

# The Evangel

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

October 2017



CHURCH OF GILBERT

331 S. Cooper Road

Gilbert, AZ 85233

480-892-9166

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

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8a—4p

Friday By Appointment



Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 6-8PM

Join us for this Free Community Event

Costume Contest 🍁 Bounce

Safe fun

Houses 🍁 Hot Dogs

for the whole

Games 🍁 Popcorn

family!

Cotton Candy 🍁 Prizes

Trick-or-Treating

Trunk  
Decoration  
Contest

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## Important Dates

October 8 - Explorer Luncheon
October 16 - Charge Conference
October 22 - Turkey Drive
October 31 - Trunk-or-Treat

## *Message from Pastor Deborah*



For residents of the deserts of Arizona, this is our time! October is when the heat really begins to break, and we who have spent our summer holed up under the air conditioning begin to tend our gardens again. As I write, there have been two successive mornings when it was much cooler outside than in. Hallelujah! Praise be to God!

I am happy to report that good things are also happening in our building committee and with our trustee's capital maintenance projects. The trustee team decided several months ago that their first major project using capital funds would be renovation of the sanctuary with a chancel expansion, new carpet and new upholstery. The design work is almost complete, the carpet and upholstery fabric have been selected, and on Thursday September 21 our construction managers brought us an estimate of costs. After due consideration the committee voted to move forward to sign a contract for this "Phase 1" portion of our campus renewal project, and try to have our sanctuary renewed and refreshed before Thanksgiving. No additional charge conference is required for "Phase 1" because we have cash in hand to complete this project and it is a trustees project.

There will be about three weeks of construction to complete this project. The first week they will come in as soon as we are done with Sunday services. Demolition will be done and the new chancel area will be poured (it will be concrete) on Thursday. By the following Sunday it will be ready for us to sit, stand, and sing on it but it will be bare and a little musty smelling. We will worship without some of our normal amenities, like the organ, pulpit, lectern, and altar.

During the next week carpet will be laid, requiring moving the pews, and simultaneously we hope the pews will be worked on.

The larger chancel area will allow the praise band to move out into the center for the 11:00 am service. It will provide adequate room for our preschool and Christmas pageants. It will restore to us the ability to have kneeling communion at least some of the time.

We have waited a long time to see a visible sign of what our faithfully contributed dollars will do. It will be exciting to have a renewed worship space for our Advent and Christmas services.

Continue to pray for the dedicated members of our building committee as they move forward to complete overall design plans.

Pray also for the successful completion of the sale of lands to the east of the church. Our buyer continues his due diligence process, has almost completed a feasibility study, and has designed a way to use several acres of the retention area. In a recent meeting he made it clear that although things are taking time he is working hard and spending money to ensure this project can be completed and the sale can be consummated. We were encouraged by his enthusiasm.

Thank you for your faithful giving to our dream. We will begin to see it realized very soon!

Blessings and Peace

Pastor Deborah

## The Discipleship Journey: A word from Pastor Gwen

Our mission as a church is to lead people of all ages on the journey to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus. In order to fulfill that mission, over the past year we have created a discipleship journey that provides a pathway to become disciples of Jesus Christ who make new disciples. There have been many people in the church who have influenced the final outcome. Here is a simplified version of that Journey:



The Journey begins when we encounter the church in mission, support groups, classes, care or friendships. You may have encountered the church years ago. Or you may have just experienced who we are in Christ.

The Journey begins with Alpha and worship. Coming to worship is the beginning step, with encouragement into the Alpha Course which lays a foundation for faith.

After Alpha, the Journey continues into Journey 101. This is a series of three classes in which we learn to Know God, Love God and Serve God. These three put legs to our faith as we learn to walk in close fellowship with Christ. Following Journey 101 an assessment is given that guides the classes taken in Journey 202. These classes are designed to

strengthen weaker areas to achieve fuller knowledge and skills in relationships with God and others.

