



www.firstgilbert.church

November 2015

November: A Special Time to Worship with Us

Join us throughout the month of November for very special worship services:

November 1 All Saint's Day

We will light candles for our saints as we remember the loved ones we have lost this year. Bring a flower or flowers to honor the special ones you remember this day. Communion in all services.

Treasure series message "The Problem with Two Masters."

November 8 Recognition of Veterans

Veterans are invited to wear their uniforms or whatever part still fits!

We will honor those who have placed their lives in jeopardy to keep us free

Treasure Series Message: Giving Your Treasure Back to God

November 15 Treasure Series Ends

Bring your commitments / estimate of Giving cards for 2016 as a special offering

Treasure Series Message: Don't Worry Bout a Thing

November 22 Thanksgiving Sunday / Christ the King Sunday

Dedication of Centennial Time Capsule

November 24 Gilbert Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Tuesday 11/24, 7:00 PM

Enjoy choirs from many faith communities in the town of Gilbert

A time of conversation and refreshment will follow

November 26 Come as you are worship on Thanksgiving Day Thursday 11/26, 9:00 am

Put the turkey in the oven and come by for a brief service led by our youth and Follow the Leader, our youth praise band. Ryan Collins preaching.

November 28 Join us Saturday 11/28, 8am – noon to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas!

Refreshments, conversation, and fun for the whole family.

November 29 All Services: Hanging of the Greens Service

We will dedicate our special Advent / Christmas decorations in this lovely ritual on the first Sunday of Advent, the season of preparation before Christmas. Pastor David Preaching



A Note About our Building Committee and Pending Capital Campaign

Some of you have been asking about our progress on plans for campus improvement. Below you will find a brief summary of what has been done by your elected building committee, what is being done now, and what we anticipate doing. Our co-chairs, Kelly McClain and Dan Vrana, would be glad to have further conversations if you desire.



- In August/September 2015 a feasibility study was conducted by Horizons Stewardship to help us decide what a reasonable fund raising target might be for our church at this time, based on a “case statement” of needs identified by the building committee.
- On October 6 our Horizons strategist, Don Smith, came and gave a presentation of his findings. That presentation included a summary of levels of support for areas in the case statement.
 - The highest level of support, 92%, was for deferred maintenance and administration
 - 81% of those surveyed were supportive of worship ministries projects including new carpet and upholstery and other improvements for the sanctuary.
 - 80% of those surveyed were supportive of renovations and improvements related to children and youth ministries
 - 77% of those surveyed were supportive of the project related to expanding space for music ministries
 - 72% of those surveyed supported enhancements related to hospitality and campus navigation, including providing a greatly enlarged community gathering space and improved bathrooms
 - Various comments on each of these projects indicated concern to “Know more” about each before fully committing support. All of the projects have what Horizons considers an “adequate” level of support to merit continuing efforts on each.
 - Based on the interviews, demographic information, information on attendance and giving, Horizons indicated that we should be able to raise 1 to 1.5 million dollars to fund these projects or some subset thereof. We might raise considerably more, if people are able and willing to support this effort.
- Simultaneously, our building committee continued its work to identify the most critical and immediate needs to support programming and mission fulfillment.
 - Renovating and expanding the nursery was clearly a high priority
 - A second high priority was securing our children’s spaces, providing a secure check in for Sunday School, and segregating bathrooms used by children from those easily accessible to the public
 - A third high priority was providing a large meeting space, separate from the activity center, for children’s gatherings, but also for large group functions throughout the week (preschool functions, adult classes --for around 40- 60 people)
 - We were concerned to provide true accessibility to upstairs classrooms, especially given the increased numbers of classes offered to adults on Sundays and Wednesdays
 - We knew we would probably not be able to fund all the items in all of our project lists at one time
- With these priorities in mind, our architect, Darrin Orndorff began working on a “master plan” that will meet ALL of the needs identified by the building committee, and on defining a series of phases that “make sense” for building projects we expect to unfold over a period of 5–7 years.
- Darrin presented a tentative “master” plan and a proposal for two distinct building phases (with multiple options in each phase), including cost estimates, first to the building committee and then to Ad Board (On October 20); to help make the decision to move forward with the capital campaign. These plans included very rough renderings and “footprints” of his proposed design.
- With those before us, we affirmed the decision to embark on a capital campaign with Horizons Stewardship guiding us to raise funds for “Phase 1.”





