

Circuit Rider



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



Missions Fundraiser
Oktoberfest
October 14
4:00-7:00 pm
First United Methodist Church
7102 N. 58th Drive, Glendale **Adults \$10; under 12 \$5**

The poster features a green Oktoberfest hat with a feather and a small flag. The word "Oktoberfest" is written in a large, ornate, black and gold font. There are also some autumn leaves and a small pumpkin illustration.

The Missions Team will be hosting an Oktoberfest Celebration on Saturday, October 14, 2017, from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be sold through October 11th. They will be available at the Coffee Fellowship each Sunday or through the Church Office during the week. The price of the tickets is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for children under 12.

There will be music by the West Valley Brassworks. A variety of genres will be played: polka, blues, vaudeville and others. The

price of tickets will include FOOD (brats, sauerkraut, hot dogs, German potato salad and a few other treats), FELLOWSHIP and FUN!

A Silent Auction will be held; if you would like to donate an item for auction, please see any Missions Team member at coffee hour. Some ideas are gift cards, themed baskets, collectibles, services, etc. There will also be door prizes.

This fundraiser will enable us to expand our outreach locally, nationally and around the world. We meet the third Thursday of the month in room 101 at 6:30 pm. Come be a part of our team!

Lydia Circle would like to extend a general invitation to their meeting on Thursday, October 12, from 7:00—9:00 pm in the stage area of Fellowship Hall. Rev. Gerri Bast will be speaking about her role as the Spiritual Life Coordinator at Justa Center.

First United Methodist Church

7102 N. 58th Drive • Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623.939.1409 • Fax: 623.236.9284

Email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com • Web: 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



A Shoebox's Amazing Journey

It's fall...can Christmas be far behind? This is the time of year the Missions Team starts collecting items and/or money to fill shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of it's kind, uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Since 1993, more than 135 million gift-filled shoeboxes have been collected and delivered in more than 150 countries and territories. Shoeboxes are collected in the United States, Australia, Finland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Spain and the United Kingdom.

More than 500,000 volunteers worldwide, with more than 150,000 of those in the United States, are involved in collecting, shipping, and distributing shoebox gifts.

The Missions Team has information on how to pack a shoeboxes available during Coffee Fellowship each Sunday. We are collecting contributions to help pay for the cost of processing each shoebox (\$9.00) or gift items for the shoeboxes. Collection dates are now through November 12th. Packing will be done on November 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We have over 100 shoeboxes to fill!

More than 4.7 million children have participated in "The Greatest Journey," Operation Christmas Child's follow-up program that is offered to many children who receive shoebox gifts. This program is implemented through a global church network to help children learn how to know and follow Jesus.

The amazing journey of a shoebox begins with you, and reaches children and families around the world!



Financial planners want to know our assets and liabilities in order to figure out our net worth. I've always resisted declaring a person's worth in financial figures. On the other hand, it is good to know our assets and liabilities. It's important in budgeting...something we must do in the church every year. When we ask everyone to make a pledge, it is because we are trying to determine our assets for the next year, in this case, 2018. We have a good idea what our liabilities will be. However, if we want to stay vital and active in our community, we must venture out in new ways. If our assets and liabilities were equal year after year one would step into retirement with lots of liabilities and dwindling assets. The church, like every individual life, must invest for the future! But church "investments" differ from personal 401ks. Church investments do not lead to "retirement," though we all slow down with age. The prophetic words of Isaiah come to mind:

...Youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, ³¹ But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they

shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The church invests in a future of active vital ministry and mission. Jesus said it this way:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together... running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Our value is not determined by financial net worth. The investments we make in godly things become heavenly

Assets and Liabilities

By Pastor Kim

treasures, *running over...poured into our lap.* There simply are no greater assets than those that come from giving ourselves and our gifts in and to the service of Christ, our Lord and Savior!

Investing with you, in the future God has planned for us,



Worship Schedule for October 2017

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|--------------------|---|
| October 1: | World Communion/UMW Sunday
UMW at Home and Abroad: Living the Faith
Read: Philippians 2:1-13 (Eva Ndavu) |
| October 8: | Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Assets and Liabilities...
Read: Philippians 3:4 ^b -9 (Rev. Kim Gladding) |
| October 15: | Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Words to Live By...
Read: Philippians 4:1-9 (Rev. Tom Wick) |
| October 22: | Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Taxes and God...
Read: Matthew 22:15-22 (Rev. Kim Gladding) |
| October 29: | Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Thriving in Our Lifetime...
Read: Psalm 90:1-6, 16-17 (Rev. Kim Gladding) |

News and Notes

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

Annual Church Conference Scheduled for November 1

Our annual Church/Charge Conference date has been set for Wednesday, November 1st at 7:00 pm. (SPRC will meet with the District Superintendent at 6:00 pm). We will celebrate another year of ministry, set priorities and objectives for the coming year, embrace our ministry budget and confirm our leadership for 2018. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Your attendance is important, so mark your calendar and plan on attending.

