

Circuit Rider



A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale

Risen! New Easter Family Event a Success

Life continues to be busy in the Office of Nurture...

Alexander Hamilton Community School: A Challenge Foundation Academy has opened their enrollment office on the campus in room 105. We have had several meetings and are working towards making a smooth transition. I have spent a lot of time working on that.

The Education Team organized the first annual **'Rise Up With Jesus'** between services. There were interactive activities, games, and fun for families in the fellowship hall. This is our first attempt at an activity like this, but so far the feedback has been very good. Many of the children told us they enjoyed it, and we hope to make it even better next year. If you have feedback that

you would like to share, please contact Lisa Sanchez, Cindy Chrisman, or any member of the Education team.

The Education Team has another big event just around the corner. June 3—June 7, 2019 is ROAR, this year's VBS. Remember, dinner is at 5:30 and VBS begins at 6:00 pm. To register for VBS or sign up as a volunteer, please visit our VBS website, <https://vbspro.events/p/events/glendalefirst>. We would like you to sign up early so we can better plan for food.

A special thank you to those of you who have already signed up. Thank you for making it easier for us to plan.

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The Chrisman family in the photo booth



The "Tomb" station



First United Methodist Church

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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

Burritos and Cookbook...

The youth will be serving a Cinco de Mayo burrito buffet after worship services on Sunday, May 5, beginning at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. This is also a fundraiser for our mission trip; get tickets from Karen or any Youth Group member.



This summer, we will begin collecting recipes for our cookbook that will coincide with our 125th anniversary coming up in October. Now is the time to start gathering all of your favorite recipes together... especially the ones that make every church potluck so delicious! Watch for more information in the newsletter and bulletins.



Charter School Partnership

By now, you've probably seen the "now-enrolling" signs, and maybe seen some activity in the education complex. The Board of Trustees has finalized a lease agreement with Alexander Hamilton Community School for the upcoming school year. Over the next few months, Alexander Hamilton will be

preparing most of our Sunday school rooms to accommodate students on our campus Monday–Friday, beginning in July. They are already using Room 105 as an enrollment office.

Room 101 will remain a general meeting room for our church committees and the Nursery and Resource Room (204) will be retained for church use. All remaining classrooms will become shared space. Watch for more news as we learn the ins and outs of sharing space. If you have questions, email Christine Jones (nurturegfumc@gmail.com) or come to the Trustee Meetings, the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

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!

Coffee Hour Hosts

We have made some changes to the Coffee Hour schedule for 2019. The following is the updated list for April and May.

- May 5: Trustees**
- May 12: UMM (Mother's Day)**
- May 19: UMW—Esther Circle**
- May 26: Koinonia/Wayseekers**

- June 2: Chancel Choir**
- June 9: OPEN**
- June 16: UMW (Father's Day)**
- June 23: UMM**
- June 30: Missions**

There are still some dates needing to be filled—if your group or committee would be willing to host one coffee hour, or one additional coffee hour, please call Rebecca in the office at 623-939-1409, or see Rosie Miller.

If we have open dates that are not filled, we will try "**Doughnut Sundays**" where we will purchase doughnuts and sell them for 50-cents each.



Help Serve Meals at the Halle Women's Center

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 shelter for many years. In 2017, the women were moved to the Halle Women's Center at 34th Street and Van Buren. We now serve dinner for them every other month, on the first Sunday.

If you would like to volunteer to drive the van, help prepare, or serve a meal, please contact Jeanne Rumbold or Karen Render. We will serve the next meal on Sunday, May 5. We leave the church at 4:30 pm and return around 7:00 pm.

Camp Scholarships—Thank You!

Recently we had a note from the Conference Office of Camp and Retreat Ministries, expressing their thanks and admiration for the way First Glendale financially supports children and youth campers with scholarships. So, thank you to everyone who has donated to the camp scholarship fund—with these donations, we are sending 11 campers to Mingus Mountain Camp in June!

UMW Spring Luncheon

Saturday, May 4, 2019, 12:30 pm



Tickets are now on sale for the UMW Spring Luncheon on May 4 at 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Adult tickets are \$12; under 12 are \$7. The lunch will be catered by Sign of the Thymes, and we will have raffle items to benefit Maggie's Place and Justa Center.

