

The Evangel

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

June 2017



The first month of summer... the heat of June is often overwhelming for those of us in the desert. How thankful are we to have the modern comforts of air conditioning!

How do we surmount times when things “over-heat” in our own lives? Through Pastor Deborah’s sermon series, “Grace Can,” we were given many examples of those in the Bible who overcame the “heat” through faith and standing strong in Christ. We were encouraged to turn over our cares to the One who cares for us.

As we proceed through the hot summer months, let’s remember to look for the blessings in the heat... Practically speaking, while we have excessive heat and it is critical to take safe measures to protect our health, we do not generally have tornados, flooding and other natural disasters that those in other parts of the country have. And as we have this “natural protection” since we live in the desert, we do not live in the “desert” spiritually. God is there for us. He is the living water our souls crave and cherish.

Enjoy this month of June and all of the blessings it brings. In this month’s Evangel, you will learn about things going on in our church, and opportunities for fun and fellowship coming throughout the summer.

Remember: “Grace CAN!”



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

Inside this issue

Pastor Deborah’s Message	2
Pastor Gwen’s Message.....	3
Ministries.....	4
Missions.....	5
Youth.....	6
First KiDZ.....	7
Finance.....	8
Birthday/Anniversary.....	9
Capitall/Building Projects.....	10
New Members	11
Conference Information.....	12

Important Dates

06/5-9	VBS
06/5	Charge Conference
06/15-18	Desert Southwest Annual Conference
06/17	Family Ministry Event
6/18	Father’s Day

Message from Pastor Deborah



On Sunday, May 7 we consecrated a number of persons for service in various aspects of our Congregational Care Ministry at First UMC. I hope you were here that day to celebrate the many ways God is at work among us to bring caring touches to the lives of persons within the congregation and beyond, especially in times of distress, hardship, or crisis.

One group was consecrated for service as Stephen Ministers, joining a pool of carefully trained persons who may be assigned to walk with others in one on one supporting relationships in difficult times. A Stephen Minister may be recommended to you by one of the pastors when we become aware that focused, ongoing support could be helpful. They will come along side you in a time of crisis to meet regularly, listen deeply, share scripture, and pray with and for you for an indefinite period of time. They provide personal and spiritual support for as long as it is helpful as individuals move through a crisis to a place of wholeness.

Another group of persons were also consecrated for service, but as Congregational Care Ministers (our first class ever!). These persons may be assigned by your pastors to reach out to offer care and support in a broader context.

You may get a call from one of them when you face surgery, offering to come and pray with you before you go into the operating room. If that happens, they are calling at the request of the pastors, and they come with our blessing and on our behalf. Please receive them as if they were one of your pastors. They will keep the pastors apprised of every visit and the care that has been given so that we know how you are doing and what you might need.

You may receive a call from one of them asking if they can stop by your home after an illness to offer scripture, prayer, and many other practical forms of care. Some of them have already been actively assisting persons within the congregation and beyond who are physically unable to handle the details of a move, or who are overwhelmed with changes, or who are in need of assistance with transportation or other services. When you encounter them in times of crisis they may help set up Food Tidings for you, or offer assistance with other things that are needful and helpful in daily life.

As yet another part of our Congregational Care Ministries, you may receive a call from Pam Campbell, our Care Coordinator, asking for information about the date and time for a surgery or other information needed to enable all of us to serve well together. She calls on behalf of your pastors, to enable us as a congregation to reach many more persons with the love and care of Christian community.

Both our Stephen Ministers and Congregational Care Ministers have been called to their ministry by God, carefully vetted for their suitability to this work, and trained and confirmed in their caring.

Pastor Gwen has already begun recruiting persons for a new class that will be held this summer, to extend our capacity for ministry even further. If God is tugging on your heart to invest your time and energy into new forms of hands-on personal ministry, consider this opportunity. For more information, contact Pastor Gwen.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Deborah



“Feng Shui”



“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

- Philippians 3:13b-14 (NIV)

The Chinese have a philosophy called “feng shui” (fen swooay) that has become popular in the United States, particularly in regards to interior decorating. Advocates believe that you should decorate your home and place your furnishings in a way that best taps into the energy of the universe. I can honestly say that I’m not convinced of the validity of all their underlying assumptions, but one concept makes me think. They say that we should declutter our homes because clutter keeps us from tapping into life’s energies, into that universal force (that I call God); that source of energy and excitement, purpose and meaning. They say that we need to clear out the clutter in order to make ourselves ready for new possibilities in our lives.

