



Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

October 8, 2024 - Kairos Vol. 11, Issue #34



FROM THE PASTOR

Sometimes change happens when we least expect it and even sooner than when we plan. Please read the notes below from Rev. Judy Claycomb, Rev. Dr. David Holling, and from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jen



FROM REV. JUDY CLAYCOMB

"The best of all is God with us!"
When this guy asks, "Are you going to be at



my house on Christmas?" neither Arizona-pleasant nor Ohio-sub-zero can keep me away. Since Pastor Marvin cajoled me into part-time service for grief and faith-formation ministries with you almost three years ago, you have been (as I told Marvin more than once) "The joy of my life." That will not change. But just look at that face! You have so graciously freed me to bounce between Arizona and Ohio, and so warmly support me in my roles at church. Still, Sun Lakes UMC deserves and needs an associate pastor who can be here throughout the calendar year.

When Pastor Dave and I met in the narthex his first Sunday back this fall we had come to the same conclusion. We met individually and privately with Pastor Jen and shared our observations. I have prayed, really from the first, about this dual call between church and family. And I believe this decision to end my employed service here is a God thing, God's timing, God's hand. God's plan. It's good stewardship of resources and helps SLUMC to more effectively serve our mission here and in the world. For me, I am no longer torn about leaving you to be with family or leaving them to serve with you. Mike and I will continue to find our Arizona joy here in your midst as I seek ways to contribute as a volunteer, among the "merry men," my fellow retired clergy who have found a home here with you. As John Wesley has affirmed, The best of all is God with us!

With you, along the Way,
Pastor Judy

FROM REV. DR. DAVID HOLLING

Dear Sun Lakes United Methodist Member and Friends:

After I returned from spending July and August in the Midwest, the three clergy on the staff met and concluded that an associate pastor was needed who could be here year round. I was told that one of the consequences was the elimination of my role as Visitation Pastor and I would no longer be a pastor on the staff. While I did not request this, I have come to accept the fact that my time as a pastor at SLUMC is now over and most likely my ministerial career as well.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to this congregation for all the love and support you have shown me. You are a good people. I will miss the relationships we have developed over the 10 years Kathi and I have been involved with the church, as members and as a pastor. I will also

miss the significant times spent with many of you at times of major challenges in your lives: deaths, illnesses, rehab stints, and the like. I hope I was able to give to you as much as you gave to me. Thank you so very much.

While we won't be part of this church any longer, you will be in our thoughts and memories. I'll close with the words of the hymn my pastor father used in all his churches: "God be with you till we meet again."

Pastor David Holling

FROM SPRC

As many of you know, Pastors Judy Claycomb and Dave Holling will be stepping back from their staff roles. Dave has made the decision to discontinue worshipping with us, and Judy plans to remain. You may even see her in the choir! We are incredibly grateful for their faithful service and commitment to Sun Lakes UMC. Their presence and leadership have been true gifts.

In light of this transition, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee has requested the appointment of a year-round associate pastor. We are working closely with our District Superintendent, Rev. Melissa Rynders, as we begin the discernment process. This process involves prayerful consideration and thoughtful consultation to ensure we find the right pastoral leadership to support our church's ministries moving forward.

We are blessed to have had the leadership of Dave and Judy. We prayerfully await to unfold the next chapter of our journey together.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support during this important time of transition.

FROM THE PASTOR

As we step into another time of transition at Sun Lakes UMC, I want to express my gratitude for Dave and Judy. Their dedication, service and love to this congregation have been extraordinary! We give thanks for their presence here.

In the next few weeks, SPRC and I will have more information regarding the new appointment of a year-round associate pastor. I hold you in prayer, as well as the Bishop and Cabinet as they discern the needs of Sun Lakes UMC.

MEMBERS

"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!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 SERMON



We continue our worship series that invites us to consider Christian disciplines that help us navigate the divisions we are experiencing in our world. This week, we consider compassion. Why do we need this gift more than ever now? Because we are complex beings living in a complex world. We sometimes deal with conflict within us in addition to the conflict between us. Research

tells us that because we humans are desperate for a sense of cohesion and belonging in these confusing times, we may hang onto ideological generalities instead of treating ourselves and each other with the compassion required to alleviate despair. Compassion grows when we are able to know ourselves and one another on a deeper level and act out of understanding.

Re. Judy Claycomb will be preaching "Dropping Dust of Compassion"
- Matthew 9:35-10:4

OCT. / NOV. 2024 WORSHIP SERIES

Our world seems to be consumed with division—often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the "other side" politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better



place. The "purple space" is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.

