

The Evangel

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

September 2017



331 S. Cooper Road

Gilbert, AZ 85233

480-892-9166

www.firstgilbert.church

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8a—4p

Friday By Appointment

Opportunities in September:

- Every Wednesday night is the Family Fellowship Dinner at 5:45pm, followed by adult classes, Wednesday Wilds for the kids at 6:30 and adult choir practice at 7:00. Please feel free to join in the fun at any time!
- September 10 is the Exploring Membership Luncheon at 12:15 in the Activity Center. Great opportunity to learn more about our church!
- September 15 marks the return of the Third-Friday Jam Session in Room 142 (the church library). Bring an instrument and come have some fun!
- September 23 is the UMOM Walk for Homeless Families & Youth at the Phoenix Zoo. The walk starts at 8:00 am, with activities before and after.
- Saturday, September 23rd from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, and Tuesday, September 26th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm are the next opportunities for Safe Sanctuary Training.

More information about each of these follows in this issue of the Evangel.

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Important Dates

09/04	Labor Day
09/10	Explorer Luncheon
09/13	Third-Friday Jam
09/23	UMOM Walk
9/23 & 25	Safe Sanctuary Training

Message from Pastor Deborah



I have learned to love the works of Kyle Idleman. He is the teaching pastor at the 5th largest church in the United States, according to the book jacket of his book “Not a Fan.” I was captivated by this book in the prologue when I read these words:

Imagine that my oldest daughter turns twenty-five. She isn't married but she really wants to be. I decide I'm going to help make that happen. So imagine I take out an ad in the newspaper, put up a billboard sign, and make up T-shirts begging someone to choose her. I even offer some attractive gifts as incentives. Doesn't that cheapen who she is?I would never do that. I would set the standard high. ..If you want to have a relationship with her, you better be prepared to give her the best of everything you have. I don't want to just hear you say that you love her; I want to know that you are committed to her. I want to know that you would give your life for her.”

Idleman goes on “*Too often in my preaching I have tried to talk people into following Jesus. I wanted to make following him as appealing, comfortable, and convenient as possible. And I want to say that I am sorry.”*

The book that follows is all about moving from being a “fan” of Jesus – cheering him on from the sidelines and then going home to do the same old same old – to becoming a follower of Jesus. It is sprinkled through with stories of the most amazing life transformations that occurred because people like you and me moved from being “fans” to being “followers.”

From the back cover: “*The dictionary defines a fan as “an enthusiastic admirer.” Fans want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires sacrifice. Fans may be fine with repeating a prayer, attending church on the weekend, and slapping a Jesus fish on their bumpers. But is that really the extent of the relationship Jesus wants?”*

Starting September 10, we are going to look together at what it means to be a fan, and what it means to be a follower. Each week we will have a time in worship to commit our hearts and lives more fully to following this one whose love saves us so completely. It isn't easy. It's worth it!

I hope you will plan to be here every week that you possibly can. Let's grow together. Let's move from the stands to the playing field, and take up our part in all that He longs to do in us, through us, for us, and with us.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Deborah

September 10	Defining the Relationship John 3:1-16	October 1	A Passionate Pursuit Luke 9:23 and Matthew 13:44
September 17	Is Jesus Your One and Only? Luke 7:36-50	October 8	Jesus Over Everything Matthew 19:16-22
September 24	From the Inside Out Matthew 23:23-28 and John 16:7	October 15	Wherever, Whenever, Whatever Matthew 4:18-20, Luke 9:57-62



Congregational Care is looking for medical professionals to help with blood pressure checks on Health Sundays. If you would be interested, contact Therese Pineda, RN at 602-686-1259 or tpinedarn@mac.com

Save the Date!

**Congregational Care Minister
Renewal & Training Retreat
January 26-28**

**Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale
Worship with the Gospel Grass**

**Do you have a heart for Jesus
and people?**

Become a Congregational Care Minister!

See a Pastor for requirements and
an application form

Or apply online at
www.firstgilbert.church

Can we pray for you?



