



Change in our Choir Ministry/8:15AM Sunday Class

Our wonderful Chancel Choir has for many years blessed the 8 A.M. service with a wonderful anthem and then remained to lead the worship and singing for the remainder of the service. They have ministered to the 9:30 service with a choral anthem and then left the service.

This year we asked them to change that pattern a bit: remaining in the 9:30 service to lead the worship and music for the entire service. They will minister in the 8:00 am service with an anthem, then depart

for a new adult Sunday School class led by Pastor David 8:15 – 9:15, returning to minister in the 9:30 service.

Those of you who attend worship at 9:30 but who don't want to stay afterward for adult Sunday School may want to try this new pattern! Our hope is always that you will choose to worship for one hour and attend one hour for personal and spiritual development. That's why we offer so many different classes and opportunities at varied times of day and during the week!

October Birthday Celebrations

- 1 Kay Pealstrom
Jonda Shamsiddeen
- 2 LeRoy Englebrecht
- 3 Bonnie Grimes
- 4 McKinley Lang
Art Poeske
April Ryan
- 5 Dennis Young
- 6 Joe Taylor
- 8 Norman Symons
- 9 Eileen Parry
- 10 Adriana Hernandez
- 11 Robyn Oswald
Al Zangri
- 16 Dave Moberg
- 17 Irene Groves
- 18 Mary Frederick
Lora Norris
Ashton Olson
- 19 Kendall Fink
Aryn Peppin

- 20 Jan Compton
Jo Goslar
Jeff Hemingson
- 22 Tim Ryan
Tim West
- 23 Pam Stressman
Alice Van Orden
- 26 Kendall Bayer
Brandon Sy
- 27 Charlotte Hazelrigg
- 28 Jake Wagner
- 31 Mary Ellen Chuk

- 3 Jim & Lori Wilkins 28 Years
- 6 David & Pat Baker 36 Years
- 8 Odus & Diana Elliot 50 Years
Philip & Ernestine Tesarek 21 Years
- 9 Tommy & Pam Campbell 22 Years
- 11 Eli & Janelle Chiricuzio 12 Years
- 12 Mike & Lara Klinkner 13 Years
- 13 Mike & Diane Crann 27 Years
Jon Salak & Eileen Parry 13 Years
- 15 Jim & Katherine Willis 22 Years
- 16 Isaiah & Jonda Shamsiddeen 10 Years
- 18 David & Christy Yoder 7 Years
- 20 Peggy & Mark Yoder 8 Years
- 21 Dan & Janet Bose 14 Years
John & Susan Bowers 20 Years
- 22 Steve & Deanna Helland 32 Years
- 23 Gene & Phyllis Foutz 51 Years
- 28 Bob & Carolyn Skinner 55 Years
- 30 William & Cathy Panella 46 Years



Trivia Answers: 1C, 2C, 3A, 4B

October 2015

The Evangel

Blessing of the Animals

Animals are frequently mentioned throughout scripture: Proverbs 12:10, "The righteous man regards the life of his beast." Job 12: 7 "Ask the birds, ask the beasts and they will teach you."

This month we host our first Blessing of the Animals event on **Sunday, October 4th from 2pm—5pm**. The actual blessing ceremony is at 3pm but this event is WAY more than the ceremony. It is an afternoon filled with activities for your entire family. There will be a lot of animal rescue programs, low-cost vaccines, micro-chipping and TONS of activities.

- Gilbert Police Department will be here with a demonstration showing off their arson dogs' skills.
- Face painting and a pet photo booth.
- Petting zoo with farm animals.
- AZ Herpetological Society will be here with rattlesnakes, gila monsters and other reptile critters for you to see.
- Bring some spending money with you as there will be hot dogs, snow cones, gourmet pet treats available for sale.

Bring your pet (on a leash or crated). The Blessings Ceremony will happen at 3pm.



