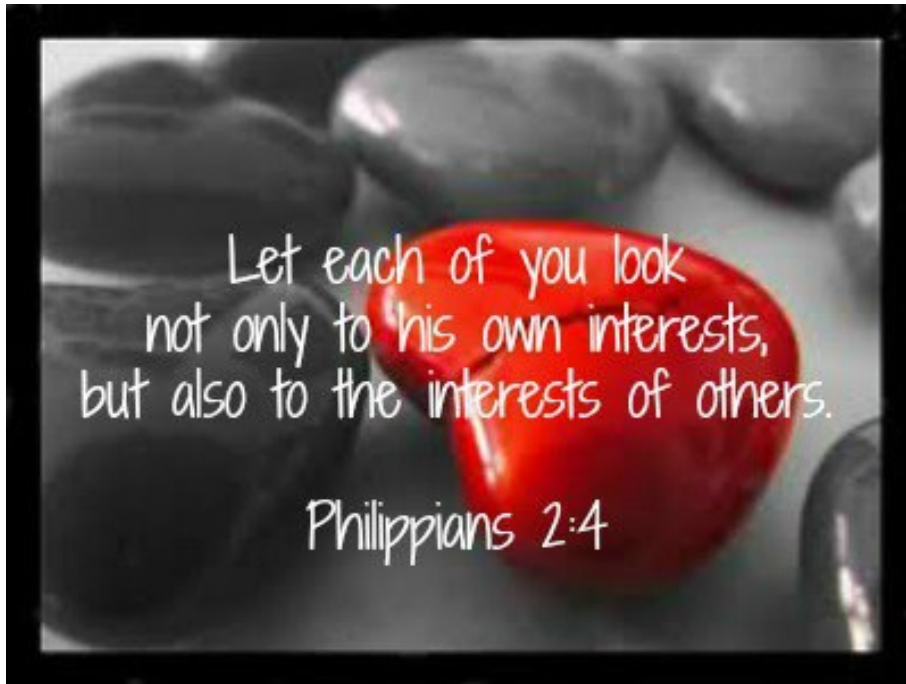


# The Evangel

Our mission is to lead people of all ages on the journey to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus.



CHURCH OF GILBERT

331 S. Cooper Road

Gilbert, AZ 85233

480-892-9166

[www.firstgilbert.church](http://www.firstgilbert.church)

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8a—4p

Friday By Appointment

## Spirituality: A Messy Business!

### Sermon Series Continues

*If you struggle with your journey of faith, do things you regret, are haunted by doubts, addictions, failures; if you just feel like you aren't making it as a follower of Jesus, join us! Some of our topics:*

Feb 5                      Spiritual Growth Is Not a Science  
                                  2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Feb 12                     God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People  
                                  Matthew 20:1-16

### Pastor Gwen will be Preaching on 2/19 & 2/26

Feb 19                     Take Up Your Cross  
                                  Luke 9:23-27

Feb 26                     Delivered  
                                  Mark 9:2-9

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#### Important Dates

02/12	Scout Sunday
02/17	Jam Session
02/17	Sweetheart Dinner
02/19	Family Promise

## Message from Pastor Deborah

In several recent meetings one of our lay leaders, Kelly McClain, has challenged us to consider the words of Philippians 2:1-8:



*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.*

The questions Kelly posed to us were these. In the contexts in which you are serving, or participating in the church, what would it mean to carry out this command: “in humility regard others as better than yourselves?” What would it mean to “look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others?”

At a minimum, it might challenge our attachment to personal preference, and our determination to ensure that things are done in the way that we find most comfortable. It might mean that instead of arranging things so that my choices and priorities are expressed and carried out most of the time, at least some of us might choose to allow others to have a “final” say, if it might be helpful for the other person’s salvation or peace of mind or growth in Christ. It might mean that when we are tempted to be offended because someone has done or said something that feels “personal” we might choose to let go and forgive, sooner rather than later. It might mean that even when we have painted ourselves into a corner emotionally and spiritually, threatening to leave, or withdraw support, unless things are done “my way,” we might come back, humbly confess, ask for forgiveness, and step back into the party.

