

Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale

January 2021

Happy New Year from the Brad Riner Assistance Office

The Riner Office provided our clients with a somewhat simpler Christmas than we have in the past. We focused on the basics. We handed out 40 Christmas food boxes with all the ingredients for a complete Christmas dinner, as well as enough food for a family for the week. We included a turkey breast and gift cards donated by Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church.

For our homeless clients, we gave out 60 gift bags filled with socks, hats, gloves, rain coats, blankets, hygiene items, ground cloths, etc. as well as food. Dollar store gift cards were donated by Ann Nimlos, and we included those as well.

We continue to hand out

between 60 and 70 lunches each week, in addition to food bags for the homeless and food boxes for families. Thank you to our volunteers who have continued to work under difficult conditions during the pandemic.

We appreciate the generosity of the congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale. Every week, when I walk into my office I find donations left on the table in the Riner Office. Often I am unaware of who left them, but I am always grateful. It is an honor to be able to help so many through the generosity of all of you. Those of us in the Riner Office wish all of you happiness, joy, good health and peace in 2021.



Are you watching our worship services online? You can catch up on our YouTube channel, <https://bit.ly/2Uu3lda>



First United Methodist Church

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Current Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Rev. A. Tom Jelinek, Pastor

New Youth Director Joins Our Church

Hello everyone, my name is Sarah Cushman and I have the joy of joining First United Methodist Church of Glendale as Youth Director. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone who is a part of this great church community. It is the beginning of 2021, a new year, and a chance for new beginnings, reflection of what has been and what is to come. I look forward to getting to know everyone and continue to grow my relationships with the youth and their families. I hope soon we will get a chance to meet in person. Along with getting to see and meet everyone in person, my hopes are also to foster relationships with God and our community, and to grow lasting friendships, connections and bonds within our faith. I look forward to the service and mission work we will provide to our church and community, to the fun times and laughs shared, and to the growth and understanding of the love our God has for us.

—Sarah Cushman, Youth Director



We are so thankful to everyone who helped with our Christmas Eve services; those of you who decorated, performed, sang, hosted, recorded, edited, and those who cleaned up afterward!

If you didn't see the Christmas worship services, they are on our YouTube channel, <https://bit.ly/2Uu3lda> (along with all of our online worship services).

This year was truly unprecedented, and as a church we've had to be both patient and adaptable to so many changes. We appreciate the way you've all helped us stay the course, and bring the word of God to so many.

Face Mask Collection

We are going to make another shipment of face masks to the Navajo Nation. If you have made or purchased masks that you would like to donate, please bring them to the office next week on Tuesday or Thursday between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Thank you!



Several of our church families participated in the Family Christmas Eve program, edited and produced by our new youth director, Sarah Cushman.



A Hopeful New Year

The last month has been a memorable time of welcoming the Christ Child into our lives once again, albeit in a very different way. I'm also thankful for the good feedback on our Christmas Eve Worship services. I'm deeply grateful to all the families who participated in our Family Christmas Eve Service, and to Youth Director Sarah Cushman, who edited the individual family segments into the service we saw. I also offer thanks to all on our audio-visual team, all our musicians, and a special thanks to

Christine Jones, who spent a large part of her Christmas Eve editing our traditional Christmas Eve service, so that it would be available that evening. And I want to take a moment of personal privilege to thank everyone who shared cards, messages, and delicious goodies with yours truly during this Christmas season, and I sincerely thank our Church Family for the very generous Christmas Gift, which will be a great blessing as I start the new year.

As the new year begins, I'm sure we're all hoping that the current pandemic will end as soon as possible, and we'll be able to return to in-person worship and activities. There are good signs on the horizon; vaccines are now being distributed, and their availability will increase greatly in the days, weeks, and months ahead. I will get vaccinated when it's possible for me, and, in consultation with your medical caregiver, I hope you will do the same. Although the process of controlling COVID-19 may take some time, I'm optimistic that at some point in the not too distant future, we'll enjoy a year that will be very different, and far more pleasant, than the last.

In the meantime, I offer a new invitation to be in touch, whether by email, phone, Zoom, or in person as you feel comfortable, with appropriate precautions & distancing. I would love to know how things are going with you, and any family that are with you. How are you coping during this challenging time? How is it with your soul?

