



Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

August 20, 2024 - Kairos Vol. 11, Issue #28



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Sun Lakes Family,

Discovering God's Work Through Our Community

As I continue to learn about the life and vibrancy of Sun Lakes United Methodist Church, I am filled with deep gratitude for the many ways God is at work through each of you. From the beauty of our Gardens (even with the extreme heat) to the inspiring creativity of our Fine Arts Ministry, from the warm fellowship at our receptions to the dedicated participants in our exercise offerings, it is clear that God's presence is woven into the very fabric of this church.



The Krafters' Group, with their careful handiwork, and the steadfast service of the Counters, the Finance, Church Council, Trustees, and Staff-Parish Relations Committees, are just some of the many examples of discipleship

in action. Our talented musicians and the dedicated tech team who enrich our worship each week with their gifts, ensuring that every service is a meaningful encounter with God, also play a crucial role. Your commitments ensure that Sun Lakes UMC continues to be a beacon of hope in the desert—a place where love, community, and faith are not only preached but lived out daily.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." Each of you brings unique gifts and talents to this congregation, and together, we are creating a tapestry of service and love that reflects God's grace and goodness.

What a gift it is to be part of such a vibrant and active church community! I am excited to continue discovering all the ways in which this congregation lives out its faith.

As we look to the future, we have even more opportunities to grow together in faith and fellowship. This fall, we will be offering new and returning programs such as yoga classes, the Sweet Life Café—a time for women to connect and share life's joys and challenges, Bible study, and Grief Support groups for those navigating loss. These ministries are not just programs but are vital ways in which we continue to care for one another and deepen our walk with God.

I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you, learning, growing, and celebrating the many ways God is using us to bring light and hope to the world.

With gratitude and love,

-Pastor Jen

MEMBERSHIP



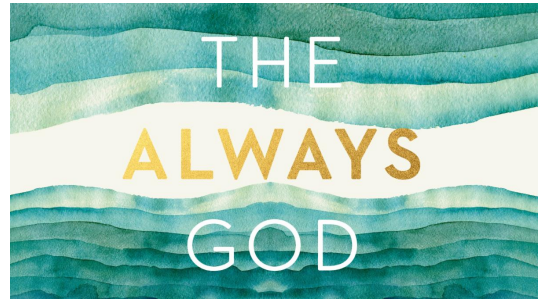
"Membership has its privileges," and at Sun Lakes United Methodist Church, we are blessed to have so many who call our church, "home."

Please contact the Church office to let us know you'd like to join, and we'll include you in this special day. We can't wait to officially welcome you into our church family!

The next New Member Sunday will be **September 22nd!**

SEPT. 2024 WORSHIP SERIES - THE ALWAYS GOD

There's a rising sense of uncertainty and turmoil in the world and in our lives. Loss and disappointment seem endless—whether because of an unexpected diagnosis, a desperate search for a job, or our concern for the future of those we love. During heart-crushing “Why is this happening?” moments, we can feel abandoned. Has God given up on us? Is he no longer responding? Has he just . . . left? The Always God reminds us that we have an unchanging and faithful God who is always speaking, hearing, seeing, pursuing, and restoring.



Sept. 1: Always Speaking – Exodus 3:1-15

Sept. 8: Always Hearing – 2 Kings 19-20 (selections)

Sept. 15: Always Seeing – 1 Peter 5:6-11

Sept. 22: Always Pursuing – Luke 15

Sept. 29: Always Restoring – Jeremiah 18:1-6

COOKIES FOR HOSPITALITY HOUR



People sure do love their cookies! We are looking for wonderful bakers who would volunteer to bake 2 - 3 dozen cookies for hospitality hour. There is a sign up sheet in Lindsay Hall on the easel past the foyer.

Please bring to the Church Office or Lindsay Hall no later than Thursdays at 3:00pm. Container Pick-Up will be on Sunday by the Kitchen.

UWF MEETING IN AUGUST

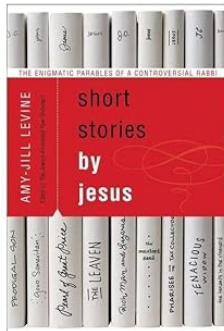
Dear Ladies,

Our next unit meeting will be held on **August 21st** at 1:00 p.m. in Lindsay Hall . We will be packing hygiene kits for “Women for Women”. If you are in town, please come and help! The Leadership Team will be hosting this meeting.

