

Circuit Rider

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



Faithful Choir Members and others,

I may be overly optimistic but I'm scheduling our first "Return from COVID" rehearsal for Wednesday, October 13 at 7:00 pm.

Since March of 2020, a Sunday has not gone by that I didn't think about the contribution to the life and beauty of worship at First Glendale made by the Chancel Choir. I also thought about on how much loss I felt because of the absence of the fellowship, mutual support and the love we shared.

I have heard from a couple of former choir members who may not be returning to us because they

moved on to another church during the hiatus or don't feel up to singing anymore. They will be missed. Our ranks were slim before the pandemic, so every member lost makes a big difference. Pastor Jelinek has repeatedly made mention of the future hopes and plans for our church. He brings new life to our congregation with his enthusiasm.

I hope that all the former choir members will consider returning to join in this post-pandemic revival. Everyone's support is crucial. For people that were not choir members before, consider sharing your talent with others now. Whether you can commit to attend weekly or less regular, you are still important, and we need you. I can't imagine what our church life would be like without special Sunday music or a special seasonal program at Christmas time or other times of the year. Hymn singing is fine but a music-rich worship service

with special music is better. A viable music program exemplifies a healthy, living and growing church.

My plea is that everyone in the congregation will, at first, pray for the church music program as well as other church programs. Second, consider joining our music program and encourage others.

As we move forward, consider that some people may have gotten out of the habit of Sunday church going. Suggest First United Methodist to people who are looking for a new church home. If they can sing, that's great!

If you want to take up this challenge, I look forward to seeing you. Masks will be required at the first rehearsal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me either on Sunday at church or by phone (602) 390-4624.

—Larry Del Rae, Director of Music



First United Methodist Church

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www.glendalefirstumc.com

Church Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Rev. A. Tom Jelinek, Pastor



Worship Schedule for October

October 3: **19th Sunday After Pentecost/
World Communion Sunday**
Message/Scripture TBD

October 10: **Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**
Better Together...
Read: James 5:13-20

October 17: **Children's Sabbath**
What Matters Most...
Read: Hebrews 6:13-20

October 24: **Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost**
The First Thing...
Read: Ephesians 2:11-22

October 31: **Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**
Do It Anyway!
Read: Mark 12:28-34

Several weeks ago, our nation celebrated the 20th anniversary of the catastrophic events of September 11, 2001. I'm sure we all remember where we were when we first heard the news, or saw the images of the twin towers falling, the smoke rising from the Pentagon, or the rescue workers combing through the debris in Pennsylvania. Somehow, we felt deep shock, sorrow, fear, vulnerability, and anger, all within a short time.

For a while, we weren't sure what would happen next. Gradually, life began to resume. Airports and airlines reopened, with new security measures in place (practices that continue, with some modifications, to this day).

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Families of those who perished in the attacks mourned, and after the debris was cleared, memorials and monuments were created. We'll never forget those who lost their lives that day, many committing acts of incredible heroism, and we may never feel quite as secure or unconcerned as we did before September 11th. But we've picked up and moved forward anyway, continuing our day-to-day lives, if with a little more caution and awareness.

And for the last 18 months, we have also been living in unanticipated and in many ways unprecedented territory. The COVID-19 pandemic forced many of us and our families to put many aspects of our lives on hold, or at least to live, work, and relate to others in very different ways. For over a year, many of us and our families sheltered in isolation to varying degrees, taking the recommended precautions. And just when it seemed like the cloud was finally lifting, and pre-COVID activities were beginning to resume, the Delta Variant arose. And while this surge may not have been as restrictive as the ones before, as many of us are now vaccinated, I'm sure for many of us the last several months have been more than

frustrating, because it feels like there's no end in sight.

I certainly don't blame anyone for feeling that way! However, as God's people, I'd like to propose that we begin to look at this point in the ongoing pandemic era in a slightly different way. Rather than seeing our situation as one in which we must postpone or avoid all non-essential activity for now, and wait until an ideal time in the future when COVID has been vanquished to resume most aspects of our life as church family, I suggest that we begin to consider how we can live with COVID, to move forward anyway.

I'm not in any way suggesting that we throw away our masks, forget about vaccines, and resume life without precautions. In fact, I'm advocating for the opposite. Our starting point must always be doing whatever we can to keep ourselves and others COVID free – getting vaccinated if we haven't already, and getting the booster when it becomes available; wearing masks when we're in an indoor gathering, at the very least; maintaining social distancing, especially with those who haven't been vaccinated; and continuing to sanitize areas used by multiple persons, and wash our hands regularly.

Moving Forward Anyway

By Pastor Tom

But if we are doing everything we can to prevent the spread of the COVID virus, I believe we can and should move forward in new ways, as we can, safely, to connect with our community, welcome new friends, and share God's love in serving others. I believe that even as the pandemic continues, there are many ways to get started on the projects and initiatives that are important to our congregation, and that if we do so, we'll be that much further ahead when we can resume activities without restrictions.

I absolutely believe that the day is coming when COVID will be behind us, and when that happens, there will be celebrations indeed. In the meantime, let's move forward anyway. doing what we can while observing current restrictions, to revitalize our congregation, and find new ways to welcome those who are new to the church, and who will, in time, sustain and grow our church family in the future.

With God's Blessings,

Tom Jelinek, Pastor

Report from the Board of Trustees

The first thing I want to do is thank all those church members who came out Saturday, Sept. 11 for the work day. We accomplished a lot. All of the bubbler tubes in the raised bed that had been vandalized were replaced. The candlesticks in the sanctuary were cleaned and polished. The grates over the window wells were lifted off and all the trash was removed. Office building windows were washed on the inside. We inspected the roof of the office building near the southwest drain and did not find any issues. An inspection was then performed inside. We might have found a bad joint in the pipe. During monsoon season we get water on the carpet. A general cleanup of the campus was done. We will have more work days in the future; the next one is October 16.

The trustees are getting bids for more fencing. One bid is for the office building entrance area and the other is for the south side of the office building. We continue to have vandalism problems and with fall coming on we will have more sleepers.

The Solar Covered Parking Co has started replacing the inverters for the solar system. The solar

system has been out of service for a number of months. This causes operating problems and issues to the church budget.

Because of the loss of the solar system the trustees were requested to run the chillers as little as possible to save on electrical usage. This has been a challenge. To achieve this we have run only one air handler in the sanctuary during the week and then turn the other two on late Thursday afternoon. We only run both chillers when the Fellowship Hall is needed, such as for funeral receptions. It is difficult to maintain a comfortable indoor climate when the chiller usage is restricted.

The trustees are getting bids to repair the 59th Avenue sign. In conjunction with this, we have been troubleshooting a power cable problem, powering the sign.

If you see something that is in need of repair, please report it to Frank Warriner, 623-377-2443 or frankwarriner@yahoo.com and/or Jeremiah Staats, 623-204-3650 or jeremiahstaats@gmail.com

Holiday Food Boxes for Riner Office Clients

Thanksgiving: The Riner Office will once again provide Thanksgiving meals to 30 families. We will include a Turkey Breast, stuffing, packaged gravy, canned yams, green beans, corn, instant potatoes, pie filling and pie crust, dinner rolls, and a box of Jell-O.

Thanksgiving food boxes will be handed out on November 22-23.

Christmas: The Christmas meal will be much like the Thanksgiving dinner except that we will provide additional week's worth of food with the expectation that children will be home from school and additional meals will be needed.