What else might it mean, for you, in the realms of your activity here?

*In humility regard others as better than yourselves. Look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Give up your strong control, your need to be right, and defer to someone whose needs are greater than your own; whose relationship with Jesus is less secure; whose confidence is easily shaken, for their sake, and for the sake of Christ.*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. He looked to your interests, and mine, even on a cross.

Blessings and Peace  
Pastor Deborah

## Message from Pastor Gwen

Below is an illustration of "The Journey of a Prayer Request." This information is provided to share with you not only what the process is but how important and how much care is placed into your prayer requests.

What "The Journey of a Prayer Request" means to you:

- Your prayer requests are taken seriously and our church will follow through with lifting up your request and responding to your situation.
- Fill out the yellow attendance card completely each time with your name and address, phone number and email. It helps us follow up with you.

- Be clear when making your request. In situations of upcoming surgeries, please give details like name of hospital, time and dates, and reason for the surgery. You will be called by the Congregational Care Team if further information is needed. Full details on the cards will not be shared with the Prayer team, only the pastors and Congregation Care team.
- It means...We love you! And deeply care.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this process, please contact Pastor Gwen at 480-892-9166 or [pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org).



## *The Journey of a Prayer Request*

A prayer request is submitted on worship attendance card or online.

These are the yellow cards that are in your bulletin each week or request sent to [prayers@gilbertumc.org](mailto:prayers@gilbertumc.org)

It is received by the Prayer Chain Coordinator and sent to Prayer Team. Pastor Only requests go directly to the Pastors and are not seen by the Prayer Team.

There are 45 people on the Prayer Team and they have all signed a pledge of confidentiality and diligence to pray for your need.

Then it is sent to a sub-group of the Prayer Team who pray again for your request and send a note of encouragement and hope, acknowledging that the Prayer Team is praying for your request.

The request goes to the Pastors, who meet with the Congregational Care team to assess whether action is needed to respond to the request. (ie: are you having surgery; is there a death, etc). A care plan is put in place when needed.



## First UMC Gilbert Blood Drive

The first blood drive of 2017 is set for Sunday, February 19th from 7am—11am in the Activity Center.

Contact Chris Thompson at 480-892-5640 or visit [www.Bloodhero.com](http://www.Bloodhero.com) (Sponsor code: firstumc) to sign up. This is a life saving gift! Your participation is appreciated and much needed!



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### *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*

*You are welcome to join the Christian History Sunday School class on Sundays at 9:30am in room 133. They are currently studying "Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography" by John Dominic Crossan. He writes a "startling account of what we can know about the life of Jesus." In this work Crossan seeks to outline the life of the historical Jesus that he believes lay beneath the canonical Gospel accounts in a manner as accurate and intellectually honest as possible.*

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## Music Ministries

You may remember **Peter, Paul, and Mary Remembered**, a group that includes our music director, Marty Province, singing for one of our church services last June. They will be presenting a concert at the Higley Center on Thursday, March 2 at 7:00. For that performance, they will be joined by a string quartet comprising some of Marty's former students from the Hamilton High School Orchestra (many of whom have played for our services here at First Gilbert).

For more information, talk to Marty or log onto the web address below (tickets are also available at that address).

<https://higleycenter.ticketforce.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=173>

If you enjoy singing (and/or playing) some of these old songs, join us for a **Third-Friday Jam Session** each month 7:00-10:00 in room 142. February's date is the 17th.

If you enjoy singing in general, consider joining the **Chancel Choir**. We meet on Wednesdays at 7:00

in the sanctuary. Lent and Easter is always a joyous time in the music of the church, and we would love for you to share your talents with the congregation.

We also invite **children of all ages** (seriously kindergarten through every grade) to join Marty for 15 minutes of singing each Sunday at 10:45 in the Choir Room. That group sings for services periodically, but the focus is on making meaningful music together in a lively and fun environment.