First United
Methodist Church of
Gilbert

331 S. Cooper Road
Gilbert, AZ 85233
480-892-9166

www.firstgilbert.church
info@gilbertumc.org

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Worship Schedule

8:00 Traditional Service
9:00-9:30 Coffee Hour
9:30 Traditional Service
10:30-11:00 Coffee Hour
11:00 Contemporary
Service

Adult Sunday School
8am, 9:30am, 11am
FirstKidz 9:30am & 11am
Professional Nursery
7:45am-12:30pm



Please sign up for your portrait to be included in the Church Directory! If you have your photo taken you get a free directory. You can order additional photos and they will be here in time for Christmas!!

Photo dates are:

Tuesday, Oct 6th

1pm—8:30pm

Wednesday, Oct 7th

1pm—8:30pm

Thursday, Oct 8th

1pm—8:30 pm

Friday, Oct 9th

1pm—8:30pm

Saturday, Oct 10th

10am—5:30pm

Friday, October 16th

1pm—8:30pm

Saturday, October 17th

10am—5:30pm

You can go to our website to register.

www.firstgilbert.church

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

1ST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GILBERT
331 S. COOPER RD.
GILBERT, AZ 85233

A SAFE, FUN, HALLOWEEN ALTERNATIVE FOR FAMILIES!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015 • 2:30 PM TO 5:30 PM



Explorer's Class—Sunday, October 11th

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, October 11th at 2pm in room 142. Meet some of our staff members and key lay leaders. Get your questions answered. Get involved in our mission and ministry. RSVP to Adriana at secretary@gilbertumc.org. Childcare will be provided if RSVP is made by October 6th. Call the office 480-892-9166 with any questions.

Cardboard City 2015



On October 17th and 18th, the students of FUMC Gilbert will be participating in Cardboard City 2015. What is that, you ask? It is an event that benefits Family Promise of Greater Phoenix, our partner in hosting homeless families for one week several times a year. During this event, people from all over the Phoenix-metro area will converge on Scottsdale Stadium to raise awareness, funds, and supplies for homelessness.

Starting at 5:00pm on Saturday October 17th, there will be live music and activities at the stadium. One of the activities is Hygiene Packing where students will build Hygiene kits for those who suffer from homelessness.

The students will set up a "cardboard city" and spend the night sleeping on the field at Scottsdale Stadium in their

cardboard box. This will help students get a very small look into what life is like sleeping on the streets or in "not-ideal" conditions.

The funds for admission to the event directly benefit Family Promise. If you would like to help us raise money towards such a great cause, please consider sponsoring a student. We are also able to collect hygiene products for the hygiene packing. If you are able to sponsor a student financially to help Family Promise or would like to coordinate donation of hygiene products, please contact Ryan Collins at youthministry@gilbertumc.org or (480) 892-9166.

We are all very excited for this experience and hope that this very little act raises awareness for homeless families and helps organizations like Family Promise end homelessness in our city.

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring and/or donating. Thank you!



Christian History Sunday School

Looking for an adult Sunday School class? The Christian History Sunday School class will be reading and discussing the book, God's Problem by Bart D. Ehrman beginning Sunday, September 27 and continuing for another eight weeks.. This book deals with questions about human suffering and God's place in it.. New people are welcome and encouraged to join us on our journey. We meet at 9:30 in Room 201. Questions? Call Jo Asplin, 480-813-2936.

UMC BOOK CLUB

The planned books for 2015—2016 are listed with meeting date, book, author and facilitator.

Oct 15 The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak—Nyra

Nov 19 Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor—Diane

Dec 17 Gifted Hands by Ben Carson—Chris

Jan 21 Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People by Nadia Bolz-Weber—Skip

Feb 18 Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese—Marilyn

Mar 17 All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr—Jo

Apr 21 Our Souls at Night by Ken Haruf—Geri

May 19 The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt—Diane

Jun 16 The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown—Pam

July 21 Just Mercy: a Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson—Odus

Aug 18 State of Wonders by Ann Patchett—Molly H

Contact June Morrison Jnmorrison10@aol.com or 480-892-4777 if you plan on attending 10/15.



Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

New Sermon Series, Treasure

Money affects your heart. Whether you are in plenty or in want, money has a direct connection to your stress level, your anxiety, and the health of your relationships. It is no wonder, then, that Jesus talked about the relationship between our treasure and our hearts.

For a four-week period in October, we will look at the many ways that our treasure (time, energy, money) affects our spiritual and emotional lives. Join us in worship starting Sunday October 18, as we begin our new sermon series called *Treasure*. We will explore Matthew 6 and Jesus' teachings on money, giving, worry, and more. We will supplement the sermon series with daily devotions and small group studies.

The small group studies will be offered on two different nights. John Bowers will lead the group on

Sundays (10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8) time and room TBD. Pastor Deborah will lead the group on Mondays (10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9) at 6:30 PM in room 142.

At the end of the four weeks, we will have an opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will receive commitment cards in the mail, and cards will be available on Sunday mornings. We will bring these commitment cards to worship on Sunday, November 15.

We hope that you'll join us in the coming weeks as we look at Jesus' teaching on how we can avoid freedom from some of the common pitfalls related to money, and how we can give our lives and our treasure to God.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you; but the enemy fails miserably when he meets **a woman dressed for the occasion in the armor of God!** Come join us as we apply the truth of God's word to our daily lives and draw strength from His Word and from being in the company of women of faith!

**The Armor of God—DVD and Book Study by Priscilla Shirer
Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study**

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert, Room 142 (library)

7-week class begins Tuesday, October 20, 2015 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Workbook Cost: \$14.00

The workbook for this study will be available for purchase on October 13th and 20th. Please contact Christy Robertson Yoder at roberch1@yahoo.com or Deanna Helland at dzhelland@yahoo.com with any questions. To register for free childcare, please contact Katie Bouchie at kebouchie@gmail.com.

Message from Pastor Deborah

I love October in Arizona. When I had rose bushes, my October roses were the prettiest of the whole year. It was as if they panted and puffed through the whole summer, trying to stay alive, and were so relieved when the night time temperatures dropped and the daytime temperatures began to diminish that they just had a party, right there in the rose bed, giving it their all to brighten up the back yard with wonderful smells and glorious blossoms!

The first few days when I walk outside for the paper and it is a degree or so cooler outside (I keep my thermostat pretty high!) are cause for celebration! Our brothers and sisters in the northern states often feel this way when winter begins to lose its hold and the first crocuses and daffodils push up through the still cold ground – when it begins to thaw and warm. For us it is when the cool returns. Finally, a semblance of seasonal change. A time of refreshing after the long hard hot months. There is a wonderful verse in the Bible about seasons and change:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace. – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There are seasons in life, and seasons in the life of a church. This month for us is a season of reaching out in love to touch the lives of those around us in ways that may break through their daily routines and help them notice that it makes a difference to belong to a church. With every passing year, fewer and fewer people choose to make church a part of their lives. It is harder and harder to catch their attention for long enough to help them catch a glimpse of Jesus' love.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see descriptions of a brand new outreach event conceived and offered by our new Invitation and Welcoming Team, the "Blessing of the Animals." I hope you will plan to be here, with whatever pets grace your home, to help us be Jesus' love to the community. Come as a participant. Come as a helper. Come however you like, and be you, so people from our neighborhood know what a faithful United Methodist looks like and acts like! There will be hot dogs and shaved ice and dog treats for sale. You can get your animal micro-chipped and see some snakes and other exotic animals. We'll bless them all!

On Saturday October 31 we will host a Halloween event, the Family Fun Festival, in the afternoon. Many people are looking for safe places for their children on this huge cultural holiday, so it is a natural time for us to offer hospitality, and a time for connection and blessing. Come and help us demonstrate that this is a safe place, in more ways than one – safe for their children, safe for them, safe for their hearts and spirits. Bring your kids to play and then take them home for neighborhood events. You can do it all!

This year we plan to be much more intentional in collecting names and addresses and following up with our guests, inviting them to Christmas, Easter, and special events. It's one more way we can begin to build relationships with the people around us, and be blessed ourselves as we do.

