

Circuit Rider

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

Happy New Year from the Brad Riner Assistance Office

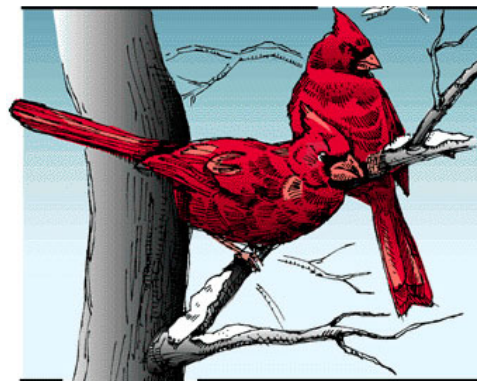
The Riner Assistance Office would like to thank everyone for their generous donations throughout the year and this holiday season. With your help, we were able to fill 95 backpacks for the homeless this Christmas. Each backpack contained an emergency blanket, fleece blanket, flashlight, hat, gloves, socks, underwear, t shirt, thermal shirt and a Christmas food bag with extra food and a few holiday treats.

Ann Nimlos put together more than 100 first aid kits with bandages, Tylenol, alcohol wipes, safety pins, antiseptic wipes, etc. Each backpack has a first aid kit and we have extras to hand out as needed in 2022. Ann is a very strong supporter of the Riner Office as was her husband.

Each backpack also contained a hygiene kit filled with body soap, shampoo, lotion, wipes, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste.

We are very grateful to Dove of the Desert United Methodist Church, whose congregation collected coats and donated them to our assistance office. Everyone who needed a coat was able to have one thanks to Dove of the Desert. Dove's Missions Team also donated 30 hygiene kits, which we used in the backpacks.

We handed out 50 backpacks on December 20-21. We will continue to give out backpacks to those in need throughout the winter. We also have extra



JANUARY

warm clothes and blankets to help meet the needs of the homeless.

The Riner Office also provided food for 15 families. In the Christmas food boxes we provided a turkey, food for a complete turkey dinner and a gift card to Food City. We also included enough food for a week, due to children being out of school on winter break.

The Riner Office could not do all the work we do without you. We appreciate all of your support. We wish you all a very happy, and healthy 2022.

—Elizabeth Leggett,
Director of Outreach



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

2022 Opportunities within the Lay Servant Ministry Program

From the LSM Resource booklet: “Lay ministry is the work of mission or ministry to which each believer is called ...” This program encourages learning and growth through many varied topics that are effective tools in spreading the Good News within your family, church and community. The program offers courses such as: **Leading Public Prayer, Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, Living Our United Methodist Beliefs, Accountable Discipleship, Planning & Leading Worship, Leading Bible Study**, and many more. These are a few of the valuable courses that have been offered via Zoom.



Only one class is required as an in-person event, which is **Called to Preach**. To follow on the path of becoming a Certified Lay Speaker, this course plus the following are required: **Introduction to Lay Ministry, Leading Worship, Leading Prayer, Discovering Spiritual Gifts, United Methodist Heritage, United Methodist Polity**. As a Certified Lay Speaker, you are valuable in many ways of service – to your pastor, as Pulpit Supply filling in when a pastor is not available at another church, and in other settings within the Conference.

Currently there are two in-person **Called to Preach** classes scheduled for 2022 and one more planned in the Verde Valley area later this spring.

Fridays: February 4, 18, and 25, 5:30-9:00 PM – Gila Mountain UMC, 12716 N. Frontage Rd. Yuma, AZ

Mondays: March 7, 14, and 21, 5:30-9:00 PM – Sunrise UMC, 19234 N 7th Ave Phoenix, AZ

We encourage everyone to register and attend classes as they are offered. **If you would like more information on specific classes, or would like to receive the LSM Course Descriptions and Equipping Resources pamphlet, please contact:**

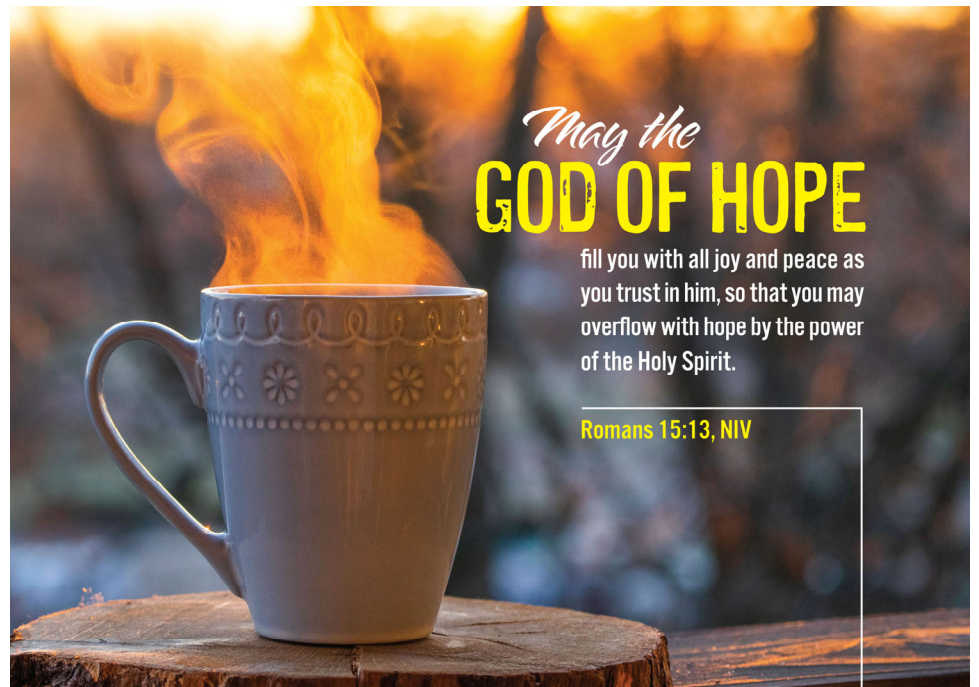
Betty Stewart
West District LSM Director
Bettyboop491@cox.net



Hope in the Winter

Before anything else, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the prayers and caring words many in our church family have shared with me, during the last couple of months. Although my father is 93, his turns of health in recent weeks have taken my family and me by surprise, and the only thing that has remained constant throughout this process is change. I am especially grateful to those in leadership in our congregation who have been understanding of a Pastor who has been behind schedule, absent on many days, and has had multiple items escape his attention. My family and I are deeply grateful for your support, good wishes, and understanding in this difficult season.

My family and I are, of course, not alone. In recent months, many of our church families have dealt with serious illness, or worse, in our families. I have had conversations with a number of those in our church family who have experienced this Advent and Christmas, usually a season of joy and hope, as a time of sorrow, with the sense of loss that occurs when a family member is absent during the holidays for the first time. For a number of us, this is



not the season that we had hoped, or planned for. In addition, we have all been impacted, in one way or another, with the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Several months ago, authorities predicted that this winter would be much easier than the last, due to the number of people who were already vaccinated. However, what they couldn't foresee were the delta and omicron variants, and now we are hearing that, especially because of the latter, the pandemic may surge again, to levels even beyond what we experienced last year. I know you're getting tired of hearing me say or write this, but please, if you haven't had a chance to get vaccinated, or get your booster, please do so, and

please wear a mask, especially if you are indoors with those outside of your family. However, I hope we will all remember that the challenges we are facing, and especially, the loss a number of us are experiencing, is not, and will never be, the final word. The God we worship, the Savior whose birth we recently celebrated, and ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit, promise us that we never face difficult days alone, and following every loss, there is a resurrection. We are promised that even, or more accurately, especially in the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us, and God will be with us, for comfort strength and inspiration

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Hope in the Winter

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“To the very end of the age.” There is nothing in all of the universe, all of creation, that can ever truly separate us from God, and in days of clouds and difficulty, we are promised that there is hope, there is promise for the future.

As we begin this new year together, looking forward to celebrating our 128th year in ministry as a congregation, we can remember that this church family has come through so much together already, even another pandemic, just a little over 100 years ago. We will get through this. And together, with the inspiration that can only come from God we will have the opportunity to heal our spirits, revitalize our church family, welcoming the new friends we haven’t met yet, and sharing the grace, hope, and joy of a life shared with God, with a community and a world so much in need of Good news. Let’s hang on, and despite present challenges, look forward to 2022 as a year full of hope and possibilities.

Pastor Tom

January 9 — Baptism of the Lord

Read: Psalm 29, Luke 3:15-22

Sermon: “*From the Water*”

January 16 — Second Sunday After Epiphany

Read: Luke 4:14-21

Sermon: “*Setting the Captives Free*”

January 23 — Third Sunday After Epiphany

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Sermon: “*In the Orchestra*”

January 30 — Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Read: “*Love Anyway*”




Worship
SCHEDULE



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

- Staff of Desert Southwest Conference
- Wesley & Golden Gates Community Centers
- Justa Center, Phoenix

Monthly Financial Report



In November, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$33,373.97 (up about \$14,000 from our October donations of \$19,310.33) 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, Centennial Fund, Missions, Staff Christmas Gifts 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 \$25,664.86 and expenses of \$32,037.99. Our expenses exceeded our income by about \$6,500 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly decreased to \$21,350.89.

The November donations rebounded nicely from October in both the pledged and unpledged categories. Even the loose plate offering was more than we expected. Thanks again to all of our members and friends! The only underperforming giving category last month was our Thanksgiving offering which totaled about 2/3's what we were hoping for. All in all it was a good month.

Normally this level of giving would see an increase in our checking account, but our expenses increased significantly as well for primarily two reasons. First, November is one of two months of the year in which we have three payrolls (instead of the normal two) since we pay our staff every two weeks. If you recall, this happened last May, so it was not unexpected. The second reason was we got the updated bills from APS which had been missing a large part of our usage for a couple of months. It cost us an extra \$6,200 to get caught up. Ouch! Still no word on the restart of our solar panels, although crews have been working on campus to install the new inverters.

As for apportionments, we have made nine of twelve payments as I write this in early December, which leaves three to catch up in December. I'm confident we will be able to make all three payments, with God's help and some generous donations. In the February newsletter, we will recap the year and have complete 2021 financial reports.

Reminder: Everyone received a pledge card in November. If you haven't turned yours in yet, it is not too late! We will gratefully accept your pledge card at any time. If you misplaced yours, just let us know, and we will get you another.

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

WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!

We are so thankful to everyone who helped with our Christmas services; those of you who cleaned candles, decorated, performed, sang, hosted, recorded, edited, and those who will help us take down the

decorations on Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 am!

If you didn't get to our Christmas worship services, we will have them on our YouTube channel, <https://bit.ly/2Uu3lda> (along with all of our recorded worship services).

This was another difficult year, and as a church we've had to be both patient and adaptable to many changes. We appreciate the way you've all helped us stay the course, and bring the word of God to so many!



Some of our wonderful volunteers!



**United Methodist Women's
 Chili Luncheon
 Saturday, January 22
 12:00 noon**

**Adults—\$12.00; Children—\$8.00
 Tickets can be purchased
 on Sundays.**

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Staff Christmas Gifts!

Everyone on the staff of First United Methodist Church is so very grateful for the generosity of this congregation! You always go above and beyond, and we are pleased and proud to work for you!

—The Staff of First United Methodist Church of Glendale



Thanks from the staff!

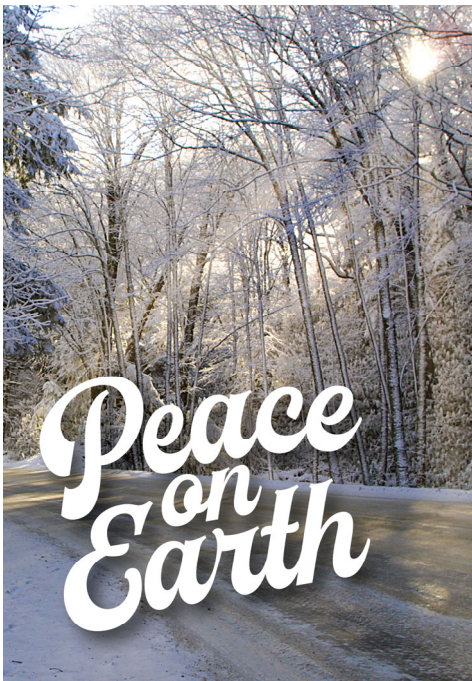
**2021 Youth Winter Camp
February 19-21, 2022**

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/>



Mingus Mountain Camp & Retreat Center
Youth Winter Camp
 February 19 - 21, 2022

"UNFILTERED"
 identity, belonging, & purpose

REGISTER TODAY

 **Camp and Retreat Ministries**
 Desert Southwest Conference
 THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 **MINGUS MOUNTAIN**
 camp & retreat center

Please Keep Our Campus Secure

A reminder! If you enter a church building, please be sure it is secured before you leave. Gates and doors have been found open, and alarms will only work if we turn them on. Please be diligent, when you are the last one to leave, lock up and please set the alarms. Thank you!



Did you know you can submit prayer requests to our prayer chain online? Our weekly e-newsletter (on Thursdays) has a prayer request link right at the bottom of the page. If you aren't receiving the weekly e-news, contact rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com and ask to be subscribed.

Would you like to be one of our prayer warriors? We can add you to the prayer chain, and we ask that you pray for the various requests that come through. Contact Vickie Oliver at: prayer.chain.gfumc@gmail.com.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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 Glendale, AZ 85301-2434

First Class
 Postage Here

Deadline for the next issue is January 17. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm. email: rebecca@glendalefirstumc.com fax: 623-236.9284