- **Phase I will PROBABLY include** the following, if funding is available (we are still working to define our most important needs):
 - Expansion of the nursery to include the choir room for 3 and 4 year olds; renovation so that there is a separate but connected infant room and a toddler room
 - That means the music ministry must be relocated. The “best” space for them with least expense and modification seems to be the current front office/reception/pastor office complex, with the addition of areas built out to the arches to serve as robe rooms and storage areas.
 - To do this most efficiently the main office will be moved toward the east in the same building, and will be expanded to the edge of the current colonnade.
 - Addition of a large children/adult/youth gathering space in the area just in front (west) of the two story education wing.
 - Addition of large new bathrooms for adults on the south west corner of that gathering space. These will eventually become the bathrooms for the sanctuary.
 - Addition of a large meeting space above the bathrooms (2nd floor) that will probably serve as a senior high room at least for “phase 1.”
 - Addition of a full service elevator that will make our 2nd floor fully functional and accessible all week long to all groups and persons who need classrooms for use
 - Enclosure of the children’s areas by adding glass enclosed colonnades on the west and south sides that will also serve as an entrance to both children’s and office/reception areas. This will drastically reduce the number of entrances to the facility (a huge security plus).
 - Renovation of existing bathrooms to serve “for children only” during certain hours
 - Creation of a corridor through to the preschool in the bathroom area (bathrooms will be smaller) to increase functionality and safety
 - Moving pre school office from the back into the area currently used as room 133.
 - Options for this phase, if there is enough funding include:
 - continuing the glass colonnade to the back parking lot and securing the remainder of our campus classroom access, segregating children from adults in all settings.
 - Renovating sanctuary “finishes” – flooring, upholstery, perhaps demo’ing the current bathrooms once the new ones are available and using the space for other things
 - We may be required to provide ADA access to the chancel area once construction begins. If so, this will require chancel modification.
- **Phase 2 (some FUTURE capital campaign will raise these funds!) will PROBABLY include** building new youth rooms and worship storage areas between sanctuary and activity center, building a hospitality center to the west of the sanctuary to connect the colonnade from Phase 1 to the sanctuary and activity center, and renovation of the narthex/lobby and chancel areas (including ADA accessibility to all areas, if not required before this stage).

I hope this “word picture” will give you a sense of the things in the mix as we work toward final decisions about affordability and needs.

The capital campaign to fund all of this will begin with a “first meeting” of the team on Nov 12. The team will be introduced to the congregation on December 6. The campaign will move into full swing, with renderings and floor plans available successively to groups beginning in January. By the end of February a detailed brochure will be available to the entire congregation, with renderings and drawings.

We hope you will anticipate this campus improvement process with eagerness and joy as we move into the future God has for us!





Join in Wednesday Night Dinner and Programming

Wednesday Programming

Each Wednesday night begins with sharing a meal in the Activity Center. Dinner begins at 5:45pm and is \$3/person or \$12/family. Adult Education classes that began in August are starting to wind down, new classes begin the first week of November, others begin in December. The Wednesday evening adult education programming has experienced significant growth. Five classes have been taught on this night, in addition to Confirmation class plus Wednesday WILDS. The church is averaging over 70 people participating on Wednesdays.

Wednesday Evening Activities

Class/Program	Time	Room	Start Date/ End Date	Notes
12 Ordinary Men	6:30pm	133	8/19/15 11/4/15	Last Class 11/4
Hurting Moms, Mending Hearts	6:30 pm	204	8/19/15 11/11/15	No Class 11/4 New Session begins Jan 2016
Confirmation Class	6:30 pm	140	8/19/15 5/25/16	No Class 11/25
Wednesday WILDS	6:30 pm	205	8/19/15 5/25/16	No Session 11/11 & 11/25
Divorce Care	6:30 pm	202	11/4/15 2/17/16	No Class 11/11 & 11/25
Faith Journey	6:30pm	AC	11/4/15 11/18/15	
Sent	6:30 pm	142	12/2/15 12/16/15	
Women of the Bible	6:30pm	133	12/2/15	

Blue Christmas Service

Pain and sorrow can be devastating, particularly during the Christmas Season. In a season which is centered around the expectation of joy, when feelings of guilt, anxiety and depression occur, our hearts are often heavy laden with feelings of failure and bitter disappointment.

