# GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Roadrunner



#### JANUARY 2025

Number 1



#### FROM OUR PASTORS

Rev. Fred A. Steinberg, Senior Pastor

#### "JOSEPH, FROM PIT TO THE PALACE"

Life doesn't always go as planned. The dreams we cherish and the paths we pursue can sometimes take unexpected turns. When Joseph found himself at the bottom of a pit—betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery—he must have wondered if God had forgotten him. Yet through treacherous territory, false

accusations, and the darkest of prison cells, Joseph's faith and integrity were quietly laying the foundation for a dramatic shift from the depths of despair to the heights of influence.

This January on Sunday mornings, join us for a new sermon series, "Joseph: From Pit to the Palace," where we will journey through the remarkable life of one of the Bible's most resilient figures. Each week, we will explore how Joseph navigated betrayal, injustice, and heartbreak, never losing sight of God's presence and purpose. Ultimately, Joseph's story illuminates how God can weave our trials into a tapestry of redemption and hope—even when we can't see the pattern ourselves.

If you've ever struggled to keep faith amid life's setbacks, if you're longing to see how God's hand might be guiding you through unexpected seasons, or if you simply want to deepen your understanding of the Scriptures, this series is for you. Let's learn together how Joseph's trust in God's goodness can inspire us to remain faithful, courageous, and compassionate, no matter where our own journeys lead. Come, invite a friend, and be encouraged as we witness how God can transform our "pits" into "palaces" in ways we could never imagine. I will see you on Sunday.

Grace and peace,

Fred



#### JANUARY SERMON SERIES

This January on Sunday mornings, join us for a new sermon series, "Joseph: From Pit to the Palace," where we'll journey through the remarkable life of one of the Bible's most resilient figures.

1/5 – Wearing the Robe
1/12 – Temptation & Seduction
1/26 – Finding Compassion

Contact Us

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

"...Following Jesus... Serving Others"

Rev. David J. Harriss, Senior Pastor Designate

#### **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

Those magic men, the Magi, Some people call them wise, Or oriental, even kings, Well anyway, those guys, They visited with Jesus, They sure enjoyed their stay, Then warned in a dream of King Herod's scheme, They went home by another way. (James Taylor, Home by Another Way, 1988)

There are two worship services which are considered Christmas services: Christmas day and the following Sunday. The first Sunday in January is usually designated as Epiphany Sunday. On Sunday, January 5th, 2024, Epiphany will be celebrated by many different Christian churches. The lectionary text for this same Sunday comes from Matthew 2:1-12. According to the Mirriam-Webster online dictionary, an epiphany is an appearance or manifestation of a divine being, an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. Within the Gospel of Luke, we have the shepherds who are the first eyewitnesses (outside the holy family) who see the Christ-child. In the Gospel of Matthew, it is the Magoi, who are commonly known as the astrologers, who are the first ones to witness the Christ child. Incidentally, the Greek word Magoi could mean a few professions, including hairdressers for monarchical women. Could there have been wise women? The chances are good that these Magi were a priestly class of Persian or Babylonian experts that were experts at dream interpretation or astrology. (Interpreter's Bible, Matthew, Commentary, pg. 140).

There have been efforts to combine both birth narratives, which in my opinion, misses the message of both gospel stories. The birth narrative in Matthew demonstrates that even though Jesus comes from Jewish lineage (Matthew's Gospel begins with the lineage of Abraham and David), the Gentiles also play a role in the initial and on-going witness of the Messiah. With the arrival of these Persian astrologers, God is offering a gift to all nations. That is, the Christ-child is God's gift and revelation to the entire world. In my opinion, one of the priorities of the 21st century Christian Church should be offering Christ to all nations, including those who are diligently searching for their Messiah.

The Epiphany story in Matthew also represents the two kingships in this world. King Herod represents the great resistance to the divine savior of this world. He also represents human power and governmental authority. He is threatened by a different type of power and authority, the divine authority of God manifest in the Christ-child. King Herod does not want to pay Jesus Christ homage; he wants to eradicate him from this earth.

Upon seeing the Christ-child, they (Magi) knelt down and paid him homage. Then, the Magi opened their treasure chests and offered the holy family gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts were not only meaningful, they were also quite prophetic. Gold is offered to a king. Frankincense is offered on behalf of a community of believers by a priest. And myrrh is an ointment which is used for dead bodies.

Epiphany Sunday also represents something else for me. With the presence of Christ, we see the dividing walls of race, culture, and national origin being dissolved between these two populations. The Jewish and Persian

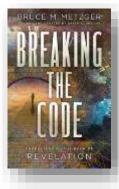
communities were two completely different cultures. However, they were able to embrace one another in the presence of Christ. Not only is Matthew an inclusive Gospel which is available to all ages, races, and nations, Epiphany Sunday reminds us that wherever Christ is present, there is inclusion and acceptance of all creation. What a wonderful gift for the world!



