

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

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8a—4p

Friday By Appointment

Lenten/Easter Series: Conversations with God

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 2 | Praying for Others (James 5:13-18) |
| Sunday, April 9 | The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly:
Praying the Psalms as Jesus Did (Psalm 22) |
| Thursday, April 13 | Maundy Thursday 7pm
"I Wasn't Worthy" Rev. Mader |
| Friday, April 14 | Good Friday 7pm
"Will you wait with me?" |
| Sunday, April 16 | Easter Sunday—6am Sunrise Service
"Why are you Weeping?" Rev. Mader

8 & 9:30am Traditional Service
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise
Rev. Lerner

11am Contemporary Service
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise
Rev. Lerner |

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Important Dates

04/04	Preschool Olympics
04/05	Preschool Olympics
04/09	Palm Sunday
04/13	Maundy Thursday
04/14	Good Friday
04/16	Easter Sunday

Message from Pastor Deborah



As we move into April we draw near to the holiest time of the year, when we remember with awe the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, and then celebrate the joy and truth of his resurrection to new life, and all the hope it brings to us. I hope you will join us for each part of this holy journey.

Holy Week begins Sunday April 9, a day we call Palm Sunday, but one that is also known as Passion Sunday. Jesus rode into Jerusalem in triumph, with crowds waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!" It was a joyous day. We celebrate it with joyous processions waving palms and singing! But we also remember on this day that the joy did not last long.

Just a few days later he shared a Passover meal with his followers, knowing that the sweetness of that dinner would not last long. Before the dinner began, in John's telling of the story, Jesus got down on hands and knees and washed the feet of his followers. It was a shocking gesture of humility and love. At the table he blessed bread and broke it, and shared it with them, saying "this is my body, broken for you." He took the cup and blessed it, saying "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins." They could not understand what he was saying but before long, they were in a garden, and he was praying fervently for release. And then Judas came, and Jesus was arrested and taken away.

When we gather on Holy Thursday, also known as Maundy Thursday, we remember this night, and share the bread and cup of communion in remembrance. Be here to hear a reflection from Pastor Gwen in dramatic form. When the service ends, we will strip all the ornamentation from our sanctuary, symbolizing the grief and loss his followers felt that night.

The next day he stood before Pontius Pilate. Before this difficult day was finished Jesus was scourged mercilessly, mocked, and led out to be crucified between two thieves. He didn't deserve any of it. He didn't want to do it. He asked for the cup to be taken from him, if possible, then moved forward resolutely into all God had for him to do, for you, for me, and for the rest of humankind.

We will gather on Good Friday to remember and honor his death; to remind ourselves that on that first awful Friday it seemed to his followers that this was the end of all hopes and dreams. We were bought at a price. The price of his life.

Then on Easter Sunday, April 16, we will come together early in the morning, as the sun rises, to celebrate the miracle of his resurrection. His body, placed so carefully in a tomb after his death, was no longer there. The tomb was empty, and Jesus was alive, walking and talking; living sign of God's power to raise the dead.

This season is what makes us who we are. If he had not died, we would remain estranged from God. If He had died, but not risen, it would have been the end.

Be with us on this journey of remembrance, gratitude, and celebration. For Jesus' sake.

Blessings and Peace
Pastor Deborah



The Adult Ministries team is looking for your feedback!!

This survey is specifically designed to gather information about Sunday School attendance and content. Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete our survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FUMCGSundaySchool>



Message from Pastor Gwen

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another."

- Galatians 5:13 (NRSV)



Freedom is something we all cherish. But what do we do with our freedom? Does our freedom give us the right to do whatever we please?

Our civil freedom has been bought with a price and we salute those who made our freedom possible. Yet that freedom comes with boundaries that keep us from chaos. There are limits to our liberty. Freedom is not the absence of restraint. That is why we have civil laws that go hand-in-hand with our civil freedom.

