

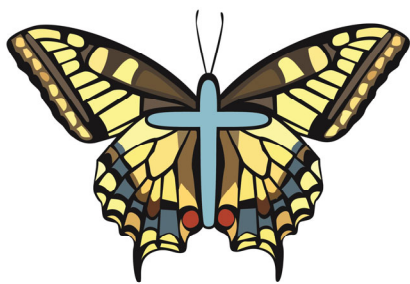
# Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale



## ***Celebrating a Resurrection***

For the last year, the COVID pandemic has increased, decreased, increased again, and required us to make major adjustments to our lives. When the pandemic began, many of us thought we would be resuming normal activities within a few weeks, but the weeks turned into months, and the months stretched on. Last October, it looked as though we could resume in-person activities soon. But our hopes were dashed when the pandemic surged again, and by early January, Arizona was the COVID hotspot of the nation, and the world, for a short time.



*Resurrected*

Now, with more and more people in our community getting vaccinated, it appears the pandemic is finally subsiding. Rates of new infections are decreasing, and finally, gradually, some activities and aspects of life have begun to resume. Many students are now back in classes, and businesses and restaurants have begun to reopen for in-person service.

For the last several weeks, our congregation's leaders have been immersed in decisions regarding how we will worship together. Using the guidelines our Conference constructed for when churches can re-open safely, and in conversation with District Leadership and with other United Methodist Congregations in our immediate area, we made the decision to begin in-person worship outside, in

our beautiful courtyard, on March 21. By the time you read this, we may have already had one or two in-person services.

This decision was not taken lightly. Although the pandemic is receding, it continues to be a very real threat, and likely will be for a good part of this year. As such, even if we have already received the vaccine, now is not the time to get rid of precautions. Masks and social distancing will continue to be necessities for in-person gatherings for some time to come. However, our Conference, District, and Church leaders all felt that with proper precautions, the risks could be managed to the extent that we could gather in person once again.

And I have to tell you, part of that decision had to do with fac-

*(Continued on page 3)*



## **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)

**Current Office Hours:**

**Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm**

Rev. A. Tom Jelinek, Pastor



- April 1<sup>st</sup>:**     **Holy Thursday**  
(7:00 pm, in the Courtyard)  
*Together at the Table*  
Scripture: 1 Corin. 11:23-26
- April 2<sup>nd</sup>:**     **Good Friday**  
(7:00 pm, in the Courtyard)  
*Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness*  
Scriptures: The accounts  
of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus in the Four Gospels.
- April 4<sup>th</sup>:**     **Easter Sunday**  
*Where Jesus Was (Sunrise Service)*  
*Words That Shook The World (9:00 & 11:00)*  
Scriptures: John 20:1-18 (Sunrise), Mark 16:1-8 (9:00 & 11:00)
- Sunrise Service (6:00 am, in the Courtyard)  
                    Easter Worship (9:00 am, in the Sanctuary)  
                    Easter Worship (11:00 am, in the Sanctuary)
- April 11<sup>th</sup>:**     **Second Sunday of Easter**  
*Growing Pains (9:00 and 11:00 am)*  
Scriptures: 1 John 1:5-2:2, John 20:19-31
- April 18<sup>th</sup>:**     **Third Sunday of Easter**  
*A Time To Remember (9:00 and 11:00 am)*  
Scripture: Matthew 5:14-16, John 13:31-35
- April 25<sup>th</sup>:**     **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
*Building on the Cornerstone (9:00 and 11:00 am)*  
Scripture: Acts 4:5-12

*Please note: reservations are needed for all April worship services, so our worship team can set up distanced seating, and accommodate families who are sheltering together. Please call the church office at (623)-939-1409, menu option 2, or email [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com) to make your reservation. Please specify the number of persons in your family, and let us know your preference for a worship time. 9:00 and 11:00 am services will be identical. Worship will continue to be live streamed for the 11:00 am service, and will be available later on Sundays for viewing online.*

## ***Celebrating a Resurrection***

*(Continued from page 1)*

tors that go beyond viruses and pandemics. This last year, we learned to survive in a way that many of us have never had to before – in islands of isolation. We learned how to shop, work, communicate, stay healthy, and be entertained, either by ourselves or with others we've been "sheltering" with. And I suspect we learned that there are some things we just can't get from an Amazon or grocery store box, or from a computer screen. We need *other human beings*. We need the *Spiritual* nourishment that comes from being with other members of our Church Family. That's what Jesus understood and taught, and what John Wesley and all leaders of our Methodist tradition have taught and affirmed in all generations since. Being a Christian isn't a solo activity. It's practiced in *community*, in *fellowship* with others. We need *spiritual* nourishment. That's why we need each other, in this part of God's family called First United Methodist Church of Glendale. The leaders of our Conference and our Congregation recognize that, and that's why we're gathering again now, even if COVID is still in our midst.

And so now, the *Resurrection* begins!

