

All are invited to the United Methodist Women's Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 7 in our Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a light lunch, singing of Christmas carols, and door prizes. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$7 for children 12 years old and younger. Profits will go toward much-needed renovations of our historic 90 year old sanctuary, just as, many years ago, the church women fried chicken for businessmen's lunches in our basement to fund the sanctuary's original construction.

The tickets are being sold out front, on the way to the fellowship hall, by Treasa Birchett, UMW treasurer, and Karleen Miller, former UMW treasurer. You can also reserve tickets by calling or emailing [tbirchett54@gmail.com](mailto:tbirchett54@gmail.com) or [lindatriolo@cox.net](mailto:lindatriolo@cox.net).

The United Methodist Women's  
**Annual Christmas Tea**  
Saturday, December 7, 2:00 pm

Adults: \$12.00; 12 & under : \$7.00

First United Methodist Church  
7102 N. 58th Drive  
Glendale, AZ 85301



# Circuit Rider



A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale

## A Love That Saves

Looking back over my life, I cannot count, nor am I aware of the number of times love has saved me! Being saved by love is so much more than finding your soul mate or falling in love. Though this sort of love is beautiful and a precious gift to us, it is not what "saves" us. Each time I stand before a couple to be joined in marriage, I remind them it's love, not marriage, that will complete or make a them whole. "Love Is The Answer," Todd Rundgren reminds us, in his song from 1977:

*Light of the world, shine on me,  
Love is the answer  
Shine on us all, set us free,  
Love is the answer.*

Love saves us from so many things, the greatest perhaps, being our own selfishness. But love does not rescue us from pain. In fact, we may feel pain

because we chose to love. In his book, "Strength to Love" (1963), Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us, "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Dr. King certainly endured great pain as he loved those who persecuted him and countless others following his non-violent lead. Love has the power to transform hate and promote love.

Christmas has been called the season of love, and certainly it is a special time to show our love to others. It is also the season of light. In John 1:5 we read, "The light shines in the darkness" and from the Prophet Isaiah, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2 CEB)

The challenge is, we, like the people long ago, are still in need of the love that saves.

Rundgren reminds us:

*When you feel afraid...  
When you've lost your way...  
When you're all alone...  
When you're far from home...  
When you're down and out...  
All your hope's run out...  
When you need a friend...  
When you're near the end...  
Love is the answer!*

As we step into the season of love and light, may we hold tight to the truth that love saves us.

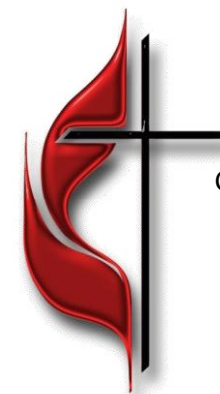
In those moments and situations when we feel lost, lonely, angry or are simply losing hope, let us hold on to the love that saves us.

Deadline for the January Issue is December 13. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm. email: [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com) fax: 623.236.9284

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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](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



**December 1: First Sunday of Advent**

*Hope: The Invitation to Believe*  
 Read: Romans 15:4-6; Matthew 3:1-3  
 Preaching: Rev. Kim Gladding

**December 8: Second Sunday of Advent**

*Faith That Survives at All Costs*  
 First UMC Youth Group Service

**December 15: Third Sunday of Advent**

*Joy for All Who Suffer*  
 Read: Luke 1:47-49; Isaiah 35:1-4  
 Preaching: Rev. Kim Gladding

**December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

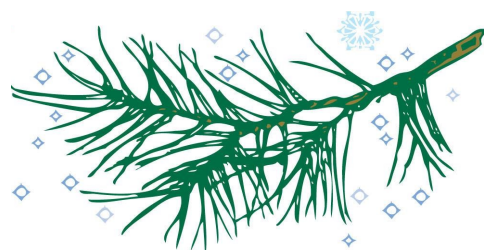
*Love That Saves*  
 Read: Matthew 1:18-25; Psalm 80:1-3  
 Preaching: Rev. Kim Gladding

**December 24: Christmas Eve**

*Peace That Comes in the Night!*  
 Read: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7a; Luke 2:1-20  
 5:00 pm .....*How the Grinch Found Christ in Christmas*  
 7:00 pm .....*A Jazzy Christmas Eve*  
 11:00 pm .....*A Traditional Christmas Eve*  
 (Christmas Cantata and Communion)

