



Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

January 28, 2025 - Kairos Vol. 12, Issue #4



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JEN:

Honoring Tradition in a Season of Change

Music has always been at the heart of worship at Sun Lakes United Methodist Church. For so many of us, the familiar hymns, anthems, and melodies draw us closer to God and connect us to cherished memories of faith. It is a tradition we treasure, and one we are deeply committed to continuing.

As we navigate this season of transition in our music ministry, I want to assure you of one thing: our music will remain rooted in the traditional style that you know and love. While our search for a new Music Director is underway, we are not changing what isn't broken. The rich, meaningful music that has been a hallmark of our worship will remain



steadfast and familiar.

With the help of Guest Music Director Jodi Mattson, and the incredible leadership of Mary Sievert, Caroline Brown, Jean Nelson, as well as our devoted choir members, we are continuing to offer the same caliber of music that has blessed this congregation for generations. Their hard work and passion ensure that our music ministry not only continues but thrives during this time of transition.

Our search for a new Music Director is intentional and prayerful. We are looking for someone who understands and respects traditional worship music, has experience working with established choirs, and is dedicated to the unique style of music that makes our services so meaningful. Finding the right person to carry this torch is a priority, and we are committed to ensuring that this ministry remains strong and familiar for years to come.

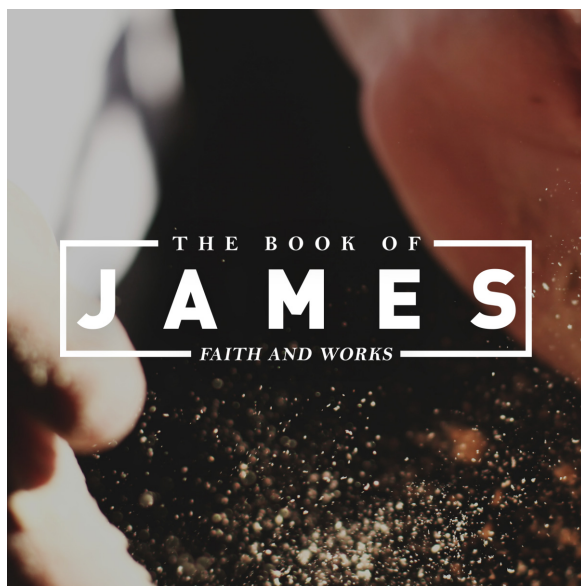
Change can feel unsettling, but it also provides an opportunity to reflect on what matters most. And what matters most to us is maintaining the rich tradition of music that enhances our worship and inspires our faith. Together, we will move forward in confidence, trusting in God's guidance and holding fast to the beautiful traditions that define us.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we journey through this season. The music continues, and so does the joy it brings to our hearts.

See you in church,

Pastor Jen

FAITH THAT WORKS



Faith That Works: A Journey Through the Book of James

Throughout Scripture, we find a delicate yet essential balance between faith and works. Some may hold great faith but fail to demonstrate it through action, while others work tirelessly but lack the foundational faith that breathes meaning into their efforts. The Book of James speaks directly to this balance, offering practical guidance on how to live out both faith and works in harmony.

In our new five-week sermon series, *Faith That Works*, we'll dive deeply into the principles that James teaches us for living as believers in a way that reflects a faith that is both authentic and active.

Together, we will explore:

- How faith shapes our actions and attitudes,
- What it means to live with integrity as followers of Christ, and
- How to cultivate a life that honors God through both belief and behavior.

This series is an opportunity to take a fresh look at the connection between what we believe and how we live it out in everyday life. Whether you are someone looking to strengthen your faith or seeking encouragement to align your actions with your beliefs, this series promises to inspire and challenge you.

Join us in worship starting this Sunday as we embark on this journey together. Let's discover how to experience a faith that truly works!