God Hears
Prayer

Congregational Care has begun a new ministry, led by Marie Blum, who is blind. We have been translating the church member phone numbers into braille so that Marie can give you a call once a year and ask you if she or the church can pray for your joys and concerns. She will pray for you over the phone and/or will give your requests to the pastors. Please welcome Marie's call with the same warmth and loving care she will express to you.

Congregational Care Support Groups

GriefShare - meets Saturdays 9:00-10:30am in room 133, led by Kathy Rae Tracy & Kay Pealstrom

DivorceCare –meets Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm in the Worship Center, led by Adriana Hernandez & Ruth Lee

Living Hope – (Trauma) meets Sundays 1:00pm in Room 201, led by Steve Hanson, Sr. & Beth Flores

Hurting Moms, Mending Hearts – meets Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm in Room 200, led by Sharon Kotsonas

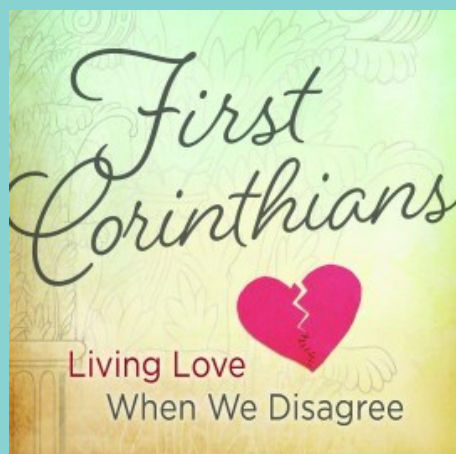
Alzheimer's Association – meets 1st and 3rd Fridays at 1:30pm in Room 133.

WE NEED YOU!

If you are aware of persons in the hospital or ill, or going through a difficult time, please let your pastors know so that the church family can offer love, prayer, and spiritual care. Thank you for your help! Email to care@gilbertumc.org.

Finding Peace and Harmony When We Disagree

We're all different and imperfect, and even as Christians, we struggle to get along. Delve into the Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians to discover that the only way to deal with disagreements, differences, and divisions, while remaining true to what we believe, is by living out the radical love of Jesus Christ.



First Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree
7-session DVD/ Book Study by Melissa Spoelstra

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert
Room 142 (library)
9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Workbook Cost: \$11.00

Please contact Christy Robertson Yoder at roberch1@yahoo.com or
Deanna Helland at dzhelland@yahoo.com with any questions.
Free childcare is provided

Safe Sanctuary Training

Saturday, September 23rd - 10 am-12 pm

or

Tuesday, September 26th - 6:30-8:30 pm

Those working with our Children, Youth or Congregational Care Ministries are required to complete this training annually in conjunction with an annual background screening.

Please contact Sylvia Harris at connection@gilbertumc.org to RSVP or with questions.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Charge Conference Monday, October 16 7:00-8:30 pm

Our District Superintendent will be with us to hear the wonderful things we have been doing and have planned for the coming year. We will elect leaders for 2018. Please plan to join us!



Join us for the annual UMOM 1K or 5K Run/Walk
Saturday, September 23, 2017

The Phoenix Zoo
Papago Park, 455 N Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85008
6:30 a.m. – Registration and Check-in
8 a.m. – Walk/Run Begins

How to Register: Go to <https://walk2017.redpodium.com/umom>
(When registering click on Join a Team and select First UMC Gilbert-Sherrona Johnson)

Earlybird Pricing (goes up after 9/8)

Adult (Ages 19+) – \$25

Student (Ages 3-18) – \$20

Children (Ages 2 and under) – FREE

Registration Fee includes: T-Shirt, admission to the zoo for the entire day, a variety of food and drinks, pre-event festivities and music from a live DJ, Kids Zone and fun activities such as the animal-themed carousel and much more!

Please e-mail Sherrona Johnson with any questions at mysherrona.johnson@gmail.com.



Mark Your Calendar!

We are hosting Family Promise October 15-22! 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. Contact DyAnn O'Brien with any questions at dyannob@gmail.com.