October 6: "Blue and Red Make Purple: Kindness" - Luke 6:31-36
World Communion Sunday

October 13: "The Polarization Within: Compassion" - Isaiah 11:6-9

October 20: "Listen More, Speak Less: Humility" - Ephesians 4:1-6
Stephen Leaders/Ministers recognized
"Homecoming" Sunday for winter residents

October 27: "Living Together on Uncommon Ground: Respect" -
1 Corinthians 12:1-26

November 3: "Malice Towards None: Love" - Matthew 22:34-40

CHURCH HOMECOMING



Join us for a "Homecoming Brunch" on Sunday, **October 20th** right after service in Lindsay Hall. A reservation is required, so stop to pick up your free ticket after service on Sunday, Oct. 13th. This is a catered event, so you must have a reservation.

We hope to see you there! Any questions, please contact the Church Office (480) 895-8766.

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.

DO UNTO OTHERS T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

For a limited time (and quantity), the "Do Unto Others" T-shirts will be for sale for \$10 each! You can purchase your t-shirt in the Church Office or following service on Sunday.

There are limited quantities of sizes, so get yours today!



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.

MISSIONS TEAM THANKSGIVING BOX NEEDS

Stores are already displaying stuffing mix

and cranberry sauce so it must be time to get ready for Thanksgiving. Your Missions Team will be assembling 80 dinners again this year for distribution to folks in need at Hamilton High School. Bring stuff anytime to the church and place in the red wagons.



Canned sweet potatoes/yams
Gravy mix (package)
Canned veggies (regular cut corn and green beans)
Instant mashed potatoes
Cranberry sauce
Stuffing mix

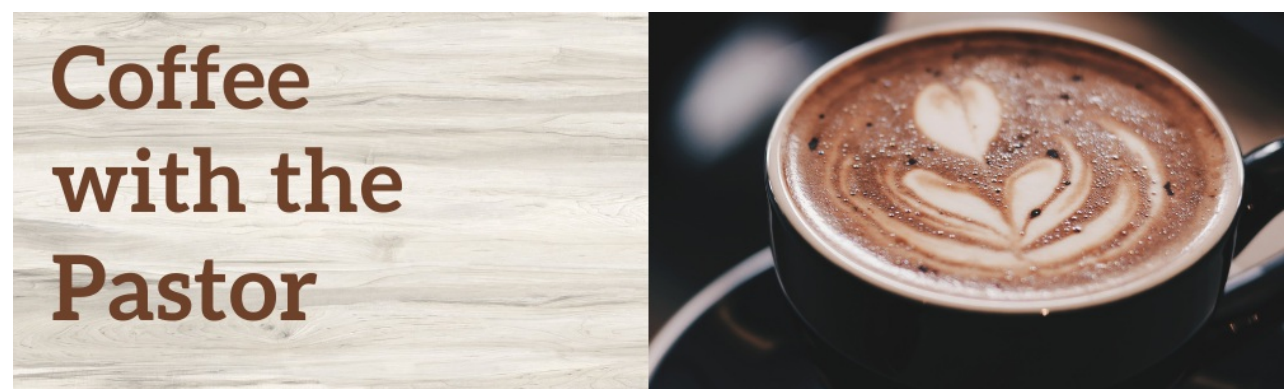
Extras We like to provide enough for an extra meal or two:

Mac & Cheese
Beans--any kind
Cereal (12 to 15oz size preferred)
Peanut butter (small jars)
Soup--hearty kinds

The team provides a turkey, pie and loaf of bread.

Many thanks for your support!

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR



With the busy season ahead, Pastor Jennifer is offering 1 more meeting in the month of October. There you can bring up any concerns, or ask any questions to get to know her better! There are only 12 seats available per day, so call the Church Office (480) 895-8766 to sign-up!

The date is: Thursday, **October 17th**.
At 10:00am - 11:30am in Room 1 of the Education Building.

UWF CIRCLE OF FAITHFUL FRIENDS



The Circle of Faithful Friends will meet Thursday, **October 10th** at 1:00 in the Parlor.

Ila Mackerman, who teaches classes on strength and balance, will be teaching us some techniques to help us stay upright! All are welcome, bring a friend!

SOLA (SINGLE OR LIVING ALONE)

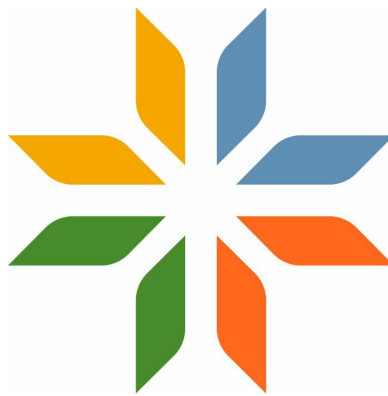
Come and enjoy conversation and fellowship Friday, **October 11th**, 11:30 at Stone and Vine on Alma School and Queen Creek! Bring a friend!!