Those chairing a team, board, committee or council will need to submit your yearly ministry report. These reports are due in the church office by October 23; if possible, email them to rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com. You may also fax your report to 623-236-9284. If you need a copy of last year's report, please email Rebecca.

Report from the Brad Riner Assistance Office

We have been doing record business in the Riner Assistance Office! We helped 43 people with utility assistance in the month of August alone. That left our fund somewhat low, but we have recently received many generous donations that have enabled us to provide assistance this week to more than a dozen new families.

One grandmother has beaten cancer twice and watches her 10 month old grandson regularly and her social security was just not keeping up with summer bills. One mom had her son in the hospital for a month with a recently diagnosed blood disorder and was fired from her job. One lady is struggling to recover from an ugly divorce after 20+ years of marriage. One lady recently was released from prison, and finding work is tough. It is a blessing to speak encouragement and pray for these people. Many are genuinely relieved to find a place that is supportive and helpful.

We provide an average of 20 sack lunches twice a week to homeless individuals. Wow! We are stocked up on all toiletries, but we can always use more toothbrushes and toothpaste. Thanks! All our summer clothing is out on the racks; if you have anything else to donate before the season changes—we'll take both summer and winter anytime. Just drop your donation in the collection box in the narthex. Food items we could use: canned soup, vienna sausages, canned tomatoes or other veggies, jelly or jam, side dish pasta/potatoes/rice.

—Dawn Horney, Director of Outreach



Get Prepared and Financially Fit

Gain useful information at a free-of-charge seminar offered by Duet on Saturday, October 22 from 8:30 – noon, followed by lunch. Topics include: *Medicare Update; How to Prevent and Manage Fraud and Identity Theft; Financial Transitions & Planning as People Age; Top Ten Steps to Take After Someone Dies; Choosing and Navigating Care Facilities and Care Options; and Wills and Trusts*. The no-solicitation seminar takes place at Madison Baptist Church, 6202 N 12st Street, Phoenix. RSVP by October 13 at (602) 274-5022.

What Does Stewardship Look Like in Our Lives?

Many churches, not just our church, find it necessary to have fundraisers to support the ministries and operations of the church. It has been said (and written) that "if all Christians would tithe," the church would not lack anything they needed to accomplish God's purposes in their communities. Don't let anyone tell you that tithing is an Old Testament requirement and does not apply to today. According to scripture, tithing is still asked of all Christians. (see Matthew 5:17-18)

This year's Stewardship Committee is made up entirely of members of the Finance Committee. As such, we are very much aware of monies being essential to the operation and ministries of our church. We are also aware that it is most important to have a loving relationship with God. These thoughts lead us to ask you to ponder a few questions as you decide on the amount that you will write on the 2018 Pledge Card. You will receive your Pledge Card at the end of October.

Points to Ponder:

1. Should God be grateful for our generosity, or should we feel grateful for the privilege of giving to God?
2. How do you feel about how our congregation teaches about money and giving?
3. What conversations that relate faith and money are most helpful to you?
4. Have you thought about how much of your life is truly dedicated to the Lord, and how much you hold back for yourself?

Below is a poem that I feel captures much of our relationship with God as we walk this Christian journey. This poem was written by Claudia Minden Weisz.

And God said, "No"

*I asked God to take away my pride, and God said, "No".
 He said it was not for him to take away, but for me to give up.
 I asked God to make my handicapped child whole, and God said, "No".
 He said, "Her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary."
 I asked God to grant me patience, and God said, "No".
 He said, "Patience is a byproduct of tribulation. It isn't granted, it's earned."
 I asked God to give me happiness, and God said, "No".
 He said, "I give blessings, happiness is up to you."
 I asked God to spare me pain, and God said, "No".
 He said, "Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares, and brings you closer to me."
 I asked God to make my spirit grow, and God said, "No".
 He said, "You must grow on your own, but, I will prune you to make you fruitful."
 I asked God if He loved me, and God said, "Yes."
 He gave me his only Son who died for me, and I will be in Heaven someday because I believe.
 I asked God to help me love others, as much as He loves me, and God said,
 "Ah, finally, you have the idea."*

This poem may have been inspired by 1 Peter 5:10-11 which from ESV reads, "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

May we all walk in faith on this Christian journey as we make an effort to please, honor, and love our God with our gifts and talents.

Report from Mission u

For those of you who aren't familiar with it, Mission u is a conference that is open to both members of the United Methodist Women, and those who are not members but also wish to grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context. I was very lucky to have been offered a scholarship to attend my first Mission u conference at North Scottsdale United Methodist Church on July 28th and 29th.

