

Circuit Rider

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



Ponderings from Pastor Kim

Thinking before we act is a good thing! Many tragedies are the direct result of an impulsive action. Proverbs tells us, *By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.* (Proverbs 24:3-4, NIV)

Certainly it is wise to plan and discern before making weighty decisions. However, we would be wise to remember that *the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom.* (I Corinthians 1:25, CEB)

Human wisdom is often a friend of self-preservation and we use it to secure our future. This too, is a good thing, as long we remember human wisdom

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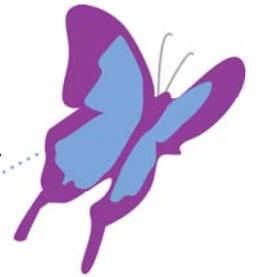
Sunday Schedule

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

Greetings from the Worship Committee

As we were reminded during our study of “Embracing the Uncertain,” Easter comes “after the first full moon that occurs on or following the spring equinox on March 21.”* That is quite a complex issue for the Worship Committee to start planning for the Easter Season. But we are ready for this sorrowful, yet exciting time.



Butterflies are “IN” again this year for decorating the sanctuary and patio areas during the Easter season. The Christian religion views the butterfly as a symbol of resurrection, change, and transformation. We will expand the use of the butterfly theme in the patio during the Sunrise Service on Easter morning. The youth have been asked to create butterfly backdrops for family photos and enhancement of the patio area during the early morning service.

The decorations are an enhancement to the word of God. Jesus used symbols, props, or decorations to deliver his word to the people. The Worship Committee uses music, decorations, audio-visual presentations and hand-outs to support and enhance the Sunday worship experience.

Explore, enjoy, and expand your knowledge and experience through the Lenten and Easter seasons. Study the decorations of the season and know that your interpretation of them is right for you.

—Linda Hardesty, Worship Committee

* From “Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times” by Margery R. DeVega. 2017, p.9.

Easter Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 1 at 10:30 am

Children go to their regular Sunday School classrooms; the Easter Egg Hunt begins at 10:30 am.

Children will hunt for eggs with coins, then turn in the coins for an Easter basket. Snacks will be in Fellowship Hall after the Egg Hunt.

Ponderings from Pastor Kim

(Continued from page 1)

must also be guided by God. Remember Isaiah's words: *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways.* (Isaiah 55:8, NIV)

In our church-wide study, "*Embracing the Uncertain*," we are encouraged to look for God in the midst of our unpredictable world. Human wisdom will lead us to avoid any person or situation we might judge to be trouble. But God's wisdom suggests something radically different. It's much easier (and safer) to avoid the uncertain things in life, but it can also lead us away from the very places and people God is bringing our way.

Jesus reminds us: *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves...take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever...loses their life for me will save it.* (Luke 9:23-24, NIV)

Paul reminds us: *The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.* (I Corinthians 1:18, CEB)

No longer can we consider ourselves to be wise, and others to be foolish. For *now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror.* Not until (or unless) we temper our wisdom with God's plan, *will see everything with perfect clarity.* (I Corinthians 13:12, New Living Translation)

Only when we see ourselves as both wise and foolish will we come closer to the ways of God, who knows and loves us.

On the journey with you,



Lent/Easter Worship Schedule

March 4: Third Sunday in Lent

Wisdom and Foolishness

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

March 11: Fourth Sunday in Lent

Darkness and Light

Read: John 3:16-21

March 18: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Dying and Living

Read: John 12: 24-28

March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday

Welcomed and Rejected

Read: Mark 1:1-11; Psalm 31:9-16

March 29: Holy Thursday (7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall)

Master and Servant

Read: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 30: Good Friday (7:00 pm, Sanctuary)

Betrayal and Denial

Read: John 18:1-19:42

April 1: Easter Sunday

The Dead Are Alive!

Read: Luke 24:1-12

Sunrise Service (6:00 am, in the Courtyard)

Breakfast (6:45-8:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall)

Prelude Service (8:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall)

Traditional Service (9:00 am, in the Sanctuary)

Sunday School for all ages (10:10 am, various)

Blended Service (11:11 am, in the Sanctuary)



EASTER SUNDAY

Church News and Notes

For more information, contact the church office 623.939.1409 or rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

January Financial Status Report

Members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$36,186.39 to support the operation and programs of our church.