On Sunday, December 6th, 2015, at 4 p.m., First United Methodist Church will host a Blue Christmas Service, in the Church Sanctuary. This is a service of hope which is dedicated to anyone who experiences feelings of pain and sorrow during the Christmas season. We know that the greatest healing is a reunion of reconciliation between human beings and God. Therefore, this service of worship has been designed for anyone who has encountered the loss of a job, for persons grieving after the loss of pregnancy, for persons going through divorce, for anyone who is suffering from addiction or substance abuse. This service is for anyone who feels blue during the Christmas season.

It is the church's dearest hope that you will find this service of worship to be therapeutic and comforting and that you will leave renewed and restored under the spiritual powers of the healing Christ. You are cordially invited to this worship service of hope and restoration. Pastor Tina Rees will be delivering the message for this service.



Our Godly Investment

By Rev. David Harriss



The lectionary text for Sunday, November 8th, 2015, comes from Mark 12:28-34. We find ourselves in the fall of 2015 where we look ahead to Charge Conference, stewardship month, and creating ministry budgets for the 2016 fiscal calendar year. To add to this list, the church is also considering a long-term building campaign which will require financial dedication. All of these fall commitments involve financial decisions which will affect the ministries of the church. Lodged in the midst of these daunting financial decisions is the scripture of the *The Widow's Offering*.

This text has often been deliberately misinterpreted in order to excuse ourselves from acts of faithful giving by misrepresenting her act of faithfulness. *She only placed in the offering plate a few cents. That is what I will give as well. After all, Jesus seems to glorify this woman's contribution so he should be happy with whatever I give.* However, upon closer examination of this text, we see Christ's stated words, *she gave everything she had, all she had to live on (NRSV)*. In her sacrificial act of giving, this unnamed woman acts unselfishly in order to give a full investment into the treasury. In this public critique, Jesus exposes the religious leader's hypocrisy and he may very well be exposing our hypocrisy as well.

Earlier within this scripture, Jesus states that the *scribes* (religious leaders during the Greco-Roman Empire) *like to walk around in long robes, like to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, have the best seats in the synagogues and at banquets and that they devour widow's houses.* The exact understanding of what *devouring widow's homes* means is unclear. However, we can interpret this text to mean that religious leaders were engaging in immoral social/economic practices, concluding with removing widows out of their homes. Jesus makes a connection between the scribes' corrupt policies which allow them remove a *widow (chera)* from her home (to take advantage of collecting equity) and the fact that this same widow gave everything she had. In a public setting, Christ contrasts the religious leader's corrupt handling of the widow whom they had vilified and proceeds to honor her by exposing her faithful contribution. These spiritual leaders considered themselves entitled to honor in social settings because they were honored by God. By contrast, Jesus illustrates that the widow's faithful offering was truly honorable.

Is this a text about Jesus' conviction of the religious caste and their way of doing things? Perhaps. Was Christ challenging the church to be more fair and just with the poor? Maybe. However, what is also highly notable is this woman's willingness to invest fully in the Lord. In Ancient Israel, provisions were made so that the poor did not have to give to the treasury. Therefore, she did not give to the treasury from a perspective of duty, obligation, or responsibility. She gave to the treasury with a complete confidence that God would provide for her every need. The scribes gave only a portion *out of their abundance* due to their lack of faith in a provisional God. She gave everything that she had due to her complete faith and confidence in a provisional God.

So what about us? Do we believe in this same provisional God which the widow believed in? Do we believe that God will provide for our every need? Or, are we like the scribes who give only a portion from our abundance? We live in an affluent community. We live in an affluent nation. Yet, we often fail to give our 10th to the Lord because we don't have enough faith in a provisional God. Whatever you invest in the Lord in 2016, give freely with a complete confidence that God will continue to provide you with extravagant abundance.



Cardboard City by Ryan Collins

On Saturday, October 17th, 20 students and 7 adult leaders traveled to Scottsdale Stadium for the annual event hosted by Family Promise of Greater Phoenix, *Cardboard City*. Cardboard City is an event Family Promise coordinates for two purposes: first, it helps Family Promise raise funds for the great work they do to combat family homelessness in Phoenix-metro, and second, it helps raise awareness to the issues and problems facing families in our city—not just for the event participants but for the local news and sponsors.

