



The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

May 2016

Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School June 6th—June 10th



**Registration is Open
On The Church Website**

<http://gilbertumc.org/grow/children/>

then click on VBS

There are two links: one to register and
the second link for payment

So excited to catch the waves with you!!!!

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Sock Hop & Ice Cream Social

May 21st 6pm - 8pm in Activity Center

**Put on your poodle skirt and join the fun!
Games, Music, Pizza & Costume Contest**

RSVP to Family Ministries, Katie Smith 480-489-6599

A Message from Pastor Deborah

“Lord, what do You want to do through me?”



May is a time of transition: of graduation to new levels and moving toward the (hopefully!) more relaxed pace of summer; of celebrating accomplishments and feeling a sadness about leaving old friends behind for new places of study, or first jobs, or even summer breaks. We will recognize the transition of our confirmand class into full membership in the church, and print the names of those graduating at any level, on Sunday May 15. On Sunday May 22 children and youth of First UMC will move up to the next grade level in First Kidz and youth Sunday School. There will be tears among our youngers to leave behind beloved teachers, soon to be replaced (we hope!) by eagerness to return to the “new” group; and eager anticipation but maybe also a little fear for our 6th graders moving into youth group. It is all part of life, as we grow and are transformed into all God would have us be.

Our church is also in a time of transition as we move forward into the fullness of our Building on the Past / Believing in the Future building project. On Sunday April 24 the church gathered and authorized our Building Committee to contract for detailed design and construction documents based on the preliminary concept designs presented in the detail brochure and renderings. We set a budget of \$2.4 million to move forward on the list of projects provided in the detail brochure, based on the idea that we should borrow no more than 2 times the amount pledged to the capital campaign. We authorized our finance team to begin looking at loan packages, not to exceed \$2 million, to present to a later congregational meeting, along with the final plans.

We hope to be ready to come back to the congregation in late fall for approval of both a financing package and detail design. If we are able to get that done, we may begin construction as early as January 2017, and hope to complete it by Fall 2017. Meanwhile First Fruit and earlier contributions to the Building on the Past / Believing in the Future campaign have already reached \$142,470.10 . Thank you all for your generous gifts! These “up front” gifts are especially valuable as they give us leverage to move ahead.

There will be some interesting times ahead, as we figure out the logistics of having our campus under construction. It will be both a challenge and an opportunity to explore new ways of doing things that may have become quite routine.

Please be in prayer: for our graduates, for our confirmands, for those in transitions in life, and for our beloved church, as we move through a major transition in our life together. Pray especially for our building committee, as they continue their work.


Blessings and Peace

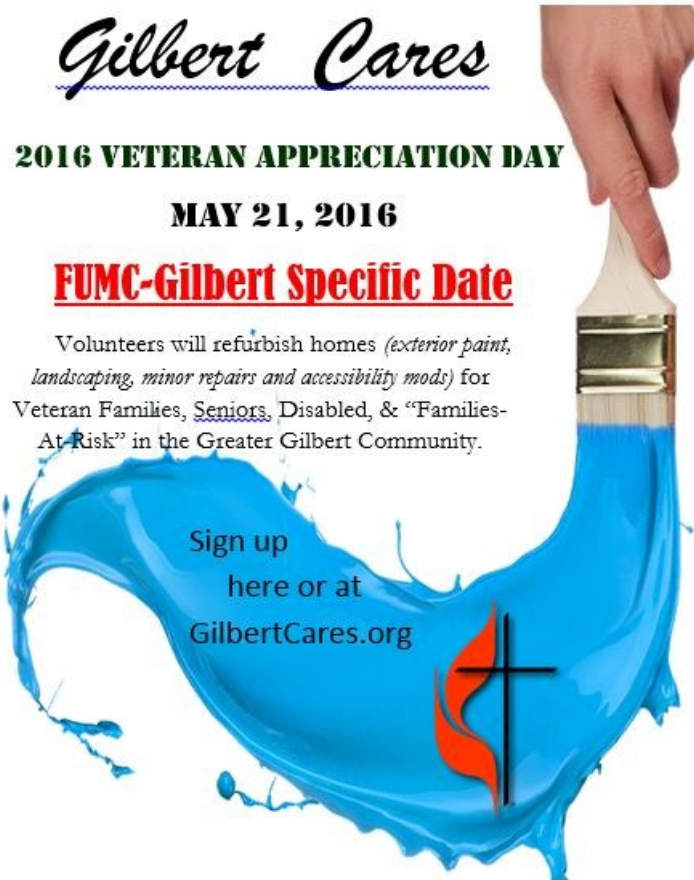
Pastor Deborah






JOIN US! 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH
 Deliver toiletry items, clothing & a meal to Watkins Overflow Shelter
 2pm - 4pm Meal Prepared & Donations Organized
 4:30pm - 7:30pm Meal is delivered and served at Shelter
MISSIONSTEAM@GILBERTUMC.ORG


