

Circuit Rider

November

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale • Nov 2021

All-Church Homecoming

Join with old friends and make new friends as we gather to give thanks for all our blessings! We will worship, enjoy special music, then share in a wonderful Thanksgiving meal.

Our Homecoming Sunday Schedule:

- 9:00 am Worship Service
- 10:15 am Hymn Sing and/or Special Music
- 11:15 am Thanksgiving Dinner in Fellowship Hall



Reservations will be needed, so we know how many to plan for, and there will be lots of opportunities to sign up. There will be a sign up table on Sundays, or you can contact Rebecca in the church office to RSVP. Be sure to join us for Homecoming Sunday, November 21!



Our fall stewardship campaign has begun, with a theme of **“Honoring Our Commitment to God.”**

We hope you will be inspired to make a commitment to use your gifts and talents in 2022 to enable our church to continue the journey God has charted for us. Fall is the harvest season, so it is appropriate for us to count our blessings and to make plans to dedicate the first fruits of our labor to the work of God in this community. Thank you!

—The Stewardship Team



First United Methodist Church

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Phone: 623.939.1409 • Fax: 623.236.9284

www.glendalefirstumc.com

Church Office Hours:

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

Rev. A. Tom Jelinek, Pastor

A Message from the Church Council

Grace and peace to you, dear friends! Our congregation has done well this past year, in spite of the challenges of the Covid-19 global pandemic. The primary goal was to continue as many activities as possible and identify the best time and way to safely start back to in-person worship and fellowship.

Even while most churches and businesses were shut down, the Brad Riner Assistance Office was fully open to provide our commu-

nity including our neighbors, homeless and the people who were in need. Our WOW program offered a to-go meal, without the worship and fellowship component. These programs help with meals, sack lunches, food boxes, clothes, shoes, supplies, and utility bills. We also provide information about other places that help with shelter, jobs, and medical care. And we continued to livestream and post the Sunday services on our church's YouTube channel.

Pastor Jelinek and the Church Council worked with the CDC guidelines and DSW Conference to determine the safest way to restart in-person worship. Palm Sunday and Easter were our first Sundays back. What a joyous time to get back together and worship together!

Adventure Island was our Vacation Bible School program in July and it provided a fun-filled week of activities, Bible study, dinners, and learning for our children, youth and adults. Pastor Jelinek and youth went to summer camp at Mingus Mountain and had great times.

Now, we have Sunday morning services, Sunday School, fellowship time in the courtyard, adult Bible studies, Trustee work days for repairs and clean up, and group meetings at church. First United Methodist is now preparing for the Advent season.

Current challenges for increasing our membership include our aging congregation, and reaching out to people in our community. Yet, we have an amazing church family full of hardworking, kind, loving and talented members. It is a delight to work with you!

God bless you!

—Ann Nimlos
Church Council Chairperson



November 7: 24th Sunday After Pentecost; All Saints' Sunday

Message: "Expecting Blessings"

Read: Mark 10:46-52

November 14: 25th Sunday After Pentecost

Message: "What We Can"

Read: Mark 12:38-44

November 21: Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday

Message: "The Alpha and Omega"

Read: Revelation 1:4b-8

November 28: 1st Sunday of Advent

Message: "The Promise"

Read: Jeremiah 33:14-16

This year has truly flown by. It seems like just a week or two ago that families were getting ready for school to start, and we were looking at the end of the summer. And here we are, in November, with Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas just around the corner.

As we anticipate these occasions, it's a good time to pause for a moment, and give thanks. Last fall, the pandemic was spiking, and it was not possible to have in-person worship and other traditional events that have long been a part of the life of our church family. However, this year, with cases of COVID declining, it's wonderful to be planning for holiday services and activities that will be open to all who wish to attend.

I've had many inquiries about our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, traditionally held on the Sunday before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. I believe we will be able to gather for this occasion once again this year. It may be somewhat different than in years past, with the pandemic still present, but I believe it will be possible to gather for a Thanksgiving meal together. Please put the Thanksgiving Dinner on your calendar for Sunday November 21.

We are planning for a wonderful season of Advent and Christmas worship services, beginning with Hanging of the Greens on November 27. We're also looking for-

ward to our sanctuary being open on weekend evenings in December, and to a joyous Young People's Christmas Program, and meaningful Christmas Eve Worship.

After a few events with other groups this fall, our Youth Group will gather for its first official meeting on November 7. This will be a great occasion for folks we haven't seen in a long time, and for youth who have never been to a youth group meeting, to join us and help build an awesome youth fellowship.

During the coming month, I hope you'll join me in giving prayerful consideration to how we can do our part in supporting our church home with our tithes, gifts, and offerings in the coming year. We all know that we have faced, and will face, some special challenges in the months and years ahead. And as we are now poised to come out of the pandemic, and begin in earnest our efforts to reach out to our community in new ways and grow our church family, it is more essential than ever that we have the resources to sustain and grow our current ministries, and begin new ones.

And finally, in recent months, we have noted the passing of many beloved members of our congregation. I hope you will join me next Sunday, November 7, as we remember the saints

A Season of Thanksgiving

By Pastor Tom Jelinek



who have gone to be with God in the last year, in our All Saints Day Worship Service. If you have a family member who has passed in the last year, and you would like them to be acknowledged in worship on the 7th, please call or leave a message at the church office, and if possible, please email or drop off a picture that we can show on the screens as their name is read.

May we pause to give thanks. May we anticipate joyous occasions ahead. And may we go forth as God's people, sharing the good news of God's grace and hope with a waiting world.

In Christ's Service,

Tom Jelinek

Update from the Finance Committee

In the month of September, members and friends of FUMC generously donated \$35,533.27. This includes not only donations to the general fund but also includes donations to the Capital Fund, Memorial Fund, Riner Fund, Wednesday Lunches, Missions Fund, UMCOR, and the Brick by Brick Fund. Focusing on the general fund, donations were \$33,823.27 and expenses were \$25,718.63. Our income exceed expenses by about \$8,000 and our checking account increased to \$32,819.58.

We received above-budget giving in both pledged giving (108%) and non-pledged giving (115%). Thank you for your generosity! We also received a donation of stock which we sold and deposited half in our operating account and half in the Brick by Brick Fund.

The Brick by Brick Fund was created at least ten years ago to address initially the deteriorating brick walls of the sanctuary (the west wall is the one with the most damage). We have expanded the scope of the effort to address other structural issues with the sanctuary. The amount of money currently in this account is \$142,018.42. There is a committee led by Ann Nimlos which is working on two fronts: seeking grant funds and working with various building consultants to determine our specific needs. See page 5 (opposite) for more information.

Finally, at our church conference on October 18, 2021, we presented an overview of the proposed budget for 2022. This is the operating fund budget:

Operating Budget Category	2021	2022	Change
Worship and Pastor	121,816	122,316	500
Apportionments and Outreach	48,947	43,692	(5,255)
Building and Grounds	72,950	81,820	8,870
Administration	57,770	57,430	(340)
Christian Education/VBS	860	860	0
Evangelical and Other Programs	12,899	11,095	(1,804)
Insurance	14,600	14,600	0
TOTAL	329,842	331,813	1,971

The Desert Southwest Conference reduced our apportionments for 2022, and we are still awaiting repairs to the solar array. These two items are the cause of the largest year-to-year changes; other categories are holding close to the same. Simple division shows that our monthly expenses will average \$27,651 in 2022.

This is your church, and if you have any questions about the church's finances please feel free to ask. You will get your answers.

May God watch over His church.

—David Mosley, Chairman of the Finance Committee

From the Brick by Brick Subcommittee

The Brick by Brick subcommittee was formed in March of this year to study and develop a plan for the needed repairs and structural support that our beloved historic sanctuary and administration buildings need. We are working with Robert Graham from Motley Design Group. He is the architect that worked with the church in 2007-2008 to apply for the state Heritage Fund Grant. The money we were awarded at that time was taken back by the Arizona Legislature during the 2008 recession. At that time, the “Brick by Brick Fund” was set up to receive donations for this project and money has been donated over the years, in offerings, memorials, and the “Mile of Quarters” campaign. To evaluate the current needs, Robert Graham completed a review of the foundation issues, cracks in walls, brick movement



separation, and erosion, as well as evaluating priority areas to be stabilized and restored. He recommended an electrical engineering inspection and a structural engineer inspection which are now completed. We are also working on writing a new grant request to the Heritage Fund. We have enough money to start on some of the needed repairs, which are likely to begin in 2022. The committee includes Rev Tom Jelinek, Rev Tom Wick, Rosie Miller, Frank Warriner (worked with each inspection), Ted Turner, Erma Garling, Ken Hack, and Ann Nimlos. Thank you to all who have been contributing to the Brick by Brick fund, it will all be put to excellent use.

From the Riner Office

Church Conference is a wonderful time of year to reflect on what we have accomplished in the last 12 months. While compiling statistics is not my favorite part of the job, seeing how many people we have helped is very rewarding. The Riner volunteers have made and served 3,280 sack lunches in the past 12 months. They have given out 2,552 emergency food bags to homeless individuals and 209 emergency food boxes to struggling families. We have provided utility assistance to a total of 243 households since Oct. 2020. None of this would be possible without the support of the members of this church. Together we are living our faith by actively practicing what we learned in Mathew 25:35:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Before we know it, the holidays will be upon us. While I enjoy the change in season and a chill in the air, Riner clients face additional challenges in the winter. As we head into the holiday season, let us be grateful for all our blessings, and in the spirit of giving, I once again come to you, asking for help. If you have any warm clothes that you no longer need please bring them to church so that the Riner Office can continue to assist those in need. This time of year we need warm clothing, socks, long sleeve shirts, pants, sweat shirts, jackets, and blankets.

As always, I appreciate all that that you do to support the Riner Office.

—Elizabeth Leggett



In everything
give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

Hanging of the Greens refers to the practice of adding evergreen plants (live or artificial) to a congregation's worship space.

Different Christian communities "hang the greens" at different times. The oldest historic practice, begun in Europe, is to hang the greens after the conclusion of worship on the fourth Sunday of Advent as a means to prepare for Christmas Eve and Christmas Season. Live greens are typically used when hung just prior to Christmas since they may easily last throughout the final days of Advent and the 13 days of Christmas Season (sundown December 24 through sundown January 6) with proper care. When used at Christmas, evergreens are often understood as a symbol of the eternal coming to dwell among us as Word made flesh. They may also be described as a sign of life and growth overcoming and flourishing in the midst of the dead of winter, and so of the resurrection of Christ. Over time, other attributes were given to specific evergreens, as we hear in the carol, *The Holly and the Ivy*.

Other congregations may hang the greens closer to or even just before the beginning of Advent for use throughout Advent and Christmas Season. When hung for Advent, the symbolism of



evergreens points to the unending life of the age to come when Christ returns, the dead are raised, and the righteous enter life in the new creation.

Some congregations "hang the greens" as a work project and fellowship event. Others make it into a more formal service. We are going to do both!

On Saturday, November 27, our church will begin to wear its Christmas finery. We will be decorating in the morning beginning at 9:00 am, and we welcome everyone's help with this work project. Later in the evening, the youth will lead a formal worship service.

The Christmas tree will stand in the sanctuary; its lights shining for us. We will get ready for the birth of the Christ child by

preparing our sanctuary, and we will ready ourselves and the sanctuary of our own hearts. As we decorate our church, not only will we explain the history of the symbols of these special seasons, but we will rededicate these symbols – and ourselves – to the service of God.

The Hanging of the Greens worship service will begin at 6:00 pm in our sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact the church office, 623-939-1409 or rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com.



Advent Study “Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience”

In John Wesley’s famous sermon, “*The Almost Christian*,” he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. In “*Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*,” author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in exploring how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent and connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace.

Rev. Tom Wick will lead this 4-week DVD study beginning Sunday, November 28 at 10:15 am in the Fireside area of Fellowship Hall. We will also offer sessions during the week, led by Rev. Tom Jelinek. Contact Rev. Jelinek, Rev. Wick, or Rebecca in the church office for more information.



I wanted to spend a little time and talk about the church calendar. The calendar is compiled and published every month for the upcoming month. It tells you what is happening on a given day, the time of the activity and the building and room the activity is being held.

As in all organizations, we have many moving parts and the calendar is what keeps us from running into each other. In the trustee organization we reference the calendar regularly. Sometimes we have to move tables and chairs for an event. The cleaning crew has a schedule they use as to which parts of the campus they are cleaning on a given day. The trustees try not to perform maintenance in an area being used on a given day. If we are going to have an outage for water or electrical, we will look at the impact on activities on that day by referencing the printed calendar.



The Office Manager, Rebecca, is the gate keeper for the calendar. She is the only person who can add or remove an item. The deadline for getting on the calendar is the second Friday of the month. For example, the 12th of November is the deadline to get an event on the December calendar. Remember the early bird gets the worm. If you have something that comes up unexpectedly, we will try our best to work with you.

The trustees adhere to the calendar schedule. If conflicts or problems arise it is the Trustee Chair who will address the situation and take action to resolve. The calendar is published every month, along with the Circuit Rider.

The Trustees will have another work day on November 20 at 8:00 am. We need as many volunteers as we can get! If you can help, please send an email to frankwarriner@yahoo.com. This helps us to plan the work.

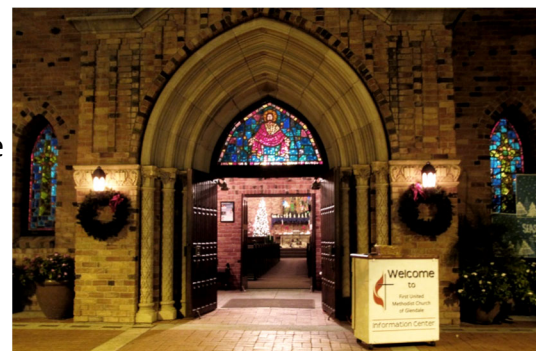
—Frank Warriner, Trustee Chair
623-377-2443

Open House Weekends December 3-18, 2021

Christmas still seems in the distance, but some of us are already planning our decorations and holiday schedule. It is a joy to bring the Christmas spirit into our homes and it is an even greater joy to share the Christmas spirit with the whole community. Our beautiful sanctuary will be open to visitors on Friday and Saturday nights December 3 – 18 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Our Music Director, Larry Del Rae, is planning musical events and volunteers will be on hand to give information and welcome visitors.

Our neighbors in the historic district to the north of us will be presenting *Christmas in Catlin Court*, a holiday event featuring lights, music, crafts and activities. They have graciously installed lights on the trees on 58th Drive in front of our church. The City of Glendale is featuring lighted trees in Murphy Park.

Plan now to join us for these special nights. Since the City is not holding a festival, the traffic and parking should be much easier. If you are willing to help welcome visitors, please contact Rebecca Curless in the church office, 623-939-1409 (menu option 2) or Genny Riner at church or during the week, 928-451-1545.



Plan to join us Friday and Saturday nights, 6–8 pm from December 3-18. We will be open to the public, with special holiday music events.

Deadline for the December Issue is November 15. 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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