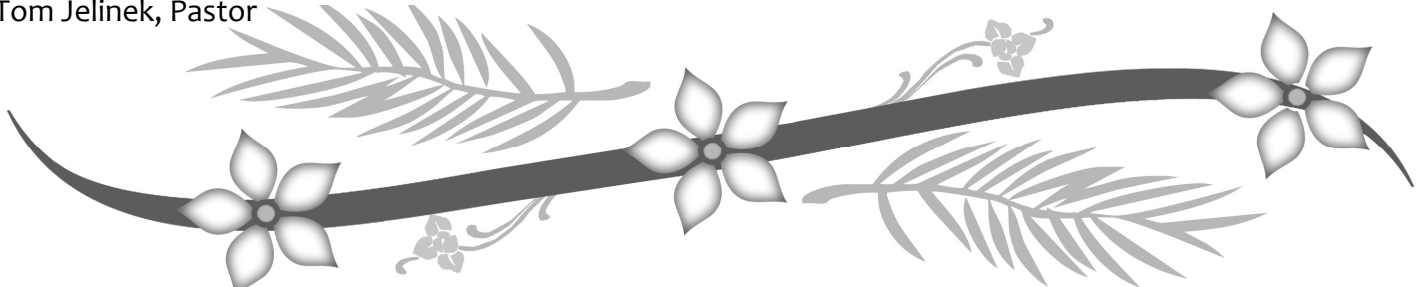
Just as we've begun in-person worship, soon we'll begin other in-person activities. Youth Group and Sunday School, Study Groups, United Methodist Men's and Women's Meetings, Missions activities, and more. And just as importantly, we'll begin to vision and create new ministries, which will welcome our community to our church campus in new ways, giving special attention to how we can make Glendale First the place to be for families, children, and youth, building on our congregation's proud legacy of 126 years of serving our community.

And I have to add, if there are those of us who feel, for whatever reason, that they do not feel safe returning to in-person activities now, we understand and affirm your decision. We'll be praying for you, and keep you in our hearts as full and valued members of our Church Family. And when the time is right, we'll welcome you back in person, and rejoice at your return.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we also join with many of our sister congregations in celebrating the "Resurrection" of our Church. We come together with care and consideration, still practicing precautions. But we do so with the hope and presence of our Risen Savior, for whom nothing, not even death on a cross, could keep Him from His disciples of all generations.

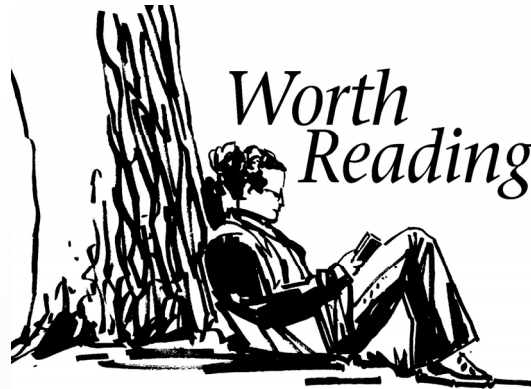
In the service of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ,

Tom Jelinek, Pastor



## UMW Book Review

In a very timely way, “*Finding Peace in an Anxious World*” is one of the 2021 Spiritual Growth study books for the UMW. It will be used for the United Methodist Women’s Mission u this summer.



This lovely book is divided into four chapters that focus on the Serenity Prayer. Each chapter is written by a different church leader and focuses on one of the four aspects of the serenity prayer: Serenity, Acceptance, Courage, and Wisdom. It is perfectly set up for a small group study, which I would be interested in participating in and would be open to everyone, not just UMW members. Let me know if you are interested in joining me by sending a message to Christine at [nurturegfumc@gmail.com](mailto:nurturegfumc@gmail.com).

God, grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time,  
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
As it is, not as I would have it;

Trusting that He will make all things right  
If I surrender to His Will;  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
And supremely happy with Him  
Forever and ever in the next.  
Amen.

[Original prayer composed by Karl Paul Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971), an American theologian, ethicist, political commentator and professor.]

## Silver Sessions

DSC Camp & Retreat Ministries is pleased to offer Silver Sessions, twice-monthly online zoom sessions designed for seniors who are hoping to gather, connect, and learn something new. Each month will bring something new with variety including Cooking with a Chef, Paint Parties, Historical Lectures, Astronomy Lessons, Virtual Games, and more!

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 30th for a Hymn Sing from 2-3 pm with Barry and Nicole Isbell! Barry is a lifelong church musician who currently serves as the Minister of Music at Advent UMC in Las Vegas. He has been a music educator for 28 years. His choirs have performed in music festivals across the country, winning high honors and accolades for their performances. Nicole serves in the music ministry at Advent UMC. She is a current volunteer vocalist with the Las Vegas Master Singers, and a former member of the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. To register and get updates, go to <https://dscumc.org/blog/2021/03/01/march-camp-news/>

For questions or ideas about sessions you'd like to see offered, contact Cat Holbert, Executive Director of Camp & Retreat Ministries at [cholbert@dscumc.org](mailto:cholbert@dscumc.org)

Everyone,

On the way to work today, March 11, 2021, I heard that today is the one-year anniversary of the official start of the Covid-19 pandemic. While some events seem to move through the calendar and my life at lightning speed, the pandemic has not been one of those events. Every single day there was some news, sometimes good but most often not good. I missed our meetings and our sharing of smiles. There has been an emptiness in my heart for your presence.