2016 VETERAN APPRECIATION DAY
MAY 21, 2016
FUMC-Gilbert Specific Date
 Volunteers will refurbish homes (*exterior paint, landscaping, minor repairs and accessibility mods*) for Veteran Families, Seniors, Disabled, & "Families-At-Risk" in the Greater Gilbert Community.
 Sign up here or at GilbertCares.org



Join us as in worship

“Yes, God Can! A Study of Seven Miracles of Jesus”
Worship Services are 8am, 9:30am and 11am

May 1	When The Cupboard Is Bare	John 6:1-13
May 8	When the Waves are Too High	John 6:16-21
May 15	When You're Ready to Be Well	John 9:1-11
May 22	When It's Over	John 11:32-34

WELCOME! NEW MEMBERS



Welcome New Members!

During the month of April, our congregation was blessed with new members joining us here at First UMC Gilbert. Meet our newest members:

Bethany and Michael transfer to our church from Dunbar, West Virginia. Bethany works for Yelp and her hobbies include history and public speaking. Michael works for the Arizona Office of the Auditor General. His hobbies include history, music, gaming and public speaking. Bethany and Michael are currently Small Group Leaders for 4th & 5th graders in addition to being part of the Family Ministry team.



Brian Fischer transfers to our church from Frederick, Maryland. He works for Orbital and his interests include technical theatre and tv production. Brian has a daughter named Maggie. Brian is already lending his skills to our church's AV team.

APRIL 2016



James and Elisa found our church via the internet. They have two daughters Adelyn and Ellie. James is a project manager and Elisa is currently a student. Beautiful baby Adelyn was also baptized on the day they joined!

Upcoming May Weekday Classes & Groups

Tuesday Classes/Groups	Room	Facilitator	Start/End Date
Women's Bible Study: Daniel—Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy. Every Tuesday at 9:00am.	142	Christy Yoder	On going
Wednesday Class, Groups & Fellowship	Room	Facilitator	Start/End Date
Chat & Chew: Bring your own sack lunch and join in fellowship and hymns. Meets every Wednesday at 12:00pm.	133		On going
Wednesday Night Dinner: Join us for a fellowship dinner that begins each Wednesday night at 5:45pm. The meal is \$3/person or \$12/family. Except for the second Wednesday of each month when the church provides the main dish and everyone is asked to bring a side dish. On this evening there isn't a fee but a love offering will be collected. The last dinner of the season is 5/18.	AC	Chris & Craig Thompson	Current—5/18/16
May Dinner plans:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/4: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, nachos, 3 bean salad, ice cream sandwiches. • 5/11: Potluck with Ham • 5/18: Chili and Lasagna with Salad 			
Disciple Bible: 24 week study from Genesis to Revelations starting at 6:30pm.	Office	Molly Hahn	1/13/16—6/29/16
Confirmation Class: 7th Graders and older on the journey to confirmation starting at 6:30pm.	200	Ryan Collins, Gayle Disch & Aryn Peppin	8/19/15—5/11/16
12 Unlikely Heroes: Studying God's work in unexpected ways. Class starts at 6:30pm.	140	Anna Stearns & Sylvia Harris	1/13/16—5/25/16
The Jesus Lifestyle: Based on Jesus' radical teaching from the Sermon on the Mount starting at 6:30pm.	142	Mike Miller	1/13/16—5/25/16
A Way Through the Wilderness: Growing in faith when life is hard, class begins at 6:30pm.	202	David Harriss	3/30/16—5/11/16
PTSD: Support group for those dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Group begins at 6:30pm.	133	Steve Hanson	3/9/16—Ongoing
Thursday Class/Groups	Room	Facilitator	Start/End Date
Christian Women's Fellowship: Meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month, starts at 9:30am.	142	Laura McLeod	5/5/16
Grief Share: Support and encouragement group for those grieving, starts at 6:30pm	140 or 133	Kay Pealstrom, Jan Ayres & Trish Jung	3/10/16—6/9/16
Divorce Care: Support group for those separated, starts at 6:30pm.	201	Adriana Hernandez	3/31/16—6/23/16
Friday Class/Groups	Room	Facilitator	Start/End Date
Alzheimer's Association: Support group for those impacted by a loved one diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Meets the first and third Friday of every month at 1:30pm.	133	Local chapter of Alzheimer Assoc.	5/6/16 & 5/20/16

