



# Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

**February 21, 2023**  
**Kairos Vol. 8, Issue #8**

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## **We Are A Thriving United Methodist Church**

Friends,

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday when Lent begins in the Church. I encourage you to come and reflect in preparation for anointing with ashes which is a sign of our humanity and dependence on God's grace and mercy. Come to the chapel between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm for this special time.



Please note the Thursday, February 23 opportunity at 1:30 pm for us to learn more and grow in our understanding of dementia.

Responses to the Church Questionnaires are slowly coming in. Please help us in this important endeavor as we evaluate our present and look to the future with faith and hope.

On a different note, persons interested in being part of a Landscape team to update our church grounds are invited to volunteer. With the growing concern regarding water, this is an opportune time for us to review and

determine how we might best move forward in this important matter. Interested?? Please submit your name to the Church Office.

Marvin

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## UNISON PRAYER

Mighty and glorious God, even as we tremble in your presence, we rejoice in your willingness to live among and within us. Forgive us when we act as if we can separate ourselves from your powerful presence. Forgive us when we try to hide from you, forgetting that in you, nothing is hidden. Lift our eyes to see your glory. Lift our hearts to receive your grace. Let our lives reflect the mountain of your love that we might shine for all to see. Grace us with your presence. Overwhelm us with your love. Guide us with your wisdom and fill us with your Holy Spirit as we worship and praise you this day. Amen.



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**NEED A COPY OF THE CHURCH SURVEY? CLICK HERE!**

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## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you are interested in joining Sun Lakes United Methodist Church, please stop and visit Pastor Marvin or call the Church Office at (480) 895-8766. **Reception of new members on Sunday, February 26 at 9:00 am worship service.**



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## ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 22



A *Come and Go* Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Chapel, on February 22, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Following personal reflection in a guided time of scripture, hymns, and prayer, ashes will be imposed on foreheads.

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**Be a Better Neighbor    Be a Better Friend    Be a Better Care Partner**

**Join Us for a One-Hour Informational Session  
Thursday - February 23 - 1:30 PM – Lindsay Hall  
RSVP to [admin@slcep.org](mailto:admin@slcep.org) or call 480-203-8548**

**Sharing Awareness and Understanding, Resources,  
Education, and Connection to all Families and Friends  
of People Living with Dementia**

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**COUNTERACTING BIAS: SEEING PEOPLE AS THEY ARE**

The word bias simply means an evaluation of a belief that is favorable or unfavorable. Bias in and of itself is a neutral term. Bias is a natural inclination or tendency for or against an idea, object, person, group, or belief. We can only see and perceive people, cultures, and the world from our perspective, regardless of how correct or skewed our perspective is. Of course, if our perspective is correct and we can see things the way they are, there is no issue. However, there is an inherent bias in our perspective that keeps us from seeing people and the world the way it is.



Our faith teaches and encourages us that we do not need to be stuck in our biases. By the grace of God in Jesus Christ, we can overcome our biases and see people and the world the way they are. The Holy Spirit enables us to see what God sees in people, especially those that are different from us.

Counteracting Bias training is free and available on February 25, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (lunch will be included) at St. Matthew United Methodist Church, 2540 W Baseline Rd, Mesa.

You may register **[HERE](#)** or go to:  
<https://dscumc.org/event/counteracting-bias-training-at-st-matthew-umc-mesa/>

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## BISHOP CARLO O. RAPANUT'S INSTALLATION!



The Episcopacy of the Desert Southwest Conference invites you to the Service of Installation of Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, Saturday, March 11 at 11:00 am at St. Matthew UMC, 2540 W Baseline Rd, Mesa with a reception to follow.

You may attend in person, via live stream, or ZOOM. Please RSVP your participation no later than March 1 **HERE** or at:

<https://dscumc.org/2023-bishop-installation-service-registration/>

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## HALE THEATER!



**Sign up by Thursday, March 9 to reserve your ticket to the Hale performance of "42nd Street".** The performance of this production is Friday, March 24 at 4:00 pm.