FUMC- Gilbert Youth

SEPTEMBER 2017

Youth Sunday Morning Gatherings – September to May

Junior High & Senior High are now meeting separately on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am. Senior high meets in room 140 and Junior High meets upstairs in room 200.

September 10 @ 4 pm in Activity Center - YOUTH REPS Meeting

Wish to have input on Youth events, parties, mission trips, etc...? Then come join us, applications are available now.

Youth Council Meeting- September 14, 2017 6:30 pm room 140/141

Open to parents, volunteers, and anyone interested to know what the Youth are up to and planning.

September 10th– PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT "GOD'S NOT DEAD part 2"

September 17th- MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION & STOCK SALE DESSERT

All are Welcome!! Sunday September 17th @ 1:30-3:30 pm in Activity Center. We'll share our desserts, pictures, and mission trip stories & memories. Please rsvp to Ray by 5 pm on 9/10

September 19th - UMOM READ to Me with the Youth Ministry

We've reserved 8 spots for our group to go read Tuesday night, 5:30-8:30pm. Please RSVP to Ray or Ron.

For information regarding Youth or Family Ministries, email Ray at youthministries@gilbertumc.org.

Family Ministry News

Family Ministries is Howling for Volunteers!

**Annual Trunk-or-Treat
Tuesday - October 31 - 6-8 pm**



We need your help in our Welcome Booth, Food Stations, Games, Trunk-or-Treat, Costume Contest and Judging, etc.

Please consider how you would like to be involved and contact Ray Vallera at youthministry@gilbertumc.org or Katie Bird (Smith) at Katie.smith@gd-ms.com.



FIRST KIDZ - Fall Curriculum for September!

Preschool

We want our preschoolers to know that when they know God is always with them, they can be super! This month, our preschoolers will learn that we can do super things when we trust that God is always with us and do things His way. Yes, super - the kind of super that really matters - comes from God, and it's not about what WE can do but about what GOD can do.



Elementary

Friendship is a reflection of the character of God.

God desires a relationship with us. That's why He created us in the first place.

When we sinned and broke that relationship, God continued to pursue us. God sacrificed His only Son to make it possible for us to have a relationship

with Him again. Jesus demonstrated friendship in the most generous way possible. He showed us the greatest love when He laid down His life for His friends. He went to the cross, not

on principle or for a cause, but because of love and wanting to be with us forever. Friendship is a reflection of the character of God.

If you have any questions regarding Children's Ministries programming or upcoming events please contact Janelle at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org.



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 August, your donations to the church's General Fund:

Provided support for 5 Wednesday night classes for adults, starting on August 9. Class leaders include Pastor Deborah, Pastor Gwen, Mike Miller, Vicki Hanson and Molly Hahn. Around 70 adults are attending these classes, including several from outside our church family.

Provided support for the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study, which began their fall season on 8/15/17. 45 women attended on 8/15, including 4 new and many returning members. New members are welcome to join this diverse, multi-generational group at any time.

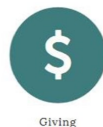
Provided our nursery space and professional care givers to offer free nursery care. For August 1-15, they cared for a total of 35 children. That included 21 on Sunday mornings, and 14 children for other activities at the church, including Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Wednesday night classes, and church meetings.

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"!

July 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 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 or Deanna Helland (480)892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org.



September Anniversary Celebrations

7	LeRoy & Elinore Englebrect	70 Years
9	Stuart & Lori Wiemers	22 Years
12	Richard & Judy Pierce	58 Years
19	Michael & Sylvia Harris	8 Years
22	Tim & Debbie Anderson	27 Years



September Birthday Celebrations

2	Catherine Panella	11	Justin Fink	23	Katie Bouchie
3	Sabrina Boever		Mary Beth Nance		Addie Fairley
	Kimberly Fairley	12	Cindie Rempel		Jean Hirsch
4	Amanda Diegan	13	Kathryn Church	24	Luke Alls
6	Emily Crann	14	Sarah Metz		Elinore Englebrect
	Logan Reynolds	15	Laura Boever	25	Steve Hanson, Sr.
7	Melissa Coleman		Mandy Hansen		Danny Minks
	Richard Frazier	17	Chris Odell		Alexis Ryan
	Rod Mader	19	Marilyn Pell	26	Alexandra Schleiger
9	Dan Hahn	21	Alexandra Houseman	27	Maegan Clark
10	Ashley Minks		Cheryl Wedmore		Alexander Martin
		22	Andrew Ball		Lydia Ramirez
			Clay Cowgill	28	James Shuler
					Randy Wedmore