If you have questions about any of the music opportunities in the church (or if you have a "hidden talent" you would like to share), contact Marty through the church office.

Church office number is 480-892-9166 or via email at [music@gilbertumc.org](mailto:music@gilbertumc.org).



## Preschool News ~ What's been happening?

Registration for 2017-2018

**Pre-Enrollment Feb. 6-10, 9:00am-12**

For church members, current and former preschool families.

Pick up a registration packet in the front office or the preschool office.

We have classes for 2, 3, 4/5 year olds!

**Open Enrollment begins Feb. 13th, 9:00am-12 Monday through Friday**

All families welcome. Tell a friend! Give us a call and take a tour of our preschool!

### Donuts with Dads: Building Memories

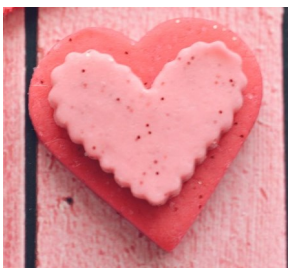
In January, the preschoolers brought their Dads (or other special person) to school to have breakfast, play building games and spend amazing time together!

### February: Healthy Heart Month

This month we'll learn about different ways to stay healthy including getting plenty of exercise, lots of sleep and eating healthy foods. The kids will enjoy a visit from a dentist who will discuss proper brushing techniques and the importance of getting their teeth cleaned at the dentist office. These learning opportunities will help the children develop good habits that they can benefit from as they grow and develop!

### Fun February Activity: Glitter Pink Ombre Playdough

- First you want to gather four bowls (This is to create four separate ombre dough colors), a can of large glitter, red food coloring, and 2 packets strawberry flavored Kool-aid.
- In each bowl add 1 cup all-purpose flour , 1/4 cup salt, 1/2 table-spoon vegetable oil , 1 teaspoon cream of tartar, 1/2 packet of Strawberry Kool-aid and 1 cup of water. Stir each bowl until the ingredients are well mixed.
- Now put a few drops of food coloring in the first bowl and double for the second, triple for the third and quadruple for the last. This will allow each bowl to be a few shades separate from each other.
- Heat your pot over medium-low heat on the stove and add your lightest color play dough first. Slowly sprinkle in a tablespoon or two of glitter.
- Use a spatula to stir the mixture until it starts to thicken and dry up. The dough should start to form a ball away from the walls of the sauce pan. Then you can remove it from the heat and knead until smooth. Repeat for all four **homemade playdough colors**. After the playdough cools, enjoy rolling out the dough and using cookie cutters to make fun shapes, roll into balls and "snakes"!



## Cancer Kits: In Memory of Kathy Revenew

Items continue to be collected to prepare Cancer Kits to be delivered to those under treatment for cancer.

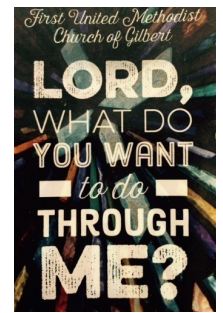
Your donations of items are greatly appreciated and needed to continue this wonderful ministry.

Items needed for kits include:

- Mini journals (can be purchased at Walmart)
- Small fragrance-free lotion (ie Aveeno, Curel)
- Weekly pill box
- Small fragrance-free hand sanitizer
- Herbal tea packets (peppermint, ginger, chamomile)
- Chap Stick
- Biotene
- Ice Packs (gel type)
- Soft, warm socks
- Book markers with scripture
- Snacks (crackers, non-perishable items)
- Blank note card/ Thank you notes
- Colored pencils, adult coloring books
- Monetary Donations to purchase items or fabric for pillows

# Lord, What Do You Want to do Through Me?

By Ray Vallera, Interim Youth Director



A simple question that the younger me would have never asked. I grew up in the 70's as a child of a divorced couple. My father's parents were Italian and attended a Catholic Church. My mom's family attended Lutheran church on special occasions. My dad didn't go at all but my mom took my sister and me almost every Sunday for CCD- which is their Sunday school. My parents were divorced when I was about 5. I noticed how the Priest and people treated my mom differently. She wasn't welcomed but she went for her our sake so that we'd know God. It seemed to me like my mom was the one being punished and she was the one wanting to be at church. I started questioning the teachings, rules & churchy ways. When it came time for my confirmation into the Catholic Church, I decided it wasn't right for me and I just couldn't do it.

