

Circuit Rider

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

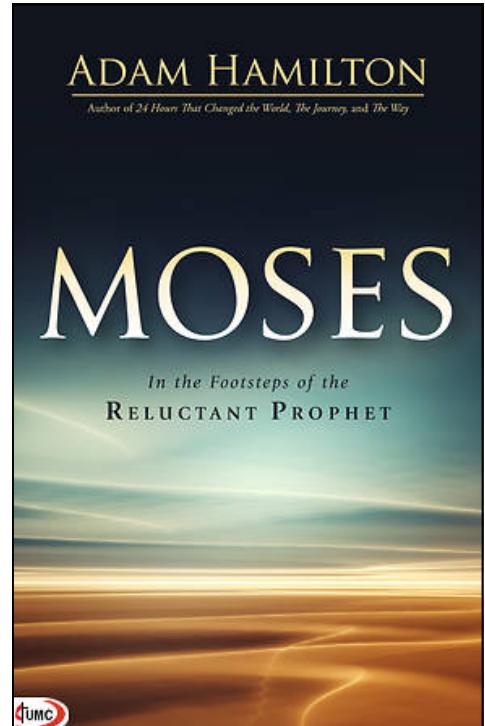


Moses... In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet

It doesn't get much more dramatic: rescued baby, life in the courts of Pharaoh, parting the Red Sea, leading his people out of Egypt...Moses' life was one challenge after the next, but although he resisted God's calling, by the end of his life he successfully fulfilled the role he was given.

Join award-winning author Adam Hamilton as he travels from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea, and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. As Hamilton shares historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, you'll gain a better understanding of Moses' significance in your life today, and you'll discover how you, too, can turn your own reluctance into boldness.

Rev. Tom Wick will be leading this six-week study at the 8:00 am worship and communion service in Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, September 3. If you would like to preview the series or purchase a book, visit <https://www.cokesbury.com/product/9781501807886/moses/?flid=17868>.



First United Methodist Church
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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

United Methodist Women and World Communion

Sunday: October 1, 2017

Once a year, the local United Methodist Women work together with the Worship Committee and Pastor Kim to conduct Sunday worship services. This year, UMW Sunday will be on October 1 which also happens to be World Communion Sunday. Because of this, we are giving an international theme to the day's events.

Following the church services, UMW will sponsor an international pot-luck luncheon featuring numerous ethnic or cultural foods. This is an opportunity for church members to contribute their favorite family, ethnic or international cuisine whether it is Grandma's *sauerkraut* and potato dumplings, Cousin Lisa's *tamales*, a friend's chicken *masala*, or Mother's *tiramisu*. Our American cuisine is so diverse that we sometimes forget that pizza was imported! This luncheon is a time to celebrate our mixed heritage and share the benefits of our diversity. There will be someone in Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour each Sunday in September to sign up those church members who plan on bringing food to share. Rumor has it that Charity Adoo is cooking *fufu*, and Eva Ndavu is preparing *muthokoi*. Come and share your favorite food and plan on treating your tastebuds to something new! There may also be music from around the world!

We also invite all participants to wear ethnic clothing on this very special day. Again, this can be something that reminds you of your ancestry, or perhaps something you purchased while traveling abroad: Bermuda shorts, a sari from India, a boubou from West Africa. Look in your closet: you may be surprised what you have there! Let us make this a colorful event.

The UMW FUMC Glendale Retreat will be held on September 9 in Fellowship Hall, 9:00 am to 11:30 am. This Saturday event will replace the usual Thursday evening general meeting for September. Due to difficult deadlines, a report on our September retreat will be presented in the Circuit Rider for October. The retreat will focus on the July Mission u courses in Scottsdale. Helen Jackson, Pam Jackson, Christine Jones, and Linda Triolo attended.

Many Roads Lead to Columbus (Ohio)

The UMW General Assembly will be May 18-20, 2018 during which we will celebrate our 150 years. This once in a lifetime event should be a goal for all members. We have some funds available locally to assist those wishing to attend. The cost per individual will be at least \$1,000, so if members want to attend but have limited funds, this is an opportunity to receive assistance. Please write a letter to any of your officers if you are seeking assistance. Members should have been active in the local UMW group for at least one year. State the following: why you want to attend, what you hope to gain from the event, how you will use this experience to benefit our local UMW and church. Submit letters to individuals on the UMW Executive Board or leave them in the church office. Deadline is November 1, 2017 to benefit from early registration.

