



# Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

**October 29, 2024 - Kairos Vol. 11, Issue #37**



## **FROM THE PASTOR**

### **Reflecting on Our Journey Together**

When the announcement of my appointment at Sun Lakes United Methodist Church occurred last winter, it was clear that the heart of this community was vibrant, and the leadership and staff were deeply committed to the future of our church. In the spring, leaders and staff came together with an onboarding facilitator and me in anticipation of my arrival. This two-day gathering allowed the staff and leadership to ask questions and share input about their hopes and goals for the first six months of my ministry here. Out of those rich conversations, four key priorities emerged:

1. **Increased Social Media Presence**
2. **Improved Communication with Staff and Congregation**
3. **Greater Transparency Regarding Church Finances**



#### **4. An Enhanced System for Congregational Care**

Since then, we've made meaningful progress in each of these areas. I'd love to share with you where we are on this journey and what's still ahead.

##### **1. Social Media Presence**

We recognized that expanding our digital presence was essential in this day and age. I'm pleased to share that we've hired a director of communications who is already working to systematize and improve our engagement, especially on Facebook. We've also ramped up interactions through email and enhanced the information available on our website. These steps ensure that our church's mission and ministry are more accessible and visible in the wider community.

##### **2. Improved Communication**

Strengthening communication has been a top priority. Since August, I've hosted multiple coffee gatherings with the congregation to foster connection and conversation, and there will be more opportunities for these gatherings after the holidays. Regular one-on-ones with the office staff, along with monthly staff meetings, have created space for deeper connection, shared vision, and streamlined communication within our team.

##### **3. Financial Transparency**

We've made strides in sharing more information about the finances of the church. Our endowment, finance, and stewardship teams are working closely to ensure that the congregation has greater clarity and access to this vital information. In the coming weeks, you'll see more updates regarding our financial health. Should you have any questions, please reach out to our finance team members—Candy Jones, Frank Tuzzolino, Jerry Smith, Deanna Betz—or myself, and we'd be happy to help.

##### **4. Enhanced Congregational Care**

Caring for one another as the body of Christ is central to who we are as a community. This summer, we began implementing a new team-based approach to congregational care, and while we are still exploring ways to strengthen this system, I'm encouraged by our progress. Each week, the staff involved in care meet to review prayer requests, discuss visits and calls, and keep everyone informed about the needs of our community. The Stephen Ministers continue their vital one-on-one support, and we offer licensed counseling to those who need it. I also strive to stay connected through phone calls and visits, ensuring that our care for one another remains strong. Additionally, we're looking forward to welcoming an associate pastor of congregational care who will help us continue improving and expanding this ministry.

In the midst of all these efforts, life at Sun Lakes UMC continues to flourish. Worship is at the heart of our community, Bible studies and groups are coming together, and all-church events bring us joy and fellowship. Just last week, we celebrated a longtime member with a memorial service, held our first annual Homecoming brunch, hosted a community event on living well with guest speakers, and enjoyed a wonderful concert by the Tremble Clefs. Our campus is alive with activity, from exercise groups to choirs, and we remain steadfast in our mission to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world.

Together, we are the body of Christ, and I'm grateful for each of you as we continue to grow, learn, and serve.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jen

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## **GREEN PLEDGE CARD ENVELOPES**



Thank you to those of you who have already picked up your stewardship letters! You will notice that we provided an envelope inside if you wish to mail your commitment card back to us.

HOWEVER for the GREEN PLEDGE CARDS, you will need to either pick up an envelope at church on the next 3 Sundays or provide your own at home. You will need to address the envelope to yourself, then seal your pledge card in the envelope to bring on Consecration Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

The staff do not see your pledge card – that is your commitment with God! We will hold onto your pledge cards for 2025 and mail them back to you in November of next year (2025).

If you don't provide a mailing address on the envelope with your pledge card, we will not be able to mail it back to you.

Your commitments enable church to happen. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

From the Stewardship Committee

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## **HONORING HARRY HISE'S CONTINUED SERVICE**

It is with deep gratitude and appreciation that we announce Harry's resignation from the Counting Team after many years of faithful service. His commitment to ensuring that the financial gifts entrusted to Sun Lakes UMC were managed with care and accuracy has been a true blessing to our congregation. Though his presence is greatly missed by

his fellow counters, Harry's ministry here at the church continues in meaningful and impactful ways.

If you've visited on a Sunday, you've likely been greeted by Harry's warm smile at one of the sanctuary doors. His joyful spirit and welcoming presence are an integral part of our Sunday worship experience. Beyond greeting, Harry's heart for missions shines brightly. Just this week, he was spotted organizing supplies for our hygiene packing event, always stepping in to help where needed.

Harry's example reminds us that there are many ways to serve, and though roles may change, the call to ministry continues. We are so thankful for his ongoing dedication to the work of Christ through Sun Lakes UMC and look forward to seeing how his servant's heart will continue to bless this community.