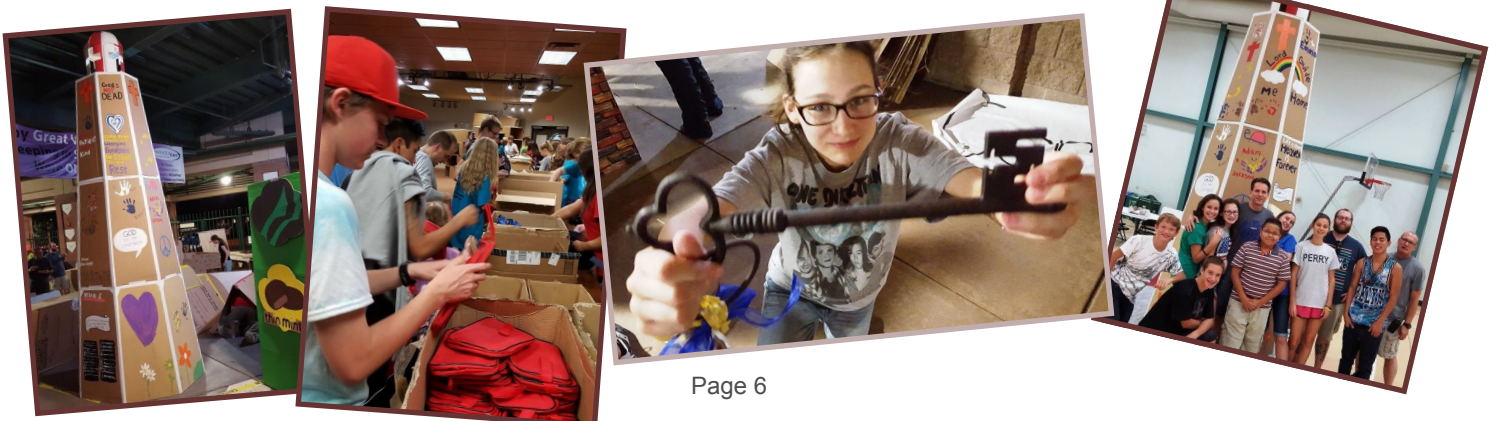


At the event, we learned that there are approximately 4,300 families in Phoenix who are currently suffering from homelessness. Let that number sink in for a bit: 4,300 families. There are 4,300 families who are living out of their cars or without proper shelter, trying to maintain a regular schedule for their children, and trying to keep it all together when they have nothing left. We also learned that Family Promise has one of the highest success rates in helping families regain stability—housing, jobs, school, etc. The issue, in my opinion, is that such a proven organization is only able to help about 100 families a year. With more awareness of the plight of family homelessness complimented with an increase in resources, maybe Family Promise would be able to help more families or at the least raise up other individuals and organizations who are passionate about helping those who most need it.

In raising awareness of family homelessness, Cardboard City gives students and adult leaders an opportunity to experience what life is like sleeping in less-than-ideal conditions—a cardboard box. Ron Mason, the Youth Ministry Chair, built a lighthouse out of cardboard and the students decorated the structure. It was our main identification marker for our group at the event. It also happened to win an award! The students decorated and slept in refrigerator sized boxes after an evening of music from bands, a movie showing of *The Pursuit of Happyness* featuring Will Smith, and also a packing session of 2,000 hygiene kits to be passed out to those suffering from homelessness. Students, leaders, and groups were encouraged to take some of their own hygiene kits home as we departed the event to pass them out to help meet their immediate needs and hope it points them to Family Promise.

The event was fun, but also humbling. The main thing Family Promise wants communicated during Cardboard City is that we only experience a small fraction of what it's like to be homeless. We sleep with pillows and blankets in a box with some luxuries brought with us, in an enclosed area that is protected by Scottsdale police, able to eat a hearty dinner with water bottles available, bathrooms open for our use, coffee and doughnuts in the morning, and the ability to return to a home with a warm shower waiting for us before we return to our daily activities of life. Imagine life at the extreme of Cardboard City without access to any of those privileges—that's reality for 4,300 families and many more individuals in our city. It is sobering...

It is my hope that Cardboard City has helped raise awareness, not just in our city, but in the lives of the students here at our church. We care about so many things that do not matter. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit convict us of what truly matters and may the Spirit empower us to live lives meeting the spiritual and physical needs of others. When we do that—and students can grasp that—then we are living and fulfilling the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).



