



Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

December 27, 2022
Kairos Vol. 7, Issue #42

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We Are A Thriving United Methodist Church

Friends,

We had an individual show up at the church on Christmas Eve with a story in which the bottom line was him needing money. I became aware of him after the five o'clock service when he came up to me with a very demanding attitude and story that didn't all fit together. I gave him a gift card to Burger King for a meal. He wanted money for shoes and clothes.



Sunday morning, I learned that he had accosted a number of people. Then Sunday morning as I was going home, I passed him on the sidewalk near Chandler UMC. I stopped and he again asked me for money. The pastor there told me he had accosted and demanded money from folk in the parking lot. We told him his behavior was inappropriate and that we would help him find help. He took some information, stuffed it in his pocket and left muttering to himself. It is difficult to help folk that want no help except on their terms. It is hard to listen and respond appropriately when demands and accusations are coming at you.

So, thank you to those of you who did respond to him with money and those who didn't respond with money. We all have to do what we feel is right in the moment. We continue to struggle with helping in appropriate ways that really make a difference.

Now some practical matters to share with you.

I invite you to join me in putting a figure from the manger scene in a strategic place as a reminder of Christmas for you all year long. I plan to place Joseph on a closet shelf where I will see him each morning and evening. Let's make sure we don't go back to life as usual but focus on how Jesus makes a difference each day.

No Saturday service in the chapel on December 31.

Sunday morning, January 1, we will share in Holy Communion by using the Wesley Covenant Service to start the new year.

Tuesday, January 3 at 9:00 am we will take down the Christmas decorations. Many hands make light work. Your help is appreciated.

January 7 and 8, Rev Jean Claycomb will be preaching.

Thank you for your continued support of our church and its ministries as we begin a new year.

Marvin

UNISON PRAYER



Surprising God, we gather to peer into the manger once again where the hopes and fears of all the years are touched by the birth of Jesus. We are amazed that you, the creator of heaven and earth, would enter the world as a little, helpless baby. You chose to come to us, innocent and dependent, as all babies are born into this world. In becoming Emmanuel, you allowed us to see and know your unconditional love and acceptance. To us a Son is given. Upon us, who have longed for peace and too often found unrest and war, a light has shone. Soften our hearts to the beauty and wonder of every birth. Bring peace to every part of this broken, struggling world, every room in our homes, and every corner of our hearts. We ask you to be born anew in us. Amen.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you are interested in joining Sun Lakes United Methodist Church, please stop and visit Pastor



BIBLE STUDIES BEGINNING IN JANUARY!

Winter Studies at Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sunday
10:30 am
Room 1
Adult Sunday School with Rev. Julian Pickens and others
An informal, hour long study of biblical principles and their application to our lives. Please register through the Church Office for information on the study materials.
(study book) Every Week

Tuesday
10:00 am
Room 4
The Triumph of Christianity with Howard Strouse
Investigate the fascinating historic events that led to Christianity's rise. What began with Jesus and his disciples soon grew to be the largest religion in the world, eventually taking over the entire Roman Empire and beyond. Come discover how that happened and how such a movement was possible.
Continues January 3

Wednesday
10:00 am
Room 4
Introducing the Old Testament with Rev. George and Cathy Smoot
A broad examination of the Old Testament, its stories and content, as well as the historical and cultural context of the world in which these texts were written.
(6 weeks - study book) Starts January 4.

Thursday
10:00 am
Room 1
A Faithful Heart: Daily Guide for Joyful Living with Rev. Judy Claycomb
A weekly meeting as companions on a journey to share insights, ask questions and explore more deeply how to cultivate joy through a faithful heart. Using Sally Dyck's Faithful Heart: Daily Guide For Joyful Living
(8 weeks – study book) Starts January 5

Thursday
12:00 pm
Room 4
Sweet Life Café: John, the Gospel of Light and Life with Cathy Smoot
Experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal while exploring the major themes of the Gospel of John.
(6 weeks – video) Starts January 5



The Night Will Be Filled with Music!

Join *We Three* (Beverly Borneman, Jenny Kao, and Martha Wood) on Tuesday, January 10 as they bring a program of songs, both familiar (*Unforgettable*) and some less familiar (*I Can Sing, I Can Fly*). Accompanying them will be Vicki Deken and her flute.