TO THE SLUMC CONGREGATION

To Pastor Jen and the Sun Lakes congregation,

I have had a hard time with words trying to convey my thanks to you for everything, especially on Jan. 19th. The love and acceptance I have felt from you all has been heartwarming. That morning was perfect. The choir sounded excellent, very worshipful, and spiritual.



Pastor Jen, Jackie, Janine, Judy, Jim, and Steve...(and countless others), thank you for all the work you did to make the morning so beautiful for us, and especially for your kind words. The cards, the cake, the family, the students, the friends from Chorale, and all of you mean the world to us. We need to take some time and discover what retirement holds for us. We want to come back after a while, but for now, Jodi is more than capable of directing the choir until a replacement for me is found. Mary, Caroline and Jean are terrific teammates. The music will continue to inspire you.

So as we leave for a bit, we send love and much gratitude.

"God be with you til we meet..."

Sincerely,
Cris (and Bart) Evans

SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

The holidays may have passed, but the spirit of generosity in our



congregation continues to shine brightly. As we step into a new year, we are reminded of the many ways your kindness and giving have blessed our church.

Soon, you will see a beautiful fountain in the Narthex, donated in honor of Claire Akin. This special gift was made possible by the generosity of some of our members and friends in the community, and it will serve as a meaningful

reminder of sharing and giving for all to enjoy. We look forward to the installation of the "Fountain of Living Water."

During the Christmas season, we witnessed extraordinary acts of generosity. Instead of purchasing poinsettias and in consultation with the Missions team, our congregation gave an astounding \$9,885 to the Heifer Project, a gift that will make a transformative difference in the lives of families around the world. The refreshed Christmas wreaths and new swags for the Sanctuary were made possible through the thoughtfulness of three generous individuals, with no additional expense to the church budget. The Krafters provided an upgrade to the sound system in Room 1 of the education building, a space used by many in our community.

Your generosity and sharing allow us to experience these beautiful additions that enrich our worship, fellowship, and connection with one another. Thank you for making a difference, not just during the holidays, but all year long.