On September 9th, Linda Triolo, Pam Jackson, and I presented our experiences at Mission u at the UMW Mission u Round Up. Linda spoke about her experience with The Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church. Pam Jackson gave a very well-developed presentation on Living the Covenant Community. I discussed my experiences as a first-time attendee and as one of the scholarship recipients. I would like to share those experiences with all of you.

My first time attending Mission u began with a bang. We started with group discussions about the Justice for Our Neighbors and UMCOR. We discussed refugee outreach and community education, legal aid and mobile clinics; what a wonderful beginning.

The class that I attended was *Living as a Covenant Community*, led by Reverend Khalif Smith. He had a good sense of humor, joking about flying the pulpit, which made everyone laugh. It was wonderful to meet so many women from around the district and to see how similar many of our goals are. At the beginning of the class, I sat at a table filled with strangers. By the end of the class, I was so sorry to be saying goodbye to my sisters Lila, Judi, Stephanie, Debbie and Arlene. On the second day of class, I had the opportunity to play a role in a short skit about Noah and the Ark. I played an animal activist concerned for the welfare of all those animals. It was a lot of fun. Later, we discussed cultural context and restorative justice. I also learned about the challenges of TTWWADI (That's the way we've always done it). The class ended with a take-away moment for me: 'Seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.'

The second day dawned with a session on the Reading Program, and we watched several YouTube videos that related directly to UMW issues. So many great books were recommended, and ideas were shared on how we can help our communities to be aware of racial justice, social action, and sustainability & the environment. As Mission u wound to a close, young singers Jessica and Brianna led us in three fun songs. Then we placed our glowing candles within the sign of the cross. Finally, we partook of communion.

The thread of Mission u is relationships: relationships with God, with our neighbors, and with creation. From the opening discussions until the very end with communion, the time spent with my new sisters helped me feel involved and included. With such a beautiful experience, I must encourage all of you to be connected, to get more involved with the wonderful activities at our church. There are so many ways to be involved in this relationship. Joining a circle is a good way to get started. How involved are you?

May God's love flow through you and those around you.

—Christine Jones, Director of Nurture



CBS (Christian Book Shelf)

“With You Always” by Jodi Hedlund

The Orphan Train books provide an interesting perspective of a certain historical time in the United States. This book provided a different view of an older orphan girl’s plight and the division of families. I found the book very interesting as is set in Quincy, Illinois, a town with which I am familiar. After a lot Googling, I discovered that Quincy only represented other locations. But I am certainly looking forward to the next book in Hedlund’s series on Orphan Trains.

—*Olive Norris*

Book Nook

Read the UMW selection, *“Across Many Mountains”* by Yangsom Brauen (large print)

This is an interesting, easy read of the Tibetan history of the grandmother, mother and author. It is the story of the escape from Tibet of the grandmother and mother (as a 6 year old) over the Himalayans into India and their life for several years. It details the beliefs and Buddhist practices of the older woman and how Buddhism deteriorated through the next two generations. It also gives a good picture of how Tibet has lost its culture and peace with the occupation of China. An absolute must read! —*Olive Norris*

Update from Nurture

As the weather is just starting to cool off, I would like to encourage all of you to join us for our Speaker Series on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. You can find a list of topics in the announcements on Sunday, or at glendalefirstumc.com. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the sessions.

We have had some wonderful presentations so far. The Glendale PD gave an informative talk on auto theft and home burglary. Attorney Bernie Strass spoke about wills and trusts. The Attorney General’s office has presented on several topics, including living wills, DNRs, consumer scams and ID theft. If you have suggestions or want to participate, please contact Christine Jones in the office.

You may have noticed every week we have a new message on the sign at the corner of 58th Dr. and Glenn Dr. We also have a daily bible verse and quote of the day on Twitter and Facebook. If you miss a sermon, you can catch it on Facebook or on our website. Be sure to take a look.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that we have many support materials available if you want to start a small group. Just let us know how we can support you.

Christine Jones, Director of Nurture
nurturegfumc@gmail.com

Upcoming Alzheimer’s Education Workshops at First Glendale (Room 101)

- October 23 The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease (9:30—10:30 am)**
Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior/Effective Communication Strategies (10:45 am—12:00 pm)
- November 13 Alzheimer’s, Caregivers and Stress (9:30—10:30 am)**
Holiday Tips for Caregivers; learn tools and tips for holiday visits (10:45 am—12:00 pm)

To register for any of these workshops, please email Martha Burruel at Martha.Burruel@alz.org, or call 602-528-0545.



Deadline for the November Newsletter is October 13. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm.
email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

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