

# Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · May 2021



## A Birthday Celebration

It's hard to believe, but as the temperatures climb, it's unmistakable. The warmer months of summer are almost upon us. And here at First Glendale, and in virtually every other Christian congregation around the world, the month of May will bring the day of Pentecost, the occasion when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers gathered in Jerusalem, shortly after His resurrection and ascension.

In our faith tradition, Pentecost is also an occasion that marks one of the most important milestones in history. Although there already was a growing group of Jesus' followers after His resurrection, Chapter 2 of Acts describes how the Holy Spirit came as "Tongues of Fire" to those of all nations in Jerusalem, enabling them to hear

and understand God's message to them in their own languages. Peter then exhorted

those gathered to be baptized in the name of Christ and receive the Holy Spirit, and approximately three thousand people did so that day, marking the birth of the Christian Church.

When we celebrate a birthday in our families or with friends, we want to have a joyous celebration, and we'll likely do so for one or more of these reasons:

1. We want to remember and celebrate the occasion of their birth, and what a gift that day was to their immediate and extended families.

*Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.*

*-Acts 2:38, 41*

2. We want to acknowledge accomplishments in their life, either in physical growth and/or in learning new skills in younger years, or in personal or professional growth as an adult.
3. We want to celebrate who they are, and how they bring joy and love to our lives, whatever age they may be.

And much of the time, whether we're celebrating in person or from a distance, we share a card and/or a gift with those we honor, as an expression of what that person means to us.

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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 Birthday Celebration

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And so, as we approach and celebrate Pentecost, I invite you to join me in considering all that our faith, and our Church Family, mean to us. In particular, I invite us to consider:

1. What the beginnings of our faith journey were, and how those experiences were meaningful.
2. How we, and/or how our family has grown in our relationships of faith in recent months, and if that has not been in evidence, to consider how we would like to grow in the coming year.
3. All the ways that we appreciate the various aspects of our Church Family.
4. Bringing a gift of some nature to our Congregation, remembering that our United Methodist faith tradition asks us to support our Church Home with our presence, prayers, gifts, service, and witness.

It's a Birthday! Let's celebrate!  
And let's give thanks for all that our Church Family is, and means to us.

In Christ's Service,

—Tom Jelinek, Pastor



Each year, the West District prays for all the churches in its jurisdiction for one month.

In May, please pray for:

- First UMC, Phoenix
- First UMC, Sun City
- First UMC, Yuma

### Sunday, May 2 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon: *"It Grows On You"*

### Sunday, May 9 — Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

Scriptures: Psalm 98:1-9, John 15:9-17

Sermon: *"The Love Legacy"*

### Sunday, May 16 — Ascension Sunday/UMW Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23

Sermon: *"Women in Mission, Living the Vision"* (Christine Jones)

### May 23 — Pentecost Sunday/Graduate Recognition

Scripture: Acts 2:1-18

Sermon: *"God With Us"*

### May 30 — Trinity Sunday/ First Sunday in Kingdomtide

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Sermon: *"Three Faces of God"*

## ***Annual Conference 2021 Mission Project: Student Hunger***

This year's Annual Conference Mission Project is centered around student hunger. Our campus ministries each day are meeting opportunities to help students with not only their spiritual needs, but there are needs regarding food security as well. We will be collecting \$25 Visa gift cards, or cash donations, which will be totaled and sent to conference for the benefit of our conference's campus ministries at ASU, NAU, U of A, and UNLV.



For some context, ASU has over 100,000 students in the metro Phoenix area, most of which are on the Tempe campus. Students who attend come from every "walk of life" imaginable. Some students come from families with means. Others come from poverty and are doing the best they can to receive an education to better their lives.

A recent statistic cited by ASU Wesley Campus Minister, Rev. Jamie Booth, found that 14% of students at 4-year institutions were facing housing instability. (Goldrick-Rab, Baker-Smith, Coca, Looker, & Williams, 2019) This may mean they're sleeping in the library and showering at the gym. It may mean sleeping in a car. It may mean sleeping in a different friend's dorm room every night. While Rev. Booth had not seen these content-specific statistics specific to ASU, she shared, "If we assume those statistics hold true... that would be around 14,000 students. Now multiply this times all four of our campus ministries, and you're looking at tens of thousands of students who are housing instable in our Conference."

Many more may have housing security but still lack regular access to food. Pre-COVID, the ASU Foodbank was helping about 400 students a semester across seven sites. However, earlier this year, one week saw 200 students signed up for nutrition assistance on the Tempe campus alone. This illustrates the increase in students needing assistance during these most difficult times of pandemic.

If you would like to make a difference and provide nourishment for students, you can donate directly at <https://bit.ly/2021Mission>. You can also give with your regular church offering, and mark your donation "Mission Project." We will total all donations and send them to conference.



***We would like to honor the grads in our congregation Sunday, May 23. Please send the name of the graduate, a photo, and the information about the school, major, and future plans.***

***Email to [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com).***

***Thank you!***

## **Summer Camp Opportunities**

Summer camps are amazing experiences for spiritual growth and leadership development. Camps are designed to guide children and youth in exploring and experiencing God's love while having absolute FUN among new and old friends, in a safe and beautiful setting. There are sessions for campers entering first grade through those graduating this Spring. All these sessions are at Mingus Mtn Camp, outside Prescott, AZ. We have made sure to schedule our VBS June 7-11, a week during which there are no camp sessions.



### **Mini Camp – June 3-5, 2021**

Nothing is mightier than the minis experiencing camp for the first time! This 2-night adventure is perfect for the camper who is getting used to being away from home. We'll participate in worship, games, hiking, fishing, water Olympics, music, crafts, and more during this fun-packed session. Bonus: We'll also cook a meal over a fire, paint our own shirts, and eat a mini-horse's share of s'mores! Mini-Camp is a 3-day, 2-night camp (Thurs-Sat) open to children entering grades 1-3 in Fall 2021.

### **Elementary I Camp – June 21-26, 2021; Elementary II Camp – June 28-July 3, 2021**

Camp is where we grow. We grow in laughter, we grow new friendships, we grow in faith, we grow our dirty laundry! Seriously, though, camp is the place where it's safe to grow, and to try new things, and there's plenty of that at Elementary Camp. Elementary campers will have the opportunity for archery, team-building, challenge course, crafts, fishing, fire-building, hiking, worship, Bible study, and more. These campers will fill the vehicle with camp songs, great stories, and many laughs on the way home. Get ready for a fun ride! Elementary camp sessions are 6-day, 5-night, camps (Mon-Sat) for children entering grades 3-6.

### **Junior High I Camp – June 21-26, 2021; Junior High II Camp – June 28-July 3, 2021**

Step it up to a new level at Jr High Camps. We know these campers are ready for the next experience! Join us for high ropes, extreme archery, night hikes, lots of games, great community, and worship experiences designed just for those in middle school. What's better than an extra dose of social time, campfire desserts, and lots of laughter? Only the chance to do it for a week straight! Register today to secure your spot at Mingus Mountain's Jr High Camps. Junior High Camps are 6-day, 5-night camps, (Mon-Sat) open to students entering grades 6-9 (Fall 2021).

### **Junior/Senior High Night Owls Camp – July 5-10, 2021**

At this "upside down" camp you'll get to experience all the joy of camp, but you'll stay up late (until between 2:30-3:00 am) and will sleep until 11:30 am. Enjoy night hikes, night zipping, glow-in-the-dark painting, night disc golf, and so much more! We'll share this fun while growing our faith, growing friendships, and growing our night vision! Open to campers entering 7th grade (Fall 2021) through recently graduated seniors (Spring 2021).

