



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert **April 2016**

Join us for a new Sermon Series Beginning April 10th

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

April 10	When You Run Out	John 2:1-10
April 17	When You Need a Miracle	John 4:46-54
April 24	When Enough Is Enough	John 5:1-9
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

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Explorer's Class April 10th
2pm in Activity Center

A Message from Pastor Deborah

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



As we move into the season after Easter, with resurrection hope still fresh in our eyes, I will begin a **new sermon series on April 10 based on seven miracles reported in the gospel of John**. Each of these miracles discloses a different aspect of the providence and power of God, and each offers hope for a difficult moment in life. Plan to be here as we reflect on these signposts for a hopeful life.

We also move into a new phase with our **Building on the Past, Believing in the Future** campaign. If you've been wondering what to expect, please take a moment to look at this timetable and make plans to participate with us in our "next steps":

1. **Commitment Sunday is now past**, and we will soon have a very definite idea of what our congregation is willing to give toward the projects identified in the detail brochure
2. The **finance team is considering whether our annual operating budget can support the debt service (interest) on a mortgage**, should one be approved and obtained. They will complete their work and develop a recommendation to the Ad Board at their next meeting on Thursday April 14.
3. The **Building Committee and architect will host a design review on Sunday, April 17** at 2 pm to answer questions and engage dialogue about the preliminary conceptual design for a new building. Be sure to attend if you have questions or concerns about the conceptual design.
4. The **Administrative Board will meet on April 19** for several purposes related to the campaign and building:
 - a. To review the totals committed to the campaign by pledge
 - b. To review the finance team's recommendation on whether debt service (interest) can be supported from operating funds, and to what extent
 - c. To develop a recommendation to present to a church conference with regard to whether our church should seek a mortgage, and what the maximum amount should be
 - d. Based on (b) and (c) develop a recommendation to present to the church conference with regard to which projects should be undertaken now and how they should be funded
5. There will be a **Church Conference Sunday April 24 at 2 pm** to:
 - a. Approve the preliminary conceptual design presented by the building committee
 - b. Approve the preliminary financial plans recommended by the Administrative Board
 - c. Approve the expenditure of funds by the building committee to complete the design and develop detailed plans

NOTE: This meeting will NOT authorize a mortgage or final building plans, both of which will require an additional church conference for approval

If all the cards fall just right, by year end we will be ready to have the third church conference, approve the final building and financing plans, and hire contractors who have been screened by the building committee. We could begin construction as early as January or February 2017.

Join us on this journey of hope.
Blessings
Pastor Deborah



Upcoming April 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.	AC	Chris & Craig Thompson	On going
<p>April's Dinner plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/6: Chicken Pot Pie, salad, rolls and cookies • 4/13: Potluck with Tamale Pie • 4/20: Poppy seed chicken, the rest of menu is TBD • 4/27: Pizza and 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 Extraordinary Women: How God shaped women of the bible and what He wants to do with you starting at 6:30pm.	140	Anna Stearns & Sylvia Harris	1/13/16—3/23/16
The Jesus Lifestyle: Based on Jesus' radical teaching from the Sermon on the Mount starting at 6:30pm.	142	Robin Lee	1/13/16—2/24/16
5 Love Languages of Singles: Improve your relationships by learning your love language. Class starts at 6:30pm.	201	Adriana Hernandez	3/30/16—4/27/16
A Way Through the Wilderness: Growing in faith when life is hard, class begins at 6:30pm.	202	David Harriss	2/17/16—3/16/16
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	4/7/16
Grief Share: Support and encouragement group for those grieving, starts at 6:30pm	140 or 133	Kay Pealstrom & Trish Jung & Jan Ayres	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.	4/1/16 & 4/15/16



Pivotal Moments

By Rev. David J. Harriss

John 21:1-19

In Dr. Harville Hendrix book *Getting the Love You Want*, he presents the case that all of humanity seeks loving relationships in order to resolve any unfinished business which we had in our previous relationships. That is, you and I seek out people with whom we can *finish* these unresolved areas in our lives. According to this analogy, you and I are continuous quest for resolution in order to establish peace and harmony within ourselves and with one another.



This same analogy could be said for Peter, who made a weak exit from the Johannine Gospel after denying Jesus Christ three times before the cock crowed. Do you think that Peter had any unfinished business to resolve with Jesus Christ following this exit? What type of resolution would need to take place in order for forgiveness and harmony to transpire?

The lectionary text for the 2nd Sunday of April is John 21:1-19. This Johannine scripture may be a secondary text which is not privy to the original Gospel. Yet, in lieu of this text, we would always wonder, *What happened between Peter and Jesus Christ? Was there forgiveness? Was there restoration between Peter and our Lord? We need this damage control text in order to witness a relentless forgiveness and resolution which only Jesus Christ can generate.*

I have always said that *Jesus always appears in our lives when our nets are empty*. This was the case with Peter and the other disciples when they were fishing on the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee). Jesus called to the disciples and asked, *Children have you caught anything to eat?* To which they responded, *No*. So, Jesus gives them instruction to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they followed Christ's instruction, they caught an enormous amount of fish. Then, the revelation of Christ's resurrected presence was realized.

