

Circuit Rider September

A publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · September 2021

The “Rain” of God

For the last several months, there’s something I’ve noticed about living here in the west valley. During the summer months, when rains falls in one place, it doesn’t necessarily visit others. For many weeks, I heard members of our congregation talk about how they had had significant precipitation the day or night before, and I marveled at how there hadn’t been anything, either at my apartment, or at the office. I began to think that I had discovered a new meteorological phenomenon – it was guaranteed not to rain wherever I was...

Then, several days ago, that finally changed. We had the “Gully-washer” of the summer! No matter where we were in the valley, or even in outlying areas, we had a huge dose of rain –

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. –Romans 8:38-39

enough to give everything a good drink. As I returned to my apartment that night, it was refreshing to feel the rain, the cool air, to hear the thunder, and later, the sound of rain on the roof as I was falling asleep.

Over the next couple of days, I spoke to folks in our church family. I discovered that this time there had been no exceptions. Everyone had received a welcome downpour, and a couple of our dedicated volunteers had even anticipated the event, and spread fertilizer on some areas of our landscaping.

And that got me to thinking. Was the rain present only on locations that “Needed” or

“Deserved” it? Did it soak dry lawns, or places that had no irrigation, and bypass golf courses, and all areas that had sprinkler systems? Or, did the rain fall only on the homes of faithful United Methodists, and skip the properties of those from other denominations, or those who have no church home? The answer, of course, is absolutely not. The bountiful rain fell on all valley locations, soaking the ground, and giving all vegetation a sustaining drink.

That nurturing rain is very much like God’s love. Whether we are aware of it or not, whether we feel we deserve it or not, God’s love pours out on all of us. God’s

(Continued on page 2)



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

Rain*(Continued from page 1)*

sustaining power is present in all of our lives, even during a resurging pandemic, and can help us cope with unanticipated, even frustrating circumstances, if we are open to receiving God's refreshing, cooling, life-giving presence.

The immediate future may not be what we planned or hoped for, but God's grace and love continue to be poured out on us, bringing us the promise of things to come. Let's plan for that. Let's plant the seeds and make sure the ground is fertile, so that in the season to come, we'll see the blessings of growth, in our congregation, its ministries, and in our lives, as we continue our journeys as part of God's people, the Body of Christ in this world. May it be so.

In Christ's Service,
Tom Jelinek, Pastor

**September 5: 15th Sunday in Kingdomtide; Communion Sunday**

Scripture: Psalm 124

Sermon: *The Half-Full Glass***September 12: 16th Sunday in Kingdomtide**

Scripture: Mark 9:14-27

Sermon: *The Courage to Ask***September 19: 17th Sunday in Kingdomtide**

Scripture: Mark 9:30-37

Sermon: *A Different Kind of Competition***September 26: 18th Sunday in Kingdomtide**

Scripture: Hebrews 1:10-2:4

Sermon: *The Greatest Gift****Thank You for Masking***

I truly thank you for putting the masks back on for our indoor worship and activities. I'm sure that doing that is an inconvenience, at the very least, but I'm grateful for your willingness to follow the direction of our conference leaders, and to have the well-being of our children, and those who have not been vaccinated, at heart. As I've said before, I look forward to the day when we'll be able to dispense with our masks and sanitizing supplies, and I hope that day will be as soon as possible. In the meantime, thank you for doing your part to help keep us safe.

Sincerely,
Pastor Tom

Church Conference Monday October 18

Our annual Church Conference is coming on Monday, October 18 at 7:00 pm. This exciting annual event is a time to review and celebrate our ministries of the previous year, and look forward to plans for the coming year.

At this year's conference, we'll also have the opportunity to welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. Javier Olivares. Rev. Olivares formerly served as the Pastor of Nuevo Pacto UMF, on the campus of neighboring Epworth UMC, and most recently served as Pastor of Grace UMC in Mesa.

All of our First Glendale Church Family are welcome to attend our Conference, and Members can vote on all matters. We'll share information as soon as possible regarding whether Church Conference will be in person, or live streamed via Zoom. Our Staff Parish Committee will meet with Rev. Olivares prior to the Conference at 6:00 pm.

We ask that all conference reports and documents be turned into the church office by 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 7th. Please call or email the Church Office if you have any questions. Plan to join us on Monday, October 18 at 7:00 pm.

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

- **Nuevo Pacto, Phoenix**
- **Prescott UMC**
- **Prescott Valley UMC**



Get That Warm And Fuzzy Feeling at Teddy Bear Day in Downtown Glendale On September 11

National Teddy Bear Day is September 9, and there's no better way to celebrate than attending Teddy Bear Day in downtown Glendale Saturday, September 11. This free, family-friendly event runs from 10:00 am–4:00 pm.

Begin at Memory Lane Trinkets and Treasures (5836 W. Palmdale Ave.) to pick up the event map and visit with Al the Bear. This loveable, huggable bear will be available for photos from 10:00 am to noon. Then hop on the cool and comfortable event shuttle to travel throughout the downtown area, visiting boutique stores, specialty shops and downtown eateries for special offers, discounts, and activities (some have a nominal fee) including decorating a chocolate bear at Cerreta Candy Company and Arizona Search Dogs demonstrations at Bears & More. New this year, all shuttle riders will receive a free taffy pulling kit courtesy of Cerreta Candy Company.

An important part of the event is the charity drive to benefit the Trauma Teddy Program. Bears & More, located at 7146 N 58th Drive, will be selling safety-approved teddy bears for \$10. The bears will be donated directly to the Glendale Fire Dept, Glendale Police Dept, local emergency rooms and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. These organizations give the bears to children who are experiencing traumatic situations. The cuddly bears help comfort the child and assists the first responders in providing needed assistance and treatment to the child. More than 10,000 bears have been provided to the Trauma Teddy Program since the beginning of Teddy Bear Day.



Report from the Board of Trustees

Welcome back to Fall and what I hope will be a beautiful September.

As you may be aware, the trustees are responsible for the oversight and care of the church property, buildings, and equipment to further the mission of the church. In our meetings, we begin and end with prayer, express our concerns, joys, and observations to God and support each other in the process of caring for the mission and vision of the church. The Trustees generally meet on the first Monday of the month. We are considering moving that meeting time to coincide with Trustee Work Days with a final decision to be made in September.

For the month of August, we updated the church about the ongoing A/C repairs as well as the repairs that are in progress with the Solar Power system. We were notified of some issues with the church van, and have put a plan in place for the repairing of the van.

We discussed the gating around the church and additional gates that need to be put into place to ensure the safety of our office volunteers and of course Rebecca, the manager. We are

First Saturday Workday To-Do List

- Wall Washing
- Window Washing (all buildings, including the office)
- Paint Touch-up
- Classroom Inspection
- Wash Air Return Vents in School and Fellowship Hall
- Change Air Handler Filters in Sanctuary
- Move Tables and Chairs for Carpet Cleaning
- Polish Altar Brass
- Vacuum the Pews (NEED CANISTER VACUUMS)
- Landscape Check / Clean-up

now awaiting estimates for the gates before we can move forward. Those estimates will be reviewed in September.

We also discussed the former playground. The trustees have been asked to establish proposals for the playground that include costs so a clear decision can be made.

In the meantime, we are reinstating Trustee Work Days. These will be Saturday workdays that allow us to do the necessary maintenance around the church. Our first work day will be Saturday, September 11. See the inset

above for a list of jobs for this first work day of the season.

We hope to have these workdays regularly to get on top of the many things that are needed to maintain our beautiful sanctuary.

Please join us for our workdays and consider joining the opening and closing teams.

God bless you and keep you.

–Your Trustees

Help!

Christine Jones here from the A/V team. Every week we work hard to live stream, run the sound board, operate the camera, and operate the PowerPoint presentation. The team is very small and if someone is not able to attend, someone else has to do two jobs. This is not a great way for a team to work. Without breaks, eventually someone is going to burn out. **We need help!**


We are happy to train you in a job you are interested in and can create a schedule so that you only work **one Sunday a month.**

As Christine (that’s me) is working towards becoming a local pastor, someone will need to be able to take her place on the live stream. We are actively working towards making it an easier process, but we still need someone to step forward. In fact, we have a need for ALL 4 positions. When the second service reopens, there should be a new team to handle those times.

Want to do something different? Have input and ideas? We are waiting to hear from you.

Please prayerfully consider whether you can give a little of your time to the church and help share the message of God. Thank you!





Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party – t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ o o _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ o _ _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ o _ _ (v. 7)

bask – b = _ _ _ (v. 9)


keeps – p = o _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define – ee = _ o _ _ _ (v. 9)

shift – t = _ _ _ _ o (v. 11)

sneaky – y = _ _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ o _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

Six Month Report from the Finance Subcommittee

This month I thought I would do something different for my report. Even though it will be September before you read this, I am going to share the results for the first half of 2021, i.e., from January 1 through June 30. Each consecutive month in my previous reports you can see one month is up and another is down; likewise expenses are up and down as well. And I usually have some dire concerns about future expenses (e.g., the electric bill). This may be a case of being unable to see the forest because of all of the trees I point out. So this month, I will take a look at the bigger picture, at the whole forest. So let's get started.

The simplest place to start is with our beginning and ending bank balances. On January 1 our balance was \$21,906. Our balance on June 30 was \$15,418, a drop of \$6,488, or about \$1,000 a month. So the bottom line was we spent a bit more than we took in, but it was really a pretty good half a year. Income during those six months was \$132,373 which was 87.6% of what we budgeted. Our pledgers are running pretty close to 100%, so the short fall occurred mostly with the non-pledge giving. However, given the trials of getting in-person worship going again, I don't see this shortfall as unexpected.

Expenses were also less than the amount we budgeted. Our expenses totaled \$138,862 or about 84.9% of what we budgeted. While we can pat our backs for holding down expenses, the biggest shortfall was in apportionments where we made only half of our payments to the Desert Southwest Conference. That is not something to celebrate! Still, taking a small peek ahead, we have made apportionment payments in both July and August, including an extra payment in August. So at the time I'm writing this, we are down only two payments. I am confident by the end of the year, apportionments will be paid 100%.

Where we can celebrate is holding down our electric bill while our solar array is being repaired. The council agreed to run only one chiller (and cool either the sanctuary or the fellowship hall, but not both—except for the week of VBS) until the solar array is back on line—perhaps even by the time you are reading this. Once we can cool both, we hope to get the fellowship time in the fellowship hall up and running again.

As for the restricted funds, for the first six months we had income of \$22,817 and expenses of only \$18,837. The big hitters for the restricted funds are the Riner Fund and Capital Improvements.

Next month I will return to my usual monthly recap.

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



Report from Mission u

I have been attending Mission u every year since I won a scholarship from the West District UMW. That was a few years ago now, and every year I encourage others to apply for the scholarship. In 2019, they sent two winners for each scholarship! It is a great opportunity to learn more.

This year, Mission u was online. Because it was online, I was able to attend ALL THREE of the classes offered instead of just the one I can usually attend. For the months of July and August, I attended *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* and *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom*. These were powerful studies on sharing the love of God with all of our neighbors while actively pursuing justice in our communities. This tied in very well with the UMW as a mission arm.

One of the things that bring me closer to God is spending time with my sisters in Christ. The UMW has given me the opportunity to learn and grow in my understanding of mission in action and active love of my neighbors.

I encourage you to get more involved with the women at church. Joining the UMW is a great way to get connected and to be an active part of the activities that happen around the church. Join in the fun!

Worried that you won't know anyone? No problem. You can sit with me anytime!

May God bless you and may your joy spread to those around you.

Christine Jones

If you would like to submit an article for the weekly e-news or the monthly newsletter, the deadlines are:

E-news: Tuesdays by 3:00 pm

Circuit Rider: Second Friday of each month by 5:00 pm

You may send items/articles to rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com. Thank you! If you aren't getting our newsletters, and would like to, please contact Rebecca at the email address above.

Veterans Day Photo Display for Altar

Debbie Sneddon is looking for photos of service members, past or present, for a Veterans Day display on the altar. Please bring or e-mail images to the church office. If you need Debbie to pick up or return a photo, she is willing to do that. Thank you!



Thank you from the Brad Riner Assistance Office

Thank you so much for bringing in the plastic grocery bags I asked for last month. We go through a great many of them, so please continue to bring your extra bags from the grocery store, we can always use them. I have another request this month! We need canned pasta of any kind—ravioli, spaghetti, etc. If they have pull-tops, so much the better! If you can donate any of these items, there is a box in the church narthex (lobby) where you can drop things in on your way into worship.

The Brad Riner Assistance Office will be closed on September 6 & 7 due to the Labor Day Holiday. Thank you all so much for your continued support!

—Elizabeth Leggett, Director of Outreach



Deadline for the next issue is Sept 13. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 5:00 pm.
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