—Eva Ndavu, President, UMW



A few years back, my daughter introduced me to a weight loss app. It was simply called “*Lose It!*” I was intrigued, and for health reasons needed to shed a few pounds. I’ve always been skeptical about quick fixes, even though I get sucked in every now and then! My daughter told me it was a great way to get healthy, so I downloaded it to my phone. (*It’s so easy to do this these days!*) Long story short...it actually worked for me! In a few months, I had achieved my goal and was feeling better overall. The app was successful! Or was it that the app simply helped me become more conscious of my food intake, and encouraged more frequent exercise? I had to lose (give up) a few things in order to feel better. Sounds like: “*No Pain, No Gain!*” This phrase, like the “*Lose It*” app, only works if/when we make the needed sacrifices and changes. In order to gain better health, some of us need to change (or lose) a few unhealthy habits. I had to refrain from eating an entire bag of chips in one sitting before I could expect to feel better!

Although a bag of chips is irrelevant to gaining a healthier spiritual life, giving something up is very relevant! Jesus reminds us of this in Matthew 16:25: “*Those who want to save their life will lose it and those who*

lose their life for my sake will gain it.” Sometimes I want to soften these challenging words of Jesus. I’ve always thought the desire to “save” our life was a good thing! But then again, there’s so much more to life than flesh and blood. Jesus offers abundant life to those who follow him. But abundance in life will require *denying self* and *carrying a cross*. If saving our life is a higher priority, then our spiritual lives will suffer.

Jesus is talking about the health of our spirits, but this is true in other aspects of life as well. For example, every healthy relationship requires giving up something. We don’t lose our identity, but we give up things (wants, needs, habits, etc.) for the other person. The resulting gain far outweighs what we lose or give up. This is true in our 401K

Losing to Gain...

By Pastor Kim

investments as well. We must spend less now, in order to gain more for the future. The only difference is, what we give up for Christ becomes a *treasure in heaven*, and what we give up for our future retirement becomes a treasure in our 401K. Both are wise investments! But Jesus reminds us that a healthy 401K without a healthy spirit is like gaining the world but forfeiting our life!

Striving with you to follow Christ,



Worship Schedule for September 2017

September 3: Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Dying to Live...
 Read: Matthew 16:21-23

September 10: Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Losing to Gain...
 Read: Matthew 16:24-26

September 17: Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Forgiven to Forgive...
 Read: Matthew 18:21-30

September 24: Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Last to be First...
 Read: Matthew 20:1-16

News and Notes

For more information, contact the church office 623-939-1409, or rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

Independence for Elders

If you can't drive due to physical disabilities, and live in your own home or apartment, Duet may be able to brighten your life and help you remain living at home.

Duet, our congregation's partner in service, inspires and equips volunteers to provide friendly visits, calls, grocery shopping, computer training (Duet provides the computers), paperwork assistance, home repairs, and/or rides to medical appointments.

Call Duet at 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org to learn more about their free-of-charge services or to volunteer.



Lay Servant Ministries Classes in Mesa

The location for the **September 15-16 Lay Servant Ministries classes has changed to St. Matthew United Methodist Church, 2540 W. Baseline Road in Mesa**. The registration deadline is September 11. Two classes will be offered:

- ***Dancing with Words*** – understand what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experiences.
- ***Come to the Table: Communion*** – deepen your experience of Holy Communion through this wide-ranging study of *This Holy Mystery*, scripture, church history, and United Methodist theology and practice of the sacrament.

Course fees are \$30; register at dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries

Report from the Brad Riner Assistance Office

We were able to give utility assistance to 53 households in the month of July! We've also done quite a bit of reorganizing of stock and storage areas. We are slowly getting paperwork organized and our database audited.

I have had a chance to seek partnerships and grants within the community. There is a homeschooling support group that meets in North Phoenix—they will be collecting canned food in September and toothbrushes, toothpaste and socks in October.

If you know of someone with fruit trees that need to be harvested for donation this fall, please let me know to see if we can get volunteers to help with that. As always, thank you for praying for the needy and our ministry to them.