Family Promise

The Youth did an amazing job of learning about homelessness and how Family Promise works. The agency utilizes 160,000 volunteers across 41 states. It's now our turn to assist to do our part to help the homeless in our own community.

We will be hosting Family Promise 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 four parts. These parts are linens, food donations, dinners and overnights. Each of these segments will need a coordinator. A coordinator will assimilate the volunteers for their respected area. If this is something you MAY be interested in please contact the missions team at 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.

Also, please let us know if you are willing to help with linens during the week when sheets need to be washed due to change of families and returned that same day by 5:00pm.

We are still in need of volunteers for various items in each area.

Last time Family Promise was here we provided



housing and food for 19 people. With your help we are excited to serve more families in November.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

APPLE PIE
BEANS
BREAD
CORN
CRANBERRY SAUCE
GRAVY
HAM
MASHED POTATOES
MILK
PUMPKIN PIE
ROLLS
SQUASH
STUFFING
SWEET POTATOES
TURKEY



Chicken Scratch NY

N S T U F F I N G I R L U N Y
F G K D A E R B V G C A D Q E
A B E A N S I L S O R Q G S K
O G K E I P E L P P A P A E R
N R O C M L W U Q D N G O O U
U E J L X E S M S Y B Z O T T
Z P U M P K I N P I E V N A Z
H B O J I L C F A G R Y F T V
N E M Y K U S L L O R Q K O X
K S A B Y Q T Z H W Y P S P K
T G H S A U Q S O R S J L T A
G M A S H E D P O T A T O E S
Z D L U C W F Z L M U K S E K
C A K C G T H T T I C R N W B
G J X S G R A V Y I E Q I S T

Help Decorate the Sanctuary

Yes! It is that time of year already. Come one, come all and help transform the sanctuary for the holiday season. Anyone can help young, old or in-between. There will be something for all ages. Take a break from shopping and help on Saturday, November 28th from 8am to noon. Refreshments will be served.



Centennial Ornament

The Centennial Team will be selling Christmas Tree Ornaments every Sunday in November on the patio between services. This is a beautiful way to commemorate the 100 years of our church.

Wreath Sales

The Youth are selling holiday wreaths on the patio November 1st and November 8th to support their 2016 summer mission trips. All group and individual sales end on Sunday, November 8th as all final orders must be placed by Monday, November 9th. Please support the youth by purchasing a wreath or centerpiece this holiday season!

Preschool News

www.gilbertpreschool.com



What's been going on?

"Jesus is our Superhero" Fall Festival- On Oct. 22nd in our Activity Center, 60 preschoolers and their entire families enjoyed dinner together and played carnival games. Then our preschoolers performed 2 songs and some bible verses. What an amazing night! Thank you to many preschool alumni for helping out with the games!



What's coming up?

"Preschoolers with Heart" Missions- Our preschoolers and their families packed LOTS of boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They also collected gently used Halloween costumes to donate to Save the Family and will be drawing happy pictures to send to our military! There are so many things that families can do to serve others together!

Christmas Show- "Christmas Lights" will be performed by the preschoolers on Dec. 11 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Our fellow church member, Beth Boesch wrote the songs and will accompany the kids at the show. Please join us!

Some preschool fun:

Try the experiment at this link, using Ivory soap and a microwave-it's amazing!

<http://happyhooligans.ca/ivory-soap-microwave-experiment/>



How can you help?

Share a talent- Do you play an instrument? Make quilts? Teach nutrition? What's a talent you would like to share with our preschoolers? They love to learn new things! Please contact Lora Norris or Lara Fink at 480 892 9166 or at preschool@gilbertpreschool.com to discuss how and when you can share your talent! Thank you!

Church Directory

Everyone did an amazing job scheduling their appointment and we filled the vast majority of the appointment spots.

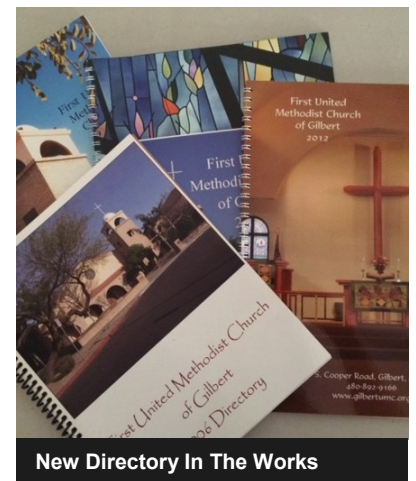
To accommodate winter visitors and additional folks wanting their photos taken, photo sessions have been set up four additional dates. These will be the last ones, please try to make your photo happen!!