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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

#### UPCOMING CLASS



Revelation contains passages great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader bizarre, bewildering, as and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God's message in this peculiar part of the Bible?

guide to the rich symbolism of this important biblical you many have. book. Noted biblical scholar Bruce M. Metzger presents the fruits of solid scholarship in a non-academic style. This revised edition includes updates based on current biblical research, as well as additional teaching from author and respected New Testament scholar David deSilva.

Pastor Katharine will be facilitating this 6-week video study on Wednesdays starting January 22nd at both 10am and 6pm. Sign up in either Lobby for this class; Participants may purchase the \$12 book on Amazon.

#### GRIEFSHARE



Our next GriefShare program (13 weeks) starts on Tuesday, 1/7, at 1pm in the Emmaus Room

and will be 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.

#### **DESERT DINERS RETURN!**



We are excited for a new season of Desert Diners starting in January, where you can get to know your church family in an informal setting by sharing a meal together, either in

your home or at a restaurant. If you haven't participated before, here's how it works;

A group of 6-8 names are randomly chosen to share a meal together once a month. Hosts provide the main Breaking the Code: Understanding the course and guests divide up who brings an appetizer, Book of Revelation: The Book of salad, dessert etc. If you choose to meet in a restaurant, of the host will buy an appetizer or dessert.

Desert Diners who participated last year and wish to stay with their group can; Others who want to meet other church members can join a new group. Please indicate your preference on the sign-up sheet located in the Lobbies of both buildings. Also indicate whether you are interested in a group that meets for lunch or dinner, as well as your contact info. Contact Dee Ashe Breaking the Code Revised Edition provides a trustworthy (480)685-7175 or Pastor Katharine with any questions

#### WORSHIP WRAP-UP



At one of our December worship services, Pastor Fred reminded us about a Max Lucado quote: "if God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it..."

#### **GREEN TEAM**

Many thanks to our "Green Team" who greened our church for Christmas!



#### GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#### **GENESIS PROJECT LUNCHES**

The Congregational Life Team sponsored making PB&J lunches for Genesis Project in December.

















#### Gold Canyon United Methodist Church

#### **CRAFTY CHRISTMAS 2024**



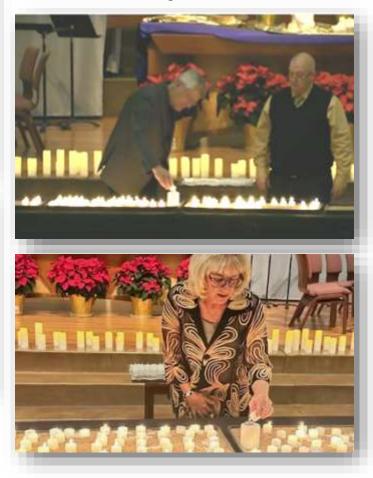
A very Crafty Christmas was enjoyed by both young and old thanks to Ashley Singer, who coordinated the day and all of the lead crafters!

#### The Brigham family also enjoyed making all the crafts.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

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





And Your paths drip with abundance. PSALM 65:11





Lindsay, an amazing artist made an angel cookie for Pastor Katharine!



#### Gold Canyon United Methodist Church

#### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Approximately 900 people attended the 23rd Annual Christmas Concert... and the angel, kings, and variety of music was beautiful and greatly enjoyed by all!



Carol Ballard, Kelly Williams, Riechia Ralston, Tressa Erickson, and David Ballard (not pictured) represented Uncommon Grace in this year's Christmas Concert.



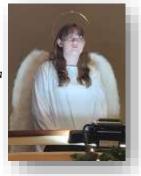
Cynthia Hoff Mancini & Robin Rost (on piano); Below: Rev. Fred Steinberg as Simeon)



Avery and Chloe were part of the UWF's Christmas Tea fashion show

Luke and his parents lighting the Advent wreath

Emma Motte (angel) in the Christmas Program



Jeremy Brigham, Rev. Gary Capen & David Ballard (kings)



Chancel Choir, Canyon Carillon, Sonoran Brass & Keith Kassner on percussion

## Welcome New Members!



#### Please be sure introduce yourselves!



Pat Giddings



Bob Blackwell



Mary Weber



Linda Rivera



Steve Rivera



#### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA LIST 2024

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!

