

# Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale March 2016



## God's Best Practices...

The successful are rewarded with more opportunities to excel. Students studying hard, attending class and scoring high on exams earn a higher GPA and are honored with scholarships. Creative and productive entrepreneurs earn higher profits in capitalism. Timely payments of debt result in a higher credit score and less interest paid on future borrowing. This is a good thing, as long as it doesn't lead to unmanageable indebtedness. At a young age, many of us were encouraged to take household chores seriously, and at the end of the week we were rewarded with an allowance. These societal practices promote a healthy work ethic and encourage pro-

ductivity. But even the best of practices need to be tempered by a higher power, lest they become self-serving and immune to the lost and disenfranchised of our society and world.

In the parable of *The Laborers in the Vineyard*, Jesus tells of a system of unexpected rewards guided by God's extravagant generosity. All who respond to the invitation to work in the vineyard are paid the same day's wage. But those laboring the whole day protest loudly when the workers arriving late also receive a full day's wage. In Matthew 6, Jesus warns against "collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth & rust do not destroy, & where thieves do not break in and steal."

Matthew 6:20

*moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal...Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven."* (Matthew 6:19-20) The successes achieved in this life are good for us, but when we bring relief and opportunity to those who have lost hope, we've accomplished something truly great! We'll be making treasures in heaven and our reward will be hearts that grow fond of God's best practices.

Striving with you to achieve something truly great,

—Pastor Kim



## 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

### ***Youth Work Mission Trip—Stock Sale***

Our Youth would like to participate in the 2016 “It’s Their Mission” Youth Work Mission Trip but they need your help. Each year, youth and adults from several valley churches including Dove of the Desert UMC, Mission Bell UMC, Spirit of Hope UMC, Spirit Song UMC, Trinity UMC, along with Sierra Vista join together to help those in need. This July, we will be heading to Dolores, CO to work with two churches—Dolores UMC and Dove Creek UMC. Preliminary projects include minor repairs and painting for elderly families, repairs to the church, helping with Vacation Bible School, visiting senior centers, and a community barbecue.

The youth will be selling stock to help fund the trip, which costs approximately \$200/person. By purchasing stock in the youth, you can help them achieve this mission. Any amount is welcomed! The shareholders will receive a pre-trip letter, a postcard from the mission site, an invitation to our Stockholder Ice Cream Social and Slide Show, and many grateful thanks!



*Dolores UMC in Dolores, CO*

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

The Trustees are continuing to look for a person to fill the part-time maintenance position. If you know of someone who would be interested, please have them submit a resume to the office.

We continue to have work performed to the cooling towers. Hopefully we will be done in a couple of weeks and begin putting the system back in operation.

The City of Glendale is starting to do work on the sewers in our area. They will be on campus, starting the last week of March and continuing into April. They will be replacing the main sewer line between Fellowship Hall and the Education Building. If you see green polka dots on the ground, that is where they will be digging.

There is a group that wants to use our parking lot for a Farmers Market. The Trustees met with them the first week in February and will be presenting the idea to the council at the end of February. We have also been approached by another group that wants to lease space from the church for a Charter School. This will also be discussed at the February council meeting.

Your comments on any of these items are welcomed.

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

### Coffee Hour Hosts

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

- Mar. 6: Girl Scouts
- Mar. 13: Brad Riner Asst Office
- Mar. 20: UMW—Lydia Circle
- Mar. 27: United Methodist Men (Easter Breakfast)
- Apr. 3: Host Group Needed
- Apr. 10: The Miller Family
- Apr. 17: Girl Scouts
- Apr. 24: UMM

Including April 3, 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 March 2016

**March 6: Fourth Sunday in Lent/One Great Hour Of Sharing**  
*Perceptions: Greater Sin, More Forgiveness, Larger Joy!*  
 Read: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**March 13: Fifth Sunday in Lent/Girl Scout Sunday**  
*Perceptions: Extravagant Gifts to God May Seem Wasteful...*  
 Read: John 12:1-8