At the conclusion of Journey 101, disciples are invited to join a Journey Mission Network Group, designed for fellowship and witness. As a group, disciples are led in ministry to the community through acts of kindness, love, and justice, and are given tools and encouragement to bring Jesus into their networks. Leaders of these groups meet with the pastors on a regular basis.

At the conclusion of Journey 202 disciples are also encouraged to attend a Bible Study group if they have not done so already. This could be Disciple Bible Study, Women's or Men's Bible Studies or Sunday Morning classes. The disciple also consults with the pastors regarding leadership opportunities.

Journey 303 brings leadership skills to the disciple. A spiritual director or mentor is sought. In Journey 303 the disciple encounters a 10 session leadership class, safe sanctuary training, and training specific to their ministry within or outside of the church (i.e./Congregational Care Training, Stephen Minister training, Missions VIM training, Worship leadership, Disciple Bible Study leadership training, etc.) depending upon the area of service.

The goal of the Journey is to reach a place where the disciple is ready to lead others to a faith in Christ and encourage them along the Discipleship Journey, beginning with worship and Alpha.

I want to encourage you to begin the Discipleship Journey, even if you may be farther along in your faith. Go back to those classes that give you the foundations and follow the Journey so that you will be able to encourage new believers along the way in your current ministry setting.

Yours for the Journey,

Pastor Gwen

## Please Join Us for Our Annual All Church Charge Conference!

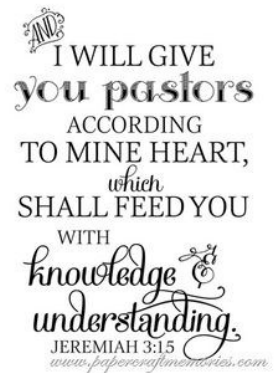
**Monday October 16, 2017 - 7 P.M. - In the Sanctuary**

Our District Superintendent and Lay Leader will be here to celebrate our accomplishments and look forward to all God has for us to do and be. Please make time to join us. Those who are being elected to leadership for 2018 are especially invited to be present, as well as those who have served in 2017.

### **October is Pastor Appreciation Month!**

*The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will have a special recognition during all three services on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to celebrate our wonderful Pastors; Pastor Gwen Mader and Pastor Deborah Lerner. A cake reception will follow.*

*We encourage you to use the cards provided on Sunday, October 8 to write a poem, a prayer, words of appreciation and encouragement, etc. You may also consider giving our pastors a monetary gift, gift cards and/or gift certificates. Cards and gifts can be placed in the offering plate or in the designated baskets in the church lobby and activity center.*



### **The Turkey Drive is fast approaching!**

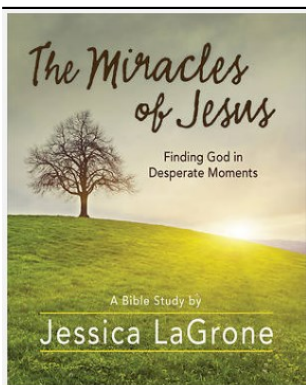
Donations toward a Thanksgiving meal for a family in need will soon be collected. The cost is \$40.00 per box and we have a goal of 100 boxes. See a member of the mission team on the patio beginning October 29<sup>th</sup> to place your donation! Watch out turkeys!!!

### **Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study**

Our new study, The Miracles of Jesus by Jessica LaGrone, starts October 17. In this 6-week DVD-based study, we will explore the miracles of Jesus, helping us to see that our weakness is an invitation for God to work powerfully in our lives and reminding us that we need God on our best days just as much as we do on our worst. Books are \$11.00 each and will be available to purchase on October 17.

Please contact Christy Robertson Yoder at [roberch1@yahoo.com](mailto:roberch1@yahoo.com) or Deanna Helland at [dzhelland@yahoo.com](mailto:dzhelland@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Free childcare is provided



# Operation Christmas Child



Give a child a Merry Christmas! Fill an Operation Christmas Child shoe box with small toys and gifts! Plastic boxes will be available from the Missions team beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. Instructions are included with each box. Gifts must be returned back to the church no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> so that they can be shipped overseas by Christmas.

