

# Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale

## Holidays in a Challenging Season

As I write this, I'm in my apartment, midway through what I hope will be just one week of self-quarantine. As some of you already know, I was potentially exposed to COVID-19, and since I learned that, I let other folks who were around me know, and have experienced first-hand the challenges of isolation, which many of us have already encountered. I'm feeling fine; I haven't had any symptoms, and I hope that when my test results come back, I'll be able to resume activities, as much as any of us can, in this season.

And this season is one of challenges that seem to go on and on. As most of us are aware, a second wave of COVID is surging all over our Nation, including here in Arizona. Over 3,200 new cases were reported in the state today, including approximately 2,000 in

Maricopa County. I share this not to cause alarm, but to illustrate the nature of what we're facing.

I suspect most of us are experiencing "COVID Fatigue." We're ready to be done with this, to throw away restrictions and procedures, and resume normal lives. Yet, if we want to protect our well-being, and the well-being of others, as our faith tradition calls us to do, we can't do that just yet. There is very real hope on the horizon; medical developments announced recently promise a huge reduction, if not an end, to the pandemic in the coming year. But for the time being, we have to keep practicing the well-known precautions. I urge all of our First UMC Family: please wear a mask in public; maintain a safe



distance of at least 6 feet from those not living with you; and wash hands with soap for 20 seconds regularly.

However, even during these challenging times, our Worship Team and I are committed to offering opportunities for worship and spiritual enrichment which we hope will bring the meaning and beauty of the season of Advent and Christmas to our congregation. We are planning for:

- A Thanksgiving Eve Devotional Service, available online on Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>

*(Continued on page 3)*



## First United Methodist Church

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Phone: 623.939.1409 • Fax: 623.236.9284

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

Current Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Rev. A. Tom Jelinek, Pastor

## ***Live Streaming Worship Services***

Did you know we are working towards live streaming our Sunday Worship Services? The Audio Visual Team, with Rev. Tom Wick leading the way, has been working towards this goal for several years and we are closer than ever!

### **What does that mean?**

If you are unable to make it to church during the normal worship time, you will be able to open YouTube and watch as the video is being recorded. Depending on our settings, you might even be able to interact with the video during the service! The video that you see on YouTube will be showing during the actual service.

### **What if you can't watch at that time?**

That is okay. The video of the worship service will still be available after it has been recorded. So if something comes up, you can still be a part of the service. You can view all of the sermons on our current YouTube channel, First Glendale.

### **Why am I telling you this now?**

First, it is important that you know that the service will be streamed live so that you can ensure your privacy is maintained. There will be certain areas of the sanctuary that will **NOT** be filmed so that those people who do not want to be filmed or cannot be filmed will not be at risk. Your Audio Visual team is working to ensure your protection!

Second, if you are watching a live stream of the sermon, keep in mind it is not a performance. Mistakes will happen and we hope that everyone will be compassionate and remember that it is a real worship service.

Third, you need to understand your rights. If you do not want to be on film but want to participate in something that would put you in front of the camera's view, such as lighting Advent candles or reading God's word, you can let the team know in advance and we will change the view. For example, in the case of the Advent Candles, we can zoom into the candles and not show the person.

Fourth, due to our policy with minors, we will be ensuring the Children's Moment is **off-camera**.

Finally, we are planning to begin live streaming as soon as the traditional 9:00 am in-person service returns. We are ready and just like you, we are waiting for that day.

Yours, because we're His,

***The Audio Visual Team***



*Rev. Jelinek, Rev. Wick and Larry Del Rae set up the sanctuary for the 1st Sunday of Advent*

### Holidays

(Continued from page 1)

- Advent Worship Services, streamed online from the Sanctuary
- An Advent Study Group;
- A Christmas Event for our young people; and
- A Special Worship Service for Christmas Eve,

I emphasize that we haven't forgotten those who do not have the resources to stream our online services, or attend "Zoom" meetings. Our leaders and I are working on alternatives for those members of our congregation. After my current quarantine is over, I again invite anyone in our church family to make an appointment to meet, either in my office, with appropriate distancing and precautions, or by other means, as is comfortable for you.

