

Circuit Rider



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



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, movies, and worship services. The sanctuary is open from 6:00—9:00 pm; all performances begin at 7:00 pm. We will need volunteers to host these events—if you are interested, please contact Rebecca in the church office 623-939-1409 or rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com.

- Friday, November 24 *Hanging of the Greens Worship Service (see page 2 for more information)*
- Saturday, November 25 *Seasonal Carols and Melodies*
- Friday, December 1 *Open Microphone for Couriers and Carolers*
- Saturday, December 2 *Children's Movie — Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*
- Friday, December 8 *Holiday Concert — Westside Brass and Company*
- Saturday, December 9 *Jazz Band Concert — Desert Overture Jazz Ensemble*
- Friday, December 15 *Family Movie — A Christmas Carol or Miracle on 34th St*
- Saturday, December 16 *Program to be determined*

***The sanctuary will be open from 6:00—9:00 pm to visitors;
all programs are FREE and begin at 7:00 pm.***



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

Many things I know today, I've learned from past generations. Every now and then I wonder: Where would I be and what would I be doing if my parents and other mentors had not told me what matters most in life? I'm not taking about my occupation, but rather my vocation.

Simply put, an occupation occupies one's time, but a vocation is grounded in one's values, guided by belief and motivated by a call. If my parents and other supportive adults had not shared their beliefs and impressed upon me

what a meaningful life looked like, I'm sure whatever job I wound up in, including professional ministry, would simply be a place where I "did time" instead of an opportunity to practice and live out what I believe. Every occupation (job) is an opportunity to be an extension of what we believe!

In Psalm 78 we read: "I will open my mouth with a proverb...that our ancestors told us. ...We'll tell the next generation all about the praise due to the Lord—the wondrous works God has done. This is so the next generation and children not yet born will know these things." (Psalm 78:2-4, 6)

Telling the Next Generation

By Pastor Kim

Now it's our responsibility to pass on the wisdom and good things our parents and mentors shared with us. What a wonderful opportunity and important responsibility! May God make us just as courageous as those who have gone on before us.

In the mission with you,

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule for November

November 5: 22nd Sunday After Pentecost, Stewardship Emphasis

Water in the Desert! Food for the Hungry!

Love that Lasts Forever!

Read: Psalm 107:1, 33-37

November 12: 23rd Sunday After Pentecost, All Saints' Sunday

Telling the Next Generation About God

Read: Psalm 78:1-4, 6-7

November 19: 24th Sunday After Pentecost, Thanksgiving

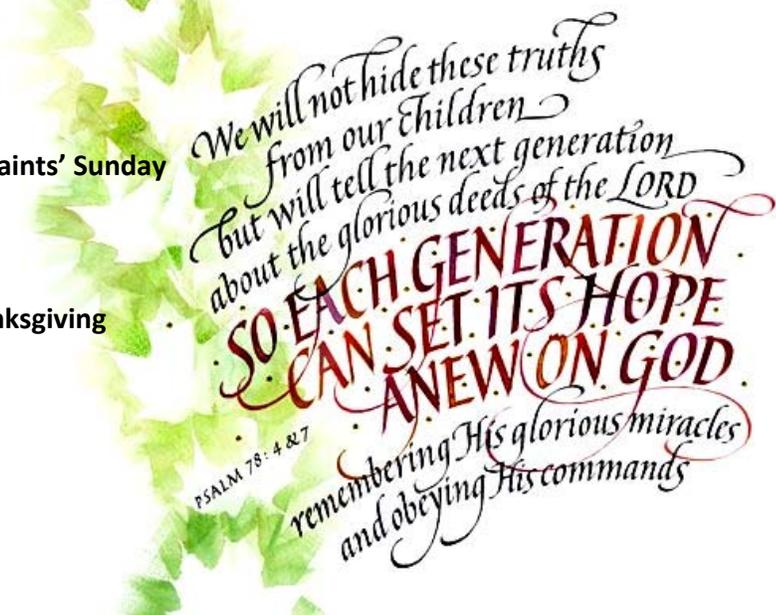
Putting God's Gifts to Work!

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

November 26: Christ the King Sunday

What We Do to Jesus...

Read: Matthew 25:31, 34-40



Conviction, Unity and Faith

Today as I contemplate on activities from yesterday I feel that God revealed to me just how blessed I am and have been my entire life. The events that I pondered are: the tragedy that took place at the Country Music Concert in Las Vegas; a funeral that took place at First UMC-Glendale; and the meeting that I had with two fraternity brothers that I have rarely seen or communicated with since college.