Office of Nurture

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Remember, in order to make sure we have enough volunteers for VBS, the Adult VBS will be the following week: June 10 —June 14 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. I will be leading a group study on Living the Five, which focuses on The Great Commandment and The Great Commission. I am really looking forward to doing this study with you. I hope you will participate.

Finally, I worked closely with a member of the community on the “Day of Games” April 27th. The Fellowship Hall hosted over 100 members of the community who came to play traditional and newer board games, tabletop games, and even video games. This family friendly event brought people from as far away as Gilbert to visit our beautiful campus. This is the third time that we have done this event and I love to see so many new people visiting our historic campus.

God bless you and keep you safe,

—Christine Jones

Each year, the West District prays for all the churches in its jurisdiction for one month.

In May, please pray for:

First UMC, Phoenix

First UMC, Sun City

First UMC, Yuma

Farewell...

*Compassion is the fragrance of love. Love is the flower. How do you know there is love?
There is compassion.” —Yitzhak Benarush*

My family is moving to Knoxville, TN in July to seek a better life—new jobs and housing, nice weather, lower cost of living, and more education options. We are excited and a bit overwhelmed with the many details involved in selling our home and moving 1,600 miles with a large family. Beside family and friends—the hardest thing to leave is my volunteer team and opportunities to show compassion and support to people visiting the Brad Riner Assistance Office.

I am so proud of our church members and friends who faithfully give clothing, food, toiletries, money, time and other resources to the homeless and needy through the work we do in the Riner Office. I am so thankful that I am able to see our clients transformed by hope and compassion. They come in with heavy hearts, worry lines, sad stories and even tears. We are friendly, listen, help and dispense hugs with permission—provide prayer and referrals when we can’t help, and see

many leave with a smile or kind words of thankfulness. It has been a joy to be your agent of outreach and love to our community. Thank you. Your love for “the least of these” is fragrant and will be a memory I will cherish in my new home.

Please encourage and thank our volunteer team. Not only does this church equip us to bless our community, but the volunteers have been dear friends, giving of their talents in unique ways to form a strong team. My job has been easy with regular support from Azzie, John, Brenda, Rosella, Lois, Elizabeth, David, Michael and Leah. From time to time we have had extra help from Bob, Eileen, Anne, Titus, Cyrus, Harley, Renee and Vicky. Pastor Kim and Pastor Tom are always supportive; Christine is a team player and a resource genius. David Mosley helped immensely when he was head of SPRC and made a great Santa. Rosie has been a mentor to me as a lay leader as well as in my position of Director of Out-

reach. Without Rebecca—you might as well close up shop—her title of “Office Manager” barely conveys the countless ways she makes our work a success.

I’ll be here enjoying every minute until July; I pray God dovetails our personal plans with the efforts of the SPRC to find a replacement so that I can work with a new or interim hire to share what I have learned. Thankfully, with technology, I can be available for questions or watch for encouraging Facebook posts as I pray for the future of this tangible expression of God’s love for others.

I hope that when I move on to heaven, maybe people will love me enough, as Brad’s family and church loved him, to start something as meaningful and impactful as the Brad Riner Assistance Office.

Bless you all,

—Dawn Horney, Director of Outreach



*We would like to honor eighth-grade, high school and college graduates in our congregation on Sunday, May 26. 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!*

Update from the Finance Committee

In March, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$34,922 to support the operation and programs of our church. This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Capital Improvements, Brick-by-Brick, Youth Mission Trip, Camp Scholarship Fund, and other designated funds. While this number is slightly less than last month's number, more of the money was directed towards the general fund. On the expense side, our general expenses were again lower in March, and overall March was an income positive month. Although we are positive again, our end-of-the-month general fund balance did not support an apportionment payment for the third month in a row. Next month I will highlight the importance of apportionments.

Several financial things have popped up that I need to share with you. First, at long last, the solar panels are switched on and electricity is flowing into our circuits. Our bills from APS have dropped significantly—from \$3,600 to \$700 per month. We are still in the shake-out phase, and of course, we don't know yet how well we will do come July and August, but it's a great start. Most of our savings, however, are earmarked for the solar company. We will need to "lease-to-buy" the system for \$2,400 per month for the next 6 or 7 years. At the end of the period, we will own the system outright and will no longer need to make payments at all.

