

Circuit Rider



A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale

Youth Mission Trip Report

We listened and we went. We started out full of energy and excitement and came back with more knowledge and enthusiasm! We spent Saturday morning at Shipley's Nature Center in Huntington Beach clearing brush, planting, and spreading mulch. Our supervisors, Carolee and Cheryl, then treated us to a tour of their urban forest and the nearby stables where the rescue horses reside until they are adopted. All that hard work was rewarded with an afternoon at the beach. The youth thoroughly enjoyed riding the waves and floating in the ocean.



Playing in the waves

Sunday began with worship at Community UMC. Our youth were asked to ring the church bell to start the service. It was a bit tougher to ring the bell than they thought it would be! After the service, we headed up to LA to the Museum of Tolerance. We were very fortunate to hear Ms. Elisabeth Mann speak. She is a survivor from both Auschwitz-Birkenau and Dachau. After hearing her speak, we went through the holocaust side of the museum and then the tolerance side. We closed out the day with a devotional on the beach.

Monday came all too soon and we packed, cleaned, and headed home. We met some amazing people and saw some amazing sights as well as heard firsthand of a horrible tragedy that we will never forget.

THEN SAMUEL SAID,
"SPEAK,
FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING."
1 S A M U E L 3 : 1 0



Cleaning up at the Nature Center

Reflections From Our Trip:

Aaron – I had a really good time in CA and I want to do it again.

Alexa – It was really fun raking the mulch at the park.

Blake – It was fun.

Chad – Thank you for providing the opportunity to have an amazing experience.

Cindy – Such an amazing opportunity to spend time with our youth.

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First United Methodist Church

7102 N. 58th Drive • Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623.939.1409 • Fax: 623.236.9284

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

Youth Mission Trip Report *(Continued from page 1)*

Jenna – It was nice and the Museum of Tolerance was sad.

Justin – It was fun. It's a great church and I'd recommend it to anyone taking a vacation in Huntington Beach.

Karen – It was truly an amazing experience that I will not soon forget. I loved watching the excitement and enjoyment of the youth at the beach, wondered at the beauty of God's creation at the urban forest, and was deeply moved by Ms. Mann.

Kim – This mission trip was well balanced with fun, service and learning. We were welcomed by Community UMC and our youth were affirmed as worthy of God's calling. The ocean reminded me of the wonders and power of God's creation, and the Museum of Tolerance reminded me we must never accept intolerance of any member or group of the human family God created. I was impressed by our youth, and grateful for the opportunity to go!

Macie – It was eye-opening to see the beautiful community in Huntington Beach and insane to feel the pain that Ms. Elizabeth Mann had experienced. Especially that her little brother was 13 when he died and she must've been 15/16... like my brother and I.

Randy – I really enjoyed the atmosphere of the church especially during the Sunday service.

Whitney – The Museum of Tolerance was fascinating.

The youth group would like to thank the following:

- Marty Drake and Community UMC for being wonderful hosts.
- Chad Abts for spending the weekend with us and sharing the driving.
- Cindy Chrisman for not only spending the weekend with us, but also creating our whole menu and shopping for the food.
- Pastor Kim Gladding for spending the weekend with us, sharing driving duties, and leading the devotional after our trip to the museum.
- Roberta Miller for shopping for our food.
- Martie Orner for helping with transportation, packing, loading, unloading, and support.
- Tom and Diane Voss for purchasing life jackets for us to use at the beach.
- Last, but certainly not least, our church family... without your support, this trip would not have been possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! God bless you all!

—Karen Render, Youth Leader

Coffee Hour Hosts

We have made some changes to the Coffee Hour schedule for 2019. See the upcoming dates below:

Aug 4: Chancel Choir
Aug 11: OPEN
Aug 18: UMW–Esther Circle
Aug 25: UMM

Sep 1: Koinonia Class
Sep 8: The Miller Family
Sep 15: UMW–Lydia Circle
Sep 22: UMM
Sep 29: 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 do “**Donut Sundays**” where we will purchase donuts and sell them for 50-cents each.





