

# Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · January 2018

January  
2018



## Welcome New Members!

Please welcome three new members, who joined the church on Sunday, December 10. They are Treasa Birchett, Christine Jones, and Jo Ann Kissler. Treasa was sponsored by Kathy Epp, Christine by her grandmother, Olive Norris, and Jo Ann was sponsored by Erma Garling. If you don't already know them, be sure to introduce yourself next Sunday!



*The clergy and 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!*



## First United Methodist Church

7102 N. 58th Drive · Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623.939.1409 · Fax: 623.236.9284

[www.glendalefirstumc.com](http://www.glendalefirstumc.com)

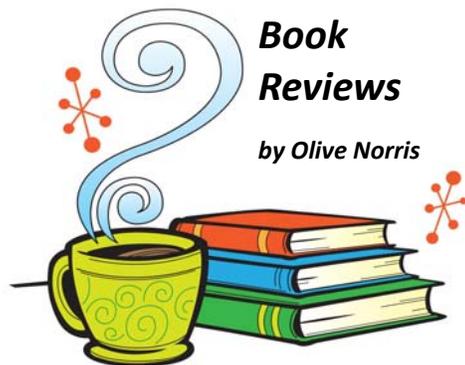
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–3:00 pm; closed Friday at 12:00 pm

### 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



## Book Reviews

by Olive Norris

*The UMW books can be found in the Fellowship Hall, in the main hallway across from the kitchen. The Christian Book Shelf collection is in the Fireside area of Fellowship Hall.*

### UMW Selection: “Americana” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

An interesting, unusual novel for UMW reading! The story is about two close friends who leave Nigeria, hoping to better their lives. Each of them struggle while learning to deal with the issues of race and identity. The man experiences London, the discrimination of emigrants, corruption of work permits, etc. Although very

well-educated, he cannot find a decent job and after a time returns. The woman travels to the US to attend college, where she suddenly finds herself designated and discriminated against as “Black.” She remains for several years, creating a life but is dissatisfied and also returns. This book gives a bit of recent history and a different view of life in Nigeria. (Social Action)

### CBS Selection: “Gabby—A Story of Courage and Hope” by Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly

Most of us are aware of the 2011 shooting of Gabby Giffords and 19 others in Tucson. This book tells of the congresswoman’s remarkable, long recovery, due to her determination, the support of her family, friends, and most of all her husband, Mark. Commander Kelly was about to make his last flight in orbit at the time of the tragedy. It is also an inside story of their courtship, marriage and life together. This is an inspiring story that is also part of our local Arizona and US history.

## 2018 Administrative Training

Plan to join the members of the West and East Districts for Administrative Training for new and continuing local church committee members.

**Saturday, January 13, 2018**

**Administrative Training**

**9:30-11:30 AM**

**Dove of the Desert UMC**

**7201 W Beardsley, Glendale, AZ**

Training will include concurrent workshops for ...

- ⇒ Staff/Parish Relations
- ⇒ Finance
- ⇒ Trustees

**Registration is required.**

Register Online at:

<https://dscumc.org/2018-admin-training>

Questions, contact Carla Whitmire, 602-798-8236 or  
[cwhitmire@dscumc.org](mailto:cwhitmire@dscumc.org)

Register Today

What better resolution could there be for the new year than *Honoring Christ* in all we do! I love the song "Amazing Love," by Billy James Foote. The refrain of the song first reminds us of the gift of love through Christ:

*"Amazing love, how can it be? That You, my King would die for me? Amazing love, I know its true."*

Then the writer of this worship song pledges his life to honor Christ in all that he does: *"It's my joy to honor You, in all I do, I honor You!"* Much of the refrain of this song is taken from Charles Wesley's song: *"And Can It Be that I Should Gain,"* 1739. You can check it out in our own United Methodist Hymnal, #363.

It's common practice, as we approach the coming year, to pledge ourselves to some new or

renewed efforts to get healthier, make better choices and perhaps reach out to someone we've lost touch with. This year, why not pledge ourselves, above all else, to *Honoring Christ in All We Do*.

We can only begin to imagine how this might change our lives and the lives of others. Think of the potential this could have on our church and ministry, if every effort, ministry and word was first, in honor of Christ! Instead of identifying faults in one another, we would encourage each other. Rather than complaining about another's lack of participation, we might invite that person into our circle of friends, and try and get to know her/him better. Every year ministry grows more chal-

## ***Ponderings from Pastor Kim***

### ***Honoring Christ in All We Do...***

lenging and complicated. If we want to honor Christ in our ministry, we would resist moaning and groaning and get more creative in rising to those challenges! I'm excited for the coming year of ministry! No doubt, there will be obstacles to overcome, and we will succeed in some and fail in others. But when our efforts are in the *Honor of Christ*, they are not defined by winning or losing, or even accomplishing goals, but rather, very simply, were they *Honoring to Christ?*

In November our Church Council adopted a brave new mission and vision for the future. I believe it will help direct our ministry and life in honor of Christ. I hope you will put it in a familiar place as a reminder of our foundation for life and ministry. We are First United Methodist Church pledge ourselves to be:

