

Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale • February 2018



UMCOR Sunday—March 11, 2018

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

So don’t be fooled by the word committee.

Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do, it’s something “we” do.



When You Give You Equip Christ’s Body to Serve in His Name

That’s because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.

When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.

(Continued on page 5)



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; 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

West District Day of Learning, February 17

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 the West District.

Registration: \$15.00 on/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.

Register online at <https://dscumc.org/event/west-district-day-learning/>
Contact Carla at 602-798-8236 to register for childcare before February 9.

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

The West District Day of Learning will be held at Dove of the Desert UMC, 7201 W Beardsley Road, Glendale AZ 85308.

Financial Reporting

It has been brought to the attention of the Finance Committee that the listing of weekly offering amounts in the Sunday bulletin does little toward informing the congregation of the health of the church's finances. For this reason, the following changes will be made.

The Finance Committee has decided to stop putting the previous Sunday offerings in the bulletin each week. The offering totals will instead be placed in the monthly Circuit Rider along with an explanation of how the amount collected compares to the amount needed for the operation and support of the church programs.

Due to publication deadlines, there will a lag; for example, at the time of printing this February newsletter, we are still in the month of January. Therefore, January results will be reported in the March newsletter, February results in the April newsletter, and going forward.

Church members may always request a copy of current church financial statements from the church treasurers, David Mosley or Rosilyn Miller.

— Ted Turner
Finance Committee Chairperson

Ash Wednesday (February 14) begins Lent, a seasonal journey of humble reflection, self-denial and self-examination. An unassuming posture is the right pathway to godliness and greatness. Jesus never boasted about his own greatness, though he was truly the greatest of all. (Luke 18:18-19) Instead Jesus humbly submitted himself to God's plan of sacrificial love. Philippians calls us to the same mindset of Jesus: *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 2:1-8) This is the proper orientation for

the season of Lent. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus warns his listeners against showing off righteous behavior. Prayer, fasting and acts of charity are to be done in secret, not announced, so as to be noticed and praised by others, *"and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* (Matthew 6:18b NIV)

We are motivated by rewards, and rewards are often tied closely with meeting certain obligations. Loyal workers receive a pay raise. Kindness toward others inspires kindness in return. Meeting financial obligations on time results in a good credit score, guaranteeing a lower interest rate. But God's reward and obligation plan is different. Loving others is not a guarantee that others will love us in return.

Ponderings from Pastor Kim

Rewards and Obligations

Righteous living will not necessarily evoke praise from others in the world. Generosity to God does not guarantee personal wealth. Our obligation to God is not based on receiving a reward in worldly goods, but rather in sharing the blessings that come from God's grace and love. These blessings cannot be measured in wealth, position or power, but rather in spiritual health, trusting in God's grace and a peace that passes all understanding.

This Lent I encourage you to participate in the church-wide study: *"Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times."* There are two ways to participate. First, read the daily devotional *Embracing the Uncertain*, by Magrey R. deVega. Second, participate in a small group study of the book: *Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Time*. If you would like to lead a small group at church or home, call the office to order the books and give the time, day and location. (There are 7 chapters.)

On the journey with you,



Worship Schedule for February 2018

February 4: The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Rewards and Obligations...

Read: I Corinthians 9:16-23

February 11: Last Sunday after Epiphany

Mountains and Valleys...

Read: Mark 9:2-9

February 14: Ash Wednesday (12:00 pm in FH, 7:00 pm in Sanctuary)

Treasures and Hearts...

Read: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 18: First Sunday in Lent

Believing and Doubting...

Read: Mark 9:14-29

February 25: Second Sunday in Lent

Sacrifices and Returns...

Read: Mark 8:31-38

UMW Happenings

The new year for UMW began with several women joining UMM and Pastor Tom Wick hosting visitors to the sanctuary during the annual Glendale Glitter and Glow event. A record number of people stopped in and many voiced appreciation for the Christmas decorations and music. A special thanks to Genny Riner and her daughter Marleah, and Christine Jones and her husband Will for making this a successful church activity.

Unfortunately, we also learned of the passing of long-time member, Cheri Crockett, on December 27. Our prayers follow Cheri and all others who have lost loved ones as well as those who have struggled with illness in the last month.

