

First United Methodist
Church of Gilbert
331 S. Cooper Road
Gilbert, AZ 85233
480-892-9166
www.gilbertumc.org
info@gilbertumc.org

https://www.facebook.com/
FUMCofGilbert

Rev. Robert Hoshibata,
Bishop
Rev. Robert Burns,
District Superintendent
Rev. Deborah Lerner,
Senior Pastor
Rev. David J. Harriss,
Associate Pastor
Rev. Tina Rees,
Deacon

Worship Schedule

8:00 Traditional Service
9:00-9:30 Coffee Hour
9:30 Traditional Service
Sunday School for All Ages
10:30-11:00 Coffee Hour
11:00 Contemporary
Service
12:00 Reception on Patio
Professional Nursery Care
7:45am-12:30pm

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00am-4:00pm

Preschool

480-892-9166
gilbertpreschool.com



August 2015

The Evangel



Save the Date: Sunday, August 16 Our Centennial Celebration

Guest Preacher:
The Rev. Dr. Richard
Morrison, former associate
pastor

Plan to be here for a very
special morning of worship
followed by a catered
luncheon in the activity
center at 12:15pm. To make
reservations for the

luncheon, please fill out the insert in the church bulletin on Sunday
mornings and put it in the offering plate or contact Dina in the church
office at secretary@gilbertumc.org
or 480-892-9166. Please bring a pie to share for dessert.

***For planning purposes, Wednesday, August 5th is the last day
to make reservations.***

Wednesday Night Programs

Join us on August 19th as we kick off Wednesday Night Programs.
Classes and activities will be offered for all ages, including childcare
for infants and toddlers. Dinner will be served at 5:45pm. See page
10 for a list of classes and other details.

Exploring Class

Are you new to First UMC?

Want to learn more about the church?

Want to know more about Methodism

or what it means to be a member of the church?

Join us for a time of Exploring on Sunday, August 9th from 2:00-4:00pm in
the activity center. Meet our staff and some key lay leaders. Get your
questions answered. Get involved in our mission and ministry. Dessert will
be served. RSVP to Dina at secretary@gilbertumc.org by August 5th.
Childcare will be provided - please RSVP to Dina by August 5th. Contact the
church office at 480-892-9166 with questions.

A Message from Pastor Deborah

This month we celebrate our 100th birthday -- 100 years of faithfully making disciples of Jesus Christ. In the year leading up to the formal celebration on August 16, we have stretched our hearts even beyond our normal amazing generosity in many wonderful ways to bless those around us and around the world.

- We have begun ministering to homeless families with children through Family Promise, opening our campus to up to 16 individuals for a week every quarter, welcoming them after long days at school and looking for work, sharing a meal and time and giving them a place to rest for the night.
- We have blessed the Open Arms food bank with hundreds of bags of food, most recently focusing on tuna and beans.
- We have provided more than 99 workers for packaging food at Feed My Starving Children and have well over 100 signed up for our Centennial mission project.
- We have funded, sent, and welcomed home 8 missionaries who spent time in South Africa leading a Vacation Bible School for AIDS orphans and others who live in poverty we may not be able to imagine.

As we move into our second century of ministry together, we will gather in prayer on Wednesday Aug 5 for a Jericho Walk and prayer vigil, walking around our campus 7 times beginning at 6 am, praying and anointing the ground and inviting the presence of God to be even more real on our campus; then ringing the bell and shouting and making a lot of noise, in memory of that wonderful day when the walls of Jericho fell, by the power of almighty God. For the rest of that day we will spend quiet time in the

sanctuary praying for each person who calls this church home, for our ministries, for our second century reaching out in Jesus' name.

In the days after our big celebration on August 16 (plan to be here!) we will be reaching out in new ways to invite our community to know the joy we experience through this church. On August 29, we will provide a Family Fitness Fair to the families around us (this event is funded by our annual conference gift of \$2,000 given in July 2014). On October 4, we will invite our neighbors in for a Blessing of the Animals. On October 31, we will again host a safe Halloween alternative in our Trunk or Treat ministry.

In between we will bake and take cookies to nearby schools from our church as a way of saying "Thank you!" to the men and women who serve our community as teachers, and along the way we will also go out to give out dog biscuits as a tangible sign of God's amazing, unexpected grace. At every step we will challenge ourselves to reach beyond our comfort zone to bless those around us with goodness and grace in the name of Jesus.

On August 23 we will also make some wonderful changes in our offerings for Children and Youth. We have purchased a new curriculum called ORANGE that will help us partner with parents to create spaces in which our younger participants can grow in faith and love. If you have children or youth, watch for email and text invitations to see what your child or youth is learning and how you can reinforce those new understandings in the home. There will be mobile Apps and a website for parents and others to enrich family Bible study and prayer. We are asking our teachers and leaders to commit more deeply to forming relationships with our young



ones so that every child and youth has a place and a person of connection to Jesus.

And that doesn't even mention the MANY opportunities being offered for adults on Sunday mornings, Sunday afternoons, and Wednesday evenings.

Check it out. What an exciting time to be a part of the First Gilbert family! Happy birthday, First United Methodist Church of Gilbert. Many joyous returns!