This includes monies received for the Brad Riner Assistance Office, capital improvements, missions, and other designated funds. The amounts received, together with the balance brought forward from December, have enabled us to meet all of our obligations for the month of January.

The Finance Committee thanks everyone for their continued support. May GOD continue to bless our church.

—Ted Turner, Finance Committee Chairperson

Riner Office Outreach

Things have slowed to a manageable pace after the holidays and I am hard at work on two projects—applying for a City of Glendale grant that is critical to helping us provide services to our community (especially utility assistance) and networking with other community assistance organizations in Glendale. We have already benefitted from the sharing of information, resources and referrals.

The Riner/Mosley Christmas Party was a wonderful blessing to many families! This was a highlight of my holiday; it was so fun to see the children and their families interacting with our volunteers and youth in the Fellowship Hall. Fourteen (14) families were given presents to open on Christmas Day; all but a couple enjoyed refreshments, a Christmas story read-aloud, face painting, games, crafts, a pinata, a photo booth, and a cupcake walk when they came to our party to pick up the gifts.

Here are the numbers:

- 50 children and 2 adult gift recipients
- 11 teen helpers (elves)
- 5 adult volunteers

Thank you for all who so generously supported this party—donations during Glendale Glitters, Shelley Mosley memorials, donations from the Koinonia/Wayseekers class, Karen Render for coordinating youth, Azzie Turner for wrapping so many presents, teens and adults who volunteered and those who took a tag from the tree and bought gifts. So many people came together to make a great team!

Blessings,
Dawn Horney, Outreach Coordinator

Cotton Fabric Needed – Wesley UMC, Phoenix, AZ

Wesley UMC's Faith & Hope sewing group is in immediate need of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no polyester fabric, please!). Also needed are notions such as thread and zippers. Deliver to Wesley Community Center at 1300 S. 10th Street – deliver to the red building (NOT the clinic). Please ask for Rebecca Francisco. She is there from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. It would be best to call ahead to let her know you are coming. Her direct number is 602-368-9873.



United Methodist Women: News and Views

The installation of officers for 2018 took place in Fellowship Hall on February 1. This was a rainbow ceremony wherein Sharon Weber, West District Communications Coordinator, described the duties and responsibilities of each office. Judy Cleaveland, WD Spiritual Growth Coordinator, presented each officer with a tulip to symbolize that office. Each flower was in a different color of the rainbow. Officers also received a new red tote bag with words of John Wesley printed on both sides: "Do all the good you can...as long as ever you can."

Due to early deadlines, the last *Circuit Rider* did not mention that Jo Ann Kissler is the new mission coordinator for membership care. The Executive Board served a soup supper led by Becky and Karleen Miller.

The group immediately jumped into major events, with three occurring during the second weekend of February: Leadership Development Day (Feb. 10), UMW Sunday (Feb. 11), and the Glendale Chocolate Affaire (Feb. 9-11). A total of 15 members attended the LDD at Lakeview UMC, Sun City where Eva Ndavu was introduced as the new vice presi-

dent of West District. She joins five other Glendale UMC women who now hold WD offices: Judy Cleaveland, Helen Jackson, Pam Jackson, Christine Jones, and Linda Triolo. Our group received a Desert Southwest Conference certificate for faith, hope, and love in action for 2017. Glendale UMW also earned eleven (11) certificates for participants in the reading program (the best participation in the district).

February 11 was UMW Sunday with members participating in all three services. Christine Jones, Director of Outreach and Nurture, gave the sermon, "Following the Leader." Eva Ndavu and Pam Jackson were liturgists; Judy Cleaveland, Marilyn Hewitt and Ann Nimlos presented the good news for children and youth.

FUMC and UMW planned various activities to coincide with the City of Glendale Chocolate Affaire, an annual event held in and around Murphy Park. Genny Riner and daughter Marleah coordinated the open house in the sanctuary which included tours by Rev. Tom

Wick, a video, and personal talks as well as some generous gifts of chocolate. Christine Jones coordinated the UMW parking lot fundraiser which was a trial activity. The weekend proved a wonderful opportunity for city outreach.