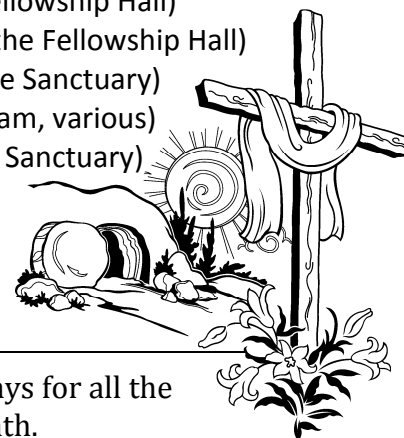
**March 20: Palm/Passion Sunday**  
*Perceptions: His Worst Nightmare or Our Greatest Dream?*  
 Read: Luke 19:28-40 (Palms); Philippians 2:5-11 (Passion)

**March 24: Holy Thursday**  
*Perceptions: The Least are the Greatest...*  
 Read: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**March 25: Good Friday**  
*Perceptions: One Must Die First Before Truly Living!*  
 Read: John 18:1-19:42 in preparation for worship

**March 27: Easter Sunday**  
*Resurrection... Whistling in the Dark or Trusting in the Light?*  
 Read: Luke 24:1-12

- Sunrise Service (6:00 am, in the Courtyard)
- Breakfast (6:45-8:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall)
- Communion Service (8:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall)
- Traditional Service (9:00 am, in the Sanctuary)
- Sunday School for all ages (10:10 am, various)
- Blended Service (11:11 am, in the Sanctuary)



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

**Christ Community UMC, Avondale  
 City Square UMF, Phoenix  
 Community Church of Buckeye**

## 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.

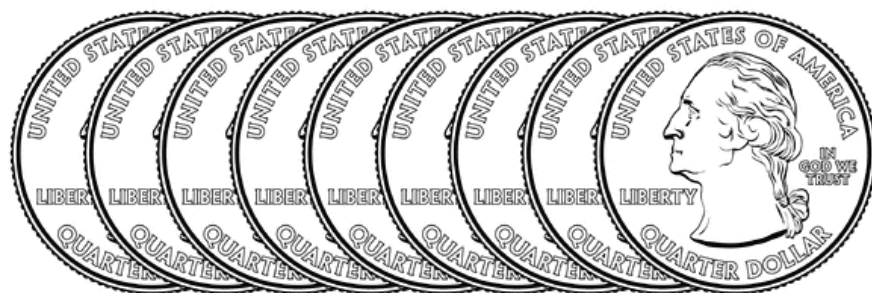
Velma Teague Library  
7010 N 58th Ave.  
Glendale, AZ 85301  
[www.glendaleaz.com/library](http://www.glendaleaz.com/library)

**ESL**  
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Klassen Κατηγορίες Categorias  
**Classes**

### Palm Fronds Needed

Do you have palm trees? Hold off trimming them just yet. We are collecting palm fronds to use in our Palm Sunday processional on March 20 during worship. If you can donate some palms from your trees, bring them to the church on Saturday morning, March 19 between 9:00 and 10:00 am. We will be in the courtyard between the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance!

—The Worship Team



### Mile of Quarters Update

Last Spring, we began our campaign to collect a **MILE OF QUARTERS** to begin raising the money needed to refurbish the exterior brick of our sanctuary. A mile covers 5,280 feet and it takes 12 1/2 quarters to cover a foot. Therefore, our Mile of Quarters campaign would need to collect the equivalent of 66,000 quarters or \$16,500. As of Valentine's Day, we have collected 77.94% of our goal, \$12,860.20. We need your help to collect the remaining \$3,640. A donation of \$3 covers just a little under one foot. A donation of \$6.25 covers 2 feet; a donation of \$31.25 covers 10 feet. We've already covered 4,115 feet; we just need to cover the remaining 1,165 feet to successfully close this campaign. Can you help cover 1 foot? 2 feet? 10 feet? 50 feet or 100 feet? I am challenging all of us to work together to reach our goal of \$16,500 by Easter. A special thanks to all who have participated in this project - we are grateful for your support!