My impression of God was a Father waiting for me to make a mistake or break his rules so he could punish me. I wanted no part of it, so I left the church and became angry with God due to the rules and actions of people, especially church people and Priests. Over time my heart turned cold and my soul was darkened. I started dealing with life on my own, which lead to my abuse of drugs and alcohol, which took me down a long hard road for a while. I had times where I'd think of God and try to start our relationship again but it didn't stick for long. I met my wife in the late 80's and she was raised Methodist. We attended the Methodist church a few times and it felt better than my past experience. In 1995 we were married at Cross in The Desert Methodist church, where she grew up and attended youth group.

Now we'll flash forward 15 years to the summer of 2000. That's when I found out we'd be having our first child. My immediate thought was to resolve my differences with God and get back into church to have a solid foundation for my family. We came here and met with Pastor Gary Kennedy and I knew this was the place God wanted me to be. This was my "I'm in" moment. I started following Jesus one step at a time. I slowly became involved around church serving various committees, ministry teams and taking adult classes. It's been a long slow journey and that is ok, it's part of my reason why it's so important for me to share my experiences with the youth and be here for them.

My time here at First Gilbert UMC has taught me about an ALL loving and caring God without a bunch of rules. I'm not perfect, life isn't perfect but I try daily to live my life intentionally according to two rules Jesus commanded us in *Mark 12:30-31* "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these."

## Helping Others With A Meal

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me....." Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 24:35-40



Through Food Tidings, our church provides meals to those in our congregation experiencing an illness, death, unexpected crisis or birth of a new baby. Food Tidings is an online program that allows us to schedule meals for families in need, listing which days meals are needed, food allergies, etc. If you would like more information about the program or would like to be involved, contact Ellie Koenig at [elliekoenig@gmail.com](mailto:elliekoenig@gmail.com).

## Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church. During the month of January, your donations to the church's General Fund:

- Provided facilities for a new Financial Peace University class that started on January 11. 32 people attended the first class, most of whom were from outside our church family (potential future members!). FPU has been offered on our campus several times over the last couple of years. This is our largest class ever!
- Provided space for our weekly Chat & Chew group. 15-20 people bring their lunches to room 133 at noon on Wednesdays to enjoy fellowship and sing favorite hymns and songs.
- Made possible through the work of our Associate Pastor Gwen Mader our new training for Congregational Care Ministers. The first training class started on January 11, with 12 people attending. Please contact Pastor Gwen for more information if you are interested in this new program.
- Provided space for our Cub Scout Pack Olympics on January 7, and our Boy Scout Pinewood Derby on January 21. Scouts and their families, approximately 200 people, including many from outside our church, attended these fun events.

Without your gifts, we could not do this work which is all focused on our Mission "To Lead People of All Ages on the Journey to Become Deeply Devoted Followers of Jesus"! Year-end giving statements were emailed/mailed the first two weeks in January. Please review your statement and contact Taleen Carpenter, Financial Secretary ([financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org](mailto:financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org), 480-892-9166) with any questions.

Please remember one of the easiest financial gifts you can make to our church is to donate a portion of your 2016 tax refund. Your gift will be used to continue and expand our church's ministry efforts as set forth in our 2017 budget.

December financial statement summaries are available in the church office. If you have any questions about the church's finances, or if you would like to receive a copy of the efinancial statements, please contact LeRoy Johnson, Finance Chair ([Financechair@gilbertumc.org](mailto:Financechair@gilbertumc.org)) or Deanna Helland, Church Treasurer/Accountant (480-892-9166, [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto:accountant@gilbertumc.org)).