Blessings,

Pastor Deborah

A Message from Pastor David

The Greatest Scandal 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

Attempting to find justice within this text is a difficult task. A quick synopsis of this text is that *David obsesses over a beautiful woman named Bathsheba. He commits adultery with Bathsheba and then places Uriah the Hittite, Bathsheba's husband, in the front line of war where he will be murdered. Now, King David has Bathsheba all to himself. The Lord speaks to the prophet Nathan about David's terrible acts. Nathan gives a sermon to David which explains how one man abused his power in order to commit sins against God and humanity. David becomes enraged and says, "That man deserves to die." Nathan then tells King David that the person who had committed sins against the Lord was the king, himself. The realization that King David had abused his power causes him to painfully say, "I have sinned against the Lord." The continued prophecy is that David and Bathsheba's son would die.*

Where is the justice located within this text? Bathsheba is not fully resolute with the grief over her murdered husband when she finds out that she will miscarry her new baby. Why should the child die for the sins committed by David and Bathsheba? Uriah the Hittite proved himself to be a bold warrior willing to sacrifice for his king, yet the king had Uriah killed. At the end of the day, David is still the king and God has *put away his sin*. Obviously, not all of life fits into nice, neat, theological packages.

This text underscores the painful and tragic realization of sin and God's abounding mercy within David's journey, and ours as well. Justice cannot always be seen or experienced when painful tragedies occur. There is no justice for a child that is stricken with cancer. There is no justice for children born in a

vegetative state. There is no justice when bad things happen to good people. There is no justice when the tornado devastates a group home. Our meager attempts to rationalize and explain the tragedy usually fail. God's justice cannot always be witnessed whenever we experience suffering and loss.

However, God's mercy can always be seen and obtained even in the midst of deep suffering. King David's tragic sins were created by self-indulgence. He wanted a beautiful woman so badly that he was willing to create a plan to get rid of her husband. He set up his military front line in a way that would allow Uriah to die. If he dies, so what? In the end, I get the trophy wife that he currently possesses. But, David does not have the final word! God summons Nathan to speak to David and to let him know that his sins have been witnessed and that he is displeased with David's actions. In the end, God notes the sin, and then God *puts it away*.

This is a story of the humanization of David. This humanization occurs with tragedy, with accountability, with suffering, and it ultimately ends with God's mercy. The greatest scandal within this story is the ability of God to *put away David's sin* which has caused so many tragic outcomes. Two items are noteworthy from this text:

1. David had to come to a place where he took accountability for the suffering which he had caused. When I worked at the Salvation Army Booth House Homeless Shelter for Men in Dayton, Ohio, over 70% of our homeless population was addicted to some form of alcohol or drugs. Most of these men would relapse and find themselves back out on the streets. Of the few success stories that I



encountered, these exceptional men looked inwardly and took accountability for the losses that they had encountered. "I chose to drink excessively" "I lost everything that was precious to me" "I can't allow that to happen again". Many other addicts that often found themselves in a state of relapse, chose to blame everyone for their problems. David had to hurt inwardly in order to stop the bleeding.

2. God's abounding mercy continued throughout David's life. God's mercy is ALWAYS greater than God's judgment. Regardless of how big your sins may be, God is willing to *put those sins away* if you are. Although David was excessively outraged with Nathan following this illustration, God was not excessively angered with King David for destroying his creation. This life is not fair. Seeking divine justice in a world of brokenness is an uphill battle. Yet, mercy can be witnessed with the people who helped to rebuild lives in post-hurricane Katrina. Mercy was experienced with differing races embracing each other following a South Carolina AME Church funeral service. Mercy was found in a text where a king caused intense suffering to occur to blameless victims, due to God's deep and abounding love for the king. God has that same mercy for you and for me. Regardless of our past sins, God continues to show mercy to all of us. What a scandal!



Prayer Vigil and Jericho Walk

Join us on Wednesday, August 5th for a Jericho Walk and Prayer Vigil. At 6:00am, we will walk the church property together 7 times. At the end of the 7th time we will ring the church bells and make noise just like in the story. Come and share in this journey. As we walk we will be praying for our congregation, our church, our community, our city, our state, our nation and our world. The prayer vigil will be in the sanctuary from 6:00am-6:00pm. Sign up for a one hour block on the church patio on Sunday mornings or by contacting Rita Wagner at ggjrwagner@gmail.com.

Our 99 Favorite Scriptures

As we move toward our 100th anniversary (August 15, 2015) we are identifying the “favorite” scriptures of this congregation and inviting you to take them as memory verses each week. Each week, the church bulletin will contain two or three of our favorites. We hope you will take this opportunity to memorize a small amount of scripture, adding to the storehouse of treasure in your heart.

For August our scriptures are:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:2-6

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. James 1:19-20

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. James 2:14-17

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:8-11

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. Psalm 139:9-10

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Psalm 139:23

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Psalm 143:8

Preschool News

www.gilbertpreschool.com

Preschool Openings - WE MAY STILL HAVE A FEW OPENINGS IN OUR 3'S AND PREK CLASSES. CALL TODAY for a tour! 480 892 9166.



Open House/Meet the teachers - August 5th or 6th 6-7:00pm

Enrolled 3 and 4 year olds and their families, meet your teachers and classmates!

Check your summer letter or call the preschool office to find out which day your class is coming!



