



The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

July 2016

Welcome to our new Staff Team Members

Rev. Gwen Mader, Janelle Chiricuzio & Adrienne Mesa



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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)



A Message from Pastor Deborah

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



There are many signs of summer: end of school parties, graduations, swim lessons, vacations. Nothing says summer like a June day when the temperature hovers around 118! On Facebook some of you reported higher temps in your back yards, or on your patios on Sunday June 19. Our music director, outside to barbeque for Father's Day, reported that even the tops of his feet were burning!

Some folks have to plow through this season, repairing our power lines, restoring our cable connections, laying black top, replacing our car batteries. When I see them laboring in the afternoon sun I say a prayer for each of them, and for their beloved families, who share them with us so that we have what we need.

But those of us who are able tend to slow down, pull back, and seek cooler places to inhabit. Sometimes in the living room (when the a/c is working); sometimes in the tall pines, sometimes beside the waters of the pool, or a lake, or the ocean.

Projects to clean the garage or paint the house or refinish the kitchen cabinets are set aside for another season. It's a great time to binge watch your favorite shows, or check out the far reaches of Netflix, or read the longest book you've ever read.

In this season, when we are pre-occupied with other things, it is especially easy to fall out of the habits that nourish our spirits. The shape of our lives is adjusted so significantly that sometimes we forget to leave space for the One who created all seasons; maker of cool nights and scorching days and everything in between, author of lakes and oceans and all living things.

We may not want to lug our heavy study Bibles onto the airplane; or get up early to have quiet time with God in July and August, but there are some ways we can fruitfully adjust our spiritual practice for this season of rest and recreation:

- Make the summer a time for worshiping and praying with the Psalms. Get a pocket sized New Testament with the Psalms, or get an app with the Bible and bookmark the Psalms. (Biblegateway.com can be accessed from any device with internet). When you get on a plane, or train, or into the car, pull it out and page through the Psalms for something that expresses your spirit in this moment, offering that Psalm as a prayer and praise to God.
- Get to church as often as you can throughout July. We'll have the a/c on and cold water to cool you down. Our topic through the first few weeks is "Summer with the Psalms." We'll talk about re-creation, renewal, and refreshment and have a little fun along the way.
- When you find yourself in a beautiful place that takes your breath away, breathe a prayer of thanksgiving to the One who made that place. *"The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it"* (Psalm 24:1) Give thanks that you have the means to be there. *I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds (Psalm 9:1)* Ask God to help you receive all he would give to you at this time, in this place.
- Find quiet spaces where you can sit and *"Be still and know that I am God."* (Psalm 46:10) Say that under your breath, as a mantra. *"Be still and know that I am."* *"Be still and know."* *"Be still."* *"Be."* You will find your spirit quieted and peace will be yours.
- If you are unable to get away on vacation, stop at mealtimes to notice what a gift it is to have food, and give thanks. Ask God for new eyes to see what he has done and is doing wherever you are, and whatever you are doing.

And wherever you are, whenever you are there, may you be refreshed, renewed, and re-created, for all that God has for you to do and be.

Blessings and peace
Pastor Deborah

2016 Annual Conference



Highlights of Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Desert Southwest Conference was held June 16 – 19 at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale, AZ. Our lay members attending were Kristy Bottesch and Philip Teserak.

They will give a report on their impressions on July 10 in all services of worship. Also attending: Robin Lee and Pastors Deborah, David and Tina.



Here are a few highlights:

- Robin Lee was approved as a Local Pastor after completing Licensing School and received his Local Pastor's License
- Pastor David was received into our conference as a full member after a three year "probationary" period
- A \$5,000 check from the Rev. Dan and Dr. Polly Turner completed our goal of raising \$2,000,000 dollars to eliminate malaria through the Imagine No Malaria Campaign. 200,000 lives were saved through your generosity!
- The Mission Project netted gifts of 1,552 \$25 grocery gift cards with recipes for youth aging out of the foster care system. A total of \$63,657 was given for this cause. Thanks for your generous support!
- Our conference voted to endorse the candidacy of the Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo Frank for the episcopal office of bishop. A bishop will be elected during the Western Jurisdictional Conference to be held here in July.
- We celebrated the 60 year anniversary of the ordination of women (Ask Deborah to share her "I am Woman, Hear me Preach!" shirt)
- We celebrated the ministry of our deacons
- Our bishop gave an impassioned impromptu speech about full inclusion, after which the conference voted for a nondiscrimination resolution that says the conference will not participate in or conduct judicial procedures related to the denomination's prohibitions against LGBTQ persons. Further information can be found at <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/two-conferences-vote-for-full-inclusion-of-lgbtq>
- The link to the Resolution for Full Inclusivity and related Q&A published by Bishop Hoshibata can be found at www.desertsouthwestconference.org/Inclusivity_Resolution_QA.pdf.
- We spent considerable time in "holy huddles" to discuss a new initiative to revitalize our churches
- We heard from Jim Griffith, Church Coach and Consultant, on Saturday morning encouraging us toward new ways of inviting new people into our faith communities
- Pastor Deborah and our new associate, the Rev. Gwen Mader, were appointed to serve at First UMC of Gilbert for the coming year.

New "Let's Connect" Program by Lori Wiemers Director of Welcome and Connection Volunteer@gilbertumc.org

If you ever stopped at the Ask Me Anything Table, thank you!! That program will be discontinued (what else could we do with Pastor David leaving); however, we have a new program!! Starting the 2nd Sunday in August (8/14) "**Let's Connect**" will begin. This is for **EVERYONE** in the church. We want to reach out and invite **EVERYONE** to stop in and **Connect**. No matter how long you have been attending this church or if this is your first time here—we would love to see you. We will **Connect** in between the services for a short period of time.

The purpose of **Connecting** with one another is to help each other find your place here at First United Methodist Church of Gilbert. Each time we meet, we will have a different topic/area to talk about. Come to the topic that interests you, come to all of them, we want to **Connect**!!



Welcome New Staff Team Members!

Welcome our New Associate Pastor

The Staff Parish Relations Committee and Pastor Deborah invite you to welcome our new associate, the Rev. Gwen Mader, who begins her ministry among us on July 1, and will be with us in worship for the first time on July 3. Rev. Mader has been in ministry her entire life, but responded to the call to ordained ministry more recently, and was ordained elder in the Dakotas Conference in 2009. She has been serving a three point charge (serving three churches) in South Dakota.



Rev Mader obtained both a BA and MA at Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tennessee. In her early years of ministry she was a Christian Educator and served as Volunteer Coordinator for the Salvation Army in Nashville. That launched her into a lifelong vocation of ministry. She has a wealth of experience across a broad spectrum of areas of service. Her ministry experience includes serving as Children's Director in Sioux Falls, SD, Minister of Education / Youth Minister in Sioux Falls, Education Coordinator for K-12 Christian Education in Madison, South Dakota; Singles Coordinator at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood Kansas, and Director of Worship Ministries at Church of the Resurrection. She was a part of Church of the Resurrection during the period when it grew from a few hundred participants to over 10,000.

Her passions are Discipleship, Evangelism, and Biblical preaching and teaching. Her primary spiritual gifts are discernment, encouragement, teaching, leadership, and evangelism. She describes herself as a combination of people / structured and task/structured.

Gwen will initially assume leadership in the areas of ministry David has been leading. These include Caring Ministries (includes Pastoral Care Administration); Adult Ministries; Missions; and Invitation and Welcoming.

Gwen is married to Rod Mader. Rod most recently worked in facilities management for the Britton School system, and before that in facilities management at First UMC in Sioux Falls, SD. He has also owned and managed a dairy, and worked for an airline in customer service. Right now Rod is looking for full time employment in their new location.

The two have family in this area and have visited the desert often – even in summer! They tired of the challenges of winter in South Dakota, and purchased a home in Mesa to serve as an eventual retirement home. They are getting to use it much sooner than they imagined!

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will host a reception for Gwen and her husband after the 8 and 9:30 services on Sunday, July 3. Please stop by to greet and welcome them warmly.

Meet Our Interim Director of Children's Ministries

The Staff Parish Relations Committee and Pastor Deborah are pleased to introduce you to Janelle Chiricuzio, Interim Director of Children's Ministries. Janelle has a long history of involvement in Children's Ministries at First UMC. She has served a number of years on our Children's Ministry Team and as its leader. She has been lead teacher for our youngest Sunday School children, our preschoolers, and has worked in our nursery. Over the last number of months Janelle had become deeply involved in the overall administration of our First Kidz and Wednesday Wilds programs.



