



Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

April 11, 2023
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Friends,

In recent conversations there is one word I continue to hear from folk. **Change!** Change in the weather. Change in the family. Change in health.

One constant in life is change. Change is inevitable because while we like to predict, no one can be sure what a new day will bring for anyone. So often we resist change. But if change is inevitable, then maybe we need to be more open to embrace changes in life.

Easter is about change. Prior to Easter, everyone knew that dead people cannot be resurrected. Once you died, you were dead. That was it. But with the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave, things were no longer the way they had been before. And in the events that follow we see three normal reactions to change as recorded in Luke 24.

The first reaction is denial because the women were looking for a dead



body. After the young man reminded them of what Jesus had said they went and told the disciples. Peter went to the tomb, saw what had happened and then went home amazed. Denial is a frequent response to reality in life.

The second reaction was disbelief. This could not have happened. It is sometimes too much to absorb at the time. We need time to accept change. We have to process the possibilities.

The third reaction is acceptance which opened the eyes of their hearts to accept the reality of the resurrection. Acceptance gave them the ability to begin seeing everything in a new way.

I pray the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost will be a time of positive change in your life and mine. Change may come as a shock, with pain or through a process. I invite you to embrace and go with it for God is in the business of change and making new things.

Paul wrote to the Romans some words to ponder, *"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you. Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering."* Romans 12:1 from the Message

Marvin

UNISON PRAYER



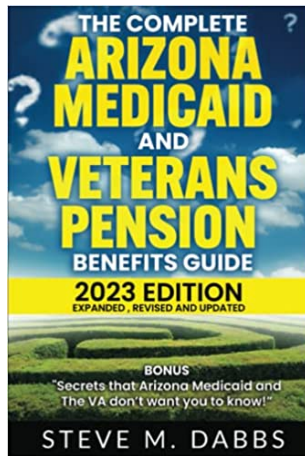
We thank you, Redeeming God, for the thrilling Easter revelation that you bring new hope out of despair, resurrection out of defeat, and new life out of death. This morning we bring before you the weary, worn, dead, and dried-out corners of our lives, that through your touch we may discover healing and hope. Broken hearts, forgotten dreams, lapsed intentions, hardened resentments: these we hand over to you. Gracious God, we thank you that you accompany us as we journey through life. Because you live, we can accept each new day, with its joys and sorrows, as a gift. Because you live, we gain courage to meet the challenge of the day, choosing life and not death in every moment, each encounter. As you raised Jesus from the dead, raise us to new life day by day. For we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (Rev. Judy Wismar Claycomb)

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.



STEPHEN MINISTER RETREAT - PUBLIC WELCOME!



Do not miss the Stephen Minister Retreat, a Sun Lakes Community event tomorrow, Wednesday, April 12 at 9:00 am in Lindsay Hall!

In this 2-hour session, Steve Dabbs, a certified Medicare specialist and accredited claims agent by the Department of Veteran's Affairs will present a book he has written with the newest 2023 benefits available to individuals and offers real-world examples that are easy to understand. This book includes all the newest updates and will be provided to all attendees.

A One Medical Seniors Care outreach specialist will present a description of their services, information on their dedicated office in Sun Lakes for those who are on Medicare, and the use of a multi-faceted team specializing in the unique challenges of senior care using primary care physicians, health coaches, and other healthcare professionals.

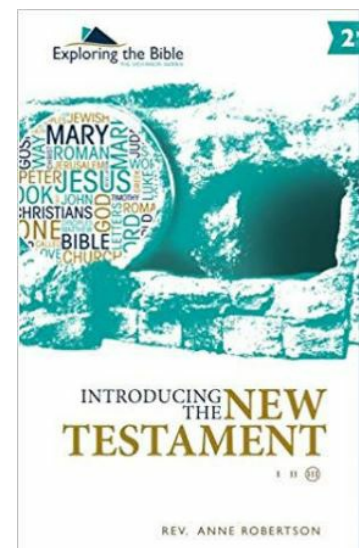
Sheryl Keeme, Executive Director of Neighbors Who Care will share how we as a community in Sun Lakes can best work together to provide care to ourselves, our friends, neighbors, and families. How we can combine all the talents and services in the Sun Lakes community to provide the desired outcome for everyone!

Please R.S.V.P. to the Church Office at (480) 895-8766 so there will be enough materials for everyone.

INTRODUCING THE NEW TESTAMENT CLASS

Join Rev. George and Cathy Smoot, on Wednesdays, beginning April 19 at 10:00 am in Room 4 for an exploration of the New Testament covering what Nazareth was like in the 1st century, what scholars know and don't know about Jesus, how Paul really wrote all those letters, as well as the wild and baffling book called Revelation.

Sign up in Lindsay Hall or call the Church Office at (480) 895-8766.





United
Women
in Faith

Come Celebrate Your Birthday with United Women in Faith!

The next unit meeting of United Women in Faith (UWF) will be Wednesday, April 19, 1:00 pm in Lindsay Hall. We will be celebrating our

birthdays with special treats!

Our speaker will be Jennifer Kiernan. Ms. Kiernan is *Saving Amy's* Founder and Executive Director and has been with *Saving Amy* since the day it was born. She has a heart for helping others.

Saving Amy was founded with a **mission** to empower individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness by transforming lives through mentoring, teaching life skills, educational advancement, and financial stability through employment.

Following Ms. Kiernan's presentation, we will be assembling hygiene kits for our own SLUMC Mission Committee!

All women are welcome to attend. You do not have to be a member of UWF. We look forward to seeing you on the 19th.



Sign up by Thursday, April 20 to reserve your ticket to the Hale Theater production of "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". The performance date is Friday, May 5 at 4:00 pm.

The spirited tale of a legendary, real-life American who blooms from a backwoods twig to world-renowned socialite and philanthropist. Molly Brown's undaunted determination to survive the sinking of the Titanic earned her the famous title! This brilliant Broadway classic has charmed audiences with its irresistible story and rousing score!

Tickets are (\$35) and must be paid by Thursday, April 20, are first come first served, and are non-refundable.

Ride-sharing is encouraged.

CONVERSATIONS WITH PASTOR MARVIN

Do you have burning questions about the Bible? About world issues? About local topics?

Join Pastor Marvin on Thursdays, beginning April 20 at 10:00 am for a lively, 6-week discussion on any number of topics and see what questions others might have and their views on the topic.

Sign up in Lindsay Hall or call the Church Office at (480) 895-8766.



Sweet Life Cafe will begin after Easter on Thursday, April 20, from 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm in Room 4.

The study will be the *History and Archaeology of the Bible*, over a 6-week period we will cover the world as it was in the book of Genesis and Exodus.

This video study is presented by lecturer Jean-Pierre Isbouts, DLitt a National Geographic Historian.

Sign up in Lindsay Hall or call the Church Office at (480) 895-8766.

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

...to Clare Soden, family, and friends on the death of her mother, Margaret Soden, Friday, April 7. Memorial service information is pending.

...to Barb Carruthers, family, and friends on the death of her husband, Rod Carruthers, Saturday, March 25. A memorial service will be held in the fall.



...to the Wagner family and friends on the death of Ethel Wagner, Sunday, March 12. A committal service will be held on Friday, April 21 at 11:30 am at Valley of the Sun Mortuary and Cemetery, 10940 E Chandler Heights.

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