In the final scene of this text, we experience an intimate and pivotal moment between Jesus and Peter. Christ asks Peter *Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?* There has been a lot of debate and discussion referring to what *these* actually means. I believe that Jesus is asking *Do you love me more than these (other disciples love me)?* What is interesting to me, is the actual Greek verbatim which is used in this sentence. Christ asks *Do you love (agapao) me more than these?* Agape is a Greek root word which is often used to describe the loving relationship between God and Jesus Christ. So in essence, Jesus is asking Peter if he would offer a divine, God-like, covenant love. To which Peter responds, *Lord, you know that I love (phileo) you*. Phileo is descriptive of a friendly or an affectionate love, not quite the deep, intimate, and meaningful love which Christ was seeking. Unwavering in his quest for a desired response, Jesus asks a second time, *Simon son of John, do you love (agapeo) me?* To which Peter gives a redundant statement, *Lord, you know that I love (phileo) you*. Jesus is still seeking a deeper love from Peter; yet, Peter has not given into this idea yet. To which, Jesus asks a third time, *Simon, Son of John, do you love (agapao) me?* Finally Peter removes his deep defenses, *Lord, you know everything; you know I love (agapao) you*. Here is the resolution which Jesus, Peter, and Christians everywhere were seeking. When you and I give the totality of our hearts to Jesus, in total disregard of status, security, and stability, it liberates every one of us. I think that this was a pivotal point for Peter and it will be a pivotal point for Christians everywhere when we are able to say, *I love (agapao) you Jesus, in total disregard of what that deep love might bring to me and my community.*

Jesus final words to Peter expose to him that he will be crucified just as Christ was crucified. After this verbal exchange Christ says, *Follow me*. If we knew that offering a deep, meaningful love to Jesus would be our death sentence, would we still follow him? Christ calls us to that pivotal moment where nothing stands between us and our Lord and Savior.



Preschool News

What's been going on?

Preschoolers with Heart- Our preschoolers and families collected Pictures and Pencils in February to send to an African school with one of our Preschool Moms. Maybe we will be pen-pals with them!

Dr. Seuss Family Night- Preschool families gathered in the preschool rooms to learn and play together. What great family time! It sure is fun (and funny) to ask a preschooler to come up with rhyming words!

What's coming up?

Preschool Olympics- On April 5 and 6, our preschoolers will work hard to learn new activities and show good sportsmanship at our Preschool Olympics. The hurdles will be an amazing challenge, the plasma cars will be racing around the Activity Center and the Team Relay Race will be inspiring! We are all on GOD's TEAM!

April 17th - ICE CREAM DAY!- Treat your family to Dairy Queen near downtown Gilbert at 437 N. Gilbert Rd. Mention our church and/or preschool and we will receive a percentage of the proceeds! Yum!



Gardening with Preschoolers-

Have you checked out the Children's Garden in the courtyard? We are now growing Sunflowers! This month we are also raising caterpillars, observing and playing with ladybugs and touching earth worms! What fun!

Registration- There are a few openings in our Christian, academic preschool classes for the 2016-2017 school year. We have classes for 2, 3, and 4/5 year olds. Please **Tell a friend** and help us spread the word! If you are interested, please contact Lora Norris or Lara Fink at 480 892 9166.



Happy Easter from our Preschoolers

Questions? Contact one of the Directors, Lora Norris or Lara Fink 480-892-9166. We'd love to visit with you and even give you a tour of the preschool area!

www.gilbertpreschool.com



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) and is in the Activity Center.

Give the gift of 9!

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.

Isn't that a great opportunity!!!!!! Sign up before the slots are all filled. Starting April 10 there will be a signup sheet out on the patio and I sure hope to see you there!

Surfs up at First United Methodist Church of Gilbert!

Join us at the Surf Shack as for a week as we walk along the beach. June 6-10 will find us Learning Bible stories about our awesome God, doing beach themed crafts, singing and dancing to high energy songs, crazy science experiments, and taking part in whacky games, both wet and dry! Who could do all these cool things without snacks?

So catch the wave of enthusiasm and sign up NOW! Starting April 4 you can both sign up and pay online. Ages 3yrs – 6th grade. \$20 per child, and a family of three or more will pay no more than \$60. Scholarships are available. *Because of the bank costs, there will be no refunds once you register.



May 22 is Promotion Sunday in FIRSTKIDZ.

This is the Sunday that we help those children who are moving from one level to the next. We will meet the new teachers, have an explanation of what the coming year will be and especially for the little ones, a chance to get to know others in the class and their new small group leaders. We will send out more information as we get nearer to the date.

On May 15 say YES! to children and Youth. Look for us on the patio between services-you will be so glad you did!



Marsha Lehman

Director of Children Ministries
childrensministry@gilbertumc.org

Sock Hop & Ice Cream Social

Ice Scream, you scream, we all scream for poodle skirts and rolled up jeans!



