

The Evangel

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

July 2017



July Events!

Special Worship Series:
July 2, 9 and 16
Beauty and the Beast!
Meet "Belle" on July 9 & 16



Family Movie Nite!
"War Room"
July 15 7:00 - 9:30 pm - Activity Center
Come and bring your family and friends!

... More Family Fun!
July 22 4:00-6:30 pm
Slip n' Slide Kickball and Cookout!

Hosting Family Promise!
July 23 - 30th
Opportunities to volunteer and get involved!

July is for Fun and Fellowship! Make plans to join your church family this month!! For further information on each of these events, see inside...



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

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Important Dates

07/4	Fourth of July - Church office closed
07/15	Family Fun Movie Nite
07/22	Slip-n-Slide Kickball
07/23-30	Family Promise

Message from Pastor Deborah



Dear Friends of First UMC,

This letter comes to update you on progress with the Building on the Past/Believing in the Future initiative. Two kinds of folks will receive it: those who want the short and sweet version, and those who want much more detail. You get to decide which you are! Here is the short version: *we continue to move forward, more slowly than we wanted or intended, toward the fullness of the vision we have for greater security for children, a renewed campus and worship space, and additional music space. It is an awesome vision, and we remain confident that it will ultimately be realized. Your leadership teams will do what it takes to get us there!*

For those who need to know more: we are grateful for the almost \$84,000 additional pledges you made to achieve the fullness of this vision after discovering that it would cost more than we thought. Thank you for your faithfulness! God is working through this process and has touched many hearts, strengthening our commitment to move forward. On June 5 a higher total project cost (\$3.0 Million) and a higher potential construction loan and mortgage package (\$2.5 Million) were approved by the whole church.

However, proceeds from the sale of the land east of the church are necessary to make this project completely viable/feasible. We have a very interested buyer and have accepted his letter of intent to purchase the property for \$1,081,000 (our net will be about \$800,000). We are entering escrow, and the buyer has 180 days for due diligence. He has already completed considerable “due diligence” and the town has received his initial plans with enthusiasm. We are optimistic that this sale will go through, but know it will take some time.

The Administrative Board considered all of these realities carefully on June 20, before authorizing the Building Committee to move forward to obtain completed detailed design and construction documents (this effort, entailing an additional expense of about \$91,000, had been suspended.) These will be finished by about mid-September. The next step is a six week permitting process. The Ad Board will consider progress toward the land sale at its August meeting and decide whether/when to authorize this permitting process to proceed. (Estimated cost: \$65,000)

As we move through the fall toward the culmination of the buyer’s “due diligence” phase, we will make decisions about when construction might begin and when we might prudently sign a contract with our construction manager. (The earliest would probably be January 1, 2018.)

Meanwhile, keep your eyes open for the trustees to begin working on their capital maintenance projects. They can’t wait to start!

Be assured: great care is being exercised with the financial resources you are giving to make this vision a reality. It will be wonderful to have our beautiful campus renewed and ready to meet our needs far into the future. We are deeply grateful for your support.

If you have questions, our Administrative Board Chairperson, Garin Campbell; or our Building Committee Co-chairs, Dan Vrana and Kelly McClain, or Pastor Deborah would be glad to seek answers with you.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor Deborah

Garin Campbell
Administrative Board Chair

Kelly McClain and Dan Vrana
Building Committee Co-Chairs



Welcoming the Stranger

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’ - Matthew 25:40 (NLT)

Being welcoming to all people is the goal of every church. Here at First United Methodist Church of Gilbert we are striving to be intentional about how our church is perceived and experienced. Our Invitation and Welcoming Team has been working on developing ways we can be sure we have a warm, welcoming, and inviting environment for everyone. But we need your help! In the coming weeks you will be given the opportunity to indicate which one of the following seven teams you would like to be involved with.

Welcoming Ministry – Go beyond the “formal” hello at the door. We need volunteers to meet people in the courtyard and in the sanctuary. Learn who our visitors are, and what they seek. Connect them to the support they are interested in. Time commitment: Once per month (if fully staffed).

Connection Ministry – Be the information center. One stop shopping point for making connections to people and programs. Staff the welcome cart once per month.

Hospitality Ministry – Everyone loves the coffee hour. We need people to set up and clean up. Two teams per Sunday, 1½ hours per team. Training provided, and opportunities to help with other special events.

Guest Follow-up Ministry – This outreach demonstrates that we think about people beyond the service. Team members send letters to newcomers and those indicating an interest in membership. They can also deliver our famous bread gift during the week.

Exploring Membership Ministry – Volunteer to help pastors create a welcoming experience for those considering joining FUMCG. Team sets up a monthly luncheon, and may have opportunity to talk about being a church member.

Invitation Ministry – If they know it, they will come. This team prepares flyers and notices for delivery, mail, text, or e-mail to invite the community to our services and events. Invitations are coordinated with our website to ensure a seamless experience. This “new” team will formalize the existing process.

Traffic Ministry – Everyone comes through the parking lot. Not everyone knows where to go. We need a team to develop a plan to begin the welcoming experience as they drive in. Invitation brings them; traffic gets them in.

Pray about where God may be calling you to serve.

Blessings on your July!

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!
(Applications are due by July 9)

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 is 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

I hope that everyone is blessed by the variety of music this summer. The month of July will offer patriotic organ/piano duets, a gospel bluegrass band, vocal duet, and a couple of vocal solos. As much as I enjoy these offerings, I look forward to August when the choir will be back leading the music in worship. If you are interested, we invite you to join us in singing this year. All vocal parts are welcome, no audition required. We have a choir robe and a seat for YOU! Rehearsals start on Wednesday, August 9 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. Wesleyan Bells will be gearing up again this fall, so watch for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Marty in the church office.



Orchard Africa Missions Trip Update:



The Orchard Africa team returns July 3! The team includes Janelle Chiricuzio, Gayle Disch, Adriana Hernandez, Mike Miller, Andrea Reiners, Al, Ashley, and Michelle Reynolds, Ed Taggard and Brianna Wiemers. They traveled to Mafikeng where they have been staying in the Orchard: Africa Mission House.

During the week, they visited various villages and held a "Prayer" Vacation Bible School in the morning for children, and facilitated a vertical agriculture program for adults in the afternoon. We look forward to hearing from them regarding their experiences.



Missions Backpack Drive

This year's drive benefits students at Gilbert Elementary, Boulder Creek Elementary and Family Promise. Drop off your donations in the Activity Center by July 16. For more information, Contact Mike Harris at 480-662-9973 or missions@gilbertumc.org.



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 July we will gather in Room 140/141. We will not meet on Sunday evenings this month.

Upcoming Missions Trips

Please pray for the youth and adults who will be going on missions trips this summer. The first trip was 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.



Youth Hosting Family Promise Dinner on Friday, July 28

Many volunteers will be needed to set up, cook, serve and cleanup/break down. Hours are from 4-8:30 pm. Please RSVP to Ray by text or email at youthministry@gilbertumc.org.

Volleyball Update:

The end of season Tournament will be played Sunday July 30th @ First Mesa starting at 1 pm. For more information contact Ray at youthministry@gilbertumc.org.

Family Ministry:

Coming Reel Soon!

Join us on Saturday, July 15 for "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

August 4-6th Magic Mountain Turn-Around Trip

California Six Flags—Magic Mountain!

\$125 per Person

*provides transportation, park admission,
and one meal while in the park*

Reserve your space today!





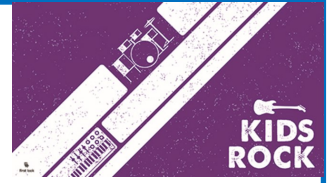
Uniquely Wired, Wonderfully Made.

Vacation Bible School was a huge success! Thank you to all who volunteered, sponsored and attended!

Summer Sunday School

Preschool July 2017

Kids Rock! But, you knew that, didn't you? You're surrounded by rockin' kids all the time! We're excited to celebrate kids with a rocking good time this summer. Throughout the summer, our preschoolers will be introduced to people in the Bible who did amazing things while they were still kids. They rocked because they did what God wanted them to do, and our preschoolers can do that too. **In July, Daniel, Miriam, Josiah, a young boy and his lunch and Timothy will continue to help our preschoolers learn that they can do what God wants**



Elementary July 2017

Because we are uniquely made in God's image, we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about what that means. **This month, we take a closer look at the idea of uniqueness—discovering who God made you to be so you can make a difference.**



Our Memory Verse for July comes from Ephesians 2:10

In **Ephesians 2:10**, we read, *We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.* (NirV) God has a plan for each of us. He invites us into the work He's been doing in the world since the beginning of time to bring people to Him. God made us to be part of that! As we help kids discover more about the way God uniquely created them, we'll look at some people in the Bible and find out how God used their uniqueness to help Him change the world.



Save your quarters!

The kids will be collecting quarters during the summer to help feed the starving children around the world. Please save your quarters to help them in this mission!

*Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.
- Proverbs 22:9*

**Mesa FMSC
1345 S Alma School Rd, Mesa, AZ 85210
Friday August 18th 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
68 spots**

**Please contact Childrens Ministries soon, as space is limited.
childrensministry@gilbertumc.org**



Look What Your Giving is Helping Us Do!