The QR code below is for giving via your mobile device. Or click on the GIVING link on our website to process your donation on-line. If you have any questions about on-line giving options, or if you need help setting up your on-line giving, please contact our Financial Secretary, Taleen Carpenter (480-892-9166, [financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org](mailto:financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org)) or Deanna Helland (480-892-9166, [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto:accountant@gilbertumc.org)).



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***Winter Camp Registration: Winter Camp is just around the corner!***

***When: February 18-20 2017 Where: Mingus Mountain Camp What; Winter fun, speakers, sessions, Army of Light Worship + more! Cost: \$130.00 If you want more information, visit the website: [www.vividretreat2017.com/](http://www.vividretreat2017.com/) to register and reserve your spot. Spaces are limited!!***

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## Scout Sunday—February 12th!

At First United Methodist Church of Gilbert, we celebrate **ALL** Scouting on Scout Sunday. All Girl Scouts, Venture Youth, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts (and leaders) are encouraged to wear their uniforms, even if they are members of other Scouting units not connected with First United Methodist.

The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

On Scout Sunday, all youth members, leaders, and parents are invited to the 8:00 am, 9:30 am, or 11:00 am service at our Chartered Organization, the 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church of Gilbert. This is not a strictly "Methodist" service nor any attempt to recruit new Church members; rather it is an all-denominational service to recognize the contributions and efforts of Scouting. This event is a family event, and includes Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Youth.

24 Scouts will be honored at the 9:30 am service as they receive their God and Me, God and Family, and My Faith – My Promise awards.

**For those who want to volunteer, Scouts will be assisting with reading, greeting, ushering, as well as staffing information tables about Scouting in the Activity Center. Please email me directly if you are interested in volunteering for any of these functions.**

Please consider spending your Sunday morning on the 12<sup>th</sup> in support of scouting nationwide and our Chartered Organization, 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist. See you on Scout Sunday!



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### ***Children's Ministry Additional Help Needed***

*The Children's Ministry team is looking for volunteers to help guide the children of our community closer to Jesus. There are three areas that help is needed (1) a Small Group Leader for the 9:30am First Kidz Sunday School for the Kindergarten through 1st Grade class (2) the 11am Kid's Worship also needs a Small Group Leader and (3) we need musicians and/or vocalists to help with worship songs during the 9:30a and 11am programming. Put your spiritual gifts to work! Contact Janelle at [childrensministry@gilbertumc.org](mailto:childrensministry@gilbertumc.org) if you are interested.*

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### **Explorer/Membership Luncheon February 12th 12:15pm**

Interested in joining the church? Or do you have questions regarding the process? This is a time when leaders will be available to answer your questions. This is the only class for those choosing to join. Please respond by Thursday 2/9 to Sylvia at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org) or at 480-892-9166 including any child care needs.







## Caregivers Support Group - Gilbert

Presented by:

Alzheimer's Association

Desert Southwest Chapter

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Friday of every month at 1:30pm

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

331 S. Cooper Rd., Gilbert, AZ

For questions or concerns, please call 602.528.0545

Visit [www.alz.org/dsw](http://www.alz.org/dsw) to learn more about caregiver programs and resources. To further extend your network of support, visit [ALZConnected@](mailto:ALZConnected@), our online community, at [alzconnected.org](http://alzconnected.org).

### Build a support system with people who understand.

Alzheimer's Association® caregiver support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to:

- Develop a support system.
- Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions.
- Talk through issues and ways of coping.
- Share feelings, needs and concerns.
- Learn about community resources.

800.272.3900 | [alz.org](http://alz.org)

## February Anniversary Celebrations

February 6th David & Susan Waechter 29 Years  
 February 14th Bruce & Terry Bettis 13 Years  
 February 14th Wes & Carlene DuAmarell 48 Years