Feng Shui makes me think about spiritual and emotional clutter in people’s lives that gets in the way of our relationship with God. Perhaps we do need to clear out the clutter in order to be open to what God wants to do in and through us. Perhaps there is a need to say goodbye to those things that keep us from fully experiencing life, and then put into order those things that are positive, life giving forces that energize us to become all that we can be.

What kinds of emotional or spiritual clutter are you holding onto? What do you need to let go of in order to make room for new possibilities? Perhaps it is old resentments or grudges, or an incident that gave us hurt feelings. Maybe you have emotional scars that you have been holding onto for a very long time. Maybe you are feeling some anxiety about the future, or you are fearful of something in your life over which you have no control. Maybe some of your relationships keep you from doing what you need to do or be in life. Maybe it’s time to quit a job or activity and find something else that energizes you. Perhaps there is sin that needs to be confessed and put off. Perhaps it is those negative statements that you play over and over again in your head. You can come up with your own list of things that hold you back from experiencing the Christian life to the fullest. So gather up your energy and take action. Say a prayer and give those negative things to God. Let God take care of them.

Then ask yourself, what are those things that bring joy and value to my life? These are the things that you want to hold on to. Maybe you have made good friends who share your values and goals. Maybe you have a wealth of knowledge and resources. Maybe you have the love and care of a church family praying for you and supporting you. All of these are blessings. Count your blessings and keep them in the forefront of your mind and heart.

Doing these things will declutter our lives and open us to the new possibilities God has for us as the Holy Spirit does its work in and through us.

Have a blessed, decluttered summer!

Pastor Gwen



Congregational Care Minister Training & Renewal July 21-23 at Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale

If you have been thinking about becoming a
Congregational Care Minister (CCM)
we invite you to apply today!

Training is being offered July 21-23 at Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale. The cost for the weekend is \$100 for double occupancy and \$150 for single occupancy rooms, including all meals. Training begins with registration at 4:00 on Friday and continues through Sunday at noon. Attendance at all sessions is required. All training materials are included in the cost.

Current CCMs are invited to the weekend as an opportunity for spiritual renewal and time away with God. Some will also be assisting with the training and worship.

Congregational Care ministers (CCMs) are lay ministers who work at the request of and alongside of the pastors to provide care for the church family, enabling us to provide a deeper level of care. They are trained to do a broad range of tasks which offer care and love to those who are hurting in the congregation. A commitment to at least 3 hours per week and attendance at a monthly continuing education and information session is requested.

Because CCMs work along with the Pastors, there are Biblical and theological requirements, church membership requirements, and Safe Sanctuary training requirements, in addition to the CCM Training. A list of these requirements are available in the church office or upon request.

For further information or to apply, contact Rev. Gwen Mader at (office) 480-892-9166, (cell) 605-940-1744 or email pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org.

Music Ministries Update from Marty Province

As we approach the summer months, most of the organized ensembles prepare for a much-needed break (the exception is the Praise Band which continues to provide music each week for the contemporary service). During this time, it is my pleasure to thank all of those who have helped to make our music program successful this past year. To everyone who fills the rosters of all of our ensembles we offer our heartfelt thanks for all you do to bring music into our services; we could not do it without you. One special "Thank-You" goes out to a member of our staff who continues his work during the summer, our organist, Jonathan Cochran. It is rare to find a performer of his caliber who can also effectively accompany a choir, and we are VERY blessed to have him.

To the members of the congregation who have yet to be involved in our music program, we invite you to consider joining one or more of our groups next fall. Whether you play an instrument or sing, we have a place for you in music for worship. Contact Marty with any questions at music@gilbertumc.org.



Orchard Africa Missions Trip Update:



The second international mission trip to Africa is almost here! The team of ten will board a plane to Atlanta and then to Johannesburg, South Africa on June 22nd. The team includes Janelle Chiricuzio, Gayle Disch, Adriana Hernandez, Mike Miller, Andrea Reiners, Al, Ashley, and Michelle Reynolds, Ed Taggard and Brianna Wiemers. From Johannesburg, they will travel to Mafikeng where they will stay

in the Orchard: Africa Mission House.

