

# Circuit Rider

November  
2016 

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · Nov 2016

## ***Hanging of the Greens—A New Worship Experience***

Almost 2,000 years ago, the story goes, a clutch of sleepy shepherds were watching over their sheep on a star-brightened hillside in Palestine. It was a still, uneventful night. Suddenly the darkness was filled with a strange light. The stillness was broken by angelic voices singing “Glory to God in the Highest, on earth peace, goodwill to all.” So begins Christmas, the most beautiful and meaningful celebration of the Christian calendar.

Both seasons of Advent – the season of “going toward” the birth of Christ – and Christmas have a long history. These seasons and their customs have developed through many centuries and many countries. Old customs and observances are refined, renewed, replaced; new ones are added. Some of our

customs have pagan origins but have been “converted” by redefining their meanings. What is significant for us is not what they may once have meant but rather what they mean for us today.

On Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, our church will begin to wear its Christmas apparel. For the first time our Christmas tree will stand in the sanctuary. Its lights will shine for us. We will make ready for the birth of the child by preparing our sanctuary, and we will make ready ourselves and the sanctuary of our own hearts.

As we decorate our church, not only will we explain the history of the symbols of these special seasons, but we will rededicate these symbols – and ourselves – to the service of God.



The service will begin at 7:00 pm, and the youth participants need to arrive by 6:00 pm.

Parking will be at a premium; please consider using the Glendale Glitters Free Shuttle. Park in the north parking lots of Glendale Community College (off 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, north of Olive), and the shuttle will drop you off at the northwest corner of 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Myrtle. The shuttle runs from 4:30 – 10:15 pm each evening, and there is an ADA bus in the rotation of shuttles.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



## **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; 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**



## **Our Church “Glitters” During Advent!**

Our church has the wonderful opportunity to be open during the Glendale Glitters Festival nights. Glendale Glitters is an award-winning display of 1.5 million lights spanning 16 blocks of downtown Glendale. You’ve probably seen the lights already wrapped around the trees in front of our sanctuary! Below is the performance schedule, including concerts and worship services. All performances begin at 7:00 pm.

### **Friday, November 25** ***Hanging of the Greens*** ***Worship Service***

This is a new service to re-dedicate the sanctuary and ourselves to God during Advent. See page 1 of this newsletter for more information.

### **Saturday, November 26** ***Recorded Christmas Music***

Rest your feet and enjoy the beauty and peace of our sanctuary while you listen to Christmas hymns.

### **Friday, December 2** ***Guillermo Saenz***

Back for a second year, Guillermo Saenz displays his mastery of all forms of Latin music. His performance in 2015 included traditional Mexican songs, mariachi-style music and popular Latin melodies that are contemporary and from the past. An excellent performer presenting an exceptional program of one guitar and one voice.

### **Saturday, December 3** ***The Choirs of Phoenix College*** ***Kenny Miller, Director***

The Phoenix College Choirs have been an honored guest for the last several years. Their performance is one of the highlights of the schedule! The individual groups each perform selections from their Christmas programs, displaying their range of talent. Attend this program and be thoroughly entertained!

### **Friday, December 9** ***A Christmas Surprise from Judy, Nancy, Kathy and Bob!***

These familiar faces from Sunday worship services will wow you with this performance!

### **Saturday, December 10** ***Desert Overture Jazz Band*** ***Scott Helms, Artistic Director***

Returning to our church is the Desert Overture Jazz Band. You will rock and roll and also enjoy the swing of this group of exciting performers.

### **Saturday, December 16** ***G.F. Handel’s Messiah Chorus*** ***Sing-a-long***

By popular demand, we will host an open singing of the popular chorus from the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah. Pre-recorded accompaniment and direction will be provided. Invite your musical friends, bring your copy of “Messiah” and join in this entertaining, fun-filled program!

### **Saturday, December 17** ***A Magical Journey guided by the Chancel Choir of the First United Methodist Church***

The Chancel Choir is honored to present its annual Christmas Program in our beautiful sanctuary. Included are traditional carols, contemporary Christmas songs and holiday favorites. The Choir will be joined by Echoes of Praise and invited instrumentalists. The spiritual importance of Christmas will be celebrated in this beautiful evening of music.

One of my favorite contemporary songs of the faith is “You Are My King (Amazing Love)” by the Newsboys. Besides the chorus and the music, I love the mood of the song. It reminds me the joy that comes from serving and honoring Christ in every aspect of my life. I believe we are created by God to love, give and serve. Looking back over my life, the most rewarding, enriching times grew out of loving, giving and serving. The old contemporary song, “Love, Love, Love” reminds me that the gospel in a word is LOVE. I encourage you to reflect on the most rewarding, meaningful times of your life.

