



# Sun Lakes United Methodist Church

Sun Lakes, Arizona

**March 12, 2025 - Kairos Vol. 12, Issue #10**



## **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

### **The Fountain of Living Water: Honoring Claire Akin**

In the quiet beauty of our church narthex (the lobby to the sanctuary), a new fountain now flows in loving memory of Claire Akin. Named the "Fountain of Living Water," it stands as a symbol of faith, hope, and remembrance—a place where the sound of water invites reflection and renewal.

Water holds deep significance in our Christian faith and in the life of the United Methodist Church. In Scripture, water is a sign of new beginnings and the sustaining presence of God. The words of Jesus in John 4:14 remind us: "But whoever drinks of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in



them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

In baptism, water is the outward and visible sign of God's grace, welcoming believers into the community of faith. It is a reminder that we are washed clean, renewed, and called into a life that reflects God's love and mercy. Water flows as a symbol of God's constant provision and the Spirit's movement within and among us.

The Fountain of Living Water offers a physical reminder of these spiritual truths. It is a place to pause, pray, and remember Claire's life and legacy. As water bubbles up and overflows, it mirrors how God's love fills and overflows in our lives, reaching beyond us to nurture and bless the world.

On Sundays, spend a moment by the fountain—to be still, to remember, and to reflect on the living water that Christ offers to each of us. May it serve as a space of peace and gratitude, connecting us to God, to one another, and to the memory of a beloved friend.

May the waters remind us of God's promise and presence, ever flowing, ever renewing.

See you in church!

**Pastor Jennifer**

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## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE UNITED METHODIST



Some of you come from backgrounds other than United Methodist while others of you have been lifelong United Methodists. I recently found this free course and I would encourage anyone to take this:

[What it Means to Be United Methodist - Overview | Rise 360](#)

I found it to be very helpful and pray you will find it useful as well!

Pastor Jen

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## MARCH 9TH GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

Church,

Here is the Giving and Attendance Report for March 9th:

Attendance: 287



YouTube Watchers: 163.2  
Week's Offering: \$22,768.76

March Month To Date Giving: \$44,132.76  
March Monthly Budget Needs: \$99,161.79

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## A CHALLENGE TO MEET OUR BUDGET GAP



The Church Council has issued a challenge to help meet our current budget deficit of **\$113,000**. As Steve Rasmussen shared in worship on Sunday, we are experiencing a three-year trend of declining giving, coupled with the loss of *111 members* due to either passing or moving away. **With this decline, our reserves have been exhausted, resulting in the deficit.** While we budget carefully—including setting aside reserves—sometimes unexpected challenges arise that require us to lean on one another in

faith and generosity.

In response, the Church Council has already pledged \$46,300 above and beyond their regular Sunday giving. This commitment reflects our leadership's deep faith in the mission of Sun Lakes UMC and our shared calling to sustain and grow our ministry.

We invite **you** to be part of this challenge. If you feel led to contribute above your regular giving, please reach out to Candy Jones, Chair of Finance, at [csj12068@yahoo.com](mailto:csj12068@yahoo.com).

Your generosity will help ensure that we can continue our vital ministries—worship, pastoral care, small groups, outreach, and community support—without interruption. Every gift—large or small—makes a difference.

Together, we can continue to be a beacon of hope, love, and faith in our community.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

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## PASTORAL "DROP-IN" HOURS





Have you been waiting to have an one-on-one with the Pastors? The opportunity has arrived! There are now Drop-In visitation times where you can stop by for prayer, support, or simply share a conversation with the Pastor!

Pastor Jennifer is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am - 12:00pm.

Pastor Chan is available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00am - 12:00pm.

We hope this availability will strengthen connections within our church community and make it easier for everyone to access the pastoral care they need. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to serve together in ministry!

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## **HERE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE**

### **Communion After Morning Worship**

For all who hunger and thirst for a new life, for a deeper faith, for a better world, or who simply want to remember Jesus together around the table of grace, an opportunity for communion will be offered in the Chapel, immediately following the close of Sunday morning worship for five Sundays in Lent (excluding the first Sunday in April, when communion is served during the 9:00 service).



Remember: "Everybody needs a little Jesus," and he promised that whenever two or three are gathered in his name, he is present in our midst.

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## CHOIR INVITATION



Do you love to sing? You are invited to join the choir on Good Friday and Easter Sunday this year!

Join us for rehearsals starting on Wed., **March 19th** at 6:30 in the choir room!

Contact Marlynn at [marlynn@sunlakesumc.org](mailto:marlynn@sunlakesumc.org) for more information!

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## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

In lieu of our March meeting, we will visit the Hope Women's Center in Coolidge (a free resource and referral center for women and teen girls facing any difficult life situation) on **March 17th (not 10th)** to learn where and how our gifts are helping. You will feel inspired, enriched and informed.



**Sign up** Contact Christy Thomas or e-mail: [christysunlakes@gmail.com](mailto:christysunlakes@gmail.com)

**Car pool** from the church at 9:00 am

**Tour** @ 10:00

**Lunch** in Coolidge following tour.

We'll be home plenty early for you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

**Bring a gift or two** to give the center which will be very much appreciated.

Non-perishable items: peanut butter, soups, beans, Ramen noodles, cold cereal.

Toiletries: shampoos, conditioner, lotions (small containers), anklet socks for the women.