Want to be a Technology Sponsor for one of our 4 classrooms? We'd love to equip each preschool classroom with a device that will take pictures, play music, and help with research. The kids and teachers love to learn interesting facts and see cool pictures during their preschool day! If you are interested in being a sponsor or teaming up with a group to sponsor, please call Lara Fink at 480-892-9166. Thank you!

Tears and Cheers - On the first day of classes, Aug 10th and 11th, we have a special room next to the preschool office for parents/grandparents to visit, sip coffee, sign up to help during the year, etc. Tears are ok! Cheers are ok! We support you during this important transition.

Back to School Time- How can we make the transition into a school routine easier on the kids and on parents? Well, start today:

Set out clothes the night before

Get up at the same time each morning

Give everyone a morning hug

Walk through the steps together to get the kids ready,

gradually having them take on one responsibility at a time themselves. It's ok if their hair is combed in a funny way or their hairclips don't match their shirt!

Sit down and eat a healthy breakfast

Brush teeth ... Yay! What a great start to the day!



"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad today."



Everyone needs a place to belong and everyone needs a person to believe in them. When parents and churches are a community they provide both.

Think Orange!

On August 23 there will be a monumental shift in the way the entire Children’s and Youth Ministry works with kids and youth. From teachers to small group leaders, from teaching the Bible to students to teaching students the Bible. We will go Orange!

Why Orange? Orange is a secondary color, created when you combine two primary colors-red and yellow. When you think orange, you see how two combined influences make a greater impact than just two influences. The church to illuminate (yellow) and the family to love and demonstrate God’s character through an unconditional relationship (red). A community of spiritual influences. We are using the idea of community to tap into the power of relationships, offering families another trusted adult to help their sons and daughters interpret life situations. A built –in support system. We are using this curriculum to try to elevate relationships, to provide examples of God’s unending love and to help kids and students have a personal relationship with Jesus. New paint, new tables, new ideas, new way to think!

Visit the display on the patio and think orange!

Colorful blessings,

Marsha Lehman

9:30 Sunday School
Room Locations
11:00 Kids Worship Time
 4 - 12 yr olds
 Room 205

Preschool 3/4 yr olds	Room 146
Kindergarten	Room 145
1st Grade	Room 145
2nd Grade	Room 203
3rd Grade	Room 203
4th Grade	Room 205
5th Grade	Room 205
6th Grade	Room 205

Professional Nursery Care

Rooms 131 & 132
 Sunday Mornings
 7:45am-12:30pm
 Ages: Birth- 3 years old

Marsha Lehman
 Children’s Ministry Director
childrensministry@gilbertumc.org
 480-892-9166

Orange is Coming!

FUMC-Gilbert Youth

August 2015

REGULAR GATHERINGS

Sunday Mornings, 9:30-10:30

Junior High in room 200
Senior High in room 140

Sunday Evenings, 5:00-7:00

On break for the Summer

Wednesday Evenings, 5:45-7:30

On break for the Summer

Youth Choir/Band Practice

If you sing or play an instrument,
join us in the Sanctuary on Sundays from
12:30-1:30pm!



If you have any questions, contact
Ryan Collins, Youth Director, at
youthministry@gilbertumc.org

Both the Junior High and Senior High youth missions teams have returned and are reporting great successes both within the local community they served and also in their own lives. Mission trips are impacting and memorable for both leaders and students alike, and these trips could not have happened without the support of the congregation. It is with gratitude and appreciation that we thank all who supported the youth missions teams, whether it was financially and/or prayerfully. We thank you for partnering with us in furthering God's kingdom in the Schurz and San Diego communities, as well as our own lives.

INFORMATION MEETING

On Sunday, August 9th, after the conclusion of the 9:30am service at around 10:45am, there will be a short informational meeting for youth parents in the Senior High room (room 140). If you cannot make the meeting, there will be a document sent out with all the covered information.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Confirmation registration is open for all Junior High and Senior High students who have not yet been confirmed. Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, August 19th from 6:30-7:30pm. The leaders will be Ryan Collins, Gayle Disch, and Aryn Peppin. There are multiple ways you may register for Confirmation:

- 1). Writing "Confirmation Registration" on your attendance card in one of the Sunday Services,
- 2). Calling the church office at 480-892-9166 and speaking with Ryan Collins,
- 3). Emailing Dina Reid at secretary@gilbertumc.org or Ryan Collins at youthministry@gilbertumc.org,
- 4). Registering online at: <https://fumcgstudents.wufoo.com/forms/confirmation-registration/>

Dear First UMC Youth and Youth Parent(s),

Confirmation is about intentional commitment. During the confirmation process, confirmands are asked to consciously embrace the Christian faith and vocation as one's own and to accept the responsibility of Christian discipleship. The students are, quite literally, "making firm" one's own faith and professing that faith publically. It is also a time when the students are prepared for full membership in the church, therefore incorporating elements of what faithful living looks like within the United Methodist tradition.

At the end of the classes, students are invited to consider whether they are ready to take on the responsibilities of membership and profession of faith. If they are, they are baptized (if not already) and join the church in a special ceremony on Confirmation Sunday. If they are not ready, they are prepared to join at any time in the future when they do feel ready.

