

Circuit Rider

A publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale • Summer 2021



A New Wind Blowing

During the last week or so, Glendale has enjoyed a wonderful respite before the heat of the summer comes upon us. For several days before, there was a wind over much of the state, which made highway driving back and forth from Tucson a little intriguing. But the effect of that wind was to bring several days of beautiful temperatures, which gave us the opportunity to open our windows and feel some wonderful spring air.

And here at First United Methodist, the wind is definitely blowing as well. We are in the midst of a season of opening windows, of coming together again after a very long season of a pandemic that kept us sheltered and apart. And in this season, we're experiencing many other changes as well, some anticipated, and some surprising.

"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from, or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." – John 3:8

First, there is much progress regarding our re-emergence from the COVID Pandemic. Our Bishop and Conference COVID Task Force released two updates in recent weeks. The latest one, building on the recent CDC recommendations, gives local churches much more autonomy in determining how we approach this stage of our reopening. Although there are still guidelines that we must all adhere to, those who have been fully vaccinated, that is, those who have received all doses of their respective vaccine two weeks ago or more, now have the opportunity to suspend a number of the social distancing protocols, especially with others that have also been fully vaccinated. Like every other

stage of this pandemic, it's not like anything we expected, and may feel a little unfamiliar. I hope those of us who are fully vaccinated will give thanks to God for this stage in resuming our pre-pandemic lives. I hope we'll continue to respect the needs and comfort levels of others, especially those who may make different decisions than ours. And I also hope that all who have not yet gotten the vaccine will do so, so that we can go full sail into the process of resuming our ministries and offering the warm fellowship that our congregation is known for.

Second, in our efforts to keep moving forward in offering a full schedule of worship and

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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

A New Wind Blowing

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activities, we're encountering a little headwind. Our Air Conditioning system for the Fellowship Hall needs some parts that may take a little time to arrive, delaying the restart of our Fellowship Time. And, at our last Church Council meeting it was decided that we should take another look at our Sunday Morning schedule for worship services and other activities, making a very conscious effort to get the opinions of as many members of our church family as possible. I hope you'll take a few minutes to share your preferences on the survey in this newsletter, to include your current contact information so we can make sure our records are up to date, and bring or mail it to the church office as soon as possible. We hope to have the results tabulated in time for our next Church Council meeting.

And finally, sometimes the wind blows in directions we never anticipated. A little over a week ago, our Youth Director Sarah Cushman notified me that she will be stepping down from her position at the end of May. Sarah shared with me that the needs of her new family are greater than she anticipated when she began her position with us. Of course, I'm sorry, because I know all the gifts she has for working with youth, and under different circumstances, without the pandemic limiting youth activities, I know she would have been a great blessing to our youth and their families. However, I think she showed maturity in making her decision now, I'm glad she'll be devoting much of her time to her own "Youth Group" at home, and I know our prayers and good wishes will follow her.

Yesterday, we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. There's no doubt - the wind of the Spirit is blowing! Although we may not know its exact direction, please join me in a prayer that our windows, and our hearts, will be open, and our church family will be open to the renewal, the freshness, that the Spirit can bring to our lives, in this new season.

In Christ's service,
Tom Jelinek, Pastor

June 6: 2nd Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32-49

Sermon: "Facing the Impossible"

June 13: 3rd Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Sermon: "Removing the Roadblocks"

June 20: 4th Sunday in Kingdomtide/Father's Day

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34

Sermon: "A Father's Legacy"

June 27: 5th Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: Ephesians 2

Sermon: "Where God Lives"



Join us for Vacation Bible School July 26–30, 6:00–8:30 pm

Get ready to set sail for ADVENTURE ISLAND, a free week of evening adventures for all ages. A light supper will be served at 5:45 pm.

Lisa Sanchez and her team are preparing stories, crafts, games and songs for preschoolers through those entering 8th grade. Pastor Tom Jelinek will be leading music! Teachers and helpers of all ages are needed, teens through senior citizens.

Adults, we will have a study for you, too! Christine Jones will be leading the discussion, “Finding Serenity In An Anxious World.” You are also welcome to join the kids for closing time. Plan now to join us. Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends. Preregistration is required and Covid-19 guidelines will be followed.



Register online now at <https://vbapro.events/p/ba0e44>



Our committee recently asked to provide some much-needed hygiene and clothing items for the students at Glendale’s Mensendick Elementary School. We try to use our funds in various ways to help our community, so we were glad they reached out to our church.

Since summer church camps are now open, we again took the opportunity to donate a full scholarship to the Camp Scholarship fund at the church. If you know of someone in our church who is in grades 2-12 and would like to attend church camp, have them reach out to Rebecca in the office for scholarship information.

Annual Conference is coming up soon, and the Mission Committee agreed to give \$400 to the conference mission project as detailed in the May Circuit Rider newsletter. This provides \$100 to each DSW college campus ministry (ASU, UA, NAU and UNLV).