During the week, they will visit various villages and will hold a "Prayer" Vacation Bible School in the morning for children, and facilitate a vertical agriculture program for adults in the afternoon.

Orchard: Africa is the non-profit agency that the church has partnered with for this mission trip. The agency's programming structure is to develop and empower the local church and its leaders to be the response to extreme poverty and injustice. First UMC Gilbert's Mission Team wants to be a resource to the local churches in the Mafikeng area. The team's joy and enthusiasm for this work is bubbling over!

It has been about 20 months since they started preparing for the trip. Team members raised over \$35,000! The funds raised not only cover the travel cost and mission work to be done, but a portion goes into Orchard: Africa's direct ministry fund in South Africa for food/agriculture, care, education and ministry programming. Thank you for helping them reach their fundraising dollar goals! They are grateful for every dollar donated and for every prayer that is helping them stay focused for this journey!

Mark Your Calendar!



We are hosting Family Promise July 23-30! For homeless families, Family Promise provides a multitude of blessings. It is a safe, comfortable place to sleep. It is enjoying a warm, delicious meal. It is the smile and kindness of a new friend. It is encouragement that life can and will get better.

For our church, Family Promise also brings abundant blessings. It is a way to share our resources, our time, and our caring for others. It is a way to feel connected, to make new friends, and to have fun together.

Your help is needed to make this ministry to homeless families a success. We will need people to make meals, set up and breakdown sleeping rooms, do laundry, lead activities and stay overnight at the church. This ministry requires many volunteers, so please consider joining our team.

Contact DyAnn O'Brien with any questions or to sign-up to help at dyannob@gmail.com.

Youth News

Sunday mornings at 9:30 in June and July we will gather in Room 140/141. We will not meet on Sunday evenings during these months.

Summer Volleyball has started! If you are interested in joining or need information, please contact Ray Vallera at youthministry@gilbertumc.org.

Upcoming Missions Trips

Please pray for the youth and adults who will be going on missions trips this summer. The first trip will be to San Francisco, CA June 17-24th. The second trip will be to Cortez, CO July 2-7th and the last trip will be to Washington DC July 9-16.



Family Ministry:

Coming Reel Soon!

Join us this summer for movie and game nights!!

Saturday, June 17th "Soul Surfer"

Saturday, July 15 "War Room"

1st Gilbert UMC Activity Center

7:00-9:30 pm with Concessions

For further information please contact Ray Vallera at youthministry@gilbertumc.org or Katie Bird at sskatie78@yahoo.com.



Slip-n-Slide Kickball

Saturday, July 22nd from 4-6 pm

Cookout: Burgers & hotdogs provided

Bring a side dish to share

A Special "Thank You" on Sunday, June 4th

Many awesome individuals have faithfully taken time out of their busy schedules to volunteer with our children and youth. One of the most important things we can do as a church is to teach our children about Jesus' love and promises, and then support them on their walk with Christ. As a church we will take time in each service on Sunday, June 4th to publically express our gratitude to these dedicated servants.



Uniquely Wired, Wonderfully Made.

It's almost time for Vacation Bible School!!

Registration for this year's VBS is open online on our website at gilbertumc.org/vbs-registration/. Plan to bring your kids Monday through Friday, June 5 through 9, from 9:00 am—Noon for lots of fun, fellowship and learning! The cost is \$20 per child, with a family cap of \$60. Camperships are available as needed.

Summer Sunday School Preschool June 2017

Over the next nine weeks, your child will be learning about kids in the Bible who rocked. Or, in other words, kids in the Bible who did what God wanted them to do. We believe that kids who do what God wants them to do totally rock! This month, your child will hear about how people in the Bible did amazing things when they were still kids!

You do so much as a parent to help your child develop the skills they will need to become a successful adult. You help them learn new information, master new skills, and make new friends. How about we add doing what God wants them to do to that list? No matter how young or old a person is, they can do what God wants them to do. We think that is what makes you and your child ROCK!

MEMORY VERSE "God made us to do good works." Ephesians 2:10, NCV



Elementary June 2017

Creativity is a reflection of the character of God.