Our Fellowship Hall will be a satellite location for the Rock-a-Thon on March 10 at Cross in the Desert Church in Phoenix. Women will be in their rocking chairs rocking to raise money for the Legacy Fund which has been established to support UMW future generations. Each member should be a Rocker or a sponsor. A rocking chair, near the new UMW bulletin board in the stage area of Fellowship Hall, is there for practice and rehearsal. Rocking is something we can all do! It does not require Olympic training.

UMW will be hosting the youth at the end of their 30-hour famine on February 24.

Don't forget there are still a few tickets left for the variety show by Aspire Women's Events on March 2 at 7 pm at the Vineyard Church, 6250 W. Peoria Ave. This promises to be very entertaining.

—Eva Ndavu, President

From the Office of Nurture

This has been a very busy month for the nurture office.

First, I would like to invite everyone to participate in the Year of Gratitude Challenge, posted on the Facebook and twitter pages of the church. Every week, I am posting a new challenge to help inspire people to engage in acts of gratitude and kindness. Join in for a little fun and thoughtful kindness. This week's gratitude challenge: Print out or draw a coupon book of helpful acts to give as a gift: do the dishes, sweep the floor, dust the living room, or take out the trash. You can even give a gift like this to a neighbor or friend who might need a hand.

I am continuing to post regular quotes and bible verses on our twitter page. As we move into the season of Lent, the posts will reflect our Lenten study, "Embracing the Uncertain."

Each week, I prepare the children's bulletins to support the Sunday sermon. I have been trying new things with these bulletins. If there is a section of the bulletin that the kids are really enjoying, please let me know and I will make sure that stays a regular part of

the bulletins.

The Office of Nurture has reached out to the Christian clubs at the GCC and ASU West campuses. I am actively looking for ways First Glendale can facilitate the young adult Christian programs in our community. Several of these groups are excited to be working with us, and we are excited to be working with them.

After the success of the day of board games in November, I have arranged for another day of board games, Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 am. Last time we had over 150 people playing games throughout the day. They included people from all over our community and from as far away as Mesa and Tempe. There will be more information on the day of games when we get closer to the date, but it will include board games for every age group. These games include some of the latest, newest board games as well as some classics. Anyone for Ticket to Ride?

On a side note, I would like to thank you all for your warm feedback after the UMW

Sunday sermon last month. It was a challenging, exciting day for me and I really appreciate all of your welcome. So thank you again.

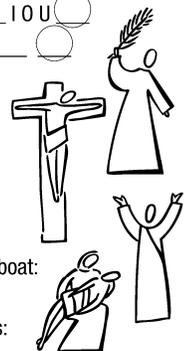
Your sister in Christ,

—Christine Jones
Director of Nurture

Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete words with various vowel arrangements. Then place the circled letters in the correct blanks below to complete an Easter phrase.

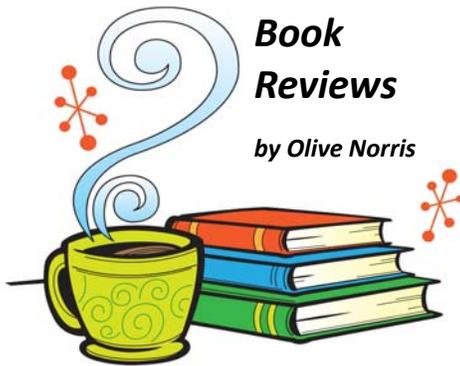
- 1. Brave: _ _ _ _ _ E O U _ _
- 2. A dark profile: _ _ _ O U E _ _ _ _
- 3. Circular: O U _ _ _
- 4. Running away: _ _ _ E E _ _ _
- 5. Savage, fierce: _ _ _ _ I O U _
- 6. Odd or nostalgic: _ U A I _ _ _
- 7. A person from the 50th state: _ _ _ _ A I A _ _
- 8. Compress, push together: _ _ U E E _ _ _
- 9. A large tree in California: _ _ _ U _ _ I A
- 10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: _ _ _ O E I _ _ _
- 11. Upright, moral and righteous: _ _ _ _ U O U _ _
- 12. Lining up in a row: _ _ U E U _ _ _
- 13. Gorgeous: _ E A U _ _ E _ U _ _
- 14. Precipitation: A I _ _ _



Easter phrase:

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | ! |
| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | |

Answers: 1. courageous, 2. silhouette, 3. round, 4. fleeing, 5. vicious, 6. quaint, 7. Hawaiian, 8. squeeze, 9. sequoia, 10. canoeing, 11. virtuous, 12. queuing, 13. beautiful, 14. rain; Christ is Savior!