NAME	IN MEMORY OF	IN HONOR OF
Anonymous	Carol Ann Gordon	
David & Carol Ballard	Harry & Louise Hawman David C. & Donna Ballard	
Patrick Braatz	Dale & Carla Braatz	Severito & Ignacia Tellez
Bob Burgi		Jenelu Burgi
Saundra Jo Campbell		William Douglas Harader Madalin Grace Gunn
Lauren Collins-Mitchel	Lee & Foster Collins	
Jon & Teresa Cooke	Claude & Jacquelyn Cooke Helen & MeldaLynn Oliver	
Mary H. Dudley, MD	Nancy Lee McGoron	
Caren Ellis		Pat Bolster
John & Pat Giddings	Bob & Willie Bea Minter Bill & Virginia Giddings	
Michael Agnew & Jolene Guist		Fred & Beth thank you for all you do!
Marisal Harriss	Cande Guzman	
Lorna Marifjeren	Earl Marifjeren	
Fred Miller & Family	Nancy Miller	
Diane & Al Rasmussen	Daniel Rasmussen	
Mary Weber	Harlan Scherer	

#### **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor



Entering a New Year with new resolutions or revisiting resolutions we made last year or perhaps every year to make changes to our lives is a noble gesture. We want to lose weight, become healthier, concentrate more on family, or retire after years of service. I know that Pastor Fred and Beth are looking forward to retirement and the appointment of Pastor David as our new senior pastor.

But life is so much more than resolutions! It's a commitment to live according to what God wants, not just to become healthier (which is a good resolution) but also to be more observant of the life that Christ gave us instructions for and fulfill his commandments. This past fall, we had the Campaign for Kindness. It wasn't just a one-and-done moment that called us to "Do unto others as we would want done to us." No, it was a call to a deeper sense of Christian living, to be "more Christ-like" daily.

#### THAT ONE

BE THAT ONE. THAT ONE WHO FORGIVES WHEN DEEP OFFENSE HAS BEEN COMMITTED. THAT ONE WHO LOVES WHEN NO ONE ELSE DOES. THAT ONE WHO GIVES KINDNESS TO THOSE WHO ARE MEAN.

BE THAT ONE WHO LOOKS PAST THE INSULT, INSTEAD SEEING THE PAIN THAT MOTIVATED IT.

THAT ONE WHO SHINES LIGHT UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN UTTER DARKNESS. BECAUSE THE IMPACT OF BEING THAT ONE RUNS FAR AND WIDE. IT BRINGS HEALING TO THE WOUNDED, JOY TO THE SAD, AND HOPE TO THOSE IN DESPAIR. BE THAT ONE. We are a community of believers, believers in Christ as our Lord and Savior. We, as Christians, have an opportunity to truly make disciples of all we meet, of all who haven't heard the calling of Christ to "follow me." In this world where we live, we need not look too far to see that our community, state, nation, and world are hurting and hungry, not just for food but spiritual food: healing, wholeness, and a just society where no one is better than another. Where people who feel like nobodies are made to feel like somebody, where human life is valued. Where people can find safe and affordable housing and where people are paid a decent wage to be able to afford not just housing but also the food and healthcare needed. This and so much more.

Christ calls us to do this in his name and for God's Kingdom. Rather than living for ourselves, we are to live and love our neighbors as ourselves. This theme has followed the "campaign for kindness" in the sermon series throughout the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year.

This can be our "Epiphany," in which we declare the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. This revelation can be lived each day, knowing that Christ is always with us. Even when we feel alone, anxious, depressed, and angry, Christ is with us. He guides us through all that troubles us so we can live out of the light that Christ sheds on us and be the example Christ has set for us daily. Or, as Christ

said as recorded in Matthew 11:28-30:

"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."

I look forward to this new year with all its challenges, hopes, and dreams for the future of Gold Canyon United Methodist Church and our community, state, nation, and world. We are the feet, hands, mouth, and word of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. This is the reason we are called Christians. "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

> Thomas Merton MindfulChristianitvTodav.com

## YOUTH GROUP MINISTRY

Valerie Hammons, Youth Director

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

So many holiday activities! Our Youth decorated kindness cookies for voters and volunteers on election day, since GCUMC is a polling place.



They also helped each other ride a "bicycle built for two," learning that God is in control for a good reason.







One of our youth, Jane, gave the Sunday school lesson while we made fruit pizza. Our Youth even did the fruit shopping!



#### GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

They had a blast participating in the ASU Homecoming Parade, representing the Down Syndrome Network of Arizona.



Youth Group members had the honor of being in the United Women in Faith's Fashion Show. We even shopped at Goodwill and Savers for their bargains! Vibes of Frank Sinatra, Casual hometown memories, and an artist's eye for color and surprise.







Thank you all for blessing our Gold Canyon UMC Youth Group in 2024. May you and your families be richly blessed in 2025!



#### JANUARY 2025

4	5	Sun	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
L			12pm	UMYF (YR)
L			12:10	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
1	12	Sun	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
L			12	UMYF (YR)
L			12:10	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
1	19	Sun	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
L			12 pm	UMYF (YR)
L			12:10	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)
2	26	Sun	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)
L			12:30pm	UMYF (YR)
			12 <b>:</b> 10pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)

#### GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Sun., March 9th 2025 8am—3pm

## 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 <u>GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com</u>, call the Church Office at (480) 982-3776, or contact one of the pastors directly so they can be included on the prayer list.