Join us in this season of outreach.

Blessings
Pastor Deborah





New Classes Starting, Modified Wednesday Nights

“Meet The Goodpeople” by Roger Ross begins Wed, October 7th. It is a 4-week study where we will learn how to share our faith with our church, our communities and our world. Class is in room 142 at 6:30pm. The book cost is \$11, instructor is Pastor David Harriss.

Divorce Care is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life’s most difficult experiences. In the class you will learn and review God’s Word to help people deal with a divorce or separation. Class will meet weekly in room 133 at 6:30 pm beginning 11/4/15. The workbook cost is \$15, instructor is Adriana Hernandez.

At Christmas, God sent Jesus into this world. In turn, Christ sends us into this world to create disciples for the Kingdom of God. This Advent Study, **SENT**, shows us how to be Christ’s hands, feet and heart during this

crazy month of commercialization and busyness. Class meets weekly on Wednesdays beginning December 2nd at 6:30 pm.

On 11/4, 11/11 and 11/18 there will be **Faith Journey** programming in the activity center. This is an opportunity to have members of this congregation share their journeys with us. It is an incredible honor to have testimonies of current or retired military veterans regarding their military service and their faith journey on Veterans Day 11/11. Our regular Wednesday evening fellowship meal will be served on these three Wednesdays. The cost is \$3.00 per person and \$12.00 per family. Please come and listen to the testimonies on all three of these Wednesdays.

On Wednesday 11/25 there will be no dinner or classes due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Wednesday Evening Activities



Wednesday Night Dinner

Sharing a meal together in fellowship is a long standing Methodist tradition. We proudly continue this tradition every Wednesday at 5:45 in the Activity Center. \$3/ person or \$12/family.

Class/Program	Time	Room	Start Date/ End Date	Notes
Alpha Class: Exploring the basics of Christian faith.	5:45 pm	AC	8/12/2015 10/21/2015	
Who Is This Man: Looking at how Jesus turned history upside down.	6:30 pm	201	8/19/2015 10/28/2015	
12 Ordinary Men: Drawing principles from the 12 men Jesus originally selected.	6:30 pm	133	8/19/2015 11/04/2015	
Hurting Moms, Mending Hearts: Support group for mom’s in need of peace.	6:30 pm	202	8/19/2015 10/28/2015	
Confirmation Class: Learning about their faith.	6:30 pm	140	8/19/2015 5/25/2016	No class 11/11, 11/25, 12/23
Wednesday WILDS: Creative and active worship time for children.	6:30 pm	205	8/19/2015 5/25/2016	No class 11/11, 11/25, 12/23
Meet the Goodpeople: How to share your faith with others.	6:30 pm	142	10/7/2015 10/28/2015	
Divorce Care: Dealing with separation and divorce	6:30 pm	202	11/4/2015 02/17/2016	No class 11/11, 11/25, 12/23
Faith Journey: Sharing faith journeys	6:30 pm	AC	11/4/2015 11/18/2015	Veterans speaking on 11/11
SENT: Advent Study	6:30 pm	142	12/02/2015 12/16/2015	

Missions Committee missions@gilbertumc.org

Successful UMOM Kitchen Drive

Thank you for your donations for the UMOM New Day Center Kitchen Drive! Here is a picture of some of the items donated. This will make these UMOM clients’ fresh start a great start!



Turkey Drive

We will be receiving donations to purchase Thanksgiving meals for needy families. \$25 buys a box with a full meal. Giving envelopes will be in the pews in October and November to raise funds for the meals. In addition, we will need help delivering the boxes the week of Thanksgiving. Contact Sandra or Laura at missions@gilbertumc.org to help make this drive a success.

Operation Christmas Child

Once again the Missions Committee will be sponsoring Operation Christmas Child. The boxes are delivered to children throughout the world. Pick up a box from the Missions table during October and November. Fill the box with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. If you are able, please include \$7 for international shipping and other costs. If you pay, on-line, you will be able to track your box though its delivery to a child in need. All boxes must be returned to the Activity Center by Sunday, November 15th. Guidelines for filling the boxes can be found at the Missions Table. “Every shoebox offers an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with a hurting child.” Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan’s Purse.

