our midst. We will celebrate all that God has accomplished through the past 28 years and look forward with expectancy to what God will do through Pastor David's ministry.

This meeting will offer practical ways to stand together during this season of transition. We will share stories and memories that have shaped our community, then open the floor for discussion and questions about Pastor David's vision and how we can support him. Together, we will learn about our United Methodist connectional system and how it ensures our church grows in strength and unity, even during pastoral changes.

Please join us with hearts prepared for celebration and prayer. As we hand over this baton to Pastor David, let us “run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). May our faith community thrive, united in love and dedicated to God's ongoing work among us.

Here are some important reasons to attend this vital gathering:

- Understanding the “Changeover Zone” and how to leverage it for impact.
- The church's role in a great “Passing of the baton.”
- Why a pastoral transition done well can lead to new enthusiasm, energy, and growth and create a compelling church culture.
- How Passing the Baton can capture the attention of the community.
- Ways to say “Goodbye” to the current pastor and “Hello” to a new pastor in ways that lead to growth.
- The six reasons some people may leave during a transition and the six reasons new people will surface.
- Avoiding the pitfalls and landmines of pastoral change.

I hope you will attend.

Grace and peace,

*Fred*

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

### Contact Us

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



Rev. David J. Harriss, Senior Pastor Designate

## OUR MONTH OF EXTENDED REST

<sup>28</sup> *“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. -  
Matthew 11:28*

Normally, when I write an article for the RoadRunner, my focal point is one of the major worship Sundays which corresponds with the current month on the Christian calendar. For example, in November, I created an article with an emphasis on the Thanksgiving holiday. In December, I wrote an article about the Christmas celebration. In January, the focal point was the Magi coming to see the Christ-child. Epiphany Sunday occurs the first week in January of the new year. So, you see where I am going with this, right? Which now brings us to February. February is often remembered for Ash Wednesday, which occurs at the beginning of Lent. Normally, Ash Wednesday occurs early to mid-February, every year. So, can I write about Ash Wednesday in this February publication? Nope! Not this year! In 2025, Ash Wednesday occurs on Wednesday, March 5th. Well, my saving grace is that Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday which occurs before Ash Wednesday will be in February, right? Nope! Not this year! In 2025, Transfiguration Sunday occurs on Sunday, March 2nd. So, what worship celebration can I write about for February 2025? There seem to be no significant worship celebrations in February 2025.

Perhaps one of the great things about February 2025, is that we have a month of extended rest. When Christmas is over, I believe both clergy and laity are exhausted. The great thing is that we have several weeks of down-time before the church is celebrating Ash Wednesday and the cycle of Lent and Easter begins revving up. At the onset of January, we normally receive between 5-6 weeks of rest before Ash Wednesday begins, and we are juxtaposed back into the Lent and Easter cycle. This year, we receive additional rest because Ash Wednesday does not begin until early March.

Jesus recognizes the need for rest. He often went away to pray by himself, away from the disciples and the busy world around him. He recognizes the need to rest in Matthew 11:28 where he offers an invitation to anyone who is weary and carrying burdens to come to him. Rest does not mean ease, rest is a break from the burdens which we have encountered that are not Christ-centered. The burdens of the world will often leave us emotionally exhausted. The only way to counter-act this exhaustion is by seeking Christ in our lives and lifestyles.

In the end, I have no words of wisdom for February. There are no special Christian celebrations which I can discuss, present or explain. There are no wonderful words of inspiration that I can offer. The Christian calendar is not exciting this month. All we can do is continue to rest from the Christmas holidays and wait for Ash Wednesday in early March. Additional rest, what burdens we must bear!



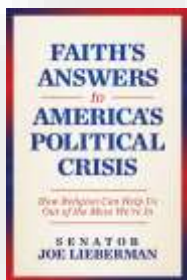


# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pastor Katharine Keller

“...Growing disciples of Jesus Christ and living the Word.”

## FEBRUARY CLASS



Announcing a 4-week group discussion of Joe Liberman’s, *Faith’s Answers to America’s Political Crisis*. Meeting on Wednesdays in February from 3:30–4:30pm in the Barnabas Room (MC), advance reading of the book is recommended.

The highly charged and highly emotional political environment is calling for a more rational and thoughtful dialog about the intersection of our faith and civil life. In Joe Liberman’s book published in the year of his death, he reflects on his own political career as a man of faith who stepped across the political divide on many occasions to address the complex and important issues of his time. Currently it is envisioned to address the following themes:

- 1) The rise of incivility;
- 2) The loss of trust and goodwill;
- 3) A return to real debate and compromise for the greater good; and
- 4) How religious faith can help us rise above partisanship.

The book is available for purchase from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, etc. , and additional resources will be provided/recommended with your sign-up. Please direct questions to the discussion facilitator, Rev. Jim Gunn ([jim\\_gunn\\_954@msn.com](mailto:jim_gunn_954@msn.com)).

## EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER

On **Sun., 2/2**, we’re hosting an "Empty Bowls" event to raise money for our Food Bank. Here’s how it works: we’ll have multiple handcrafted ceramic bowls made by a variety of artisans displayed on tables before and between worship services. You pick a bowl for \$10, get a ticket, and take it to the kitchen to receive a cup of soup (chicken noodle or broccoli cheddar), along with a breadstick **to go!** Direct questions to Pastor Katharine.

**EMPTY Bowls**

A FUNDRAISER FOR GCUMC FOOD BANK

Sun., Feb. 2nd

\$10 to purchase a bowl... And also gets you a cup of soup and a breadstick!

Please direct questions to Pastor Katharine

## FAT TUESDAY SPAGHETTI DINNER



Join us on Tuesday, March 4th from 4:30pm—6:30pm when the Congregational Life Team sponsors a spaghetti dinner in the Education Building! Although the dinner is free, donations will be accepted for Project Help, a community-based program committed to

providing short-term assistance for families and students enrolled in the Apache Junction Unified School District.

Project HELP is 100% supported by donations: financial, food, new and gently-used clothing, and household goods provided by churches, organizations, businesses, and individuals. Aid is distributed, as funds allow, based on need, as determined by the Project HELP Coordinator.

## LENTEN STUDY



Pastor Katharine will be facilitating a Wednesday Lenten class beginning March 12th. This 6-week video-based study by Matt Rawle is entitled What Makes A Hero? The Death-Defying Ministry of Jesus. This study offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens

of faith, Matt Rawle shows how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. Pastor Katharine will offer an evening option, if there is enough interest. Sign up will begin the first Sunday in February. No book purchase is necessary.

## VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Vacation Bible Camp will be held this summer from **June 2-6**. Pastor Katharine is requesting anyone who is available to help in various capacities, to let her know this month. No help is too small! She is hoping more children in the area will take advantage of this fun week, and wants to make certain we have enough leaders. The theme is: *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*. Pastor Katharine is trying to plan additional fun events during that week. Please consider helping!



## PHOTOS FROM ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

The following photos show 1) the Brigham and Witucky Families lighting the Advent Wreath at a couple of our December worship services., 2) Our three Wise Men, David Ballard, John Talley and Tim Ralston, 3) Joseph (Danish Nazir) and Mary (Jane Schlemper), 4) Rev. Fred Steinberg giving the Christmas Eve sermon, 5) Full House on Christmas Eve, and 6) Pastor Katharine with James the Camel.





# KIDS KORNER

The Sunday School class created a "manger" for Baby Jesus.





# GLOBAL MISSIONS

Pastor Katharine Keller

## FRONTERA DE CRISTO

On November 3-7, 2025 a group will be going to Douglas, AZ and Agua Prieta, Mexico to Although the group is free, we will provide a report later this year.

## RICE & BEANS

There is interest in returning to experience and help the Rice and Beans Ministry in Costa Rica for a week. Pastor Katharine will lead the group, most likely in the spring of 2026. Please contact her to let you know you are interested. Meanwhile, she will be working with Rice and Beans to decide on date possibilities and cost.



# PASTORAL CARE

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

**Rev. Fred A. Steinberg, Senior Pastor**  
[RevStein78@gmail.com](mailto:RevStein78@gmail.com) / (480) 982-3776

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

**Pastor Katharine Keller, Associate Pastor**  
[LadieBug1214@gmail.com](mailto:LadieBug1214@gmail.com) / (480) 888-5411

**Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor**  
[GCapen@gmail.com](mailto:GCapen@gmail.com) / (919) 357-8474



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



...please send prayer requests to  
[GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com](mailto:GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com)  
 or call the Church Office

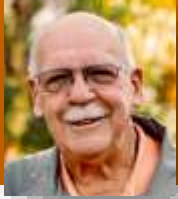
# In Remembrance

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

5-yr old (WI)  
 Ed Adamski  
 Bill Bebee  
 Charles Bittner

Carl Charette  
 Don Crandall  
 Jewell Day  
 Donna Ellison

Ilene Hughes  
 Dennis Norgaard (IA)



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor



What does February mean to you and for you? I would be willing to guess that one of the first things mentioned is Valentine's Day, February 14th. This is a day we celebrate Love, whether it's the love of a spouse, mother, father, or child. It's a day we remember how we love or are loved and celebrate our relationships. Love is a word that has been sung about by too many to count artists. One that stands out to me is Nat King Cole's song: L-O-V-E. I grew up listening to Nat King Cole and watching his TV show on our small black-and-white screen TV. My mother and father watched it weekly, and I learned a lot.