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

onal Care

Ministry

Congrega

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

Pastor Katharine Keller, Associate Pastor LadieBug1214@gmail.com/(480)888-5411 Rev. Gary Capen, Associate Pastor <u>GCapen@gmail.com</u> / (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 <u>GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com</u> 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...

> Barbara Border Dixie Coules Bud Rolley





## **CARING CORNER**

I WONDER...



noticed l've that "motivational" messages I secular, never is one attributed it takes away today's peace. -

Author Unknown. Um, I beg to differ! To me, that little motivational statement clearly has its basis in the Bible - Matthew 6:34 reads, "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." It is of course not word for word, and has slightly different context, but you'd be hard pressed to convince me the thought didn't come from the oldest, most read text in the world.

when we say someone is the "salt of the earth?" That is utilized to describe someone who is good, honest, reliable, of good moral character, etc. I venture to bet many people who have used it consider themselves non -believers in Jesus Christ. Yet, that phrase is directly from Matthew 5:13, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. He calls Christians to be a positive influence on the world, exuding Christian values, preserving the world from corruption, just as salt preserves food. Here is the Message Bible version of that scripture, which puts it into plain language - "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God -flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will If you feel a little stuck or could use some help people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and exploring the Bible and its meaning, please reach out to will end up in the garbage."

Next up, The Golden Rule. This "rule" is often described as a moral principle that states you should "treat others as you would want to be treated." I have actually heard people vehemently argue that it did not originate in the Bible, it is simple ethics and values and has nothing to do with Christianity. In Matthew 7:12 Jesus tells us "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Now let's move on to Luke 6:10 [NLT] - "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones.

But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities." When I was in the the police academy decades ago, we were issued a cheap, plastic, Papermate, ballpoint pen on day one. We were receive daily on my phone are all to always have that pen with us, no matter what. One guy in our class lost his, and rather than tell the truth, to the Bible or Christ. A recent he bought a new one and lied about it. He was fired one said this - Worrying doesn't very quickly. The rationale was that if he lied about take away tomorrow's troubles, something so simple, he surely did not deserve the public trust and wouldn't resist the temptation to lie about greater matters. What do you think, was that an earthly practice based on scripture?

I also wonder how many people through the years have sung the words to the song "Turn! Turn! Turn!", also subtitled "To Everything There Is a Season," and not known the lyrics were almost solely scripture. Written by Pete Seeger, and popularized in 1965 by the group The Byrds, the song relies completely on Ecclesiastes 3:1 -8. The NKJV version begins "To everything there is a Are there other similar examples around us? How about season, A time for every purpose under heaven...". Look that up and compare for yourself.

> I've found I often get frustrated with the lack of Christian principles and behavior that I seem to see more prevalently around me. But thinking of these examples has made me look at everything I read a bit differently. I've begun to play a game of "I Wonder," looking phrases and statements up to find their origin. It's a fun learning adventure for me, and astounding how many links to biblical scripture you can find. Try it, you never know when it might even lead to the ability to have a discussion with a non-believer!

> 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.

"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals." ~ Psalm 118:8



#### MUSIC NOTES Dr. Ian Classe, Director of Music Ministries



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great Christmas. 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 this month and next.

First of all, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be presenting the **Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass** on **Friday, January 17, at 7pm**. This exciting ensemble had its beginnings on the streets of New Orleans. Led by trumpeter, Rodney Marsalis and on the advice of family patriarch Ellis Marsalis, the sextet breaks the barriers between music genres and creates a close connection with the audience. Whether playing popular music or his baroque piccolo trumpet, Rodney Marsalis and his group's artistry has been enjoyed across the world. Tickets are available from goldcanyonarts.org/tickets, the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce, or Robin Rotella Team Realtors.



A week later, the Gold Canyon Arts Council will be hosting the annual **Gold Canyon Arts Festival** on **Saturday**, **January 25th** from **9am to 4pm** 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. There are routinely over five thousand people attending to peruse the fine art work of 85 artists and to listen to multiple exciting 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.



Right on the heels of the Arts Festival, the Gold Canyon UMC Performing Arts Series will be presenting the crowd favorite, **The Rice Brothers** on **Sunday, January 26, at 2:00pm.** World-renowned performers, Chris and Johnny are both virtuosi cellists and pianists, performing in Europe and across North America Featuring exquisite technique along-side warm musicality and a familiar stage presence, there is certain to be something for everyone, so bring your friends and family to a great concert. The Rice Brothers always bring something new as their program changes from year to year. Concert is free admission with an offering and doors open at least 30 minutes prior.