The most liberating expression of freedom comes as a gift from God, a calling for everyone in Christ. We are free in Christ and that freedom was also bought with a price – Jesus' death upon the cross. Yet like our civil freedom, spiritual freedom is not the absence of restraint. We are not set free in Christ so that we can do, say, and be anything we want.

Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, offers us what genuine freedom truly is. Spiritual freedom is not freedom to indulge the flesh, or give expression to sinfulness in our lives. And the things that cause injury to others limit us. Our source for keeping within the boundaries of our freedom rests in God's Word and in the Holy Spirit, whose work of self-control empowers our lives. True freedom comes as we chose to live under Christ's leadership and through love put others first. Freedom comes as we serve people with the same love Christ showed toward us.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if we all lived under that banner of freedom? People need the liberating message of the Gospel that sets them free, not for just anything, but that sets people free to love God and neighbor. That's true freedom.

Grateful for Jesus,
Pastor Gwen



Exploring Membership Luncheon April 9th 12:15pm Activity Center

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 one and only class for those choosing to join. Please respond by Thursday 4/6 to Sylvia at connection@gilbertumc.org or at 480-892-9166 including any child care needs.

New Study for Gen X-Rediscovering Life with Faith to Begin April 2nd

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say. They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. Join Adam Hamilton in searching for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés to the message and ministry of Jesus. This study begins April 2nd, the class meets at 11am in room 201 on Sundays.

Christian History Class

The Christian History Sunday School class will begin a study of Bruce Feiler's "Abraham - A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths" on April 2nd in Room 133 on Sundays at 9:30am. Abraham tells the powerful story of one man's search for the shared ancestor of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Traveling through war zones, braving violence at religious sites, and seeking out faith leaders. All are welcomed.



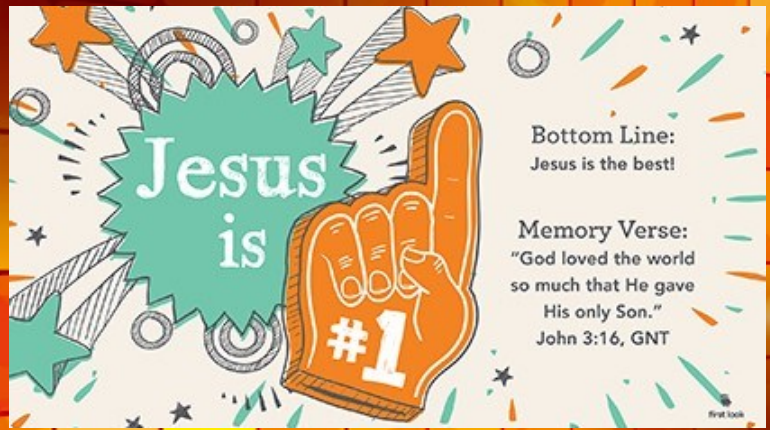
Join us at 9:30am on Sundays as we learn JESUS IS #1 and

PASS IT TO WIN IT!

At 11am it is time for KIDZ Worship. This month the kids will be doing a forgiveness project.

Contact Janelle Chiriczio if you have any questions.

childrensministry@gilbertumc.org



Jesus is #1

Happy Easter! The preschool aged kids are going to celebrate that Jesus is alive! He went away, but He came back! Yay, Jesus! We have the awesome opportunity to tell them for the first time about how Jesus washed His disciples' feet; made His triumphant entry; died and rose again; built His Church; and gave us the Great Commission. We get to tell them the true story of how much God loves them and how He gave them His only Son.

Pass It to Win It

God has no beginning and no end. God is the creator and sustainer of the universe. He deserves all our worship and praise for what He has done and continues to do in our lives. On the other hand, we are humans, created by God. While we are the crowns of God's creation, we are nothing without our Creator God. Yet so often, we act like we are God. We allow our pride to take over and forget that any of our strengths or accomplishments would not exist without God. The only proper response in light of God's greatness is to respond with humility in our interactions with the people around us.