Thank you, Harry, for all you do!

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## 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!

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## 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

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## 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.

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## DO UNTO OTHERS T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

For a limited time (and quantity), "Do Unto Others" T-shirts will be for sale for \$10 each! You can purchase your t-shirt in the Church Office Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm.

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



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## 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!

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## BAZAAR BAKE SALE CONTRIBUTIONS

Calling all Sun Lakes UMC Bakers! Please put on

your aprons and contribute to the Bake Sale which will be held on **November 2nd** as part of the Krafters Bazaar.

Items we are selling are cakes, cookies, pies, breads, candies, snacks and more!

Thank you so much!  
-The Krafters



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## KRAFTERS ANNUAL BAZAAR



Do not miss The Krafters annual bazaar and bake sale on Saturday, **November 2nd**, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Lindsay Hall.

The bazaar will include a variety of Fall and Christmas décor, including placemats, napkins, table runners, wall hangings, wreaths, centerpieces, and doll clothes and shoes made to fit an 18-inch doll.

In addition, we have a fabulous assortment of vintage jewelry for sale. Also available will be an assortment of homemade baked goodies.

Credit cards are accepted for a purchases of \$25.00 or more. For more information call the Church Office at (480) 895-8766.

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## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE NEWS

Christian Fellowship Circle is hosting a Fundraiser at Floridino's Italian Restaurant (590 N Alma School Rd UNIT 35) where 100% of our proceeds will go to our local mission giving projects!

Our first one will be Child Crisis AZ this Christmas!



Just eat at Floridino's (dine in or carry out) Thursday, **November 7th** between 4:00 and 8:00pm. You must tell the waiter that you are supporting

us and give them our code name: Fellowship. Floridino's will generously give us 20% of the sales that night. So, get some friends together and forget about cooking that night!! Hope to see you there!

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## SOLA'S NEXT LUNCH OUTING



The SOLA (Single Or Living Alone) will be meeting for lunch at Manuel's Mexican Restaurant on Friday, **November 8th** at 11:30am. The address is: 4210 S. Arizona Rd, Chandler. Don't forget to sign up and bring a friend!

Ride sharing available upon request!

Call the church office (480) 895-8766 to sign up or sign up in Lindsay Hall!

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## MANAGING THE HOLIDAYS: GRIEF SUPPORT

We are pleased to announce a new support group aimed at helping those who are navigating grief during the holiday season. The group will meet every Tuesday from November 12 through December 17, from 10:00am - 11:30am in Room 4 of the Education Building.



The holiday season can be a challenging time for individuals who are experiencing loss. This six-week group provides a compassionate and supportive environment where participants can share their grief journey with others, receive emotional support, and gain practical tools to manage the unique challenges of the holidays.

Each session is designed to help participants explore their feelings, find comfort in shared experiences, and discover ways to honor their loved ones during the holiday season.

Please sign up with the Church Office (480) 895-8766 or in Lindsay Hall.

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## HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

If you have trouble hearing on your cell phone, don't miss the HLAA chapter meeting on **November 14<sup>th</sup>** from 12:45-2:30 in





Room 1 of the Education Building. Matt Goncalves of InnoCaption will tell us about the FREE mobile app that provides real time captioning for cell phone calls!

Contact [rontallman1@gmail.com](mailto:rontallman1@gmail.com) or [rozseibold@gmail.com](mailto:rozseibold@gmail.com) with any questions.

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## BOOKS FROM OUR LIBRARY

Some books for this week:

- Life Goes On by Phillip Gulley
- Holding Heaven by Jerry B. Jenkins
- Incarnation by Adam Hamilton
- Too Soon Old, Too Late Smart by Gordon Livingston, M.D.
- The Red House Mystery by A.A. Milne



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## 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!

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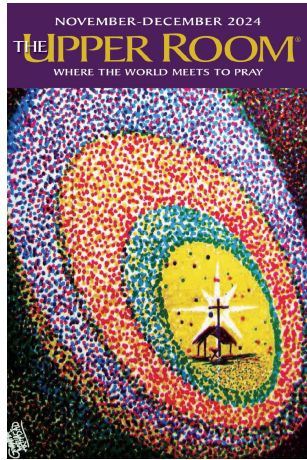
## COME JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY

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 NOV - DEC



The Upper Room Devotionals for November and December are running a tad behind with their delivery.

We are expected to receive them in the next 2 weeks.

We're sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## LOVE AND SYMPATHY

.....to the family and friends of Zelma Rote who passed away Saturday, October 19th. A memorial service is still pending.

...to the family and friends of Gordon Roen who passed away Wednesday, October 16th. A memorial service is still pending.



[NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS](#)

[NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES](#)

[NOVEMBER CALENDAR](#)

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