Finally, just a short update on the organ project: members of the selection committee will be making one final trip early this year to compare and contrast instruments from several of builders we're considering before sitting down and making a final recommendation. We hope to have new information about our selection and fundraising within the next month or two.

If you have any questions regarding music for Sunday services, the organ project, choral scholars program, or anything about music in general, feel free to reach out to me via phone or email.



Peace and best regards,

Tan



#### 2024-2025 Performances & Events

01/17/25	Fri	7:00pm	•	GCAC Concert: Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big BrassNew Orleans start!
01/26/25	Sun	2:00pm		The Rice Brothers both are virtuoso planists and cellists
01/25/25	Sat	9:00am		GCAC Arts Festival a much-anticipated community celebration!
02/02/25	Sun	2:00pm		Sam & Josh Stefanskilocal talent bringing music from every decade!
02/14/25	Fri	7:00pm	٠	GCAC Concert: Carion Woodwind Quintet an ensemble from Denmark/Latvial
02/21/25	Fri	6:00pm		Silent Film Gala w/ organist, Matt Genderfilm with improvised accompaniment!
03/05/25	Weo	7:00pm		Ash Wednesday Worship join us as we begin the journey through Lent
03/07/25	Fri	7:00pm	٠	GCAC Concert: Mancini Centennialbig band playing song from Juke Box Age!
03/23/25	Sun	2:00pm		Nicole Pesce, Jazz Pianistlocal talent playing blues, classical, jazz and more!
04/13/25	Sun	8 & 9:30	am	Palm Sunday Worshipjoin us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun	11:00am		Palm Sunday Praise Worship join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/13/25	Sun	4:00pm		Palm Sunday Gospel Worship join us as we begin the journey through Lent
04/17/25	Thu	7:00pm		Maundy Thursday Worship special service with communion and ashes
04/18/25	Fri	7:00pm		Good Friday Worship
04/20/25	Sun	6:00am		Easter Sunrise Worship in north Parking Lot facing the Superstitions
04/20/25	Sun	8:00 & 9	:30	Easter Celebration Worship Christ is Risen with Brass, Bells and Choir
04/20/25	Sun	11am		Easter Praise Worship Uncommon Grace leads our Praise of the Risen Lord
04/20/25	Sun	4pm		Easter Sunset Worship our Gospel celebration of Christ Alive

\* Indicates a ticketed event for a fee presented by the Gold Canyon Arts Council's Canyon Sounds Series. Inquires and/or ticket information can be received via phone (480)493-6731 or online at <u>www.GoldCanyonArts.org</u>. 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.





## LOCAL MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

#### SCRIP BUS & VAN FUND



Your continued participation in the SCRIP programs at Bashas and Frys grocery stores who support GCUMC's bus and van programs is

so appreciated! 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

Soffice, GCUMC receives a 6% charity gift from Bashas'.

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

#### Food Bank



One of Christ's most profound teachings is the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This guiding principle does not define who "others" are or dictate specific actions, leaving room for countless acts of kindness and compassion.

In 2024, many of you exemplified this teaching by providing food and resources to those in need. Your generous donations of food and funds serve as the foundation of the GCUMC Food Bank ministry. On behalf of all the volunteers and our manager, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support, which makes this mission possible.

Just before Thanksgiving, we were reminded of the profound impact of this ministry when a well-dressed, smiling man visited the food bank. He came to share a personal update: his circumstances had changed for the better. Two years earlier, this man lost his home and girlfriend in the devastating California wildfires. Seeking a fresh start, he relocated to Arizona, but the journey was long and challenging. A caring friend offered him temporary housing, regular support, and assistance in

finding a job. During this difficult transition, he relied on the food bank for sustenance. Now, he has his own home and is gainfully employed. With tears in his eyes, he said, "I could never have done it without the help of your food bank!" His heartfelt words were a special Thanksgiving message for us all.

As 2024 draws to a close, the GCUMC Food Bank is on track to document approximately 4,000 household visits involving between 10,500 and 11,000 individuals. The expectation is that between 4,500 and 5,000 emergency food bags, 4,000 donated food bags, 4,000 bags of meat along with various other essential items will have been distributed. It is important to note that these figures do not include the special holiday meals we provide, or support provided to individuals without a permanent address who seek our help.

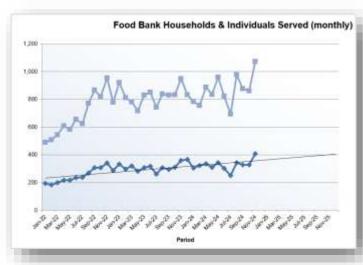


Operating only three mornings a week for three hours each of those days presents challenges, especially for working families. Our location, often considered remote, requires access to transportation. Yet, the growing demand underscores the harsh reality of food insecurity. Despite the obstacles in reaching us we serve an increasing number of people in need each year. Sadly, we expect this trend to persist in 2025, particularly if proposed reductions in food programs go into effect.