Most of all, I knew the love my mother and father had was true love despite the occasional arguments and trials they experienced. When my sister was born in 1955 (I was seven years old at the time), I learned that she was born with birth defects of spina bifida and water on her brain. Despite her birth defects, she was truly beautiful. It was a very traumatic time, and yet the love and care my parents gave her was beautiful to see. My mother was an RN and knew nothing could truly be done then. For me, it was a time of cherishing those days with my sister, Barbara Ann. I would help my mother care for her, bathe her, dress her, and I would watch her as she slept. I was the big brother, and she was my little sister. It is perhaps from my experience with my parents and my sister before her death at 6 months old that I learned the most about love. Not only the love we shared but the Love of Christ and the Grace of God.



It's why today when I reflect on Jesus's commandment as recorded in Mark 12:28-31 *"One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*



I'm so torn by so many people's anger, resentment, hatred, etc. I believe the real reason for so much of this is that we truly do not know how to love ourselves, and thus, how can we love our neighbor? Today, I see people trying to find that love through external means through "things" rather than a deep appreciation or love of themselves. The gifts and talents God has given each of us. It is why, in knowing oneself, I mean truly knowing oneself, we find the love of self. Are there things that cause us not to like or love about ourselves? Of course, there are, and yet, by knowing

ourselves, we can make changes in how we live, in how we relate to others, and in the ways we look at others as well as ourselves.

It took me a very long time to learn how to love myself, not selfishly but in a way that allowed me to grow into the person I am today. Take this month to reflect on love and what love means to you and for you. It may help others as they see how we love ourselves and love others.





# YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY

Valerie Hammons, Youth Director

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

The members of our Youth Group had such a great December! The lesson of Joseph and Mary had us learning about the obstacles they might have faced. Riding their donkey, watching out for wild animals were just a couple of obstacles them!



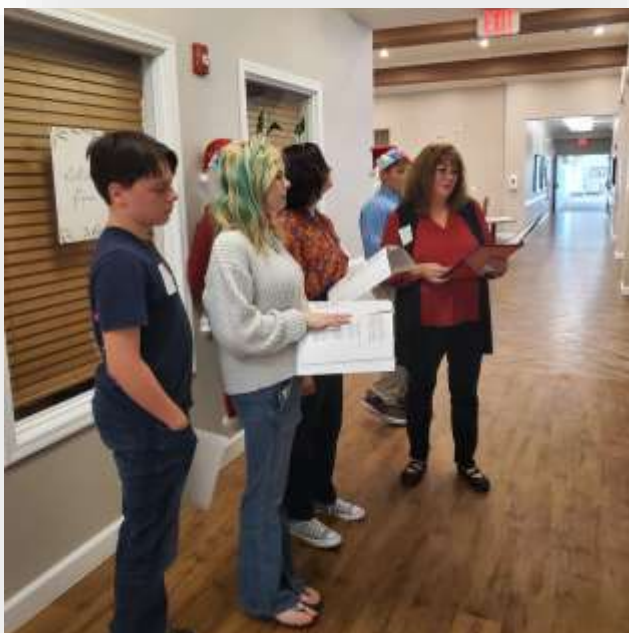
The below photo shows members of our Youth Group enjoying watching *The Chosen*..



The below photos were taken at our Youth Group Christmas Party. What fun they had!



Our favorite Christmas activity was when we all went to Christmas carol at some of our GCUMC homebound church family members.





Below is a photo of the Advent Wreath our Youth Group made.



Gold Canyon UMC hosted the Christmas Party for the Apache Junction High School Christian Club in December. Everyone had lots of fun when we all made gingerbread houses... on solid ground!



# youth group

## SCHEDULE



### FEBRUARY 2025

- |    |     |         |   |
|----|-----|---------|---|
| 2  | Sun | 11am    | Youth Sunday School (YR)                                |
|    |     | 12pm    | UMYF (YR)   |
| 8  | Sat | 12:30pm | Youth Missions: Make PBJ Sandwiches for Genesis Project |
| 9  | Sun | 11am    | Youth Sunday School (YR)                                |
|    |     | 12 pm   | UMYF (YR)   |
| 16 | Sun | 11am    | Youth Sunday School (YR)                                |
|    |     | 12pm    | UMYF (YR)   |
| 23 | Sun | 11am    | Youth Sunday School (YR)                                |
|    |     | 12pm    | UMYF (YR)   |

*Get involved!*



For more info contact Ian in the Church Office  
or [IClasse@GoldCanyonUMC.org](mailto:IClasse@GoldCanyonUMC.org)

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 11am  
in the Koinonia Room!**

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

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



**Sundays at 4pm in the Koinonia Room**

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

Contact David Ballard:

480-760-3277 or [dcballardsaz@gmail.com](mailto:dcballardsaz@gmail.com)

**STAY IN THE KNOW!**

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





## CARING CORNER

Kim Shroyer

### ARE YOU THE SUNRISE OR THE GARBAGE TRUCK?



I recently read this statement by Author David J. Pollay from his book *The Law of the Garbage Truck*: “Many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they look for a place to dump it. And if you let them, they’ll dump it on you. So, when someone wants to dump on you, don’t take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Believe me. You’ll be happier.”

