

Circuit Rider

A newsletter from First United Methodist Church of Glendale, AZ



On May 20, we'll celebrate Pentecost, the miracle that changed the anxious disciples into courageous witnesses of the good news. After the crucifixion, the followers of Jesus were afraid talking about Jesus would get them killed. But after Pentecost, they couldn't stop telling others about Jesus. Before Pentecost, they felt disconnected from Jesus. After Pentecost, not even death could keep them apart. After his death, the disciples couldn't remember all the things Jesus had taught them. After Pentecost, they recalled all of his words and teaching. Before Pentecost, Jesus' followers were uncertain if Jesus had risen from the grave. After Pentecost, the truth of the resurrection would set them free!

There's much about Pentecost we cannot fully grasp or understand. For example, what were the "tongues of fire" like, and how is it possible that the disciples spoke in languages they did not know? It is all so mysterious, and beyond our wildest imaginations! But, then again, there are many things we choose to believe before we have them all figured out. We even take risks without a guarantee of a good outcome.

We do this when we risk loving someone, not knowing if the person will love us in return. We invest our money expecting it will multiply and not lose value. We put our confidence in new medications, with long lists

of complications—including death—to improve our health. We climb aboard airplanes, flying three or more miles above the surface of the earth, trusting we'll land safely at our destination. We trust the anesthesiologist to get us breathing on our own again after surgery, which has its own list of possible complications. We trust computer-navigated cars (or at least we did!), we've flown to the moon, frozen tissue for future use and spent weeks on a cruise in the middle of the ocean.

We may not fully grasp what happened at Pentecost, but if we decide to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit anyway, we, like those first disciples will discover

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First United Methodist Church

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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

God's Steadfast Love

As United Methodist Women, we try to live a God-shaped life.

Proverbs 11:17 says, "When you're kind to others, you help yourself; when you're cruel to others, you hurt yourself." God loves each of us more than we can imagine, and that helps us to love one another. I recommend seeing the movie, "I Can Only Imagine," which demonstrates how God helps us to forgive and build relationships.

I want to share a testimony I heard on a Christian radio station. A man was sharing a story about the time his granddaughter was lost in the forest. The granddaughter was

walking with her grandmother when she decided to turn around and walk with Grandpa. However, she ended up wandering away by herself. A search party was organized and the man was afraid they were not going to find her, when a radio call told them they had found the little girl, and she was ok. A searcher had found her sitting on a rock, and went to talk to her. The little girl said, "I can't talk to you, you're a stranger." The lady said, "But I am a teacher." So, the little girl said, "I guess I can talk to you then." The teacher said, "Are you lost?" The little girl said, "No, am not lost; my Grandpa is lost!"

When the little girl was reunited with her grandfather, did he scold or chastise the child? No, he whispered in the little girl's ear and said, "I love you." The man stated that even if his granddaughter would not have been found, he would still have his faith in God. He reminded us that God rejoices when one of his children accept Jesus and have eternal life.

Knowing that God loves us even more than we love our children gives us the desire to live a God-shaped life. Let us remember to read our Bibles, pray every day and we will spiritually grow.

—Judy Cleaveland, District UMW Spiritual Growth Officer



Understanding Your Options in Senior Living

This seminar will be hosted by First United Methodist Church of Glendale on Saturday, May 19 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, and will focus on senior living communities; specifically, what to look for in independent, assisted living and memory-care communities. When is the right time to move, and what are the questions to ask when you tour, what is the cost and how to ensure you are getting what you paid for. Other information covered will be Arizona Long Term Care Program (ALTCS) and the criteria is to apply for this program.

The leader will be Karla Averill, Executive Director for MorningStar Senior Living. Any questions, contact Christine Jones, nurturegfumc@gmail.com, or the church office.

Pentecost Sunday

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an ability beyond our wildest imaginations! We will risk loving like Jesus—even those we disagree with and don't understand!

We will share how God has changed our hearts and our lives—even though we are uncertain what words we'll use! We'll give generously—even though we are worried about having enough for ourselves! We'll trust in something/someone we cannot see—even though the world suggests such trust is foolish and unwise.

The miracle of Pentecost is this: The lives of the fearful disciples were flooded with the power of the Spirit, making them more courageous than ever before. The success of that miracle hinged upon the disciples trusting and believing in something they didn't have figured out.