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

Provided for Pastor Deborah, Pastor Gwen, and our Lay Delegates, Philip Tesarek and Sharon Kotsonas, to attend our Desert Southwest Annual Conference in Glendale, AZ. This is the annual "business meeting" for our Conference, attended by pastors and lay delegates from all the churches in the Conference.

Made possible through the work of Children's Ministry Director Janelle Chiricuzio and many volunteers, our annual Vacation Bible School program, Gadgets and Gizmos, June 5-9. Over 120 children attended, with the majority from our Preschool families and outside our church family.

Made possible through the work of our Family Ministries Team and Youth and Family Ministries Director Ray Vallera our Family Game and Movie Night on June 17. Ten people gathered in the Activity Center to watch Soul Surfer and play family games. What a great opportunity to fellowship, enjoy an inspirational movie, and have fun with our church family and friends! The next Family Game and Movie Night will be July 15, featuring the movie "War Room". Make it a point to attend and watch this movie about the power of prayer with your church family, even if you've already seen it.

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"!

May 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).

Have you used the new giving app, Joyfully2UMC? It's an easy way to give from your smartphone, whether you're sitting in worship or on vacation. Just download the app "Joyfully 2 UMC" on your smartphone. Search for "First United Methodist Church of Gilbert", complete a few questions to set up your account, and donate. The app will even scan your credit or debit card if you don't want to key in the account number. You can donate to our General Fund or any of our most commonly used designated funds (including our Capital Campaign).

You can also use the QR code below 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 electronic giving options, or if you need help setting it up on your phone, tablet or computer, please contact our Financial Secretary, Taleen Carpenter (480-892-9166, financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).



July Anniversary Celebrations



1	Mark & Julie Smith	28 Years	14	Paul & Callie Miller	21 Years
2	Steven & Jennifer Burks	23	15	James & Diana Ramsey	44
	Ruby & Joe Rosemond-Taylor	47	17	Matthew & Sharon Poeske	2
3	Carl & LaVerne Harris	46		Mike & Linda Cranford	56
	Jon & Betsy Marlinga	18	22	Leroy & Pam Johnson	29
4	Jeffrey & Melinda Carver	25	23	Frank & Denise Sweeney	23
	Bill & Lori Van Dam	41		Richard & Judie Eastburn	2
5	Donald & Candy Martin	33		Ernie & Anita Broughton	42
7	Vinny & Joanne Tuccillo	27	24	Bobby & Sarah Metz	20
10	Mitchell & Jennine Ballew	18		Daniel & Brittainy Murphy	9
	Mike & Kelly Leightner	19	26	Kevin & Beth Boesch	16
11	Bill & Akino Neubauer	15		Norm & Dorothy Haskett	44
12	Jeff & Edith Langland	20		Brandon & Rachel Johnston	17
13	Larry & Marlene Davis	43			
	Tracy & Casey McCuthcan	4	28		
			29		



July Birthday Celebrations



1	Sean Comstock	11	Jeni Hemingson	16	David Ryland	24	Tom Bristow
	Sarah Lazbin		Dallas Salak		Brianna Wiemers		Julie Curran
2	Patricia Baker	12	Sydney Haugen	17	Ruth Heer		Bill Van Dam
	Leonidas Ouellette		Xavier Ouellette	19	Odus Elliott	25	Reagan Campbell
	Kelly Sanders		David Yoder	20	Nickie Bonenfant	26	Quinn Capri Davis
	Helen Williams	13	Daphne Lin		Carlie Riedel		Bob Stearns
3	Lesieli Ouellette		Kathryn Turnrose	21	Steven Breedlove	27	Benjamin Bouchie
9	Kamryn Bayer	14	Margo Doss		Tyler Houseman		Garin Campbell
	Madison Lutes		Trevor Lang	22	Ronald Dalton		Shirley Wilkowski
	Michael McKinley		Alma Riedel		Linda McKinley	28	Teri Martin
10	Sandra Campbell		Gregory Skinner		Jean Post	30	Katie Dixon
	Emma Elizabeth Deeds			23	Lane Ramirez	31	Jason Rowley
					David Mittner		
					Joe Strazz		



Is there more to life
than this?

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.)

Adult Wednesday Night Classes Begin August 9th:

Alpha - (Mike Miller, teacher) 10 weeks
Celebration Dinner - August 2nd at 6:30pm

Journey 101 - (Rev. Gwen Mader, teacher) 18 weeks
Knowing God (Aug 9 - Sept 13)
Loving God (Sept 20 - Oct 25)
Serving God (Nov 1 - Dec 13)

Your Move by Andy Stanley - (Vicki Hanson, teacher) 6 weeks (August 9 - Sept 13)

Financial Peace University (teacher TBA) 9 weeks

Disciple 1 Bible Study - (Sylvia Harris, teacher) 24 weeks

Watch the bulletin for additions to this list!