We are optimistic that the upcoming church concerts and events will help replenish our inventory and support our mission. We warmly encourage everyone to bring food or monetary donations when attending these events or church services. Donations can also be dropped off at the food bank's back door on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays between 9 AM and 12 noon. Every contribution, regardless of size, makes a significant impact on someone's life and is deeply appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support, and may blessings abound for all in 2025!





#### STITCHES UNLIMITED QUILTERS



In Stitches Unlimited, we are piecing together a New Year's Resolution! Many people make resolutions at the beginning of each year. Here are a few punny

ones from our GCUMC quilting group:

- Go on a quilting diet I've got to use up all my fat quarters and layer cakes!
- Stop procrastinating on finishing my unfinished projects. Eventually.
- To get over my fear of FMQ (free motion quilting), but it may take a little push.
- Declutter my house, so I have room for my fabric hoarding hobby.
- To learn how to properly use my seam ripper. It will

be very handy.

- Replace old needles every 3-4 bobbins, otherwise it's pointless.
- FInd good homes for all our orphan blocks, because it's a-parent-ly needed!

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!

#### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UWF)

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Please join us at our East District Leadership Training Workshop on January 25, 2025, at First UMC Mesa.

There will be training for each leadership position as well as a breakout session for members that want to participate. The program this year is centered on the theme of "Walk.....Joy, Friends." This is a great opportunity to meet members of UWF from many local churches. For new and old officers is an opportunity learn more about their respective positions by interacting with their colleagues from neighboring churches. The cost is \$20.00 and includes breakfast and lunch. We will be carpooling from the Mission Center at 8:30am. For further information contact Rebecca Russel (360)352-4956 / beckyarussel@gmail.com.

**Bible Study:** Our UWF Bible study "Let Justice Roll Down" God's call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation. It is a 9-week study it will begin January 3, at 10:00am in the Missions Center. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rita Vadasz-Miller, 810-629-1240 / ritakv2@aol.com.

**Update on Christmas Tea:** Our Christmas Tea Fundraiser on December 7 was a resounding success! We had 94 women in attendance for this fun, relaxing and entertaining afternoon event.



The fashion show was a highlight, with children, youth and adults modeling their finds from thrift/second hand

#### GOLD CANYON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

stores. Valerie Hammons allowed the youth to choose spirituality. This study is intended to help readers gain her outfit, resulting in a stunning Christmas ornament- an understanding of the adversities that American inspired dress with stylish jacket and retro boots. Our Muslim principles have experienced post 9/11 and how "Tea Stewards" (waiters) were also a hit – they worked to address these adversities, especially through hard delivering food, hot water, condiments and more decisions about educational policy and district to the tables. Our gratitude goes out to these men! The leadership. I found it interesting and a little scary to tables were beautiful with centerpieces donated by hear the prejudice they endure. Join us Wednesday, Razzle Dazzle Flowers & Gifts. And each table was January 8, at 10am. For more info, contact Jane decorated by its hostess, resulting in a variety of Hansgaard. beautiful styles. Thank you to everyone who made the Tea such a special occasion!



Our Fundraiser proceeds will be divided between United Women in Faith Ministries and House of Refuge, a transitional housing and support facility in Mesa, AZ. Will our Christmas Tea Fundraiser be an annual event? Stay tuned!

Reading Program: Leading While Muslim by Debby Almontaser: There is a lot of research on how 9/11 has had an impact on public school communities, including students, teachers, and parents of Muslim identity. There is a lack of study of Muslim principals who serve in public schools. This book examines the lived experiences of American Muslim principals who served in public schools' post 9/11 to determine whether global events, political discourse, and the media coverage of Islam and Muslims have affected their leadership and

Esther Circle: The Esther Circle will join the United Women in Faith's 10-week Bible Study entitled "Let Justice Roll Down," which begins January 3, 2025, from 10am-12 noon. This Bible study is God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation. We will resume our regular study in March. For more info, contact Dian Capen, chair of the Esther Circle.

(Right) Stephanie Burdick playing Christmas music during the tea. She has been playing piano since she was 5 years old and has a BA in music from ASU. Stephanie is Carol Johnson's daughter.

For general info about United Women in Faith, contact Susan, susanblyons@gmail.com.



Christmas Tea 2024 in Photos







Gold Canyon United Methodist Church

#### ANGEL TREE MISSION



Again, this GCUMC year responded quickly and generously to the requests of the Angel Tree! We delivered over 100 gifts, 56 hoodies, 34 packages of underwear, gift cards totaling over \$1,470, and fifty small appliances totaling \$1,000. In addition, Chris Houser and Gerri Manbeck delivered 80 books to

Hope Women's Center. We received cash contributions of over \$7500. We used that money to purchase more of the items, as needed, and we will make a significant donation to each agency to help them with their year long ongoing needs for those they serve. Both of the agencies we supported this year, we were very appreciative.