It's time again for. . .

## Family Promise at First Gilbert October 15-22



Get involved by helping us host homeless families at our church for the week of October 15-22. Provide a meal. Stay overnight. Help with homework. Be a friend. Come for an hour or for a night. Contact DyAnn O'Brien for details of how you can get involved at [dyannob@gmail.com](mailto:dyannob@gmail.com).

Come visit us at the First UMC of Gilbert booth at:



Saturday, October 28, 2017

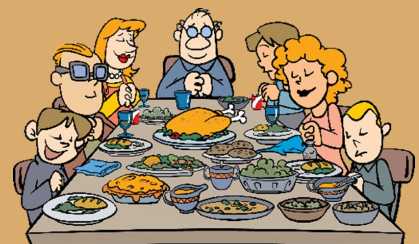
7 AM to Noon

Freestone Park, Gilbert

This is a great opportunity to rally for the good of the community and raise awareness while having fun and making a positive difference in the East Valley. All net proceeds will be donated to prevent youth substance abuse. A community fair will take place before, during and after the race with information on community services and resources. You can REGISTER as Individuals, Families or Teams for the 5K run or sponsor a team at [iRun4Good.org](http://iRun4Good.org).

## The Annual Turkey Drive Feeds 100+ Families!

To volunteer please contact Ed Stone at 740-973-3618  
or call the church office





# FUMC- Gilbert Youth

SEPTEMBER 2017

## Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - Youth Rep Meeting- 4pm Senior High Room

Mission Trips, Sunday evening gatherings and other upcoming event planning will take place.

## Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – UMOM monthly meal @ \*New Halle Center

UMOM moved all the women & families out of the Watkins facility! The new facility is named the **Bruce and Diane Halle Center** and is located at 3424 E Van Buren, Phx, 85004. Changes; serving crew limited to 8 people, all volunteers must be 14 years or older, and they will not allow us to give away clothes or toiletries anymore, we will donate them to their distribution rooms.

## Saturday, October 21 @ 5pm – Family Promise Dinner Service

Youth ministry is teaming up with missions to serve dinner to families we're hosting the week of Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers needed to prep, cook and serve. Email Ray to rsvp.

## Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm "Hot Dogs & Hygiene Kits!"

Family Promise had to come to the difficult decision to not have Cardboard City this year, but wanted to provide the opportunity to assemble the 2,000 Hygiene Kits our homeless population so desperately needs. So, we've created: **"Hot Dogs & Hygiene Kits!"** 10:00a-12:00p at Paiute Neighborhood Center located at 6535 E. Osborn Rd., Scottsdale AZ 85251

# Save the Date- WINTER JAM 2017

## Friday, November 10 at Gila River Arena- \$15 cash entry

10 artists perform each night, so you get to enjoy approximately 4 hours of show time! Artists: Lecrae, Mac Powell, Andy Mineo, Building 429, Family Force 5, Newsong, Moriah Peters, Nick Hall and more. More info available online at <http://2017.jamtour.com/>

If you have any questions about Youth or Family Ministries, please contact Ray Vallera at [youthministry@gilbertumc.org](mailto:youthministry@gilbertumc.org) or 602-291-1968.



## Sunday, October 8 at 12:15 in the Activity Center

Join us to learn more about our church.

We would love to have you!

Lunch is provided.

RSVP to Sylvia at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org).



## FIRST KIDZ - Fall Curriculum for October!

**Preschool** - We know things are going to happen in our preschoolers' lives where they will need God's help—times when their lives will zig one way and then zag another. We want them to grow up believing that God loves them and can help them anywhere, with anything, no matter how hard it may be. He can even help them help others!



This month, we'll learn about the life of David and how even when it zigged and zagged, God was there to help him. We will begin with David as a boy in a field with his sheep. David was alone in that field when he needed to protect his sheep. Actually, he wasn't really alone. God was with him. And, God helped him protect his sheep from the scary lion. Our preschoolers will learn that God can help me anywhere.