That analogy seems to be spot on. Personally, I can say that at varying points in my life I’ve been in both the role of garbage truck, and the role of person dumped on. Not that I think I have intentionally been the dumper, the same as many of you, but sometimes life circumstances have a way of seeping out of us onto others. And I hate to admit it, but I know I have also responded poorly when I have been the one dumped upon. How then do we move toward more consistent, Christian responses to others, especially during their times of difficulty? It seems easier to display our own kind Christian character when someone is having a difficult time, yet they are still being nice, kind to others. But what about when their difficulties ooze out in a much more negative way?

I recently read this quote made by the late President Jimmy Carter, 1924-2024: “I have one life and one chance to make it count for something. My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.” Interestingly enough, this is a paraphrase of a John Wesley quote from the 1700s! That’s a powerful declaration, one that’s difficult for any of us mere humans to live by every minute of every day. But what a goal! So how do we get there?

A favorite Christmas movie of mine is called “*The Christmas Train*.” In it a character says, “my wife used to say there’s not a problem in this world a sunrise or Christmas can’t fix.” That statement always reminds me

of what Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14-16 [NLT]:

*14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

It feels to me as if Jesus is telling me in that scripture to strive toward being the sunrise in the lives of others, rather than the garbage truck.



In this month of February, which inspires love toward others in many of us, let’s make a difference! Remember when someone is negative or nasty and “dumps” on you, that they have their own personal journey, and we don’t know how they got to this point. Instead of allowing ourselves to snap back with an in-kind remark or negative attitude, let’s remember the power of being the light of Jesus Christ. Smile, wave, pray for them, wish them well. Be that sunrise for them that they may not have seen in a while.

If you’re having a difficult time feeling like you’re making a positive difference, feeling like a sunrise, please reach out to one of GCUMC’s 4 Pastors, who are adept at listening! They minister to members and friends of Gold Canyon UMC. Please simply call the church office at 480-982-3776 and one of them will respond to your request. After hours, you may call or email one of the pastors directly. You will find their contact information in the bulletin on Sunday morning, (or emailed to you prior to Sunday worship), in the church office or the Pastoral and Congregational Care page of this newsletter.

*<sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another.  
Just as I have loved you,  
you also should love one another.  
John 13:34 [NRSV]*



## MUSIC NOTES

Dr. Ian Classe, Director of Music Ministries



This past January, we saw an increase in attendance as many of our winter residents returned from the great white north. We're always glad to have you all with us, and I'm especially grateful to those of you who participate in our music ministry alongside those whom some of our members call 'the usual suspects.' This February, we've got a number of musical events planned including some special music for stewardship Sundays.

First of all, the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts series will be presenting **Sam & Josh Stefanski** on **February 2 at 2:00 p.m.** This dynamic duo will be performing an inspiring blend of contemporary Christian songs, familiar favorites, as well as classic songs from every decade. Sam's warm and inviting voice alongside Josh's acclaimed piano-playing will make this an afternoon not to miss. Sam has performed in many musical settings - most recently as a member of the Phoenix Symphony Chorus, and has been contracted to sing in performing arts centers, theatres, and private venues in front of audiences including Arizona governors, presidential candidates, and other dignitaries. Josh has also performed for countless venues and events in Phoenix and other cities such as Chicago, Seattle, Houston, Miami, and San Diego. Admission is free, doors open 30 minutes before, and a free-will offering will be received to support the artists and our series. We hope to see you there.

The next Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, we'll be celebrating our commitment Sunday and have some special music to surprise you with including the Canyon Carillon, Sonoran Brass Quintet, and other guests, so don't miss worship at 9:30!

On Valentine's Day, **February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be presenting a special Valentine's evening concert by one of Europe's finest woodwind ensembles, the **Carion Wind Quintet**. A rose will be given to every lady in the audience! This Danish-Latvian group fascinates with its dramatized performances of modern and classical works. Their rendition of "Tea for Two", rewritten as the "Tahiti Trot" will be a treat for the audience. The group exudes tremendous energy, filling the stage with tastefully choreographed and emotional content. Tickets are available from [goldcanyonarts.org/tickets](http://goldcanyonarts.org/tickets), the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce, or Robin Rotella Team Realtors.

The following week, on **Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.**, the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts Series will be presenting a **Silent Film Gala**, featuring three silent film shorts, accompanied by my colleague **Dr. Matt Gender** at the organ. Dr. Gender is currently Director of Worship Arts at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN as well as a touring concert organist. He is also an accomplished improviser, having participated in improvisation competitions and festivals across the US and Europe. His playing is always exciting and with the film shorts, it will be like the days before the 'talkies' where the theatre organist improvises a movie sound track as well as sound effects. It's sure to be a lot of fun. Admission is free and there will be popcorn, but be sure to take out your trash after the films! A free will offering will be received to support the organ project here at GCUMC.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding music here at Gold Canyon UMC, feel free to reach out to me by phone or email. We hope you enjoy the events planned for this month!