The installation of officers for 2018 will take place on February 1 at 6:00 pm (note the time, this is earlier than most meetings) with the Executive Board serving a soup supper. Sharon Weber, Communications Coordinator for West District, and Judy Cleaveland, Spiritual Growth Coordinator for West District, will officiate. The following leaders will be inducted: Eva Ndavu, President; Linda Triolo, Vice President; Olive Norris, Secretary; and Karleen Miller, Treasurer. Mission

Coordinators who have agreed to continue in their positions are: Nancy Fitzpatrick and Vesta Roper for Spiritual Growth; Jeanne Rumbold for Education for Mission; Erma Garling for Social Action; Sally Dixon and Becky Miller for Program Resources; and Linda Biggar for Sunshine. The Committee on Nominations includes Lois Miller (2018), Helen Jackson (2019), and Marty Cole (2020). Becky Miller will continue as Chair of Esther Circle, and Jeanne Rumbold will Chair Lydia Circle. These leaders will participate in Leadership Development Day scheduled for February 10 at Lakeview UMC in Sun City, starting at 9:00 am. This annual training provides mentorship and shared experiences for old and new officers; it is an opportunity to learn and improve organizational and spiritual skills.

Six of our members hold district offices: Judy Cleaveland, Helen Jackson, Pam Jackson, Christine Jones, Eva Ndavu, and Linda Triolo.

February 11 will be UMW Sunday with members participating in all three services. Christine Jones, Director of Outreach and Nurture, will give the sermon. Christine has been an invaluable UMW member, always managing to volunteer in all

areas of need. This activity is but one of the over twenty that qualify us as a Mission Today local organization. In fact, in 2017 we satisfied 26 of the 27 criteria. As a Mission Today organization, we fulfill the UMW purpose by participating through prayer, study, and action. We work through faith, hope and love. Our local group continues to move forward in all areas. This year our focus will be on women and children (particularly health). Last year our focus was on all aspects of justice which still remains a concern as it has been for over a hundred years.

One major activity for March will be the Rock-a-Thon scheduled for March 10 at Cross in the Desert. Only two people have signed on for this event thus far. They will be rocking in their rocking chairs to raise money for the UMW national 150 Legacy Fund. Members should consider being a rocker or plan to sponsor a rocker. We need teams of three who can read and rock, pray and rock, sing and rock. There will be audio-visual materials to stimulate the rockers; food and other entertainment will be provided. You will not want to miss this event; it is our chance to contribute to the Legacy Fund for future generations. More information will be provided later.

—Eva Ndavu, President



tacklehunger.org

On Sunday February 4, 2018, 175 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game! There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 5.

All donations will benefit the Brad Riner Assistance Office Food Pantry. Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour of Sharing)

(Continued from page 1)

When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded. And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday, (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing). In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not "they."

We.

Ensure the United Methodist Church Can Keep Helping

Will you continue to give to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)? Will you continue to meet the needs of the children, families and communities who've experienced devastation in the wake of disaster?

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said: *"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me."* (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB)

As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster. raised.

One-half of the communion offering on Sunday, March 4, 2018 will support our church's UMCOR donation.

Aspire Women's Events

An evening of laughter, learning, stories and music

March 2, 2018, 7:00 pm

Vineyard Church, North Phoenix

6250 W. Peoria Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301

\$20 per person

Please note that Eva Ndavu has ordered 10 (ten) tickets to obtain the special group price for this event. Please contact her (602-616-6126) to reserve a seat.

30-Hour Famine **February 23-24, 2018**



What is 30 Hour Famine? Every year, hundreds of thousands of students in the US – and thousands more around the world – unite

through World Vision's 30-Hour Famine to feed hungry children and families. Our youth group will be fasting together for 30 hours February 23-24. In addition to asking for donations to help fight hunger, we will be participating in activities and challenges such as a poverty simulation, trek challenge, bible study, and community service.

