

# Circuit Rider



A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale • February 2016

## Perceptions...

There are times our perceptions fool us, leading to a false notion about a person or situation. Years ago, in another profession (and another life!), I misjudged a friend and co-worker, thinking he lacked motivation and skill. This conclusion was based on his paycheck falling several hundred dollars below most of the others in the tech department. Our pay was based on the number of electronic repairs completed each day. Wanting to be a good friend and help him improve, I asked my friend why his paycheck was so low. I was shocked to learn that the other technicians on the team (including me!) were avoiding the oldest, most difficult repairs, leaving them all for him! He was actually more skilled

than all of us, but because he was doing all the most complicated repairs, he was making much less money!

He was also more concerned for his co-workers and had a strong heart for justice. In the end it was he who helped me. His humble sacrifice exposed my greed, and lack of concern for others. It was he who motivated me to improve my diagnostic skills as an electronics technician.

Christ invites us to look below surface beauty and trust in God more than first impressions and perceptions

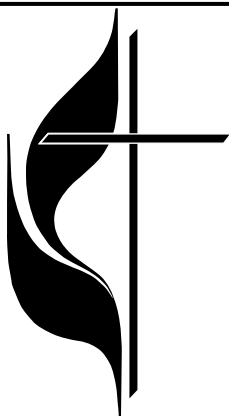
—Pastor Kim

## Lenten Contemplative Prayer Sessions

During Lent, Pastor Kim will be hosting a weekly Contemplative Prayer Session during Sunday School hour, leading into some discussion about first impressions and perceptions. The discussion will address the weekly themes throughout Lent. (*This group will NOT meet Easter Sunday, March 27*)

### Themes include:

- *Comfort Here Leads to Discomfort Out There!*
- *The Weapons of Righteousness are Suffering and Death!*
- *The Greater One's Temptation, the Stronger One's Faith!*
- *Enemies of the Cross Strive for Earthly Things!*
- *The Best Comfort Food Ever! Greater Sin, Larger Forgiveness, Larger Joy!*
- *Extravagant Gifts to God May Seem Wasteful!*
- *His Worst Nightmare, Our Greatest Dream!*



## First United Methodist Church 7102 N. 58th Drive • Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623-939-1409 • Fax: 623-236-9284

Email: [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com) • Web: [www.glendalefirstumc.com](http://www.glendalefirstumc.com)

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

Changer: A Prayer Poem for Ash Wednesday

Cover me with ashes,  
the thick-smoke soot of the earth.  
Make my breathing like the journey  
from death into life  
second by second, prayer by prayer.

Cover me with a cloak -- bring me low to the earth,  
your justice whispering to me like the gleam of red rocks,  
the colors dancing in the darkness.

Let me know the power of sage and cedar in my bones,  
not that I may trap them there,  
but bring them forth in words.

Cover me with darkness --  
with the presence of my elders, their tears falling around me,  
reminding me of why we are here --  
sighing, groaning with our singing, longing to hear us into being,  
stretching us beyond breathing and praying and weeping.

Cover me with mercy--  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice,  
like the woman who channeled every ounce of courage and dignity  
to touch your cloak and find new life.

Breathe unto me life anew,  
of possibility, of beauty,  
of balance, of grace.

Cover me with mud --  
bring me to my lowest state, so that in my weaknesses  
I see your strength --  
the reflection of your eyes in the brokenness around me,  
the fullness of your love in the depths of our hearts.

Cover me with ashes --  
the ashes of my grandmother,  
who in living her days knew no strangers,  
worked tirelessly with worn hands  
and lifted grandchildren high into the air.

Cover me with mercy --  
let my cheek come to rest on the cold earth,  
its faithful presence a call to walk humbly  
beyond myself, beyond my fears  
and ever on to the red road that leads to your love.

xáyəs -- Changer

Cover me.

Cover me with ashes.

Change me.