***A Courageous Church!  
To Love Like Jesus!  
To Act For Justice!  
To Be United in Hope!***

Yours in the honor and love of Christ,



## ***Worship Schedule for January 2018***

### **January 7: The First Sunday after Epiphany**

*Honoring Christ... Rev. Kim L. Gladding*

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

### **January 14: Second Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord**

*Speaking The Language of Love ...*

Read: Acts 19:4-7; Mark 1:4-5, 9-11

### **January 21: Third Sunday after Epiphany**

*Trusting in the Good News ...*

Read: Mark 1:14-20

### **January 28: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

*Silencing Evil...*

Read: Mark 1:21-28

## Church News and Notes

For more information, contact the church  
office 623.939.1409 or  
[rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com)

### Lura Turner Homes 8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 27, 2018  
Madison Baptist Church  
7202 North 12th Street, Phoenix

#### Dinner Seating Times:

4:00-5:30 pm and 6:00-7:30 pm  
\$17.50 for adults  
\$10 for children 12 and under

Tickets include dinner by Personal  
Touch Catering and sundaes by Mary  
Coyle's Ice Cream

#### The evening will feature:

Igor Glenn and the Jazz Cowboys  
Door prizes  
50-50 Raffle  
Gifts for sale by Hidden Treasures  
Antiques and Collectibles  
Candy bouquets by S&L Creations

Reserve Tickets at 602-943-4789



## West District Day of Learning

February 17, 2018 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at Dove of the Desert UMC

The Day of Learning 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 is \$15.00 on or before February 9; \$20.00 after February 9.

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 for childcare.

Plan to attend two workshops from the list below:

### Morning Workshops

- Behind the Wall: A Firsthand Glimpse into the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict
- Caring for Your Congregation and Community
- Centering Prayer
- Church Leadership the Disney Way
- Generational Challenges in Collaborative Ministry
- It's All About the Soul

### Afternoon Workshops

- Behind the Wall: A Firsthand Glimpse into the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict
- Centering Prayer
- Generational Challenges in Collaborative Ministry
- Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry and Certified Lay Minister Programs
- It's All About the Soul
- O For a Thousand Tongues

## ***Justice vs. Injustice***

In reviewing the year 2017, I would have to say that a profound experience for me was attending the play, *"The Scottsboro Boys,"* at the Phoenix Theatre in April. It was not only the excellent performance that was moving, but also the post-show discussion period that gave the audience an opportunity to respond and comment.

I was actually a bit apprehensive about attending a play based on such a blatant example of injustice in American history. It was also difficult to imagine the story as a musical. Was this to be "Black Comedy?" Were the use of music and humor not denigrating issues of southern history even further?

My test of good art is that which leaves the audience with something uplifting or thought provoking that remains forever. The images in a great painting stay in the mind. Meaningful words and emotive music may fade but never die. This performance met those criteria.

Based on real historical events, *"The Scottsboro Boys"* tells about racial injustice that riveted the world's attention during the 1930s. It is the story of nine African American youths wrongly accused

of raping two white women. There was a trial, a mistrial, another trial. Meanwhile, the boys languished in prison. After 45 years, the last Scottsboro defendant was declared not guilty. This case, more than any other of that era, revealed our capacity for inhumane behavior.

To balance the heavyweight story, the musical numbers are lively, satirical and entertaining, especially "Electric Chair," "That's Not the Way We Do Things," and "Alabama Ladies." The Minstrel Show forms a backdrop and some comic relief, emphasizing how stereotyping can influence decision-making. The audience is forced to consider how such a legacy can be overcome, asking "How did this happen?"

Most of the audience stayed for the discussion which was led by facilitators from the ASU Center for the Study of Race and Democracy. One comment was: "In my life-long journey I have always tried to meet many people of diverse backgrounds, color, and creed. I have tried to look at things from another's point of view." Another said: "Well I cannot do that. I do not have the experience, and I do not know how to feel or think like a black person."

If there had been time, I would have reminded that second speaker that the very fact that she attended the play and stayed for this discussion showed that she was trying, and caring, and that she wanted to understand. Not only that. She was unconsciously building bridges.

It seemed like everyone had something to say, even the only woman from the cast. The 15-minute discussion period soon went far beyond that, with people giving their personal, confessional, biased, philosophical, altruistic comments. They simply did not want to leave the theater! This was an eye-opening experience of how art can touch people's lives, their hearts and minds. Maybe this was an epiphany.

The Scottsboro story is not one we want to remember or tell to our children, but we cannot shun our history. We must face it and learn. Every day we see social injustices, horrendous acts and history-in-the-making. We see people doing wrong and speaking falsehoods. These same people are supposed to be doing right. How should we respond?

Live theater has the power to spark social reform. It can change peoples' perceptions and create

*(Continued on page 7)*

## ***The Twelve Days of Christmas***

After months of planning and anticipation, Christmas appears to be over all too quickly. On December 26, retailers tell us we are in the after-Christmas season of returns, exchanges, and more sales. The church calendar, however, tells us it is still Christmas. The twelve days we sing about in that crazy song, are a real season, sometimes called Christmastide or the days after Christmas. During this season, we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God made flesh who made his home among us (John 1:14 CEB). Christmastide begins at sunset Christmas Eve (December 24) through Epiphany (January 6).



