



The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

October 2016

Join us in Worship

Oct 2nd	“One In Christ”	Galatians 3:27-29
	World Communion Sunday	
Oct 9th	“Lessons from the Good Samaritan”	Luke 10:25-37
Oct 16th	“Be Subject to One Another”	Ephesians 5:21-32

New Sermon Series “Defying Gravity”

Oct 23rd	Defying Gravity: Financial Gravity	Matthew 19:16-26
Oct 30th	Defying Gravity: Breaking Free	Luke 15:11-32
Nov 6th	Defying Gravity: Tethered to God	Matthew 6:19-21
Nov 13th	Defying Gravity: When We Get It Right	Luke 16:10-13

Sunday Morning Worship

8:00am & 9:30am Traditional

11:00am Contemporary

Nursery Care is provided for all three worship services (7:45am-12:30pm)

In This Issue

- Messages from Pastors
- Cancer Awareness Month
- Holiday Mission Opportunities
- Congregational Care



October 31st 6pm-8pm

1st United Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S. Cooper Road Gilbert, AZ 85233

A Message from Pastor Deborah

“Let us break bread together, on our knees”

We celebrate communion on the first Sunday of every month, and it is always a joy. But World Communion Sunday, observed on the first Sunday of October each year, is one of my favorite “first” Sundays. On this day we gather at the table of Christ and remind ourselves that people of many lands, cultures, languages, races, and ethnic groups are also kneeling in praise and thanksgiving to share in the body and blood of Christ. Worship on this day invites us to think beyond our own practices and traditions; to use breads that are not normally on our altar; to remember Jesus’ great prayer in John 17 that all may be one.



There are many denominations and independent churches, each of which believes they’ve got it “right,” each with distinctive emphases, music, and worship practices. But on this day, as we kneel together, we symbolically unite our spirits and prayers with folks around the world who do not look like us, act like us, talk like us, worship like us. Our unity is in Christ, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the One who saves us from ourselves and ushers us into the kingdom of God.

This year, as last, on Sunday October 2, the Tongan United Methodist Church from Mesa will send a choir to bless us with their amazing music at 8 and 9:30.

I hope you will make it a priority to attend, then plan to be with us October 9 for a message from Pastor Gwen on the Good Samaritan and how that story can shape the care we provide for one another.

In fact, I hope you will make worship a priority every week. It is easy to get swept up in the “stuff” of life and forget that we need regular spiritual nourishment and community in the presence of Christ. It only takes about 3 Sundays away to develop a whole new habit of not coming. Don’t let it happen to you.

Be sure you are here, to hear what God has for you; to offer your prayers of thanksgiving, to be a blessing to those around you. It isn’t the same without you – without your presence, your voice, your warm spirit, your love.

See you at the worshipping, praying, singing, blessing place, each Sunday in October (and November, and December). You’ll be glad you came.

Blessings and Peace
Pastor Deborah

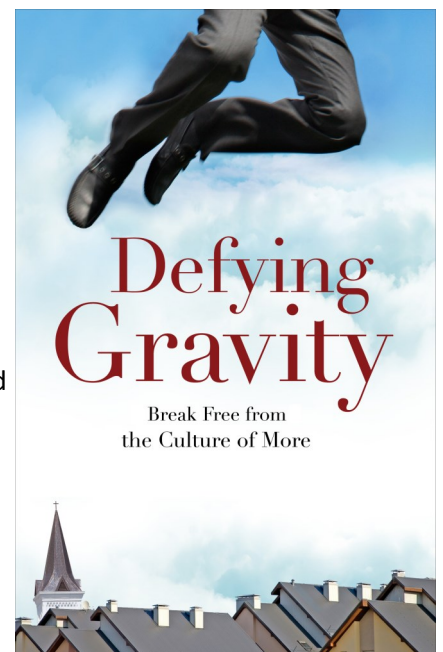
Join us for

Defying Gravity: Break Free from the Culture of More

Beginning Sunday October 23

The pull of the material world can cause us to lose our freedom if we thoughtlessly accumulate debt by purchasing things we cannot really afford to buy. If we get caught up trying to “keep up with the Joneses” we may no longer be free to serve and follow Christ with a spirit of generosity.

