

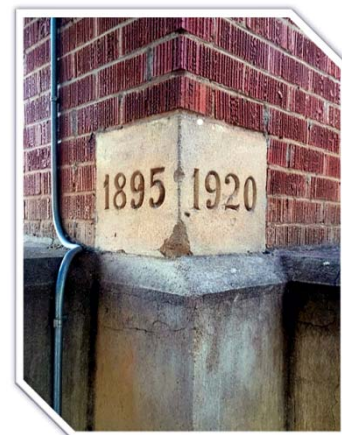
Circuit Rider



A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale

Celebrating 125 Years of Faith, Hope and Love: 1894–2019

Our church was established in 1894, just two years after the original Glendale town site was platted. At the annual conference of the Arizona Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held in Tucson on October 4, 1894, Reverend J.A. Crouch was appointed as the first pastor for the Alhambra and Glendale circuit. From the early days of worship service at Alhambra school to the present day, the church has served this community without interruption. We have chosen Sunday, October 6, 2019 as a day of celebration!



Whether you are a member, a former member, or anyone who has attended the church, we want to extend a special invitation to you and your family to be a part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration. It will be a wonderful day as we give thanks for all that God has done during the past 125 years and look forward to all that God will do in the next 125! The Chancel Choir is preparing a special anthem honoring the day, with both current and former choir members. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Nancy Cushman, will be preaching along with our Senior Pastor Kim Gladding. Former pastors will also take part in the worship service, including: Rev. Jim O’Neal, Rev. Larry Gerber, Rev. Terry Reid, Rev. Byron Haines and Rev. Gerri Bast. Pastors who felt their call to ministry while members of the church will also be participating in the service, and include: Rev. Gary Roper, Rev. Ed Denham and Rev. Tom Wick.

Sunday, October 6 Schedule:

- 9:00 am Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Meet and Greet Pastors and their Families (Coffee, punch and cookies on the patio)
- 11:11 am Blended Worship in Sanctuary
- 12:30 pm Anniversary Luncheon* in Fellowship Hall

**To make reservations for the luncheon, call the church office at (623) 939-1409, menu option 2, or email rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com*



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



125th Anniversary Event

***Ice Cream Social
Saturday, October 5,
5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall***

Bring your family and your sweet tooth to the 125th Anniversary Ice Cream Social! There will be ice cream, toppings, whipped cream, maraschino cherries and even a banana or two! You'll have an opportunity to read memories of the church that have been shared by members and while eating your ice cream, you can watch all twelve weeks of "First Flashbacks" compiled and playing in the Fireside Area.

The music for the evening will be a big band sound, provided by former members of the Revelations Band called Revelation2! Don't miss this wonderful evening of fun, fellowship and joy!



Become a Welcome Center Host

Attending a new church can be very intimidating! People wonder: Will I be welcome? Do they have activities for children? Is there a nursery? Am I dressed appropriately? Where are the restrooms?

As a "Welcome Center Host" you are on the front lines of our church! As a Host, you welcome every person with a smile, offer them a mint, open the door, answer questions, hand out information and newcomer packets.

You will find a sign-up calendar at the Welcome Center just outside the Sanctuary. You can serve as little or as often as you wish. If you have any questions, see Pastor Tom. Stop by and sign up today!

Coffee Hour Hosts

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

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

- Nov 3:** Koinonia/Wayseekers
- Nov 10:** The Miller Family
- Nov 17:** OPEN
- Nov 24:** No Coffee Hour; All Church Thanksgiving Potluck

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.



As I write this, our celebration of 125 years of Faith, Hope and Love is just around the corner! In the recent weeks we've heard how First United Methodist Church has been intertwined in the lives of many in church and community. On October 6, we'll have the opportunity to personally greet previous appointed clergy, their spouses, as well as those members of our church who heard and responded to the call of ministry (see the article on the front page for details). What a wonderful testimony of vital ministry over the past 125

years! Even as we celebrate the past, we also cannot help but wonder into the future. How will God help us be a courageous church in the years ahead? On October 6, Rev. Nancy Cushman, our District Superintendent will preach, drawing on the prophetic writings of Isaiah. In Isaiah 44:3-4 (NRSV), we hear this promise from God:

³I will pour my spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring. ⁴They shall spring up like a green tamarisk, like willows by flowing streams.