Peace and best regards,

*Ian*





## 2024-2025 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

02/02/25	Sun 2:00pm	<b>Sam &amp; Josh Stefanski</b> ...local talent bringing music from every decade!
02/14/25	Fri 7:00pm *	<b>GCAC Concert: Carion Woodwind Quintet</b> ...an ensemble from Denmark/Latvia!
02/21/25	Fri 6:00pm	<b>Silent Film Gala w/ organist, Matt Gender</b> ...film with improvised accompaniment!
03/05/25	Wed 7:00pm	<b>Ash Wednesday Worship</b> ...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
03/07/25	Fri 7:00pm *	<b>GCAC Concert: Mancini Centennial</b> ...big band playing song from Juke Box Age!
03/23/25	Sun 2:00pm	<b>Nicole Pesce, Jazz Pianist</b> ...local talent playing blues, classical, jazz and more!
04/13/25	Sun 8 & 9:30am	<b>Palm Sunday Worship</b> ...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun 11:00am	<b>Palm Sunday Praise Worship</b> ...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun 4:00pm	<b>Palm Sunday Gospel Worship</b> ...join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/17/25	Thu 7:00pm	<b>Maundy Thursday Worship</b> ...special service with communion and ashes
04/18/25	Fri 7:00pm	<b>Good Friday Worship</b>
04/20/25	Sun 6:00am	<b>Easter Sunrise Worship</b> ...in north Parking Lot facing the Superstitions
04/20/25	Sun 8:00 & 9:30	<b>Easter Celebration Worship</b> ...Christ is Risen with Brass, Bells and Choir
04/20/25	Sun 11am	<b>Easter Praise Worship</b> ...Uncommon Grace leads our Praise of the Risen Lord
04/20/25	Sun 4pm	<b>Easter Sunset Worship</b> ...our Gospel celebration of Christ Alive

\* Indicates a ticketed event for a fee presented by the Gold Canyon Arts Council's Canyon Sounds Series. Inquires and/or ticket information can be received via phone (480)493-6731 or online at [www.GoldCanyonArts.org](http://www.GoldCanyonArts.org). All other concerts are presented by the Gold Canyon United Methodist Church's Performing Arts Series and are open to the public at no charge as an offering will be received.

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

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

Updated 12/12/2024



# 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! So far in 2024 SCRIP has raised over **\$2,225.03!** It's easy to do... just stop by (or call) the Church Office or visit the Welcome Desk on Sunday if you need help!

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

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

## STITCHES UNLIMITED QUILTERS



In the last month or so, our group of quilters donated 40 quilts: 20 to Summit at Sunland Springs, 10 to Better Senior Care, and 10 to Whiting Hope Foundation.



Reflecting on these quilts reminds me of an article by Jennifer Mahnke titled, "Quilting the Pieces of Our Lives," and thought you might like to read an excerpt. "Quilting reminds me so much of our lives with God. When I make a quilt, I start with little pieces of fabric of different colors and patterns, and sometimes different shapes. Like our lives, made up of many and varied

experiences, some deeply broken and dark and others bright and beautiful. All the pieces of a quilt come together to create a whole—a vision held in the mind of the quilter. Just like the quilter, God has a vision for our lives. The complete picture in his mind's eye. He is able to take the pieces of our lives and sew them together perfectly—all the dark pieces that highlight the lighter ones, all the colors put together in just the right way. So I learn from the Lord as I sew and participate in his creative process."

In 2025, we're looking forward to continuing our mission of making/donating quilts for those in need. We'd love it if you'd join us! We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 9am to 2pm in the Missions Center, Barnabas room. See you soon!



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

## GIRLS MATTER PERIOD



Our missions partner, Girls Matter Period ([www.GirlsMatterPeriod.org](http://www.GirlsMatterPeriod.org)), will return to South Africa May 8-20 to take much-needed education and hygiene kits to over 1,000 school-age girls.

To prepare for this outreach, GCUMC volunteers make washable/reusable kit components. Sewing and non-sewing volunteers are needed in the Barnabas Room on the fourth Thursday of each month between 9 am and noon. Contact Tammy Plaski at (920) 779-0359 or [GirlsMatterPeriod@gmail.com](mailto:GirlsMatterPeriod@gmail.com) for more information.

Are you interested in joining this short-term mission trip to South Africa? Traveling to South Africa with Girls Matter Period is more than an extraordinary adventure. It will have long-lasting (maybe even eternal) effects on the people we serve!

Blessman Int'l ([www.BlessmanInternational.org](http://www.BlessmanInternational.org)) is hosting the outreach team to accomplish big things for

the people of Limpopo Province. Contact Paula Blessman (paula.girlsmatter@gmail.com or 319-560-7623) for more information.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)



United  
Women  
in Faith

Our February meeting will be our Prayer and Self-denial meeting and service, facilitated by Claudia Listman, our Spiritual Growth Leader. Come join us for a time of reflection and prayer. We will also learn how the power of prayer and denial of our self-interests brings us closer to Christ. Join us for Fellowship at 10:00am and Meeting at 10:30am in the Barnabas Room of the Missions Center. For more info, email bekyarusel@gmail.com.

