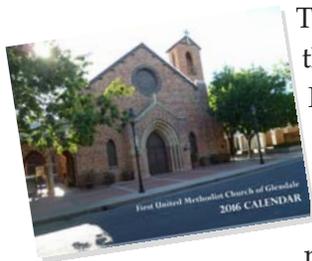


Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale • December 2015



The big news is the 2016 FUMC Calendars are coming! You will be able to purchase your

calendars beginning **Sunday, December 6**. We are printing only a limited number of calendars, so you can reserve your calendars the last two Sundays in November. We sold over \$2,000 worth of advertising and announcements. All of the proceeds will go toward the capital needs of the church.

This is a professionally made calendar full of beautiful pictures of the church and our group activities. There is space to write down your personal appointments as well as our various church events and meetings. To cover the printing costs, we are selling the calendars for only \$10 each. You will want to buy a couple for your own use, and perhaps a few more

for family and friends as gifts. All sales above the printing costs will also go toward the capital needs. So we all win! You get a beautiful and versatile calendar, and the church's capital campaign gets a major boost.

We want this to be a success for our various advertisers as well. Therefore, we encourage you to patronize our advertisers and be sure to tell them you saw their ad in the FUMC calendar.

Finally, we are already planning the 2017 FUMC calendar. Once you see the high quality of our 2016 calendar, we're sure you will want to be part of the 2017 calendar. You will have ample opportunity to put in a birthday, anniversary, or even a small ad. Watch for future announcements.

Other news: You still have time to get a HoneyBaked® Ham gift card. The FUMC capital campaign receives 20% of all sales.

Cards come in various amounts starting at \$25 and are available during the coffee hour between services. If you're considering a Christmas ham, this is an easy way to get one. The gift cards also make great gifts for friends and family across the country since HoneyBaked Ham is nationwide. Our closest HoneyBaked Ham store is located at 51st Avenue and Olive (NE corner).

Don't forget, we are still laying down a Mile of Quarters (from Glendale Ave to Northern Ave). One foot is about 12½ quarters laid edge to edge. We have passed Hayward Avenue, which is ¾ of the way there. The end is in sight! Please help us to finish off the mile by the end of the year. Once we reach Northern Avenue we will have raised \$16,526... and two-bits!

First United Methodist Church

7102 N. 58th Drive • Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623.939.1409 • Fax: 623.236.9284

Email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com • Web: www.glendalefirstumc.com

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm; closed Friday at 1:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am (Lay-led Communion) • 9:00 am Worship • 11:11 am Worship

10:10 am Sunday School Classes for all ages

Rev. Kim Gladding, Senior Pastor



Salvation is Near!

By Pastor Kim

The season of Advent always begins with an eschatological warning. Escha-ta-logical what, you ask? *Eschatology* is a theology concerning the end of the world and the last days of human life as we know it. This Biblical text is often difficult to understand and usually includes the prediction of various natural disasters and unreal events.

There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars...causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world (Luke 21:25a, 26b). Jesus cautions his followers to be watchful, ready and to pray for strength to endure these things. *Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap...Stay alert at all times*, he warns (Luke 21:34b-35a).

Many have profited greatly on books and literature claiming to have solved the mystery of the end times. Some have even gathered atop a mountain on a particular date expecting to be taken up to heaven. The intent of eschatological literature, however, is not to give the date or time the world will end, but rather to encourage us to be alert, watchful and ready at all

times, because the day will come at an unexpected time. Besides, if we knew the date ahead of time, most of us would probably be less ready than had we not known. Plus there would be mass chaos, hoarding of resources, killing and all manner of havoc, also leaving us less ready. So, why all this scary cosmic end of the world stuff at the beginning of Advent? Perhaps most important, to remind us that salvation is always near, especially in the most upsetting and disturbing of times.

I love Christmas! The lights, singing, gift-giving, being with family and all the special kind-

nesses shown, make Christmas one of the most wonderful times of the year. But Christmas is first and foremost about God coming into a world of great need and immense suffering. Remembering this will keep us watching for every opportunity to share the love that saved us. If we stay alert and pray often, God will show us where the gift of hope is most needed in our little corner of the world, and once again God's salvation will come near.