Congregational Care Support Groups

Hurting Moms, Mending Hearts - (Sharon Kotsonas, facilitator) - Wed. 6:30pm - 10 weeks beginning 8/9.

GriefShare - (Kay Pealstrom and Kathy Rae Tracy, facilitators) - Sat. 9:30am - 13 weeks beginning 8/12.

DivorceCare - (Adriana Hernandez and TBA, facilitators) - Tues. 6:30pm - 13 weeks beginning 8/29.

Living Hope (PTSD/Trauma) - (Steve Hanson, Sr., facilitator) - Sun. 1:00pm - ongoing



A Always read a bedtime story... and a mid-morning story, when the kids aren't too tired!

If they want to read the same story over and over, then follow their lead and go for it! If they want to "read" the book and it's not completely accurate, it's ok! Let them pretend to read!

"As your young child listens to stories, he learns that all good stories have a beginning, middle, and end. He also learns to predict, based on the book cover, what the story will be about, as well as what might happen next or how the story will end. Young children learn that there are characters in stories and a particular setting (where and when it takes place). Your child will enjoy comparing the characters in a book to him/herself and to other real life people he knows." Adapted from www.pbs.org

B Bible Stories and Verses are important!

Invest in a children's bible. There are many to choose from at the Christian book stores. Choose one with lots of pictures. That will make it interesting and memorable for the preschoolers. Choose one bible verse a week to talk about and memorize. Choose one that is meaningful to your family. Here are some ideas to get you started:

"Love your neighbor as you love yourself" Luke 10:27b

"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with JOY" Psalm 126:3

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." James 1:17

C Compare Objects and Investigate!

Three and four-year-olds approach the world with great curiosity and use their imaginations to help understand it. Hands-on explorations help them to separate reality from fantasy. Encourage preschoolers to ask and answer questions about how, why, and what if...?

We hope you are enjoying your summer! If your preschool aged child is enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year, you will receive a welcome packet in the mail early this month.



Open House for enrolled families is Wednesday, August 2nd! Begin Open House by stopping by room 142 and then proceed to your child's classroom.



If you have any questions about the preschool, please email preschool@gilbertumc.org or call 480-892-9166. Directors Lora Norris or Adrienne Mesa would love to speak with you!

Report on the 2017 Annual Desert Southwest Conference

Conference attendees from First UMC of Gilbert were Senior Pastor, Deborah Lerner; Associate Pastor, Gwen Mader; Deacon, Rev. Tina Rees, Elected Lay Delegates; Philip Tesarek, and Sharon Kotsonas.

The 2017 Annual Conference Vision Statement

We are called to be a *Courageous Church*:

Loving Like Jesus

Acting for Justice

United in Hope

During the four-day conference a number of daily proceedings addressed organizational matters, legislation rules, committee recommendations and policy reviews. Prayers were offered by our Bishop and other cabinet members as each item was brought forward for discussion and voting.

Bishop Bob shared news from our district connections; these updates included new church names signifying new beginnings, church closures, DS and clergy appointment changes, and the tragic fire at Zion Church in Las Vegas, to mention a few.

The ***Radical Hospitality*** presentation reminded us that we are called to be agents of transformation by sharing the Good News of Christ, and also by sharing our own story, equipping others with courage.

Bishop Robert Schnase, from Texas, delivered a powerful message titled ***Just Say Yes***, encouraging us to engage in practices that are rooted in the life of Christ and radiate into the life of others. Bishop Schnase challenged us to conduct a spiritual inventory because **“God calls everyone to service and ministry; it is important to discover where our great gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”**

Our Bishop introduced a video from the ***Commission on a Way Forward***. This committee was appointed by the Council of Bishops to lead The United Methodist Church on a way forward to unity in matters of human sexuality. The Bishop shared that he discovered as we talked with one another during the conference, although we have people on all points of the theological spectrum in our congregations in the Desert Southwest Conference, by far, people were saying, “Let’s find a way to live together despite our theological differences.” The Bishop asked the Conference to hold the Commission in prayer. He led the Conference in prayer for the members of the Commission on the Way Forward.

Submitted by: Sharon Kotsonas
Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair
First UMC of Gilbert

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480-892-9166

www.firstgilbert.church info@gilbertumc.org
Office Hours: 8am-4pm Monday—Thursday
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FOR MOBILE GIVING