Our team will be working on the Christmas shoebox ministry this fall. We will have more information about ways the congregation can be involved in upcoming newsletters.

We look forward to meeting in Fellowship Hall again, beginning in September. It is easier for the committee to offer more ideas when we meet in-person, as a group, rather than by telephone.

–Jeanne Rumbold
Chairperson, Mission Committee

Meet the First UMC Class of 2021

Our congregation is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of an exceptional group of graduates!

Here is a brief description of each, with notes on what their plans are for the future:

COLLEGE:

- **Zebbediah Jones** has graduated from Grand Canyon University with a BA in Business Finance, and intends to join the Peace Corps. Zeb's parents are Will and Christine Jones.
- **Ntambari Mbasi** has graduated from Brookline College. She has earned a Bachelor of Nursing, and plans to continue working in nursing and earn additional degrees. Ntambari's husband is John, and her daughters are Baribefi and Roseline.
- **Dillon Wesley Stewart** has graduated from Ottawa University Magna Cum Laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Addiction Counseling. He is currently enrolled in Ottawa's Master's Degree program, and continues to be employed by Crossroads, Inc. Dillon's parents are Will and Pat Stewart.

HIGH SCHOOL:

- **Jhoseline Carranza** has graduated from Apollo High School, and has been certified as a Veterinary Assistant. She will attend the University of Arizona in the fall, studying Agriculture and Biological Science, and hopes to pursue research in Marine Biology. Jhosie's mother is Dinorah Nash.
- **Macie Chrisman** has graduated from Apollo High School, where she was Captain of the Swim Team and started a chapter of the organization Best Buddies. She will attend Glendale Community College in the fall. Macie's parents are Tom and Cindy Chrisman.
- **Annaka Mackenzie Jackson** has graduated from Peoria High School. She will attend Phoenix College in the fall and transfer to ASU to prepare for a career in American Sign Language. Anna's parents are Patrick and Melissa Jackson, and her grandparents are Phil and Helen Jackson.
- **Johnny Legendre** has graduated from Glendale High School, and will attend Glendale Community College in the fall, where he plans to develop his skills in animation. Johnny's father is John Legendre, and his grandmother is Mary Ellen Legendre.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- **Luke Curless** has graduated from 8th grade at Parkridge Elementary with honors, and will attend Sunrise Mountain High School in the fall. Luke's parents are Rebecca and Jack Curless.
- **Shayleigh Melton** has graduated from 8th grade, and will attend Desert Heights Preparatory Academy for High School in the fall. Shayleigh's mother is Kathleen Melton, and her grandparents are Jim and Kay Melton.

We celebrate the accomplishments of all of our graduates, and hope they and their families will keep us informed of their accomplishments and plans. Please join us in the following prayer:

God of truth and knowledge, your wisdom gives us inspiration and direction. Bless these graduates as they conclude the current chapter of their studies. We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way. Walk with them as they move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose. Strengthen their many talents and skills, and instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where the energies of all will be used for the common good of the world you have given us. We pray all this in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We are the Church Together

We sang a song in church this past Sunday, "I am the Church, you are the Church, we are the Church together." This song reminds me that it takes all of us to make our church a welcoming place to come together with friends, neighbors, and strangers to worship God, count our blessings, and give back to the church what was given to us by earlier members. The song reminds me of all the blessings I have received through this church, because others prepared the way for me. Some of those blessings include my Sunday School teachers, the VBS leaders who made VBS fun and creative, the Pastors who taught me about our Christian Faith when I went through Confirmation, the ladies of UMW who invited us to join in fellowship time together, the men of UMM who ushered and helped fund projects for the church, and the music of our faith shared with us each Sunday by our musically gifted choir and musicians. Our buildings, the sanctuary, the Education complex, and the Fellowship Hall are lasting gifts, not only for those of us who are members, but also for our community.

We are at a critical point in the life of this church. We look to

the future and hope to grow, but that will not happen unless we work together to reinvigorate the call to serve, to volunteer, and work together, so this church continues to be an anchor of hope in our community. In the coming months, our committees and Church Council will be planning and organizing to meet the challenges we face. What talents and special gifts do you have that will help us move forward?

We have several standing committees that deal with the obvious needs of the church, such as Worship, Finance, Trustees, Education, Membership and Evangelism, and History and Memorials. But we also rely on volunteers to help these committees do their work. We ask for volunteers to help with Trustee work days and the weekly clean-up of our campus. We also need volunteers to help with repair work, painting, and mowing grass. If you have a head for numbers and understand balance sheets and budgets, our Finance Team could use your talents. If you enjoy telling the stories of Jesus, our Education Team would like you to help with Sunday School and VBS. If you are musically gifted, sing, or

play an instrument, our Choir and our Worship Teams need your talents. We need office volunteers to help with preparing monthly mailings, phones, attendance updates, address updates, etc. We have several homebound members, so having volunteers to make phone calls or send cards is a way to stay connected with them. Our Worship Team not only plans our weekly services, but also works to prepare special services for Ash Wednesday, Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, etc. All our services need ushers, greeters, and folks who tidy up the pews after each service. Also, after each Sunday worship, we need help to lock the doors and gates and make sure lights are turned off and candles are snuffed out.