Confirmation is open for any and all students 7th through 12th grade who have not yet been confirmed. The Confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm in room 140 (Senior High room) beginning on August 19, 2015 with Ryan Collins, Gayle Disch, and Aryn Peppin as leaders. The first session will be an orientation where at least one parent is requested to be present so that the family understands the structure, content, and expectations of the classes. There will be expectations for regular attendance at worship, Sunday School, and/or Youth Group throughout Confirmation. Classes will continue through May 11, and Confirmation Sunday will be Sunday, May 15, Pentecost Sunday at the 11:00am service.

Youth and/or Parents who are interested in registering should let us know as soon as possible so that we prepare enough resources. They can do this in the following ways:

Writing "Confirmation Registration" on their attendance card in one of the Sunday Services,
 Calling the Church Office at 480-892-9166 and speaking with Ryan Collins,
 Emailing Dina Reid at secretary@gilbertumc.org or Ryan Collins at youthministry@gilbertumc.org,
 Registering online at: <https://fumcgstudents.wufoo.com/forms/confirmation-registration/>

I am excited to play a part in the movement of God to raise up a generation of deeply devoted followers of Jesus through teaching, service trips, field trips, and social events. Please do not wait in registering your Student for Confirmation. This will be a deep and substantive year focused on laying a solid foundation that lasts a lifetime!

In Christ,

Ryan Collins
 Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Got Camping or Kitchen Items You No Longer Need?



Boy Scout Troop 88 has been blessed with many new scouts in the last few years, and is now in need of some gently used camping equipment or kitchen items to stock up our new patrol "chuck" boxes. We would be happy for gently used sleeping bags, tents, pots, pans, or utensils. Not



sure we can use it? No worries! Anything we can't use, we will donate to charity. You can drop off at the church office during the week or Monday nights at 7:00pm in the activity center. Many thanks from Troop 88! Questions? Contact Philip Tesarek @ 480-510-4588 or ptesarek@hotmail.com.

Book Club

The Book Club meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at the home of June Morrison at 11:30am. Bring a lunch to enjoy while discussing the current book. Please RSVP to June at 480-892-4777 to let her know you are coming, and contact Molly Hahn at hahn926@cox.net or 480-227-9574 with any questions or for more information. The selection for August is Zoo by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge. On September 24, the group will gather to select new books. Please bring no more than 3 books for consideration.



FAITH & FAMILY
NIGHTS
Presented by GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

**TENTH AVENUE
NORTH**
LIVE AT CHASE FIELD



**FRIDAY
AUG
28TH**

FIRST PITCH AT 6:40PM
FOLLOWED BY A POST-GAME CONCERT

Join the D-backs, 1st Gilbert UMC, and hundreds of churches from across Arizona at Chase Field as they host Faith & Family Night!

Purchase Ticket for \$16
On the church patio on Sunday mornings
or contact Kristy Bottesch at k.bottesch@me.com

Family Promise

In August, we will begin taking your donations of new or gently used towels and washcloths. As you may know, we have six showers in the activity center. It is a blessing that we are able to share these with our guests. Generally, Family Promise guests must use the single shower at the day center. As you can imagine, not everyone in the program gets to shower everyday. By making our showers available to our guests, we are eliminating one small, but significant, problem they face.

We will be hosting more families September 6-13. Please keep an eye out for announcements in the bulletin and in the Evangel. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Lisa Kimbrough at 480-398-6570 or lpkimbrough@gmail.com or DyAnn O'Brien at 480-510-7614 or dyannob@gmail.com.



Looking for Gently Used Computers and Wi-Fi Equipment

Have you bought a new Wi-Fi router, computer, tablet, or laptop recently? If so, you may have your "old" equipment laying around and taking up space. Donate them to our church's IT program and help us refresh some of the computers on campus. Concerned about your data? We will securely wipe your computer before using it, or give you a CD that you can use to wipe it yourself. Drop off computers at the church office or Wesley Room.



Adult Education Fall Lineup:

Beginning Wednesday, August 19th and on Sunday, August 23, we will have several new Adult Education classes for you to experience for our fall quarter kickoff. On Wednesday evening, dinner will be served in the activity center at 5:45 at a cost of \$3/person, \$12/family. Classes will begin at 6:30pm.

Wednesday Evening Classes:

Alpha – A 10 week series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open, and informal environment. Each session includes dinner, a short video, and small group discussion. Wednesdays 5:45-8:00pm in the activity center beginning August 19th. **A free dinner and introduction will be held on Wednesday, August 12th at 6:00pm in the activity center.** Instructor - Robin Lee.

Disciple I: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study – A 24 week intensive, disciplined study of the entire Bible, from Genesis through Revelation. Each weekly lesson has 6 days of daily note taking on Bible readings and each week's class consists of small group discussion, a video and prayer concerns. Participating in Disciple Bible study is a big commitment and it pays big dividends. Many describe it as life changing. Beginning Wednesday, August 19th from 7:00-8:30pm in room 142. Instructor - Molly Hahn.

Hurting Moms/Healing Hearts – Hurting moms need each other! No one understands the pain of having a child who is making destructive decisions, disengaging from their family, and disrespecting the values they have been taught like another Hurting Mom. This support group is designed to be a safe place where moms can come together to share with one another while they work through a process that will bring them freedom and healing from their pain. The 10 week class begins Wednesday, August 19th from 6:30-8:00pm in room 202. Instructor – Sharon Kotsonas.