In gratitude,

Pastor Jen and the Finance Team

JANUARY 26TH GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

Church,

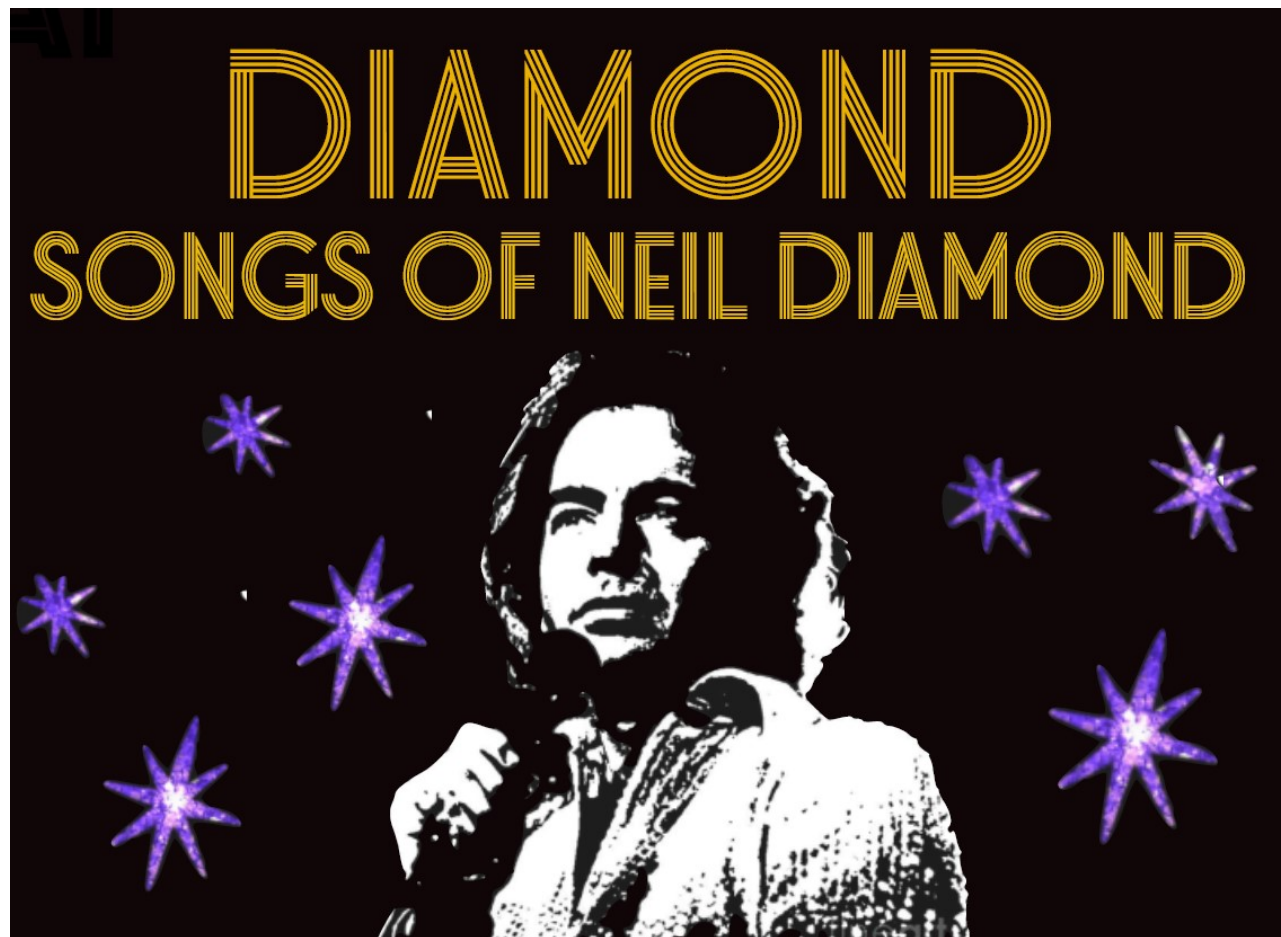
Here is the Giving and Attendance Report for **January 26th:**

Attendance: 250
YouTube Watchers: 107
Week's Offering: \$9,567.00

January Month To Date Giving:
\$87,693.84
January Monthly Budget Needs:
\$90,926.03



NEXT SHOWTUNE PRODUCTIONS CONCERT



Neil Diamond has sold more than 130 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling musicians of all time. Come enjoy this tribute to all his greatest hits!

Tickets are \$25 each, and can be bought at the Church Office:
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm or following the Sunday service.

The concert is on Sunday, **February 2nd** at 3:00 pm

Please call the Church Office if you have any questions (480) 895-8766

UWF WOMEN'S RETREAT



The United Women in Faith will be hosting their annual Women's Retreat on **February 8th!**

We invite women to a transformative retreat, "Conversations with God, Yourself, and Others: Discovering the Enneagram as a Spiritual and Relational Growth Tool." Tickets cost \$20 each which includes a continental

breakfast and a catered lunch! Tickets can be purchased at the Church Office Monday-Thursday from 9:00am-3:00pm.

Join us for a day of interactive learning and spiritual renewal as we explore how the Enneagram can deepen our relationship with God, foster self-awareness, and enhance connections with others.

The Keynote speakers are Pastor Jennifer Lambert and Joan Webb, a life coach whose passion for helping individuals embrace their God-given design and overcome life's obstacles. We are excited that Becky Paschal-Snyder will also be present with us for some gentle yoga breaks!

The retreat will be held on Saturday, **February 8th** from 9:00am - 3:00pm in Lindsay Hall.

TUESDAY NIGHTS TOGETHER



Start the new year by focusing on your health and wellness! After enjoying all those delicious holiday meals with family and friends, it's time to check in with your body and set new goals.