Music is a great way to start the New Year, so we hope you will join *We Three* and Vicki for a night filled with music.

Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm with the program starting at 5:30 pm. Please R.S.V.P. in Lindsay Hall or by calling the Church Office (480) 895-8766.

HEBER FOOD PANTRY



Thanks to you, the Heber Food Pantry has made it through the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas! They have a few needs still to meet. If you can help, please bring:

- Small bags of flour
- Small bags of sugar
- Small bottles of vegetable oil
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Cereal
- Dog Food
- Cat Food

Place your donation in the gray bins around the Church campus.

Thank you for your generosity!

-The Mission Team

A LETTER...

The UMC Moving Forward

September 18, 2022

Dear churches in the East District.

My name is Landon Isingoma. I am a member of St. Matthew UMC, which is also in the East District, and I am 13 years old. If you haven't heard, a group called the GMC (Global Methodist Church) has decided to split off from us because they are uncomfortable with the increasing inclusiveness of the United Methodist Church. In my experience, my generation will not be part of an organization that is not inclusive. If people in my generation want to be part of church at all, they want a church that welcomes everyone.

I am afraid that people will not understand that the UMC is more inclusive than the GMC, and if someone has a bad experience in the GMC they may think all Methodist churches discriminate. I know that almost everyone loves the name United Methodist Church, and so do I, but we need to make the difference between the UMC and the GMC clear. A name change may be necessary to make the difference more apparent. Please keep this in mind and be open to a name change.

Another way to make our inclusiveness obvious, so that everyone knows what to expect in our churches, is to post a statement of inclusivity: ***all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexuality, age, beliefs, disability or appearance.*** I invite you to post a statement like this (or a flag or symbol with similar meaning and representation) in a prominent place in all your church materials, if you have not already. We can invite other congregations to join, including UMCs in other areas and even congregations in other inclusive denominations. Please consider inviting another church to post their inclusivity as well, so our collective effort can gain the attention of young people.

Thank you. I look forward to seeing our faith community grow in these directions as we act on these things. I pray our church lives on for future generations.

Sincerely,

Landon Isingoma

STOCK DONATION INFORMATION



Donating stock is a good way to help with year-end planning.

If you have stock that now is worth more than your cost, you can give shares to the Church and avoid paying capital gains taxes on your gain.

Also, depending on your circumstances, you may be able to take an income tax deduction for the amount of your gift.

Tell your brokerage firm or investment advisor to transfer the number of shares you wish to give to the Church's account at Charles Schwab & Co. Have the brokerage firm indicate DTC Clearing 0164, Code 40. All securities must include the Church's name and Schwab account number: Sun Lakes United Methodist Church
Account Number 1706-8379
Tax ID No. 86-0583833

For any questions, contact Jerry Poe, our Stock Manager, via e-mail at jerry.poe@asu.edu or by phone at 895-7793.

PRAYERS

You are encouraged to pray for the churches, centers, and pastors of the East District of the Desert Southwest Conference. You may even send a card or note to the pastor or churches for which you are praying.



January 2023:

- Shepherd of the Pines UMC, Overgaard
- Song of Life UMC, Queen Creek
- Spirit of Joy UMC, Coolidge
- St. Matthew UMC, Mesa

CHURCH OFFICE



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023, in observance of the New Year's holiday; re-opening on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

May you have a happy and healthy New Year!

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

...to David Rolf, family, and friends on the death of his wife, Jeanette Rolf, Tuesday, November 22. A memorial service will be held on Friday, January 13, 2023 at 1:00 pm in the Chapel.



...to the family and friends of Margot Pierce, who died on Wednesday, December 7. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm in The Garden. Memorial service information is pending.

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY
ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY CALENDAR

NEED
PRAYER?

ELECTRONIC
GIVING FORM

CIRCLE OF HONOR
BRICK ORDER FORM

CALENDAR EVENT
REQUEST FORM

FACILITY USE FORM

CUSTOIAL REQUEST
FORM

THE SLUMC SOCIAL
SCENE

Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

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Contact Our Staff

