

# Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale



## **What is Lent and why does it last forty days?**

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.



*Lent is a journey of preparation for following the way of Jesus. Photo by Kathleen Barry, United Methodist Communications.*

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a “mini-Easter” and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Throughout Lent, you are invited to participate in a small group study: *The Walk*, a recent work of Adam Hamilton. Hamilton’s book focuses on five vital practices of Christian life: Worship and Prayer, Study, Service, Giving, and Sharing our Faith. This study will be led by Pastor Kim on Tuesday evenings from 6:00—7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall Stage area, beginning March 3 and continuing until April 7. These themes will also be explored in a sermon series on Sundays.



## **First United Methodist Church**

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[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**

## UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour of Sharing)

For over 60 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope. The donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover the costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

*Your communion offering on March 1, 2019 will support UMCOR.*



Courtesy Photo: Matt Brodie

# UMCOR SUNDAY

(Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

Your gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities everywhere.

"The homeowners are really excited, and that makes us feel very happy and blessed."  
—MATT BRODIE, MISSION VOLUNTEER, SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

 UMCOR  
Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

Please make check payable to your local church or give online at [www.umcgiving.org/giveUMCOR](http://www.umcgiving.org/giveUMCOR)  
Text "UMCORSUNDAY" to 91999.

## Coffee Hour Hosts

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

- Mar 1: Koinonia/Wayseekers
- Mar 8: Youth
- Mar 15: UMW—Lydia Circle
- Mar 22: United Methodist Men
- Mar 29: Missions
  
- Apr 5: UMW—Esther Circle
- Apr 12: United Methodist Men (Easter Breakfast)
- Apr 19: Youth
- Apr 26: UMW Exec Board

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.



One of my favorite TV ads these days is a spot for A-Milk. I'm not promoting milk or suggesting more time in front of the TV, but the song and the images of this short commercial captured my heart. It shows people laughing around the table, hiking in the beautiful surroundings, a father and daughter sitting close and a couple shooting baskets, all the while we hear the soft strings of a guitar and a soothing voice singing: Life is better with you. Of course, the idea is to encourage us to check out the new a2-milk which we are told is easier on the stomach, especially for those who are lactose intolerant. The tagline in the ad is: "Love Milk Again." There are TV ads that prompt me to hit the mute button, but this one gets me thinking... What does make life better?

What's missing in my life, that might bring more joy, more peace, more satisfaction and a sense of well-being? What would make me "Love Life (not milk) Again?"

The season of Lent is a time of repentance... which might seem like a somber, even a negative season of our lives. It is, after all a time of repentance, fasting, looking at, and cleansing from

our lives those broken, sinful practices and characteristics. But our Lenten journey, like church attendance, ought to bring us joy, give us hope and remind us we are loved. **Life is better with God!**

Through Lent you are invited to participate in a small group study: The Walk, a recent work of Adam Hamilton. Hamilton's book focuses on five vital practices of Christian life: Worship and Prayer, Study, Service, Giving, and Sharing our Faith. Those five practices are then viewed through the cross.

### ***Ponderings from Pastor Kim: Life Is Better With You***

Hamilton believes life will be better, the more we incorporate these five essential practices of the Christian life.

Looking back on my own life, whenever I have drawn closer to God through worship and prayer and study, whenever I have given of myself in service, finances and practiced living out what I believed (witnessing), life has

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#### ***Worship Schedule for March 2020***

March 1: **First Sunday of Lent**

*Life is Better with You: Worship and Prayer*

Read: Psalm 95:1-7

March 8: **Second Sunday in Lent**

*Life is Better with You: Listening and Paying Attention*

Read: Psalm 119:105 and John 3:1-12

March 15: **Third Sunday in Lent**

*Life is Better with You: Here I Am, Lord...*

Read: Ephesians 2:10 and John 4:31-38

March 22: **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*Life is Better with You: As I Give, So I Receive*

Read: Matthew 6:19-21 and Luke 6:38

March 29: **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*Life is Better with You: The Sermon of Your Life!*

Read: John 13:34-35

## ***Summer Camp Schedule Released***

Summer camps are amazing experiences for spiritual growth and leadership development for children and youth. This year, there is a great variety of summer camp options being hosted at Mingus Mountain Methodist Camp and Retreat Center (outside of Prescott, AZ) and Trinity Heights UMC in Flagstaff. You can get more information about each session by visiting the camping website at [www.dsccamps.org](http://www.dsccamps.org).