- Hope Women's Center (HWC) is a faith based, trauma informed, not-profit that provides vulnerable women and teen girls with education, mentoring, and support. They have multiple locations throughout AZ, but our contact has been with the Apache Junction location.
- **Project HELP** is a community-based program committed to providing short-term assistance for families and students enrolled in the Apache Junction Unified School System.

It takes a team to make this work!. Thank you to all of the pastors, administrative team, Rick, table greeters, prayers, support, and the Angel Tree Team!

- Mavis Luther, Colette Boos, Lauren Collins-Mitchell





## JANUARY CALENDAR

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

Wed Jan 1	All day	New Year's Day	MAIN	САМ	PUS		YR = Youth Rm			
	All day	OFFICE CLOSED		ER = Emmaus Rm K = Kitchen		U	MISSIONS CENTER			
	10am	MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC-				n	MC-B = Barnabas			
		M)				m	MC-E = Esther			
	10am	UWF Reading Program (MC-B/Patio)			isic Rm	11	MC-M= Martha			
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn)			ah's Ark	Rm	MC-S = Stephen			
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)		= Pat			(Calendar is subject to change;			
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)			nctuary		For more info, visit www.GoldCanyonUMC.org			
Thu Jan 2	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)		Sour – Sed of Galilee All						
	7pm	AA (MC-E)		- ••€	SICY INIT					
Fri Jan 3	10am	UWF Smart Circle (MC-S)			3pm	MTG: GCAC (	MC-S)			
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)			5:30pm	AA (MC-E)	·			
	5:30pm	AA (MC-E)	Sat Jan	11	8am	MTG: PEO (N	ЛС-В)			
Sun Jan 5	9am	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)			11am	•	Don Roller (TBD)			
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School (EB)			12pm		RECEPTION: Roller (KR/K/ER)			
	9:30am	Traditional Worship (S)	Sun Jan	12	9am		Rehearsal (KR)			
	11am	Children's Sunday School (EB)			9:30am	:30am Children's Sunday School (EB)				
	11am	Praise Worship (KR)			9:30am	Traditional V	, , ,			
	11am	Youth Sunday School (YR)				Sunday Sour				
	12pm	UMYF (YR)			11am	•	inday School (EB)			
	12:10pm	Youth Band Rehearsal (KR)			11am	Praise Worsł	nip (KR)			
	3pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)		11am		Youth Sunda	Youth Sunday School (YR)			
	4pm	Gospel Worship (KR)			12pm	UMYF (YR)				
Mon Jan 6	-	-			12:10pm	. ,	Rehearsal (KR)			
Tue Jan 7	10am	GriefShare (ER; Tentative)			3pm		Rehearsal (KR)			
	1pm	GriefShare (ER)			4pm	Gospel Wors				
	3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)	Mon Ja	n 13	-	-				
Wed Jan 8	10:30am	Cancer Support Group (ER/K)	Tue Jan	14	9am	Gold Canyon	Garden Club (MC-E)			
	1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn)		·	9am	Stitches Unli	mited Quilters (MC-B&Patio)			
	2:45pm	MTG: GCAC (MC-S)			10am	GriefShare (I	ER; Tentative)			
	3:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (ER)			1pm	GriefShare (I	ER)			
	4pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)			3pm	Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)				
	5pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR)	Wed Ja	n 15	10am	•	tition Astronomical League (MC-			
Thu Jan 9	6pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S)		-		M)				
	7pm	AA (MC-E)			10:30am	Cancer Supp	ort Group (ER/K)			
Fri Jan 10	8am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot)			1pm	DISCIPLE 1 (1	MC-B; Gunn)			
	10am	UWF Smart Circle (MC-S)			3:30pm	DISCIPLE 2 (I	ER)			
	11am	CareGivers Support Group (ER)			4pm	Praise Band	Rehearsal (KR)			