Adrienne Trevathan is the Director of Christian Education at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Evanston, IL. As a Native American (Port Gamble S'Klallam) and United Methodist, Adrienne is currently looking for new ways to weave these traditions together as a part of her teaching and work in the church. Reprinted from <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/changer-a-prayer-poem-for-ash-wednesday>.

## ***Celebrating Black History Month... Singing Secret Messages***

There are a number of characteristics of the spiritual "*O Mary, Don't You Weep*" that some will find confusing. Why is Mary mourning? Perhaps it is a reference to Mary at the foot of the cross (John 19:25), witnessing the death of her son, Jesus. Perhaps it refers to Mary Magdalene weeping at the empty tomb (John 20:13, "Woman, why are you weeping? ... They have taken away my Lord ") or to her meeting and not recognizing the resurrected Jesus in the garden immediately following (John 20:15, "Woman, why are you weeping? ... Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have laid him...").

But what does the weeping New Testament Mary have to do with the drowning of Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea 1,400 years earlier (Exodus 14:26-31)? The answer lies in the secret or coded messages found in many of the spirituals, including this one. As the slaves lived and labored under the oppression of their owners and masters, they suffered as did Israel under the Egyptians. It was acceptable to the oppressors for the slaves to sing about Mary weeping and mourning and about the drowning of Pharaoh's army. These were, after all, biblical events. They may have even been amused by what they perceived as obvious ignorance and confusion of the slaves who somehow connected the two seemingly unrelated events of crucifixion and drowning. But the slaves understood the connection: It was the escape of the persecuted from death and bondage -- Jesus from the tomb, Israel from Egypt. It was the promise of their own future freedom and liberation from the misery of slavery. They could sing this spiritual with its secret message unrecognized by their masters.

Reprinted from <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/celebrating-black-history-month-18>

## Coffee Hour Hosts

We have made some changes to the Coffee Hour schedule for 2016. The following is the updated list for February and March 2016:

- Feb. 7:** Capital Campaign/  
Finance/Trustees
- Feb. 14:** UMW Exec Board
- Feb. 21:** UMW—Esther Circle
- Feb. 28:** United Methodist Men
- 
- Mar. 6:** Girl Scouts
- Mar. 13:** Brad Riner Asst Office
- Mar. 20:** UMW—Lydia Circle
- Mar. 27:** United Methodist Men  
(Easter Breakfast)

There are still some dates needing to be filled—if your group or committee would be willing to host one coffee hour, or one additional coffee hour, please call Rebecca in the office at 623-939-1409, or see Rosie Miller.



## Worship Schedule for February 2016

### Sunday, February 7, 2015

Transfiguration Sunday

Read: Luke 9:28-36 (also read 37-45)

*Perceptions: Comfort Here Leads to Discomfort Out There!*

### Wednesday, February 10 2015

Ash Wednesday; Imposition of Ashes

Read: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

*Perceptions: The Weapons of Righteousness are Suffering and Death!*

12:00 pm Wednesday Open Worship (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 pm Worship Service (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, February 14, 2015

The First Sunday of Lent / Boy Scout Sunday

Read: Luke 4:1-13

*Perceptions: The Greater One's Temptation, the Stronger One's Faith!*

### Sunday, February 21, 2015

The Second Sunday in Lent

Read: Philippians 3:17—4:1 (also read Luke 13:31-35)

*Perceptions: Enemies of the Cross Strive For Earthly Things!*

### Sunday, February 28, 2015

Third Sunday in Lent

Read: Isaiah 55:1-3

*Perceptions: The Best Comfort Food Ever!*



Each year, the Central West District prays for all the churches in its jurisdiction for one month. In February, please pray for:

**Ajo Federated Church**  
**Calvary UMC, Phoenix**  
**Camp Verde UMC**  
**Chino Valley UMC**

## Church News and Notes

For more information, contact the church  
office 623.939.1409 or  
[rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com)

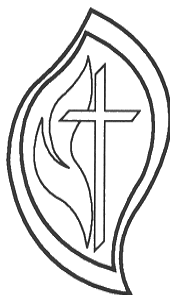
### **FREE English Language Classes at the Velma Teague Library**

Library volunteers meet every Wednesday afternoon 4:00 – 6:00 pm to help non-native English speakers learn communication skills necessary for daily living. These classes are at the Velma Teague Library, just across the street from the church.