Help make a difference for the people of Texas. Prepare an UMCOR cleaning kit that will be sent to UMCOR for their relief efforts. Please have your completed kits or a donation of items to go into the kits to the church by September 10th. The mission team will assemble them for shipping. Thank you for your generosity!

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

Assembly Directions

Place all liquid items in the bucket first. Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items. Sponges, scouring pads, clothespins and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all of the items in the bucket. Ensure the lid is closed securely.

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



What a great start to the school year! We had a great first few weeks with over 60 preschoolers on campus each week. Our classrooms are filled with 2, 3, 4, and 5 year olds, with both new and returning families. Thank you to the church Welcoming Committee and the Preschool Ministry Team for helping to create such a loving, welcoming environment for the preschoolers and families!

Grandparents' Day Breakfasts September 6th or 7th from 8:15-9:00am

We love our Grandparents and special loved ones! The preschoolers will host their special person on one of these mornings in the Activity Center. They will eat breakfast together, play a game and spend some memorable time together. Want to serve, set up or clean up... and see all of the cuteness? Contact Adrienne Mesa 480-892-9166 or mesa@gilbertumc.org. Thank you!



Music Ministries Update



We can always use more voices in the **Chancel Choir!** We rehearse on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30 in the sanctuary. There is no audition required, and all are welcome to join us to help lead worship musically. Even if you would just like to “try us out,” come to rehearsal, and let us help you find a place for your talents.

SAVE THE DATE

The first **Third-Friday Jam Session** of the season will be held on September 15, 7-10:00 pm in the church library. Come and join us with an instrument, your voice, or just your ears (to listen) for an evening of informal music making.

Stewardship Evolving into Daily Generosity

As we continue to move through our emphasis on Extravagant Generosity this fall, 3 things come to mind:

The first is the joy and reward that come from giving from the heart when we give to our church and its mission. We have different abilities and varied resources as we financially support our church. It is important to be able to give as much as possible to support our church needs, but the most important thing is to “give from the heart.” Jesus tells us in Luke 21:1-4 about a poor widow who gave all the money she had. People do give out of their wealth, but true giving draws from the heart and “gives your all.”

The second is how helpful and essential it is that those who call First UMC “home” turn in an estimate of giving / pledge commitment to the church each year. As we begin planning our 2018 budget, our finance team needs to know what we will have to work with so we can plan for the mission of the church going forward. When people do not complete commitments for giving, the Finance Committee may have to cut requested funding to different programs and projects because they are uncertain what will be given. This negatively impacts our ability to touch hearts and lives. Even if you are not yet ready to tithe (give 10% of income to the church), it is still vital that you let us know through an estimate of giving/pledge what you expect to give in the coming year, so we may know what monetary resources are available for program and ministry.

The third is your “legacy” created for the church and its mission and ministry for those to come in the future. Few of us will have a street, building, or town named in our honor, but what we do to advance the mission of Christ is “our legacy for the future.” Please consider the church and your heartfelt desire to leave a Christ inspired legacy when you set up your will or family trust. Extravagant Generosity can be expressed by setting aside a monetary remembrance for the church and its mission as you pass on from this life to the next and into the presence of Jesus Christ. What will your legacy be for those to come after you are gone?

As we begin to express the full spirit of Extravagant Generosity, may we remember to “Give from the Heart.”

****COMING SOON****

- October 15-22 - Hosting Family Promise
- October 16 - Charge Conference
- October 31 - Trunk-or-Treat (Volunteers needed!)

Stay tuned for more information about these opportunities.

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

FOR MOBILE GIVING