#### Gold Canyon United Methodist Church

Sun Jan 19	12pm 9am 9:30am 9:30am	MEMORIAL RECEPTION: Mary Kay France (KR/ ER/K) Praise Band Rehearsal (KR) Children's Sunday School (EB) Traditional Worship (S)	Mon Jan 27 Tue Jan 28	9am 10am 1pm 3pm	Stitches Unlimited (MC-B) GriefShare (ER; Tentative) GriefShare (ER) Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)
	11am 11am 11am 12pm 12:10pm 3pm	Children's Sunday School (EB) Praise Worship (KR) Youth Sunday School (YR) UMYF (YR)	Wed Jan 29	10am	MTG: Superstition Astronomical League (MC- M) Cancer Support Group (ER/K) DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn) DISCIPLE 2 (ER) Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)
Mon Jan 20	4pm All day All day -	Gospel Worship (KR) Inauguration Day (regional holiday) Martin Luther King Jr. Day -	Thu Jan 30	5pm 1pm 6pm 7pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR) CLASS: Ruth Bible Study (ER; CLOSED) Choir Rehearsal (MR/S) AA (MC-E)
Tue Jan 21	10am 10am 1pm 3pm	GriefShare (ER; Tentative) MTG: UWFaith Leadership Team (MC-TBD) GriefShare (ER) Canyon Carillon Rehearsal (S)	Fri Jan 31	10am 11am 5:30pm	UWF Smart Circle (MC-S) CareGivers Support Group (ER)
Wed Jan 22	10:30am 1pm 3:30pm 4pm	Cancer Support Group (ER/K) DISCIPLE 1 (MC-B; Gunn) DISCIPLE 2 (ER) Praise Band Rehearsal (KR)			
Thu Jan 23	5pm 9am 1pm	Gospel Band Rehearsal (KR) Girls Matter Period (MC-B) CLASS: Ruth Bible Study (ER; CLOSED)	Road		ER & BULLETIN DEADLINES
	6pm 7pm	Choir Rehearsal (MR/S) AA (MC-E)		ebrua	ry 2025 Roadrunner
Fri Jan 24	8am 10am	GC Produce Co-op (S Parking Lot) UWF Smart Circle (MC-S)			rchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org
	11am 5:30pm	CareGivers Support Group (ER) AA (MC-E)			n on Monday, 1/13/25 Bulletin & Flower Orders

5:30pm AA (MC-E)

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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!

Kitchens, Lee 01/01 Knight, Clara 01/01 Karr, Janet 01/02 Lenz, Kathy 01/02 Parson, 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, Katie 01/09 Oehlers, Ed 01/10 Bowman, Judith 01/12 Johnson, Leila 01/12 Palmer, Charlie 01/12 Beebe, Bill 01/13 Miller, John 01/13 Berry, Myra 01/14 Bressler, Kent 01/14 Schoeff, Gary 01/14

Listman, Claudia 01/15 Tirrito, Janine 01/15 Burhans, Lyle 01/16 Hollingsworth, Glen 01/16 Hanson, Renee 01/17 Nefzer, Rick 01/18 Schwartz, Ann 01/18 Collins-Mitchell, Lauren 01/19 Larson, Sharon 01/19 Wion, Carol 01/19 Chamley, Jim 01/20 Brendel, Cathy 01/21 Hammond, Lynda 01/21 Miller, Sally 01/23 McLeod, Suzanne 01/24 Carpenter, Tim 01/25 Allensworth, Jaci 01/26 Caywood, Larry 01/26 Kitchens, Chery 01/26 Nelson, Bill 01/26 Enevold, Jeff 01/27 Niemann, Marlene 01/27 Seebaum, Bernie 01/27 Scharringhausen, Fred 01/28 Clem, Gary 01/29

Feather, Shirley 01/30 Walker, Barb 01/30 Wehle, Carol 01/30 Barks, Kaity 01/31 Kies, Sherry 01/31

## Happy Anniversary!

Campbell, Frank & Sandy 01/01 Voorhees, Deb & Steve 01/08 Miller, Chris & 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 Rolf, Jayne & Vern 01/25 Paone, Albert & Ellen 01/29



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: <u>ChurchOffice@GoldCanyonUMC.org</u>"

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!





## **CONTRIBUTIONS & ATTENDANCE**

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

er	2021			2022			2023			2024		
November	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
Nc	112621	31620	5982	92193	14583	6281	124568	15002	6205	56091	30800	4360

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; \$1,723,860.20 raised)
- Organ Fund (\$241,981.23 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200K needed; \$0 raised)
- Playground Shade Structure (\$55,243 needed; \$0 raised)
- Pave Mission Center Parking Lot (\$200,000 needed)
- Building Fund Loan (Paid off 2022)
- Stain Glass for upper Sanctuary windows (Completed 2022)



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

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

GIFTING YOUR HOME... ... is a practical way to reduce the size of one's estate ... reduces taxes ... simplifies life for heirs and executor (personal rep) ... eliminates the hassle of having home on the market ... helps reduce the church's debt ... can be done through a lifetime estate, allowing a person to continue living in the home.

#### CONTACT US

Senior Pastor		
Senior Pastor Designate		DaviJon66@gmail.com
Associate Pastor	Pastor Katharine Keller	Ladiebug1214@gmail.com
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Facility Care Taker	Rick Ceynar	
Director, Audio/Visual	Kevin Nunn	
Prayer Chain		GCUMCPrayers@gmail.com
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#### 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**