I would also be grateful for any reflections on how things are going with our congregation,

(Continued on page 4)



January 10 — Baptism of the Lord

Read: Genesis 1:1-5, Mark 1:4-11

Sermon: "The First Day"

January 17 — Second Sunday After Epiphany

Read: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: "Taking a U-Turn"

January 24 — Third Sunday After Epiphany

Read: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28

Sermon: "The Promise and the Person"

January 31 — Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Scriptures: 2 Kings 5:13-15, Mark 1:40-45

Read: "Keeping Secrets"

MISSION News

Even though the Mission Team has not been able to meet as a group, we did decide we could talk on the phone. We discussed different ways we could continue to help our church and other ministries during this time.

We are not able to serve prepared meals at the UMOM women's shelter any longer, but we know they continue to need help, so we donated \$500 to UMOM in November.

The Brad Riner Assistance Office at our church has been a vital resource to the local community for many years. We were able to give them \$500 to help this holiday season. We also donated \$250 to the Wednesday Open Worship ministry, and \$250 to St. Mary's Food Bank in December.

We were unable to do the shoebox ministry this year, but we hope to revisit this ministry next year. We look forward to being able to meet as a group in 2021, and explore other ways to serve in the future.

—Jeanne Rumbold



Lend a Helping Hand

The church has some dead trees on its campus that need to be cut back and/or removed. The Trustees will tackle this project on Saturday, January 23 at 8:00 am and we are looking for some volunteers to help. The bulk of the labor is needed for transporting the material to the dumpster. If you can help, contact the office or Frank Warriner.

A Hopeful New Year

(Continued from page 3)

especially regarding the worship services we're offering online. What have you found helpful? Is there anything you would like to be a part of our worship that is not present now? I would also like to hear from those who are not able to use our online services.

If worship via computer is not possible for you, what sort of resources would be most helpful, as we continue our journey as disciples together, in this time of physical separation?

Please join me in a prayer that God will bless us with an end to the pandemic. Let's pray that 2021 will be a wonderful, memorable year for our church family and our community as we gather in person once again. And whether we're apart or together physically, let's share God's unconditional love, as shown to us in the Newborn Child in the stable, with each other, and all those around us.

In Christ's service,

Tom Jelinek, Pastor

Update from the Finance Subcommittee

In November, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$22,687 (up slightly over our October donations of \$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 \$21,996 and expenses of \$26,475. Our spending exceeded our income by about \$4,500 for the month.

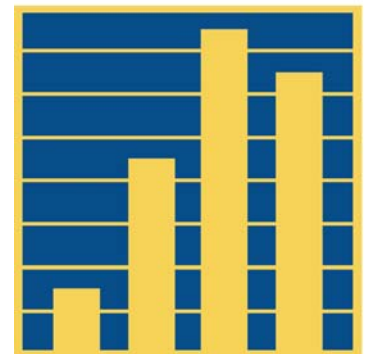
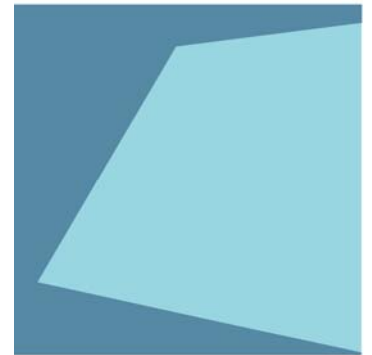
The expenses do not include an apportionment payment—it slipped into the first week of December. Although we do not have the final year-end results as I write this, I can say that we were able to make our December payment and also one extra to make up for the payment we missed back in March. **We have paid all of our apportionments for 2020, and that is due to the continued support of all of our members and friends. It stands as an outstanding accomplishment by our church in this year of the pandemic. Very few churches in the West District can make that claim.**

It is a new year, and time to detail our budget plans for 2021. Needless to say, this year is going to be difficult to budget for. We fully expect to be meeting in person, hopefully sooner rather than later, but no later than summer. We anticipate our giving and expenses will return to their normal levels at that time. In the meantime, we will just continue as we are now. As an overview, you can divide our budget into four categories: salaries, maintenance, apportionments, and everything else. We actually have only limited control over all of the first three. The pastor's salary and benefits are the largest share of the salary category and his salary is set by the conference. I can say his salary package is slightly smaller than Kim's was last year. Maintenance, which includes utilities, is mostly out of our control. We can try to be more cognizant of electricity, gas, and water usage, but it is hard to have a significant impact. (During the summer we shut down the sanctuary, which saved a lot of electricity. Obviously that won't be an option after we reopen.) The next category, apportionments, is set by the conference, and we have only very indirect influence, since the amount is set by our membership and yearly expenses. Our apportionments are trending down very slowly; the 2021 amount is slightly lower than our 2020 amount. Overall, the first three categories accounted for 88% of our 2020 budget, and that amount will not change much in 2021.

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



Annual Conference 2021 News

Annual Conference information will be distributed through the **Conference News** newsletter. Lay members to Annual Conference and anyone interested in Annual Conference proceedings should subscribe to the Conference newsletter by visiting <https://dscumc.org/subscribe> and filling out the newsletter subscription form selecting **Conference News** and any other news channel they are interested in receiving.

After doing this, search your email account to find the subscription confirmation message, and click on the link in the email to finish the process.

The planning committee for Annual Conference has not yet met, so there is no session information to report at this time. In the meantime, you can refer to the 2020 Journal's Conference Rules Section II.E. to see what was published regarding deadlines. Please keep in mind as we are still in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, we must all be nimble and approach possible changes with grace. You will find the 2020 Journal available for download and updates for the 2021 session as they are available at <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference>.

One thing that will not change is our need to be in prayer for each other as we prepare for this annual gathering. Let us lift up our hearts in prayer.

Reminder to all who have keys to the Church

We have recently had some of our homeless neighbors break in to find a warm place to sleep. While this may not be malicious, it is still a problem. The area that they broke into was not alarmed, but because we have an alarm system they could not access the office or sanctuary without setting off the alarm. This is the time of year when we have lots of people looking for a warm spot to sleep.

This brings me to my reminder. Alarms will only work if we turn them on. On Monday morning I arrived early to find the Office and the Sanctuary disarmed. Please be diligent, when you are the last one to leave, lock up and please set the alarms. Thank you very much!

—Elizabeth Leggett



Calling for submissions to our online Tuesday devotions, "Good Words for Tough Times." Please email rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com. Thank you!



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

- **Staff of Desert Southwest Conference**
- **Wesley & Golden Gates Community Centers**
- **Justa Center, Phoenix**

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

The West District Director of Lay Servant Ministries will be offering the Advanced course, “***Discover Your Spiritual Gifts,***” virtually. There will be offering two sessions – a day class to meet the needs of those not able to attend an evening class and an evening / early Saturday morning class for those not able to meet during the day.

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts – This course helps participants understand spiritual gifts and how the church can use them to fulfill its mission and ministry. Participants will also learn what it means to be a spiritual leader and will be equipped to lead others in exploring and using their spiritual gifts.

Participant textbook: *Each One a Minister*, by William J. Carter

Registration is limited to 12 people per session. Cost is \$15 per participant which includes includes “Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory” booklet which will be sent to you once you have registered for the class and a certificate which will be sent to you at the completion of the class.

Day Class (you will need to commit to all three sessions)

- Wednesday, January 13 – 9:00 am-1:30 pm with an hour lunch break
- Thursday, January 14 – 9:00 am-1:30 pm with an hour lunch break
- Friday, January 15 – 9:00 am-1:30 pm with an hour lunch break, conclude with Holy Communion and Graduation.

Evening Class (you will need to commit to all three sessions)

- Thursday, January 14 – 6:00-9:30 pm
- Friday, January 15 – 6:00-9:30 pm
- Saturday, January 15 – 9:00 am-12:30 pm, conclude with Holy Communion and Graduation.

Participants are responsible for purchasing and reading the text in advance of the course. Participant textbooks are available from Cokesbury.com. You might also find Kindle and printed versions from Amazon.com. **If you have any questions contact Betty Stewart, bettyboop491@cox.net.**



Visit Mingus Mountain Camp this Winter

Winter is the perfect time to visit our camps; cool weather, crisp mountain air, the possibility of snow...

Family Cabin Rentals

Come enjoy the beauty of Mingus Mountain Camp by booking a family cabin rental! Family cabin rentals are available Wednesday through Sunday for the following fees:

- VIP Rooms \$75/night – 2 single beds, linens included, private restroom, microwave, mini fridge, coffee maker. Grill available.
- Retreat Cabin \$150/night – 6 bedrooms, 12 beds available, bring your own linens, 2 restrooms, kitchen with oven/stove, fridge, microwave, coffee maker, large gathering area with fireplace.



Family Day Hikes

Enjoy nature, beautiful views, stunning flora, and maybe even some fauna, at Mingus Mountain Camp. Day hikes are available Wednesday – Sunday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm for a cost of \$12 and are limited to 5 family groups per day. Preregistration is required.

For more information or to register, visit: <http://mmfamilyevents.campbrainregistration.com>

Deadline for the next issue is January 17. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm. email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com fax: 623-236.9284

First Class
Postage Here

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