May we be so bold and willing to trust and believe the same is possible for us!

Yours in Christ,



May Worship Schedule

May 6: **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Fruit That Lasts...
Read: John 15: 14-17

May 13: **Seventh Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day**
The Right Fruit at the Right Time...
Read: Psalm 1: 1-3

May 20: **Pentecost**
Fruit of the Spirit
Read: Acts 2: 1-4, John 15: 26-27,
16: 12-14
(Wear Red to Church)

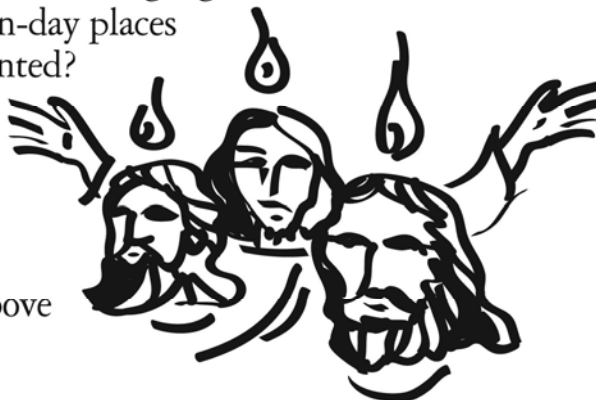
May 27: **First Sunday After Pentecost/Trinity Sunday**
The Other Half of the Gospel
Matthew 9:35-10:8
(Rev. Tom Wick Preaching)



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

While in Jerusalem for Pentecost, people from many faraway lands miraculously heard the disciples preaching in their own native languages. Which of the following modern-day places was/were represented?

- A. Egypt
- B. Libya
- C. Crete
- D. Rome
- E. All of the above
- F. A, B and D



Answer: E (See Acts 2:9-11.)

Church News and Notes

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

Financial Status Report

In February and March, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$55,698 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. With this amount received, we are just slightly behind what was needed to pay all of our February and March obligations. Members are encouraged to keep current on their pledged giving. If you have not made a pledge for 2018, it isn't too late. Call Rebecca in the church office, or email rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com.

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

— Ted Turner, Finance
Committee Chairperson

The Brad Riner Assistance Office Partners with Care Portal

We are now able to see and respond to requests for help from families involved with the Department of Child Services through **Care Portal, a platform of the Global Orphan Project**. The Riner Assistance Office officially began a partnership with this organization in February 2018. The partnership can be best described through words from Care Portal's website, "*CarePortal brings the needs of hurting children and families in your community to your attention. Child welfare workers uncover the needs. CarePortal makes local churches aware, giving them a real-time opportunity to respond.*" <https://careportal.org/>

As a partner church, we are alerted via e-mail to the needs of families in our neighborhood who are involved in the child welfare system in some way. If the need is something we can help with through the Riner Assistance Office or through small groups in our church, we are able to respond and let a social worker know to pass along our contact information to the family directly. Sometimes they provide us with contact information. We are able to give utility assistance to some families in this way as well as food bags, diapers/training pants, formula, baby food, baby wipes, waterproof mattress pads, or children's clothing. If you or someone you know has any of those items, please leave them in the collection box in the foyer or on the table in the library in the church office. If you have beds, dressers or car seats/baby furniture, call Dawn Horney at 480-500-1197. Those items are frequently requested.

Recently we had a working single mother come on her lunch break to apply for utility assistance, pick up training pants (thank you, LeGendre family) and she was able to use our only unclaimed Christmas gifts (pajamas and a Nerf® toy) for her son. She was tearfully thankful and said "God Bless You All!"

— Dawn Horney

***Is your group meeting on campus this summer, or taking a break?
Please let Rebecca in the office know your plans, so she can keep the
church calendar accurate! Thank you!***

Friendly Phoning: An Unsung Service

Our partner in service, Duet, offers free services for homebound adults including a little-known but impactful service called friendly phoning. It's a lovely service to help people feel less isolated. Two to three times a week, volunteers provide a friendly 10-15 minute phone call with an isolated homebound elder that often blossoms into a meaningful friendship.

A daughter, Linda, recently described the benefit that friendly phoning provided to her mother who was matched for 5 years with the same volunteer (until her mother passed away). They grew to be fast friends and her mother so greatly enjoyed having her OWN friend to share whatever was on her mind. The impact on her mother's life was huge.