But after the sunshine comes the rain. And in this case I mean it literally. Our roof leaks! To be fair, most of the leaks appear to be unrelated to the solar panels installed on the roofs. But the roofing guys have all looked askance at the solar panel installation. Big problem: the Capital Improvement fund has only \$35,000 and the roofing bids are significantly higher. The Finance committee has selected four reserve funds, holding about \$45,000, which we will have to spend to fund the roof repairs. But the monsoons are coming, and the roof can't wait. This a worrisome step, since we will be spending nearly all of our reserves. If another major expense should hit, we will be critically short of resources to address the problem. I should note we are not touching the Brick-by-Brick fund, which is designated for the mortar repairs on our old brick sanctuary. Spending down our reserves is a dangerous step. Without new revenue, how can we rebuild them?

Well, surprisingly, the answer is we have a new charter school who just signed a one-year lease with monthly payments over \$4,000. The new charter school will allow us to rebuild our reserve funds. The temptation will be to spend the lease payments on other needs; we will need to stay steadfast and move those lease payments back into the reserve funds.

This is your church, and you have the right to know how we are doing financially at any time. So, if you have any questions, no matter how big or how small, regarding the budget or finances of the church, I strongly encourage you to ask. You will get your answer.

May GOD continue to guide and bless our church.

—David Mosley, Chairman of the Finance Committee

Thank God!

The Resurrection of Jesus reminds us that all things are possible with God. We don't expect people to be raised from death. We've heard frighteningly wonderful stories of people mistaken for dead... "Thank God, they came out of their unconscious state before they were buried alive!" We've heard eye-witness accounts of people who walked with loved ones in heaven, then came back when their hearts started beating moments later.

But we've never witnessed the resurrection of the body after a brutal execution that ended in death. The Resurrection cannot be proven, explained by logic or made more real through a scientific theory. We simply do not expect people to come back from the grave. Though, as Christians, we believe Jesus rose from death.

The resurrection accomplishes much more than restoring Jesus' physical body. The resurrection empowers us to reclaim the life God intends us to have. This does not mean God will shield us from hate, violence or death. The resurrection also does not take away our free will. The good news of the resurrection is that nothing will ever separate us from God's love, offered through

the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We cannot fully experience this love until we acknowledge our own limitations and our need for grace. The Apostle Paul explains it this way, *"If God is for us, who is against us? ... It is God who justifies. It is Christ Jesus, who died... who was raised... who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*
(Romans 8:31b, 33b-37)

We don't expect people to rise from the grave, and if we did, we would have missed the real power of resurrection. Jesus died and rose from the grave to restore our lives to their fullest measure. Jesus said: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10 NIV)
I thank God for the gift of life, and for the opportunity every day to strive after the fullest measure.

Striving to find life with you,



Worship Schedule for May 2019

- May 5: **Third Sunday of Easter**
Loving Jesus... (Rev. Kim Gladding)
Read: John 21:1-10, 14-17
- May 12: **Fourth Sunday of Easter**
God's Answer to Our Deepest Needs (Rev. Tom Wick)
Read: Psalm 23, John 10:11-18
- May 19: **Fifth Sunday of Easter**
God Is With Us! (Rev. Kim Gladding)
Read: Revelation 21:1-6
- May 26: **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Thank God! (Rev. Kim Gladding)
Read: Psalm 67

Vacation Bible School
June 3, 2019 — June 7, 2019
05:30 pm — 08:30 pm



First United Methodist Church of Glendale is delighted to host ROAR, the 2019 Vacation Bible School. VBS is a week long event with games, music, and lots of fun. Dinner is at 5:30 and VBS begins at 6:00 pm.

As always, our VBS is free of charge, though donations are welcome. Please sign up with our online registration system so we can plan for appropriate numbers for dinner: vbspro.events/p/glendalefirst

Note: Adult VBS will be a separate event. It will be June 10 – June 14, from 6:00 – 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will not be offered for Adult VBS, but beverages will be available.

Deadline for the June Issue is
May 13. Your items for the
newsletter should be submitted
to the church office by 3:00 pm.
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