And the Word  
became flesh and  
dwelt among us ...

The twelfth day of Christmas, Epiphany, an even more ancient Christian celebration than Christmas, originally focused on the nativity, God's incarnation (God made flesh) in the birth of Jesus Christ and Christ's baptism. Today, it commemorates the visiting of the Christ Child by the Magi (Wise Men) with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

## ***Special Installation of UMW Officers***

There will be a special candlelight installation ceremony for United Methodist Women officers at our next meeting on February 1, 2018 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

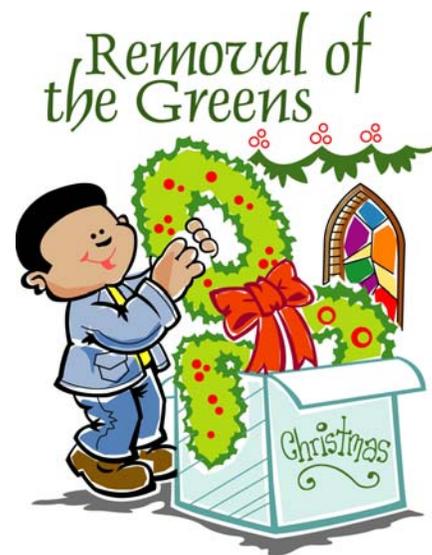
### **Officers:**

President, Eva Ndavu  
Vice-President, Linda Triolo  
Secretary, Olive Norris  
Treasurer, Karleen Miller

### **Mission Coordinators:**

Spiritual Growth, Vesta Roper, Nancy Fitzpatrick  
Education, Jeanne Rumbold  
Social Action, Erma Garling  
Membership, Jane McCutcheon  
Program Resources, Sally Dixon, Becky Miller  
Sunshine, Linda Biggar  
Nominations, Lois Miller, Helen Jackson, Marty Cole

The ceremony will be conducted by Sharon Weber, West District Communications Coordinator, and Judy Cleaveland, West District Spiritual Growth Coordinator.



*Thank you to all who helped  
decorate our church for Christmas!*

*Now, we need volunteers to help  
take everything down . . . If you can  
help with removal of the greens,  
come to the church on  
Thursday, January 11th at 9:00 am.  
Thank you!*

## ***How Exciting to be Starting a New Year!***

To begin with, I wanted to say a warm thank you for welcoming me into this church family. It is with great joy I am able to say, "I am a member of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale." It was wonderful to stand in front of my church family and receive a warm welcome and many messages of support.

I am in the final stages of helping Rev. Tom Wick put together a wonderful devotional centered on the beautiful windows of our sanctuary, to which many members of the congregation have contributed. This has been a year-long endeavor and I am pleased to have been a part of it.

I have also continued to ensure when Tom Wick uploads the Sunday sermon to YouTube, I link it to Facebook and Twitter so that anyone can see the sermon, even when they are visiting family. We have followers from all over the state and beyond. I have also been uploading candid photos from around the campus on Instagram. If you have a suggestion for what you want to see on our social media pages, just let me know.

I continue to update the church sign at the corner of 58th Drive and Glenn Drive. In December, I used messages from our all-church advent study, "Down to Earth."

I would also like to remind everyone that we have many support materials available if you want to start a small group. Some of our small groups have grown so large! Just let us know how we can support you. I am also excited to say that planning has already begun for the summer Vacation Bible School program. After all, summer is right around the corner!

Finally, I am now planning the Winter Speaker Series. I am inviting speakers from around the city to present informational sessions for the congregation and the community. I hope to start this in late January, so keep your eyes on the announcements or watch the website for more details. Updates are to come.

—Christine Jones, Director of Nurture  
nurturegfumc@gmail.com

## ***Justice vs. Injustice***

*(Continued from page 5)*

greater understanding among cultures. It can help us see things differently and create new dialogue. Art can provide harmony, shape values, and encourage aspirations. Art provides a sense of cultural identity and a respect for its truths. There are numerous opportunities to experience live entertainment in the Valley. Much of it is nostalgic musical comedy, which is, after all, an American genre. Phoenix Theatre and the Black Theatre Troupe offer consistent social drama.

Closer to home (that is, just one block north on 58th Drive), there is the Brelby Theater Group which presents original plays dealing with various social issues. This takes courage. In difficult times, forcing people to face facts of bigotry, hatred and injustice is a courageous act. Such artistic efforts should be applauded and encouraged. They may be all we have.

—Eva Ndavou, UMW President





**Thank you!**

Heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered to host for the Glendale Glitters outreach. It is a difficult in our busy lives to find time for any extra activities; but this is an important outreach ministry. Many people were blessed to be able to sing and praise God during the concerts and caroling nights. God bless you all for your extra efforts!

***Our offices will be closed on January 1 in observance of New Year's Day and January 15 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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