Finally, this morning, I saw the message from the church office that we will be able to share in-person worship in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Risen Lord!

For the last year, there have been many wonderful people working together to enliven the activities and the business of the church. Not only are those people the ones that are visible and invisible because of the weekly online services but also the many others in the office, maintaining the campus and handling the outreach programs of the church. I know that not one of these people have been reluctant to do anything that has been asked of them during the last year. As arrangements are being made to bring us back together, now is the time for you to show your support for the church and for those people that kept us together and involved for the last year. We need you to consider attending in-person service as soon as you feel comfortable. If you were a choir participant, we need you to vaccine up and be ready to join us to praise God with our joyful noise!

The next couple of months are going to be exciting. We will have the opportunity to bond with our new Pastor, renew our friendships, refine our message to our community and display our faith and trust in our Savior, Christ the Lord. I am overjoyed with what the future holds for us.

A special message to choir members, new and former! Your contribution to the resurrection of First United Methodist Church of Glendale is very important. The musical element of worship is crucial. I want the choir to meet at the earliest opportunity. Being vaccinated is an important step toward us meeting together. Please take this step. We will poll the choir to learn when we can start.

For some, their trust in God has been shaken. We are now at the point that our trust is being rewarded. Let's make everyone aware of how our God is good by making First United Methodist Church a beacon in Glendale.

God love you, bless Him.

—Larry Del Rae, Director of Music



## ***A Note From the A/V Team***

Every week, hidden behind the scenes, there are quite a few people working hard to make sure that you can watch the sermon, whether in person, or streamed live to YouTube. Our job is to have a heart for God, the eyes for video, and an ear for sound. We work in faith, knowing that hearing and believing the spoken word and songs are two important tools for a church service. It is our goal to get understandable sounds and a clear image to provide a worthy worship of Jesus Christ. We work hand in hand with the worship team to help impart God's Word to the hearts and ears of the Body of Christ.

And we could really use you! The positions of sound board operator, video operator, slide operator, and live stream operator are an important mission of the church. It is a unique path of servanthood and discipleship. We give these positions respect, priority, and our personal best each time so that people can worship God and stay focused on the activities of the service.

Right now, there are very few people working behind the scenes and if anyone is missing, the rest of the team tries their very best to cover that job too. This is not ideal. So, we are reaching out to you to ask if you might be interested in learning a new skill.

We need a team of people that can be rotated for different shifts and different weeks. This would allow everyone to take breaks. This would also mean that you could serve just one weekend a month!

The team is happy to teach anyone who is interested.

So, would you like to know how to:

- Operate the sound board?
- Operate the Power Point slides?
- Operate the camera?
- Learn to run a YouTube Livestream?

If any one of these jobs, or if all of these jobs sound interesting to you, please contact Christine to arrange a training session. You can e-mail her: [nuturegfumc@gmail.com](mailto:nuturegfumc@gmail.com).

P.S.

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



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

In January, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$20,107.06 (down \$2,500 below our last November donations of \$22,687) to support the operation and programs of our church. This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Capital Improvements, Wednesday Lunches, Brick-by-Brick, 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 \$16,710 and expenses of \$19,872. Our spending exceeded our income by about \$3,100 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly dropped to \$18,744.

Normally January is a low month for donations, so the drop in income is not unexpected. We hoped to rebound in February, but unfortunately our expenses in February continued to outpace donations by \$10,000. This created a drop in our cash balance to \$8,006.

The number of pledgers dropped from 62 in 2020 to only 44 in 2021 – a 29% reduction. The total amount pledged dropped by a disturbing 39%. 27 of our families did not renew their pledge in 2021. Our hope is this reduction is due to the confusion caused by the pandemic and the lack of in-person Sunday church services, and we are counting on those families to continue to support the church.

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

**YOUR GIVING MATTERS!**

### Summer Camp Registration Open

We are so excited to announce that Summer Camp registration is open!! We have fun, new camp sessions planned for the summer, and would love to have your children and youth join us at camp! To register or learn more about Mingus Mountain Summer Camps, visit <https://mingusmountaincamp.org/summer-camps/>

Do you love working with children and youth? Would you enjoy spending a week away from it all in the beautiful natural setting of camp this summer? If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you! Consider serving on a camp staff this summer! Applications for summer camp staff at Mingus Mountain are now available at <https://mingusmountaincamp.campbrainstaff.com/>

#### Mingus Mountain Camp Sessions

- Mini Camp – June 3-5
- Elementary I/Jr High I/Sr High Adventure Camp – June 21-26
- Elementary II/Jr Hi II/Sr Hi Adventures in Mission Camp – June 28-July 3
- Sr High Classic/Jr & Sr High Nature Camp – July 5-10



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

- Epworth UMC, Phoenix
- Faith UMC, Phoenix
- First UMC, Glendale

Deadline for the next issue is April 12. 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  
Postage Here

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
First United Methodist Church  
7102 North 58th Drive  
Glendale, AZ 85301-2434