### **Elementary Camps**

*Summer camp at Mingus is about finding adventures in the pine trees of Arizona, joining a caring community of friends, and experiencing the love of God and others. Campers will explore the wonders of the outdoors and the love of God as they take part in a variety of camp activities: arts and crafts, challenge course activities, evening campfires, small group activities, and much more. In addition, there will be a night of tent camping for 5th & 6th graders! Campers will go "over the hill" for a special campfire and to spend the night in our open air tents.*

Elementary camp sessions are 5 night, 6 day camps (Mon-Sat) for children entering grades 3-6 (Fall 2020).

- Elementary I Camp at Mingus Mountain (June 1-6)
- Elementary Camp II at Mingus Mountain (June 22-27)
- Elementary Camp III at Mingus Mountain (June 29-July 4)

### **Junior High Camps**

*Summer Camp provides an ideal time to make new friends, explore your identity, and grow in faith! Junior High campers will explore and experience God's Creation and presence with us. Youth will have opportunities to challenge themselves in a supportive community environment to build faith and friendships that will last a lifetime.*

Jr High Camps are for youth entering grades 6 through 9 in the Fall of 2020.

- Junior High I Camp at Mingus Mountain (June 1-6)
- Youth Mission Camp at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church (June 14-19)
- Jr High II Camp at Mingus Mountain (June 22-28)
- Jr Hi III Camp at Mingus Mountain (June 29-July 4)

### **Senior High Camps**

*Sr High camps are for youth entering grades 9 through 12 in the Fall of 2020, but are also open to youth who graduated in the spring of 2020. Youth who are 16 or older may apply to serve as a Cabin Assistant at another camp, as positions are available.*

- Senior High Ecology Camp at Mingus Mountain (June 1-6)
- Youth Mission Camp at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church (June 14-19)
- Senior High Spiritual Formation Camp at Mingus Mountain (June 22-27)
- Senior High Classic Camp at Mingus Mountain (June 29-July 4)

***A reminder to parents: Before registering kids for camp, please contact Rebecca in the church office if you want the church to help with camp fees. Any questions, please call the church office 623-939-1409, menu option 2 or email [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com).***

## Lay Servant Ministry Training Upcoming Classes



**Christ Community UMC**  
104 W. Western Ave, Avondale, AZ  
April 17 & 18, 2020

West District Lay Servant Ministry classes will be offered in Avondale in April! We hope that many of you will be interested in attending one of these valuable and interesting classes:

- 1) "Basic Course – Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries"
- 2) "Leading Bible Study"
- 3) "Come to the Waters" (Baptism)

The class time schedule is:

Friday, April 17: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 18: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For class registration:

<http://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/> or  
[tinyurl.com/LS-training-sessions](http://tinyurl.com/LS-training-sessions)

Questions? Please contact Jeannie Ward, 28-772-6760, [cjward44@q.com](mailto:cjward44@q.com) or Betty Stewart, 248-459-9423, [bettyboop491@cox.net](mailto:bettyboop491@cox.net)

## Life Is Better With You

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always been better. God created us this way. In Genesis 3:8-9, we read: *During that day's cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden; and [they] hid themselves from the Lord God in the middle of the garden's trees. The Lord God called to [them] and said to [them] "Where are you?"* (Genesis 3:8-9)

The closer we are to God, the better life will be.

I encourage you to get a copy of *The Walk*, by Adam Hamilton. The Sunday worship themes during Lent will follow each chapter of the book. There will also be two small group opportunities: one on Tuesday evenings (6:00-7:30 pm) in the Fellowship Hall, stage area, and the other on Thursday afternoon (1:00-2:00 pm) at Glencroft in the South Tower. If you need direction to the Glencroft group, call the office. I know my life is better with you, as we strive after the things God desires

Striving for a better life with you,

# THANK YOU!

First United Methodist Church of Glendale's 2020 Collection

raised:  
**\$293.92**

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 2, 2020

[souperbowl.org](http://souperbowl.org)

## ***Update from the Finance Subcommittee—2020 Budget Approved***

In January, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$36,979 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, Youth Fund, and other designated funds as well as interest and increases to our Ameritrade investment account. Focusing on the General Fund, we had income of \$23,686 and expenses of \$26,449. Our spending exceeded our income by about \$2,800. While we did make an apportionment payment in January, our ending balance at the end of the month was too low to make a second payment in February.