Striving, with you, to be ready,

Pastor Ki

November 29: 1st Sunday of Advent

Message: *Confusion, Fainting, Anxiety? Your Redemption is Near!*
Read: Luke 21:25-26, 28, 34-36

December 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Message: *Need to Repent? Salvation is Near!*
Read: Luke 3:2-6

December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Message: *Worried About Judgment? Start Sharing!*
Read: Luke 3:7-11, 15-16

December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent

Message: *Can't See the Light? Trust in God!*
Read: Luke 1:39-45

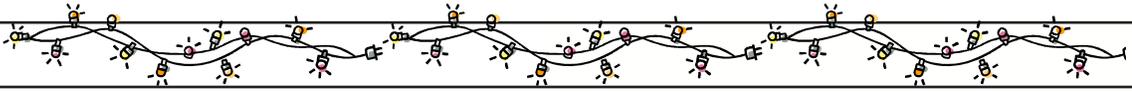
December 24: Christmas Eve

5:00 pm—Family Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm—Contemporary Candlelight Service, with communion
11:00 pm—Traditional Candlelight Service, with communion
Message: *Overwhelmed and Afraid? Look for Good News!*
Read: Luke 2: 1-20

December 27: 1st Sunday after Christmas

Message: *Worried About the Children? Dedicate Them to God!*
Read: Luke 2:41-52





From the Worship Team...

- **Did you know that:** The origin of the word liturgy comes from the Latin to mean “public service and public worship.” Liturgy has been used to describe the conduct of the service in the Christian Church since the 1590’s!
- **Did you know that:** The Worship Committee’s responsibilities include the planning and organization of worship services and getting liturgists (readers) for every Sunday morning service.
- **Did you know that:** The First United Methodist Church has a group of members that answer to the challenge of reading the liturgy for us on Sunday mornings. This group is willing to sign-up, fill-in, step-up, and accommodates the reading schedule for every service. Many responses from the group are “just put me into the schedule wherever you need me.” We value each and every one of these brave members for sharing their talents and time to provide an important part of the service.
- **Did you know that:** You can be part of this wonderful group of readers. Don’t wait to be asked! And don’t be nervous - a copy of the scripture reading and call to worship are emailed to the liturgists to review before Sunday worship service. Contact any member of the Worship Team to join this wonderful group!

—Linda Hardesty, Worship Team Chairperson

Another opportunity to serve: November 29, 2015 is the first Sunday in Advent. The worship committee is asking for any individuals or families that would be willing to light the Advent wreath and read a short liturgy to please contact Rev. Kim. This is a moving and joyous activity in which to participate during Advent and Christmas. There are five opportunities to be involved with lighting the candles, so please consider this invitation.



Thanksgiving Dinner Was a Great Success!

Thank-you to all who helped make this year’s Thanksgiving dinner a wonderful experience for all who attended. The United Methodist Men did a great job cooking turkeys and preparing stuffing and mashed potatoes and organizing the entire meal. Special thanks to all who came to help in the kitchen and setting up the Fellowship Hall dining area. Potlucks are always fun because you get to taste everyone’s favorite dishes—salads, cranberry relishes, vegetable casseroles and special desserts! We enjoyed the fellowship time together and hope you all plan to help again next year.

Church News & Notes

For more information, contact the church office 623-939-1409 or rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

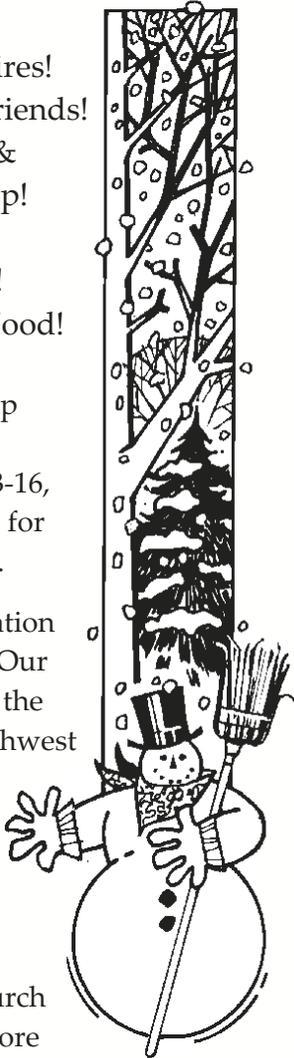
Jr/Sr High Winter Camp at Mingus Mountain

- Snow!
- Campfires!
- New Friends!
- Music & Worship!
- Cozy Cabins!
- Great Food!