When it became apparent that our Director Marsha Lehman, would not be able to manage the impending VBS program because of illness, Janelle graciously agreed, with no notice at all, to serve as interim under Marsha's direction. One day later, when news came of Marsha's passing, she assumed all the responsibilities of this position. She led us through our VBS program with grace and a wonderful, positive attitude, and made sure that First Kidz never missed a step.

Please take a moment to greet Janelle and thank her for her generous, faithful response to a very challenging moment in our life together. Then thank God for ensuring that our children are in good hands, all the time! If you love children and have a calling to minister with them, this would be the time to step forward and offer your willing hands to help this ministry through this transition.

Meet Our New Preschool Co-Director

Pastor Deborah and the Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to introduce Adrienne Mesa as the new FUMCG Preschool co-director working with Lora Norris beginning immediately. Adrienne has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood Education Endorsement. She has been an integral part of our Preschool's growth and success since 2008. Many FUMCG members have had children in her class and have experienced her kind and caring ways. Adrienne and her husband are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church where they attend weekly with their three daughters ages 12, 14 and 15. Please help us congratulate Adrienne in her new role.



We are so grateful for the past 12+ years Lara Fink has served the Preschool ministry and their families. Her valuable contributions and loving dedication has been a blessing to our church and the community we serve. We pray for God's blessings upon Lara and her family during this transition.

New Beginnings By Rev. Gwen Mader

*Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness.
Isaiah 43:19 (CEB)*



It is never easy to leave a faith community and move to a new community. There is the tender way that saying goodbye grips your heart. Yet how blessed you are when you have something that is hard to say goodbye to! You turn, face the direction God is leading you, and move forward with confidence that God will be with you, wherever you go.

I am continually amazed at the goodness of God to once again lead us to a place where there are people to love, stories to share, memories to make, and God's Kingdom to bring into the lives of those around us. God's hand is always evident, and we feel again the blessing that being here will one day again make it hard to say goodbye.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your associate pastor. I am excited and ready to work alongside of you to make new disciples that change the world.

In the coming days I look forward to meeting you and your family and learning about your faith story. I am interested in hearing about the things you are passionate about, and the things that have made you who you are today. I also would like to hear the difficult challenges you may be facing at this time, and how you feel the church can bring even greater hope and light to those challenges. It is my prayer that we will become a close team supporting each other with love and grace.

Please hold my husband Rod and I in your prayers as we come to make our way into the life of this church.

With Christ's love,
Pastor Gwen

Living the Questions Sunday School

Have you ever been at a loss when someone has suffered a tragedy? Have you found yourself fumbling for the right things to say or do to help a person experiencing a crisis? Have you had the uneasy feeling that you might have done or said just the wrong thing? If so, you are invited to join us on July 17. Starting then, our 11 AM Adult Sunday School class will be piloting a 7 session course developed by Steven's Ministries.

It uses the book "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart," written by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, founder and director of Stephen Ministries. The book and course are based on the author's personal experience and research with over 4,000 individuals. We will learn practical suggestions about what to do and say—and what not to do/say-- for people who are in the midst of a crisis. The purpose is to guide us in bringing Christ's loving care to hurting people. The class meets for an hour and a half in Room 142 at 11 AM, weekly. For more information, contact Joyce Steiner at 480 822-9733.





Small Group Leaders

There are no words to truly express our appreciation to the men and women who each Sunday take time out of their busy week to share the good news with our children. You are a light of Christ in this world and because you allowed Christ to work through you we can see the difference in our children. Thank You!

Our Wonderful Teachers for FirstKIDZ 2015—2016 (9:30 Sunday School):

3's and 4's year olds: Janelle Chiricuzio and Jenny Vallera

Kindergarten and 1st grade: Sarah Metz, Jennifer Karavakis and Janet Bose

2nd and 3rd grade: Debbie Williams and Ursula Barrie

4th and 5th grade: Michael and Bethany Castle and Kelcey Skinner

6th grade: Jim and Dorinda Johns

Large Group: Phil Rees and Garin Campbell

Set Design and Building: Abigail Roberts

Our Wonderful Teachers for KIDZWorship 2015-2016 (11am Sunday School):

Dan and Brittany Murphy

All it takes sometimes to get a fire going is a spark or willingness to let God use you! If you feel like God is calling you to help teach our kids about Christ please get in contact with Janelle Chiricuzio at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org. It takes many different parts of the church to build disciples.