### Reading Program: Book Review:

*"I Am A Girl From Africa"* by Elizabeth Nyamayaro

When Elizabeth Nyamayaro was eight years old, during a terrible drought in her village in Zimbabwe, her life was saved by a United Nations aid worker. This transformative moment—when "the girl in the blue uniform" found Elizabeth in her grandmother's field and gave her a bowl of porridge—inspired her life's purpose: to work her way to the United Nations and dedicate herself to giving back to her community, her continent, and the world. This is Elizabeth's story. Against tremendous odds, she became a humanitarian, advancing social justice and creating change from the Republic of the Congo to New York City. As a senior advisor to the United Nations, she launched HeForShe, one of the world's largest global solidarity movements for gender equality. Uplifted by her community, grounded in principals of respect, interdependence and care imparted by her beloved grandmother, Elizabeth and her journey show just how much we all need each other—and how a single act of kindness can profoundly change a life.

This was a captivating and inspiring book we could all learn from. —Jane Hansgaard

### Upcoming Dates and Events:

- **Reading Program:** Wed 2/5 10:AM, Missions Center, contact Jane for more into, hansgaard@msn.com
- **Roll Down Justice Study:** Continues on Friday at 10:30am—12pm in the Esther Room (MC). Contact Rita Vadasz [ritakv2@aol.com](mailto:ritakv2@aol.com).
- **Outing:** On March 6, 2025 we'll visit to the Hare Krishna Temple As part of United Women in Faith's Charter for Racial Justice and out of a desire to expand our understanding and appreciation for other

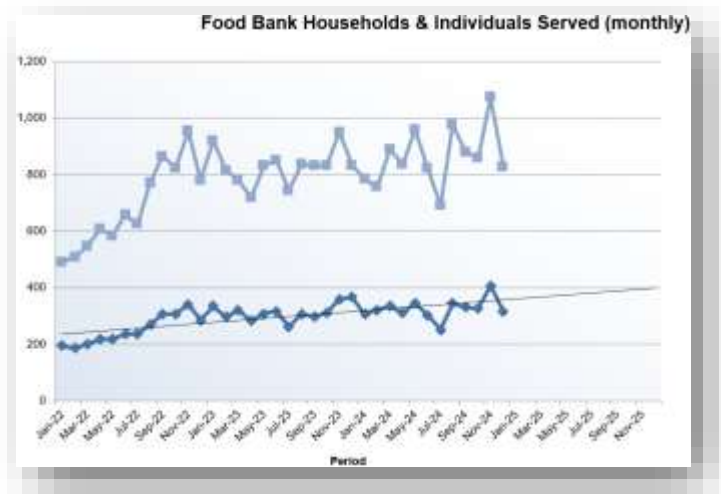
faiths. We are planning on a visit to the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (also known as the Hare Krishna movement), a monotheistic sect of Hinduism which was brought to the US in 1965, but has its roots in 1600's India. We'll leave from the Missions Center at 10am on Thurs., 3/6. From 11:00am—12pm we'll have an Introduction to Krishna Consciousness and also learn how to wear a saree! We'll then attend a service from noon—to 12:30pm, followed by a vegetarian lunch at the Temple. For for info contact Carol Johnson at 602-750-2008 or [caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com](mailto:caroljohnsonaz@yahoo.com).

- **Red Cross Blood Drive:** March 9, 2025; Sponsored by the United Women in Faith. The inaugural blood drive this summer was very successful. With your help our second blood drive will be even more successful. The Red Cross will be at the Mission Center from 9am—2pm. The goal is to have 54 Units of blood donated by our congregation. Please consider being a donor to provide life-saving blood to our neighbors. Sign up for a time at their website: [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org) find (Gold Canyon UMC) and choose your time. Questions contact Donna Graves [dgingajaz@yahoo.com](mailto:dgingajaz@yahoo.com).
- **Regular Meeting** March 15, 2025 will be our Messianic Seder we will celebrate with traditional foods, liturgy and prayer. It is a meaningful and joyful celebration. Come join us for Seder. Coffee and fellowship at 10:00AM Service at 10:30 AM in the Mission Center Questions Rebecca bekyarusel@gmail.com

For general info about the United Women in Faith, contact Rebecca Russel [beckyarussel@gmail.com](mailto:beckyarussel@gmail.com), (360) 352-4956.

## FOOD BANK

Please check your weekly bulletin for needed items!





# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

(Calendar is subject to change;

For more info, please visit [www.GoldCanyonUMC.org](http://www.GoldCanyonUMC.org) or call the Church Office)

Sat Feb 1	-	-
Sun Feb 2	-	EMPTY BOWLS SUNDAY
	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 Feb 3	8am	Reserved (MR)
	1pm	Coffee with the Pastor (MR)
Tue Feb 4	10am	GriefShare (ER)
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
Wed Feb 5	10am	CLASS: Revelation (MC-E)
	10am	UWF Reading Program (MC-B/Patio)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn)
	3:30pm	CLASS: Faith's Answers to America's Political Crisis (MC-B)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	CLASS: Revelation (ER)
Thu Feb 6	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
Fri Feb 7	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)
	10:30am	UWF CLASS: Let Justice Roll Down (MC-E)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
	6:30pm	Intergenerational Game Night (KR)
Sat Feb 8	8am	MTG: PEO (MC-B)
Sun Feb 9	All day	STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
	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)
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)
Mon Feb 10	8am	Reserved (MR)

<b>MAIN CAMPUS</b>	YR = Youth Rm
EB = Education Bldg.	
ER = Emmaus Rm	<b>MISSIONS CENTER</b>
K = Kitchen	MC-B = Barnabas
KR = Koinonia Rm	MC-E = Esther
MR = Music Rm	MC-M = Martha
NAR = Noah's Ark Rm	MC-S = Stephen
P = Patio	
S = Sanctuary	
SoGR = Sea of Galilee Rm	
WR = Wesley Rm	

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

Tue Feb 11	9am	Gold Canyon Garden Club (MC-E)
	9am	Stitches Unlimited Quilters (MC-B&Patio)
	10am	GriefShare (ER)
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	6pm	MTG: Trustees (MC-B)
Wed Feb 12	10am	CLASS: Revelation (MC-E)
	10am	MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC-M)
	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn)
	3:30pm	CLASS: Faith's Answers to America's Political Crisis (MC-B)
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)
	6pm	CLASS: Revelation (ER)
Thu Feb 13	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)
	7pm	AA (MC-E)
Fri Feb 14	All day	Valentine's Day
	9am	GCAC School Workshop (S)
	10:30am	UWF CLASS: Let Justice Roll Down (MC-E)
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)
	7pm	GCAC CONCERT: Carion Woodwind Quintet (S)
Sun Feb 16	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)



GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mon Feb 17 4pm Gospel Worship (KR)  
 All day OFFICE CLOSED / Presidents' Day  
 8am Reserved (MR)

Tue Feb 18 10am GriefShare (ER)  
 1pm GriefShare (ER)  
 3pm Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)  
 3pm MTG: GCAC (MC-S)

Wed Feb 19 10am CLASS: Revelation (MC-E)  
 10:30am Cancer Support Group (ER/K)  
 1pm DISCIPLER 1 (MC-B; Gunn)  
 3:30pm CLASS: Faith's Answers to America's Political Crisis (MC-B)  
 3:30pm DISCIPLER 2 (ER)  
 4pm Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)  
 5pm Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)  
 6pm CLASS: Revelation (ER)

Thu Feb 20 6pm Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)  
 7pm AA (MC-E)

Fri Feb 21 8am GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)  
 10:30am UWF CLASS: Let Justice Roll Down (MC-E)  
 11am CareGivers Support Group (ER)  
 5:30pm AA (MC-E)  
 6pm CONCERT: Silent Film Gala w/ Organist, Matt Gender (S)

Sat Feb 22 8am MTG: PEO (MC-B)

Sun Feb 23 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 Feb 24 8am Reserved (MR)

Tue Feb 25 9am Stitches Unlimited (MC-B)  
 10am GriefShare (ER)  
 1pm GriefShare (ER)  
 3pm Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)

Wed Feb 26 10am CLASS: Revelation (MC-E)  
 10am MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC-M)  
 10:30am Cancer Support Group (ER/K)  
 1pm DISCIPLER 1 (MC-B; Gunn)  
 3:30pm CLASS: Faith's Answers to America's Political Crisis (MC-B)  
 3:30pm DISCIPLER 2 (ER)  
 4pm Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)  
 5pm Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)  
 6pm CLASS: Revelation (ER)

Thu Feb 27 9am Girls Matter Period (MC-B)  
 6pm Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)  
 7pm AA (MC-E)

Fri Feb 28 All day Changeover Zone Weekend  
 10:30am UWF CLASS: Let Justice Roll Down (MC-E)  
 11am CareGivers Support Group (ER)  
 5:30pm AA (MC-E)