Gilbert Cares

November 7th FUMC of Gilbert is working with Gilbert Cares to paint and do general clean-up/yard work at a local house for Service Appreciation Day. Location will be announced at a later date. All ages are welcome, and will be a great family event. Skilled tradesmen also needed to help with the bigger repairs like roofing, plumbing, carpet etc. Email missions if you are interested.

Family Promise

We will be hosting Family Promise again the week of **November 15th – 22nd**. To enhance the experience for the families and reduce the stress on our members, we are dividing this ministry into three parts. These parts are meals, activities and overnights, each of which requires a coordinator. If this is something you MAY be interested in please email missions@gilbertumc.org. For our experienced volunteers who have found this ministry rewarding, now may be the time to help lead a portion of this ministry.

Senior Santa and Christmas Angels

More information to come regarding Senior Santa and Christmas Angels. The tentative time frame for these campaigns is the end of October through the middle of December. The Missions team is in need of a Coordinator to help with tags, tracking and delivery of the donated items.

Watkins Homeless Shelter Volunteers Needed! Volunteers are needed to help cook a hot meal in the church kitchen on **October 10th** from 2:00-4:00pm and serve the meal at the shelter in Phoenix from 5:00-7:00pm. Meet at the church at 4:30pm to caravan. Children are encouraged to participate with parent supervision by handing out the utensils or other age-appropriate tasks. If you are interested, please sign up on the Missions Team kiosk located in the activity center. In addition, travel size toiletry items, clothing, and shoes of all sizes are being collected to deliver to the shelter as well. All donations can be dropped off in the activity center.

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee meets the second Sunday of every month at 12:30 PM in Room 142. If you have an urge to serve, we can help! Join us!!

United Methodist Church History Quiz

What is John Wesley's birthday on current calendars?

- A) May 24
- B) June 17
- C) June 28
- D) July 5

How many delegates will be attending General Conference 2016?

- A) 100
- B) 435
- C) 864
- D) 1000

In what language was the first official non-English hymnal?

- A) Spanish
- B) Korean
- C) Kiswahili
- D) French

Name the 'Mother Church of World Methodism'

- A) Methodist Church of London
- B) Wesley's Chapel
- C) Our House
- D) Hyde Park United Methodist

Answers on last page of Evangel. For additional questions and explanation of answers check out www.umc.org Then click on History Quiz

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 have helped:

- Pay for new energy-efficient lighting in our Building 2 classrooms. The rooms are much brighter and we will save money on our electric bill!
- Allow our Family & Youth Director to work with our Family Ministries Team to plan and carry out the End of Summer Luau.
- Provide facilities to house 4 Family Promise families the week of September 6-13.
- Pay for Bibles given to all of our third graders
- Provide air-conditioned space for our Family Fitness Festival, attended by 115 families, many from outside our church. Other costs of the Festival were supported by our Conference.

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"!

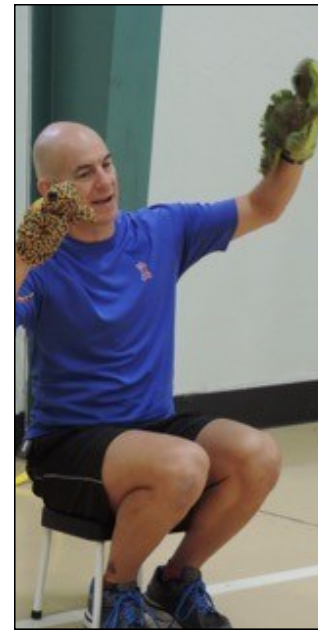
If you have any questions about the church's finances, please contact Garin Campbell, Finance

Annual All Church Conference

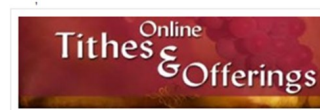
Saturday October 24, 2015

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Robert Burns, will be with us to lead us in the election of leaders for 2016; in the setting of pay for our two pastors, and in a reflection on our big plans for ministry in 2016. All are invited to join us. All members are allowed to vote.