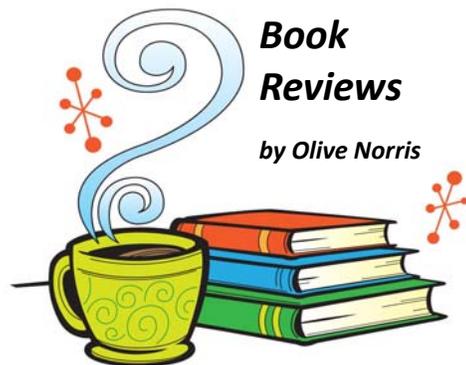
- **Hunger Fact #1** – In 2014, 16,000 children younger than 5 died every day – most from preventable causes. It's estimated that nearly half of these deaths were tied to hunger. That's about one every 10 seconds. Most of these kids died not from starvation, but from malnutrition – meaning too long without the right kind of food. Eating just enough to stay alive weakened their bodies so much that disease could strike the final blow.
- **Hunger Fact #2** – Worldwide, 795 million people – about one in nine – are chronically hungry. That's nearly 2.5x the population of the United States. Many families depend entirely on what they can grow, so they're never more than one natural or manmade disaster away from hunger.
- **Hunger Fact #3** – Nearly one in 10 people live on less than \$1.90 per day.

There are three ways funds raised help: 1) emergency response; 2) recovery (helping in the wake of crisis); and 3) long-term development. Over more than sixty years, World Vision has learned that the best way to fight hunger is to give families the tools they need to put food on their own tables year-round. Their goal for children and families is food security. That means they can be confident about where their next meal is coming from – and that they get enough nutritious food to live an active, healthy life. Specifically, this means that the funds raised will help World Vision:

- Teach parents improved farming techniques
- Equip families to grow healthier, more abundant crops and livestock
- Provide access to clean water for nutritious harvests
- Run malnutrition centers when there's a food crisis
- Distribute emergency food supplies when there's a disaster

How you can help... There are several ways to help and the big one is to donate. We will also be asking for volunteers to help out as well as keep us (and all those participating around the world) in your prayers. If you are interested in participating and/or volunteering, please see Karen Render.

For more information and to donate online, you can check out the website at <http://youth.worldvision.org/participant/Glendale1stYouth>



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: "Slowing Time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door"

Barbara Mahany, a former pediatric oncology nurse, spent nearly three decades as a reporter and writer at the Chicago Tribune. In this, her first collection of essays, she has written a poetic book of everyday life that captures the memories and imagination in the beauty of nature. She also touches on the subject of a

mixed religion marriage (she is Catholic and her husband is Jewish). She also adds a bit of Greek mythology and a touch of astrology to add enjoyment. This book is classified as Nurturing for Community.

CBS Selection: "Julie and Romeo Get Lucky," by Jeanne Ray

This book is in a condensed Reader's Digest so it makes for a pleasant afternoon or evening of reading. February is a time of romance. A middle age couple are in love, but their separate family needs and hostilities keep them from going forward with their plans for a future together. There is plenty of humor throughout the book, along with a bit of spice to keep a smile on your face.

(Not much time for reading? There are several Reader's Digest Condensed Books in our collection that are quick reads).

Glendale Police Department

SHRED EVENT

Sponsored by Cholla District Councilmember Lauren Tolmachoff & Sahuaro District Council Member Ray Malnar

**February 3, 2018
8:00—11:00 am**

**Foothills Library Parking Lot
19055 N. 57th Avenue
Glendale AZ 85308**

57th Avenue just south of Utopia Rd.

Six (6) Bankers Box Limit per Household

(Due to demand, event may conclude early if trucks are full)

Note: The Church Office and the Riner Assistance Office will be closed February 19th for Presidents Day.

Have you seen the big red tub on the stage? It is for donations to the Justa Center, a Methodist mission in downtown Phoenix for people 55 years or older. The center is open 7:00 am to 3:00 pm daily, and is a resource for food, clothing, showers, laundry, etc. There are many basic items they need to help with day-to-day operations, and they appreciate whatever we can donate. The list of items includes:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Coffee | Laundry Soap | Cleaning Products |
| Sugar | Books and Magazines | Reading Glasses |
| Creamer | Furniture | New Socks |
| Facial Tissues | Unopened Toiletries | Styrofoam Cups |
| Paper Towels | Toilet Paper | Paper Plates |
| Hand Soap | Office Supplies (Paper, Pens, etc.) | Computers |

Don't put large items near the red bin—for large items, please call 623-937-4682 to arrange transport to the Justa Center.

Deadline for the March issue is February 12. 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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