There will be a planning meeting of the Leadership Team on September 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.



4 WEEK BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR



Sign up to join Pastor Jennifer for a 4 week Bible Study series starting Tuesday, **September 3rd** (ending September 24th) in Room 1 of the Education Building at 9:30am. The study will be "*Short Stories by Jesus*" written by Amy-Jill Levine.

Participants are encouraged to purchase the book ahead of time from their favorite book seller.

Sign-up sheets will be located in Lindsay Hall or the Church Office (480) 895-8766

SWEET LIFE CAFE STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

The return of Sweet Life Cafe begins Thursday, **September 5th** from 12:00pm to 1:30pm. It will gather weekly in Room 4 of the Education Building.



Sweet Life Cafe offers a wonderful opportunity for individuals to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and share their perspectives in a welcoming and supportive environment. Our first topic for the new season will be "*Other Women of the Bible*," a fascinating six-week study. Did you know there are more than 50 women mentioned in the Bible? Join us to discover and learn about some of their intriguing stories. All you need to bring is your Bible.

There will be sign-up sheets in Lindsay Hall or please call the Church Office (480) 895 - 8766

DINNER GROUPS SOON TO BEGIN



Mark your calendars for the Dinner Groups that will begin in September and end in November. There will be a sign up sheet in Lindsay Hall (and the Church Office) to get your name in a group!

There will be 8 people per group and the dinners will vary between eating out and in. If you are open to host at your home, please let indicate that

when signing up.

If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Fletcher (641) 777-0284 or the Church Office (480) 895-8766.

LIFE AFTER CAREGIVING SERIES

There is a natural sense of loss when the need for one's caregiving is over. Part of life after caregiving is to find a new normal. Beginning **September 17**, a 3-week program for Grief Support and Education, "Returning to Life After Caregiving Ends, Tuesday mornings (**September 17, 24** and **October 1**), from 10-11:30 AM in Room 4 of the Education Building.

This series acknowledges that former caregivers often face the double sorrow of the death of a loved one as well as the ending of one's primary purpose and role in life. Gathering in the company of others who have similar experiences and may uniquely understand provides support and encouragement to look toward the future.

There is no cost to participants for this series.

Please register by calling the Church Office (480) 895-8766 or signing up in Lindsay Hall.

SOLA LUNCH IN SEPTEMBER

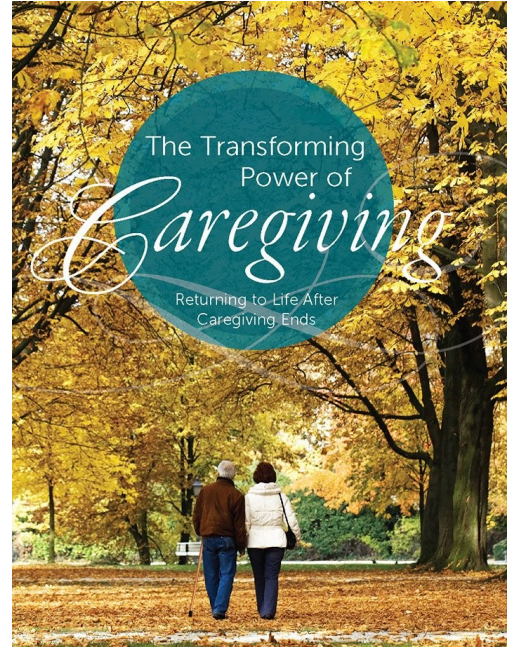


Singles Or Living Alone will be meeting for lunch on Friday, **September 13th** at 11:30am at The Living Room (2475 Queen Creek Rd, Chandler). Come join as they enjoy a good atmosphere and amazing fellowship!

Sign up sheets will be located in Lindsay Hall or the Church Office.

Rides are available upon request! There will be a section to fill out if one is needed on the sign up sheet.

JEWELRY DONATIONS FOR BAZAAR



The Krafters Annual Bazaar is coming up quickly and the Krafters need your help! The creative team is busy working on projects, and they are assembling items for the vintage jewelry sale and simple treasures displays.

If you have any jewelry lying around that you no longer wear, consider donating it to the Krafters to be repurposed or to be sold!

You can leave your donations in the red wagon in the Church Office Lobby.



NAME BADGES



We are still taking orders for new name badges! They are \$10 each to cover a part of the expense.