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



Coach Ryan showing the families how to get fit!



The QR code above is for giving via your mobile device. Click on the Tithes & Offerings button on our website to process your donation on-line.

The Great Divorce

Our modern-day cultural understandings often overshadow the cultural precepts of the Greco-Roman Empire. The Revised Common Lectionary text for Sunday, October 4th, World Communion Sunday, is Mark 10:2-16. Within this entire lection, there are two synchronized and problematic illustrations, which are often misinterpreted due to our susceptibility to anthropomorphize the text. That is, we have a tendency to see God through the scope of human values and limitations. Being someone who often stirs the pot, my initial reaction was, *If this text merits such debate and controversy who am I to neglect it?*

One of these pericopes deals with divorce and the other with blessing the children. First, divorce is a challenging, complicated and difficult issue. Divorce is hard on a family, hard on the parents/spouse(s), and can produce demoralizing feelings of inadequacy and ineffectiveness. The entire argument posed by the Pharisees is based on Moses' discourse from Deuteronomy 24:1-4 where his oratory prophecy places legitimacy in the process of divorce between a man and a woman. Since Moses stated that *it is lawful* as a commandment from God, the real question is not whether this is a legitimate statement. Obviously if God says it, it is a legitimate statement. However, Christ enters into this debate from another angle when he replies to the Pharisees, *What did Moses command you?* In my estimations Jesus is no longer prioritizing the divorce debate but he is deliberately bifurcating this discussion in a virtuous attempt to have the Pharisees actually **consider** the commandments of God. That is, that God tells us first and foremost, *love Him (God) with all of your heart, soul, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5, NRSV)*. Christ continues the importance of divine covenant by proclaiming to the Pharisees, *For this reason* (that is, God's attempt to create covenant through humanity) *a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined by his wife, and the two shall become one flesh (Mark 10:7-9 NRSV)*. Christ's concluding words are *Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.*

I have always been of the opinion that Jesus is not casting judgment, shame, or embarrassment upon those who have endured the difficulty of covenantal divorce through legal counsel. Instead, he is bringing to our attention that sin separates us from our divine covenant with God and from our God-centered covenant which we have with one another. Despite our travestied attempts to envision a wedding as a social event, it remains a covenant between God and two people. Any obstruction within this symbiotic covenant creates disruptions that move us away from our initial harmonious relationships. Therefore, this is not a text regarding the legitimacy of divorce between two people, it is a text that exposes the great divorce between ourselves and our divine Creator. Sin moves away from the righteous path which God has for us on this spiritual journey. Whether we cheated on our spouses or not, we often cheat on God by failing to love him *with our heart, soul, and mind* and by not *loving our neighbor as ourselves*. Our faithfulness toward God is mirrored through our faithfulness with one another. How does this text underscore our treatment of illegal immigrants, the man on death row, and the Arab Muslim nation?

In typical Markan fashion, Jesus rapidly moves forward in this discussion by engaging with *little children*. In the Greco-Roman Empire children had very low status. The fact that Christ is accepting these marginalized little ones, is further indication that we should allow ourselves the vulnerability to accept one another as God has accepted us. With this harmonious relationship in order: God loving us as we are and humanity loving each in its entirety, there is no possibility of the great divorce! Divine covenant creates harmony with all of God's creation. Those who thwart God's intentions are guilty of the great divorce, including those who are still married and those who are no longer espoused. **—David J. Harriss**

"Love him (God) with all of your heart, soul, and strength" Deuteronomy 6:5



Orchard Africa

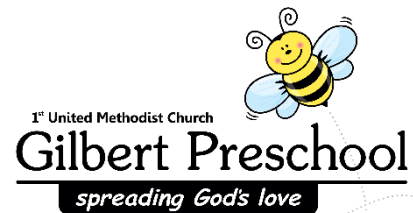
On Sunday, November 1st members of this year's Orchard Africa team will have a table set up in the Activity Center after the 2nd and 3rd services to answer any questions you have and to recruit anyone interested in being part of the next team. We are working towards a trip in the Summer of 2017. It is understood that it is two years away and it is hard to plan such a large undertaking that is two years away. However, the team will work with volunteer changes, we understand. Don't let that stop you from signing up.