First KIDZ Art Contest

The Children's Ministry team is organizing an Art Contest. Any FirstKIDZ kid in kindergarten through 6th grade can enter the contest. The theme is "What Does God's Love Look Like?" Entries must be on a flat letter size sheet in colored pencil or marker. All entries must be turned in by April 9th. The winning art entry will be featured on a t-shirt which will be offered for sale this fall. More details and entry form available in Sunday School.



Preschool News ~ What's been happening?

Preschoolers with Heart

Our preschoolers and families collected Easter grass, sidewalk chalk, bubbles and Peeps to help make baskets for Sidewalk Sunday School (Scottsdale United Methodist Church), UMOM (Watkins Homeless Shelter), and Gilbert/Chandler CAP (Community Action Program). Thank you for your generous donations!

Dr. Seuss Week

We celebrated reading with a week of rhyming and silly dress up days inspired by Dr. Seuss! We played Green Eggs and Ham tic-tac-toe and made red and white striped Dr. Seuss hats. Students were inspired to read, write, and to "think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!"



New Play Structure

We are so grateful and excited to be enjoying the new play structure on the playground! Students were very surprised to see the new structure in place right after Spring Break. This outside play structure is very important to the developmental growth of all the young children that play here. There is substantial research showing the clear link between play and brain development, motor-skills, and social capabilities. All learning—emotional, social, motor and cognitive—is accelerated, facilitated and fueled by the pleasure of play. Thank you to our very generous benefactor for making this happen! Thank you also to Sini Ouellette, Carrie Mueller, Amber Campbell, "Mr. Steve", and other preschool committee members for developing the playground committee and putting this all together for us! Thank you also to Pastor Gwen and Pastor Deborah for blessing our playground and for all of their support for this project. This new structure will be enjoyed by so many families for years to come! We are very blessed!



What's Coming Up?

Preschool Olympics- On April 4th and 5th, our preschoolers will work hard to learn new activities and show good sportsmanship at our Preschool Olympics. The hurdles will be an amazing challenge, the plasma cars will be racing around and the Team Relay Race will be inspiring! We are all on GOD'S TEAM!

Gardening with Preschoolers- Have you checked out the Children's Garden in the courtyard? We are now growing Sunflowers!

This month we are also raising caterpillars, observing and playing with ladybugs and touching earth worms! What fun!

Registration- There are a few openings in our Christian, academic preschool classes for the 2017-2018 school year. We have classes for 2, 3, and 4/5 year olds. Please tell a friend and help us spread the word!

We have a very exciting opportunity this year! An afternoon PreK class! This class will be team taught by 2 of our fabulous PreK teachers. Class will be M-Th from 12:15pm -2:45pm. If you are interested, please contact Lora Norris or Adrienne Mesa at 480 892 9166. We'd love to visit with you and even give you a tour of the preschool area!

If you have any questions about the preschool, please call Adrienne Mesa or Lora Norris, preschool directors at 480-892-9166.



Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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



- Made possible through the work of volunteers on our Family Ministries Team, our annual church picnic on March 5. This fun family event included a bounce house, inflatable slide, balloon animals, face (and arm) painting, games, music from our Praise Band, and of course fried chicken and all the yummy potluck dishes! An estimated 90 people attended.
- Provided our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil for 12 hours on March 1, planned and carried out by Pastor Gwen. At least 25-30 people prayed, either in the Sanctuary, at their homes, or elsewhere.
- Provided our Ash Wednesday worship service, planned and carried out by Pastor Deborah and our Worship team, including Pastor Gwen, Music Director Marty Province, Organist Jonathan Cochran, our Chancel Choir and other volunteers. The service was attended by 147 people.

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"! 2016 giving statements were emailed/mailed the first two weeks in January. If you have misplaced your statement and need another copy, please contact Taleen Carpenter, Financial Secretary (480-892-9166, financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org). Taleen is in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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.

