

Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · January 2017



West District Leadership Training Event, February 4, 2017

Leadership Training is a time to connect as the people of God, to learn and grow, and to become better equipped to make disciples in the name of Jesus Christ. Plan to attend and engage with clergy and lay colleagues from around the West District.

Registration:

\$15.00 on or before January 25

\$20.00 after January 25

Lunch will be provided to all in attendance and is included in your registration fee. **You must register for this event.** We offer FREE childcare and lunch for registered infants and children of all ages and abilities. Contact Carla at 602-798-8236 to register for childcare.

Plan to attend two workshops from the list below:

- Transforming Partnerships
- Tools for Transition
- Contemplative Prayer
- Single Board Governance
- All In The Family- Including those with Special Needs into the Body of Christ
- How to make a significant impact on the injustice of Human Trafficking
- Inappropriate Behaviors and How to Stop Them from Wrecking Your Church

This training for committee members and lay leadership will be held at Dove of the Desert UMC, 7201 W Beardsley, Glendale AZ, from 9:30 am—3:00 pm. Please register online at: <https://dscumc.org/event/west-leadership-training-event/>



First United Methodist Church

7102 N. 58th Drive · Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623.939.1409 · Fax: 623.236.9284

www.glendalefirstumc.com

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm; closed Friday at 12:00 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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GLENDALE

invites

YOUNG ADULTS - AGES 18 AND UP

THEOLOGY
on tap

4th TUESDAY of every month 7:00 pm

experience local restaurants | clubs | coffee shops

buy your own drinks and snacks

Theology On Tap

Begins January 24, 2017 at

Desert Rose Pizza and Gastro Pub

6729 N. 57th Dr.

Glendale, AZ 85301



No Agenda. Just informal conversation about current events and faith.

Years ago my mother gave me a book with a title that was something like, "Finding Happiness in Every Situation." I realized, even before reading it, my mother had achieved what the book would promote. Happiness is something we strive after throughout our lives. Hedonic Treadmill, in Psychology Today, suggests happiness is, "a state of well-being that encompasses living a good life...with a sense of meaning and deep satisfaction."

(www.psychologytoday.com/basics/happiness) What is "a good life?" Sometimes we confuse it with an easy life that is free of struggles. We might expect friends and family to make us happy. But in reality, true happiness comes from within us. We may enjoy periods of happiness through clever manipulation of people and things, but without a sense of satisfaction, we'll soon be searching again for something or someone to bring us joy. True happiness, like true love, will give us a sense of well-

Ponderings from Pastor Kim

A HAPPY New Year...

being through the most challenging of times. It's what keeps us laughing, when were in pain. It keeps us going when we're tired and want to quit. It helps us love when all around us is hate. When we discover true happiness, we will have found meaning and satisfaction, no matter what we are facing. The more we strive after things rich in meaning and deeply satisfying, the closer we'll come to experiencing true happiness.

After Jesus' baptism we are told a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him." (*Matthew 3:17, Common English Bible*) As I reflect on my life, the happiest times have been when I entrusted my life to God, and strived to follow the ways of Jesus. I believe this, more than any number of self-help resolutions, will truly make 2017 a happier new year.

Happy New Year!
—Pastor Kim

Worship Schedule for January 2017

January 1: Epiphany/ New Year's Day

Which Star Will You Follow? Rev. Tom Wick preaching

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

January 8: First Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

Let the Sun Shine...

Read: Isaiah 60:1-4

January 15: Second Sunday after Epiphany

True Happiness...

Read: Matthew 3:13-17

January 22: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Shining in the Shadow of Death

Read: Matthew 4:12-23

January 29: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany/Youth Sunday

A dramatic presentation by Terey Summers, local actress, writer and Christian comedian.

Church News and Notes

For more information, contact the church office 623.939.1409 or rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

Diamondbacks' Bobby Freeman Featured At Lura Turner Homes Gala

Diamondbacks' organist Bobby Freeman will be featured at Lura Turner Homes' 7th annual Italian dinner, Saturday, January 28. The fundraiser is at Madison Baptist Church, 6202 N. 12th Street, Phoenix, with seating times at 4 and 6 p.m. The \$15 tickets for adults (\$7 for children) include a small sundae from Mary Coyle's Ice Cream's food truck. Hidden Treasures Antiques will have collectibles and original artwork for sale. All proceeds benefit the special needs men and women who live at Lura Turner Homes for Developmentally Disabled Adults.