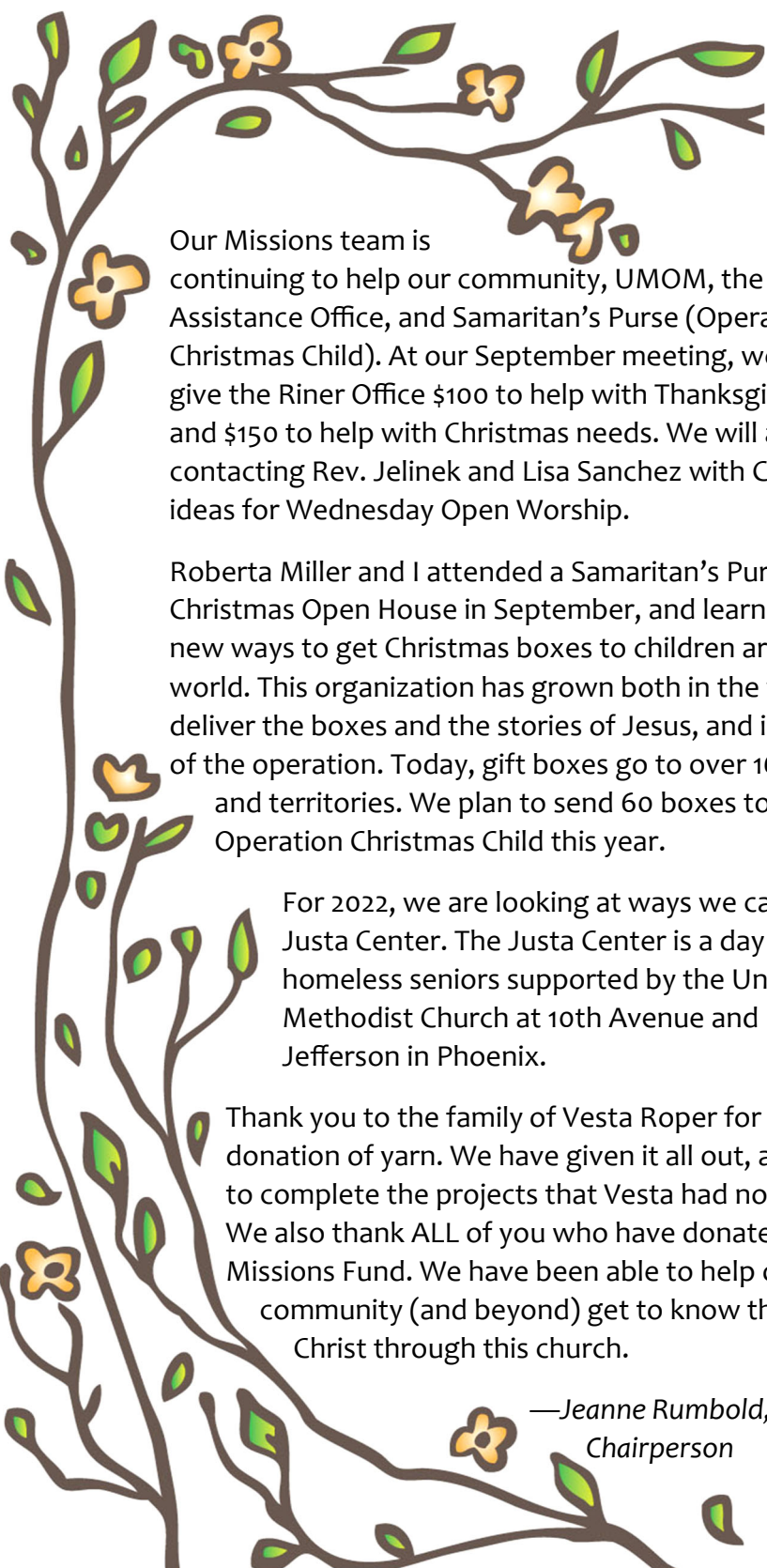
We will include all the items from Thanksgiving, as well as a canned ham, rice, several varieties of soup, canned vegetables, macaroni & cheese, dry spaghetti, pasta sauce, breakfast cereal, pancake mix, syrup, oatmeal, peanut butter and jelly, crackers, and a brownie mix.

Watch for information about our holiday food drive, coming soon! Thank you very much for your continued support.

—Elizabeth Leggett
Director of
Outreach



Missions Team Report



Our Missions team is continuing to help our community, UMOM, the Brad Riner Assistance Office, and Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child). At our September meeting, we voted to give the Riner Office \$100 to help with Thanksgiving boxes, and \$150 to help with Christmas needs. We will also be contacting Rev. Jelinek and Lisa Sanchez with Christmas ideas for Wednesday Open Worship.

Roberta Miller and I attended a Samaritan's Purse Christmas Open House in September, and learned of some new ways to get Christmas boxes to children around the world. This organization has grown both in the ways they deliver the boxes and the stories of Jesus, and in the scope of the operation. Today, gift boxes go to over 160 nations and territories. We plan to send 60 boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year.

For 2022, we are looking at ways we can help the Justa Center. The Justa Center is a day shelter for homeless seniors supported by the United Methodist Church at 10th Avenue and Jefferson in Phoenix.

Thank you to the family of Vesta Roper for a large donation of yarn. We have given it all out, and we plan to complete the projects that Vesta had not finished. We also thank ALL of you who have donated to the Missions Fund. We have been able to help our community (and beyond) get to know the love of Christ through this church.

—Jeanne Rumbold,
Chairperson

Ushering

Every in-person worship service we have at our church needs one or two ushers. I have enjoyed many years of ushering at church and other services, and but now I need to step down. My last Sunday will be October 31.

We will absolutely need some people to volunteer for this job. Some of the things you will do are:

1. Open the sanctuary doors .
2. Turn on all the lights.
3. Fill the altar candles with oil, if needed.
4. Pick up walkers once their owners have been seated, and return them after service.
5. Count heads: how many people are in attendance?
6. Open doors after service.
7. There are other duties at certain times: assisting with communion once a month, and passing the offering plates once we return to a regular offering time.

Ushering is a great way to meet many people, and a good way to fulfill the service requirement of church membership. Thank you.

—Kathy Epp

September Report from the Finance Subcommittee

In August, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$50,442.25 (up about \$6,500 from our July donations of \$43,928.83) to support the operation and programs of our church. This total includes money received for the General (Operating) Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Capital Improvements, Wednesday Lunches, Brick-by-Brick, Missions 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 \$31,520.25 and expenses of \$30,806.07. Our income exceeded our expenses by about \$700 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly increased to \$24,716.86.

Typically, during the summer donations dropped off a bit. Our pledgers dropped to 94% and the unpledged giving dropped to only 29%. But I'm happy to report that we received a special donation to the General Fund of over \$10,000.

Because of the special donation we were able to make a second apportionment payment in August, thereby making up for a payment missed earlier in the year. Also during the summer our utility bills and other maintenance expenses increase. All of our other expenses are at or below budget for the month. We are carefully watching our electric bill which reached \$2,745 for July (paid in August). This is offset partly by withholding the lease payment (\$2,400) for our non-functioning solar array. While both our chillers are functioning now, we are still keeping one idle while waiting on the solar array repairs—still no word from the solar company.

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

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!

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 Monday, October 11. 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 October, please pray for:

- **Trinity UMC, Phoenix**
- **Trinity UMC, Yuma**
- **Sedona UMC**





Some of the “older” UMW members may recall the Deborah Circle. This group of ladies were quilters. People would pay them to complete their hand stitching of quilts that were machine-sewn and then given to friends or family. Mae Brewster’s home (which is now The Spicery) was a busy place for the circle to do their work. Later, the group met in Fellowship Hall.

Some years ago, a small group of UMW members decided to revive the idea of a crafting circle and began meeting in Fellowship Hall on Friday mornings to sew, knit, crochet and visit together. Most of our projects are personal, but some make items to donate to shelters and other charitable groups.

We would like to invite others to join us in Room 103 (we are in the Education building for now, and we will move to Fellowship Hall when the weather cools down) on Friday mornings from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon. Bring your item, materials you need, ideas for new projects, and ways we can help each other beyond our present projects.

Sharing thoughts is a BIG part of our time together. Completing a project each week is not our priority. We currently have about six or seven people in the group, but “the more, the merrier.” Now and then we also have a “yummy for the tummy,” too.

UMW members who are in the Craft Group now are: Linda Biggar, Kathy Epp, Nancy Hailey, Helen & Pam Jackson, Karen Kuester, and Jeanne Rumbold. You can ask any of us if you have questions about the group, or just come join us on Friday mornings!

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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