Friday, November 6th 1pm—8:30pm
Saturday, November 7th
10am—5:30pm
Friday, December 11th 1pm—8:30pm
Saturday, December 12th
10:00 am—5:30pm

There are four ways to set up your appointment:

- #1 Go to the church website to schedule on-line
- #2 Call the church office at 480-892-9166
- #3 eMail Pam Johnson at pammiejohnson@cox.net
- #4 Call Pam Johnson at 602-818-9787

There is a Business Directory section. If you would like a business card size ad listed in this section drop off a business card at the church office or email a scanned copy of the card to secretary@gilbertumc.org. Cost for the business directory ad is \$25.



New Directory In The Works

Living the Questions

This adult Sunday school class is a small group that explores modern questions about the Christian faith. For example, What were the original intentions of the writers of the scriptures? How and why might the original texts have changed? Which aspects of the original Christian life apply in the 21st Century? What may not? What is the role or calling of Christians in our culture?

Curriculum is written by theology researchers, pastors, lay leaders, teachers, Bible scholars and other contemporary thinkers. We welcome thoughtful and diverse opinions.

Our class meets every Sunday at 11 AM in room 142. For more information, contact Odus or Diana Elliott at 480-786-0055 or dbelliott@msn.com

Where is Your Treasure?

Please turn in your
Commitment Cards on
November 15th.



Meal Support Made Simple



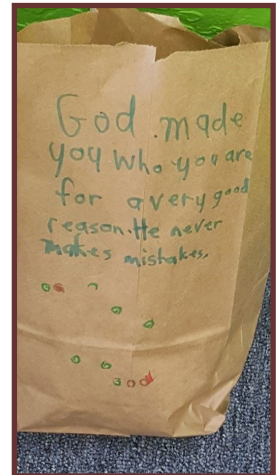
Through Food Tidings, our church provides meals to those in our congregation experiencing an illness, death, unexpected crisis, or birth of a new baby. Food Tidings is an online program that allows us to schedule meals for families in need, listing which days meals are needed, food allergies, etc. Just a reminder that take out food is ok, too! If you would like more information about the program or would like to be involved, contact Vicki Hansen at vlhunter@hotmail.com

Childrens Ministry

Our lives are like puzzles aren't they? We have lots of the pieces, and we keep getting new ones. However, we can't see what the picture is going to look like in the end. Only God sees the finished work. Only He knows how they all fit together. Only He knows His plan for us.

FirstKidz is utilizing the Orange curriculum to share God's word and explore God's love. Together the children, our church and parents are working together to build the puzzle pieces together.

The program provides interactive activities that embrace each child's creativity, inner spirit and imagination. FirstKidz put together blessing bags to share gifts with personal messages.



Program also includes:

Parent Scoop: Monthly 15 minute information sharing. Meets the first Sunday of every month in room 142 from 10:35—10:50 am.

God Time Cards: These are available every week from your child's SGL (Small Group Leader) and are for your child to do alone or as a family. There are four different devotions on each God Time card.

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 Cards: Provides simple CUES throughout the week that remind you to pause and make the most of everyday moments.

Contact Marsh Lehman at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org with any questions about the program.



Help our Church Have Far Reaching Impacts

Missions Team at FUMCG

The Missions Committee meets the second Sunday of each month at 12:30pm in room 142. This is an open meeting and anyone can join the meeting to find out what we are currently working on. If you can't make the meeting you can usually find us outside the Sanctuary providing information on current efforts. This time of year there is so much going on! What is great with so much mission opportunity we can usually find a project or effort that fits your time and interests. Please ask us questions about our needs, let us answer your questions. Sandra & Laura are the committee chairpersons and can always be contacted via email missions@gilbertumc.org.

Watkins Homeless Shelter

This unique, year-round program is designed specifically to serve up to 120 homeless single women as well as up to 20 families every night. As a result of this critical program, this shelter is able to provide the most vulnerable with a warm, safe place to sleep and have a healthy meal.