For tickets or information, please contact Max McQueen, (602)- 943-4789 or maxm@luraturnerhomes.org.



The staff at First United Methodist Church would like to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness this Christmas season. Your generosity is overwhelming. Thank you very much!

Mile of Quarters Update—Reached Our Goal!

We have reached our goal in the Mile of Quarters Campaign! Our original goal was a mile of quarters—\$16,500, and as of today's date, we have raised \$16,976!

We have received some bids on the restoration work, and they are somewhat higher than first anticipated. So we will keep this fund open for further donations, and in the coming months, we will research grant opportunities to help defray the cost of the restoration.

Thank you for your generous donations to the Mile of Quarters Campaign!

Thank you!

A big 'thank you' to all who contributed your valuable time for the Glendale Glitters outreach. I know it is a difficult time for any extra activities. Many people were blessed to be able to sing and praise God during the concerts and festival nights. This is an important outreach ministry—God bless you all for your extra efforts!



Report from the United Methodist Women

“But concerning the pure brotherly love that there should be among God's people, I don't need to say very much, I'm sure! For God himself is teaching you to love one another. Indeed, your love is already strong toward all the Christian brothers throughout your whole nation. Even so, dear friends, we beg you to love them more and more.” (*I Thessalonians 4: 9-10, TLB*)

The new calendar is upon us with many activities planned to follow the Christmas season. The first concern for 2017 is the installation of officers for the new year (January 5, 6 p.m., note the time). With Senior Pastor Kim Gladding officiating, the following leaders will be inducted: Eva Ndavu, President; Irma Wilson, Vice President; Olive Norris, Secretary; and Karleen Miller, Treasurer. Becky Miller will continue as Chair of Esther Circle; Jeanne Rumbold will move into the Chair for Lydia Circle. Mission Coordinators who have agreed to continue in their positions are: Nancy Fitzpatrick and Vesta Roper for Spiritual Growth; Jeanne Rumbold for Education for Mission; Erma Garling for Social Action; Jane McCutcheon for Membership Care; Sally Dixon and Becky Miller for Program Resources; and Cora Slaughter for Sunshine. The Committee on Nominations includes Lois Miller (2018) and Helen Jackson (2019).

A preliminary activity for these leaders to hone their organizational and spiritual skills is the Leadership Development Day scheduled for January 28 at Shepherd of the Hills, Sun City West. This annual training provides mentorship and shared experiences for continuing as well as new officers. Four of our members hold district offices: Judy Cleaveland, Helen Jackson, Pam Jackson, and Linda Triolo. We look forward to their guidance and interaction.

Glitter turns to glow on the first weekend in January. Glendale Glitter and Glow is another award-winning social event on the city calendar. As a follow up to Glendale Glitters, the downtown area is again cordoned off for street vendors, musicians and, of course, the hot-air balloons. Our open sanctuary allowed us to reach out to the community during these special events. UMW served as greeters on the sidewalk and in the apse, welcoming visitors to come inside, view our festive décor, sing along with the performers, or just get warm. Combining our efforts with those of the choir, youth, UMM, guest musicians, and others made this an especially memorable time of the year.

The idea of justice has been on my mind for some time. It began with reading *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Then Azzie Turner reported on *Climate Justice* from her Mission u workshop last July. *The Charter for Racial Justice* opened my eyes to the many opportunities we have for social awareness and action. We will hear the word *justice* many times in the new year. Our guest speaker for February will be Judge Elizabeth H. Finn who will speak about justice and the Mental Health Court in Glendale.

Justice and peace to you,
—Eva Ndavu, President

Worship Team News

The Worship Committee wishes to thank all of those that helped with the preparations during the busy holiday season. As a church, we can be proud of all that we had offered and accomplished.

The Youth presentation of “The Hanging of the Greens” as a start to the Advent season was well received by all those that came to share in the program. The Chrismon decorations made by the youth will be used in the church for years to come.

Paul Cleaveland has agreed to take the lead in arranging the liturgy readers. We have decided to try and schedule readers for a month at a time instead of

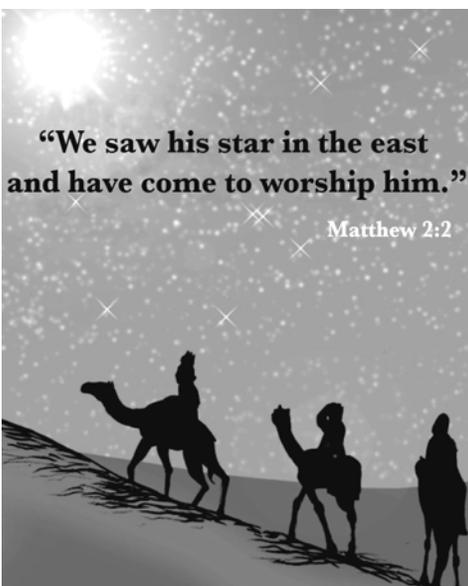
different readers weekly. This is done at other churches with great success. If there are other church members that would like to be a liturgy reader, please contact the Worship Team.

The Worship Team continues to meet on a monthly basis to plan in advance the church services for that coming month. We are like the Three Wise Men that saw the star in the east and decided to follow in that direction even though the unknown is scary. Our new and different presentations, such as the church decorations this past year come from our heart and are meant to inspire new thoughts. Through the Advent Season and now the Epiphany we will continue to strive and bring that inspiration to the church service.

“Epiphany is a wonderful and exciting time of hope. While Advent is full of expectation about the coming birth and the Potential of a Messiah, Epiphany is the next step...it is the time of the liturgical year when we point to the young child that is actually here and dream the dreams of who he will grow up to be and what he might do and how he might do it”.

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www.settingourstones.org

—Linda Hardesty
Worship Team Chairperson



A New Year's Prayer

*For the New Year, I would wish to have
strength enough to battle with difficulties and overcome them;
love enough to move me to be useful and helpful to others;
faith enough to make real the things of God;
and hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.*

—Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749—1832)

The Inn Project

Last week, our Bishop received a request from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) representatives for assistance in providing shelter for children and their parents. These are vulnerable asylum and refugee families housed in units around Arizona. ICE requests that the churches help by providing a more humane place to stay as they transition and travel to family members.



A UMNS photo by Jan Snider

Two of our churches are stepping up to be host sites: First United Methodist Church Tucson and Christ Church United Methodist. One will house mothers with children, and the other will house fathers with children. ICE officials have assisted in preparing the churches to receive the young families, and the first families will arrive on Tuesday, December 13th. We don't know how long this will continue. Yesterday, ICE personnel said San Antonio has been doing this for three years and right now the numbers are increasing, but no one knows how long there will be a need. Estimates indicate between 10 to 50 children and parents at the host sites per day.

While two churches are hosting and sheltering the families, it will take all of us to provide care for these children and their parent. Churches are uniting by providing donations. Money is needed to provide blankets, mats, car seats, food, etc. If you or your church is interested in contributing, send your contribution to Desert Southwest Conference at 1550 E. Meadowbrook Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85014, with a note in the memo stating *The Inn Project*. We will also need help with volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, contact Rolly Loomis at 520-622-6481 or Jamie Booth at 520-327-1116.

We are also working on the possibility of engaging a church in the Phoenix area to be a host site.

Reprinted from <http://dscumc.org/2016/12/the-inn-project/>



The word Epiphany means "to make known," or "to reveal." It remembers the coming of the wise men bearing gifts for the Christ child. By doing so, they "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In Hispanic and Latin culture it is known as "Three Kings Day."

We celebrate Epiphany on January 6, as the climax of the Advent and Christmas season, 12 days from December 25. The visit, an act of worship by the three kings, was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the love of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.

A Message of Thanks

Duet truly changes lives. The following transcript is a phone message left by Martha B., an 89-year-old Duet "neighbor" (our term for client). Volunteers from partner congregations (like ours) provided over 40,000 hours of service to people like Martha this past year.

"My heart is overflowing for the way God promised he would provide for us. I believe God has sent Duet to provide for me. I don't have words for the support and friendship I receive... my incredible grocery shopper, Nancy; Liz who is indescribable... and a talented handyman, Gary... Thank you, and God Bless."

In this New Year, consider bringing joy to a homebound adult. Attend just one volunteer orientation to begin; see www.duetaz.org for locations or call 602-274-5022 to register (or to request help).

The church office will be closed on January 2 in observance of New Year's Day and January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Deadline for the February issue is January 15. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm. email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com fax: 623-236.9284

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