From the opening pages of Scripture, we encounter God's creativity in action. With words, "let there be light," the poem of creation unfolds as light gives way to time. Oceans and mountains form, galaxies are set in motion, and the earth is filled with birds, fish, and every creature imaginable. But God is not finished creating. God decides that He wants His image to populate the earth. He creates people in His image to take care of and develop His magnificent creation. Humans are unique in that we reflect God in how we interact with each other and the world around us. That interaction includes God's creativity. We may not form mountains and oceans, but we create art and music, build cities, solve problems, and innovate technology—all of which starts with our God-given creativity.

Jesus showed us creativity in action.

Jesus was the Word that spoke God's creation into existence at the beginning of time. And when Jesus arrived on planet earth to fulfill God's plan to rescue humanity, that same creativity was evident in every interaction we read throughout Scripture. Through stories, Jesus could explain something difficult or confusing about the Kingdom of God. With unconventional materials, Jesus healed the sick and hurting. With the right question, He could point to His disciples and the religious leaders what is most important to God. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus showed us the difference we can make in the world through creativity.

We think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about Creativity—imagining what you could do because you are made in God's image.

Our Memory Verse for June comes from Psalm 139:14.

In Psalm 139:14, we read, "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that" (NirV). Through this Psalm, David acknowledges God's continued provision for his life. He worships God for His care and concern for even the smallest aspects of life. Being created in God's image, means that we are special compared to the rest of creation. We reflect God in amazing and wonderful ways.





Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

Provided training and resources for our first class of 10 Congregational Care Ministers, who were consecrated on May 7. These volunteers were carefully selected, trained, equipped and called. They report to and work closely with our pastors to help meet congregational care needs more deeply than the pastors could do on their own.

Made possible through the work of Pastor Gwen and many volunteers, the consecration of 9 new Stephen Ministers on May 7. They join a group of 15 previously-commissioned Stephen Ministers and Leaders who have been trained, equipped and called to minister one-to-one with congregants in need of a listening ear and someone to walk with them in times of crisis. If you think you might want the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Deborah or Pastor Gwen. All inquiries are confidential.

Provided space for our Preschool's Annual Summer Camps May 15-18. 12 students attended "C if for Cooking", and 11 students attended "Spectacular and Surprising Science". The curriculum for these camps was developed by our amazing preschool staff.

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"!

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.

April 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, Treasurer/Church 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 online. If you have any questions about online giving options, or if you need help setting up your online giving, please contact our Financial Secretary, Taleen Carpenter (480-892-9166, financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland (contact information above).



Giving



June Anniversary Celebrations

3	Dean & Laura Boever	22 Years	20	Dan & Molly Hahn	64 Years
6	Roy & Carolyn Phelps	53 Years		Barry & Kate Turnrose	42 Years
8	John & Jackie Holmberg	43 Years	24	Tom & Judy Bristow	51 Years
	Robin & Patricia Lee	44 Years	30	Joe & Norma Mayne	44 Years
9	Rick & Marie Frazier	27 Years		Tom & Linda McKinley	31 Years
11	Phillip & Tina Rees	29 Years			
14	Albert & Therese Pineda	21 Years			
16	Igor & Jennifer Lazbin	28 Years			
18	Kendall & Lara Fink	24 Years			
19	Craig & Chris Thompson	46 Years			



June Birthday Celebrations

1	Debby Munn	7	Shauna Harris	15	Christie Dorf	21	Marie Frazier
	Ashley Reid		Ashley Scharff		Marie Frazier		Linda Martell
3	Diana Elliott	8	Tom Dare		Hayden Kopp	22	Gayle Disch
	Vicki Hanson		Lorelei Karavakis		Renee Ladd	24	Nancy Ball
	Therese Pineda	10	Laura Contreras		Sue Stone		Kalia Carpenter
	Barry Turnrose	11	Katie Bird	16	Ty Hemingson		Lisa Sotomayor
4	Zachary Foote		Keith Carpenter		Riley Lang	25	Vicki Harding
	Heather Ford		Jonathan Cochran		Denise O'Dening		Michelle McClain
	Mason Ramirez		Alexis Eggen	18	Kimberly Dare	26	Lindsay Schmidt
5	Warren Begley	12	Rilie Fairley		Natalee Rycraft	28	Keith Asplin
	Emily Booth	13	Karen Coleman	19	Kimberly Anderson		Karla Romfo
	Margaret De Bolt		Chloe Metz		Brittany Anderson	29	Joni Hirsch
	Shawn Smith	14	Skylar Ossian	20	Ed Stressman	30	Krista Dare
6	Sara Sanders				Hannah Becker	30	Larson Hemingson
					Austin Becker		

All Church Conference Rescheduled

Monday June 5 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is to revise the total project cost and maximum mortgage amount for the Building on the Past / Believing in the Future building and capital maintenance projects. All are welcomed to attend. Active members of the church are permitted to vote on these matters.