One Love

By Rev. David J. Harriss

ONE LOVE, ONE BLOOD, ONE LIFE, YOU GOT TO DO WHAT YOU SHOULD, ONE LIFE WITH EACH OTHER, SISTERS, BROTHERS, ONE LIFE BUT WE'RE NOT THE SAME, WE GET TO CARRY EACH OTHER, CARRY EACH OTHER, ONE...LIFE, ONE.



From the CD *Achtung Baby*, these are the closing lyrics from U-2's former number one hit *One*. It is quite the difficult task to achieve a feeling of *oneness* with another person in this world today, isn't it? We have so many lifestyle options, so many differing vocations, so many different social, economic, and political opinions, and so many different religious beliefs. Yet, Jesus took upon this difficult task of praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, that all of humanity might strive to be *one* just as he and The Father were *one*. That somehow, we would all be a part of the fullness of God as we strive to have one love with each other. We see this desire from Jesus when he prays in John 17:20-21 *I'm not praying only for them but also for those who believe in me because of their word. I pray that they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me (NRSV).*

On the 2nd Sunday of May, we celebrate the love of God in Christian homes worldwide. On this special day, we celebrate mothers who have attempted to expose the love of Christ to people of all different ages, races, and nations. The most perfect love which any of us can achieve is a Christ centered love which exposes the work and the love of God in this world. Jesus reminds us of this Godly love when he says, *I've made your name known to them and will continue to make it known to them so that your love for me will be in them, and I myself will be in them (John 17:26).*

Unfortunately, we often find ourselves at odds with each other in this world where Jesus prayed for oneness. We live in a day and age where compassion, mercy, and compromise are often perceived as signs of weakness. Party politicians fight for ultimate power and not compassionate ideas which expose meaningful communal responsibility for the people. Many U.S. Citizens have become more aggressive, defensive, and unapologetic with their dialogue and conversation. Road rage is at an all-time high as people fight to gain and defend their territory on the highways, bi-ways, and the open road. Attitudes of forgiveness and Christian love are often neglected as thoughts of vigilante and retribution have now become prioritized, accepted, and expected.

As children, we often looked to our moms when we felt hurt and defeated. As grown-ups, we still remember the nurture and compassion which our mothers had for us whenever we skinned our knee, felt bullied, or fell away from our circle of friends. This same comfort, healing, and transformation came from Jesus Christ, who knew our sorrows, feels our pain, and comforts and heals us in our time of trial. Therefore, on May 8th, 2016, we celebrate moms, not for their human efforts, accomplishments, or achievements. We celebrate the love of God in this world through mothers who have offered their Christ-centered, transforming love when we needed it the most. Just as Christ called his followers to live out his life and ministry, we are called to emulate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through this *one love*. That is, we witness the love of Christ, which comes through a mother's love, which we are called to emulate in this world. Maybe emulating and exposing this Christ-centered love is possible and evident. We have seen his love through the love of our own mothers.

Preschool News

What's been going on?

Preschool Olympics- BEE a good sport and BEE brave and try new things were our lessons during Preschool Olympics! Parents lead fun games, such as bike racing, high jump, hurdles and relay races. Our Bee mascot sure helped to make it a super fun day!



Preschoolers and bugs

Our preschoolers learned about lifecycles and God's amazing creatures, such as caterpillars, ladybugs and earthworms!

What's coming up?

Registration is still open for the 2016-2017 school year. We have classes for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. Tell a friend! Take a tour! Call for more information! 480 892 9166.

Muffins with Moms

On May 4th and 5th our preschoolers will celebrate their moms with a special breakfast in the courtyard! Parenting preschoolers is a tough job and we sure appreciate these awesome moms!

End of Year Celebration & Potluck Dessert -May 6th 6:30pm in the Sanctuary and Activity Center. Come join us for the show and dessert!

Summer Camps

Enrolled preschoolers may join our 3 Summer camps, held in May. Our camps are called: Amazing Art, Adventures with Blocks and Friendship and Fun. Call the preschool office for more information.

www.gilbertpreschool.com

May Birthdays!