If this mission trip is at all pulling at your heart this is your day to join and put your trust in the Lord that it can happen!



Preschool News

www.gilbertpreschool.com



What we did in September:

- Learned about God's Creation, celebrated that everyone is special and unique and planted our Preschool Garden! In a few weeks, check out the garden area in the preschool courtyard to see what's growing.
- Firefighters visited us to talk about how to be safe. They even let us crawl through the fire truck! We made Thank you cards for the Firefighters and brought them some yummy treats.



What's happening in October:

- **Fall Break:** October 5th-9th. Enjoy family time!
- **Preschool Fall Festival:** "Jesus is my Superhero" on October 22nd 5:30-7:15pm. Come join us for some food, fun and fall entertainment. We will offer dinner for a small fee, lots of festival games and the preschoolers will perform a couple of cute songs for us. Come join the fun!
- **Family Mission:** collect the Operation Christmas Child boxes. These boxes are filled with little toys, candy, socks, etc. and the organization Samaritan's Purse sends them around the world to special needy boys and girls. What a great way to spread Christmas love!

Did you Know?

- Support our preschool and children's areas by shopping at Fry's! You DO need to register each school year. Thank you.
- PreK classes get to go to **Music class** each week, taught by church member, Beth Boesch. The kids love it!
- Preschoolers get special **Art classes** taught by church member Jan Compton. Last month, some kids colored upside down, like Michelangelo and some used chalks, paints, pencils, and other mediums to create unique, special art. We are blessed!



If you have any questions or would like to share a skill with the preschool, please contact Lora Norris or Lara Fink at 480 892 9166 or preschool@gilbertumc.org.



Super Kidz Are Working On Being In Focus

In **FIRSTKIDZ** October's theme is **In Focus Individuality**. Everything God has created is unique and one of a kind. Each animal is not only different from other species, but also different from other like animals. No zebra has the exact same pattern of stripes. Each monkey has its own temperament. Each sparrow sings a slightly different tune. The same is true for people. God made each person one of a kind—even identical twins have unique fingerprints! Every person that ever was or ever will be is an original, including the kids we serve each week in our children's ministry environments.

Now, imagine that God created each one of those kids with an individual box of potential and your job as a parent or leader was to help them figure out how to open it and use it. There's a tendency to treat kids like they need to wait before they can start discovering what's in their box—before they can do something that matters. But kids can use their gifts right now. Sometimes they just need some help figuring out what's in their box.

That's where you come in. As leaders in kids' lives, you can help them discover how to tap into their God-given potential. If you teach kids to find purpose NOW, they'll grow up knowing the even greater potential God has for them in the future.

And that is where the church comes in. We want to partner with you- to help you navigate all the phases of your child's life. You are the heart and the home-we help illuminate who God is.

The entire Children's Ministry (newborn to 6th grade) is embracing the Orange curriculum that partners us to work with parents to teach every child they are a blessing from God. Contact Marsha Lehman at ChildrensMinistry@gilbertumc.org or at 480-892-9166 regarding this programming.



Parent Scoop

Monthly 15 minute information sharing. Meets the first Sunday of every month in room 142 at 10:35-10:50 am

God Time Cards These are available every week from your child's SGL and are for your child to do alone or as a family. There are four different devotions on each God Time card. Each devotion is designed to be done on a different day.

Parent Cue Cards These cards are available from your Child's SGL and communicate four things to parents. The life app, monthly memory verse, weekly bible story and a cue to prompt parents to connect with their kids each week.

Parent Cue App Provides simple CUES throughout the week that remind you to pause and make the most of everyday moments.