Plan to be with us in church each Sunday October 23 – November 13 as we explore how to meet our needs, provide for our future, and make lifestyle choices that are helpful and hopeful, and that allow us to be generous.



Thank You!

Sometimes I try and imagine what our world would be like if it were filled with people whose hearts were increasingly being filled with love and who were increasingly becoming free from the desire to sin. You know the kind of people I'm talking about – people who love God and people in the way that Jesus did. I see a world where smiles are on everyone's faces, even as they go through tough times, because they know someone cares. I see a world where positive themes and righteous values dominate the media. Where tabloids in the supermarkets are filled with stories about acts of love and generosity and spontaneous acts of kindness committed by people nobody has ever heard about before. Where each day is filled with surprises of joy and laughter.



I know what you are thinking – you think this will just be a “heaven thing.” How could that ever happen in our world today? Well. . . perhaps it really can. Perhaps it can happen in the ways that Christian believers act out their faith each day.

I celebrate when I see this happening even in the small ways, and I have seen it in our church community. I see people who reach out to those going through illnesses and offer caring support and tangible help. I see groups working all afternoon to prepare a meal for those in need, mixing up love and grace with encouragement and hope. I see people organizing to see that no child is hungry when parents struggle with tough choices or difficult times. I see school teachers with school supplies and 331 children with backpacks. I see people who are kind and caring and giving for the benefit of one another. It makes my heart glad! It makes the world a better place!

So today I hope that you will celebrate with me the unsung heroes in our midst – the people who have made a choice to live their lives differently than the norm. There are too many to even name. These are the people who make us smile, who offer the cup of cold water to thirsty souls. These are the people who seldom hear a “thank you” or who seldom get their deed or name in print. These are the people without whom our church and our world would not be such a great place. To all of you who are out there reading this – May God bless you! May you receive back a hundredfold for your caring and kindness.

With loving gratitude for you,
Pastor Gwen

Orchard Africa
Fundraiser

"Wild at Heart"

Women's Tea

Women's Club of Mesa
200 N. MacDonald
Mesa, AZ 85201
Sunday, Oct 16th
1pm-3pm
\$30/Ticket
480-892-9166



Family Camp!

On the weekend of September 16-18, our church had a church retreat at Mingus Mountain Methodist Camp & Retreat Center just outside of Prescott Valley. Nine families consisting of 33 individuals traveled to the campground for a time of relaxation and fellowship. The weekend consisted of communal meals, family devotionals, arts and crafts, camp activities like the 400 foot zipline, archery, and disc golf.

The weekend was truly refreshing for families to escape from the busyness of life and to enjoy God's creative power and beauty at nearly 8,000 feet elevation. Hearing the wind, seeing deer graze fifty yards from us, and gazing at the stars truly set the scene for a spiritually forming weekend.

If you were unable to join us for the Fall Retreat, be on the lookout for a Spring Retreat to Mingus Mountain. Details to come!



Preschool News

What we did in September

- We had a wonderful breakfast with our Grandparents or special loving adult. We have many grandparents who drop off and pick up their grandchildren, provide supplies, and otherwise support our school. Thank you!
- Teachers were very busy completing Fall Assessments with the children and then facilitating Parent/Teacher conferences.
- Firefighters visited us to talk about how to be safe. They even let us crawl through the fire truck! We made Thank you cards for the Firefighters and brought them some yummy treats.



What's happening in October

- This month we'll study the story of Noah and learn the bible verse "Obey Your Father and Mother for this is Right" Ephesians 6:1.
- **Fall Break:** October 10th – 18th. Enjoy this wonderful family time!
- **Preschool Fall Festival:** "Fall Festival - Hoedown" on October 27th 5:30-7:15pm. Come join us for some food, fun and fall entertainment. We will offer dinner for a small fee, lots of festival games and the preschoolers will perform a couple of cute songs for us. Come join the fun!

