



Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

April 25, 2023
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Friends,

Author Robert Fulghum tells the following story:

At the end of the last session of a seminar on Greek culture, I asked the leader, Dr. Alexander Papaderous, "What is the meaning of life?"



The usual laughter followed and people stirred to go. He held up his hand, stilled the room, and looked at me for a long time, asking with his eyes if I was serious. Seeing from my eyes that I was, he said, *"I will answer your question."*

Taking his wallet out of his hip pocket, he fished into a leather billfold and brought out a very small, round mirror about the size of a quarter, and began to speak.

"When I was a child, during the war, we were very poor and lived in a remote village. One day, on the road, I found the broken pieces of a

mirror. A German motorcycle that had been wrecked there. I tried to find all the pieces and put them together but it was not possible. I kept the largest piece, this one!"

"By scratching it on stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact I could reflect light into dark places, where the sun would never shine -- deep holes and crevices and dark closets. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places I could find. I kept that little mirror and as I went about growing up, I would take it out in idle moments and continue the challenge of the game."

*"As I became a man, I grew to understand this was not just a child's game but a metaphor for what I might do with my life. I came to understand that I am not the light or the source of the light. But light - knowledge, understanding, and truth are there. **It will only shine in the dark places if I reflect it.**"*

*"I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have, I can reflect light into the dark places of the world - into the black places in the hearts and minds of persons - and change some things in the some people. Perhaps others may see and do likewise. **That is what I am about. This the meaning of my life.**"*

Friends, I invite you to join me in carefully and prayerfully reflecting on how we individually and as Sun Lakes church are reflecting the light.

Marvin

UNISON PRAYER



Almighty God, in overcoming death by rising your son Jesus from the dead, you opened to us the gate of life everlasting. We rejoice because his resurrection means we have hope that is fadeless and pure. Grant us a fresh sense of the risen Christ among us, with us, and in our life situations. Give us a new sense of wonder at his presence and power in our lives. Fill us to overflowing with joy in knowing our sins are forgiven and death is not the last word. Deepen our commitment to be about Jesus' work of love and redemption in the world where we live. Help us focus on Jesus, our risen Savior and example, so his love with be seen in all we say and do. Amen.

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.

**There will be a new member reception Sunday,
May 7, 2023 at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary.**



Mark your calendar for a night with Bing Crosby!

Join Bob Pasch aka Bing on Tuesday, May 9 in Lindsay Hall. Experience some good, clean humor enjoying Bob's remarkable likeness, sound, and appearance, to Bing Crosby.

Bob became interested in Bing Crosby when he was told he sounded like him while stationed in Korea. Deciding to pay tribute to Bing he began performing in 1978 and has performed throughout the United States and Australia delighting audiences wherever he goes.

Dinner begins at 5:00 pm with the program starting at 5:30 pm. R.S.V.P. at (480) 895-8766 or sign up in Lindsay Hall so we have enough food for everyone!

MISSION TEAM NEWS



The Missions Team which sends funds to *Hope Women's Center* in Casa Grand plans to collect shoes and sneakers for kids going back to school this August.

Remember how exciting it was for new clothes and shoes when we got ready to go back to school?

We want to make it exciting for the *Hope Women's Center* kids to get new shoes! The shoes can be brought to the church anytime and left in the red wagon or Mission tubs.

Sounds great?! Thanks for your help!



TODAY, I AM GRATEFUL FOR...



More responses in our several Grateful Journals scattered around our church campus:

- That Bev Abrutz was in the choir. We all miss her, but she was a blessing to us.
- My recovery from a fall and my daughter who was there to help when I fell, and the Lord who is always with me!
- That my mother made a safe trip from Japan to Arizona.
- Wilson Arnpriester who helps us faithfully!
- The Lenten Bible study on the Gospel of Luke.
- A great, great, great vulnerable, courageous, supportive, and committed Grief Support group.
- All the women who helped pack hygiene kits and donated money. Yea!
- Our Savior Jesus. With his death, the curtain was torn and now we can lift all prayers and cries directly to our Lord. Thank you, Jesus!

Several persons expressed their gratitude for Harriet Scott, recently deceased. Some of their comments include:

- Knowing Harriet and benefitting from her humor and wisdom gained over her many years of life!
- Harriet was a lovable person and a great worker. She will be a great angel!
- And, Pastor Judy and her marvelous, exciting, wonderful Easter sermon!

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATED BY:

- Sharon Susens in Memory of her son, Douglas.



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.

The May list is as follows:

- Wesley & Golden Gates Community Centers, Phoenix
- Wesley Foundation at ASU, Tempe
- UMOM New Day Center, Phoenix
- Justa Center, Phoenix

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

...to Cheryl Gerblick, family, and friends on the death of her husband, Dann Gerblick, Wednesday, April 12. Memorial information is pending.

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



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Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

9248 East Riggs Road, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

Phone: 480-895-8766

Contact Our Staff



Sun Lakes United Methodist Church | 9248 E. Riggs Road, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

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