You may have noticed the closet full of books in the front of the Fellowship Hall. Well, that is the fiction lending library which was in the back of Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to borrow a book and bring it back when they are done. You can also donate books. There are a lot of different types of books

that can be borrowed. One of the many books is a mystery called “Mrs. Jeffries Serves at Six.” This is actually a collection of three stories about Mrs. Jeffries. Mrs. Jeffries is a housekeeper who, along with an assortment of servants and their friends, assists Inspector Witherspoon in solving Scotland Yard’s most mind boggling murders. The stories are fun, the characters are interesting, and it is set in Victorian England. If you like light and somewhat zany mysteries, this might be a book you will enjoy.

The Missions Committee has taken a couple of months off from meetings, but some of us have been serving in various activities this summer. There will be some changes in the fall. We will no longer prepare and take meals for the UMOM Halle Women’s Center, but we will still be able to serve prepared meals there once a month. Watch for more information concerning this opportunity.



We will also be looking into ways we can continue to serve the Brad Riner Assistance Office. This is one way we will help our local community. Our Youth group will also be one of our local activities—they have been a great help in serving meals at UMOM.

Gail Dameron and I recently attended a workshop about Operation Christmas Child, our shoebox ministry. They continue to find ways to make the boxes an important way to share God’s love around the world. We had an opportunity to see a video which showed some of the children who have received the boxes. One man who received a box when he was a child will be in the valley this fall to share his experiences—we hope be able to hear his story. So, we will be off in full force for our first meeting in September; day and time TBD.

—Jeanne Rumbold, Chairperson

Report from Church Conference

My second time at church conference made me realize once again that there is a lot to learn at this event. My colleagues were David Mosley, Linda Triolo, and Rev. Kim Gladding; we shared a table with pastor and parishioners from First Sun City. This year, voting was by show of hands and paper ballot compared to last year’s electronic balloting.

Apart from dealing with some very difficult legislation (over 700 attendees debated 28 pieces of legislation), we had numerous singing and praying sessions; in addition, there were seven prayer stations arranged around the convention center. Bishop Bob Hoshibata gave a sermon on “God is our Center” where he described the DSW Conference as a mixed grill, a “multiplicity of nuances”, and a bag of mixed nuts. We all experienced the sacrament of baptism, the reading of memorials, testimonials by retirees, meditation sessions, the announcing of appointments and licenses, daily monitoring reports, Bishop’s awards, and various committee reports and recommendations (financial, personnel, episcopacy, cabinet, etc).

Five “table talks” focused on listening, values, meditation, looking to the future, and imagining transparency. Participants at our table seemed to wander from the topics, and we often concluded by

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Update from the Finance Committee

In May, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$31,840 and in June we donated \$26,087 to support the operation and programs of our church. (For comparison, April was \$38,304.) This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Capital Improvements, Brick-by-Brick, Youth Fund, Camp Scholarship Fund, and other designated funds. Unfortunately, May donations were lower than April and June's were lower than May. This is, to say the least, an unfortunate trend and worse, it is led by a decline in our pledge donations. On the one hand, this is not an unexpected result—our donations decline during the summer every year. But this year the decline was a bit steeper than expected. Due to the drop in income, we were unable to pay our apportionment payments in June and July. (For those keeping score, we have paid 4 out of 7 apportionment payments so far in 2019.)

Good news or bad news? Let's start with the good. July has started out very well. Donations have improved during the first two weeks, and we received the first monthly rent check from the charter school renting our campus.

Now the bad news, which may outweigh the good this month. First, the charter school ceased operations due to low enrollment. So the July rent check will be our only rent check. This affects not only the general fund but the Capital Improvements fund. The latter was essentially drained to pay for roof repairs, and now cannot be replenished from the non-existent rental income. We also need to replace a compressor on one of our A/C chiller units so we will be looking into other restricted accounts to pay for the needed repairs. Finally, July is a three-paycheck month for our employees. As I mentioned in a previous report, in 2019 there are three months in which we have three payrolls: January, July, and December.

I do not want to end this report on a down note; please know the church still has significant cash reserves and the designated funds all have very healthy balances (except for Capital Improvement). The general fund, or operating fund donations which cover salaries, utilities, apportionments, maintenance, etc. are all a little low at the moment, but I'm sure we will be bouncing back in the near future. God has great plans for First United Methodist Church of Glendale.