Family Mission

Book Drive for UMOM Read to Me Program: This month we'll be helping the Youth Ministry collect books to donate to the children (age 4 to 12) at the UMOM New Day Centers. Every Tuesday, volunteers spend the evening reading to about 50 children. The children then get to take 3 books each – that's an average of 150 books every week. Our Youth will be volunteering for Read To Me on November 1. Look for the bright yellow donation boxes on the patio or narthex (Sunday morning), and you can also leave your books in the preschool office.

Did You Know?

- Support our preschool by shopping at Fry's! You DO need to register each school year. Our code is 80635. Thank you!
- PreK and our Young 4s classes get to go to **Music class** each week, taught by skilled musician, Beth Boesch. The kids love it!
- Preschoolers get special **Art classes** by trained artist Jan Compton. Last month we learned that everyone is an artist and created our own masterpieces based off of the books The Dot by Peter Reynolds and Mouse Shapes by Ellen Walsh. We are blessed!

If you have any questions or would like more information about the preschool, please contact Lora Norris or Adrienne Mesa at 480-892-9166 or preschool@gilbertumc.org.

Did You Know?

Did you know that our Family Promise guests and their hosts, who stay on the second floor of our education building, must go down "unprotected" stairs into an "unprotected" (open to the public and anyone off the street) bathroom even in the middle of the night?



Some of our guests have been extremely pregnant, necessitating many trips down the stairs in an environment that may not be completely safe for them. Sometimes the children who are always present need to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night. Our new building will enclose the rooms and the bathrooms and allow safe bathroom usage at night.

Film.Family.Faith.Fellowship

The F4: Experience is here! Join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month, 2:30pm in the Youth Room (140/141) for Film, Family, Faith and Fellowship.

If you RSVP in advance, childcare is available. Contact Bethany Castle to RSVP. Her contact information is castle.bethany@gmail.com or 480-278-6356.

The next film viewing is set for Saturday, October 8th to watch "The War Room." This movie is a drama and centers on a seemingly perfect family and how they look to fix their problems.





Grow in Your Faith Everyday

New Adult Classes Starting Soon

New Class: I am a Church Member (Discovering the attitude that makes the difference)

This is a six week class that discusses what church membership really means—and what it doesn't mean. For those wondering why membership matters, for new members of the church, and also for those who have been church members for many years. The next class is set to begin on October 25th. The class will meet for six weeks on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm in the office.

Bible Journaling

Join in once a month for an evening that includes a devotional and Bible journaling. You can doodle, stamp, color and paint in a bible dedicated to praising your love of God in glorious color! This group meets again on Monday, October 10th, and will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30pm. Contact Adriana at secretary@gilbertumc.org. This group will meet off-site; you must contact us to get information on supplies and location.

Connections Class

As a continuation on the "I am a Church Member" class, this six week class considers life in the church through a Bible Study on the book of Ephesians called "Connected" by Thom Rainer. We will be meeting on Thursdays at 6:30pm in room 201 from October 27th—December 8th.

A Life Worth Living

A new study will begin starting October 19th, a 9-week study of Philippians. Great for all persons. Alpha graduates are especially invited to attend. Each talk explains how it is possible to live the Christian life positively, practically, and joyfully and is aimed specifically at those who are starting out in the Christian Life. The nine talks for this study include: New Heart, New Purpose, New Attitude, New Responsibilities, New Friendship, New Confidence, New Ambitions, New Resources and New Generosity. Contact the office at 480-892-9166 to register for the class. All are welcome.

The Life You've Always Wanted

What does true spiritual life really look like? How is it achieved? This eight week class will focus on the spiritual practices for ordinary people. It is based on the book by John Ortberg and will be taught by Rev. Gwen Mader. Come and "morph" with us! Class is set for 10/5—11/30 on Wednesday evenings in room 133.