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## Summer Camp Opportunities

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### Senior High Adventures in Missions Camp – June 28-July 3, 2021

Feel like giving back this summer, and also want to sprinkle in some adventure? This week is just for you! With a combination of mission experiences, you might serve food at a local food bank, do home improvement work for a family in need, provide leadership at a local church or more! You'll also get the chance to hike the Thumb Butte, canoe or kayak in Prescott, and experience the Adventure Course in Flagstaff. Give back and make adventures during this awesome week. This camp is open to youth entering 9th grade in Fall 2021 through recently graduated seniors (Spring 2021).

### Junior/Senior High Night Owls Camp – July 5-10, 2021

See description of this “upside down” camp on the previous page. Open to youth entering 7th grade (Fall 2021) through recently graduated seniors (Spring 2021).

### Senior High Adventure Camp II – July 5-10, 2021

Want to try something a little outside the usual? Join a small group of Sr High campers for a week of outdoor recreation and exploration. We'll hike in the Prescott Dells, canoe/kayak in Watson Lake, camp and hike in Sedona, hang out in Oak Creek, tube the Verde River and spend time at camp doing all the traditional camp activities you love. This week is great for those who love nature and want to experience it up close! Open to youth entering 9th grade (Fall 2021) through recently graduated seniors (Spring 2021).

**You can get more information, or register now, by visiting**

<https://mingusmountaincamp.org/summer-camps/>

**A reminder to parents registering their kids for camp:** please contact Rebecca in the church office before you register if you want the church to pay camp fees through a camp scholarship. If you have questions, please call the church office 623-939-1409, menu option 2 or email [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com).

We will send as many kids to camp as we can; as always, camp scholarships depend on the amount of donations we receive. Sign up early to secure your space!

## Report from UMW

Welcome back to church, everyone. We are so blessed to be together again. UMW Started meeting again in March and we have combined Lydia Circle and Esther Circle. Our General meetings are on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating UMW Sunday, with Christine Jones preaching.

There are so many missions to help lift up the lives of women and children. For more than a century, women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions have led a struggle for human rights and social justice. The generation of women who founded the early missionary societies developed powerful networks and organizational structures to help women attain full participation in the life of the church and society.

Our circles are a place for us to meet not only for community, fellowship and mission projects but a place where we can form relationships that enrich our lives. We invite and encourage women of all ages to come to meetings. You need not be a member of the church to join us in mission.

—Tresa Birchett, UMW President

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

In March, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$31,746.44 (up over \$11,000 from our February donations of \$20,132.38) 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 \$22,350.84 and expenses of \$20,473.65. Our income exceeded our expenses by about \$2,000 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly increased to \$9,884.80.

The donations to the restricted funds totaled \$9,395.60. A goodly portion of that is the interest we accrued from our bank certificates. We had two certificates mature and earned \$3,447.23 in interest combined. These monies, as well as the other restricted donations, are earmarked for specific purposes and cannot be used for the general day-to-day support of the church.

A few other bits of interest about March financials: Our pledgers are contributing 96% of the amount they pledge for the year-to-date. This is the best percentage in the last couple of years. Our pledgers, you are to be commended and thanked for your support. The end of March was Palm Sunday and we had over \$900 contributed toward our Easter offering. Easter occurred in April, so will be discussed in detail next month, but here is a preview: It was a very generous offering. On the negative side, our unpledged giving is hovering around 60% of what we budgeted. We hope that as we return to normal and people are attending church again, we will see that amount increase. Finally, we did not make our apportionment payment in March to the Desert Southwest Conference. That saved us about \$4,200, but we are failing to support the worldwide Methodist church and its ministries.

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

### ***Save the Date for Vacation Bible School June 7-11***

We have decided to try a one-room VBS program this year. “Discovery on Adventure Island” can be done with as few as two leaders and in just one room and is for ages 3-12. There are five sessions, and each day incorporates activities, a bible story, science, an active learning option, recreation, crafts, and music. If you would like to volunteer to help with VBS, please contact the church office or Lisa Sanchez, the Christian Education chairperson.



## ***Real Talk about Live Streaming***

Have you ever wondered what it takes to get the service from the sanctuary to your computers? Two years ago, the camera person would film the service and hand it off to the editor, who would fix up the video and add titles and slides and then it would be uploaded to YouTube.

Now, we are live streaming. This actually takes a little less work overall, but it is much more intense and a lot more people are involved.



- First, Rebecca creates the PowerPoint slides that you see if you are in the sanctuary.
- Second, Christine converts the Power Point slides to a picture so she can embed them in the videos.
- Next, Will sets up the camera to view the sanctuary or wherever we are filming and he hooks it up to the computer.
- Then, Jeremiah sets up the sound board so that the sound that you hear in the sanctuary can be heard in the computer as well.
- Then, Christine takes the camera view, the sound board sound, and the Power Point slides into a fancy computer program where it can all be seen at the same time. Next, she opens up the YouTube channel and sets the system to “Go Live.”
- She then needs to check the system to make sure that the sound can be heard, the video can be seen, and that the slides will work properly.
- Finally, Christine monitors the “stream” to make sure that it is working and makes a “backup” recording of the video in case there is an internet failure.

That is a lot of people working together to make it possible to see the video “live” while it is happening. When it runs well, Will follows the action with the camera, Jeremiah adjusts sound as it is being filmed, and Christine hides and reveals the Power Point slides when they are needed. And that didn’t even mention Ken, who is displaying the sanctuary view of the PowerPoint slides!

As you can imagine, if one person is sick or is unable to attend the service for some reason, the whole team has to find a way to cover, and that is hard! We really need backup, emergency backup, once a month volunteers, and anyone who is interested in learning any one of those stations or skills.

***If you are willing to be a volunteer, would like to learn the skills, or are willing to be an emergency backup in case of illness, please contact Rebecca at the office, 623-939-1409 option 2, or [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com)***

**Downtown Glendale Events in May...**

**THURSDAY – SUNDAY | 7-9 P.M.**  
**LIVE! @ MURPHY PARK**  
**MAY 2021**

<b>THURSDAY / MAY 6</b> MARIACHI PASION	<b>FRIDAY / MAY 14</b> SHALLOW WATER	<b>SUNDAY / MAY 23</b> HENRY THOMPSON & THE KC ANGELS
<b>FRIDAY / MAY 7</b> BARRIO LATINO	<b>SATURDAY / MAY 15</b> MARMALADE SKIES	<b>THURSDAY / MAY 27</b> CARVIN JONES
<b>SATURDAY / MAY 8</b> THE SUGAR THIEVES	<b>SUNDAY / MAY 16</b> CHUCK HALL TRIO	<b>FRIDAY / MAY 28</b> ROCK LOBSTER
<b>SUNDAY / MAY 9</b> SUPERNATURAL	<b>THURSDAY / MAY 20</b> SUGAHBEAT	<b>SATURDAY / MAY 29</b> GARTH BROOKS LIVE
<b>THURSDAY / MAY 13</b> WALT RICHARDSON & FRIENDS	<b>FRIDAY / MAY 21</b> MOGOLLON	<b>SUNDAY / MAY 30</b> COME BACK BUDDY
	<b>SATURDAY / MAY 22</b> PEARL RIDGE	

*Annual Mother's Day Celebration*

**Saturday, May 8, 2021**  
**10 a.m. - Close**  
**Historic Downtown Glendale**  
**Catlin Court & Old Towne**

Collecting items for the Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley

Brought to you by the Historic Downtown Glendale Merchants Association in partnership with the downtown business community.  
 623-299-2060  
[www.VisitDowntownGlendale.com](http://www.VisitDowntownGlendale.com)

**Historic Downtown Glendale Merchants Association**

Deadline for the next issue is May 14. 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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