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**

Finance Report



How to Avoid Financial Scams

The best way to avoid getting tricked by scammers is to know the tricks they use – and the red flags that signal scams.

Know the red flags:

The most common types of scams will target you through fake emails (a technique known as phishing), text messages (SMSishing or smishing) voice calls (vishing), letters or even someone who shows up at your front door unexpectedly. No matter which technique the scammer uses, you may be:

- *Pressured to send money*
- *Threatened with law enforcement action*
- *Told to purchase gift cards and provide codes as a form of payment*
- *Asked to cash a check for a stranger or send money via wire transfer*
- *Instructed to make a cash deposit for a sweepstakes*
- *Offered more than you're asking for something you're selling, with a request to send the overpayment elsewhere*

The best ways to avoid getting scammed:

- ◆ **Don't respond:** If you're not 100% certain of the source of the call, email or text, then hang up the phone, don't click on the link in the email and don't reply to the text message.
- ◆ **Don't trust caller ID or answer phone calls from unknown numbers:** If you recognize the caller ID but the call seems suspicious, hang up the phone. Phone numbers can be easily spoofed to appear to be from a legitimate caller.
- ◆ **Don't give out your information:** Do not give out any personal identifiable information unless you're absolutely certain the person and reason are legitimate. Remember: banks and credit card companies will never ask you to send personal information such as an account number, Social Security or Tax ID over text, email or online.
- ◆ **Research and validate:** If the individual or organization seems suspicious, make sure the request being made is legitimate by calling the organization through an official number from their website or consulting with a trusted family member or friend.
- ◆ **Never provide personal information such as an bank account, Social Security or Tax ID number via text, email or online.**

(Courtesy of Bank of America)

Annual Conference

(Continued from page 3)

agreeing to disagree. Creative dialogue required listening to others. We named our Methodist values as following Jesus, supporting the church, fellowship, volunteerism, seeking justice, establishing missions, and others.

As the conference progressed, our responses at the table talks became more confused. We considered such questions as: What have we as the United Methodist Church gained and learned? What have we lost, and what is our fear? What are we willing to leave behind? What are we willing to bring forward and what is our hope? All of these led into the final scenario, "What if..."

There was a presentation by Dr. Jeffery Kuan of Claremont School of Theology. St. Francis of the Foot-hills, Tucson, made their Statement of Inclusivity available to those who were interested. Finally, as a way of preparing for the future, the following break-out groups were formed: theology, communications, connections, conversations, amicable separation, disaffiliation, finance, legal, spirituality, the New Methodism. These groups would deal with the following questions: What steps do we need to take? How can we be more transparent? What will reignite our fire? What do we need to consider and who do we include?

Respectfully reported,

—*Eva Ndavu, Alternate Delegate*

Update from the Office of Nurture

My dear church family,

Can you believe it has been 2 years since I started working in the church office as the Director of Nurture? In that time, I have worked with the education team, supported the youth leader Karen Render, promoted involvement of children, youth, families, and young adults, and supported school/church relations. I have helped Rev. Wick with the website, started a church Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter account, and updated the sign on the corner. I found a grant that helped with the Facebook page and we had daily bible posts. I started an archive page for our historical documents.

I even reorganized the fiction library in the fellowship hall and the study library in the nurture office. It has been an exciting adventure and I have greatly enjoyed my time.

Like many people, I have experienced many ups and downs over the past two years. As I expected from the very beginning, no two days have been the same. However, changes in my family have brought me to a point where I need to pare down my responsibilities. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I announce to my church family that I am resigning my position at First UMC.

I will not be going anywhere, however, and you will still see me around the campus. I still plan to be involved in church activities and I hope to continue to work on the Audio Visual crew on Sunday mornings. I will finish out the year helping with Education Team and will continue with Trustees. I even hope to volunteer in the office when time permits. This is not a goodbye. This is just a change of situation. Keep us in your prayers.

I will see you on Sunday.

—**Christine Jones**

Small Group Resources

Did you know that the First Glendale has a rather large collection of small group resources? Hundreds of books are available to be borrowed by individuals or by groups for group or self-study. If you are interested in leading a small group or just want to see what we have, you can come by and check the collection out. Today, I would like to highlight just one of the many resources available.