To register for any of these classes please contact the church office at 480-892-9166 or secretary@gilbertumc.org.

Upcoming Explorer's Class

Interested in joining First UMC Gilbert? First (and only) step is to join us for an Explorer Class. The next class is Monday, October 10th at 6:30pm in room 142. Hear a brief presentation on key United Methodist beliefs and practices, receive a folder of materials for future reference, meet some key leaders, hear a little about our ministries and learn what our vows of membership are and what they mean. If you are interested in attending a class please contact secretary@gilbertumc.org. Daycare can be provided if requested in advance.



October is Cancer Awareness Month!

Cancer sometimes brings with it feelings of fear and anguish. As Christians we are called to comfort and care for those experiencing this diagnosis. We do this by kind actions, prayer and encouragement. Do you know someone who is currently going through cancer treatment? Some ways that you might offer care in tangible ways is by cleaning their home, babysitting their children, bringing meals, or driving them to an appointment. Galatians 6:2 says, *“Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* We can be burden bearers when we offer caring acts, encouragement and prayer.

You can also help someone going through cancer treatment by educating yourself about their cancer, its treatment and outcomes.

Here are some links to helpful sites:

American Cancer Society www.cancer.org

Association of Cancer Online Resources Inc. www.acor.org

Cancer Care, Inc. www.cancercare.org

Cancer News www.cancernews.com

National Cancer Institute www.cancer.gov

Oncology.com www.cancer.net

During the month of October there are a few ways to be part of this important Cancer Awareness Month.

- You can join us on October 23rd in the Activity Center. The Health Ministry team will, in addition to having your blood pressure checked or giving blood that day, have some cancer resources available in honor of Cancer Awareness Month.
- Join the Women’s Bible Study group on October 18th from 9:00-11:00am as they put together cancer kits in memory of Kathy Revenew. You can bring items for the kits to the church office by October 11th. Monetary donations help us purchase items being supplied by the church and can also be brought or mailed to the church office. For further information contact Pam Campbell, Congregational Care Coordinator, at 480-370-7210 or tommypam@cox.net.
- Prayer is very powerful. During this month, you are encouraged to pick a prayer partner, write down the names the two of you know who have been impacted by cancer. You and your prayer partner pick a time to meet and pray together. Take time once a day or maybe three times a week, whatever works best for you, and pray for the power of God’s healing graces, comforting those physically and emotionally impacted and for strength to deal with a scary diagnosis.

Stephen Ministry

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker or relative going through a difficult time? A Stephen Minister may be able to offer the support he or she needs. Stephen Ministers are members of our church trained to provide emotional and spiritual care to people who are hurting. To learn how you can help a friend receive care, talk with a pastor or a Stephen Minister.

During worship service on Sunday October 9th Mary Ann Kolmer will be blessed as a new Stephen Ministry leader. In fact, all the ushers and greeters on that date will be Stephen Ministers. It will be a great day for any Stephen Minister to answer questions that you may have.



Blood Drive

On Sunday, October 23rd the United Blood Services will be in the activity center for the last blood drive of the year here at our church.

The two Sundays prior (10/9 & 10/16) you can sign up to donate blood. The Health Ministries team will be on the patio to sign you up!

Find the hero in you, give blood!

Help save lives!





Cancer Kits- In Memory of Kathy Revenew

OCTOBER 18, 2016 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, FIRST UMC GILBERT ACTIVITY CENTER

Items needed for the kits:

Mini journals (can be purchased at Walmart)
Reusable water bottles or infusion bottles
Travel sized pillow & pillow case
Small fragrance-free lotion (EX.: 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)
Prayer shawl (Provided by the church)
Prayer book ("Reason for Hope" - Provided by the church)
Cancer suckers (provided by the church)
Scarfs/hats (Provided by the church)
Bags to store everything will be provided by the church

Please drop off the items or you can make a monetary donation at the Church office by October 11th
For more information contact Pam Campbell at 480-370-7210 or tommypam@cox.net