February 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 financial statements, please contact LeRoy Johnson, Finance Chair (Financechair@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland, Church Treasurer/Accountant (480-892-9166, 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) or Deanna Helland (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).



Music Ministry

The Easter season and Holy Week are some of the most exciting times in church music. This year, Music Ministry will include a number of our talented groups and individuals. On **Palm Sunday**, the **Wesleyan Bells** will provide the Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude. **Beth Boesch** and **Jonathan Cochran** will join the bells on the Prelude for a festive arrangement of *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*. The Childrens' Choir will sing at 9:30 and 11:00 asking the congregation to join them in the *Jesus Hokey Pokey* ("that's what it's all about"). In addition, **Tami Bruce** will join the **Chancel Choir** for a "**Passion Sunday**" anthem describing the difference between Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his crucifixion five days later. On **Good Friday**, **Midori Hall** will play violin with the choir on a beautiful version of *Were You There*. On Easter Sunday, a **brass quartet** (with **Beth Boesch** on trumpet) will play with the choral anthems and the congregational hymns. Looking ahead to May, the first Sunday of the month will feature guest musicians, the **Cornerstone Gospel Quartet**, for Special Music, Offertory, Communion Music, and the Postlude.

The **Third Friday Jam Session** for April is the 21st 7:00-10:00 in the library (Room 140). Join us for informal music making.

Pancakes and Easter Sunday—All Welcome!!

Boy Scout Troop 88 is hosting the Annual Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 16th

We are serving a delicious breakfast buffet consisting of

- ❖ Pancakes
- ❖ Eggs
- ❖ Bacon
- ❖ Ham
- ❖ Sausage
- ❖ Cereal
- ❖ Fruit and more!



All families and friends are welcome – you don't have to be a member of the Church or Scouting unit.

Breakfast will be available starting *after* the Sunrise Service (7am) and going through the beginning of the 11 am Contemporary Service. Donations are accepted and will help Scouts attend Summer Camp and the Troop purchase camping equipment.

Skip cooking on Easter morning, come out to Church and also enjoy a wonderful breakfast. Bring your friends and family!

See you on Easter!



Vacation Bible School 2017!

Save the date for our upcoming Vacation Bible School. VBS will be June 5th-9th from 9am to noon. The fun theme for this year is Gadgets & Gizmos. Volunteers are needed! Contact Janelle at Childrensministry@gilbertumc.org to volunteer or with any questions you may have on the program. On-line registration via the church website will be up in April. Don't miss out on this year's fun!!

Preparing/Delivering Easter Baskets

Thank you from the Missions Committee, along with the help of the Children's Ministry and Preschool who collected items, put together baskets and are prepared to deliver them to Sidewalk Sunday School, Watkins Homeless Shelter and Gilbert/Chandler CAP. Your support generated nearly 100 baskets!

It is Almost Camp Time!!

We now have information from Desert Southwest Conference UMC about this year's summer church camps.

This summer there are seven Elementary camps, five Junior High camps and five Senior High camps. There also is one fun camp for all ages as Mingus Mountain Camps celebrate its 70th year! For a complete listing of camp dates and details check out DSCCAMPs.org.

When you take a look at the website make sure to see the different type of camps. There is a Horse Camp and this will be the second year for the Younger Elementary Camp which is shorter (2 nights) for K—3rd grade with one adult.



The Mingus Mountain Camp bus is available again this year. Campers will meet at the UMC 1550 E. Meadowbrook Avenue Phx, AZ 85014 for pick up and drop off. The cost for each one way bus ride to and from Mingus Mountain is \$25.

Building on the Past/Believing in the Future Update

THANK YOU to all who attended meetings on March 5 and 12 to hear an update on the status of our capital campaign and building effort. The Building Committee has put the building contract on hold after receiving more detailed cost estimates, which are higher than the preliminary estimates we began with two years ago. At nearly the same time, our trustees have refined the list of critical capital improvement needs and that total cost has increased. The current total cost to build the building, do the critical renovations, and provide funding to complete our capital improvement needs, has risen to \$2.9M.