We are pleased that most of the teachers will be returning for the FirstKidz 2016-2017 program. However, we do have opportunities to serve available. We are looking for additional Small Group Leaders for FirstKIDZ at 9:30am and KIDZWorship at 11am.

Orange Fall Sessions Start August 7th

We are excited to start a new session of FirstKIDZ and KIDZWorship beginning August 7th. Both Sunday School programs utilize the Orange Curriculum. This curriculum approaches teaching God's Love in partnership with the church and the parents. Each month has a super fun theme. For August the themes are Blast Off and Weird Science. The preschoolers will go on a blast off mission to learn about how God loves them! Our older kids (Kindergarten—6th Grade) will get to learn that they can trust God no matter what! What a fun way to learn about Obedience ~ through weird science.



Our Fall routine for FirstKIDZ is for all kids to go to their classrooms and check in and then as a group they go to the large group. Classrooms for FirstKIDZ are 3's & 4's Room 146, K/1st Grade Room 144, 2nd/3rd Grade Room 203, 4th/5th Grade Room 205 and 6th Grade Room 204. For KIDZWorship all kids are together in room 205. Drop off and pick up are in room 205.

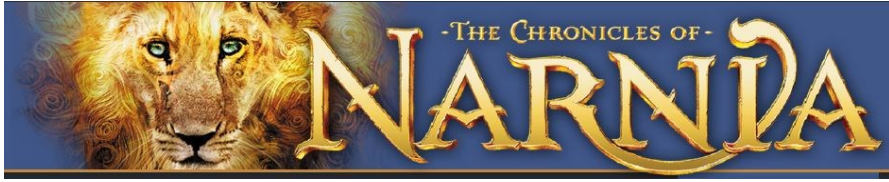
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Wednesday Wilds Classes Start Back Up August 17th

Wednesday Wilds is our programming for children from nursery to 6th grade. There is a dinner in the Activity Center at 5:45pm followed by programming. Children nursery age are in room 130 that starts at 6:30pm.

Our Kindergarten through 3rd graders will explore the fruits of the spirit in our traditional Wednesday Wilds night class lead by Lori Wilkins. This will begin at 6:30 in Room 205.



New this Fall: A book club for kids based on the series by C.S. Lewis: The Chronicles of Narnia. This is for students in grade 4-6. The class will begin at 6:30pm each Wednesday and located in Room 203. The first book to be read is "The Lion the Witch

and the Wardrobe". If you don't have a copy of the book please contact Janelle at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org. We have extra copies!

Mingus Mountain Camp

We had five kids attend this year's Elementary camp in Mingus Mountain. They had a fun week in the beautiful mountains, hiking, playing games, growing in their faith, and more. Thank you to the church for helping to send our kids to camp! Our church does offer camper scholarships to those who are interested in going. If you are interested in next years camps please talk with one of church leaders for more information. Information about Mingus Mountain Camps can be found at <http://desertsouthwestconference.org/camping-and-retreat-ministries>.



VBS 2016 Surf Shack

For a week our campus was full of music, laughter, and shining faces. The week was filled with the wonderful life lessons of God Shares, God Loves, God Creates, God Sends and God Calms.

We had 150 kids and over 50 volunteers all learning and sharing about God's love! Thank you to everyone who helped out to make this a great week!



July Anniversaries!

2	Steven & Jennifer Burks	22 years	22	Mike & Linda Crawford	55 years
	Joe Taylor & Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	46 years		Joyce & Dwight Metcalf	27 years
4	Bill & Lori Van Dam	40 years	23	Pam & Leroy Johnson	28 years
9	Bob & Mary Frederick	34 years	24	Richard & Judie Eastburn	1 year
13	Larry & Marlene Davis	42 years	26	Ernie & Anita Broughton	41 years
	Paul & Kay Warg	48 years		Bobby & Sarah Metz	19 years
15	Jim & Diana Ramsey	43 years		Daniel & Brittainy Murphy	8 years
	Chris & Sandra Toney	9 years	28	Kevin & Beth Boesch	15 years
17	Matthew & Sharon Poeske	1 year		Norm & Dorothy Haskett	43 years





Youth News

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

From June 19-24, six junior high students and two adult leaders (myself included) embarked on a journey to Cortez, CO to serve with YouthWorks, a missions organization. For many of the students, this was their first mission trip, and even for some it was their first time away from parents/family for an extended time. All of them, however, went into the trip unsure of what to expect.