Current Opportunities in Congregational Care*



- Pray! Pray! Pray! — Pray for those in the congregation going through tough times
- Homebound Communion server
- Nursing Home/Assisted Living visitation
- Hospital Visitation
- Gather Spiritual Autobiographies
- Put together care kits (Cancer; Injury/Surgery; Children's)
- Write and send Birthday and Anniversary Cards
- Knit or Crochet a Prayer Shawl or Cancer Hat
- Become a Stephen Minister
- Write care notes
- Write Prayer request notes
- Inventory the medical lending closet
- Take blood pressures
- Help with Blood Drive
- Lead a Support Group

For further information or to be come involved contact Pastor Gwen at pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org.

*some opportunities require training given by the church.



Upcoming Mission Projects

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert has an amazing Missions Team that is chartered to organize and execute mission initiatives that provide social benefits to community members (local and abroad) and that engages the congregation in service beyond ourselves. Although it is only October, this team is gearing up for their busiest time of the year. Below is a list of efforts for the upcoming holiday season.

Operation Christmas Child: Bless a child overseas with a gift filled box. Pack a box with family or volunteer to transport to the local packing facility. In October, look for the Missions team on the patio with Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Boxes will need to be returned by November 13th after you have filled it with gifts for either a boy or a girl. Gifts can include toys, school supplies, hygiene items, accessories, and a personal note. A donation of \$7 per box is to be included for shipping and delivery into the hands of a child in need. Complete instructions can be found at: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.samaritanaspurse.org/pdfs/OCC how to pack large print.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.samaritanaspurse.org/pdfs/OCC%20how%20to%20pack%20large%20print.pdf)

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive: Donation of \$30 provides a complete turkey meal with milk and desert. We also need volunteers to deliver the meals to those in need.

Shoebbox ministries: You may have a drawer full of socks but that's not the case for the Valley's homeless. We will be collecting NEW pairs of socks to support the Shoebbox Ministry's goal of 45,000 NEW pairs of socks.

Senior Santa: Help a senior citizen in our community have a Merry Christmas. We will be setting up a tree this year for those who would like to do some shopping for our local seniors. More information will be provided over the next month.

UMOM Watkins Overflow Shelter: Each month volunteers cook and serve a meal for the overflow shelter. Do you have a desire to cook or serve? We would love to have you join us! The next dates are October 8, 2016, November 12, 2016, and December 10, 2016. We meet at the activity center at 1:45pm to begin cooking. Please sign up in the Activity center!

There are so many opportunities, literally everyone can find a way to help these initiatives be a means to share God's love and message to so many. If you have any questions or would like to assist in any of these projects please contact the missions team at missions@gilbertumc.org. You can always check out the missions table for more information on Sunday mornings. The team looks forward to serving you and the community this Holiday Season!



Save the Treasure Date!

There will be a Christmas Treasures Boutique on Saturday Dec 3rd from 9am—3pm. This will be a great day to pick out some Christmas presents, make a gift at the craft tables, and enjoy the yummy food of the season! Please save the date to check out the boutique!

The Orchard Africa team is looking for vendors to sell their treasures at the boutique. Vendor applications can be found on the church website: <http://gilbertumc.org/christmas-treasure-boutique/> Any questions call the office, 480-892-9166.

October Birthdays!