Winter camp takes place February 13-16, 2016, and is for grades 7-12.

The registration fee is \$150. Our church and the Desert Southwest Conference can provide financial assistance.

Call the church office for more information and scholarships, or visit www.mingusmountaincamp.org.



Staff Christmas Gifts

We like to give a Christmas gift to each of our staff members as a token of our appreciation for the work they do for us all year long. Additionally, we provide a Christmas lunch for the AZTEC cleaning crew, as well as our staff and volunteers who can join us for lunch. We need your support to do this, and are asking for donations to make it possible.

Use your giving envelopes and designate "Staff Gifts" in the space that says "Other." Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 20th. Thank you very much!

Small Group Advent Study: Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam

When did Christmas get so chaotic? How about on the very night Jesus was born? We tend to picture softly lowing cows and a warm, cozy stable when we sing Christmas carols, but it couldn't have been very lyrical. Soldiers marched in the street. People were pushing and shoving. You couldn't find an empty room and food may have been scarce as well. In short, Bethlehem was the picture of bedlam. But in the midst of confusion and turmoil, God broke through and Jesus was born.

This five-chapter, DVD-based Advent study explores how God can still be heard over our human noise. Each chapter includes questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, a focus for the week, and six daily Bible readings for personal devotional time.

Pastor Kim will host this small group Tuesday Evenings, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. Meet in the Fellowship Hall – Center Section.



Report from United Methodist Women

Enjoy serving the Lord, and he will give you what you want. Psalm 37:4

The **Margie Connell Memorial Christmas Tea** will be held on Saturday, December 5 at 2:00 pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Our new officers for 2016 will be: President – Vickie Moody, Vice President – Irma Wilson, Secretary – Eva Ndavu, Treasurer – Karleen Miller, Spiritual Growth – Nancy Fitzpatrick & Vesta Roper, Education/Interpretation – Jeanne Rumbold, Social Action – Erma Garling, Membership Nurture Outreach – Jane McCutcheon, Program Resources – Becky Miller & Sally Dixon, Sunshine Chair – Cora Slaughter, Committee on Nominations – Lois Miller, Rosella Seesholtz, Jane McCutcheon. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve. Officer Installation will be held on January 7, 2016; supper will be served at 6:00 pm.

District Leadership Training will be held at our church on Saturday 1/23/16, more information will be coming.

As I finish my final year as UMW President, I want to thank you all for your support and friendship. This has been a rewarding, learning experience for me and I'm truly appreciative of all our ladies who serve so joyously.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and may 2016 bring you much joy & happiness.

—*Connie Weaver*, President

From the Church Treasurer...

Don't forget that all giving for the 2015 tax year must be received by Sunday, December 27. The counters will make the final deposit on Monday, December 28. If you use online banking, please make sure your checks arrive in our office the week before December 28 so they will be included on your 2015 giving statement.

Boxes and packets of giving envelopes for 2016 will be available at church on December 27 and the first two Sundays in January.

As always, you can stop by the office for more envelopes and we keep a supply in the church narthex, too. Thank you!

African Team Ministries Sale—December 6 & 13

The Missions Team will have artifacts and jewelry for sale on Sunday Dec. 6 and 13. These are to support African Team Ministries and are made by women in Africa. They will be displayed during Coffee Fellowship.

ATM is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. This support goes to funding orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. Funds are sent directly to their partnering Bishops to provide school fees, tuition, books and uniforms. This ensures children receive an education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their lives.

Please stop by our table and help support this important ministry.



Merry Christmas

Glendale Glitters Non-Event Nights—Lights and Family Fun Still On!

Our sanctuary will be ringing with Christmas music on Glendale Glitters' weekend nights, but you can still enjoy the lights during the week! Glendale Glitters' lights are on every evening, even though programmed events are only happening on Friday and Saturday evenings through Dec. 19. The non-event nights, Sundays through Thursdays 6-10 p.m., are a perfect time to enjoy a more serene experience and take in the 1.5 million lights, covering 16 blocks of Glendale's Historic Downtown!