Conviction - Something one firmly believes. The willingness of individuals to risk their lives to save others demonstrates love for neighbor. I doubt that anyone would be able to do that without a strong conviction to love their neighbor. Their actions spoke much louder than words ever could. Many people of different backgrounds pulled together (unity) to reach safety and sometimes administer first aid. The actions that I have listed here add to my faith that God is always present in our lives, even in the face of tragedy.

At the funeral, all the people who spoke had grown up in a town in southeast New Mexico and all spoke of their conviction that their upbringing was done the right way to include proper education. Listening to each of the speakers, I too became convinced that they were brought

up the right way with love for one another. They also indicated that the town was united together in the old philosophy that "it takes a village to raise a child." Listening to some of the stories enables me to understand that they had the faith to know that God lived in that small town in southeast New Mexico.

As I met with my brothers, I was a little uncertain about how I and my wife would feel about this get-together. However, we listened to them describe their conviction of how God had influenced the events in their lives in a positive way. They were all united in their testimony about their faith that God was the reason for their successes. At first I felt a little envious, but then I was reminded that I, too, have been blessed in many ways and in much the same way that they have been blessed.

I am convinced that we here at FUMC are a praying church. The published prayer chain enables us to be united in prayer and I have faith that as a result God hears and answers our prayers. I am also convinced that we would operate better if we were more willing to work in the church by accepting office positions when called on or picking up a broom or mop when we see the need. We also need to

unify in our effort to increase our support of the church financially, with tithing being the goal.

These stewardship writings have come from my heart and they are intended to inspire and motivate the reader to respond to God's calling. If I have written anything about giving that you believe is in conflict with God's message, I urge you to turn your Bible to 2 Corinthians 9:7 which reads, "each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." All tithes and offering given should be given willingly.

A tithe is giving the first 10th of my earnings. An offering is anything I give in addition to my tithe.

The notion that stewardship rightly focuses on the Christian's need to give rather than the church's need to receive is a spiritually powerful truth. The practice of tithing blesses and benefits the giver as much as it strengthens the mission and ministry of the church.

—Ted Turner
Chairman, Finance Committee



Book Reviews

by Olive Norris

UMW...*Finding God in a Bag of Groceries* by Laura Laping Willis

Several women have read this book and I encourage the rest of our group to join them in enjoying this book that will remind them of our own Brad Riner Assistance Office. This is a story of a women searching for her life's work as an ordained priest in the Episcopal church as a director of the small town Community Action Committee in Tennessee. She held this position for 10 years, feeding and counseling the poor, organizing fundraising events, and balancing her family life before finding God's answer. This is an easy read.

CBS...There are books on the shelf that youth might enjoy and this is one, especially girls! In *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech, thirteen-year-old Sophie wants to accompany her 3 uncles and 2 male cousins on a sailboat journey from the states to England to visit her grandfather. Written in journal style, it is quick read.

Update from Nurture

To begin with, I wanted to say a warm and gracious thank you to all of you. I have been welcomed in every possible way. It has been a year since I started out as a volunteer and every day I continue to feel your love and welcome. Each time I offer to serve in some capacity, you say thank you. It is something I truly appreciate about all of you. The bible says, "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people" Ephesians 6:7, and you, my church family, make it so easy to serve. So, thank you!

I continue to update the church sign at the corner of 58th Dr. and Glenn Dr. I hope you enjoy the messages. I have also been posting daily bible verses and a quote of the day on Twitter and Facebook. I also post the Sunday sermon, after Tom Wick uploads it to YouTube. That way, if you are travelling or cannot make it to church, you can still see the sermon on Facebook or on our website. Be sure to look.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to volunteer with the Youth Sunday School classes with Pastor Kim, and last Sunday I

(Continued on page 5)



We Give Thanks to God! Thanksgiving Potluck Sunday, November 19

All are invited to attend our church's Thanksgiving celebration potluck that will be held on Sunday, November 19 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 18; 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!

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 on which many dress up in costumes (sometimes scary) and go out to collect a year's supply of candy.



Our church is designating the second Sunday in November as All Saints' Sunday, and on this Sunday we will 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 WORKSHOPS

**First United Methodist Church of Glendale
November 13, Room 101**

Caregivers and Stress (9:30—10:30 am)

Living with Alzheimer's or dementia brings demands to your life that can result in stress. But too much stress can be overwhelming and affect your health and ability to function. This program will introduce participants to the causes and signs of stress and provide stress-reducing strategies.