1	Kay Pealstrom Brenda Rico Jonda Shamsiddeen	18	Mary Frederick Lora Norris Ashton Olson Lex Rakowski
2	LeRoy Englebrecht	19	Kendall Fink Aryn Peppin
3	Landon Bottesch Bonnie Grimes Steve Helland	20	Jan Compton Jo Goslar Jeff Hemingson Amber Howarth Eric Sutton
4	McKinley Lang Art Poeske April Ryan	21	Bob Skinner Benjamin Smith
5	James McCalvin Dennis Young	22	Tim Ryan Tim West
6	Joe Taylor	23	Pam Stressman Alice Van Orden
8	Heather Niederer Norman Symons	24	Connor Johns Jesse Ossian
9	Ellie Kimbrough Diana Ouellette Eileen Parry	25	James Tinsley
10	Adriana Hernandez Chloe Tognacci	26	Kendall Bayer Betty Larson Brandon Sy
11	Pam Cowgill Robyn Oswald Al Zangri	27	Charlotte Hazelrigg Tara Pettengill
13	Cori Spittell	28	Joshua Anderson Allan Peters Emilee Rycraft
15	Samantha Boever Riley Waechter	30	Audrey Henderson
16	Jennifer Lazbin Dave Moberg	31	Mary Ellen Chuk
17	Irene Groves		

October Anniversaries!

2	Ed & Sue Stone	34 years
3	Jim & Lori Wilkins	29 years
6	David & Pat Baker	37 years
8	Odus & Diana Elliott	52 years
9	Tommy & Pam Campbell	23 years
10	Vicki & Steve Hanson	7 years
11	Eli & Janelle Chiricuzio	13 years
13	Mike & Diane Crann Jon Salak & Eileen Parry	28 years 14 years
15	Jim & Katherine Willis	23 years
18	David & Christy Yoder	8 years
19	Kevin & Teri Becker Dennis & Susan Young	25 years 26 years
21	Dan & Janet Bose John & Susan Bowers	15 years 21 years
22	Steve & Deanna Helland	33 years
23	Gene & Phyllis Foutz	61 years
28	Bob & Carolyn Skinner	56 years
30	William & Cathy Panella	47 years



Looking for Contributors to a First UMC Gilbert 2016 Advent Devotional



What is your favorite, most meaningful scripture during Advent? First UMC Gilbert is collecting these offerings for a 2016 Advent Devotional written by anyone who has attended our church. Please send your devotions to the church office by email to secretary@gilbertumc.org or by US Mail: First UMC Gilbert Attn: Advent Devotions 331 S. Cooper Road Gilbert, AZ 85233.

To make this advent devotion special and unique we are seeking personal devotionals that you have written and have not been published anywhere else. Devotions need to be **submitted by October 21st**, which will allow the team time to select, edit and package the devotional to be shared with the church for this advent season. If you would like to help in this process please let us know! To prepare for the presentation of these devotionals we are using the simple layout that the Upper Room uses. The format has three components: scripture, story or reason this scripture has meaning for you and a prayer.

This is an exciting way to share what you have learned and love in God's word. As a church community we can learn from one another each day of this Advent season.

Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

- Made possible through the work of Ryan Collins, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, with the Family Ministry Team, our church's annual End of Summer Luau on September 10. About 65 people attended this fun fellowship event.
- Provided space in the Activity Center and Sanctuary for the Alpha Retreat September 16-17. The retreat is an integral part of the 10-week Alpha course, a non-denominational opportunity to explore the meaning of life while learning about Jesus. Ten people attended the retreat.
- Made possible through the efforts and leadership of Adriana Hernandez a new Bible journaling group, meeting monthly beginning on September 12. 4 people attended the first evening, hosted by Adriana, to enjoy a meaningful time of fellowship.



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"!

If you have any questions about the church's finances, please contact either:

Susan Bowers, Finance Chair

Financechair@gilbertumc.org

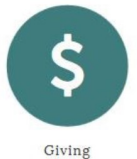
Deanna Helland, Church Treasurer/Accountant

Accountant@gilbertumc.org

Church Office: 480-892-9166

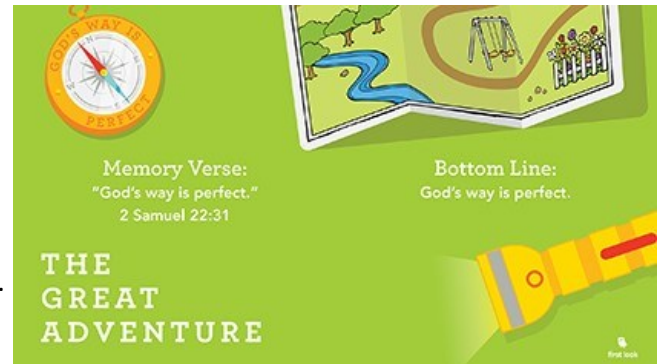


The QR code to the left is for giving via your mobile device. Or click on the GIVING link on our website to process your donation on-line. If you have any questions about on-line giving options, or if you need help setting up your on-line giving, please contact our Financial Secretary, Taleen Carpenter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