Horse-drawn carriage rides are the perfect opportunity to spend time with loved ones, with a much-loved holiday tradition. The ride is a unique way to enjoy the light display. Carriage rides are available Sunday through Thursday evening, between Nov. 29 and Jan. 8, 6 to 9 p.m. (depending on weather and demand). The carriage ride line forms at 58th Avenue and Glenn Dr. Rides cost \$25 per carriage (up to 6 people) and take you through six blocks of historic downtown.

When gathering with the family, a meal is usually involved. Enjoy dinner and/or coffee and dessert at one of many restaurants and shops in the downtown area. Many critically-acclaimed restaurants include ethnic offerings like Italian, Polish, German and Vietnamese, and mom-and-pop establishments offer everything from authentic Mexican recipes to an old-fashioned ice cream parlor.

Still looking for those hard-to-shop-for people on your list? Downtown Glendale is home to some of the coolest boutiques and collectible stores, including one-of-a-kind items ranging from comic books to handmade jewelry and much more.

Take your family holiday photo! What could be a better spot than Glendale Glitters? With a 30-foot Christmas tree, plus blocks and blocks of lights all around, there's sure to be a perfect photo opportunity – no sitting fee or appointment required!

To find more information on the events and horse-drawn carriage rides, visit www.glendaleaz.com/events or call 623-930-2299. For more information on downtown shops and restaurants, as well as driving directions, visit www.visitglendale.com or call 623-930-4500.

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

—Luke 1:46-55, NIV



Advent and Holiday Events

November 30 – 1st Sunday in Advent
9:00 & 11:11 am Worship Services
"Confusion, Fainting and Anxiety? Your Redemption is Near!"

December 5 – UMW Christmas Tea
Join the United Methodist Women for their annual holiday tea at 2:00 pm

December 6– 2nd Sunday in Advent
9:00 & 11:11 am Worship Services
"Need to Repent? Salvation is Near!"

December 13 – 3rd Sunday in Advent
9:00 & 11:11 am Worship Services
"Worried About Judgment? Start Sharing!"

December 20 – 4th Sunday in Advent
9:00 & 11:11 am Worship Services
"The Christmas Story in Song"
First Glendale Chancel Choir
Echoes of Praise Worship Singers
"Can't See the Light? Trust in God!"

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5:00 pm Family Christmas Service
Our children will put on a Christmas program at this family worship service

7:00 pm Candlelight Worship
Contemporary music, piano & instruments
Overwhelmed and Afraid? Look For Good News!

11:00 pm Candlelight Worship
Traditional music with our Chancel Choir
Overwhelmed and Afraid? Look For Good News!

Communion at the 7:00 & 11:00 pm services
Childcare will be available at 7:00 pm service.

"Glendale Glitters"

Our Sanctuary will be open during the "Glendale Glitters" festival Friday and Saturday nights from 7:00-9:00 pm through December 19.

Stop by to enjoy wonderful Christmas music in our historic church. Performances and dates are listed below:

Friday, November 27
Holiday Selections

Saturday, November 28
Caroling Sing-a-long

Friday, December 4
Guillermo Saenz
"Una Voz Y Una Guitarra"

Saturday, December 5
The Choirs of Phoenix College
Kenny Miller, Director

Friday, December 11
Desert Overture Wind Symphony
Artistic Director: Scott Helms

Saturday, December 12
Holiday Selections

Friday, December 18
Children's Program

Saturday, December 19
"The Christmas Story in Song"
First Glendale Chancel Choir
Echoes of Praise Worship Singers

HoneyBaked® Gift Cards

Honey Baked Gift Cards are still available! They have no expiration and they come with coupons. They can be used to purchase anything in the HoneyBaked Store (there is one at 51st and Olive), or they can be used online.



They have a large selection of food items such as cakes, sandwiches, ribs, whole turkeys, turkey breast, ham, etc. Gift cards are sold in denominations of \$25 or above, and the church will receive 20% of all sales.

See Ted Turner, David or Shelley Mosley to purchase. If paying by check, make it out to First United Methodist Church or FUMC.

Gift cards can also be purchased online at honeybakedfundraiser.sbgiftcards.com/church-restoration-project/ but please allow 3 weeks for delivery of the gift cards ordered online.

Deadline for the January Newsletter is December 14. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm.
email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com
fax: 623-236-9284

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Glendale, AZ
Permit No. 22

First United Methodist Church
7102 North 58th Drive
Glendale, AZ 85301-2434
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED