

# Circuit Rider

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



## Grace-Full Change

Recently, I experienced something that I suspect many of us have experienced at one time or another. I was in my father's home going through some of his papers after his passing, and I was looking around, at all the books, artwork, photographs, mementos, and other items that surrounded me. I knew that all these items would need to be dispersed, moved or sent to other locations, and I suddenly realized that I really, *really* didn't want to do that. I didn't want to disassemble my father's home, taking apart all the things he had assembled over the decades, things that he had acquired, created, or kept because they meant something to him. They were things that were a part of his history, things that made his surroundings feel like home for him. It was another part of coming to terms with the loss of my father, realizing that this place, where we had

shared so many festive occasions and good conversations, would soon no longer exist. I didn't want that to happen.

Then I remembered how my grandparents, and great aunts and uncles, had shared with me items that had been a part of their homes, either through their wills, or during their lifetimes. And I realized how they, or members of the family, must have felt sorrow in dispersing those items. But I also realized how much I had enjoyed receiving them, how they had become a part of my story, and how I have treasured them all the more, because they had come from people that I had known and loved. And I realized that many of the items in my father's home will bring similar joy to younger generations of our family, and to my father's friends. And I knew that that is what my father would want.



**FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER HEAVEN.**

ECCLESIASTES 3:1, NLT

Our scriptures contain many references to making old things new, and to acknowledging the changing of the seasons of life. One of the most often repeated, and often sung, are the beginning verses from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes, paraphrased and popularized in the song "Turn, Turn, Turn." These sentences speak to a universal truth. There are times and seasons for everything in the course of our lives, and in the life of our

*(Continued on page 2)*



## 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

## Grace-full Change

(Continued from page 1)

church family. As much as we may want things to remain consistent, change is a part of life. Several of our most faithful and devoted volunteers have moved to other locations. And by the time you read this, our much beloved Office Manger, Rebecca Curless, will have moved to take a new and wonderful position at one of our sister United Methodist congregations.

These transitions present challenges and will necessitate times of transition. And yet they also present opportunities. In the months ahead, we'll have the opportunity to welcome a new Office Manager. We know that she or he will never replace Rebecca's many gifts, or her place in our hearts, but they may bring new gifts and graces that will be a part of moving our congregation forward into a new era of ministry. And as the needs of our congregation and community change, old ministries and programs may have to be replaced with new ministries and priorities, using the components of our rich history to build for the future.



### March 2 — Ash Wednesday

Read: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Sermon: "All The Time"

### March 6 — First Sunday in Lent

Read: Romans 10:5-13

Sermon: "A Foundation of Faith"

### March 13 — Second Sunday in Lent

Read: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Sermon: "Turning on the High Beams"

### March 20 — Third Sunday in Lent

Read: Isaiah 55:6-9, Luke 13:1-5

Sermon: "Proudly Outside the Crowd"

### March 27 — Fourth Sunday in Lent

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon: "New and Improved"

Please join me in prayer that, through the boundless grace of God, the situations that now bring challenges will be opportunities to welcome new leadership, new members of our First Church staff and congregation. We pray that they will bring new gifts and insights. And we pray that we will use the wonderful experiences we have had with beloved staff and leaders to build new and revitalized ministries, and a warm and welcoming church home, for our congregation and community. May it be so.

*Pastor Tom*

**You are invited to begin your Lenten journey with a new six-week study on Sunday, March 6 at 10:15 am in Room 103.**



## Job Opening

Our church is seeking an Office Administrator. This person carries out the administrative tasks of the church and facility, working with the church volunteers, pastor, and staff in resourcing, supplying, and supporting the day-to-day operations of the church. **We are offering a \$1,000 signing bonus after a probationary period.** Please email your resume to Treasa Birchett, [tbirchett54@gmail.com](mailto:tbirchett54@gmail.com).

## UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour of Sharing)

For 60 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope. The donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover the costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

**UMCOR Sunday is March 27; if you'd like to contribute, place your donation in the offering box, marked UMCOR. We will be collecting throughout the month of March. Thank you!**

## Update from the Finance Subcommittee

In January, members and friends of First Glendale generously donated \$31,233 (down about \$45,000 from our December donations of \$76,826) to support the operation and programs of our church. This total includes money received for the General Fund, the Riner Assistance Office, Capital Improvements, Brick-by-Brick, 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 \$27,501 and expenses of \$18,616. Our income exceeded our expenses by about \$9,000 for the month. The balance in our checking account accordingly increased to \$40,293.

The January donations were down from December (when General Fund donations reached \$46,763), but December is always a big month for the church. The January donations were more than adequate to cover our monthly expenses. This was helped in part by the Desert Southwest Conference forgiving the January apportionment payment (a \$3,410 savings). In January both pledged and unpledged giving exceeded the budget for those categories. All in all, it was a good month, and the church is in a healthy financial position.

At the moment the only cloud is the resignation of Rebecca Curless as our office administrator. Rebecca kept the financial wheels turning at the church, and she will be sorely missed by everyone dealing with the finances of the church. We wish her luck in her new position.

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

**13th Annual Walk to End  
Family Homelessness  
at the Phoenix Zoo!**



**REGISTER TODAY!**

SATURDAY  
**MAY**  
**14**  
6-9 am

[umom.org/walk](http://umom.org/walk)

Each year, we pray for all the churches in the West District for one month. Please direct your prayers to the below churches in March and April. Thank you!



**West District Prayer List**

**In March, please pray for:**

- **Dove of the Desert UMC**  
(Rev. Dave Wasson)
- **Epworth UMC & Nuevo Pacto UMF, Phoenix**  
(Pastor Joel Arvizu)
- **Faith UMC, Phoenix**  
(Rev. Michael Patzloff)

**West District Prayer List**

**In April, please pray for:**

- **First UMC, Glendale**  
(Rev. Tom Jelinek)
- **First UMC, Phoenix**  
(Rev. Denny Silk, Rev. Todd Rogers)
- **First UMC, Sun City**  
(Rev. Louie Lyon)

Deadline for the next issue is March 14. Your items for the newsletter should be submitted to the church office by 3:00 pm. email: office@glendalefirstumc.com fax: 623-236.9284

First Class  
Postage Here

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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