Holiday Tips (10:45 am—12:00 pm)

The holidays are a time when family and friends often come together. But for families living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, the holidays can be challenging. With some planning and adjusted expectations, your celebrations can still be happy, memorable occasions.

No charge to attend. Registration is required.

For registration or questions, please call 602.528.0545, or email Martha Burrue (mburrue@alz.org).

Update from Nurture

(Continued from page 4)

had my first solo operation of the soundboard during both services. It was loads of fun!

I would also 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.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for all the support you gave for the Fall Speaker Series. The presenters were interesting and informative, and we were so happy to have them share what they could. The speaker series has now ended for the fall, but we hope to start up again in January for a winter series. I already have a few speakers lined up.

Christine Jones,
Director of Nurture

nurturegfumc@gmail.com



"Don't be fooled by the pumpkin pie. It's just squash casserole with sugar."

United Methodist Women

October was a month of celebrations, beginning with UMW Sunday on October 1. The women conducted the two church services along with the WOW Band, Echoes of Praise, Pastor Kim, and Larry Del Rae. The sermon offered a look at some history of UMW and an insight into their many ministries.

October 1 was also World Communion Sunday. To celebrate, UMW sponsored an international potluck luncheon featuring numerous ethnic or cultural foods. UMW are most grateful to all church members who contributed their favorite family, ethnic or international cuisine. Those who wore international attire added color and variety to the day. Special thanks go to the WOW Band and Ntamabari Mbasi for the music and dance. Your participation made this a successful event.

Celebrations continued at the district and conference level. At the West District annual celebration held at Willowbrook UMC on October 7, six of our local members were elected West District officers for 2018. These include: Judy Cleaveland, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth; Helen Jackson and Pam Jackson, members, Committee on Nominations; Christine Jones, Secretary; Eva Ndavu, member, Committee on Nominations; Linda Triolo, Mission Coordinator for Education for Mission. A total of fifteen FUMC Glendale UMW attended the West District celebration. Several members also attended the Desert Southwest Conference annual celebration at Gila Mountain UMC, Yuma, at the end of October.

Christmas Tea

The annual Christmas Tea is slated for Saturday, December 2, beginning at 2 p.m. Both vocal and instrumental music will be provided (organized by Carolyn Allenby), and there will be scrumptious food as usual. We will sell tickets during November; \$12 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. Remember that there are always lovely door prizes.

General Assembly

About 10,000 women are expected to converge on Columbus, Ohio next May. The UMW General Assembly is held once every four years. This will be a very special event as we will celebrate our 150 years of service to the church. Some funds are available locally to assist those wishing to attend but who may not have sufficient funds to cover the total costs. If interested, please write a letter to any of your officers and leave in the church office. Members should have been active in the local UMW group for at least one year (that is, from May 2017). The deadline is November 30 for the early registration discount. (Registration is transferable).

Black Nativity Offers Special Christmas

Last year some members attended Black Theatre Troupe's production of Langston Hughes' Black Nativity at the Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center during the Christmas season. This year we are sharing this opportunity with other church members. The matinee performance will be on December 3 at 3 p.m. We will need to book 20 tickets to get the \$30 special rate. Call Eva Ndavu at 602 616 6126 or email ern-davu@yahoo.com if you want to attend.

—Eva Ndavu, President, UMW

Almost 2,000 years ago, the story goes, a clutch of sleepy shepherds were watching over their sheep on a star-brightened hillside. It was a still, peaceful 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.

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.

Hanging of the Greens— A Meaningful Worship Experience



On Friday, November 24th, our church will begin to wear its Christmas finery. Our Christmas tree will stand in the sanctuary; its lights shining for us. We will get ready for the birth of the child by preparing our sanctuary, and we will 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 59th Avenue, north of Olive), and the shuttle will drop you off at the northwest corner of 59th 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 Karen Render or Rebecca in the church office.



Advent Readers Needed

The worship committee is looking for volunteers to light the Advent wreath and read a short litany during Sunday worship services on December 3-24th. At least two people are needed for each service. Contact Linda Hardesty at 623-939-4432 for more information. Thank you!



The United Methodist Women's
Annual Christmas Tea
Saturday, December 2, 2:00 pm

Adults: \$12.00; under 12: \$7.00

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Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 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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