**December 29: First Sunday After Christmas**

*The Promise of Christmas*  
 Read: Matthew 2:13-14; 19-23  
 Preaching: Rev. Tom Wick



*From out of my memories  
 In thought I can see  
 The family at Christmas  
 And our freshly cut tree.*

*We had not much money  
 For bright finery;  
 But that didn't matter  
 To us children, you see.*

*We strung up some popcorn  
 And tied gingham bows.  
 Beauty is in the eye;  
 So the old saying goes.*

*As for us children,  
 We were proud of our tree;  
 For it held the meaning  
 Of what Christmas should be*

*Giving and sharing  
 Your heart and your love  
 For that was the first gift  
 Sent from heaven above.*

*So let's not forget  
 What Christmas does mean;  
 It's not about presents  
 But to honor a King.*

**Gold Award Service Project**

Thank you to everyone who helped with Ashley Holt's service project for the Arizona Humane Society. There was a fantastic turnout with members of the church, Ironwood High School, Girl Scouts and friends and family participating. There were over 150 blankets completed for dogs, cats and kittens at the Arizona Humane Society!



**Missions Team Report**

We have had a busy fall! The Mission Committee voted to give school supplies (pencils, crayons, scissors, etc) to Glendale School District's Harold Smith and Isaac Imes schools. They were very grateful for the donation.

On November 9th we helped Ashley Holt with her Gold Award project. We made blankets for the Arizona Humane Society. These are used for the cages sheltering the dogs and cats.

Our committee is participating in the Fall Craft Fair on November 30th. We will manage the food area, serving hot dogs, chips and drinks. We will also have a booth with handmade crafts.

We will close out the year hosting the December 29th Coffee Hour. We wish to thank all who have generously donated to our programs this year. We look forward to 2020 and to all the new ways we can serve others.

We welcome you to visit or become an active member of the Mission Committee. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in Fellowship Hall, at 6:30 pm.

**Church News & Notes**

*For more information, contact the church office 623-939-1409 or rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com*



**Gifts for the Staff**

We like to give a Christmas gift to each of our staff members as a token of our appreciation for the work they do for us all year long. Additionally, we provide a Christmas lunch for the AZTEC cleaning crew, as well as our staff and volunteers who can join us for lunch (all volunteers are welcome). We need your support to do this, and are asking for donations to make it possible.

Use your giving envelopes and designate "Staff Gifts" in the space that says "Other." Donations will be accepted through Sunday, December 15th. Thank you very much!



## A Christmas Quiz!

Test your knowledge of the biblical account of Jesus' birth. See the answers at the bottom of this page...

- Who was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary?**  
A. Jacob    B. Eleazar    C. Azor    D. Jechonias
- Which angel appeared to Mary?**  
A. Gabriel    B. The Angel of the Lord    C. Michael    D. Gideon
- Who was promised that he would not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ?**  
A. Zacharias    B. Joseph    C. Simeon    D. John the Baptist
- Who was the king of Judaea at the time of the birth of Jesus?**  
A. Herod    B. Pilate    C. Caesar    D. Barnabas
- Where was Jesus born?**  
A. Nazareth    B. Bethlehem    C. Jerusalem    D. Egypt
- How did the shepherds who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?**  
A. They were told in a dream.    B. An angel of the Lord told them.  
C. They read it in the ancient scrolls.    D. A messenger from the east told them.
- How did the Magi who visited Baby Jesus know where to find Him?**  
A. They followed a star in the east.    B. An angel of the Lord told them.  
C. They were told in a dream.    D. They followed a cloud before them.
- Which was not a gift the wise men brought to Jesus?**  
A. Myrrh    B. Frankincense    C. Silver    D. Gold
- To escape from the king, the angel of the Lord told Jesus' family to leave and go where?**  
A. Syria    B. Egypt    C. Bethlehem    D. Palestine
- Where was Jesus raised after they returned?**  
A. Bethlehem    B. Egypt    C. Syria    D. Nazareth
- For the journey to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph –**  
A. Walked    B. Joseph walked and Mary rode a donkey    C. Rode a bus    D. The Bible does not say
- When Mary became pregnant, Mary and Joseph were –**  
A. Married    B. Just friends    C. Engaged    D. None of the above

Answers: 1. A, 2. A, 3. C, 4. A, 5. B, 6. B, 7. A, 8. C, 9. B, 10. D, 11. D, 12. C



**First United Methodist Church**  
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*Our Sanctuary will be open Friday and Saturday nights from 6:00 pm–9:00 pm through December 21. Experience the glory and wonder of the season in our beautiful, historic sanctuary.*

- **Prayer Corner:** For anyone who would like to take a moment out of this busy season for prayer and/or contemplation.
- **Christmas Photos:** Take group photos with the gorgeous backdrop of our decorated sanctuary.
- **Christmas Music:** We will have concerts, caroling or recorded music each night.
- **Join Us for Worship:** We would love to see you on Sunday mornings, and on Christmas Eve. Find a list of all events at [glendalefirstumc.com](http://glendalefirstumc.com).



## Christmas Eve Worship Services

**5:00 pm Children and Family Worship Service**

*Our children and youth host this special take on Christmas Eve*

**7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Candlelight**

*Classic Candlelight Worship with a jazzy vibe*

**11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion**

*Christmas Cantata, "Breath of Heaven" by our Chancel Choir*



### Update from the Finance Committee

In October, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$38,790 (slightly higher than September donations of \$34,615) 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, Memorial Fund, Missions Fund, Centennial Fund, UMCOR, and other designated funds. Due primarily to lower expenses and the increased donations we ended the month on the positive side of the ledger again. Due to this positive balance, we were able to pay our apportionment payment in November (that's 5 out of 11 payments). Traditionally, November and December are our two highest giving months, so I expect we will be able to make one or more apportionment payments in December although it seems unlikely we will be able to fully pay our 2019 apportionments.

The electric bills are moving in the right direction again, i.e., lower (although still a bit too high for my taste). Our solar panel production is also increasing. We are still waiting on the Trustees to explain the discrepancy between what APS' customer support department says and what our monthly bills say about our solar panel production.

By the time you read this, our Fall Stewardship campaign, "Embracing the Future," will be over. Thank you to everyone who submitted a pledge card. Without your support, it would be impossible to plan a budget for 2020. Your generosity not only supports this church, but also brings you a personal sense of contentment and happiness.

As I write this, the Finance committee is deep into producing a budget for next year. Our final budget won't be completed until the end of December (after we have received all of our pledges), but we had to have something prepared for our 2019 charge conference.

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

**Note from our Treasurer:** Don't forget that all giving for the 2019 tax year must be received by Sunday, December 29. The counters will make the final deposit on Monday, December 30. If you use online banking, please make sure your donations arrive in our office the week of December 22, so they will be included on your 2019 giving statement. Boxes and packets of giving envelopes for 2020 will be available at church the first two Sundays in January. As always, you can stop by the office for more envelopes and we keep a supply in the church narthex, too. Thank you!

Welcome,  
**2020!**

The Chancel Choir is pleased to offer a beautiful cantata at the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service, "**Breath of Heaven.**"

The Dove Award-winning team of Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin has written an intimate look at the Christmas story. Incorporating the hit Christmas song by Amy Grant, the composition of songs and narration give a fresh perspective of Christmas. The narration will be supplemented by bible references and the choral parts of the piece will be expertly presented by members of the choir and soloists.

The late Christmas Eve service is always special. You will want to invite friends and family to our beautifully decorated sanctuary that will be filled with moments, messages and moving impressions of love and the reason for the season that will remain with you for weeks to come.

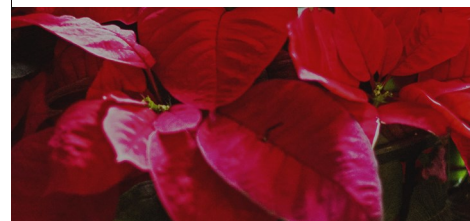
Communion will be served and a candle light exit will complete the Glendale First United tradition. Make arrangements now to be a part of this special Christmas program.



### Order Your Poinsettias

Watch your Sunday bulletin folder for the Christmas poinsettia order form. The cost is \$10.00 per plant.

Poinsettias will be placed on the chancel on Sunday, December 22, and may be taken home after the 11:00 pm worship service on Christmas Eve.



### "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton—an Advent Study beginning December 2

Journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in "24 Hours That Changed the World," Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heartfelt as you walk along this road.

Pastor Kim will be leading this DVD study on Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, beginning 12/2/19. Pastor Kim will also teach this study at Glencroft on Thursday afternoons. See Pastor Kim or call the church office for more information and to register.