In the four weeks leading up to our annual Thanksgiving Celebration, you and I are invited to consider what God is asking of us. I sometimes stress over trying to determine the specific things God is asking of me. Is God wanting me to do this, or that? My morning prayer might even be: God, what do you want me to do today? But, that would suggest God is causing things to happen in our world. There’s nothing wrong with believing God is in control, but too many times, we wait for God to do something, rather than us doing something and expecting God to walk with us throughout the day. When all is said and done, if our lives—all we say and do—honor God’s

## ***What God Asks of You...***

***By Pastor Kim***

desires and hopes for our world, we will have accomplished something great and wonderful!

Laity Sunday is October 30, and our Lay Leader and brother in Christ, Gene Dameron, will be preaching on Personal Accountability.

The next Sunday, November 6, we’ll remember and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who passed from this world within the past year. This Sunday we will hear, again, the call to be an Honor to God’s Glory. (Ephesians 1:11-14).

On November 13, listen for Paul’s encouraging words to keep striving to do what is good and right. (2 Thessalonians 3:13)

Then November 20, we will give thanks for all God has given to us, and we dedicate our gifts to God for the upcoming year of ministry. We will hear Paul’s invitation to give from the heart, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

### ***Sunday Morning Worship Schedule for November***

**November 6: 25th Sunday After Pentecost, All Saints’ Day**

***What God Asks of You: Honor Christ in All You Do!***

Read: Ephesians 1:11-14

**November 13: 26th Sunday After Pentecost**

***What God Asks of You: Never Stop Doing What is Good!***

Read: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

**November 20: Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving Sunday**

***What God Asks of You: Give From Your Heart!***

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

**November 27: The First Sunday of Advent**

***The Weapons of Light...***

Read: Romans 13:11-14



## **Glendale Glitters Hosts Needed**

Glendale Glitters, downtown Glendale's award-winning holiday lighting event, begins November 25. The festival, which includes over 1.5 million lights, attracts thousands of people to the downtown area, and has become a tradition for many families!

We will have our sanctuary open to the public during Glendale Glitters as a community outreach. Fridays and Saturdays, November 25 through December 17, we set up outside the church at 6:30 pm and finish at 9:00 pm. That is eight total evenings, we are looking for hosts/hostess to volunteer for just one night each. In the sanctuary, we will have a variety musical performances and worship services during these weekends (see list of events on page 2).

There's a lot going on during the Glitters evenings; if you would like to volunteer, contact Rebecca in the church office 623-939-1409, menu option 2, or email [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com)

## **Work Day November 12**

The trustees are having a work day on Saturday, November 12 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon and we need your help. We plan to wash windows and stain benches, among other projects.



We will have coffee and donuts, and have fun while we work on God's house, so come and help!

Thank You -  
*Frank Warriner*, Trustees Chair

## **Advent Readers Needed**

The worship committee is looking for volunteers to light the Advent wreath and read a short litany during services on November 27, December 4, 11, 18, and Christmas Eve. At least two people are needed for each service. Contact Linda Hardesty at 623-939-4432 for more information. Thank you!



## **We Give Thanks to God! Thanksgiving Potluck Sunday, November 20**

All are invited to attend our church's Thanksgiving celebration potluck that will be held on Sunday, November 22 at 12:30 pm. Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Turkey will be provided.

Signup sheets will be in Fellowship Hall on Sundays in November to RSVP and indicate what dish you might bring.

Volunteers are needed to help cook turkeys on Saturday, November 19; call Jeremiah Staats at 623-204-3650, or the church office if you can help with this. Servers will be needed, as well as a cleanup crew.

Let's give thanks for all of our blessings!

## *Time to Give Thanks to Our God...*

Each year we stop and give thanks for surviving the long, hot Arizona summer. We feel refreshed as our mornings turn cooler and we no longer see the thermometer creeping towards 100 in the afternoons. We feel more energetic and begin to do fall housekeeping chores we put off because it was just too hot!

For me, as a former teacher, fall was truly the start of a new year: new students, new books and curriculum, and a fresh start for both teachers and students. It was a time to welcome new students and to reconnect with old friends.

At church, fall means new Sunday school classes and new Bible Studies. It also brings our focus to stewardship as we make plans for the church for the coming year. We also enter into a time of thanksgiving and express appreciation for the bounty God has provided.

During November, we will be focusing on listening for God's direction as we make plans for 2017. We want to provide exciting, life-changing ministries

in our community and it all starts with us as individuals. As we listen to God and take to heart His plans for us, we must make decisions about what we are called to do as Christians. What are we called to do as members of this faith community? What gifts, what talents, what dreams do you have to offer? How will you work to make our church a beacon of hope for others?