Land Sale Update

We are moving forward on plans to sell our back properties as our potential buyer begins his process of due diligence (he has 180 days to evaluate the suitability of the property for his project). One early discovery is that the acreage of the area that can be developed is smaller than we thought and advertised. On further review it became apparent that only about 3.5 acres can be developed, if we retain ownership of our parking lot. It also has become apparent that access from Madera Park to any development will probably require shared access to the present driveway, unless access can be provided on the south side of the property (across the water retention area).

It is likely that any developer will need more than 3.5 acres of land that can be developed. Based on this fact, the Administrative Board considered these matters at a special meeting May 7 and voted to include the east parking lot in the parcel offered for sale, if it is needed to sell the property. This will reduce the annual spending on the back property that totals approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 in water, lawn maintenance, etc. It will also necessitate construction of a new 40-space parking lot east of the activity center.



THE ALPHA COURSE
explore the meaning of life alpha.org



Alpha is for anyone

... anyone who thinks there may be more to life than meets the eye.

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. Alpha is people enjoying great food, laughter, and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere. It is a 10-week course introducing Jesus and his way of life. No question is too simple or too hostile ... questions like - *Who Is Jesus? What was Jesus' Secret to Life? How Does God Guide Us? Why Does God Allow Suffering? Does God Heal Today?*

We will have a FREE celebration dinner on

Wednesday August 2, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the Activity Center

to give you a taste of what Alpha is about. Check it out!

RSVP to the church office at 480-892-9166 or secretary@gilbertumc.org

(Childcare will be provided.)



Welcome New Members

We are delighted to have several new members who joined the family of First United Methodist Church of Gilbert recently. Please help us make our new members feel welcome!



Donn and Joyce Brown



David and Colleen Gripentrog



Kyera McCluskey



James Shuler

Carlos and Elizabeth Flores also joined our church recently. A picture will be coming soon!



Desert Southwest Annual Conference
Thursday, June 15 - Sunday June 18, 2017
Renaissance Hotel, Glendale, Arizona

Pastor Deborah and Pastor Gwen will be in attendance, as will our annual conference members/ delegates Philip Tesarek and Sharon Kotsonas. This is an annual meeting of all churches in Arizona, and parts of Nevada and California.

Help us with our Conference Mission Project 2017

Beyond SNAP... Urban Ministries Aid

Our urban ministries need help in stocking a strong supply of items not allowable for purchase through SNAP. We are asking all our churches to donate the following items to be brought to Conference for sorting, bag or boxing, and then distribution.

Donations needed no later than Sunday June 11: toilet paper, paper towels, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, diapers, adult diapers. Flushable wipes, Ajax or Comet, Windex, dish soap, hand soap, hand or body cream. Items will be delivered by your pastors and distributed to Tucson Methodist Ministries, United Methodist Outreach Ministries, Justa Center, and Wesley Golden Gate.

Orientation to Ministry

Wednesday June 14 5-7 PM at the Renaissance
Dinner is included

For those exploring a call to ministry or curious about possible avenues for serving as elder or deacon in the UMC. This orientation is a requirement for the ministry process of our conference. Registration is required and the deadline is May 30. To register, contact Cynthia Satchel at csatchel@dscumc.org.

Day of Learning Saturday June 17—1:00 PM

All members and friends are invited to join us for a day of learning with Robert Schnase, bishop of the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Schnase is the author of the bestselling books *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living*, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*, and *Seven Levers: Missional Strategies for Conferences*. His latest book, *Just Say Yes: Unleashing People for Ministry*, is written for people whose passion has been simmering for years, who yearn to be told Yes!

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Office Hours: 8am-4pm Monday—Thursday
Like us on Facebook or Check In that you are here!
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FOR MOBILE GIVING