Register online at <http://bit.ly/1lvh5kW>. For questions, phone registrations, or special accommodations, please call 623-930-3440.

Velma Teague Library  
7010 N 58th Ave.  
Glendale, AZ 85301  
[www.glendaleaz.com/library](http://www.glendaleaz.com/library)

**ESL**  
Clases Klasser Le classi  
Klassen Κατηγορίες Categorias  
**Classes**



### **Report from United Methodist Women**

*Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. —Psalm 100:2*

We will have 2016 Installation of Officers at our next unit meeting on February 4, 2016. New Officers: 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 – Sally Dixon & Becky Miller, Sunshine Chair – Cora Slaughter.

Thank you all for your commitment and willingness to serve!

**Note: The February 4th meeting will begin a bit earlier than usual, at 6:00 pm.**

### **One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday—March 6, 2016**

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special One Great Hour of Sharing offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope.

Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover the costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Because they keep operating costs under 10% of the total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to under-funded programs, where they're most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

Like most congregations, we celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing on the fourth Sunday of Lent. **Your communion offering on March 6, 2016 supports One Great Hour of Sharing.**

## **Brad Riner Assistance Office News**

The Brad Riner Assistance Office is changing its hours of operation from now until the end of May. Our new administrator, Sherry Paddie is attending seminary, and she has a class on Thursdays that conflicts with the current office hours. Beginning immediately, the assistance office will be open on Tuesdays from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm and on Fridays from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. The change will not be permanent – we will go back to Tuesdays and Thursdays in June.

Below is a list of items most needed at the Assistance Office. If you could donate any of these items, please put them in the box in the narthex on Sundays, or bring them to the office during the week.

- Toilet Paper
- Non-perishable food items
- Toothbrushes
- Spaghetios®/Ravioli
- Soups
- Cup O' Soup®

Please limit donations to non-perishable food items and gently used clothing only. Thank you!

## **NEIGHBOR Alliance**

Have you heard of NEIGHBOR? It is an outreach mission begun in 2013 by the Church and Society Committee at our church. It is a network of churches, private organizations, and government agencies coming together to serve those in need. Our programs are interesting and inspirational, and have included such speakers as a mother who founded a veteran's support group after her son committed suicide; a person who helps resettle immigrants in Arizona; and a government representative who provides grants for people who are about to lose their homes.

We want to give you a special invitation to come to our meetings. We meet here at the church at 9:00 am on the third Saturday of every month. Our next meeting is February 20th, 2016. The presenter will be Carliene Quist, Valley Interfaith Project Organizer, whose program is *"The 2015 AZ State Legislature – Advancing the Human Development Agenda."* We will also be introducing Stephanie Miller, Glendale's new homeless liaison and learning about the ASU Morrison School's study of the homeless situation in Glendale. For more information, contact Shelley Mosley at 623-939-5469 or [deborahshelley@mindspring.com](mailto:deborahshelley@mindspring.com).

## **Pretzels—The Prayer Bread**

Years ago, there were Christians who were not allowed to eat certain foods during the Lenten season. Among these forbidden foods were meat, milk and eggs. Bread recipes ordinarily used milk and eggs, of course, so the bakers had to find some other way to make this important diet staple. The result was pretzels. Flour, salt, and water combined to make the dough which was rolled out and then shaped to resemble two arms in prayer (people used to cross their arms across their chest to pray). The German name for this bread was "brezel", which became "pretzel" in English. These snacks of our day are still a reminder of Lent as a season of deep and frequent prayer. Below is a recipe for soft pretzels:

- 1 c. warm water (105°-115°)
- 2 Tbsp. softened margarine
- 1 pkg. dry yeast
- 3½-4 c. unsifted flour
- 1/4 c. sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. water
- 1/2 egg
- coarse, or kosher salt

Dissolve yeast in the warm water. Add sugar, salt, egg, margarine, and 1½ cups of flour. Beat until smooth. Add enough additional flour to make the dough stiff. Cover bowl tightly with foil and refrigerate 2 hours or overnight.