**Elementary** - In Psalm 24:1, we read, *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, (NIV)*. In other words, whatever we have isn't really ours. God created the entire world—the land and sea, planets and galaxies, animals and people. And when people create, those people do so because of the gift and talents that God gave them. It's our job to take care of what God has loaned us for a time to use in order to bring Him glory.

Jesus put stewardship into action. He used the time He had on earth wisely, never wasting a moment, but always working towards God's plan. He used what He had—from bread and fish, to dirt and spit—to perform miracles, helping people see and eat. Everything Jesus did showed us how we can take care of God's stuff by using it the way that points people to God and fulfills the mission God has for our lives.

## Wednesday Wilds/Wednesday Book Club - 6:30 pm

### Lego Bible Stories:

Come join us as we build and explore more Bible stories with Legos. We will get creative while exploring the stories of Jesus!

Open to K-3rd graders



### Book Club

We will continue the series from C S Lewis the Chronicles of Narnia with The Voyage of the Dawn Treader!

Join us as we explore this fun series and act out, create, explore the meanings behind and just have a fun creative time together!

Open to 4th-6th graders





## 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:

Provided on-going support for our Explorer luncheons. The last luncheon on September 10 was attended by 6 adults. On September 17, 8 new members were welcomed into church membership, bringing our total new members so far this year to 51.

Provided support for the Preschool's annual Grandparents Day Breakfasts in the Activity Center on September 6 and 7. Over 150 adults and preschoolers attended this special event.

Provided support for the Alpha Holy Spirit Weekend on September 15 and 16. 13 Alpha class members attended this inspirational and meaningful event, led by Pastor Deborah and Mike Miller.

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"!

August 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](mailto:Financechair@gilbertumc.org)) or Deanna Helland, Treasurer/Church Accountant (480-892-9166, [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto: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 away 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](mailto:financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org)) or Deanna Helland (480-892-9166, [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto:accountant@gilbertumc.org)).





## *October Anniversaries*

2	Ed & Sue Stone	35 Years
3	Jim & Lori Wilkins	30 Years
6	David & Pat Baker	38 Years
8	Odus & Diana Elliott	52 Years
9	Tommy & Pam Campbell	24 Years
10	Vicki & Steve Hanson	8 Years
11	Eli & Janelle Chiricuzio	14 Years
13	Mike & Diane Crann	29 Years
	Jon Salak & Eileen Parry	15 Years
16	Aqeel & Jonda Shamsiddeen	12 Years
19	Kevin & Teri Becker	26 Years
	Dennis & Susan Young	27 Years
21	Dan & Janet Bose	16 Years
22	Steve & Deanna Helland	34 Years



## *October Birthday Celebrations*

1	Kay Pealstrom	16	Jennifer Lazbin	24	Jesse Ossian
	Brenda Rico	17	Irene Groves	25	James Tinsley
	Jonda Shamsiddeen	18	Lora Norris	26	Kendall Bayer
2	LeRoy Englebrecht		Alexandria Rakowski	26	Elizabeth Larson
3	Bonnie Grimes	19	Aryn Peppin	27	Charlotte Hazelrigg
	Steve Helland	20	Jan Compton		Tara Pettengill
4	Art Poeske		Jo Goslar	28	Allan Peters
5	Dennis Young		Jeff Hemingson		Emilee Rycraft
6	Joe Taylor	21	Bob Skinner	30	Marie Blum
8	Norman Symons	22	Sika Norvor		Diane Rymer
9	Eileen Parry		Tim Ryan	31	MaryEllen Chuk
10	Adriana Hernandez	23	Pam Stressman		
11	Robyn Oswald		Alice Van Orden		



## UMCOR

With all the natural disasters and human suffering around the country and the globe, First United Methodist Church of Gilbert is responding with aid and support.

We are collecting items and filling UMCOR cleaning kits. All kits are due to the church by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Help us reach our goal of 200 kits!

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, between the services of worship in the activity center, we will be holding a packing party! There will be food, fun and the assembly of kits. We promise to play Ted's Favorite Texas songs! Join us!