**BLOOD DRIVE**  
 Gold Canyon United Methodist Church  
 Missions Center

8330 E. Sunrise Sky Dr.  
 Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

**Sun., March 9th 2025**  
**8am—3pm**



## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

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

### *Happy Birthday!*

Behan, John (Jack) 02/01  
Talley, John 02/01  
Hoerter, Coleen 02/03  
Benjamin, Christopher (Chris) 02/04  
Cunningham, Stephen (Steve) 02/05  
Hoefs, Edwin (Ed) 02/05  
Hoff Mancini, Cynthia 02/05  
Lindaman, Carol 02/05  
Merrick, James (Jim) 02/05  
Osgood, Gladys 02/05  
Breuklander, Roberta (Bobbie) 02/06  
Oxley, Gene 02/06  
Chase, Donna 02/07  
Elek, Deane 02/07  
Nelson, Joni 02/08  
Hicks, Dean (Steve) 02/09  
Callantine, Peggy 02/10  
Hays, Louise 02/10  
Waytenick, Dave 02/10  
Halterman, Bobbie 02/12  
Colaizzi, Michael 02/13

Daigle, Robert (Bob) 02/13  
Jacobsen, Elaine 02/13  
Kraft, Randy 02/13  
Willis, Gloria 02/13  
McCauley, S Kay 02/14  
Schmidt, Judy 02/14  
Christ, SuzAnne 02/15  
Kurtenbach, Diane 02/15  
Carpenter, Trudy 02/16  
Pofert, David 02/16  
Rivera, Steve 02/16  
Russell, Robert (Bob) 02/16  
Adams, Ada 02/17  
Burris, Terry 02/17  
Burzlaff, Julie 02/18  
Atkinson, William (Bill) 02/22  
Chase, Charles R (Bob) 02/22  
Fratt, Imogene (Genie) 02/22  
Fye, Ben 02/23  
Nelson, Wylladene 02/24  
Beasley, Earl 02/25  
McConnell, Alice 02/25

Robinson, Paul 02/25  
Sims, Kay 02/25  
Daniels, Jacob 02/26  
Owens, Ann 02/26  
Halbig, Michelle (Shelley) 02/27  
Mulhair, Bob 02/28  
Waechter, Nancy 02/28  
Schwartz, Richard (Dick) 02/29

### *Happy Anniversary!*

Vorseth, Duane & Sue 02/04  
Adams, Ada & Michael 02/05  
Colmer, Jerry & Margaret 02/06  
Nelson, Bill & Patty 02/06  
Smith, Dave & Jeanie 02/06  
Bliss, Joy & Dybwad, Gay 02/14  
Paterson, Nancy & Bob 02/15  
Deitch, David & Kate 02/20  
Cooke, Jon & Teresa 02/21  
Sich, Jeff & Jonna 02/22  
Burgi, Jenelu & Bob 02/28

## ACCESS ACS

Add/update your photo and contact info — and more using GCUMC's online directory, AccessACS! If you aren't using it, but would like to, email: [ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org)

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

## ROADRUNNER & BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please send content for the  
**March 2025 Roadrunner**  
via email to [ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org](mailto:ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org)

**BY 8am on Monday, 2/10/25**

**Weekly Bulletin & Flower Orders**

12pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday Service



# CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE

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

- Romans 13:8 (NIV)

December	2021			2022			2023			2024		
	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
	155054	23300	6612	150860	20893	5373	17887	16221	8203	215840	18152	4487

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; \$1,742,012 raised)
- Organ Fund (\$242,786 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200K needed; \$0 raised)
- Playground Shade Structure (\$55,243 needed; \$0 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200,000 needed)
- Building Fund Loan (Paid off 2022)
- Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows (Completed 2022)



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

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



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

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

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

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

## CONTACT US

Senior Pastor .....	Rev. Fred A. Steinberg .....	RevStein78@gmail.com
Senior Pastor Designate .....	Rev. David J. Harris .....	DaviJon66@gmail.com
Associate Pastor .....	Pastor Katharine Keller .....	Ladiebug1214@gmail.com
Associate Pastor .....	Rev. Gary Capen .....	GCapen3GCUMC@gmail.com
Church Administrator .....	Riechia Ralston .....	ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org
Administrative Associate .....	Jennifer Rhine-Walker .....	AdmAssociate.GCUMC@gmail.com
Director, Music Ministries .....	Dr. Ian Classe .....	IClass@GoldCanyonUMC.org
Associate Director, Music .....	David Ballard .....	DCBallardsAZ@gmail.com
Assistant Director, Music .....	Cynthia Hoff .....	CynthiaLeeHoff@gmail.com
Director, Youth Ministries .....	Valerie Hammons .....	YouthDirector.GCUMC@gmail.com
Nursery Care Giver .....	Nina Hernandez .....	HernandezNina@ymail.com
Facility Care Taker .....	Rick Ceynar .....	Rick.Ceynar@gmail.com
Director, Audio/Visual .....	Kevin Nunn .....	KevNunn@gmail.com
Prayer Chain .....		GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com

[www.facebook.com/goldcanyonumc](http://www.facebook.com/goldcanyonumc)

@goldcanyonUMC



## 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](mailto:ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org)

**Web:** [www.GoldCanyonUMC.org](http://www.GoldCanyonUMC.org)

### WORSHIP SERVICES

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

*(Childcare available at morning worship services)*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

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

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

**Addressee or Current Resident**