It is during this autumn season that we begin preparing for next year's harvest. Will we have more Sunday school students? If so, we need more Sunday school teachers. Will we have more adults in Bible Study classes? If so, we need more leaders and more curriculum. Will we reach out to those who are homebound or ill? If so, we need more volunteers to serve in the visitation ministry. We will have more youth in confirmation? If so, we need more mentors and leaders to assist in this important faith-building ministry. Will we continue to be able to help the homeless and working poor in our community? If so, we need monetary donations and more



volunteers to help with the Riner Center, the Wednesday Open Worship and preparation of meals for the Watkins Shelter. Will we be able to maintain our beautiful, historic campus? If so, we need volunteers to help Trustees do maintenance projects.

I think you all know where I'm going with these questions. The answers to all of them begin with us. Our plans for 2017 requires a response from all of us. Please do three things for our church. First, pray about your participation in our church and its ministries. Second, please pray about your level of financial support for our church. Third, remember to bring your pledge card to church on or before Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Serving Christ with you,

—Rosie Miller



# United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

The new season has gotten off to a busy start, and there is a fresh wind blowing throughout all of our activities. *“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”* John 3:8 (NIV).

The October unit meeting was well attended. Kim Thorn introduced Jeff Rowher, who presented a program about the orphans at the Esperanza Orphanage and Women's Shelter near Rocky Point, Mexico. The nominating committee presented the new slate of officers for 2017: Eva Ndavu, President; Irma Wilson, Vice President;

Olive Norris, Secretary; and Karleen Miller, Treasurer. The current Mission Coordinators graciously agreed to retain their posts for the next year. Thank you to the nominating committee and blessings to all who agreed to hold positions. The fresh wind promises a busy and exciting upcoming year for UMW.

On Saturday, October 1, a total of 14 women attended the UMW Central West District Annual Celebration at the First United Methodist Church in Sun City. On October 10, six members attended a luau salad luncheon at Lakeview UMC in Sun City; and on October 22, four members attended the Desert Southwest Conference an-

nual celebration at UMC in Green Valley. October 23 was UMW Sunday which found many members participating, including Judy Cleaveland as the preacher.

This month, UMW presents a world thank offering. I will take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving, the special national holiday when we pause to remember how blessed we are as a nation, community, church, and family. Let us also take the time to recall that this nation began with God and continues to grow and prosper (despite troubles and difficulties) through the grace of God.

The annual Christmas Tea will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at 2:00 pm. Tickets will go on sale in mid-November. The cost is \$12 for adults, and \$7 for children 12 & under. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this lovely event.

—*Eva Ndavu*, Acting President





All Saints' Day in the Roman Catholic tradition is

celebrated every year on the first day of November. This special day was known as *All Hallows* or *Hallowmas*, which comes from the root words *hallows* meaning *saints* and *mas* meaning *Mass*. The night before All Saints' Day, Halloween, is also known as the *Vigil* or *Eve of All Hallows*. This casts a little different light on Halloween, a night many dress up in costumes, some which are a little scary, and go out and collect a year's supply of candy.

United Methodists often designate the first Sunday in November as All Saints' Sunday, and on this Sunday we remember members/participants of our church and our families who have died in the past year. Their names will be called as a candle burns in their memory. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the lives of those who have gone on before us, and remember how they have touched our lives in some significant way.

## ALZHEIMER'S EDUCATION UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AT FUMC

*First United Methodist Church of Glendale  
Room 101*

- November 3      Holiday Tips (9:30 am—10:30 am)**  
Holidays can be difficult for family and friends, as well as the person with dementia. This workshop offers helpful ideas for dealing with the holidays.
- December 5      Know the 10 Signs (9:30 am—10:30 am)**  
If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. Early detection of Alzheimer's disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. This interactive workshop features video clips of people with Alzheimer's disease.

*No charge to attend. Registration is required.  
For registration or questions, please call 602.528.0545.*

alzheimer's  association®  
Desert Southwest Chapter

Central Arizona Region  
1028 E McDowell Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
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alz.org/dsw



- All Saints' Day, *November 6*
- Election Day Prayer Vigil, *November 8*
- Trustees Work Day, *November 12*
- Thanksgiving Potluck, *November 20*
- Hanging of the Greens, *November 25*
- 1st Sunday of Advent, *November 27*
- UMW's Christmas Tea, *December 3*
- Glendale Glitters Weekends, *Nov 25-26, Dec 2-3, Dec 9-10, Dec 16-17, Jan 7*

Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 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

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