Divide the chilled dough in half and place on floured board. Cut each half into eight equal pieces. Roll each piece into a braid about 18-20 inches long and shape each braid into a pretzel. Place on lightly greased baking sheet, and brush with egg yolk/water mixture. Sprinkle with coarse salt and let rise in warm place until doubled, about 20 minutes. Bake in 400° oven about 15 minutes until done. Remove to cooling rack.

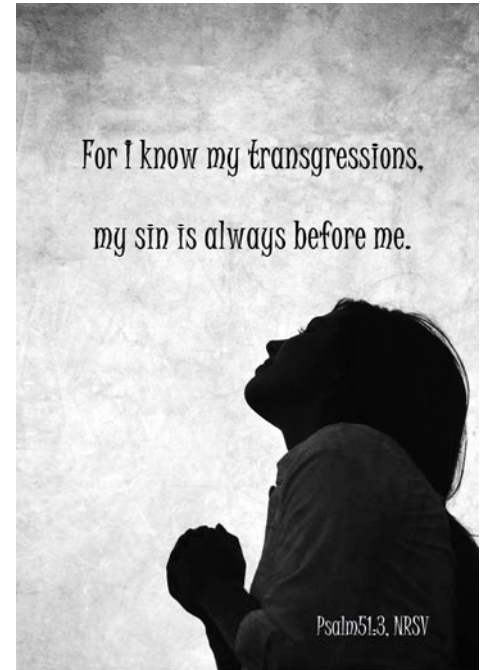
## ***Ash Wednesday Reflections—The Acknowledgement of Sin.***

**P**eople of the Bible grappled with the concept of individual sin as well as that of corporate sin. Sometimes their prayers were for individual sin(s); and at other times, they all stood and confessed that their country had sinned. When their spiritual leaders stood and confessed the sins of their nation before God, we read nothing of individuals offering vigorous protests that they were not to blame. The people of Israel understood that they, as a group, took part in both the blessings that came to the nation for wise decisions and in the consequences that came from bad decisions made by their leaders. Rise or fall, they would experience life together as a nation.

This is a difficult concept for us to wrap our Western minds around. We have been conditioned by culture to think of ourselves as sole beneficiaries of the benefits or consequences of our actions. Newscasters, however, remind us that, today, both the rich and the poor sit in anxiety together over matters too great for any one of us to remedy alone. We are seeing our country at its worst since the Great Depression. The economy is in such a state that any one of us could find ourselves homeless or jobless overnight. A more frightening thought, without intervention, any one of us could become suicidal or criminal in response. The present economic crisis reminds us that we are all in this together -- in spite of our individualism. If ever there were a time for us to consider corporate responsibility and corporate culpability, it is now.

The good news in this tome is that God has always been willing to forgive anytime a person or a nation repents. Think of the story of Jonah or of countless other Old Testament narratives where nations repented and turned their hearts to God anew. God forgave the people of Nineveh; God forgave Israel, countless times. This same God is willing to hear our prayers and to forgive us for any way that we as individuals have contributed to our country's present state. God is also willing to guide our corporate solutions as we look at the long uphill climb to restoration.

Every year, the Ash Wednesday texts call us to be alarmed about ourselves, to tremble, to tear our clothes, to pray. Each year, we walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before us in prayer and piety. And each year, many of us preachers find ourselves more exhausted than changed at the end of the 40 days! Would that this year would be different!



