

# Circuit Rider

A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale · February 2022



## ***Volunteers Needed for Wednesday Open Worship***

Rev. Jelinek spoke this Sunday about the individual gifts and talents which enable each of us to be a special part of the Body of Christ. I encourage you to think about your special talents and how they can benefit your community and your church.

Our church has a heart for the homeless and on Monday and Tuesday the Riner Office provides sack lunches, and on Wednesday we provide a hot lunch for community members along with music and prayer, which we provide in the courtyard.

Currently we have volunteers to assist with this lunch, but we have only two people who “cook,” i.e., actually take responsibility for the preparation of this meal for 50-60 people each week. If you have talents

that would lend to this outreach program, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to see what goes on at this lunch all are welcome to join us each Wednesday at noon. If you are interested in helping, think about the specific needs required for each lunch. The person in charge needs to be able to:

1. Plan a complete meal for 50-60 people, keeping in mind the needs of the clients.
2. Make a list of all needed ingredients needed for the meal. Look to see what ingredients are already in the kitchen and shop for the rest.
3. Prep as needed for the meal.

4. Anticipate cooking and prep times, making sure all work can be complete and plated by 12:15 pm.
5. Supervise and delegate jobs to the volunteers.
6. Follow food safety rules/ be able to get a food handlers card.
7. Leave the kitchen cleaner than you found it.

This may seem like a daunting list, but we are hoping to have a rotating schedule, so people only need to cook once per month.

Please contact Elizabeth Leggett, [rinerassistance@gmail.com](mailto:rinerassistance@gmail.com), for more information. Thank you!



## **First United Methodist Church**

7102 N. 58th Drive · Glendale, AZ 85301

Phone: 623.939.1409 · Fax: 623.236.9284

[www.glendalefirstumc.com](http://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 Brick by Brick Committee***

What an amazing generous congregation we have! In December the Brick by Brick committee received many donations to help with the preservation and stabilization of our church. David wrote, *“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.”* (Psalm 18:2)

Our Church, like the fortresses of old, is a place we come to seek refuge, remember God’s forgiveness, and thank our Lord for all we have been given. It is a place we can seek God’s will for our lives, whether we are talking about what we will do 10 years from now or what we will do today or tomorrow. It is marvelous that our kind congregation in the 1920s had the foresight to build our beautiful church. Let us help restore and stabilize it for the generations to come.

—Ann Nimlos

# February

## Worship Schedule



### **February 6 — Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Read: Deuteronomy 10:17-22, Matthew 25:31-40

Sermon: *“The Holiness of Hospitality”*

### **February 13 — Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**

Read: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 6:17-26

Sermon: *“Moving In”*

### **February 20 — Seventh Sunday After Epiphany**

Read: Psalm 37:1-9, Luke 6:27-31

Sermon: *“What Goes Around”*

### **February 27— Transfiguration Sunday**

Read: Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: *“A Metamorphosis”*



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

**Christ Community UMC,  
Avondale**

(Rev. Antonieta Fernandes)

**City Square UMF, Phoenix**  
(Pastor Gina Pollard)

**Community Church of Buckeye**  
(Pastor Daisy Ho)

## ***God in the Midst of Grief***

The call came at around 12:30 am. I had spent most of the previous day at the care home where my father was living. He seemed uncomfortable when I arrived that morning, but had relaxed after receiving some medication, and was sleeping soundly when I left. The hospice nurses and attendants at the home had all said that dad had some time left, anywhere from several days to a week or more, so I went home to get some rest. But when the attendant called, it was with the news that dad had passed away a few minutes before. I called my stepmother, and was on my way back to the care home.

At first, I was numb, in shock. Then, a sense of relief followed, from knowing that my father, a person of great independence and self-reliance, was finally free from a body that could no longer function, and from the ongoing pain that was more and more present. Then, as I arrived at the home, saw my father's body, and began to work with the necessary processes that followed, a torrent of thoughts and emotions began. Conversations with family, friends, and many in our church family during the last week have helped immeasurably, and my family and I have felt the prayers

so many have lifted up in the last several months.

I'm also aware that many in our church family, and many in our extended families, have been on a similar journey in recent months. Many of us have lost family members or friends, resulting in feelings of deep grief, and a sense of loss, an empty place in our lives, formerly occupied by those we loved. I hope the following thoughts will be helpful, as we share this journey together.

As I'm sure many of us have experienced, no matter how much time we have to prepare, and no matter how much we have planned and rationalized how we will react when loss comes, it still takes us by surprise, and knocks us off our feet. The moment when we realize that we will not embrace, talk to, or share our love with someone we love again in this life is devastating. And for some time afterward, we may have times when we feel our deepest grief is over, then suddenly, a memory or an object will trigger another outpouring of sorrow. These



things are normal, and are a part of the natural process of grieving. We'll always miss those we loved, and wish they were here, but with time and God's healing mercy, the pain recedes, and we'll be able to share memories of those we've lost once again.

After hearing of dad's passing, I thought of all the things I had planned to share with him in the days that followed, and never did. I believe that those we love and have lost are safely in God's care, and that in the fullness of God's grace, they are aware of the things we may have wanted to tell them, or share with them. God knows, and, I believe, those we love know, that we did our

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## 2021 Financial Review

In December, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$76,826.63 (up a staggering \$43,000 from our November donations of \$33,373.97) to support the operation and programs of our church. This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Capital Improvements, Flower Fund, Wednesday Lunches, Brick-by-Brick, Centennial Fund, Missions, Staff Christmas Gifts and other designated funds as well as interest and increases to our TD Ameritrade investment account. Contributions to the restricted funds totaled \$29,856.91 (including a \$10,000 donation to the Brick-by-Brick fund). Focusing on the General Fund, we had income of \$46,762.60 and expenses of \$37,425.36. Our income exceeded our expenses by about \$9,300 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly increased to \$30,947.72.

There was a lot to cheer in our December numbers, and one of the most important was we paid 100% of apportionments to the Desert Southwest Conference. This was a \$47,000 expense for the year. Here is how the rest of 2021 turned out:

<b>Income (Gen Fund)</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Pledges	162,890	149,028
Unpledged	79,781	118,972
Loose Plate	2,869	2,000
Communion	275	1,000
Sunday School	279	700
Christmas	3,735	5,000
Easter	8,557	3,500
Thanksgiving	1,000	1,500
Donated Stock	43,114	25,000
Specials	15,698	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,397</b>	<b>306,700</b>

<b>Income (Restricted)</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Camp Scholarships	3,050
Flower Fund	1,370
Capital Fund	13,180
Memorial Fund	1,210
Riner Fund	27,004
Riner Grants	2,000
Education	2,103
WOW	1,090
Missions	1,850
Staff Gifts	1,920
Brick by Brick	15,432
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,384</b>

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## **Financial Review**

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### **TD Ameritrade**

Jan 1 Balance:	79,353
Securities Donated	93,723
Securities Sold	83,720
Funds Disbursed	-51,114
Income	266
Dec 31 Balance:	123,426

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Worship & Pastoring	115,447	121,816
Outreach	48,888	48,946
Christian Education	1,521	860
Fellowship	8,342	8,384
Other Programs	1,730	4,515
Buildings	61,792	72,950
Administration	54,860	57,770
Insurance	17,367	17,367
<b>Total</b>	<b>309,948</b>	<b>329,841</b>

### **General Fund**

Jan 1 Balance:	21,906
Income	318,397
Rent & Dividends	592
Expenses	-309,948
Dec 31 Balance:	30,947

Overall, the church is in very good financial condition thanks to everyone who donated to the church during 2021. We can pray that 2022 will turn out just as well. I didn't discuss the 2022 budget, but it is about the same in all categories. Some, like our apportionments, actually went down; others increased by small amounts or remained the same.

Looking ahead, we have some challenges in 2022. A part-time youth director, a functioning solar array, and starting the work to be funded by the Brick by Brick fund. Perhaps, we will even see the end of COVID and a real return to normal.

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

## **God in the Midst of Grief**

*(Continued from page 3)*

best, and if there were things that were left unshared, I believe those we love now know the desires of our hearts, and all is forgiven.

When we lose someone we love, and especially if we're involved in resolving their affairs, it's only natural to feel mentally and physically exhausted. God, and our loved ones, know that we're only human. When we feel inadequate for the task, we can always lean on God. The one who created us and loves us more than we can even imagine is always there, for comfort, consolation, and strength, when we feel we can't do it alone. And finally, I believe it's important to remember that those we loved, and loved us, wanted the best for us. Although we'll miss them, they would want us to go on. They would want us to build on what they shared with us, and live full, happy lives, enjoying life in this world. And I believe that in the fullness of God's time, we'll see those who have gone before us, and there'll be a joyous reunion with those we love.

I would be happy to have conversations, comparing experiences and struggles, with any in our church family who are experiencing grief. With the pandemic, and with the ongoing health challenges that many in our congregation have faced, many of us are in a season of loss. I give thanks that the God we worship is always with us, even as we "Walk through the valley of the shadow of death." God is and will be with us for comfort and strength, will be with us through our grief, and will lead us to brighter days ahead.

*Pastor Tom*

## **A Message from the Church Council**

Grace and Peace to you dear friends, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Incredibly, we have made it through another year of Covid-19, and we pray for our family and friends who have lost loved ones and we pray for all people, that everyone may be safe. We pray for the wisdom to continue to learn how best to stay safe and free of the virus. Yet even when there are increasing cases in hospitals, we hear that getting the vaccinations and booster shots has helped to save lives and has decreased the severity of the virus's effects in millions of people. The CDC has now recommended wearing the safest mask you can. We will have extra masks at church and if you need some, please help yourself.

A new year is a perfect time to look at the past year, and evaluate our priorities for this coming year. We can ask for God's guidance for this new year. Often if we take the time to read God's word in the Bible, think about our life and listen to the Holy Spirit's call, we can find new meaning, new callings and a way to spread God's love to others.

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22: 37-40*

*"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105*

*Jesus said "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" John 14:25*

May God bless you this new year with love, joy, peace and inspiration!

—Ann Nimlos

***Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist Polity)  
February 11 & 18, 2022***

***Willowbrook UMC (In-Person)  
19390 N 99th Ave, Sun City, AZ  
Rev. Gary Kennedy & Laurie Lineberry - Instructors***

Come join us in a **REQUIRED** class for those wanting to become a Certified Lay Speaker. This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church. It will be held at Willowbrook UMC and there is no limit to the class size. Currently, masks are recommended, and students will be asked to follow CDC Social Distancing (updates will follow).

The class is \$15. If you have to cancel or postpone you will get a credit for a future class in the West District. The book you need to purchase and **read completely** before class begins is – *Polity, Practice, and the Mission of The United Methodist Church* by Thomas E. Frank. It is available in print and Kindle ebook. You can find them at Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com .

**The classes will be held on Fridays February 11 & 18, 2022, 9:30 am-2:30 pm with a short break for lunch which Willowbrook will provide. The class will finish with Holy Communion and Graduation. (You will need to commit to both sessions.)**

To register go to <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>.

We look forward to seeing you at this class!

Blessings,  
Betty Stewart  
West District Director Lay Servant Ministries  
bettyboop491@cox.net, 480-658-7713

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***2022 Youth Winter Camp February 19-21, 2022***

Youth Winter Camp is a special time at Mingus Mountain Camp & Retreat Center. This year's theme, *Unfiltered*, will explore our identity, belonging, and purpose in God's Kingdom.

Bring your youth (6th – 12 grade) for a transformative experience led by the leadership at Mingus.

Winter Camp will be full of exciting activities, interactive worship, campfires with s'mores, and possibly snow sledding!

Come grow in your faith and create lasting friendships up on the mountain. For more information and to register, visit <https://mingusmountaincamp.org/winter-camp/>.

**Office Manager Position Available**

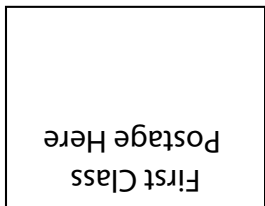
It is with mixed feelings that I announce that I have accepted an Office Manager position at my home church, Dove of the Desert UMC. I am saddened to leave First Glendale UMC after more than 16 years, but I am also very excited about this new opportunity. Because of this change, the church has an immediate opening for the Office Manager position. If you're interested in applying for the position, please send your resume to the SPRC Chair, Treasa Birchett, at [tbirchett54@gmail.com](mailto:tbirchett54@gmail.com).

Please be in prayer for First Glendale, and for me, as we navigate these staffing changes. Thank you to everyone who has helped me over the years—this church has been a such blessing to me and my family.

—Rebecca Curless

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**First United Methodist Church**  
7102 North 58th Drive  
Glendale, AZ 85301-2434



Deadline for the next issue is February 14. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm. email: [rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com](mailto:rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com) fax: 623-236.9284