By the way, after I became aware of my exposure, I spoke to our Conference COVID-19 Response Coordinator, former First UMC Pastor Rev. Tom Mattick. His tenure was brief; he became the North District Superintendent after just two years here, and I first met him in that capacity while I was serving at Trinity Heights in Flagstaff. When we spoke, he asked to give his greetings to our congregation, and shared that he always felt like he was preaching in a "Jewel Box" on Sundays, and thought that we had the most beautiful sanctuary in the Conference.

I agree. No one wants to return to our beautiful church more than I do, enjoying both the sanctuary, and the faces of our congregation, unencumbered by masks. That day will come, and I hope it comes soon. Until then, let's do what we can to take care of ourselves and each other, keeping safe so we can all gather once again in person. And let's prepare our hearts for the season of Advent and Christmas, making room for the hope God offers as the Christ Child comes into our lives, even, or especially, in these different and challenging times.

*Pastor Tom*

# Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

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do	been	this	afraid
all	born	town	Christ
for	find	will	cloths
has	good	bring	manger
joy	Lord	David	people
not	news	great	Savior
you	sign	lying	wrapped

" \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_ 1A \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ . I \_\_\_\_\_ 3A \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_ 18  
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\_\_\_\_\_ 3D \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ ; he is \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ ." Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answer: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11, NIV.



## ***Downtown in December: Glittering Nightly November 25—January 9***

The dazzling Glendale Glitters lights are up and ready to shine during this upcoming holiday season. We're excited for everyone to come to downtown Glendale, walk around and enjoy our spectacular display of 1.7 million lights illuminating 16 blocks. The lights will twinkle nightly from 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm starting 11/25/2020 through 1/9/2021. Due to the pandemic, there will be no opening weekend festivities such as the lighting ceremony, vendors and performers that had been part of this event in the past, however, we're excited to showcase great new lighting designs and features that will add extra magic to each evening. There are also wonderful downtown merchants and restaurants that will be open and ready for business! Glendale Glitters is a holiday tradition in our city that we're proud to offer for our residents and visitors each year.

Holiday light display: November 25, 2020 - January 9, 2021 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Highlights include:

- Skylines at 58th Ave. and 58th Dr., just North of Glenn Drive
- 16' Reindeer in Murphy Park
- Snowflake canopy in Murphy Park
- 30' artificial tree, synchronized to music in Downtown Plaza
- Three "Selfie Stations" to take holiday photos



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

- **Sunrise UMC, Phoenix**
- **Willowbrook UMC, Sun City**
- **Youngtown UMC**

**Movies  
by Moonlight**

**DRIVE-IN**

FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 4TH  
LOT OPENS AT 5:30PM

**FREE!**  
Movie starts at 7pm

**Downtown Glendale**  
Lot on 57th Ave. & Glenn Dr.

**2 Rounds of Car Bingo,**  
Beginning at 6:30pm  
*Bring a pen or marker.*

**No Concessions**  
*Plan ahead and grab takeout from your favorite Glendale restaurant!*

**Audio through FM Radio**  
*Listen on your car radio or bring a portable to save your cars battery.*

**Must Remain in Your Car  
Except to Use the Restroom**  
*You must wear a mask when going to the restroom.*

**Space is Limited**  
*Register to reserve a spot.*

**NATIONAL LAMPOON'S  
CHRISTMAS  
VACATION**

RATED  
PG-13

## ***Update from the Finance Subcommittee***

In October, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$22,650 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 \$21,025 and expenses of \$27,710. Our spending exceeded our income by about \$6,700 for the month. The expenses includes an apportionment payment to support the worldwide Methodist church. So far, as of the end of October, we have made 9 of 10 monthly payments, and we appear to be in a very good position to make our last three apportionment payments in November and December.