—Dawn Horney, Director of Outreach

P.S. We recently applied for and received a grant from the Smart & Final Charitable Foundation—\$300. What a blessing!

What Does God Ask of Us?

Autumn is approaching, and it can't get here too soon! I think that I speak for many of us when I say we will welcome a break from the heat of summer.

This season is also the time of year when we talk about giving to the church. This means that the Finance Committee takes on the role of Stewardship in addition to our other responsibilities. We will be asking everyone to fill out a pledge card for the upcoming year, 2018. This is important because the Finance Committee uses these numbers to determine a budget for our church – salaries, administrative costs, programs and outreach ministries. What number will you write on your card?

This year, as in previous years, my wife and I will tithe (give 10% of our income), and when we see a need, we will also give an offering to the church. Some of the reasons we take this position are:

- We enjoy helping our church
- It is the right thing to do
- Our church is doing important work spiritually
- Our church is doing important work in the community
- The Bible teaches about regular tithing (see Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10, and Matthew 23:23)
- We get to keep 90% of what God enables us to have

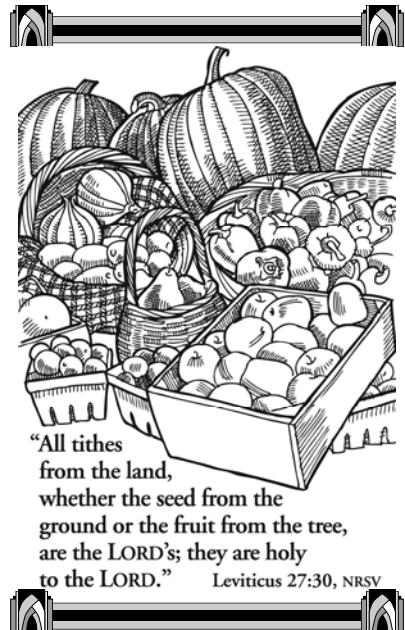
Tithing seems fair to me because those who earn more give more, and those who earn less give less. Whether your tithe is large or smaller, I believe that God smiles on each of us. When I read Malachi 3:10, I don't think anyone will ever become poor by giving a tithe to God.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." – Malachi 3:10, NIV

We are aware that God expects us to give of our time and our money, because both are needed for the successful operation of a church. According to 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV), *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

More to come over the next few months –

— Ted Turner, Finance/Stewardship Chairperson



*"All tithes
from the land,
whether the seed from the
ground or the fruit from the tree,
are the LORD's; they are holy
to the LORD."* Leviticus 27:30, NRSV

What's Happening in Our Music Department?

As we near the end of the summer, let's take a few minutes to consider what has happened over the summer and what we can hope to accomplish as fall approaches. The Chancel Choir closed a very successful 2016-2017 season on May 28, 2017. The season's successes included the preparation and presentation of more than 40 anthems, special programs at Christmas, Lent and Easter as well as a special patriotic program just before Election Day. Christmas entertainment was organized during the five Friday and Saturday nights of Glendale Glitters. The choir members were active in all phases of the church community as well as attending regular rehearsals and Sunday worship. Even during the summer, choir members served by providing excellent refreshments for Vacation Bible School and three Sunday Fellowship Hours. These folks deserve the appreciation and support of all our church community for the time, energy and dedication they give.

Our other worship group, the Echoes of Praise, also regularly contributes to our church life. The very dedicated members of Echoes of Praise prepare and present multiple anthems throughout the regular church season, and continue singing during the summer months. On most Sundays, you will find EOP singing at both services. Since being formed at First UMC, the Echoes of Praise group has had very few personnel changes. Only four members have changed in these years. We are truly blessed that EOP singers consider their involvement both professionally and extremely seriously. Because of the limitations of the Chancel Choir, the Echoes of Praise supplement the choir membership on some Sundays.

Judy Pohlhaus, Nancy Herring and Michael Collins contribute nearly every Sunday to worship. These three very talented people cannot be thanked and appreciated enough. Besides the support they give at the Music Ministry time during the service, they give us a memorable prelude, communion and postlude, all requiring extra rehearsal and practice.