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

Ride Sharing is available upon request!

UWF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE



Snowbirds and vacationers are coming back, and we are ready to kick it into high gear. There is always joy in getting together again. If you are looking for a new circle of friends, some fun, and want to do missions work, study the Bible and know what Methodist women around the world are doing, come and join us! We meet the second Monday of each month from October to May. Our **October 14th** meeting will be a potluck dinner at the home of Christy Thomas at 4:00pm. (Please R.S.V.P. with the dish you will bring and to get

directions. Contact Christy at: christysunlakes@gmail.com).

Read the book of Luke in preparation for our time together!

UWF UNIT MEETING

Welcome back to all those who have been away during the summer! The Unit Meeting of United Women in Faith will be held on Wednesday,

October 16th at 1:00 p.m. in Lindsay Hall. The program will be on "Habitat for Humanity," presented by a delegate from that organization, with some video illustrations. (More info to follow later). Faithful Friends Circle will be hosting.



Also, please plan to help Caring Hearts Circle at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15th in Lindsay Hall who will be addressing cards to Veterans. They plan to do quite a few, so they need lots of help!

SWEET LIFE CAFE

SWEET LIFE



On **October 17th** Sweet Life will begin a study on Angels. We will be using the study guide "*Angels: Who They Are and How They Help*" by Dr. David Jeremiah.

Over the years there have been many secular and religious books about Angels which are mentioned 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the New Testament. He reveals ungrounded notions and presents the truth from the Biblical record about Angels.

Please sign up in Lindsay Hall or by calling the Church Office (480) 895-8766. Bring your favorite image of an Angel!

THRIVING IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

Join several inspirational speakers including Benjamin Surmi, who is a Social Gerontologist, in a seminar that focuses on thriving in the second half of life. Along with Bart & Cris Evans, Sheryl Keeme and Melva Edwards! Come learn ways to make living well possible at any age!



The event will take place Tuesday, **October 22nd** from 9:00am - 3:00pm.

Tickets are available in the Church Office for \$20 per ticket. A catered lunch is included!

HALE THEATRE



Get into the holiday spirit with Holiday Inn, the classic musical inspired by the beloved film starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. Set at a charming inn that only opens on holidays, this heartwarming tale follows a singer who teams up with a talented

dancer to put on spectacular shows for each festive occasion. Filled with toe-tapping Irving Berlin tunes, dazzling dance numbers, and timeless romance, Holiday Inn is a joyous celebration of love, friendship, and the magic of the holiday season.

Tickets On Sale!

\$42 each *First Come First Serve*

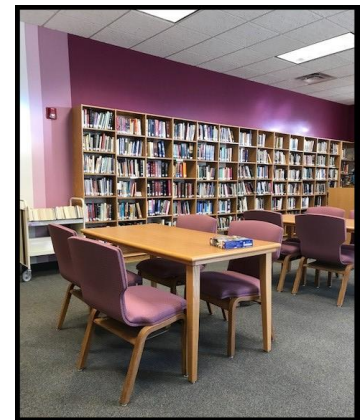
Please sign up with the Church Office: (480) 895-8766 Or with Christy Johnson

Showing is on Friday, **Nov. 1st** at 4:00pm

BOOKS FROM OUR LIBRARY

These are some of the books currently on display in the library:

- Two From Galilee by Marjorie Holmes
- The Power of Prayer Edited by Dale Salwak
- A New Song by Jan Karon
- Enjoying Where You Are On The Way to Where You Are Going by Joyce Meyer
- The Gift That Heals by Reg Green
- The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer That Jesus Taught by Adam Hamilton



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!

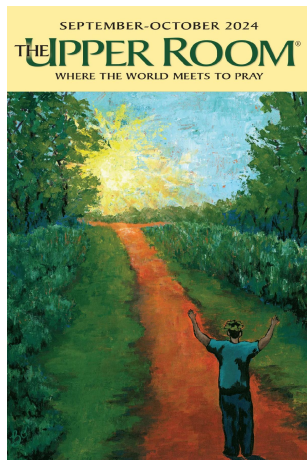
COME JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY

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!



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 Robert (Doug) Gear who passed away Saturday, August 31st. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, **October 19th** at 11:00am in the Chapel.

...to the family and friends of Paul Arnpriester, who passed away on Thursday, September 26th. A memorial service is pending.



[OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS](#)

[OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES](#)

[OCTOBER CALENDAR](#)

[NEED PRAYER?](#)

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Contact Our
Staff

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