To request a friendly phoner, or to volunteer, contact Duet at 602-274-5022.

Mission News

The Committee on Missions would like to thank the Youth Group and Karen Render for their participation in our Homeless Meal project.

Missions had been serving dinner for the homeless at the UMOM Phoenix shelter for many years. This past year, the women were moved to the shelter at 34th Street and Van Buren. We now serve dinner for them every other month, on the first Sunday. Others who have helped this year, besides our committee, are Jeremiah Staats, Martie Orner, Becky Miller, and Rowdy & Katherine Holt. Carole DeCosmo has been baking cakes for dessert for 2 or 3 years!

If you would like to volunteer to drive the van, help prepare, or serve a meal, please contact Gail Dameron, Chairperson of Missions. We will serve again on May 6 and July 1. We leave the church at 4:30 pm and return around 7:00 pm.

Teacher Appreciation Sunday, May 20

Do you know who teaches our children and youth on Sunday mornings – or who volunteers in our nursery? Have you ever attended an adult class on Sunday morning, or a short term class or workshop? No? Then come to the 9:00 or 11:11 am worship service on Sunday, May 20 when we will be recognizing the leaders in our education program. Perhaps you would like to bring a note of thanks to our teachers, or stop by and sign a poster that will be available before and after services. There will not be any Sunday School classes for kids on Sunday, May 27 due to the Memorial Day weekend.

VBS Leadership Training

All VBS volunteers, please attend a training session on Saturday, May 19 from 1:00–4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

From the Office of Nurture

There is so much going on, and so many exciting things to talk about, that it is hard to know where to start!

First, let me encourage you to sign your kids up for the summer camps. Summer camp is an amazing experience for spiritual growth and leadership development. It is an opportunity that should not be passed up. If you have been considering participating but aren't sure about the costs, please speak to the office about our scholarships. The church community wants to support you!

We have the chance to send children and youth to the Elementary camps, Jr. High camps, or Sr. High camp. There is even a horse camp! Please contact Rebecca in the church office before you register if you want the church to help with camp fees (we have funds available for scholarships). Any questions, please call the church office 623-939-1409, option 2 or email rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com.

Next, I want to say how much fun I have had reading your comments on the Facebook Polls. We had a poll about what banner

we should have on the twitter page, and the banner has been changed to the winning vote, a lovely photo of our altar window "Glory." Then, we had a poll about the history of our church. Which event happened in 1903? The explosion on the railroad tracks or the families moving away because of the drought? The answer will be at the bottom of this update. If you have a suggestion for a poll question, send it to nurturegfumc@gmail.com.

I have also been having a lot of fun updating the church sign each week. I do my best to make sure the message relates to the sermon, when I can. I started posting those on Instagram as well as Twitter and Facebook, and people really love reading the church sign. I can see them sharing our pictures with others, so our little church sign is being seen all over. So much fun!

Finally, I simply must mention VBS. If you have kids ages 4-18, please consider bringing them to our VBS week, June 4-8th from 5:30-8:30 pm. They will be doing *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*. This is such an

exciting and enjoyable experience for everyone. You can volunteer to help out, and there are so many opportunities to do so! You can help with the food, with the registration and sign in table, with the activities and games, or with some of the lessons. Lisa Sanchez has more information about that.