Other: paper towels, small dish, small bottles of dish soap, laundry pods, children's diapers size 6 pull-ups for young children 4 and 5T, adult Attends large and x-large & regular sized, kleenex, baby wipes

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## UWF UNIT MEETING

Just a reminder to mark your calendars!

This month's Unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, **March 19**, at 1:00 p.m. in Lindsay Hall.



Programs for that day are "Prayer and Self Denial" by Susan Langan, (correction), and Jay Klein, the new director of "Teachers for Teachers" will be telling us about the changes and updates that are taking place in that organization. Christian Fellowship Circle will be hosting this month.

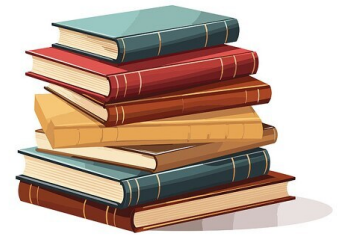
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## **SLUMC LIBRARY TOUR**

Join us for a guided tour of SLUMC Library that will be open to all on Wednesday, March 19th from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

From 11:30am - 12:00pm, it will include special training to all who are participating in the UWF Reading Program.

For more information, please contact Marge Wright or the Church Office.



classroomclipart.com

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## **UPCOMING SCAMS & FRAUD SAFETY FAIR**



# SCAMS & FRAUD SAFETY FAIR

Join County Attorney Rachel Mitchell and the Sheriff's Office to learn more about the scams that affect our communities the most!



**Friday, March 28, 2025**



**10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**



**First Baptist Church Sun Lakes  
9535 E Riggs Rd, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248**

This event is free and open to the public! No registration required.  
Knowledge is your best defense! Don't miss this opportunity to stay informed.



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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!

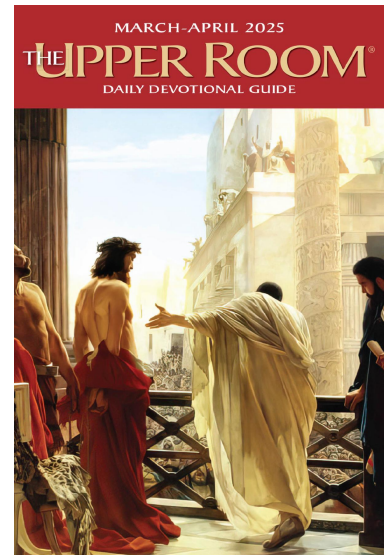
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## THE UPPER ROOM MARCH - APRIL

The Upper Room Daily Devotional for March - April 2025 is now available in the Church Office Foyer or Lindsay Hall.

Large Print copies are also available.

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



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## 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!

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## WITH LOVE AND SYMPATHY

...to the family and friends of Newman Benson, who passed away Monday, February 17th. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 26th at 11:00am in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in Lindsay Hall.



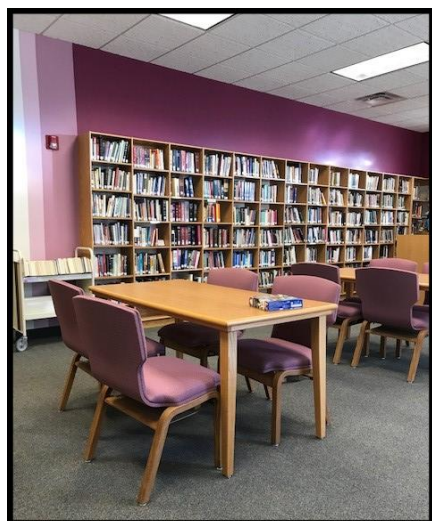
...to the family and friends of Lila Wood, who passed away on Tuesday, February 25th. There will be a small family service.

...to the family and friends of Lynn Thompson, who passed away on Saturday, March 1st. There will be a small family service.



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## BOOKS ON DISPLAY IN THE LIBRARY



Here are a variety of the books which can be found in our library:

- "From Sea to Shining Sea" by Peter Marshall and David Manuel
- "Final Gifts" by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley
- "The Book of Success" edited by Richard Shea
- "The Longest Ride" by Nicholas Sparks
- "Cherish the Earth" by Janice E. Kirk and Donald R. Kirk
- "The Covenant" by James A. Michener
- "Jesus of Nazareth" by William Barclay

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## CONTAINER PICK-UP

Reminder, please pick-up your cookie containers in Lindsay Hall during Hospitality Hour!!



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## LOST AND FOUND IN CHURCH OFFICE

We have accumulated a hefty pile of lost and found items over the past year here in the Church Office. Please stop by if you're missing any of the following items:



- Glasses & Sunglasses
- Keys (car and home)
- Jewelry





# LAFF

Sponsored by SLJC

LAUGHTER & FRIENDSHIP FOREVER  
presents the hilarious INTERFAITH  
production of

# "THE FAMILY TREE"

A Hysterically Funny  
**MUSICAL COMEDY**

March 29, 7pm

March 30, 3pm

April 5, 7pm

April 6, 3pm



On stage  
At Sun Lakes  
Country Club

**\$20**

**TICKETS ON SALE**  
at Sun Lakes Country Club  
[www.ticketsource.us/slhoa1](http://www.ticketsource.us/slhoa1)

If you **LAFFed** at "A Deli Line", you'll **LOVE** "The Family Tree"!

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Phone: 480-895-8766

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