As I mentioned in last month's article, we faced some hard choices with the 2020 budget. As you might expect, the church board was loathe to make cuts that would significantly affect the worship and outreach of the church. The subcommittee was directed to make only a few somewhat minor cuts with the knowledge that the resulting budget would be out of balance. Here is the budget for 2020:

		Diff from 2019
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$347,022</b>	<b>\$5,705</b>
Expenses:		
Worship & Pastoring	132,094	367
Apportionments & Outreach	56,508	(10,251)
Christian Education	4,600	(2,240)
Fellowship & Evangelism	4,770	(2,490)
Other Programs	9,044	(180)
Building & Grounds	102,970	15,300
Administration	59,034	(186)
Insurance	12,150	990
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$381,170</b>	<b>\$969</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$34,148)</b>	

Several points about the budget:

- Despite a poor showing on pledges in 2019 (only 89% collected), we remain optimistic and have included pledges at 100% in our income estimate.
- Certain expenses such as pastor's salary and apportionments are set by the Desert Southwest Conference and we have no control over those numbers.
- The biggest increase is in Building & Grounds and principally the electric payments to APS. We expect to resolve the discrepancies in the solar panel output shortly and may see this number go down.
- Last year our actual expenses were only \$350,131 which is close to our expected income; however, that included only 7 of 12 apportionment payments. If we had paid all 12 monthly payments that would have added \$23,799 to our expenses (\$373,930). Expect apportionments to suffer a similar fate in 2020 unless our income increases significantly.

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, Finance Subcommittee Chair

## Notes on a Simplified Church Structure

As a smaller church, FUMC is moving towards a Single-Board governance plan, and some of our leaders recently attended a webinar hosted by Rev. Nancy Cushman, the West District Superintendent. Linda Triolo, the chairperson, took some notes which are paraphrased below:

### Linda's notes on Simplified Structure Webinar, hosted by Rev. Nancy Cushman, January 28, 2020

The webinar was composed of video segments of Kay Kotan, author of Mission Possible: A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness, speaking to a large group about simplified structure. She talked about a church's true mission, making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and that the motivation for streamlining the governance model is to become a "lean, mean, disciple-making machine." She emphasized accountable, mission-driven leadership.

Ms. Kotan talked about structure driving the church vs. mission driving the church. With structure driving the church, money and the buildings are the focus, rather than the mission. Another idea is management style vs. governing style: in management style, the focus is on the details, but there may be no one looking at the big picture, steering the ship while others are laboring to keep it afloat. Keeping our eyes on our mission was emphasized. "If we aim at nothing in particular, that's what we'll hit."

She discussed an organizational chart. The owner is Jesus Christ. The first beneficiaries are people outside the church, who need to be won for Christ. The second beneficiaries are the people inside the church. The pastor should be the head of the nominating committee, and people should not nominate themselves. The nominating committee should develop leaders. There should be a small number of decision makers, freeing, enabling and equipping a larger number of members to be in ministry, disciple makers. The minister provides vision, direction, and teaching.

Benefits of the simplified structure:

- Marries responsibility, authority and accountability.
- Promotes church unity.
- Functions on a high level of trust.
- Decisions are made quickly.

If you have any questions about the webinar, or single board governance, contact Linda at [lindatriolo@cox.net](mailto:lindatriolo@cox.net).

**Have you seen the sanctuary doors? They have been sandblasted, re-stained and varnished! Many thanks to Ken Hack and his friends for the work they did to make our church more beautiful!**



Each year, the West District prays for all the churches in its jurisdiction for one month. In March, please pray for:

- **Christ Community UMC, Avondale**
- **City Square UMF, Phoenix**
- **Community Church of Buckeye**

Please keep the Riner Assistance Office in your heart this Lenten season. Bring a different item each Sunday to fill our food pantry.

- March 8.....Soup with pop-top lids
- March 15 .....Canned fruits and vegetables
- March 22 .....Macaroni and cheese
- March 29 .....Canned meat or tuna
- April 5 .....Peanut butter and jelly

We give out 60 sack lunches for the homeless and distribute 40 family food bags each week. We gratefully accept any un-expired, non-perishable food you can donate to the Brad Riner Assistance Office.



Deadline for the April issue is  
 March 16. 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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