## ***Report from the Trustees***

On behalf of the Trustees I would like to say hello and pray that you are enjoying the love and grace of the Lord.

It has already started out a busy year. We are looking for a person to be the part-time Maintenance Person at our church. If you know of some one who would be a good candidate, please have them send their resume to the church office.

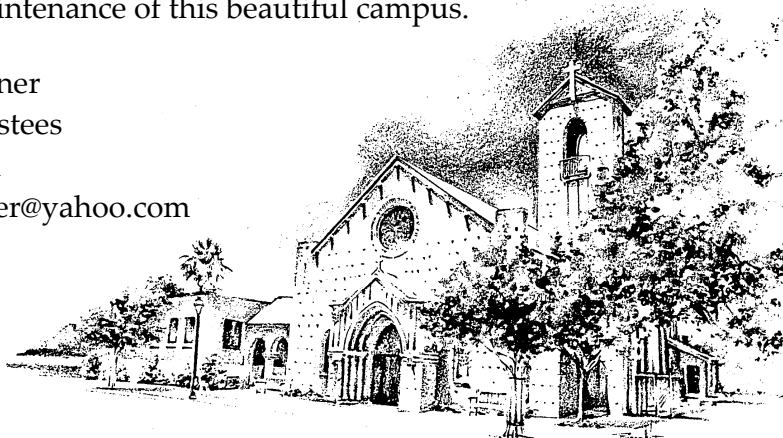
The chiller system was shut down in December so maintenance could be performed on it and the boiler started for heating. So far we have identified a blower bearing needing replacement on the east cooling tower. As other items are identified, we will take action as needed. All the work needs to be completed before hot weather arrives. This is the system that cools the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

If you are walking in the courtyard between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, please take note of the new waste container. It is installed by the east half wall. Please make use of it.

A while ago the storage shed was broken into and some yard work equipment was stolen. At that time all the yard work equipment was moved to the Equipment Room (where the chillers are). This was done for security reasons. A new hasp and lock have been installed on the storage shed door. All the yard work equipment, including gas and oil, have been taken back to the storage shed.

The trustees meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. I encourage you to attend these meetings, and assist us in the maintenance of this beautiful campus.

Frank Warriner  
Chair of Trustees  
623-877-1431  
frankwarriner@yahoo.com



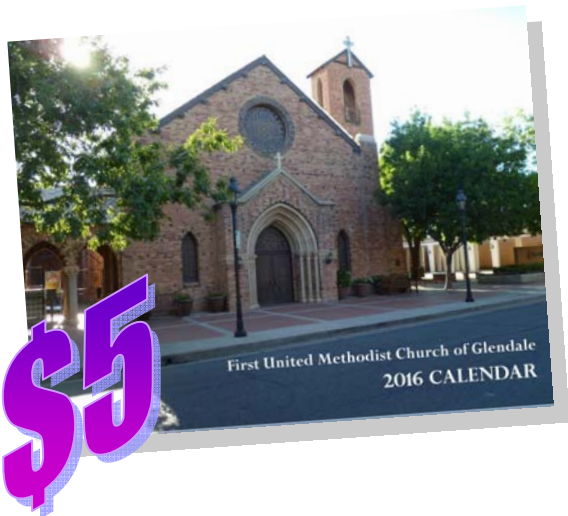
**tacklehunger.org**

On Sunday February 7, 2016, 175 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game! There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 7.

All donations will benefit the Brad Riner Assistance Office Food Pantry. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.





We still have some 2016 church calendars available at half price—\$5.00 per calendar. See Ted Turner or David Mosley to purchase calendars on Sundays, or buy them during the week from the church office 623-939-1409.

**Note: The church office will be closed February 15th for Presidents Day.**

Deadline for the March issue is February 12. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm. email: office@glendalefirstumc.com fax: 623.236.9284

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**First United Methodist Church**  
7102 North 58th Drive  
Glendale, AZ 85301-2434