*The stakes are high when a young chorus girl from Allentown, PA is given the once-in-a-lifetime chance to become a star. 42nd Street recalls the classic days of Broadway and the golden age of movie musicals with sensational tap numbers, lavish costumes, and one show-stopping tune after another! You'll be entertained from the first note to the final tap!*

Tickets are (\$35) and must be paid for by Thursday, March 9, are first come first served, and are non-refundable.

Ride-sharing is encouraged!

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## VETERAN'S CIRCLE OF HONOR



We are approaching our tenth year of honoring veterans with engraved blocks in the Veterans Circle of Honor, located in front of the Church. A team of veterans meets monthly to promote services for veterans, coordinate activities, and insure the integrity and appearance of the Monument.

No funds are taken from Church offerings or contributions, and we make no profit from engraving or placement of blocks. The Monument is totally funded by independent contributions from caring folks that are specifically marked for the Veterans Circle of Honor Fund. Contributions defray the costs of funding the Honor Flight Program, donations to the Arizona Stand Down Program, placement of wreaths, repair, and upkeep of the Monument (with adjacent grounds), landscaping, and replacement of flags.

Thank you for your generous support over the past decade.

Howard Strouse  
Chair, Veterans Circle of Honor

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### **ALTAR FLOWERS WERE PROVIDED ON FEBRUARY 19 BY:**

- Cora Lathom-Levensky in memory of her parents, Lib & Carmen Monday.
- By Judy Waters in memory of Bill Waters' birthday.



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**TODAY, I AM  
GRATEFUL FOR...**

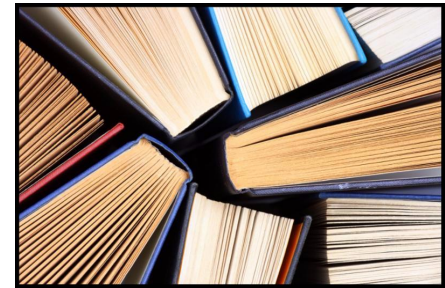
Recently, our Gratitude Journals were used in a unique fashion—at the Memorial Service reception of one of our members. Thank you for continuing to praise God for the things we often overlook. Listed below are some of your more recent responses:

- The friendships I've made since joining the church. Our God is relational and we should be, too.
- This beautiful morning!
- Prayers for peace. I know every night when I go to bed I'm thankful for a safe place in my home, community—with my family. Peace is often not viewed as gratefulness. I'm always being grateful for it.
- The class on Max Lucado's book, *Unshaken Hope*. It's a great one and our leader's teaching is inspiring.
- The lives of wonderful people at our church who were recently called to Heaven. All the heartwarming memories of those precious friends and their positive impacts on our lives will remain with us.
- People who tell the truth, even when it isn't easy to hear.
- Being able to come back to church after four weeks of absence, due to my husband's having Covid.
- Today and the sunshine it brings.
- The blessing our people experienced this morning in worship! God's presence was truly felt.
- Julien's counseling work at our church all these years. Hope he won't retire from our Sunday school too soon.

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## YOUR LIBRARY

Springtime in Arizona is the best time of year! Enjoy the beautiful weather with a good book from the Library or a jigsaw puzzle, crossword puzzle book, or Sudoku!



*He Still Moves Stones* by Max Lucado

*Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton

*Where is God When it Hurts?* by Philip Yancey

*Never Alone* by Joseph F. Girzone

*Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan

*Grand and Great: Grandparents and Grandchildren Share Their Stories of Wit and Wisdom* by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen

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## LOVE AND SYMPATHY



...to J.L. Scott, family, and friends on the death of his wife, Harriet Scott, who died on Thursday, February 2. Memorial service information is pending.

...to David Lachman, family, and friends on the death of his wife, Kathy Lachman, who died on Thursday, February 2 in Kansas. Memorial service information is pending.

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[THE SLUMC SOCIAL  
SCENE](#)

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