12 Extraordinary Men – Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be perfect to do God's work. Look no further than the 12 disciples whose many weaknesses are forever preserved throughout the pages of the New Testament. The author, John MacArthur, draws principles from Christ's careful, hands-on training of the original 12 disciples for today's modern disciple – you. The 12 week class begins Wednesday, August 19th from 6:30-8:00 in room 133. Instructors – Sylvia Harris & Anna Stearns

Who Is That Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus – Author John Ortberg explains that Jesus turned history upside down and that humanity has never been the same since his death and resurrection. Jesus' call on our lives does not create easy living, however, we are able to handle difficult tasks as we live in the image of our Lord. The 7 week class meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm beginning August 19th in room 201. Instructor – Rev. David Harriss.

Sunday Classes:

AD Chronicles - Using the AD Chronicles series, written by Bodie and Brock Thoene, come join other seekers as we start with *First Light* and look at fictionalized stories of the people Jesus changed by His words, His actions and His touch. Based upon biblical scripture and the people woven into each parable, who were these people? How did the Roman rulers and government work against the miracles Jesus brought to the world? The class will meet on Sundays from 11:00-12:00 in room 133. Instructors – Kay Pealstrom & Kathy Tracy.

Living Our United Methodist Beliefs - Are you new to United Methodism? Are you a cradle Methodist? Regardless of your experience as a member of the United Methodist Church, there are always questions about what it means to be a Methodist and how we are to live out these beliefs. In this 6 week course, you will develop an understanding of the Wesleyan tradition and the history of our denomination. We will explore the key concept of Grace and we will learn how Wesley's methods, the means of grace, lead to holiness of heart and life. Join us as we learn how the traditions of our church guide us and support us in our spiritual growth. Sundays, beginning August 23rd 3:00-5:00pm in room 142. Instructors – John & Susan Bowers.

To register for classes and to sign up for free childcare, please fill out the registration form in the Sunday morning bulletin, stop by the Adult Ministry table on the church patio, or contact Pastor David Harriss at 480-892-9166 or pastordavid@gilbertumc.org.



THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life

alpha.org



Ever wondered what it's all about?

**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?*

Come and discover the Jesus you never knew at
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S Cooper Road Gilbert AZ
(Between Elliot and Warner, on the east side)

We will have a FREE celebration dinner on
Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00pm in the Activity Center
to give you a taste of what Alpha is about. Check it out!

**Classes (dinner included) are every Wednesday evening at 5:45pm
starting August 19**

Alpha is non-denominational and open to everyone.

If you have any questions, to RSVP, or to arrange childcare,
please call the church office at 480-892-9166
or email us at secretary@gilbertumc.org
Check us out at www.gilbertfirst.church

Christian History Adult Sunday School

Our class is studying the book, Paul and Jesus, by James D. Tabor on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in room 201. During the month of August we will cover the following subjects.

Last But Not Least: The belief of Paul that he was chosen as an apostle before his birth, making him the first apostle.

A Cosmic Family and a Heavenly Kingdom: Paul's revelation that God has a secret plan to bring to birth a new heavenly family of his own offspring. Glorification at the heart of the mystery, according to Paul, is sharing the likeness of the image of the Son, referring to Jesus' exalted glorified state. Thus you become part of the new heavenly family.

A Mystical Union With Christ: Paul uses the phrase, "in Christ" more than fifty times in his genuine letters. It is never used in the NT Gospels. Paul believed Christ had transcended his mortal human identity to become the firstborn Son of the new creation. Paul's rituals of baptism and the Lord's Supper reflect his Greek understanding of the ineffable God, a preexistent Christ, in the form of God, who emptied himself and was born of a woman.

Already But Not Yet: Paul was an apocalyptic and believed the end of times was near, in the lifetime of many who heard his words. The hard relentless reality of ordinary day-to-day life, went unchanged year after year. This meant Paul and his followers faced the problem that if the transformation of the world had begun, why had it not arrived.

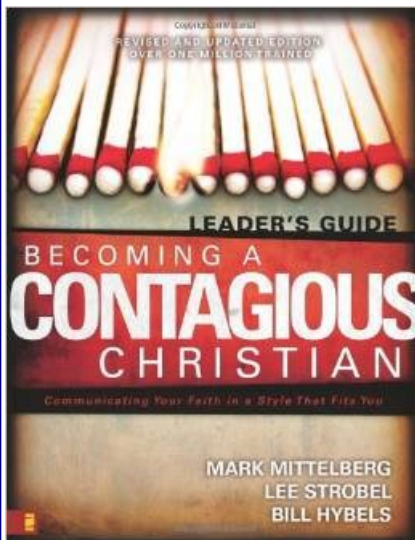
The Torah of Christ: Was Jesus a Jew or Christian? Did Paul remain a Jew, observant of the Torah, or did his understanding supersede his former Jewish faith as to transform it into what could only be called a new religion?

Living the Questions - LTQ

This class continues to explore a postmodern approach to the Christian faith called Progressive Christianity. We use a variety of materials from current and classic pastors, academics and thought leaders to learn about and discuss topics such as our current thoughts on Jesus, worship, prayer, evangelism and the Bible. Beginning in mid August we will follow a Marcus Borg series on **Embracing an Adult Faith**, taking us past a literalist approach to faith. We meet each Sunday at 11:00am in room 142. This is an open study and discussion group. We welcome thoughtful and diverse opinions. For more information contact Odus or Diana Elliott at 480-786-0055 or dbelliott@msn.com.