### Cleaning Kit:

**One 5-Gallon bucket** with re-sealable lid

- Buckets from fast-food restaurants or bakeries can be used if washed and cleaned
- Do not use buckets that have stored chemicals such as paint or pool cleaner
- Advertisements on the outside are acceptable

**Liquid laundry detergent** -One 50-oz. or two 25-oz. bottle(s) only

**Liquid household cleaner** 12-16 oz. liquid cleaner that can be mixed with water /No spray cleaners

**Dish soap** 16-28 oz. bottle, any brand

**50 Clothespins**

**Clothesline** One 100-ft. or two 50-ft. lines/Cotton or plastic

**Seven Sponges** (No cellulose sponges due to mold issues) Remove from packaging

**Twenty-Four Roll heavy-duty trash bags**/33-45 gallon sizes /Remove from the box

**Eighteen Cleaning wipes** - Handi-wipes or reusable wipes (No terry cleaning towels) Remove from packaging

**One Can Air freshener** - Aerosol or pump

**One Insect-repellant spray** 6-14 oz. aerosol or spray pump with protective cover

**Two Pairs kitchen dishwashing gloves** (durable enough for multiple uses) Remove from packaging

**One Pair work gloves** All Cotton or Leather, or Cotton with Leather Palm

**Five Scouring pads** Remove from wrapper (No stainless steel, Brillo pads or SOS pads—nothing with soap built in)

**One Scrub brush** with Plastic or wood handle

**Five Dust masks**

### Important Notes :

All items must be new except for the actual bucket and lid. All cleaning agents must be liquid and in plastic containers. No powders, please. If you cannot find the requested size of a liquid item, use a smaller size. Including larger sizes of any item will prevent the lid from sealing. If all of the items on the list are not included, please put a label on the bucket indicating what has been omitted.

# Preschool News

[www.gilbertpreschool.com](http://www.gilbertpreschool.com)



## 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 on our bikes, in the pool, and in the event of a fire. They even let us crawl through the fire truck! We made thank you cards for the Firefighters and brought them some yummy treats.

During class and in Chapel, we learned about Creation and the story of Noah.

## What's happening in October:

**Fall Break:** October 9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy this wonderful family time!

**Preschool Fall Festival:** "Let's all go to the Circus!" on October 26<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30pm. 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 collecting books to donate to the children (age 4 to 12) at the UMOM New Day Centers. New or gently used books can be brought by the preschool office. Thank you!



**Our Christian Preschool will encourage your child to develop spiritually, emotionally, socially, mentally and physically.**

We are committed to providing a loving Christian learning enrichment program for preschool aged children. Our preschool will give them encouragement and confidence to transition successfully into kindergarten programs. God has created each child with unique abilities, special talents and individual needs. We believe that each child should be provided an opportunity to develop each of these areas in a Christian environment.

[www.gilbertpreschool.com](http://www.gilbertpreschool.com)

..... Spreading God's Love .....



# Extravagant GENEROSITY

The Heart of Giving

## Stewardship Evolving into Daily Generosity

### Travelling on the Journey of "Practicing Extravagant Generosity"

As we continue our journey of learning more about Extravagant Generosity we are reminded that giving illustrates God's salvation. At the heart of the gospel of

John is the sacrificial self-giving described in John 3:16: *"for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son..."* The apostle Paul wrote much about giving more so that we may know Christ better: *"For you know the face of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."* Through our giving of our time, talents and monetary gifts we are sacrificially, sometimes painfully, and on a small scale preaching the gospel message to others who are blessed by our acts of Generosity.

## Grieving?

Know someone who is?



## SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.



[www.griefshare.org/holidays](http://www.griefshare.org/holidays)

Sat 9 - 10:30am  
October 14 - Nov 11

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

### \*\*COMING SOON\*\*

November 5 All Saints Sunday

November 21 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - 7:00 pm

November 23 Thanksgiving Day - 9:00 am



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Office Hours: 8am-4pm Monday—Thursday

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<http://www.facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert>

FOR MOBILE GIVING