When we first arrived in Cortez, we discovered that we would be ministering primarily with children and seniors—both spectrums of life. The students were to plan and carry out a Kids Club, which is like a VBS but an entire summer long. Our group was there for the first week so we had the special task of kickstarting Kids Club with such great momentum that would carry the rest of the weeks. The first day we only had 8 children, but at the end of the week we had 22 kids with the YouthWorks leaders saying there would be more.

For Kids Club, our students planned storytelling, songs, a discovery station, crafts, and games that centered on the story of Ruth from the Old Testament and “kindness.” After planning the days, the students would then run the Kids Club with just adult supervision—it was truly student-led! I was very proud to see our students step up and take such strong leadership roles.

On Tuesday and Thursday, our group went to Vista Grande Inn, the local nursing home. Our students didn’t know what to expect. In fact, one student said, “I didn’t know what to expect. I thought we would go there and talk to people who were half asleep.” Instead, the students “played ball” (hit balloons with the residents in wheelchairs helping them with hand-eye coordination), had water pistol fights, jousted in wheelchairs, blew bubbles, took residents on walks, painted nails, and had conversations. Going into the nursing home was very intimidating for our group of students, but they walked out with smiles and an abundance of joy.

The theme for the week was *First Love*, based off of 1 John 4:19 which says, “We love because he loved us first.” The students engaged morning devotionals and nightly large group gatherings looking at what this truly means, not just in our love for God but our love for others also. Because God first loved us unconditionally and with such an unrivaled depth of love, we are able to love others. I am glad to report that this past week the Junior High students did just that. They loved others the way God loves us. They shared the personal love God has for each of them and paid it forward to the children and seniors they came in contact with.

Thank you for your generous support throughout our fundraising year. Your support helped enable six students experience God’s love and serve others *because* of God’s love. Next up is Senior High! Please be in prayer for that mission trip. Grace and Peace,
Ryan Collins

Got Questions? Check Out the Alpha Course!

It is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed setting. The 10 week course introduces Jesus and his way of life, answering questions like these: Who is Jesus? How does God guide us? Does God heal today? Why does God allow suffering? No question is too simple or hostile. Non-denominational. Atheists and agnostics are welcomed.



Free Introductory Dinner

Wednesday August 3rd 6:30pm in the Activity Center. Ongoing classes every Wednesday beginning August 10 at 5:45pm. Please let us know you need child care for August 3. It will be provided beginning August 10.

If you have taken the course and are willing to be a helper please let Pastor Deborah know.

ABC's for Preschool Families:

A Always read a bedtime story... and a mid-morning story, when the kids aren't too tired!

If they want to read the same story over and over, then follow their lead and go for it! If they want to "read" the book and it's not completely accurate, it's ok! Let them pretend read!

"As your young child listens to stories, he learns that all good stories have a beginning, middle, and end. He also learns to predict, based on the book cover, what the story will be about, as well as what might happen next or how the story will end. Young children learn that there are characters in stories and a particular setting (where and when it takes place). Your child will enjoy comparing the characters in a book to him/herself and to other real life people he knows." Adapted from www.pbs.org.

B Bible Stories and Verses are important!

Invest in a children's bible. There are many to choose from at the Christian book stores. Choose one with lots of pictures. That will make it interesting and memorable for the preschoolers. Choose one bible verse a week to talk about and memorize. Our church offers one a month through the Sunday School program, or choose one that is meaningful to your family. Here are some ideas to get you started:

"Love your neighbor as you love yourself" Luke 10:27b

"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with JOY" Psalm 126:3

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." James 1:17

C Compare Objects and Investigate!

Three and four-year-olds approach the world with great curiosity and use their imaginations to help understand it. Hands-on explorations help them to separate reality from fantasy. Encourage preschoolers to ask and answer questions about how, why, and what if...?