Steve Sjogren has written a book called “*101 Ways to Reach Your Community.*” This servant-evangelism themed book is all about the practical ways that anyone (or groups) can share the love of God with the surrounding community. Some of the ideas are terrific: Shoveling (or Sweeping) peoples' walkways and driveways for free, picking up leaves, bringing treats and Christmas cards for officers at the police station, offering to pay library fines for the whole hour that you are there, or having your small group sponsor a totally free car wash, etc. When people inquire why you are doing this, just tell them that God has been so very good to you, and that you want to share His goodness with the rest of the world in practical ways and provide them with a connection card that invites them to the church. This book is a great resource for ideas to reach out and share the love of God, sharing our faith in a spirit of servanthood. If this book sounds interesting to you, you can also check out: “*Living the Five*” by Jim and Jennifer Cowart; “*Get Their Name*” by Bob Farr, Doug Anderson, and Kay Kotan; “*Just Say Yes*” by Robert Schnase; or “*Becoming a Contagious Christian*” by Mark Mittelberg, Lee Strobel, and Bill Hybels.

—**Christine Jones**

The Five Star Church

Stars are a common way to rank the service and hospitality of hotels and restaurants. The number of stars usually coincides with the experience consumers have shared after visiting one of these businesses. The more customers are happy and satisfied, the higher the star rating. I often take into consideration the number of stars when deciding to visit a restaurant or hotel, hoping to increase the possibility of a great experience.

My loving partner, Sandy, often recalls a plaque hanging in the hallway of her medical school:

"The patient should feel better after seeing the doctor."

It was a reminder that the practice of medicine is not limited to biology and knowledge of the human body. A good doctor will listen, and also show compassion and understanding. Without these, the patient may feel worse, even though receiving important medical information.

This is true in the church as well. Far too many folks who do not attend

church have negative stories about being judged, looked down upon or simply ignored when they came to church. We can get away with some of these behaviors in public, but the church is supposed to be a place where actions and reactions are guided by love, not judgment. It's never good when a guest is ignored at church. After going to church, a person should feel better!

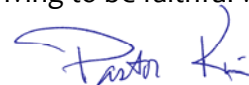
I'm not suggesting that no one should be challenged to become better human beings and more committed followers of Christ. That would be like visiting a doctor who smiles, shows kindness but gives no medical knowledge. Jesus shows compassion and respect, while offering the good news of the gospel. Practicing what Jesus teaches is not a guarantee everyone will like us, or even return kindness, love and respect. Remember, Jesus' counsel in Luke 6:32-33:

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that."

Those who hated Jesus practiced injustice, ignored the vulnerable and turned away the lost, saying they were unclean and unacceptable to God. Luke tells of Jesus healing a woman in the synagogue on the Sabbath. The leader of the synagogue was angry and quickly informed the congregation that the Sabbath was a day of rest, and healing was only allowed on the other six days of the week. But Jesus clarified what should happen on the Sabbath when he said: "... Should not this woman... bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day?" (Luke 13:10-17 NIV)

A person attending church should feel better, not worse. We can feel better, even when challenged to live differently, if we are loved and treated with respect. In today's world, we might give such a church a Five Star rating, because we were welcomed and given an opportunity to freed from that which has bound us for years. How would you rank our church? What might we all do to improve our rating? As we prepare to celebrate 125 years of ministry and mission, let's shoot for *****!

Striving to be faithful with you,




August 4 (Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)

Message: *God is NOT Our Referee!*

Read: Luke 12:13-21

August 11 (Ninth Sunday After Pentecost)

Message: *God Has Given Us the Kingdom!*

Read: Luke 12:32-34

August 18 (Tenth Sunday After Pentecost)

Message: *The Signs of the Times...*

Read: Luke 12:54-56

August 25 (Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost)

Message: *The Five Star Church...*

Read: Luke 13:10-17

Join us for the Kickoff to our 125 year Celebration

**All Church Luau and Rally Day
Sunday, August 25, 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**



*Historical & Committee Displays
Dancers
Teriyaki Chicken and Macaroni Salad*



Bring your favorite memories of our church and a salad or dessert to share!

Deadline for the September
Issue is August 12. Your items
for the newsletter should be
submitted to the church office
by 3:00 pm.
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