### **Brad Riner Assistance Office News**

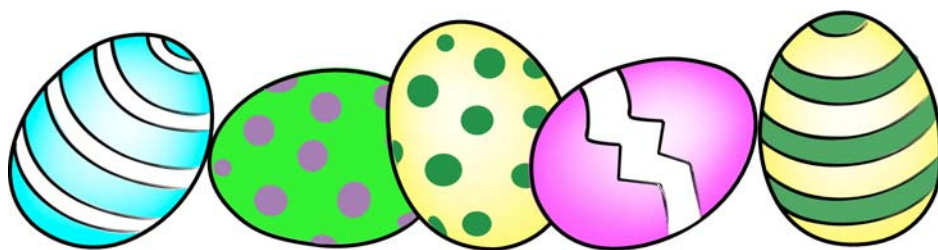
The Brad Riner Assistance Office continues with office hours on Tuesdays from 11:00 am—2:00 pm and on Fridays from 11:00 am—1:00 pm. This allows the Riner Office Administrator, Sherrie Paddie, to work as a hospital chaplain until the end of this semester. The Riner Office will go back to being open on Tuesdays and Thursdays in June.

Your cash donations to the Riner office are used to help families in crisis pay utility bills. We are one of the only places that will help with water payments, and we get referrals from other agencies and from the city water department.

Below is a list of items most needed for the food pantry. 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/Toothpaste | Razors                    |
| Spaghetios®/Ravioli     | Soups                     |
| Cup O' Soup®            |                           |

Please limit donations to these items, non-perishable food and gently used clothing. As always, your support is greatly appreciated!



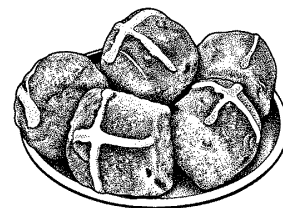
### **Contributions Needed for Easter Sunday Egg Hunt**

We are planning our Easter Egg Hunt, and your generosity is needed. Please bring bags of individually-wrapped candy (**chocolate without nuts is okay**), and leave in the narthex by Sunday, March 20.

This year the children will redeem their gathered eggs in the Fellowship Hall for a pretty bag of candy! There will be a “Hidden Treasure” in only some of the eggs to add an element of mystery. This way the amount of candy each child receives doesn’t depend on how many eggs they find. Thank you! —The Education Committee

### **Lent Hot Cross Buns**

These Lenten treats have a history many centuries old.



One story says that some 600 years ago, an English monk baked hot cross buns and gave them to the poor at Easter. Cooks from then on have continued this seasonal specialty.

The cross, made of white icing, is a reminder of the greatest gift ever given in human history; the life and death of God’s own Son.

- 1 loaf frozen bread dough
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup raisins
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 egg white, slightly beaten

Thaw bread dough. Add currants or raisins to dough. Roll into a rectangle about 9x15 inches and cut 10-15 buns with a 2½” biscuit cutter. Place buns on greased baking sheet. Let rise until doubled, about 1½ hours.

With scissors, cut a shallow cross shape in the top of each bun. Brush each top with slightly beaten egg white. Bake in 400° oven 12-15 minutes or until golden. Place buns on cooling racks.

Mix vanilla and remaining egg white with powdered sugar to icing consistency. Spoon icing into paper cone which has small tip cut off. Fill the cut crosses with icing while the buns are still slightly warm.

## ***Can You Spare Some Time?***

Look at your year. Can you spare 3 hours a year? Six hours a year? If so, how about doing something for others in your spare time. The Mission Team feeds the women at the UMOM Watkins Shelter the first Sunday of each month. It takes approximately three hours to serve from 100 to 125 women. Three hours a year is not much. Can you spare the time? If you can, see Jeanne Rumbold or Gail Dameron and help us serve others. We are always in need of donations of ham, turkey or ground beef. We also could use help with driving the van or cooking.