- 1 Grayson & Gwen Vrana
- 2 Joyce Steiner
- 3 Bethany Castle
Mike Clark
Ariel Eastburn
- 4 JoAnn Mannion
Shawna Palmer
Marty Province
- 5 John Bowers
Brian Fischer
Joyce Metcalf
- 9 Stan Gill
Jason Rempel
- 10 Paige Shanks
- 12 Bruce Bettis
Richard Rico
Jennifer St. Pierre
- 13 George Wagner
- 14 Mike Harris
Jim Ramsey
Gunter Scharff
Susan Waechter
- 15 Dan Young
- 16 Garry Disch
- 19 Nyra Vasquez
- 20 Cadence Smith
- 21 Michelle Comstock
Chris Thompson
- 24 Eric Willenbrink
- 25 Allison Bracht
Austin & Emily Masterson
- 26 Eric Schmidt
Alaina Tesarek
Ashley Utton
Grace Wiemers
Jim Wilkins
- 27 Joe Mayne
- 29 Janet Bose
- 30 Ryan Collins
- 30 Michael Crann
Kyle Hanson
- 31 Katie Clark
Jimmie Galvin
Judy Strom



Let's give nine Sundays (June and July) as our gift to our Sunday School (small group leaders)!

These faithful volunteers have served every Sunday since the beginning of August, 2015 without taking a Sunday off! You see them every week, they are the ones that are loving and guiding your children and grandchildren in the classrooms. They are the ones that pray for our children and their families. What a blessing beyond measure God has given us-this gift of our teachers!

So can we say thank you in a way that allows them to worship with their families, take a much needed rest and gear up for August? There are 9 Sundays in June and July and we call them Funday Sundays!

You will be able to share with the children of this congregation. How? Water game Sunday, Giant Game Sunday, Dance Sunday, Tie Dye Sunday, Intro to sports Sunday, Crafts Sunday, Magic Sunday, Brain Game Sunday, Science Sunday, Music Sunday to name a few. You all have talents and interests-now is your time to share it with this generation.

Each Sunday will be an hour and we will have helpers from our volunteers, and you can bring anyone to help you-bring the whole family! You can choose to be indoor or out, and water and other pops provided.

Any questions, comments or if you would like to volunteer contact Marsha Lehman at 480-892-9166 or at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org.

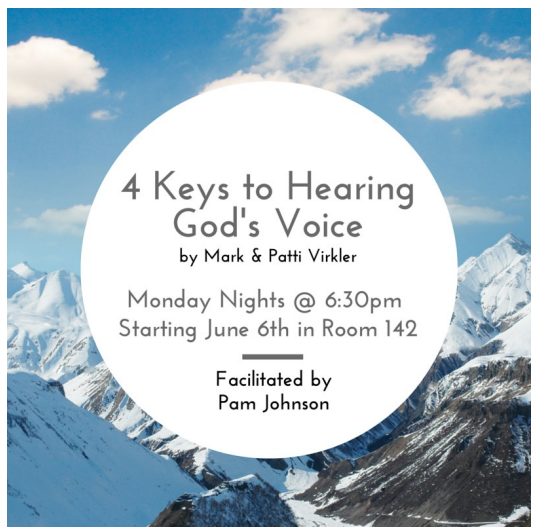
New Class: 4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice

This is a fun, in some ways provocative class (provoking discussion and sharing!), taught by a world-renowned, articulate and entertaining conservative evangelical (former theologian) who has been transformed in spiritual growth by learning to hear God's Voice through an inner awakening to God's presence.

Virkler's amazing and compelling discovery is that God's Voice is at the center of every learning experience. He teaches a process for developing intimacy with God and spiritual healing, providing a Biblical foundation in a "Life Enrichment and Review Notebook" (no charge!) to guide us through a process of opening our ears, minds and hearts to God's Voice from within.

I loved taking this class with Pastor Deborah, (who I hope will join us at some point to share her enthusiasm and incredible insights through this spiritual journey). If you have to miss a week or more due to summer plans, you can get right back on track, or borrow the CD to catch up on missed lessons. See you in Class!

~ Pam Johnson



coffee
Cut-Up

1st Wed of
ea Month 10a-12p
in Office

Join us for coffee,
goodies, conversation
and help us prep for
FIRSTKIDZ and VBS.



Loving Care Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a loving Christian Caring Ministry, where a Stephen Minister is assigned to meet with a Care Receiver who is going through a challenging period of loss or transition where spiritual needs for a Christian friend are present.