Find some fun Inquiry based Science activities at: <http://www.education.com/activity/preschool/science/>
For some family/parenting topics: <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting>

Parent/Tot classes for children turning 2 by Aug. 31st are available for either Wednesdays or Thursdays. Please check out our website at www.gilbertpreschool.com or call 480-892-9166 for more info. We hope you are enjoying your summer! If your preschool aged child is enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year, then you will receive a welcome packet in the mail early this month. If you have any questions about the preschool, please email preschool@gilbertumc.org or call 480 892 9166. The co-directors; Lora Norris & Adrienne Mesa would love to speak with you!



Meet Our New Members

During the 9:30am service on July 26th four new church members reaffirmed their faith and joined our church. Please welcome them!

Betty Larson is transferring her membership from Trinity UMC in Phoenix. She is currently retired and her hobbies and interests include gardening, books, movies, cooking and camping.

Jeff and Linda Martell are transferring their membership from Asbury United Methodist Church in Iowa. They have two sons John and James. Linda is a librarian for Mesa Public Schools. She enjoys cycling, reading, sewing and crafts. Jeff is a commercial loan analyst for Royal Neighbors of America. He enjoys cycling and golf.

Elaina Harwick is transferring her membership from Saginaw United Methodist Church in Texas. She is currently retired and loves to read mysteries.





Alzheimer's Association

Meets the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month at 1:30pm in room 133. This is a support group for those impacted by a loved one who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. This group is open to anyone in the community. It is facilitated by representatives of the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare is a support group for those separated or divorced. This is a 13 week program with weekly videos, discussion points and supportive Christian input into healing and moving forward with your life. Class is facilitated by Adriana Hernandez. Class begins Thursday, July 14th at 6:30pm in room 200. The class will meet weekly in that room through October 6th. Workbook fee is \$15, scholarships are available.

Emotional Wellness Group

Do you have traumatic thoughts that pop up in your dreams or even when you are awake? Do you have concerns with anxiety or uncontrollable thoughts about an event in your life you have experienced or witnessed? Consider attending the Emotional Wellness group.

This support group is open to anyone in our community. It is facilitated by Steve Hanson and Beth Flores. The group meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in room 133.

GriefShare

When a loved one joins the Lord, it is not an easy path for those left behind. A journey which is an agonizing, overwhelming, confusing journey that one has no choice but to travel. After the services, when those who mourn with you are gone, you are still in a fog from which there seems no escape. There is help and there is hope.

GriefShare is 13 sessions of faith-centered meetings lighting a way for you to help heal. God is with you, and there is a way to make it out of the fog and darkness, into His light. Healing with others that now belong to that unwelcome group who are as lost as you feel.

Facilitators Trish Jung and Kay Pealstrom initiate the Fall GriefShare weekly sessions that begin August 27, 2016 on Saturday mornings at 9:30am in room 133. GriefShare was formulated to accommodate starts at any time during the sessions. Join as we lean on Christ and each other through the pain into healing. Workbook fee is \$15, scholarships are available.

Hurting Moms, Mending Hearts

As Hurting Moms we experience pain caused by our child's destructive decisions, disengaging from family, and disrespecting the values we have taught them. Hurting Moms is a support group designed to be a safe place where Moms can come together to share with one another while they work through a process that will bring them freedom and healing from their pain.

Begin the mending process by joining our 10 week class. This class will meet on Wednesday nights starting August 17th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm through October 19, 2016 in Room 201. Book cost is \$20 and can be purchased in class. Free nursery will be provided. For more information contact: Sharon Kotsonas at sharonkotsonas@aol.com or 480-223-7863.



The *Christian History Sunday school* class will begin a new study on July 10. We will be reading and discussing Jesus Before the Gospels by Bart D. Ehrman. In this book the role of three different types of memory will help us learn how the earliest Christians remembered, changed and invented their stories of the Savior. Research from the fields of psychology, anthropology, and sociology is explored to find how oral traditions and group memories affected the written word which we call the Gospels. Come join us as we find another way to think about these sacred texts and our views of history. We meet on Sundays at 9:30 am in Room 133. There will be no class on Sunday, July 3. New explorers are always welcome!

Second Floor Renewal is now Complete!