FirstKIDZ October Themes

First Look (Nursery-Pre K): This month is all about one man, one GREAT adventure. This month, we're talking about Moses! What a life. What an adventure! God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. (You don't see that every day.) Moses watched God part a sea. (You don't see that every day either!) Think about what Moses would have missed if he had said "no" to God's plan? No pillar of cloud in the day. No fire at night to guide him. No water from a rock when he was thirsty. No leading God's people. He would have missed out on the greatest adventure he could have imagined. God's way is perfect! God's way is right! God's way is awesome!



252 (K-6th Grade): Throughout the Psalms, we find that God is our refuge and strength. We can put our trust in Him because He will deliver us. Paul, in his letters to the churches, tells us to be anxious for nothing, to be strong in the Lord, and to remember that if God is for us nothing can stand against us. Jesus comforts us when He tells his disciples they have nothing to fear in this troubled world because He has overcome the world. This month we'll take a look at some everyday heroes from the Old Testament, men and women who had no superpowers except for the fact that they knew God had a mission for them and they trusted in His promise to always be with them.





BLACKLIGHT VOLLEYBALL

On Sunday, October 2nd, from 5:00-7:00pm, we will play some Blacklight Volleyball in the Activity Center. If you've never played volleyball this way, you won't want to miss this! This is a great event to bring friends to and have some fun. Hope to see you there!

YOUTH REPS

Serving on the Youth Council as a Youth Leader gives you an opportunity to serve the church in a leadership role by...

- 1). Representing the interests of your peers in all areas of the Youth Ministry by communicating their needs and ideas.
- 2). Looking for ways to get youth more involved in the life of the church.
- 3). Finding new opportunities for service, worship, and fellowship.
- 4). Planning and running service activities, fundraisers, outings, and other youth events.
- 5). Growing in the faith through spiritual formation and inspiring peers to join in the journey.

We realize that students and parents have many other commitments that take precedence over participation on the Youth Council, and we will make every effort to schedule around school, sports, etc. Given that, Youth Leaders will be expected to...

- 1). Attend regular monthly meetings.
- 2). Attend smaller subcommittee meetings as needed
- 3). Read and respond to Youth Council e-mails/text messages in a timely manner
- 4). Participate in spiritually forming practices.

If you're interested in helping us create momentum in the youth ministry here at First Gilbert, please fill out the application: <https://firstgilbert.wufoo.com/forms/youth-rep-application/>

CARDBOARD CITY 2016

October is quickly arriving which means it's Cardboard City time! From Saturday, October 15th 3:00pm to Sunday, October 16th 8:00am we will be having some fun at Scottsdale Stadium with music, festivities, packing hygiene kits, and of course sleeping in cardboard boxes!

This event is truly special and I am excited to offer it up for the youth again! Over 300 people, young and old, come together for one fun-filled evening to create Cardboard City on the floor of the Scottsdale Stadium (San Francisco Giants spring training field). This event is to raise awareness and funds to help create a better future for our city's homeless children, their families, and pets. This event is put on by Family Promise of Greater Phoenix, the organization that we partner with throughout the year. To RSVP, please contact Ryan at youthministry@gilbertumc.org Cost is \$25 per student and our desire is to fundraise more funds for such a powerful and effective ministry!