The Stephen Minister receives 50 hours of structured training to learn the supportive Christian caring skills needed, including listening and confidentiality for the Care-Receiver to trust in the Lord to walk the path toward healing and growth. In April our church commissioned seven new Stephen Ministers and one new Stephen Leader to join our Pastoral Care ministries.

We hope to provide another training for Stephen Ministers beginning in September. If you are interested in training to become a Stephen Minister, please contact Pam Johnson at 480-813-5465, or if you are experiencing a life challenge and would like to meet with a Stephen Minister once a week for an hour to share your healing journey, please contact Pastor David or Adriana Hernandez at the Church Office at 480-892-9166 for further information.



Mark your calendars!
Our next opportunity to
host Family Promise will
be June 19 - June 26.



Contact DyAnn at dyannob@gmail.com or 480-510-7614 with any questions or to volunteer

THE JESUS LIFESTYLE

By Nicky Gumbel

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount
Wednesdays - 6:30pm - Room 142

CLASS SCHEDULE

	04.20.16	How to stop worrying and start living
04.27.16		<i>How to deal with criticisms</i>
	05.04.16	<i>How to respond to the most challenging words ever spoken</i>
05.11.16		How to make the big decision
	05.18.16	<i>How to spot false prophets</i>
05.25.16		How to build a secure future



Youth News

Ryan Collins, Youth & Family Ministries
youthministry@gilbertumc.org

On Friday, April 22nd, First Gilbert Youth enjoyed a night of packing food at the local Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) site. Feed My Starving Children is a Christian non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of nutrient-rich food to people in developing nations. FMSC was founded in 1987 and to date has reached out to more than 70 countries. Their vision as an organization is to eliminate starvation in children throughout the world by helping to instill compassion in people to hear and respond to the cries of those in need.

It is a humbling experience to learn of the need of children in countries where food is not “expected” like it is here in our own community. To learn from the United Nations that 11 million children—30,000 every day—die from preventable or treatable causes is astounding. If that doesn’t cause us grief and great sadness with an urge to *do something*, then what will? How cold must we be as a community to sit idly by and let children go without food while we throw away nearly \$165 billion dollars worth of food annually in this country? Far be it from me to not provide opportunities for students to spend an hour and a half of their time to save lives.

A group of 16 went to Feed My Starving Children’s packing site in Mesa to pack food that will eventually reach its destination to provide nutrients to children who desperately need it. In total, our packing session packed a total of 80 boxes which provides 17,280 meals—feeding 47 children for an entire year. Our youth, specifically, packed 12 boxes of food, totaling 2,592 meals—feeding 7 kids for an entire year. While we will not personally be handing the meals to the children, we know that we did something to contribute, albeit a small contribution.

Feed My Starving children opened a new permanent facility in Mesa, doubling the size of its old location in Tempe. The new facility is 25,000 square feet compared to its Tempe location of 10,000 square feet. This is the Minnesota-based company’s largest facility. It gladdens my heart to see that the city and people of Phoenix met this company and its vision with such enthusiasm that they now refer to this area as the “crown jewel” of Feed My Starving Children.

It is this enthusiasm that I want students to catch—it's contagious you know. I pray that the students would catch on fire with enthusiasm for God, the Gospel, and a love for others including the least of these, marginalized, and oppressed. Packing some food at Feed My Starving Children is not the end but I hope it is a means by which the students encounter the living God and are radically changed from the inside out.

“Lord, let me not live to be useless!”
- John Wesley, Journal (22 December 1763)

To My Church Family at First United Methodist Church of Gilbert,



Blessing to each of you for what you have meant to me and Patty and to our family over the years. During our time at Gilbert, we have seen a lot and witnessed God's work in outstanding ways. Our family has been through births and baptisms, marriages and death during those years at Gilbert and you have been there to support us.

I personally want to thank all of the pastors I have had the pleasure of working with. They have taken me by the hand, kicking and screaming, to lead me to where I am today. To all of the teachers and lay leaders, each of you has help to mold my life to want to serve others. And thank you to each of the members who attended classes I helped to lead. We grew as a family and we shared God's blessings each week with one another.

You were there for us when our son was deployed to Iraq. More importantly you were there to thank him when he came home. I have had the pleasure of working with so many of you on various committees and I thank you for putting up with me. Thank you to our Sunday school class that many of you have been a part of over the years and for allowing me to be a part of our non-judgmental conversations.