## February Birthday Celebrations

1st Hayley Vallera	8th Pam Campbell	12th Dorinda Johns	21st Teri Becker
2nd Vilan Shamsiddeen	Rick Signor	June Morrison	Chris Eggen
Kim Updegraff	9th Mitchell Wiemers	Scott Ouellette	Sally Poeske
Ray Vallera	10th Elaina Harwick	14th Carol Miller	22nd Tommy Campbell
3rd Kristy Bottesch	Gilbert Peppin	16th Mary Vrana	24th Glen Compton
4th Jeff Martell	11th Cecil Stapleton	17th Riley Norris	25th Bobbie Collins
Velma Noble	Lisa Strazz	Ella Wood	Dan Vrana
Paul Warg	12th Patricia Dill	18th Deanna Helland	28th Janelle Chiricuzio
6th Evan Wood	Carlene DuAmerell	19th Sharon Dalton	Mary Decker
7th Cathi Kniola		9	29th Rick Frazier

### Mark Your Calendar!

We are hosting Family Promise February 19-26! Your help is greatly appreciated! This will be the only week we are doing Family Promise in 2017. Sign up to volunteer!! We will need people to volunteer to:

- Make a meal
- Set up rooms for our guests
- Breakdown rooms
- Laundry
- Purchase food
- Overnight at church
- Provide an activity

If your normal family life sometimes limits you from volunteering this could be the week for you! Monday the 20th is a holiday, pack up the entire family and sleep here at church for an amazing experience. Teaching moments at its finest!

This ministry can not be completed with our all this help.

Contact DyAnn with any questions or to offer help at [dyannob@gmail.com](mailto:dyannob@gmail.com).



## Administration News

This is a very busy church campus! We are so grateful and appreciative to the staff team, the host of volunteers and church members that make so many amazing things happen on this campus.

A busy campus life comes with needed Administrative support, that is geared to help our church reach its mission. Below is some information about recent changes.



### Where's the Flower Chart?

Several have asked about the flower chart we usually fill out at the beginning of the year, in which folks could purchase flowers for the altar in honor of or in memory of their loved ones. The worship team in a recent meeting discussed this matter, and made a decision to suspend this practice, at least for a season. Our flowers seemed expensive for the size of the bouquet (\$32.50) and often did not seem to merit the price.

Additionally, the voluntary payment system required considerable staff time to locate names of those who had forgotten to pay and send them gentle reminders. For these reasons we have suspended having fresh flowers on the altar.

If this is important to you, and you would like us to re-consider this decision, please let Pastor Deborah know. In the meantime, we will use several arrangements we have and purchase additional silk floral arrangements to beautify our worship space.

### Church Office Hours

Our NEW office hours

Monday through Thursday 8 – 4  
Friday by appointment

This change enables our administrative staff

time to catch up, clean up, spruce up, spend time creating worship slides, and do some reflection on work practices and the BIG picture after days that are filled with high activity, frequent phone calls, numerous visits, and answering lots of questions.

If you have need to visit the office on Fridays please let us know in advance and we will work something out. Thank you for helping us manage a sometimes overwhelming workload with more grace and good humor!

### Pastor's Days Away

At the strong encouragement of our bishop, both Pastor Deborah and Pastor Gwen try hard to take two consecutive days away from the office for rest, renewal, and refreshment. Both are scheduled to be away regularly on Fridays and Saturdays, if it is possible for them to do so (sometimes our ministry means they cannot!). Voice mail messages left at the office on these days will not be received until Monday.

If you urgently need pastoral care on Friday or Saturday, Pastor Deborah's number is 602-370-7642; Pastor Gwen's is 1-605-940-1744.

### We Have Gone Green

To be friendly to our environment there are a couple ways to help us save on paper, post-

age and time. Contact the office (480-892-9166) and provide your email address to receive newsletters and your giving statements electronically.

### **Get Connected With Us**

Sylvia Harris is the Director of Welcome & Connection. She is a great resource to connect your spiritual gifts and interest to activities, classes and events here at church. She can be reached at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org) or through the office at 480-892-9166.

### **Sunday Work Schedules**

Some of our staff are routinely expected/scheduled to work on Sundays, but not all.