THANK YOU TESAREK FAMILY!

We are grateful to the Tesarek family, especially Christina and Philip, for the renovation of room 201, our upstairs “adult” classroom. Christina and Philip removed the wallpaper, prepared walls, and painted the room. They cleaned out the “stuff” that had accumulated over years of service. A new flat screen television was donated and hung. A new large white board was purchased and mounted to the wall. It is a new space. Please say thank you for their outstanding efforts!

The completion of this room marks the end of a complete renovation of the 2nd floor classrooms. Last year the junior high room was painted and renovated by Brianna Wiemers as a girl scout Silver project. Brianna was assisted by her entire family. Earlier the rooms used for our children’s ministries primarily were painted in bright colors and new round tables were installed.

If you haven’t seen any of it, take a stroll up the stairs and check it out (and think about how awesome it will be when we have a functional elevator to help us reach it all!)

Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

- Made possible through the work of Pastor David, along with other staff members, the Friday Night Live Karaoke Night on June 10. Fun for singers and audience members of all ages, around 15 people attended this fellowship event. Make plans now to attend the July Friday Night Live event on 7/22, advertised elsewhere in this Evangel.
- Allowed Ryan Collins, along with parent chaperones and volunteers, to plan and carry out our Junior High Mission Trip to Colorado June 19-25. 6 youth and 2 adult chaperones made the trip, an eye-opening, life-changing experience for all who went.
- Made possible through the work of Marsha Lehman before she passed, and Janelle Chiricuzio, Interim Director of Children’s Ministry, along with lots of volunteers and other staff members, our week-long Vacation Bible School program, Surf Shack. Almost 150 children attended, many from outside our church. Check out the awesome pictures on our church Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FUMCofgilbert. If you don’t have a Facebook account, you can still visit the church’s page at this address, or by clicking on the Facebook logo elsewhere in this Evangel or at the bottom of our website home page, www.firstgilbert.church. If you have a Facebook account, friend us to get the latest news every day.

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 (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. Or 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, Taleen Carpenter (480-892-9166, financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).



Giving



Family Promise

By Dyann O'Brien

We are hosting Family Promise August 7th—14th. Your help is greatly appreciated! This will be the last Family Promise week for 2016. Sign up to volunteer.

We will need people to volunteer to

- Make a meal
- Set up rooms for our guest
- Breakdown rooms
- Laundry
- Purchase food
- Overnight at church
- Provide an activity

Contact Dyann with any questions or to offer help at dyannob@gmail.com.

In June, we provided housing and meals for four families each night. Thank you to all the volunteers and to those who donated supplies. This ministry can not be completed with out all this help.

Mark your calendar!
Our next opportunity to
host Family Promise will
be August 7th—14th.



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

July Birthdays!

1 Sean Comstock	12 Sydney Haugen	19 Odus Elliott	26 Hannah Breyer
2 Pat Baker	Xavier Ouellette	20 Nickie Bonenfant	Bob Stearns
Leo Ouellette	Chris Toney	Carlie Riedel	27 Ben Bouchie
Kelly Sanders	David Yoder	21 Steven Breedlove	Garin Campbell
3 Sini Ouellette	13 Kate Turnrose	Tyler Houseman	Shirley Wilkowski
4 Gene Foutz	14 Margo Doss	22 Ron Dalton	28 Teri Martin
8 Norma Burns	Trevor Lang	Linda McKinley	
Jason Toney	Alma Riedel	Lane Ramirez	
9 Jillian Barclay	15 Zanna Lawson	23 Joe Strazz	
Kamryn Bayer	Grant Lawson	24 Tom Bristow	
Madison Lutes	16 David Ryland	Julie Curran	
10 Sandra Campbell	Brianna Wiemers	Bill Van Dam	
11 Jeni Hemingson	17 Joe Breyer	25 Reagan Campbell	
Dallas Salak	Ruth Heer		



Friday Night Live: Slip & Slide Kickball

Christmas in July on Friday July 8th has been cancelled due to scheduling and busy summer plans! However, we'd like to invite you to our Slip 'n Slide Kickball night on Friday July 22nd from 6:00-8:00pm. Dinner will be grilled burgers and hot dogs for \$3 a person/\$12 a family. We hope to see you there!