Homebuilders Sunday School Class



The Homebuilders Sunday School class is studying Becoming a Contagious Christian, Releasing the Hidden Evangelist in Every Christian - Picture our church members as evangelists who: Demonstrate a contagious Christian character ... Build spiritually strategic relationships ... Direct conversations toward matters of faith ... Communicate their faith in a style that's personal and natural ... Explain biblical truths in everyday language ... Respond to the most common objections to Christianity. Becoming a Contagious Christian is a proven course designed to equip believers for effective evangelism in today's world. It avoids stereotyped approaches that feel intimidating to many Christians. Instead, it shows ordinary believers how they can share the gospel in a natural and powerful way while being the person God made them to be. Each session's exercises, discussions, self-assessments, and video vignettes give step-by-step guidance to help participants become effective communicators for Christ to those around them. The class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in room 142.

Faith, Family, and Fearless Conversations

The 9:30 Sunday morning parenting class is studying Fearless Conversations. Can we really beat temptation? What does it really mean to follow Jesus? How can I know Jesus is really alive today? These are all questions that we will tackle in this series. Come and meet with other parents for fellowship and support and to foster your personal relationship with God. The class meets in room 136. Please contact Vicki Hanson at vlhunter@hotmail.com for more information.



A BOLD APPROACH TO
STUDYING THE BIBLE

Gray Matters Adult Sunday School Class

The group is studying Crazy Love by Francis Chan. The God of the universe is crazy about you! His love is the most powerful thing in the world and He wants to give it to you, so you can live for Him. If you have made a commitment to follow Christ, then read Crazy Love to be reminded and challenged in your walk. Sharing from his own life struggles and sacrifices, author Francis Chan issues a call for selfless, Christ-like living. Let the love you have received from God impact your life like never before. The class meets in room 133 at 11:00am. The class will not meet on August 2 or August 16th.



Inquirers Sunday School Class 50 Commands of Jesus

The Inquirer's class is doing a study of the '50 Commands of Jesus'. Join us for this discussion based study of Christ's commands for how we should be living our Christian lives. Ask anyone how many commands Jesus gave us and you'll get many different answers. Are these the 'definitive fifty'? Probably not but they provide an excellent starting point. We meet each Sunday at 9:30am in room 133.

Sewing Enthusiasts!

The Sewing Circle is taking a break for the summer, and will not meet until September. Watch for notices when we will resume regular meetings. There are some exciting projects planned for the fall so stay tuned. Please contact Carol Miller at 480-273-7171 with any questions.



Christian Women's Fellowship Group

The Christian Women's Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday, August 6th at 9.30am in room 142. All women are invited. Refreshments will be served.





Centennial Celebration Invitation

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GILBERT
PRESCHOOL SPORTS FIELDS HEALING GARDEN COLUMBARIUM

Serve with us

SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2015, 2:00-4:00 P.M. at
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
FILLING 100 PACKING SPOTS
1345 S ALMA SCHOOL RD, MESA, AZ 85210
www.fmssc.org fumcg100years@gmail.com
Call, go on line or sign up on the church patio.

Worship with us

SUNDAY AUGUST 16, 2015
PLEASE JOIN US FOR ONE OR ALL OF OUR SERVICES
WEAR YOUR SUNDAY BEST: HATS ARE ENCOURAGED
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM

Celebrate with us

LUNCHEON AT 12:15
IN THE ACTIVITY CENTER
CATERED BY Salerno's
PLEASE MAKE A RESERVATION BY
AUGUST 5, 2015
PLEASE FILL OUT THE RESERVATION CARD IN THE SUNDAY MORNING
BULLETIN OR EMAIL SECRETARY@GILBERTUMC.ORG.
PLEASE BRING A PIE TO SHARE FOR DESSERT.



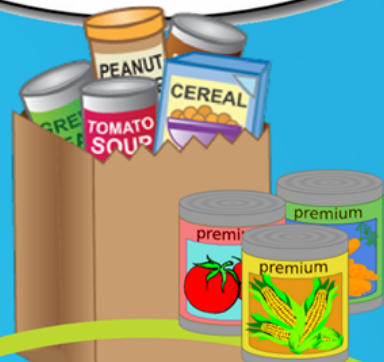
Gilbert Preschool
spreading God's love

FAMILY FITNESS FESTIVAL

Saturday August 29, 8:30 A.M.- Noon FUN OBSTACLE COURSE

- ◆ JumpStart! Kids Fitness
With Coach Ryan Bohlander
- ◆ Wellness/Nutrition Education
- ◆ Family Fun Obstacle Course
- ◆ Healthy Snacks and Drinks
- ◆ Local Health and Resource
Information with free stuff!

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GILBERT**
331 S. COOPER ROAD GILBERT, AZ 85233
REGISTER: 480-892-9166 gilbertumc.org



Registration Fee:
Non-perishable Food items
for our local food bank.
We are passionate about making
a positive impact in our community!

Health Ministry - **CANCER**

According to the American Cancer Society, approximately 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women will receive a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. Churches are filled with people fighting cancer, either as patients or as caregivers for a loved one.