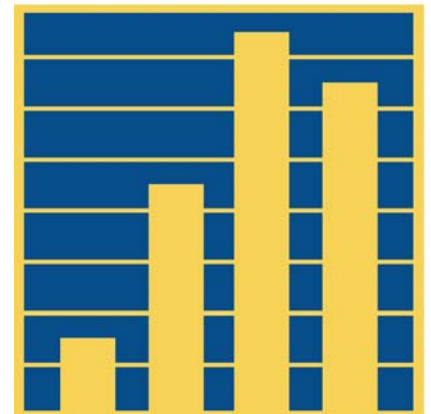
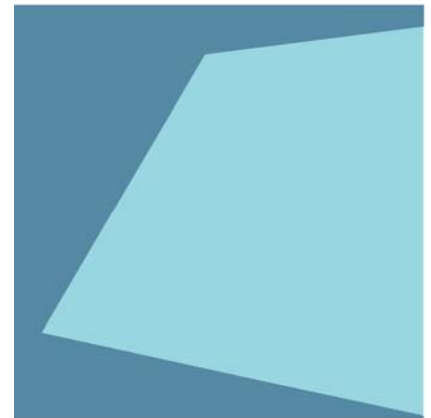
It's December as you read this and despite all of challenges in 2020, we do not want to forget our wonderful and hard-working staff which keeps the church going. Please make a donation to our annual Christmas Gifts for our staff. Please note on your check or envelope that it is intended for the staff Christmas Gifts and make it payable to the church. Time is short this year, so please make a contribution today.

Reviewing my last Circuit Rider article back in March, I noted that we were still working to resolve our larger-than-expected electric bills from APS. Unfortunately, while the bills from APS were misleading concerning the amount of electricity our solar panels were generating, the totals were, in fact, correct. We know the sun is the highest and the solar panels working their hardest about 12:00 noon. Unfortunately, the hottest part of the day and greatest A/C usage occurs around 4:00 pm, long past the peak solar power production. The upshot is during the winter our solar panels can cover our lower electrical needs. But during the summer, especially during long, hot afternoons, our electrical needs far exceed our solar panel production.

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



## ***Farewell from Linda Triolo***

Hello Friends—

I have been in Tennessee since October 24, so I can stay with my grandson Daniel and help him with online school while his dad works nights and his mom is in Arizona, finishing up their moving issues. My scheduled return is November 28, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. I'm needed here by my son and grandson, and feel like I'm where I'm supposed to be. I'm cold! I didn't bring enough warm clothes, because I didn't expect to be here so long.

I plan to sell my house in December and move here to Tennessee permanently. So much has happened in the last nine months! My son took a job here, moved and bought a house, just as the pandemic started last spring. When my daughter-in-law returns, I'll be the only one of my family left in Arizona. I'll be feeling so jealous and left out! Right now, I plan on moving into my mom's nice house in Oak Ridge, my home town, with her. I might wind up with a room in my son's house too, an hour away in Spring City.

Leaving Glendale, and especially leaving my church family at Glendale First behind, will be sad. I have enjoyed all my roles as Lay

Leader, UMW officer and former trustee chairperson.

After I retired from my job at Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station, I let being a full-time Christian be my next adventure. I have loved getting to know and working with the people at FUMC Glendale. It has been the best time of my life. Of course, after the pandemic started, life changed radically. I was alone A LOT! I was jealous of the Miller sisters, who live together and play cards every afternoon and support each other through the ups and downs of life. I'm hoping to replicate that family closeness and solidarity with my family. It's nice to have family to hunker down and be safe with, instead of being alone! I wish I had called people more after the pandemic started. I kept going with the Wednesday Open Worship routine, but that was my only regular contact with church members. We have formulated a plan for getting back to in-person worship, and I hope that will be soon.

I have been to church in Knoxville at Cokesbury UMC with my mom a few times. We pre-register by the Friday before, wear masks, and there are only

50-75 socially distanced congregants in their very large auditorium. We are met at the door by a person with a clipboard, checking off our pre-registered names. They have had rousing instrumental music and video recorded worship music. No in-person singing, though. I wish they could/would share their singers with Glendale! They have some fabulous soloists and performances. I have felt fully blessed and inspired with their recorded on-screen musical performances. Some people can sing! I always wished I could really sing. I use what I've got, and it could be worse.

I will sorely miss my friends at FUMC Glendale. I received a warm welcome and was quickly absorbed into the group. It has been lovely. I hope and trust there will be more wonderful times ahead for FUMC Glendale. Hiring an awesome youth director is a good investment in a bright, lively future, which I hope and trust you will have.

Keep welcoming people like you welcomed me. Keep the faith and keep spreading the faith!

Blessings, until we meet again,

—Linda Triolo



## ***Merry Christmas from the Brad Riner Assistance Office***

We successfully provided 30 Thanksgiving food boxes this past week along with 90 sack lunches, and now we are looking toward Christmas. This year we are trying to keep it simple. We will be providing food boxes once again with all the fixings for a nice Christmas dinner as well as food for a week. We will be focusing on meeting people's basic needs.

We can always use canned food, we are in need of men's and women's socks and tee shirts as well as gently used jackets and sweatshirts. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the church office on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

We at the Riner Office would like to thank you for your continued support, and wish you all a blessed and joyous Christmas.



*Thanksgiving food boxes containing a full turkey dinner and additional meals.*

### **November 29: The First Sunday of Advent**

*It Doesn't Hurt to Be Alert*

Read: Mark 13:28-37

Preaching: Rev. Tom Jelinek

### **December 6: Second Sunday of Advent**

*On The Path*

Read: Isaiah 40:1-5, Mark 1:1-8

Preaching: Rev. Tom Jelinek

### **December 13: Third Sunday of Advent**

*Sharing the Celebration*

Read: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Preaching: Rev. Tom Jelinek

### **December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*The Family of God*

Read: Luke 1:26-38

Preaching: Rev. Tom Jelinek

### **December 24: Christmas Eve**

*A Shining Light*

Read: Luke 2:8-20

Preaching: Rev. Tom Jelinek

### **December 29: First Sunday After Christmas**

*In The Family*

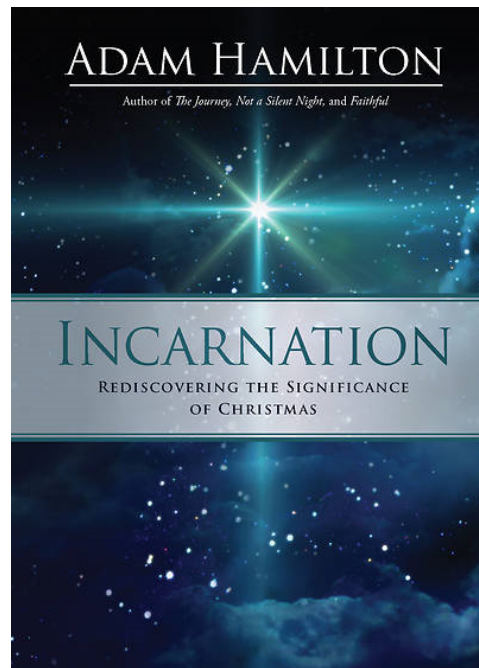
Read: Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

Preaching: Rev. Tom Jelinek



### Advent Study via Zoom

Rev. Tom Jelinek will be leading an Advent Study via Zoom beginning the week of November 30. The study is Adam Hamilton’s **“Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas.”** There will be four sessions, one for each week of Advent. If you are interested in attending this study, please email [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com) to be put on the list.



Deadline for the next issue is December 14. 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

First Class  
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