We are excited to welcome Ila Mackerman to our TNT event on Tuesday, **February 11**, at 5:30 PM. Ila will share insights from her expertise in physical training, focusing on strength, balance, and flexibility.

At 84 years young, Ila is a true inspiration! She is certified in multiple disciplines, including martial arts, kickboxing, aquatics, and more. As a former national trainer and lead Fitness Specialist with the YM/WCA, she brings compassion, skill, and expertise to help you become the best version of yourself.

Join us for a light meal at 5:00 PM (goodwill donation appreciated), followed by Ila's program at 5:30 PM.

Don't miss this opportunity to recharge and invest in your health! Please sign-up with the Church Office (480) 895-8766 or in Lindsay Hall!

HCAA UPCOMING MEETING

If you're having trouble hearing on the telephone, don't miss the HLAA chapter meeting on **February 13th** from 12:45-2:30 in Room 1 in the Education Building. Vicki Thompson from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing will tell us how citizens of Arizona can obtain telecommunication equipment (volume control telephones, signaling/flashing/vibrating devices and more) for FREE. Contact rontallman1@gmail.com or rozseibold@gmail.com with any questions.



SOUP AND PIE FELLOWSHIP



Hearing loss can be a lonely journey. However, there are over 50 million people with some degree of hearing loss in our country, over 1 million here in Arizona! Join us as Liz Booth (HLAA Sun Lakes Chapter) takes us through how to "Pack our Toolboxes" with communication strategies, hearing loss relationship support, and ways to cope with this 24/7 challenge.

Join us for an opportunity of fellowship, and learning, with a provided lunch of Soup & Pie on Tuesday, **February 18th** in Lindsay Hall from 10:00am - 1:00pm

Please sign up in Lindsay Hall or with the Church Office.

GRIEF SUPPORT

Starting Tuesday, **February 18th**, there will be a new 8-week Grief Support Class hosted by Polly Smith. This class is designed to provide a safe, supportive environment for individuals navigating the journey of grief.



February 18th - April 8th from 1:00pm-2:30pm in Room 4 of the Education Building.

Please sign up with the Church Office or by calling (480) 895-8766

HONOR FLIGHTS ARIZONA



Honor Flights Arizona flies WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam era veterans on three-day, all-expense-paid excursions to visit military memorials in Washington, DC. Although the waiting list is long, our veterans receive priority placement as the Veterans Circle of Honor and the Missions Team contribute to this worthy cause.

Flights (two per month) resume in March of 2025. If you are a veteran and wish to take advantage of this program, please contact Honor Flights Arizona at **1-928-377-1020** or

by email at info@honorflightaz.org.

If you encounter difficulties, you may contact me directly.

Combat service is not required to qualify.

Howard Strouse
Chair, Vets Circle of Honor

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!



JAN. 26TH ALTAR FLOWERS DONATED

-From Kathy Oplinger in Memory of Rick Oplinger

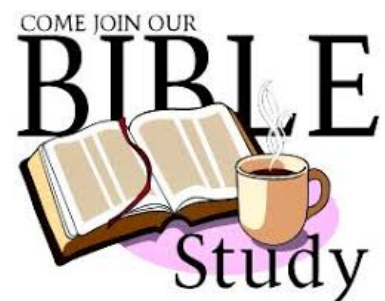
-From Howard and Loie Rudge in Celebration of their 66th Wedding Anniversary



SUNDAY 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!



CHECK OUT OUR LIBRARY



Here are some books from our library:

- The Power to Heal by Frances MacNutt
- More Glimpses of Heaven: Inspiring True Stories of Hope and Peace at the End of Life's Journey by Trudy Harris
- Peace Like a River: A Personal Journey Across America by Sue Guist
- Meeting God at Every Turn by Catherine Marshall
- Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper
- The God Who Loves You by Peter Kreeft
- Glorious Hope: Stories of Life, Faith and Finishing Well by The Authors of Guideposts

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Staff

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