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: "My First White Friend: Confessions on Race, Love and Forgiveness" by Patricia Raybon

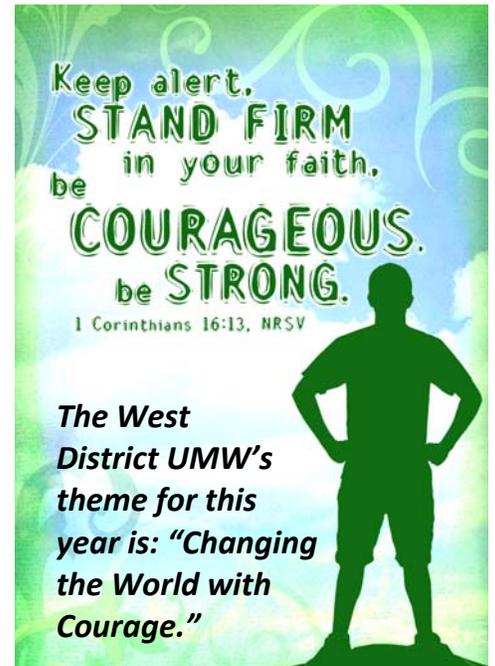
This book is one of our older UMW books, published in 1996 and the winner of a Christopher award. The author relates the problems she had throughout childhood with white people in her neighborhood and in school. As she grows older, she realizes that not all white people are bad, but she continues to have problems accepting them as part of her life. She marries a man of very light color, and has children both light and dark which adds to her dilemma about "white skin."

She often writes in a staccato style and uses quotes from Martin L. King Jr. and Gandhi. It is a powerful story of hard-won racial healing.

CBS Selection: "Light from Heaven," by Jan Karon

It's a time of Lent and lambing at Meadowgate farm where Father Tim and Cynthia are house sitting. Father Tim, a retired Episcopalian priest, is bored with doing very little so he asks for a church. He is assigned to Holy Trinity, a church high up in the hills that has been closed for forty years. He is overjoyed to find it has been kept intact by an ex-social worker/teacher and her deaf, mute son. He also finds that his parishioners are of highly varied character. Sammy, the runaway, delinquent, pool playing little brother of Dooly, their foster son, shows up to add some stress to their lives.

This is book 9 of the Mitford series; if you haven't read any others, you may want to start at the beginning!



Courage is not just bravery. It has been defined as "fear that has said its prayers." Mark Twain said, "Courage is the master of fear, not the absence of fear." A courageous person is someone who can control his or her fear and then do the right thing. Courage is overcoming the fear that we naturally have. John Wayne famously said, "Courage is being scared to death—and saddling up anyway."

Let's make 2018 the year that we become full of courage and strive to do our best in all situations. Relationships with each other often take courage to continue. Let us, with God's help, love each other as much as God loves each of us.

—Judy Cleaveland



Gratitude

Duet deeply appreciates your faith community, and every Duet volunteer, for helping our interfaith nonprofit offer help and hope to people who are facing pressing challenges. Duet exists due to caring congregations and people who join forces to change lives. If you know family caregivers, grandparents raising grandchildren, and / or isolated elders who may need help, please tell them about Duet’s free-of-charge, compassionate services. Please also consider helping a Duet “neighbor” who no longer can drive through friendly visits, grocery shopping, or rides to medical appointments. Attending a 2 ½ hour volunteer orientation will launch your gratitude-filled service. Volunteer, donate, or ask for help by calling 602-274-5022 or visiting duetaz.org. Thank you!



Deadline for the April issue is March 9. 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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