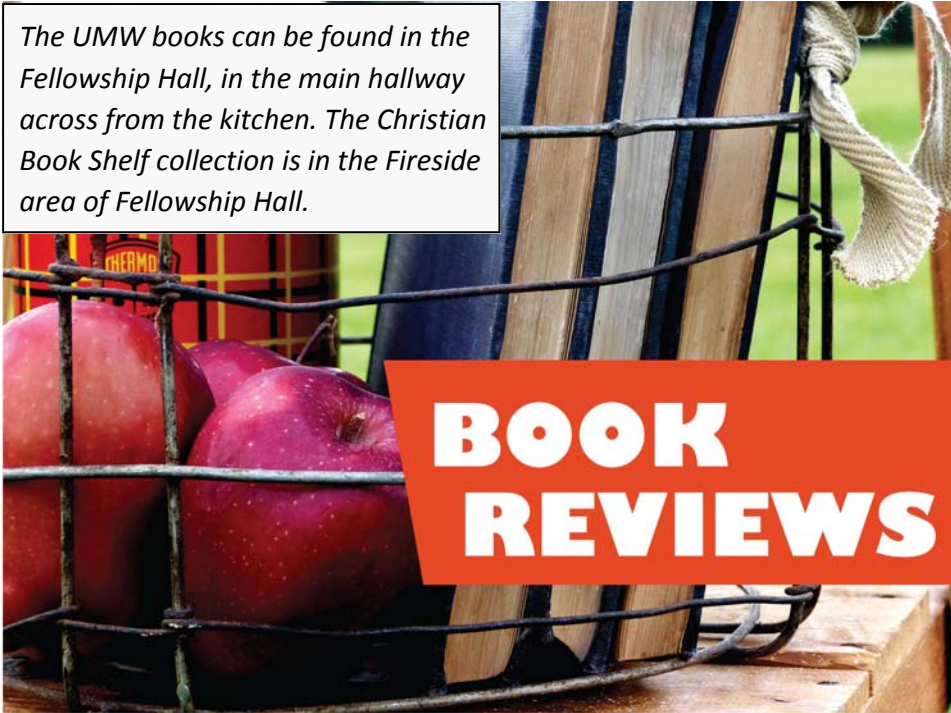
And while the kids are enjoying their experience, you can too! The adult VBS happens from 6:30-8:00 pm. We start after the kids have started and end before the kids end, so you will be there to see them off and to see them return!. Full disclosure, I am helping to teach this adult VBS with my favorite prayer partner Judy Cleaveland. We will be doing "*Made for a Miracle: From Your Ordinary to God's Extraordinary*" by Mike Slaughter. I can't wait to share these lessons with you.

God bless you and keep you safe on your travels as we move into the vacation season. I can't wait to see what else we have in store!

—Christine Jones

The answer to the poll is the explosion. The explosion happened in 1903. The drought happened in 1904.

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.



BOOK REVIEWS

UMW Selection: "Please Look After Mom" by Kyung Sook Shin

An elderly woman with dementia is separated from her husband in a Seoul subway station. The relationship between her, her husband and children make for a thought-provoking, poignant story which applies to all cultures. This is one of our older books but one you won't be able to lay aside.

CBS Selection: "Education of a Wandering Man" by Louis L'Amour

Leaving home at the age of 17, the famous western novelist and short story writer led an

interesting life. He rode the rails, served on cargo ships around the world, was a lumberjack, a boxer, a mine guard and did most anything he could do find shelter and food! He always had books with him and read everything - famous philosophers, historical novels and yes, cheap westerns, anything he could lay his hands on! He did extensive research, through books and physically "walking the land" for his stories and had a library of at least 10,000 books. This is an interesting book, full of profound thoughts.

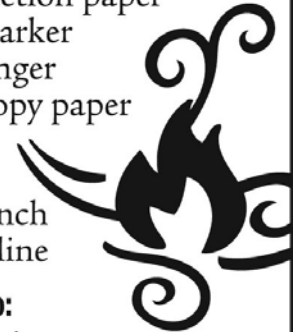
—Olive Norris

PENTECOST MOBILE

Make this craft as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit is all around you.

What you need:

- Tissue paper (red, yellow, orange), torn into squares
- Plastic transparency
- Craft glue
- Paintbrush
- Construction paper
- Black marker
- Wire hanger
- White copy paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Fishing line



What you do:

1. Overlap tissue squares as "flames" on the transparency.
2. "Paint" glue (thinned with water) over the squares.
3. Fold construction paper in half. Write out Acts 2:4 at the top, by the fold.
4. Poke the hanger through the middle of the fold.
5. On the white paper, write "Holy Spirit" in English, Spanish (*Espiritu Santo*), French (*L'esprit Saint*), etc.
6. Cut out a flame pattern and trace it on the back of the transparency.
7. Cut out flames and glue the "Holy Spirit" names on them.
8. Thread fishing line through a hole atop each flame and tie flames onto the hanger.

We would like to honor eighth-grade, high school and college graduates in our congregation on Sunday, June 3. Please send the name of the graduate, a photo, and the information about the school, major, and any future plans. **Please email everything to rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com.** Thank you!



Deadline for the Summer Issue is May 14. 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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