On Sunday evening, August 6, 2017, the Music Department hosted an open concert by Jonny Tristram. I asked for support from our congregation and received it. Not only did many members of Glendale First attend the program but they also made charitable financial contributions to Mr. Tristram's designated charities. Jonny's manager and videographer is currently editing the images he captured before, during and after the concert and will be providing us a copy of what will be included in Jonny's European Documentary when it is completed.



Wednesday, August 30 is the first Chancel Choir rehearsal for 2017-2018. I am looking forward to a choir season of beautiful anthems and special programs. Blessing the Lord is our goal and intention. Everyone is welcome to join the choir. I hope to see old and new members alike that evening, 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. God bless you all!

—Larry Del Rae, Director of Music

Family Camp Update

We are planning Family Camp at Lynx Lake just outside Prescott for the weekend of October 6-8. We've reserved the Osprey group site, which can accommodate up to 75 people with many tent pads and some long parking spaces for RVs. The camp has running water, flush toilets and electric outlets along with a covered eating area with lots of tables. The site is ADA compliant. We've reserved Friday and Saturday nights with departure scheduled by noon on Sunday morning. You can come for one day, both days or stay just for an afternoon. Hike to the lake or on nearby trails, go antiquing in Prescott, go fishing or take a snooze in your favorite lawn chair—it's up to you!

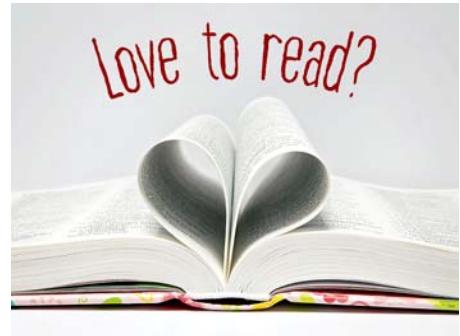
Watch for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour in September.



CBS (Christian Book Shelf)

"This Scarlet Cord" by Joan Wolf

This book is based on 5 short Bible verses from the Book of Joshua. It is a novel of Rehab and how she might have met her husband, Sala. It describes her family, the defenses, leaders and the people of Jericho. Your imagination is turned loose as Rehab helps Joshua's men escape through the window as the battle of Jericho takes place.



Book Nook

Read the UMW selection, *"How Coffee Saved My Life."*

A young woman leaves an active life in Minnesota to become a missionary in Uruguay. She finds herself totally unprepared with the lack of language, primitive housing, laid-back style of living and lack of interaction, which upsets her almost to the point of depression. It is through her writing and monthly contact with other English-speaking missionaries that she begins to appreciate the people of the village and see that there is some merit in her being in Uruguay. Her writing style swings from scattered diary entries to profound reflection. She also writes of very personal actions which are often quite amusing.

Movies by Moonlight

Fri. at 7 p.m. FREE ADMISSION

 September 29 Moana Sahuaro Ranch Sports Park	 October 6 Boss Baby O'Neil Park	 October 13 Smurfs: The Lost Village Paseo Sports Park
 October 20 Lego Batman Rose Lane Park	 October 27 Diary of a Wimpy Kid Sierra Verde Park	 November 3 Captain Underpants Heroes Park

GLENDALE

Spend a cool fall evening under the stars enjoying family friendly box office hits. Bring your blanket or lawn chair.
 *Free pre-movie activities for kids start at 6 p.m.

For more information call 623-930-2299 or visit GlendaleAZ.com/parksandrecreation

Wednesday Night Speaker Series

Our church is hosting a series of special speaking events for the community on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

- **August 30th Consumer Scams and Identity Theft**
- **September 6th Young Adults Consumer Guide (Best for ages 17-27)**
- **September 13th Crime Prevention (Burglary and Auto Theft)**
- **September 20th Human Trafficking**
- **September 27th DOVES Program (Elder Abuse)**
- **October 4th Health Care Options: Hospice doesn't have to be scary**

Everyone is welcome to attend any session. Each presentation lasts about 1 hour. If you have suggestions for speakers, or want to volunteer or participate, please contact Christine Jones in the church office.

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Deadline for the October Newsletter is September 12. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm.	email:				
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED					
7102 North 58th Drive Glendale, AZ 85301-2434					