READ TO ME SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

On Tuesday 11/1, the youth will again be serving at UMOM's "Read to Me." We have limited spots available so please RSVP quickly. We will meet at the church at 5:30pm and students will get picked up from the church at 8:30pm. This is an awesome service opportunity where you spend time with kids. RSVP by emailing Ryan at youthministry@gilbertumc.org

Election Day—November 8th

Our church is a polling place for Maricopa County and November 8th is going to be an amazingly busy day at the polls as our nation elects a new president. The Invitation & Welcome team coordinates a hospitality table while the polls are open. Coffee, water and snacks are provided to those who are waiting in line to vote.



New Church Office Hours

M-Th 8am-4pm
Friday By Appointment

Please contact the office at 480-892-9166 if you can help with a couple of hours of your time on November 8th to help greet and welcome voters onto our campus. We are looking for volunteers to help anytime between 6am—7pm.

Smart Phone? Smart Giving!

Have you seen this and wondered what it means or how to use it? Now is the time to figure it out!



Electronic Giving allows you to access your funds through automatic payments, credit card or bank transfer. These new approaches make giving to the church easier if you find yourself short of cash, forget your check book, or just prefer using your smart phone to make payments. It can be used for your regular pledge, for the capital campaign giving and even used for our missions program (such as the turkey drive or the backpack drive) or when paying a fee, such as youth group activities. You can set up giving on a scheduled basis or use it for one time giving.

On **Sunday, October 16th between all services**, a special table will be set up in the courtyard to help you set up electronic giving, teach you how you can do this easily on a regular basis and explain how electronic giving can be an advantage to you and the church. Bring your electronic device (smart phone or tablet) or a check or deposit slip with routing numbers and we will help you help the First United Methodist Church of Gilbert.



Building on the Past / Believing in the Future Update

On Sunday September 11 we unveiled for the first time a new concept for the exterior of our new building. The new look includes elements of tile roofs, windows protected by covered balconies, and a new entry alcove for the sanctuary. It was enthusiastically received by many who viewed it on September 11 and at the design review on Sunday September 18. Other major design changes include re-orienting the nursery because the wall between the choir room and nursery is a shear support wall. The revised design will utilize rooms 133 and the two current nursery rooms to provide an open, airy, large space for our nursery aged children. The bathroom will be re-located into the current choir room space with a door opening off the nursery. Check in will be in the room. The old choir room will be re-purposed as office space and storage for children's ministries.



The building committee has added several new members to replace a few who have not been able to continue. New members include Ray Vallera, Leroy Johnson, Jo Asplin, and John Holmberg. Their regular meetings are third Thursdays at 6:30, and guests are welcomed. Surveying has been done, as has a soil study. The building committee is moving toward interviewing and selecting a construction manager to oversee the project. The finance sub group is beginning to shop for a loan package to bring before the congregation. Expect a charge conference late November – early January to approve final construction design and loan packages. Before that time the District Board of Building and Location will be consulted again on both.

Plans are being laid for re-location of nursery, offices, and classrooms during the 8 – 9 month period of construction, which will probably begin in February 2017. Pray for your Building Committee and for our staff and volunteers as we prepare for a time of dislocation and construction, moving into all that God has for us to do and be!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Continues

Thank you for the amazing response to "Through the Wardrobe" Wednesday night programming! The schedule continues for October.



Dinner: **5:45 PM** Wed Fellowship Dinner - AC (\$3/person or \$12/family)

- 10/05: Pulled Pork Sandwiches
- 10/12: Potluck Night featuring Meatloaf
- 10/19: Orchard Africa Night
- 10/26: Pizza and Salad

Music Rehearsal:

- 5:30 PM** Wesleyan Bells - 130
- 7:00 PM** Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Classes:

- 6:30 PM** Alpha - AC
- 6:30 PM** Christianity & Islam - 142
- 6:30 PM** Confirmation - 200
- 6:30 PM** Hurting Moms, Healing Hearts - Office
- 6:30 PM** Kidz Book Club - 203
- 6:30 PM** The Life You Have Always Wanted - 133
- 6:30 PM** Wednesday Wilds - 205