On the second Saturday of each month our church meets in the church kitchen from 2pm—4pm to prepare a meal and then head to the Watkins Shelter in Phoenix to serve that meal from 5pm—7pm. If you can't make the cooking part you are more than welcome to 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 at the Missions Team kiosk located in the activity center. Huge THANK YOU to the Adult Sunday School Class that are doing the efforts for November 14th but we need volunteers for December 12th.

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 tradesman also needed to help with the bigger repairs like dry wall repairs, roofing, plumbing, carpet, etc.

If you know someone who is in need of assistance, please apply to have their home included in the Gilbert Cares program at www.gilbertcares.org/apply.html. For more information regarding Gilbert Cares, please check out their website at www.gilbertcares.org.

Turkey Drive



We will be receiving donations to purchase Thanksgiving meals for needy families. \$30 buys a box with a full meal. Giving envelopes are in the church pews to raise funds for the meals. You can purchase a specific number of meals or donate any amount towards the Thanksgiving meals. The UMC of Gilbert Missions team is appreciative of all donations. In addition, we will need help delivering the boxes the week of Thanksgiving.

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 TODAY. 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 through 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. The boxes will be Blessed on November 15th.



missions@gilbertumc.org

Blessings of the Animals

Celebrating all of God's Creatures, great and small. Plus, we celebrated those furry and scaly. Thank you for everyone who came out for our church's first Blessing of the Animals.



Beautiful day of

- Pet adoptions
- Micro-chipping
- Pet Immunizations
- 23 Vendors Participated
- Over 80 animals blessed
- Estimating 180 in attendance
- Successful fundraisers
- Greatly attended by community members



Blessings of the Animals ~ October 4, 2015

Look What Your Giving is Helping Us Do!

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

- Allow our Associate Pastor and Invitation & Welcoming Ministry Team to plan and carry out our first ever Blessing of the Animals.
- Allow our Family & Youth Director to work with our Family Ministries Team to plan and carry out our Fall Festival event on Halloween.
- Allow our Senior Pastor and small group/Sunday school leaders to start us on a month long church-wide study and worship emphasis called Treasure, by Jacob Armstrong. Individual devotional books were provided to all interested study participants.
- Allow our pastors, staff and committees to plan and carry out our Annual Church Conference, held in our church sanctuary, where all church members were invited to elect leaders, set pastors' salaries, and hear about our ministry plans for the upcoming year.

Without your gifts, we could not meet 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).



November Celebrations



Birthday

1	Stan Gill Pam Johnson	15	Kay Warg
2	Tiffany Scharff Alex Taj	16	Fred Contreras
4	Karen Orndorff	17	Kendra Diegan Trish Odell
5	Terry Bettis Barbara Valbuena	18	Blanche McDonough
6	Diane Hagenson	19	Paul Perry Alana Uhl
7	Daniel Murphy	21	Stuart Wiemers
8	David Baker	22	Teverly Taylor
9	Margaret Knoll	23	Alyssa Houseman
10	Dan Bose	24	Roy Phelps Katherine Willis
11	Wendy Griffith Jeremy Norris	25	Barbara Burford Kim Harding
12	Melody Alibrandi Lauren Gill Ted Jung Linda Roy-Sanders David Waechter	27	Craig Thompson Jenny Valler
13	Rachel Breyer Jacob Staats	28	David Barclay Kelcey Skinner Laurie Wallace
		29	Courtney Addison
		30	Sharon Kotsonas

Anniversary

5	Kelly & Michelle McClain	26 Years
7	Jim & Laurie Wallace	27 Years
11	Robyn & Clifford Oswald	26 Years
14	Laurel & Dan Redman	5 Years
19	Andy & Teri Martin	17 Years
20	Douglas & Karla Romfo	38 Years
22	Art & Sally Poeske	57 Years
24	Julie & Brandon Rickman	13 Years
27	Ted & Trish Jung	38 Years



Bakers Needed

Contact the church 480-892-9166 if you are willing to bake a few loaves of bread for us to offer our church guests.

Contact Us

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

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

www.firstgilbert.church
info@gilbertumc.org
[http://](http://www.facebook.com/FUMCofgilbert)

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Sunday Morning 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



Church Office Closed
Veterans Day 11/11
Thanksgiving 11/26 & 11/27