

Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale • March 2017



Confirmation Sunday, February 19th

On Sunday, February 19, we welcomed 9 new members by confirmation. Our new members are: Baribefii Adoo, Roseline Adoo, Avery Batson, Ceintia Chibinda, Marelina Chibinda, Macie Chrisman, Bethany Horney, Tabetha Horney, and Aaron Staats. Bethany and Tabetha were baptized on the same day. Shay Lynn Paddie, who was previously confirmed, served as a peer mentor to the confirmation class.



Back row, left to right: Aaron Staats, Marelina Chibinda, Shay Lynn Paddie, Avery Batson.
Center row: Barbi Adoo, Bethany Horney, Macie Chrisman (on bench), Centia Chibinda.
Front: Roseline Adoo, Tabetha Horney.

Lenten Bible Study looks at the "Apostles Creed," begins Thursday, March 2, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, lead by Rev. Tom Wick

How do we answer the important questions of life? Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are found in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of Christian beliefs. In this Lenten study, Hamilton considers the important questions of life and explores not only what Christians believe, but why they believe it and why it matters. See Rev. Tom or call the office 623-939-1409 to register for this study.

Job Posting

Our church is seeking to fill two part-time positions. Both positions could be filled by one person having the qualifications.

Director of Outreach: Administration and management of our Riner Outreach Ministries within the church that provides emergency resources to families in need and the homeless. This position is 10 hours/week. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree preferred; agreement with United Methodist theology and doctrine; proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (including Excel and Access); prior experience in outreach ministry and social systems; willingness to take initiative and learn new processes, software, etc.

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

United Methodist Women Reading Program

Read any good books lately? Sally Dixon and Becky Miller (Mission Coordinators, Program Resources) are encouraging everyone to do just that as they head up the UMW reading program for 2017. Their aim this year is to increase the number of titles they and other members read. The reading program encourages readers to get out of their comfort zone and explore some topics and genres that might be different from their usual leisure reading for entertainment.

This is how the program works. Each year the national committee adds 10 to 20 new titles to the recommended list. Readers choose books from five main areas: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. A requirement is that the reader must read at least one book from each area. There are also titles for children and youth because many mothers and grandmothers like to recommend books for their grandchildren. It is never too early to instill Christian values and what better way than through modern literature.

Participants can choose to read 5, 10, 15, or 20 books. Another requirement is reading *Response*, the official UMW magazine pub-

lished monthly. This year, readers can choose books from the 2011 to 2017 lists, so there are many choices for hours of reading enjoyment. Each year the West District awards certificates of recognition to participants in the reading program. On January 28, the District awarded certificates at the Leadership Development Day held at Shepherd of the Hills UMC in Sun City West. Erma Garling (10 books), Karleen Miller (5), Eva Ndavu (5), Cora Slaughter (5) and Donna Veigel (5) of UMW FUMC received certificates. The aim for 2017 is to increase both the number of participants and the number of books read.

New activities linked to the reading program include a panel discussion to be presented at both Lydia Circle (Thursday, March 9 at 7 p.m.) and Esther Circle (Tuesday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m.). Circle Chairs Jeanne Rumbold and Becky Miller will moderate the panels on *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. The author is best known for starting the Equal Justice Initiative. This book is in the Social Action category. According to one reader, "It is an eye-opener about how the legal justice system does not always administer justice to all." All are welcome to these events. Some

recommended titles include the following books about women: *Americanah*, *I Am Malala*, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, and *King Peggy*.

—Eva Ndavu, President
UMW, FUMC, Glendale

"This Good News tells us that God makes us ready for heaven, makes us right in God's sight, when we put our faith and trust in Christ to save us. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith." (Romans 1:17, TLB)

Heifer Project Thank You!

Thanks to all who attended the Education Team's potluck on February 12th to kick-off our Sunday School fundraising for the Heifer Project. We received \$436 at the potluck to benefit Heifer—thank you for your generous support!

Next month, we will be selling candy bars to raise funds for Heifer International.



If you would like more information about how Heifer Intl works to end hunger and poverty, visit <http://www.heifer.org>.

Waking Up is Hard to Do!

Sandy has a nightshirt with cute message: *Waking Up is Hard to Do!* Every time I see it, the words to the song *Breaking Up is Hard to Do* run through my mind. But, honestly, it can be difficult to wake up, particularly if you've been sleep deprived! I sometimes find splashing cold water on my face helps me come around. Difficulty waking up the next day can be improved by going to bed earlier, setting aside tomorrow's worries—remember Jesus' words: *'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.* (Matthew 6:34) Also, turning off the phone, the TV and turning on some calming music can improve our sleep. If it seems you are getting enough sleep—close to 8 hours/night—you may want to consult your doctor about getting a sleep study. You could may have sleep apnea and not be aware of it!

I believe there's also a *spiritual* apnea. The more our connections with God are interrupted by personal pride and gain, the less aware we become of God desires for goodness, justice and truth in our world. Like sleep apnea, spiritual apnea leaves us feeling tired, disinterested and disengaged in the mission of Christ. In Ephesians, we read: *You were once*

darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of the light...Therefore...Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. (Ephesians 5:8, 14b)

Just as our bodies need sleep to be healthy, our spirits need to pursue the teachings of Jesus and meditate on the God's Word. The more connected we stay with God, through prayer, study, and service, the more Christ will live and move in and

through us! Lent is a season to be more intentional about our connections with God. There are a number of opportunities for small group studies throughout the season of Lent. I encourage you to sign up for one! I'm certain you'll feel more alive and engaged in life if you do.

Striving to stay connected with you,



Worship Schedule for March 2017

Sunday, March 5

1st Sunday in Lent
Read: Romans 7:18-19

Message: *I Don't Know That Guy...* (Rev. Kim Gladding)

Sunday, March 12

2nd Sunday in Lent
Read: Ephesians 3:1-9

Message: *Don't Know Much About Heavenly Things* (Rev. Kim Gladding)

Sunday, March 19

3rd Sunday in Lent
Read: John 5:5-8

Message: *Waiting on the World to Change* (Rev. Kim Gladding)

Sunday, March 26

4th Sunday in Lent
Read: Ephesians 5:8-14

Message: *Waking Up is Hard to Do!* (Rev. Kim Gladding)

Church News and Notes

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

Foster Youths in Glendale in Need of Mentors

Our church has recently become aware of a need for volunteer mentor/tutors within 5 miles of the church. Arizonans for Children, a non-profit organization which provides support for youth in foster care, has identified 4 female youths and 7 males who are in need of a mentor/tutor.

Requirements:

- 18+ years of age
- Pass a background check
- Commit to 1 year working with youth in foster care
- Have reliable transportation

Mentor's Role:

- Have fun with youth at activities
- Develop social & life skills of the youth
- Assist with academics

For more information, see the mentor program information page, <http://arizonansforchildren.org/page/mentor>

How Can We Listen for God's Voice?

What a refreshing spiritual time I had sharing with all of you at our training sessions. Listening and sharing is what makes United Methodist Women so special. I need to keep myself spiritually close to Jesus so I can share the light and love of our great God. One way I do that is to teach small groups at our Church. This year for the Lenten study I am using a book by Rueben P. Job called "*Listen: Praying in a Noisy World.*" In this book, he quotes, "Christians at their best are good listeners, and the Christian church, when most faithful, is a listening community. To live with God in this world that God loves requires some intense and intentional listening. So many competing voices are calling for our attention that without concentrated effort and determination we may easily miss what God is saying to us. We may even miss the way and will into which God is trying to lead us." (Rueben P. Job, "*A Guide to Spiritual Discernment*")

Anyone is welcome to attend this study which will be held Fridays, March 3 to April 7. We meet at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room of Fellowship Hall. The book costs \$10.00. If you want more information email sunsjudy@cox.net or call/text me at 602-799-0940. The words INTENSE and INTENTIONAL speak to me as I challenge everyone to have prayer partners this year. May we initiate actively praying with our partners this year and listening to the Holy Spirit guide us in praying. MAY WE ALL PRAY AS MUCH AS WE TALK!

—Judy Cleaveland, Spiritual Growth Officer for District UMW

Job Posting (Continued from page 1)

Director of Nurture: Provides oversight of family, youth, children and young adult ministries, and serves as a liaison between the church and a charter school located on the church campus. This position is 20 hours/week. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree preferred; agreement with United Methodist theology and doctrine; proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite (including Excel and Access); prior experience either in ministry with families, children, youth and young adults or in Christian or public education.

Email inquiries, resume and references to rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

A More Meaningful Lent

The Lenten Season holds promise to inspire and to create an exciting experience during the church services. The Worship Team is working hard to deliver that goal. One of the ways to achieve this goal is to find new ways to approach the season. Instead of the usual fasting*, it has been suggested to go beyond that to a more meaningful Lent. Some of the suggestions are to apologize to someone, perform random acts of kindness, study the Bible, serve people in need, visit the lonely, tell others you love them, throw a party for everyone, serve in worship, or say "thank you." Be creative, make it yours.

Members of the Worship Team are scheduled to attend a collaborative workshop for Clergy and Musicians at First UMC Phoenix on March 18th. It is always exciting to learn new information on what other congregations are presenting.

The Worship Team is in the final preparations for Lent and Easter and hope everyone can share in the experience of the season. The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there. I'll give you the stone tablets with the instructions and the commandments that I've written in order to teach them." (Exodus 24:12.) The Ten Commandments written in Hebrew have been on display at the front of the church to remind us of our instructions from God. To continue on with the depiction of the season, arrangements will be shown every Sunday until Easter.

—Linda Hardesty, Worship Team Chairperson

**from Beyond Fasting: 10 tips for a more meaningful Lent, a UMC.org feature by Joe Iovino*

UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour of Sharing)

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.

Your communion offering on March 5, 2016 will support UMCOR.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, taught extensively about the importance of giving. One quote commonly attributed to him:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can."

Church Ministries—Where Do You Fit In?

I've been reading the UM Guidelines booklet for Church Council and thought I would take the opportunity this month to share some basics about the ministries of our church. The word NOW is an acronym for Nurture, Outreach and Witness. The Nurture ministries in a church include worship, Sunday School, small groups and other settings for spiritual formation. The nurture ministries assist persons of all ages in developing and deepening their relationship with God. Nurture ministries can also provide a supportive, caring community for people who face a variety of issues on a daily basis, including, grief, divorce, addiction, or parenting issues, etc.

So my first question for you is, where are you most comfortable in supporting our nurture ministries? We can always use more help with Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Would you consider helping as a teacher's aide, leading a class or starting a small Bible study group? Maybe you would like to help with our visitation program? Genny Riner has started visiting homebound members and making calls to keep in touch. We could organize a "Casserole

Committee" who could be called upon when we have a family in need of some TLC during a time of grief or crisis. Perhaps we could make a list of those willing to help with a meal and keep it in the office so Pastor Kim and Genny could call on us when they needed help for a family. We could also reestablish our Communion Outreach so our homebound members can receive Communion, too. Linda Hardesty chairs our Worship Committee and could use help with ideas for decorating the altar to enhance the sermon themes for the month or special seasons of the year. Perhaps you have time to help with Altar Guild or would like to join our choir? Larry Del Rae is always looking for new voices to help enhance the Sunday message through music.

What I'm trying to say is that we, as members of this congregation, have more to do than just be in church on Sundays. We are a collection of individuals with a wide variety of talents, God given talents, meant to be used to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to make disciples for the transformation of the world. So, during the month of March,

as we head into the season of Lent and Easter, be thinking about the talents you have and how you can use them to help our church nurture new Christians and surround our church family with love and care during times of need.

Serving Christ with you,

—Rosie Miller,
Church Council Chairperson



March 1, 2017

Service Times:

12:00 noon—Fellowship Hall
(Wednesday Open Worship)

7:00 pm—Sanctuary

Notes from the Missions Team

Christmas has passed. We packed 104 shoe boxes. New Years has passed. Did you make any resolutions? Valentine's Day has passed. Kay Reed enjoyed the cards, candy, flowers and love offering we took to her. Now it is spring... spring, when wild flowers start to bloom, citrus trees will bloom, and the grass will turn green. It's a new beginning. Why not put the missions of our church in your new beginnings?

We need volunteers the first Sunday of each month to help prepare and serve a meal at the UMOM Watkins Shelter. We feed about 125 women. We also need someone to drive the van to the shelter.

Our next project is collecting bags for the women at Watkins Shelter. These are not the smaller bags found at grocery stores. These bags are 20 X 20

inches in size; sturdy with a woven handle. The women need these to carry their personal things. Our goal is at least 125 bags. We have found them at Home Goods Store, Tuesday Morning, Ross, TJ Maxx, and Marshalls for \$1.00. If you would like to donate money, we can go shopping for the bags. We will have a display at coffee hour each Sunday.

Please consider helping; after all, you and I are part of the outreach for our church!

—Gail Dameron, Missions Team Chairperson

Help UMOM make the
**The Diane & Bruce Halle
Foundation Women's Center**
at UMOM New Day Centers

a home for women in need!

bedframe
linens, pillows and blankets
twin comforter set
for one woman **\$150**

* **\$250**
bedframes x 2
linens, pillows and blankets x 2
twin comforter sets x 2
toiletries x 2
towels and washcloths x 2
a nightstand
for two women

bedframes x 3
linens, pillows and blankets x 3
twin comforter set x 3
toiletries x 3
towels and washcloths x 3
nightstands x 2
a TV
for three women **\$750***

* Donate at these levels and join us at the dedication ceremony, where you will be recognized and can make a welcome home sign for a room!



umom.org



Small Group Opportunity: RESTORED

“Sometimes our lives are in such disarray we can’t envision a way through to redemption. But when we look at the mess through the eyes of Christ, we not only find redemption we can clearly see spiritual restoration.” In “*Restored*”, author Tom Berlin encourages us to reflect and meditate through our own brokenness, showing us that it is only when we focus on the cross as a place to surrender control that we can leave our mess and find true redemption. This 6-week study uses scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others and is a perfect Lenten Study for youth or adults.



Pastor Kim Gladding will be leading this 6-week study at Glencroft Retirement Community on Thursdays at 2:00 pm beginning on March 2. For more information and exact location contact Pastor Kim 602-561-5062 or email kimgladding@gmail.com, or call Genny Riner 928-451-1545. Everyone is invited.

Deadline for the April Issue is March 13. 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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