May 21st 6pm—8pm Activity Center

C'mon everybody, we are gonna have some fun! Relive the days when records played and Elvis was number one. Let's Bop till we drop and end it with a cherry on top! The evening of fun includes pizza, chips, drinks and of course ice cream! Games, costume contest and prizes too.

Christian History

Beginning on April 3, the Christian History class will be studying the book, Born of a Woman, A Bishop Rethinks the Virgin Birth and the Treatment of Women by a Male Dominated Church by Bishop John Shelby Spong.

This book examines the doctrine of the Virgin birth, tracing its development in the early Christian church and revealing its legacy on our contemporary attitudes toward women and female sexuality. Bishop Spong is a retired Episcopal bishop and best-selling author. His books are often challenging to traditional Christian beliefs. We will examine our own beliefs about these issues, sometimes totaling disagreeing with him, but respecting a different viewpoint.

We invite others to join our journey as we learn about the history of our Christian faith. Come and see. We meet at 9:30 in room 133.

Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

- Began two new support groups for our church family as well as others in the community. PTSD Support meets on Wednesday evenings, and Grief Share meets on Thursday evenings. A total of 7 people attended the first meetings of these groups.
- Made possible the Celebrate brunch in the courtyard on March 6 where 350 people ate breakfast burritos and bacon and egg sandwiches and learned more about our Building n the Past, Believing in the Future capital campaign through the life sized layout of the proposed project. Thanks to our pastors, other staff members, volunteers, our Confirmation Class and members of the Capital Campaign team for their hard work to make this happen.
- Allowed our Family Ministry & Youth Director, along with our Family Ministry Team and other volunteers, to plan and carry out our annual spring picnic at the church, held on March 20 and attended by 120 people.

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).

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. If you have any questions about on-line giving options, or if you need help setting up your on-line giving, please contact our Financial Secretary, MaryEllen Chuk (480-892-9166, financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland (contact information above).



Giving



Mission Team Annual Back Pack Drive

Goal for 2016: 500 Back Packs

Stay tuned for more information on how YOU can make a difference in the life of a student.

Building on the Past / Believing in the Future

Building Design Review

Join our building committee and architect Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary for a review of the concept design for our new building. This will be a time for sharing information and getting questions answered before we gather for the official business of approving the preliminary concept design and authorizing our building committee to move forward to develop more detailed plans. All are welcomed. Please encourage people with questions to bring them into this conversation.

Please join us for an
All Church Conference
Sunday April 24, 2016
2:00 p.m.

For the following purposes:

1. To approve the preliminary design for the new Building on the Past / Believing in the Future building
2. To approve the preliminary financial plans for funding the new building
3. To approve the expenditure of funds to develop detailed architectural and construction plans for the new building.

All persons who call First UMC home are welcomed. Those who are members are allowed to vote on these matters.

Memorial Plaques Now Available

Check out the new memorial plaque display in the Healing Garden! We now have a place to memorialize loved ones with an engraved granite plaque, just like the plaques on the face of our columbarium. We now have a beautiful way to give those whose remains rest somewhere else, a place in the peace of our healing garden.



If you have any questions about the columbarium or the garden, please call John Bowers at (480) 471-6567 or jfbowers@alumni.rice.edu.

April Birthday Celebrations

2 Emma Stazz	Matt Ramirez
Victoria Whittington	Ernestine Tesarek
3 Leroy Johnson	13 Kelsey Bayer
4 Liam Comstock	James Kimbrough
Christina Tesarek	Phyllis Foutz
Drew Wiemers	Ava La Rose
5 Jessica Utton	Johnny Schmidt
Freddie Vasquez	16 Jeff Snyder
7 Dana Corban	17 Debbie Anderson
Kelly McClain	19 Samantha Foote
8 Agnes Begley	Joe Norris
Gloria Eggen	Andy Sovchik
Jordan McClain	20 Mary Ann Kolmer
Alexis Winkler	John Lawson
10 Jean Langdon	Patty Lee
11 Austin Curran	21 Lara Fink
Dennis Hazelrigg	22 Jan Grindle
Carol Scharff	23 Jonathan Chuk
12 Christine Bayer	Diane Gardner
Stephanie Helland	Matthew Olson



April Anniversary

4 Gilbert & Aryn Peppin - 12 yrs
5 Tim & Junette West - 30 yrs
13 Ray & Gerri Crawley - 20 yrs
15 Robert & Margaret DeBolt - 24 yrs
17 Glen & Jan Compton - 12 yrs
Scott & Sini Ouellette - 10 yrs
20 Paul & Susan Prosser - 19 yrs
Dirk & Patty Smith - 3 yrs
21 Allan & Nancy Peters - 54 yrs
22 Ray & Jenny Vallera - 21 yrs
25 Joe & Lora Norris - 24 yrs
26 Mike & Ashley West - 13 yrs
30 Mike & Keela Clark - 27 yrs



UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF GILBERT

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