If you'd like to order a name badge, please contact the Church Office (480) 895-8766 and we will place an order for you!

TODAY, I AM GRATEFUL FOR...

With many in our congregation having gone to cooler climates during the summer and others taking time to travel and get out of the heat, the entries to the *Gratitude Journals*, placed throughout various sites around our campus, have been few. However, each entry, no matter how few, carries a significant impact and is deeply valued.

Listed below are some of the heartfelt expressions of gratitude:

...all the people involved in the maintenance of the church buildings, gardens, sound systems, and all the other facilities on the campus.

...the pain in my hip and leg is gone. God does answer prayers!

...the informative Tuesday Nights Together this evening. It was an excellent presentation.

...the congregation's support of my mom, Ev, after Jim's passing. You help



bring her comfort.

...after being out of a job for the last year, our son starts a new job next Monday. Hooray!

...my sister and close friends. They are my constant support!

...recent tests show that my prostate cancer is now undetectable, hopefully cancer-free. I have a follow-up in October. Praise my Lord and Savior!

DID YOU KNOW: DINNER GROUPS



Dinner groups are offered at SLUMC October through March. It's a great way for members to meet new people and make new friends!

- The groups meet once a month
- Eight in each group
- Couples and/or singles
- Each group determines if they eat at a restaurant or prepare a meal in their home
- Each group determines the date of month to meet

We welcome all to join us. A sign-up sheet is available in Lindsay Hall and the Church Office. Hope to see you then!

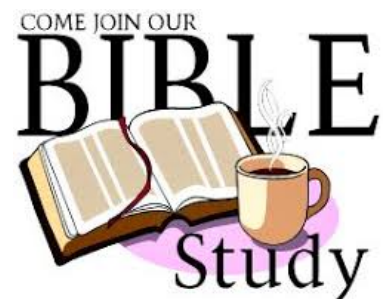
For more information contact Jeanette Fletcher: Phone: 641-777-0284 or email: jssmd5@gmail.com or the Church Office (480) 895-8766.

*Pictured is a Dinner Group that met last year.

COME JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY

Every Sunday after service, there is an "Adult Sunday School" that is hosted in Room 1 of the Education Building that starts at 10:30.

Study books are available in class. We have a great time with our teachers!



BOOKS FROM OUR LIBRARY



- In Ordinary Time: Healing the Wounds of the Heart by Roberta C. Bondi
- The Dog that Talked to God by Jim Kraus
- The Cat who had 60 Whiskers by Lillian Jackson Braun
- Your Money Counts by Howard Dayton
- Why Should Anyone Believe Anything at all? by James W. Sire
- Help. I can't stop Laughing! A Lifetime Selection of Life's Funniest Stories Selected by Ann Spangler with Shari McDonald

UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURE DATES

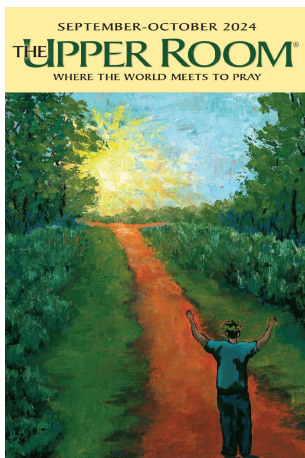
On Labor Day, we remember the work of those in the labor movement who fought hard for workers' rights. We also celebrate the essential role workers play in America's growth and development—recognition that some fought tirelessly for and that these Labor Day quotes honor.



The Office will be **closed** on Monday, **September 2nd** in observance of Labor Day. We will open Tuesday, September 3rd at 9:00am.

"Before the reward there must be labor. You plant before you harvest. You sow in tears before you reap joy."

THE UPPER ROOM SEPT - OCT



The Upper Room Daily Devotional for September - October 2024 is now available in the Church Office Foyer or Lindsay Hall.

A limited amount of Large Print is available.

There are small envelopes located near the Upper Rooms for any offering. Thank you for your contributions!

LOVE AND SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of Gigi Anderson. A Memorial Service will take place at Valley of the Sun mortuary on Friday, August 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

...to the family and friends of Stanley Miller who passed Thursday, August 15th. A memorial service will be held in Iowa.



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[SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES](#)

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[CALENDAR EVENT REQUEST FORM](#)

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[THE SLUMC SOCIAL SCENE](#)

Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

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Contact Our Staff

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