We are called to take care of one another:

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Matthew 25:37-40

In this passage Jesus tells us to take care of the sick and that as we do this we are taking care of Christ himself. As Christians we are drawn to help our brothers and sisters. In addition to prayers, meals, cleaning, and many other tasks, a great way to help is to educate yourself. Stay informed so that when you are called to help you will be ready, and you can do so with greater confidence. You can help to infuse those in need with courage, strength for the journey, and hope for the future.

Cancer is the formation of deviant cellular growth that fools the body into nurturing its presence. This growth can harm surrounding tissues and blood supply. The assault occurs not only within the physical body but also on the mind and the spirit.

Cancer treatment is changing. Treatment may not cure or delete the cancer completely but treatment can prolong life and/or improve the quality of life for many years. Many people are living with fourth stage cancer. Every cancer is unique to each person affected by it. A treatment regimen that worked for one patient with breast cancer may not work for the next patient. The oncologist, or cancer doctor, works with many other experts to develop the right set of treatments for a specific cancer in a specific patient.

Conventional methods for treating cancer include surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. Surgery removes the tumor from the body. Chemotherapy or chemo drugs are used to travel through the body in the blood stream and can reach cancer cells that have traveled elsewhere or metastasized. Radiation is the use of high-energy rays (like x-rays) to kill or shrink tumor cells. There are both internal and external radiation treatments available.

Naturopathic oncologists focus on reducing the risk of harmful effects from cancer treatments and often work along with a medical oncologist in cancer treatment. There are a variety of natural and adjunct therapies available, and a naturopathic oncologist can select the interventions that are appropriate for the patient's health. Examples of naturopathic treatments include hydrotherapy, physical and exercise therapy, massage, herbal and botanical preparations such as herbal extracts and teas, dietary supplements, nutritional recommendations, lifestyle counseling, and acupuncture, among others.

Cancer is an awful and dreaded word. Stay calm and arm yourself with the love of Jesus Christ found in the people who surround you. In the fight for life against cancer, find Jesus in one another. By taking care of others we are caring for the body of Christ.

Peace be with you,
Therese Pineda RN & Teri Martin
Health Ministry Co-chairs

American Cancer Society- www.cancer.org
Association of Cancer Online Resources, Inc. www.acor.org
National Cancer Institute- www.cancer.gov
How chemotherapy works-www.rxlist.com
Journal of Supportive Oncology- www.supportiveoncology.net
Cancer Supportive Care- www.cancersupportivecare.com

Look What Your Giving is Helping Us Do!

Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church. Your donations to the church's General Fund so far this year have helped:

- ◆ Provide Vacation Bible School for over 150 children (many whose parents are not members of our church)
- ◆ Allow our Associate Pastor to travel to South Africa with 7 other members of our church family to assist in providing VBS to children effected by AIDS either personally or through a family member
- ◆ Allow our Youth Director, along with 29 of our youth and 6 parent/counselors, to travel on Senior High and Junior High mission trips to Nevada and California
- ◆ Support our local church conference and the United Methodist Church which provides first responder support in natural disasters like those in Nepal and Oklahoma

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 Garin Campbell, Finance Chair (623-363-0662, Financechair@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland, Church Treasurer/Accountant (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).



For Mobile Giving



(Button on the Website which takes you Directly to Online Giving)



Music Ministry 100 Years and Counting!

Marty Province, Music Director

In the same month that the church celebrates the beginning of our second century, I also look forward to the return of our regular musical groups. Many people have talked to me during the summer about how to become involved in music ministry, and NOW IS THE TIME. Please consider being a part of one (or more) of the groups described below. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me in the church office at 480-892-9166 or musicdirector@gilbertumc.org.

Adult Groups

Chancel Choir – Open to singers of **all** ages. Provides music for all of the traditional services from August through May. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights 7-8:30.

Wesleyan Bells – Adult handbells (high school ages and up). Plays periodically throughout the year and has traditionally provided music for the late Christmas Eve service. Rehearses Wednesday nights 5:30-6:30.

Youth and Children's Groups

(All children's groups perform regularly in traditional services throughout the church year.)

Chapel Chimes – Young children through Jr. High. This is our children's bell choir, and they play the smaller and lighter version of our handbells. Rehearsals are 4:30-5:00 on Sundays, and they are once again led by Tami Bruce.

Cherub Choir – Kindergarten-2nd Grade. Our youngest choir meets in the Choir Room on Sunday mornings during the first part of third service. They are once again led by Susan Bowers.

Sonshine Singers – Grades 3-6. Marsha Lehman, Children's Ministry Director, and I are currently looking for adult leadership for this group. Over the years, the group has experienced a number of incarnations, and any new leadership can help to determine the direction we will take in the future. If you are interested in making music with our middle youngsters, contact Marty or Marsha in the church office.



Columbarium & Healing Garden

Our healing garden is a place of healing of mind, body and spirit. It was designed using the Beatitudes, Matthew 5: 3-10, as a tranquil retreat for those facing difficult times, as well as a place of peace in which to honor and remember loved ones.

Single niches, including an urn and engraving of face stone are available for \$1,500 for church members and \$2,000 for non-members. **Double niches**, including two urns and engraving of face stone are available for \$1,750 for church members and \$2,250 for non-members. For those who are buried elsewhere, we offer memorial wall plaques for \$300. Other garden fixtures including benches are available.