As of March 2017 we have a total of about \$1.0M pledged and need significant additional pledges or gifts in order to stay within the guideline of borrowing no more than two times the amount pledged. The more we raise, the less we will have to finance. The less we have to finance, the less we will have to raise in a second capital campaign two years from now (this has been required and planned since the beginning).

We hope you will decide to help! Please watch your mailbox for a letter with an invitation to make a first time pledge or to re-consider your current pledge in light of this information. There are two years remaining in this capital campaign, and you could make a BIG difference for our future. A card is included in the letter for your response. PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER THAN APRIL 7, 2017!

We will continue to explore ways we can move forward toward the fullness of the vision God has given us, to "Build upon the Past" while "Believing in the Future." Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Whatever your decision, may God's peace be yours.

Blessings and Peace,
Garin Campbell, Chair, Administrative Board
Dan Vrana and Kelly McClain, Building Committee Co-Chairs
Pastor Deborah

Church Moves to Sell Back Properties

At an all church conference on Monday March 13, 2017 the history of the acquisition, development, and maintenance of the "vacant" properties to the east and south of the church was discussed. After thorough consideration of total dollars invested, ongoing costs, and potential uses for the property, a unanimous decision was made to sell the property. The trustees have been charged with carrying out this responsibility.

A sub committee has been created to carry out the listing and sale, with Leroy Johnson as Chairperson. Other members are Kitty McGrath, Ed Stressman, Dan Vrana, Erik Scharff. Darrin Orndorff is serving as advisor and consultant. The group voted to engage Joan Krueger as our agent to advertise and represent us in matters related to the sale. Pray for the right person to see this land and have a plan for its use!

New Administrative Secretary Begins April 1, 2017

We are grateful for the faithful service of Adriana Hernandez as our Administrative Secretary. Adriana has received an unsolicited job offer that will provide all the resources she needs to more fully answer her call to ministry, and for that we give thanks! We will miss her!



We give thanks also for Renee Ladd, who will begin serving as Administrative Secretary April 1. Renee has a long history of working with churches and non profit organizations. She brings great skills and a wonderful desire to serve. Please welcome Renee to this position, and give her a little grace for this period of learning the many aspects of the job!

April Anniversary Celebrations

April 1	Jan & Scott Grindle	33 Years
April 4	Gilbert & Aryn Peppin	13 Years
April 15	Robert & Margaret DeBolt	25 Years
April 17	Glen & Jan Compton	13 Years
April 17	Scott & Sini Ouellette	11 Years
April 20	Dirk & Patti Smith	4 Years
April 21	Allan & Nancy Peters	55 Years
April 22	Ray & Jenny Vallera	22 Years
April 25	Joe & Lora Norris	25 Years



April Birthday Celebrations

2nd	Emma Strazz Victoria Whittington	8th	Agnes Begley Gloria Eggen Hannah Pettengill Alexis Winkler	13th	Kelsey Bayer James Kimbrough	21st	Lara Fink
3rd	Taleen Carpenter Erika Gehres Leroy Johnson	10th	Mae Cowgill	15th	Ava La Rose Johnny Schmidt	23rd	Jonathon Chuk Diane Gardner Matthew Olson
4th	Liam Comstock Christina Tesarek Drew Wiemers	11th	Austin Curran Judie Eastburn	16th	Jeff Snyder	24th	Savanna Taj
5th	Tim Anderson Jessica Utton	12th	Christine Bayer Stephanie Helland Matthew Ramirez Ernestine Tesarek	17th	Debbie Anderson	25th	Dawn Kopp
7th	Dana Corban Kelly McClain			18th	Ed Stone	27th	Lily Smith
				19th	Samantha Deeds Joe Norris Andrew Sovchik	28th	Drew Harvey
				20th	Mary An Kolmer Aidan La Point John Lawson Patty Lee	29th	Tanner Lang