Spring is here and Easter is around the corner. Women think of spring cleaning, maybe even a new purse for spring. A suggestion for last year's purse—the Mission Team needs donations of purses that are still in good condition. We are collecting purses Easter Sunday and will fill them with feminine hygiene products and give them to the women at the shelter. Please consider this option for all your usable purses you wish to discard.

The Mission team is not just a group of people that meet the third Thursday of the month. We are a group of people who have taken on the responsibility of helping others in need. CAN YOU HELP?

—Gail Dameron, Chairperson

The Altar Guild was lucky enough to move recently to a larger storage space. In the past the Guild had a small room behind the stage area. We are now in a large room in the basement area. During the move, we discovered many treasures that the Guild had acquired during the past years.



Some of the most interesting discoveries were the many banners that this church has used over the years. Some of the banners were handmade, some were bought and have never been presented or displayed in the church. Past Guild members have agreed to share that history with the current Altar Guild members and in the future months we will share this history with the rest of the church members.

Currently there is a banner hanging next to the altar titled "The Open Door." The banner was made by a member of the Nomads Team that visited and worked for this church. That Nomad was not a builder or painter, but wanted to create something for the church during her stay at First Glendale. The Open Door is a perfect addition to the sanctuary during Lent to illustrate the preparation of Jesus to go from the earth to heaven. Everyone is invited to follow.

The banners currently hanging in the sanctuary were all made by past Altar Guild members. They tell the Easter Story from the Promise to the Resurrection.

The "Seven Last Words of Christ" will be on display in Fellowship Hall starting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Each of seven displays will offer in words and materials a presentation of those last words. Both UMW Circle groups, the Youth group, the Chancel Choir members, and the Altar Guild have agreed to create The Seven Last Words displays. Please visit the areas and reflect on the meaning of each and support the effort of these groups.

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

This month, we celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing. On this church-wide Special Sunday, United Methodists focus on the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR responds to natural disasters and humanitarian crises around the globe.

Recently UMCOR responded to the situation in Flint, Michigan, where residents – including thousands of children – have been exposed to lead in their drinking water since April 2014. UMCOR provided a grant to support local United Methodist churches and other agencies to address the problem. Eight United Methodist congregations in Flint created “Water Resource Centers,” distributing water filters, replacement filters, water testing kits, and educational information to neighborhood residents. This community, somewhat reluctant to trust government agencies, has welcomed The United Methodist Church.



A man holds a water filter obtained from a UMC Water Resource Center in Flint, MI.

On One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday, we share the goodness of life with people who hurt. Our designated gifts to UMCOR through The Advance and special appeals go directly toward relief efforts. Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering pays administrative expenses for UMCOR and supports ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. When we assist UMCOR with our offering, we are part of the important work that happens in places like Flint, Michigan.

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.**



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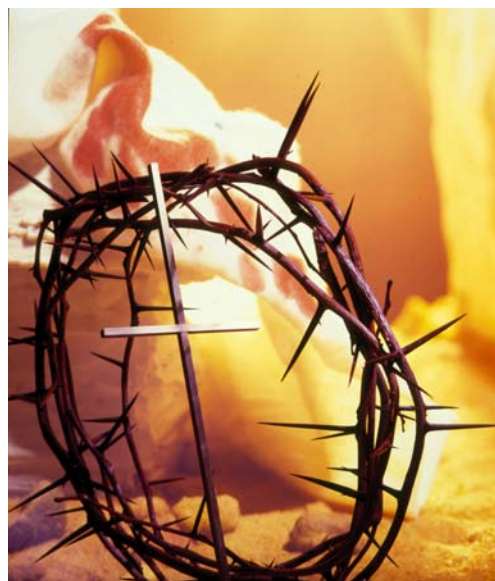
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### ***What is Lent and why does it last forty days?***

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

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Deadline for the April issue is  
March 14. Your items for the  
newsletter should be submitted  
to the church office by 3:00 pm.  
email:  
office@glendalefirstumc.com  
fax: 623.236.9284