To be a part of Gilbert's first international mission trip to South Africa is something I will never forget. To each of you who supported me, our team and our church with your prayers and funding, I cannot say thank you enough. In my own selfishness, I thought the trip was to help and teach others about the love of God. The value of the experience and lessons they taught us cannot be measured. For whatever time I have here on earth, I will be able to share what God is doing in people's lives in places many cannot imagine. We witnessed His presence every day and I am so thankful you allow me to be a part of that journey.

Most importantly, I want to say thank you to the one-on-one relationships we have had with so many of you. Even though they rarely expanded outside the church campus, I know they are friendship I can always cherish. No matter where God leads us, Gilbert will always be special.

Before leaving sometime in June, I hope to personally thank you to each for your support in this journey. Pray for us as I follow God's call into the ministry and pray for my new church home at Hope UMC in Bullhead City. May God continue to bless First United Methodist Church of Gilbert.



Robin and Patty Lee

Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

- Made possible through the work of many volunteers and staff members the April 10 announcement of the results of our Building on the Past, Believing in the Future capital campaign: pledges from 107 families totaling \$1,012,262!! Thanks to our pastors, other staff members, members of the Capital Campaign team and other volunteers for their hard work to make this happen.
- Allowed our Preschool staff to plan and carry out their annual Preschool Olympics in our Activity Center on April 5 and 6. Fifty-five preschool students and their families, including lots of parents and many younger siblings, were on our campus for the festivities.
- Made possible our monthly Jam Session on 4/15, planned and carried out by our Music Director and attended by 13 people, including musicians who don't attend our church. Everyone is welcome to join in for these sessions by playing an instrument, singing, clapping along, or just enjoying the music.

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 Susan Bowers, Finance Chair (317-730-0162, Financechair@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland, Church Treasurer/Accountant (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org). Any questions regarding setting up on-line giving please contact our Financial Secretary at 480-892-9166, financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org.

The QR code below is for giving via your mobile device. Click on the GIVING link on our website to process your donation on-line. (contact information above).



Giving



MOTHER'S DAY CAKE WALK 05.08.16

IN BETWEEN SERVICES

• IN ACTIVITY CENTER •



*All Proceeds
Benefit Orchard
Africa*

There will be a showing of the Marvin R. Morrison Documentary on Saturday, May 7th, at 2pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a social hour. Any of the Church Family who would like to come to see the Documentary are invited by the June Neely Morrison Family.

Save the Date!

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHTS

POST-GAME CONCERT
MATTHEW WEST



FRIDAY
AUGUST 26



6:40PM

CONCERT IS FREE WITH A TICKET TO
THIS NIGHT'S GAME

POST-GAME

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT INCLUDES:
Discounted Game Tickets
D-backs Player Q&A/Testimonial
MATTHEW WEST Concert

Q&A and concert will start approximately 20 minutes after final out.

A portion of the proceeds from every Faith & Family Night ticket will be donated to Fellowship of Christian Athletes



For more information, please contact:

Ryan Collins
(youthministry@gilbertumc.org)



May Anniversaries

- 12 Nick & Jennifer Karavakis—4yrs
- 15 Dan & Mary Vrana - 34 yrs
- 17 Ryan & Bobbie Collins—8 yrs
- 19 Alan & Nancy Ball - 26 yrs
- 23 Richard & Brenda Rico - 29 yrs
- 24 Joe & Lisa Strazz - 19 yrs
- 25 Tom & Margaret Knoll - 37 yrs
Randy & Cheryl Wedmore - 43 yrs
- 28 Jeff & Kathy Snyder - 22 yrs
- 29 Ron & Jo Goslar - 12 yrs
Jeff & Lisa Kimbrough—17 yrs



Take a Survey for Adult Education

My heart is on the importance of adult education; although we must never forget the children who become the future of our church community, there must be sufficient focus on adult education. The heartbeat of the church is the adult population who must support, lead and grow our children. If one but listens to biblical stories, we hear many of Jesus teaching adults! Adults he obviously entrusted to then teach the children.

As adults, we have power to shape the world. As adult Christians, we are called to set a better course for our world. We are the change agents; we are the role models and people of influence. To teach adults, in my estimation, is to be on the front line of Christian ministry and effective social change.

In this spirit of importance we are asking for your feedback into our church's Adult Education program.

Please complete the survey at the following link or via the QR code provided.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FUMCGAdultEd>



Thank you in advance for your support of the survey and our team.

Anna Stearns
Co-Chair Adult Ministries Team



Summer is just around the corner and we are planning fun events for families and friends of First United Methodist Church.

Mark your calendars. Each evening includes a meal (\$3/person or \$12/family)