Easter Lilies

Each year, the church places lilies on the altar at Easter as a way of remembering and/or honoring a loved one, family member or friend. Names of those remembered or honored will be printed on a bulletin insert on Easter Sunday. The cost of each Easter lily is \$15.00. Order forms and payments may be placed in the collection plate, mailed or brought to the church office **no later than Sunday, April 9th**. Please make your checks payable to First UMC Gilbert, with "lilies" in the memo line.



Lilies may be taken home after the 11:00 service on Easter morning. Order forms are available in the church office and in the bulletin each week until Sunday 4/9.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Sunday, May 21st 12:30pm—2:30pm Room 142

Tuesday, May 23rd 6pm—8pm Room 142

If you are in need of Safe Sanctuary training this will be the last chance to complete the training until May or June. Please contact Sylvia at connection@gilbertumc.org to sign up for the training.

The Jesus Lifestyle

Our culture is obsessed by lifestyle. Magazines and websites tell us what to wear, how to get fit and what to drive. But Jesus lived, and taught about, a radically different kind of lifestyle. How to deal with anger. How to handle money. What to do when faced with difficult people. Join Mike Miller as he facilitates this class. The class will meet on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the room 142 from April 5th—May 17th. Contact the office at 480-892-9166 or email PastorGwen@gilbertumc.org to sign up for the class.

Opportunity to Serve Open Table Mission

Our congregation has the opportunity to join with Dayspring UMC to form an Open Table. Open Table is a community of members – typically 8 to 10 whose purpose is to help transform our Brothers and Sisters in poverty to develop and implement plans that create change.



A “Table” is the platform through which our Brothers and Sisters in poverty and congregation members enter into relationship, allowing them to create change in their lives. Each Table is composed of a group of volunteers that make a year-long commitment to act as a team of life specialists, encouragers, and advocates for impoverished Brothers, Sisters and families. The Table members, together with the individual or family being helped, establish goals, accountability, develop an overall plan and implementation.

Open Table has expanded to a movement of people and communities in 60+ cities and towns. Dayspring UMC has experience in forming an Open Table and they are now beginning a new one. We have an opportunity for three to four members of our church to join with Dayspring. The only requirement to join is a willing spirit and a calling to participate. Please contact Tom Bristow for further information at 480-306-4046 or tbristow56@hotmail.com

Donate Purses for Moms

Help make Mother’s Day special for moms in local domestic violence and family shelters. Purses are stuffed with goodies like cosmetics, scented lotions and bath gels, manicure and pedicure items, jewelry, and hair accessories. Donate your new & like new purses. We are also accepting donations of toiletries to fill the purses. Please double check your purse before donating it and remove your personal items. Please bring all donations to the church by Sunday, May 7th.

Serve Family Promise

Our Family Promise week was a success again and we are awaiting word of our next week to house families who are homeless here at the church. We are looking for persons who might be willing to help out by coordinating on an evening from 5-7pm, being an overnight host, making up beds during the week when the families move in or out, and cleaning up after the week. If you would be willing to help, please contact DyAnn Obrien at dyannob@gmail.com.

Serve Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity upcoming dates to serve the Perez family, at the site located at 1937 E. Don Carlos, Tempe, AZ 85281 are: Saturday, April 8, 2017. We are serving with Dove of the Desert and Trinity UMC. The start time is 7:30 am - 2:00 PM or earlier pending on the heat. This day includes serving breakfast for 35+ people. We will be packing meals with breakfast items. There is a possibility lunch will be needed as well.

The other serve date is Saturday, May 29, 2017. We are serving with Dayspring UMC, Scottsdale UMC, and Tempe First. Start time is 6:30 am - 1:00 pm or earlier depending on the heat.