We understand that many of our senior members aren't able to volunteer for work projects due to health issues. They have the best job of all, being our prayer warriors to pray for the future of our church! Please be thinking about how you can help us grow our church and to serve with your special gifts and talents. May we all remember that we are the church together!

—Rosie Miller

Update from the Finance Subcommittee

In April, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$48,260.01 (up over \$16,000 from our March donations of \$31,746.44) to support the operation and programs of our church. This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Camp Scholarships, Capital Improvements, Wednesday Lunches, Brick-by-Brick, and other designated funds as well as interest and increases to our TD Ameritrade investment account. Focusing on the General Fund, we had income of \$31,251.03 and expenses of \$23,142.15. Our income exceeded our expenses by about \$8,000 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly increased to \$17,991.65.

The donations to the restricted funds totaled \$17,008.98, but that includes a good portion of the sale of a stock donation which is placed in a special reserve fund. Whenever the church gets a windfall, we put most of it into a special reserve (Other Restricted Income), and then we portion it out equally over the rest of the calendar year.

Since I'm talking about stocks, let's take a closer look at our investment account at TD Ameritrade. As I mentioned, we received a very generous stock donation. Our policy is to sell these stocks quickly rather than gamble on the stock market. In this case we sold the stocks for \$29,454.84. Roughly half (\$15,000) we transferred to our bank. \$1,800 went directly into the General Fund, and the remainder (\$13,200) went into the special reserve fund to be distributed over the remaining eight months of the year.

Currently, the TD Ameritrade account balance is \$94,476.33. Nearly all is an insured cash account, \$88,724.58. That money is earmarked by the giver for the Brick-by-Brick fund and cannot be spent for any other purpose. The rest of the account, \$5,751.75, is held in two stocks, Intel and Pfizer. We keep those two stocks in order to keep our account open. Having the account open facilitates future stock donations.

Finally, two other items: First our Easter offering totaled \$7,617.00 which was twice what we were expecting. Thank you to all of our generous givers for supporting our church. Second: Summer is here. Please consider making a donation to our Camp Scholarship fund which helps send our youth to the Methodist camp on Mingus Mountain. Simply mark your check for "Camp Scholarships." The kids will thank you.

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



Sunday Morning Worship Survey

Please fill out the survey below, by checking the response that best suits your needs, and/or best applies to you.

1. What time do you prefer for Sunday Worship Services?

- 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM
- 9:30 AM 10:30 AM Any of these times are fine

2. Which type of Worship Service do you prefer?

- Traditional Contemporary
- Blended Traditional & Contemporary Any style is fine

3. What time would you prefer to have Fellowship Time

- Before the first service In-between worship services
- After second service Any time is fine with me

4. Do you have children and/or grandchildren that you would like to bring to Sunday School?

- No Yes If yes, what are their ages: _____

5. If yes, would you like your children and/ or grandchildren to attend Sunday School:

- At the same time as the Worship Service At a different time than the Worship Service

6. Are you interested in Adult Bible Study?

- Yes No

7. If yes, what time would you prefer to have the Adult Study Group:

- Before the first service In-between worship services
- After second service Any time is fine with me

8. What is your favorite thing about Glendale First United Methodist? _____

9. Additional comments: _____

We're trying to make sure that our contact information is up to date for all of our church family. Please fill in your current information below, so we can stay in touch regarding events in the life of our congregation:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

I am: A Member A Regular Attender A Visitor Interested in Membership

The names and contact information of survey participants will be kept confidential. Please bring your completed survey to church on Sunday, or return it to the church office by June 10. You can also email to rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Update from the Riner Assistance Office

This has been a very strange year, but hopefully the social distancing and isolation is coming to an end. I hope that all of you will soon be able to get back to all the activities that you were able to enjoy pre-pandemic. Being able to attend church and worship with friends and family is certainly a glorious beginning. I welcome you to stop into the Riner Office on a Monday or Tuesday to say hello and see that we have been up and running throughout the pandemic.

We are still serving 35-50 sack lunches each day. We partner with St. Mary’s Food Bank, which allows me to go pick up supplies each week. You never know what they will have but, we have been fortunate to have most of our needs met through the generosity of St. Mary’s.

If you have the opportunity to travel this summer, we always have a need for hygiene products. The small hotel bottles are great, but if you happen to purchase shampoo or soap that you don’t love, we are happy to put it into small bottles for the homeless to use. We are also in need of canned soups and cup- of-soups. If you are attending church we have a box in the lobby of the church to leave donations.

Those of us at the Riner Office sincerely appreciate your continued support of our programs.

—Elizabeth Leggett
Director of Outreach

Deadline for the next issue is June 14. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm.
email:
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