#### **Our Sunday "on deck" / working staff include:**

- Pastor Deborah
- Pastor Gwen
- Marty Province, Music Director (Part Time)
- Jonathan Cochran, Organist (Part Time)
- Troy McDonald, Contemporary Worship Leader (Part Time)
- Ray Vallera - Interim Youth Director (Part Time)
- Janelle Chiricuzio – Children’s Director (Part Time)
- Sylvia Harris – Director of Welcome and Connection (Part Time)
- Kim Fairley – Nursery Coordinator (Part Time)

*Please note that with everything we are managing on Sunday it is best to follow up conversations with any of our working staff with an email or note reminder!*

#### **Our staff that work during the week, but not usually on Sunday (sometimes their routine duties cause them to have hours on Sunday), include:**

Adriana Hernandez - Administrative Secretary  
Available 8 – 4 Monday through Thursday, Friday by appointment / arrangement

Steve Losey – Custodian  
Schedule varies according to campus needs.  
When preschool is in session very early morning

through early afternoon. On school breaks his hours are usually start later in the day.

Deanna Helland – Accountant (Part Time)  
Regular days in the office are Monday, Wednesday & Friday (F by arrangement)

Taleen Carpenter – Financial Secretary (Part Time)  
Regular days in the office are Tuesday and Thursday

*If these folks are here on Sunday they are usually here as worshipers or volunteers in ministry, not as paid staff. You can help them have this time of restoration and Sabbath by saving your questions or requests for weekdays, or by leaving notes requesting information /scheduling /help you may need.*

### **We are a Safe Sanctuary Campus**

The staff team and volunteers are provided training for Safe Sanctuary.

This ensures we are:

- creating an atmosphere of safety and well being
- creating a place to belong where you feel safe and comfortable
- establishing guidelines for appropriate interaction with all vulnerable populations (ie people seeking care, minors etc)
- holy, safe and protective communities for all of God’s children regardless of age or ability

### **Closed on President’s Day**

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 20th in observance of President’s Day.

## On Going Support Groups

**Alzheimer's Support Group** meets on the first and third Friday of the month at 1:30pm in room 133.

**Grief Share** is a support group that meets weekly. You'll find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief. This 13-week program has been developed to help and provide encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. This group will meet on Saturdays from 9:30am—11am from January 14, 2017 to April 8, 2017. The group is facilitated by Trish Jung and Kay Pealstrom. You can register at <https://www.griefshare.org/leaderzone/my/groups/74811> or contact the church office at 480-892-9166.

**Living Hope** groups are designed to provide an ongoing support structure to help trauma survivors hold one another up and give each person practical skills and tools in order to regain their lives and rebuild their families. The group will meet weekly beginning, Sunday, January 8th at 1pm in room 201. Join us! The groups are facilitated by Steve Hanson and Beth Flores. Contact the office at 480-892-9166 to register.

These groups are designed to allow people to drop in and participate as needed. Please don't let the start dates stop you from participating, these groups are here to be a resource of support and hope.



## SWEET AS CANDY SWEETHEART DINNER

Join us for a courtyard romantic dinner, music and a little twinkle to your evening.

**02.17.17 6PM**

\$40 per couple, net proceeds benefit Orchard Africa Mission Trip June 2017  
Babysitting available for a "love offering"  
Contact Gayle Disch for tickets 480-892-3168  
or Adriana Hernandez 480-892-9166.

## Orchard Africa Mission Trip Update

In June 2017, a team of ten individuals are excited for a mission trip to Mafikeng in South Africa. Mafikeng is a large city surrounded by rural villages. Orchard Africa has been working in Mafikeng for over twenty years with multiple generations. Village life still exists as the area was designated a homeland during Apartheid.

The pace of life, being part of their village community and witnessing the church in action will be a new experience for everyone on this team! The team will spend time serving in 3 to 5 villages, partnering with church programs and pastors.

To date, the team has raised approximately 2/3 of the total trip costs. Airline tickets are about to be booked and decisions are about to be made on the specific tasks to be done.

Your support to date has been wonderful! If you can join us for the Sweetheart Dinner it will get us even closer to our fundraising goal. Or you can donate directly to our team through our church website. Thank you!!