Celebrating 125 years

By Pastor Kim

We cannot predict the future of our church, but we can promise, through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, to support the ministry and mission God calls us to in the years ahead. Even as we promise ourselves, God also promises the same Spirit on our successors that we have been a blessing to our lives and our church. Many of the trees on our campus were planted with the future in mind. When first put in the ground, they were small and fragile. But those who planted them trusted they would become a blessing for future generations.

Today, those trees provide shelter from the hot sun, cooler temperatures in and around our buildings and a nesting place for many birds. As we give thanks for the past 125 years of ministry and mission, let us also pledge ourselves to the years ahead. Then we, like those before us, will plant trees of faith, trusting God will bless the future generations. They will be like a green tamarisk tree, a blessing to all who come.

Pledging myself with you,




October 6: **17th Sunday After Pentecost; 125 Year Celebration; World Communion Sunday**
 Message: *Celebrating the Past and Planting for the Future!*
 Rev. Nancy Cushman West District Superintendent
 Read: Isaiah 44:1-8, NRSV & Acts 1:6-11, NRSV

October 13: **Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**
 Guest Preacher

October 20: **Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**
 Message: *Do No Harm!*
 Rev. Kim Gladding
 Read: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

October 27: **Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**
 Message: *Justified...*
 Rev. Kim Gladding
 Read: Luke 18:9-14

Update from the Finance Committee

In August, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$27,376 (down from the July donations of \$31,092) 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 Fund, Missions Fund, and other designated funds. Due primarily to higher expenses (\$32,522) we ended the month slightly in the red, and we were unable to pay our apportionment payments in September.

The biggest unplanned expense is still the electric bill from APS. Despite manually checking the solar panel inverters on a near daily basis, we showed only marginal increases in the power generated. This problem is now a Trustees issue, and from a financial point-of-view, I hope they get to the bottom of the problem quickly. Other than the electrical problems, no other expenses were out of line with the budget, but due perhaps to the start of the new school year, most of the expenses were right at their budgeted amount—so there was no slack in the budget for August.

We are struggling to make our apportionment payments; only 3 of 9 payments made to date. The obvious solution is to reduce our expenses in 2020; the not-so-obvious part is what can we cut? The 2020 budgeting process will be challenging... but First Glendale has faced financial difficulties in the past, and we rose to the occasion. With God's help we will resolve our current financial problems and continue sharing God's Word for many years to come.

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*

From the Desert Southwest Conference - Fraud & Gift Card Emails

The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, is alerting religious leaders around the country about a gift card scam targeting worshippers. The FTC alert explains that **scammers pretend to be a pastor or bishop and then ask worshippers for gift card contributions** for a worthy cause. Appeals are often made by email but can be texts or phone calls. The imposter asks people to buy a popular gift card — frequently, iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon — and then asks for the gift card number and PIN on the back of the card. Those numbers let the scammer immediately get the money people loaded onto the card. And once that's done, the scammer and peoples' money are gone, usually without a trace.

Be on the lookout for unusual e-mails. If you receive a suspicious looking e-mail, even if it seems like it might be from Pastor Kim, delete it without opening to prevent scammers from getting your information.

From Lay Leader and United Methodist Women President, Linda Triolo

Our United Methodist Women are back into action, after a summer rest. We are part of a worldwide organization that was formed 150 years ago to help women and children, thereby spreading the Good News of Christ. The list of mission agencies we support worldwide is huge and amazing. Our local organization has also been awesome in its support of local good causes. We also provide funeral receptions in our Fellowship Hall.

We eagerly welcome newcomers! Our next general meeting will be October 3, Thursday, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Esther Circle meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am, and Lydia Circle meets on the second Thursday at 7:00 pm, both in the Fellowship Hall.

Our next big event is the West District Annual Celebration, October 5, at Epworth United Methodist Church.

Our Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration will be October 26-27, at Sun Lakes United Methodist Church, in Chandler.

Our local organization is planning a Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 7 at 2 pm in our Fellowship Hall. This will be a fun event with lots of door prizes, and all are invited. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children.