For both Saturdays we are in need of four people, but we would like to have eight (four scheduled and four for back up).

Please contact Randy Reed or Margie Zeilstra at 480-560-3766 (preferably) or margery1az@msn.com. Your contact information is necessary so we may confirm the serve date and logistics. Thanks and we look forward to hearing from those interested in Habitat for Humanity!

Youth News

Youth Service Projects

Many people are unaware of the ongoing efforts by our youth in serving God thru serving others so we'd like to provide you with some feedback. In the past year, over 45 of our youth have represented our church by serving about 1450 hours in 20 local and out-of-state mission events; including Youth Works, Sierra Service Project, UMOM Watkins Dinner, UMOM Read to Me, Family Promise, Miera House toy drive & Christmas event, and Feed My Starving Children to name a few.



Fundraising

The **final Sunday for the Youth Summer Mission Trip Stock Sales is April 2nd** in the front courtyard. We appreciate all your financial and prayer support.

Sunday Morning Gathering Update

Our current series is titled "Crew". Our friends have the potential to influence our lives in a big way. In this three-week series we'll discover what the Bible has to say about how we choose and treat our friends. Find a preview of our new series <https://vimeo.com/XP3Students/Crew>

Upcoming Events

- Summer Volleyball- information will be coming out soon.
- Thank you Julia Strazz for the t-shirt idea. We'll make this our next great shirt for our missions and volleyball teams!
- We're looking into a couple movie outings soon. "The Shack" and "The Case for Christ"
- I've been meeting with other Youth Directors from our conference and long term plans are set in motion for future events. Please keep an eye out for upcoming Youth Newsletters and special emails.

Passports & Passport IDs for DC Mission Trip Travelers:

One of these forms of identification are highly recommended for DC Mission trip travelers. If you're headed to apply for a passport, please check the appropriate website to make sure you are prepared. Be patient as the wait time can be one to three hours. Chandler info <http://chandleraz.gov/passports>. Maricopa County www.maricopa.gov/3381/passport

Text Updates

For all youth updates by Text: text "@fumcgil" to 81010.

Please reply to youthministry@gilbertumc.org with your response, questions or need of assistance for any reason. Thank you and God Bless!

Ray Vallera



Welcome Help Needed

Looking for additional help at the church Welcome Cart on Sunday mornings.

Contact Sylvia at connection@gilbertumc.org if you are interested!



Family Ministry Summer Fun Times

Save the date on your calendar for Summer time fun!

Family Game/Movie Night Saturday 6/17 5pm -9pm in AC

Family Game/Movie Night Saturday 7/15 5pm -9pm in AC

Slip n Slide Kickball Saturday 7/22 5pm-9pm in AC/Back Lawn



Holy Week 2017

- ❖ On Maundy Thursday at 7pm we will be remembering Jesus' Last Supper, betrayal and arrest. Pastor Gwen will be bringing us a dramatic monologue of Simon Peter entitled "I Wasn't Worthy." We will have a foot/hand washing and celebrate Holy Communion together as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday.
- ❖ Good Friday service will be a dramatic presentation "Will you wait with me?" In this play, modern-day and biblical women keep vigil with Mary after Jesus' death on the cross.
- ❖ If you call this church home and are able, please park in the back parking lot (East of the Education Building) on Easter morning, so our visitors will find room.
- ❖ At the Easter Sunrise service at 6am we will be Celebrating the Resurrection with the music of our youth praise band. Pastor Gwen will again be bringing us a dramatic monologue of Mary Magdalene entitled, "Why are you Weeping?" The service will end with the celebration of the New Covenant in Holy Communion.
- ❖ Join us in the Activity Center for Easter breakfast, hosted by Boy Scout Troop 88 from 7pm to 11am.
- ❖ Easter services continue at 8am, 9:30am & 11am. Pastor Deborah is preaching "Prayers of Thanksgiving and Praise."