

# Circuit Rider



A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale

## ***Worship in the Basement September 29; Part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration***

For many years, the basement of the Office Building was the center of congregational life at First Glendale. Before the Fellowship Hall and Education Buildings were constructed, it was home to Sunday School, Youth Group, Scouts, potlucks, receptions, weddings and community meetings. For several years, the congregation worshipped in the basement until the Sanctuary was finished in 1929.



*Church Basement in the 1960s*

As a reminder of our heritage and part of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, you are invited to join us for Worship in the Basement on Sunday, September 29, at 11:11 am. **Note: the Office Building and Basement are not handicapped accessible areas; there are stairs.** Our 9:00 am worship service on that Sunday will be in the sanctuary, which is accessible.

## ***Special Session of Annual Conference September 14, 2019***

Registration for the Special Session of the Annual Conference at Gold Canyon UMC, 6640 S. Kings Ranch Rd., Gold Canyon, is open. Visit the [www.dscumc.org/ac](http://www.dscumc.org/ac) web page for registration and information about the session. There is no pre-conference event; instead, there is a pre-conference document available. Some of the content you'll find in the document:

- Logistics – no tables or charging stations
- Voting – who can vote, on what, and how
- Legislation – summary

People must bring their own printed copy of the legislation packet to the Special Session. If you do not have a means to print your packet, you can request a printed copy mailed to them by emailing Cynthia Satchel at [csatchel@dscumc.org](mailto:csatchel@dscumc.org) no later than September 9.



## **First United Methodist Church**

7102 N. 58th Drive • Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623.939.1409 • Fax: 623.236.9284

[www.glendalefirstumc.com](http://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**

## Annual Church Conference Scheduled for October 28

Our annual Church Conference date has been set for Monday, October 28 at 7:00 pm. (SPRC will meet with the District Superintendent at 6:00 pm). We will celebrate another year of ministry, set priorities and objectives for the coming year, embrace our ministry budget and confirm our leadership for 2020. Your attendance is important, so mark your calendar and plan on attending. Staff members and those chairing a team, board, committee or council will need to submit a yearly ministry report. These reports are due in the church office by October 15 to [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com).



### COMMUNITY SMOKE ALARM WALK

## WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

Join your local fire department to install smoke alarms and educate families on fire safety in high-risk neighborhoods.

**OCTOBER 5 - PHOENIX**

**OCTOBER 12 - TEMPE**

**OCTOBER 19 - GLENDALE**

**OCTOBER 26 - MESA & CHANDLER**

**NOVEMBER 2 - PEORIA**

To sign up and for more information, visit [AzBurn.org/SmokeAlarms/](http://AzBurn.org/SmokeAlarms/).

## Coffee Hour Hosts

Below is the Coffee Hour schedule for the next two months:

**Sep 1:** Koinonia Class  
**Sep 8:** The Miller Family  
**Sep 15:** UMW–Lydia Circle  
**Sep 22:** UMM  
**Sep 29:** Missions

**Oct 6:** Trustees  
**Oct 13:** UMW–Esther Circle  
**Oct 20:** Craft Group  
**Oct 27:** UMM

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.



## **Golf Tournament to Benefit Lura Turner Homes**

Lura Turner Homes for Adults with Developmental Disabilities invites all golfers to our 25<sup>th</sup> golf tourney, Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

For the first year, this annual fundraiser will be at the renowned Raven Golf Club, 3636 East Baseline Road, Phoenix. Featured guest is Arizona Diamondbacks' organist Bobby Freeman.

Fee is \$125 per golfer if paid by Aug. 25; \$150 after Aug. 25. All proceeds benefit Lura Turner Homes, founded by Methodist deaconess Lura Turner in 1965 to serve the Valley's adults with special needs.

Register online at [www.luraturnerhomes.org](http://www.luraturnerhomes.org). Questions? Please call LTH executive director Max McQueen, 602-943-4789.



Raven Golf Club  
3636 East Baseline Road  
Phoenix, AZ



### **September 1: Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

*The Best Seats in the House...* Read: Luke 14:1, 7-14

### **September 8: Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*The Cost to Follow...* Read: Luke 14:25-33

### **September 15: Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Who God Loves...* Read: Luke 15:1-10

### **September 22: Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Being Faithful...* Read: Luke 16:1-13

### **September 29: Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*The Opportunity of a Lifetime!* Read: Luke 16:19-25

## **Upcoming Lay Servant Training Sessions**

*The purpose of Lay Servant Ministries is to enlist, train, guide and support lay servants as they equip and prepare others "for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).*

### **September 6-7—First UMC, Gilbert**

Called to Preach; Teaching Adults

### **October 11-12—First UMC, Phoenix**

Dancing with Words  
Life Together in the United Methodist Connection

### **October 11-12—First UMC, Safford**

Intro to Lay Servant Ministry: The Basic Course

### **October 18-19—Christ Church UM (Tucson)**

Justice in Everyday Life

### **November 15-16—Grace UMC, Mesa**

Intro to Lay Servant Ministry: The Basic Course  
Living Our United Methodist Beliefs  
Leading in Prayer

Go to <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/> for more information and to register for these courses.



## ***Update from the Finance Committee***

In July, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$31,092 (up significantly from the June donations of \$26,087) to support the operation and programs of our church. To this total we can add the \$4,700 rental check for the charter school—the one and only one we will receive. This is a total of \$35,792 in revenue in July. This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Capital Improvements, Youth Fund, Missions Fund, and other designated funds. The increase in giving was very heartening, but it was tempered by the loss of the charter school and an unexpected and unbudgeted expense which dropped on us during the month. Due primarily to this unexpected, additional expense, we were unable to pay our apportionment payments in August. (For those keeping score, that is only 3 out of 8 apportionment payments made so far in 2019.)

So, what about this unexpected expense? We have budgeted \$3,000 monthly to pay for electricity: \$2,400 for the lease payments to the solar company and \$600 to APS to pay for any incidental electricity we use. Imagine our shock and surprise when we opened the July APS bill and found charges of over \$3,000! We quickly determined that three of seven solar power inverters were off-line. (What is an inverter? A type of electrical converter which converts the direct current (DC) output of the solar panels into the standard alternating current (AC) used by the electrical grid.) When the inverters are off, we are not generating electricity, and hence, we draw more (a lot more) from APS.

When we are struggling to make our apportionment payments, a \$3,000 hit is hard to swallow. Fortunately we had increased giving and the one school rental check to help cover this expense, but we ended the month of July without sufficient funds to pay an apportionment payment.

And this is an expense which will keep on expending for at least one more month. By the time we got the July APS bill, we were well into the next billing cycle. So, as I write this, I am bracing for the August APS bill, which will likely be significantly higher than our \$600 budget.

It is a lesson learned (albeit a painful and expensive one). The inverters are now checked daily to make sure they are all on-line. We have asked the Trustees to expand Wi-Fi to the entire campus so that we can connect the inverters to the internet. This will allow key individuals to receive email notifications when the inverters go off-line.

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***

## ***Rise Up Against Violence and Hatred — A Letter from Bishop Bob***

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ, who liberates us from hate and violence.

These days, our world is darkened by deep despair at the proliferation of violence and hatred that calls us to action. As disciples of Jesus, who proclaimed the realm of God, we should now be angered to do something to stop the evil that is upon us. Now is the time to keep praying for the families and friends of those who lost life or love in recent mass murders.

But it is not the time to stop with “thoughts and prayers,” as we who are horrified are wont to do. I am asking all of us in the Desert Southwest Conference to rise to the occasion to do something in addition to bowing our heads in prayer.

I am offended by the lack of action by those who are in authority to move beyond an impasse, especially those who blame the current frequency of violence against others solely on mental health issues, or social media, and neglect the connection of these concerns to other issues, such as:

- The continued proliferation of the scourge of racism and white supremacy;
- The bold expressions of hate and contempt for others;
- The disregard of the precious gift of life we have been given by God;
- The rampant availability of weapons, especially weapons designed for mass destruction; and,
- The refusal to countermand organizations like the NRA that roadblock efforts to address common sense gun laws.

I encourage you, if you have not yet done so, to rise to action.

Write to those in authority, especially Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, to reconvene the Senate to consider legislation that has been held up by his design. I have signed such a letter along with others in leadership in the Desert Southwest Conference, and invite you to send a similar letter. You might also copy your letter to your senators. In Arizona, they are Senator Kyrsten Sinema and Senator Martha McSally.

- Make a donation to an organization that is lobbying for sensible gun laws.
- Campaign for, advocate for, and vote for those candidates who have the courage and moral imperative to stand up against racism and gun violence.
- Revisit prayerfully your baptismal vows to resist evil and injustice in this world.
- Invite your congregation to study the roots of racism and explore the issues related to gun violence. The General Commission on Religion and Race has abundant resources on the issue of racism.

And finally, pray with me that there can be some movement in our call to respond to our United Methodist stance against violence. Let's put our faith into action. Your voice matters, so let it be heard. Your faith in Jesus Christ mandates that we do so!

In Christ,

***Bishop Bob***

## ***Reflections on Annual Conference and the 2019 Special General Conference Action***

No doubt you have heard and read reports on this year's Annual Conference. As your Pastor, I would like to share some thoughts and reflections on the current struggle in our denomination.

Our own Desert Southwest Annual Conference joined many United Methodist Annual Conferences around the country (north, south, east and west), expressing opposition to the Special General Conference 2019's adoption of the Traditional Plan for our denomination. This plan retains the language in our Discipline condemning the 'Practice of Homosexuality to be Incompatible with Christian Teaching.' The Traditional Plan also requires that many successful Pastors, Conferences and long-established vital churches who disagree with this language and refuse to declare persons who are LGBTQ+ to be "Incompatible with Christianity," and to leave the United Methodist denomination in the coming year.

I wonder, do we have the authority to declare who God calls and who Jesus sends out as beloved followers? Can we, with confidence, restrict who might dedicate their lives in service to God? Are behaviors of those NOT defined as LGBTQ+ *compatible with Christian Teaching*? Historically, Methodists have never agreed on every subject, including how we articulate

our beliefs. From the beginning, differing opinions have coexisted in our denomination. Our founder, John Wesley left room for disagreement, but counseled us to stay in love with God and stay united in ministry and mission. I do not believe the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in our church is a threat to the standards for clergy or lay membership of our churches. The United Methodist denomination continues to ask the same faith questions and responsibilities of new members and confirmands. The Board of Ordained Ministry, who is charged with caring for and evaluating potential clergy candidates, continues a rigorous examination process. Finally, our denomination has a long history of engaging in vital ministry with, and in partnership with, members of the LGBTQ+ community. Our seminaries welcome LGBTQ+ students and prepare them to serve God as Pastors, Deacons and Missionaries. Christ's work and ministry will continue to be carried out by many, including those of the LGBTQ+ community. Numerous lives have been changed by the witness of many, including those of the LGBTQ+ community.

Jesus counsels his followers when they try stopping a man they claim is "not one of us" from using Jesus' name to cast demons. "No one who does a mira-

cle in my name," Jesus says, "can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us." (Mk 9:39-40 NIV)

There are many faithful, committed, loving Christians within the LGBTQ+ community. They want to be active witnesses of how Christ has changed their lives. I hope and pray our denomination will remain open and united in ministry and mission, while learning to respect one another on either side of this long debated issue. I know there are differing opinions in our church, and yet, we continue to love one another and are united in the hope Christ offers the world.

Both Pastor Tom and I remain hopeful and committed to maintaining an open and welcoming spirit at First United Methodist Church. We will hold up a standard that EVERY person is treated with respect and dignity. We will resist any effort to pressure church members to agree to something they are uncomfortable with.

In the coming months there will be opportunities for conversation about our church as the way forward for our denomination becomes clearer. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



## Mary Hollan Presents

Mary Hollan will present a “Broadway Hits and Music Greats” on Sunday, September 8 at 5:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Mary’s show is filled with wonderful love songs and jazz standards by Porter, Gershwin, Rogers and Hart, Kern, Hamlisch and more.

She also includes many songs from the Broadway stage from past favorites like:

- ◆ The King and I
- ◆ South Pacific
- ◆ Wicked

Mary also performs contemporary and traditional gospel along with original songs. Her love for Christ shines in her words and songs which deliver a message of empowerment, encouragement and gratitude.

Mary is currently Worship Director at Christ Community UMC in Avondale and performs over 150 solo shows a year throughout the Valley.



### ***Family Fun Events—Third Sunday of Each Month***

On Sunday, September 15 the Education Team is sponsoring a Back to School Barbecue from 12:00 pm—1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for good food, fun and fellowship! Upcoming events include: October 20—Pumpkin Painting, November 17—Paper Turkeys, and December 15—Ornament Making.

These are not a drop-off events—they are for the whole family. Be sure to join in the fun!



***Koinonia/Wayseekers Class  
Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows Bible Study  
Begins Sunday, September 15, 10:30 am***



The twenty-one stained glass windows in our church sanctuary are not only magnificent works of art, but also wonderful teaching tools. Locked within them you will find stories taught by Jesus, experiences from his ministry, or beliefs drawn from scripture.

A Bible Study on the windows led by Pastor Tom Wick will begin on Sunday, September 15, at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to bring a cup of coffee or snack from Coffee Hour and join in!

Deadline for the October issue is September 13. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm.  
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