As Lay Leader, it was my honor to participate in the Special Session of the Desert Southwest Conference on September 14 at Gold Canyon United Methodist Church. We passed several resolutions expressing our dissatisfaction with the Traditional Plan passed at the 2019 General Conference in Saint Louis, MO. The main issue is that we feel we should be allowed to make up our own minds, as individual churches, whether or not to accept gay clergy and marriages, without being overruled by the churches in Africa and Asia, where homosexuality is illegal and may be punishable by death. They are not subject to being overruled by us. We want to abide by our own consciences and let God, our Creator, be the judge.

We at Glendale FUMC are in the process of streamlining our governing structure into one board of stewards, 9-12 people, including Trustees, Finance and Staff Parish Relations, so that we can have one meeting per month and be in good communication with each other. This will take effect in January, 2020.

—Linda Triolo

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).

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.

Congregational Meeting—October 28, 2019

This year Charge Conference season is going to be a little different. In this time of uncertainty in our United Methodist Church, it seems important to set aside time for us to think about and discuss our identity as local churches. Each local church is gifted and set in different neighborhoods and settings. I've served six churches in my ministry and while some things were the same, each had its own character, passions, and ministries. This year, I am setting the Charge Conference business aside for just a little while so that we can think deeply together about each local church's identity in the Congregational Meetings. The Charge Conference business will be addressed in a separate meeting at another time.

So, this year I will be leading a Congregational Meeting that I hope all church members and constituents will attend. We will open with worship, focus on five questions, and look at next steps. Some of the questions include "In what ways do I experience God in my local church? What are the two most important things you pray the people of your local church will be known for in your community?" We will discuss these and look for common threads. We'll look at the church's mission statement or other statements and see how they align with the answers we have shared. I am also willing to answer any questions while I am there. I hope each person will make it a priority to come and participate in this Congregational Meeting.

A second Charge Conference meeting will be held at another time led by a presiding elder that I have asked to assist me this year. This Charge Conference will cover the routine business required by the *Book of Discipline* including adopting the ministry goals for 2020, electing volunteer leaders through the nominations report, voting on the clergy compensation. (There are a few churches that are exceptions to this two-meeting plan and they already know they will be different.) The plan is for this meeting to gather the Church Council and others who meet the Disciplinary requirements for a Charge Conference to do this routine business.

One of the questions I have heard is "why are you restricting the second meeting to a Charge Conference?" The reason is simple. I respect the time of our church people; I understand that attending these yearly meetings takes time away from family, rest, and other important activities. So, I am asking the entire church to attend the Congregational meeting and asking the leadership to attend both meetings. Of course, anyone is welcome to attend the Charge Conference as well, but I am asking you to prioritize the Congregational Meeting.

Prayer is the best way to prepare for this time of gathering and conversation. The week before your Congregational Meeting, I invite you to pray this prayer daily:

Creator of love and life, as we prepare for our Congregational Meeting we pray to you for wisdom, for a listening heart, for the flourishing of Christ's holy church in this place, for the increase in our love for others in the name of Christ, and for the light of Christ to shine brightly in this local community to folks who may never enter our doors. This I pray with a humble heart. Amen

I look forward to spending time with you in the coming months.

"Accept each other with love and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together." (Ephesians 4:2a-3, Common English Bible)

—Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent





Have you been attending church and would like to explore the covenant of membership at First Glendale? Do you want to know more about being a United Methodist? Join Pastor Kim for a New Member class beginning in October. There will be six sessions on Monday evenings, October 7–November 11. We will begin at 6:00 pm and we'll be finished by 7:30. We will use the book, "Living as United Methodist Christians." There is no cost for the book, but please sign up for the class so we know how many to order.

Contact Rebecca in the church office (623) 939-1409, menu option 2, or email rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com

**Mondays in October 6:00-7:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

Sanctuary Stained Glass Windows Bible Study
Sundays, 10:30 am

The Stained Glass windows in our Sanctuary are not only beautiful works of art but are wonderful teaching tools. You are invited to join us as we unlock the stories told in the windows. Below is our schedule for the next few Sundays.



- Sunday, Sept. 29, The Good Samaritan, Read Luke 10:25-37
- Sunday, Oct. 6, 125th Anniversary Sunday! (Class will not meet)
- Sunday, Oct 13, The Talents, Read Matthew 25:14-30
- Sunday, Oct. 20, The Sower, Read Matthew 13:3-9

Deadline for the November
 Issue is October 11. 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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