Contact John Bowers at jfbowersjr@yahoo.com for more information or stop by the church office for an information packet.



August Birthdays

1	Gayla Sutton	20	Lilah Wiley
2	Norma Mayne Emily O'Brien Mary Vandenberg	21	TJ Granado Julia Strazz
3	Brian Lin	22	Lara DeRoule Jim Johns
4	Linda Cranford		Emily Lyons
5	Anita Broughton Keela Clark Junette West		Brittany Norris Jon Salak Kylee Wilkins
6	Eric Palmer	24	Jim Reeves
7	Nyambe Hadson- Taylor Laura McLeod Gabriel Schmidt Dirk Smith	25	Deborah Lerner
		26	Molly Hahn Midori Hall Bradley Lane Andy Martin
8	Evan Houseman Andre St. Pierre Lori Wiemers	27	Harris Compton Hal Fairley Reagan Metz
9	Eli Chiricuzio		Ellie Peppin
10	Amanda Martin Mike West		Michelle Rico Stacy Schmidt
11	Jackson Bracht	28	Scott Bouchie Lori Van Dam
12	Judy Bristow Rebecca Hernandez	29	Tyson Erwin Sadie Fairley Jackson James
13	Diane Crann Dan Harvey	30	Samantha Wallace
14	Drew Martin Tom McKinley	31	Kevin Boesch Alyssa Granado Castro Kein Curran Bob Frederick
15	Alan Ball Jim Hall Troy McDonald		Jeff Kimbrough
16	Lynn Ingalls		JJ Lawson
17	Tina Rees		

Anniversaries

1	Paul & Barb Perry - 44 yrs
2	Ernie & Shirley Wilkowski - 1 yr
3	Keith & Jo Asplin - 58 yrs
3	Chris & Trish Odell - 41 yrs
4	Bob & MaryEllen Chuk - 42 yrs
5	Ron & Sharon Dalton - 17 yrs
6	Rob & Garin Campbell - 21 yrs
8	John & Marjorie Croushore - 45 yrs
8	Marty & Elice Province - 28 yrs
8	Ed & Alma Riedel - 34 yrs
11	Tom & Kim Dare - 31 yrs
12	Charles & Sarah Bowser - 49 yrs
13	Dennis & Charlotte Hazelrigg - 49 yrs
15	Kim & Vicki Harding - 44 yrs
22	Scott & Caroline Mara - 18 yrs
24	David & Phyllis Spittel - 17 yrs
24	Bob & Jean Langdon - 58 yrs
28	Scott & Diane Gardner - 33 yrs
29	Sergio & Alyssa Castro - 1 yr
30	John Lin & Lindsay Wright - 12 yrs

If we have inadvertently missed your birthday or anniversary, contact Dina at 480-892-9166 or secretary@gilbertumc.org.



Altar Flowers

The Sunday morning altar flowers may be donated "in memory of" or "in honor of" a special person or event. The cost for each bouquet is \$32.40.

Only a few Sundays in 2015 remain available for donation including September 20, September 27, and October 25. If you would like to donate the flowers on one of these Sundays, contact Dina in the church office at secretary@gilbertumc.org or 480-892-9166.



Pray for our Churches

You are encouraged to pray for the churches and pastors of the Central East District of the Desert Southwest Conference. Please pray for the following churches in August:

Living Water UMF, Gilbert
St. Matthew UMC, Mesa
St. Paul's UMC, Globe
Sun Lakes UMC



**First United
Methodist Church of
Gilbert**

331 S. Cooper Rd.
Gilbert, AZ 85233
480-892-9166
Fax: 480-892-3545
info@gilbertumc.org

**We're on the web at
www.gilbertumc.org**



99 & Counting
The Journey Continues
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

Desert Southwest Conference

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM)

Basic Mission Team Leadership Training

Effective team leader training can make the difference between a successful mission and an experience better forgotten. Prepared team leaders have the tools, insight, and knowledge to successfully lead groups in a mission experience that glorifies God through service done effectively.

Training topics include:

- Finding and selecting a destination, a host, and a mission project
- Gathering a team—promoting
- Planning a trip—details!
- Budgeting and raising money
- Team orientation - clear expectations
- Registering a mission trip
- Insurance and legal concerns
- Returning home and reporting
- Special issues regarding international trips
- Youth and family trips issues including safe sanctuary policies
- Travel issues

The training will be held in our activity center on Saturday, September 19th from 9:00am-1:00pm. There is a \$10 fee which includes a light lunch and team leader manual. To register, contact Lorraine or Mike Eyer DSC UMVIM Coordinators, at 623-810-5600 or clnwe@gmail.com.

www.gilbertumc.org

News, sermons, events are being posted all the time.

Forms for youth and children are available on the site.

www.facebook.com/FUMCofgilbert

We are posting updates to events, news, spiritual quotes and encouragement. Don't miss a thing.

www.facebook.com/fumcgilbert.youthgroup

Postings are going up regarding volleyball, upcoming events, pictures and other crazy things.

Don't miss out because you didn't check here!!

<http://pinterest.com/fumcgilbert/>

Help us create boards, become a follower, or just help!

Email volunteer@gilbertumc.org



Pinterest

**Safe
Sanctuaries**
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert