



The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

August 2016

Join us in August for the Wisdom of Wall-E Series

August 5th	Perseverance	James 1:2-3
August 14th	Hang on for the Sake of Love	1 Corinthians 13
August 21st	Beware the Easy Chair	Matthew 16:24-26
August 28th	Fight the Good Fight	1 Timothy 6:11-12

Sunday Morning Worship

8:00am & 9:30am Traditional

11:00am Contemporary

**Nursery Care is provided for all three worship services
(7:45am-12:30pm)**

In This Issue

- Message from Pastor Deborah
- Message from Pastor Gwen
- Wednesday Night Plans
- Adult Sunday School
- Support Groups for Your Season
- Contribute to FUMCG Advent Devotional
- Family Promise
- Orchard Africa 2017 Mission Trip

REACH THE PEAK

◀◀ **FAMILY CAMP** ▶▶

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2016

TO REGISTER OR FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT RYAN
YOUTHMINISTRY@GILBERTUMC.ORG // 480.892.9166

@MINGUS MOUNTAIN

ADULTS: \$80 / UNDER 18 IS FREE

A Message from Pastor Deborah

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



It's hard to believe that schools in Arizona begin their school year the first week of August! We've tried to align our fall startup to the same calendar the last few years, booting up our regular Sunday School and Wednesday evening programs early in August instead of waiting until mid September, after Labor Day. That means that NOW is the time to think about where God is calling you to plug in for spiritual growth, service, and sustenance through the fall semester! There is much to consider!

On Wednesdays a variety of programs are available to help you better understand our faith and how we are to respond to it. The Alpha Course will kick off first, with a Celebration Dinner on August 3. If you have taken Alpha before, we hope you will come and bring a guest who might benefit from and atmosphere in which all questions are welcomed. We can still use a few table hosts to facilitate discussion throughout the course. It is a basic introduction to faith, but those of us who have been through it repeatedly find something to bless every time we experience it. Bring a friend who is doubting, or one who is an agnostic, or an atheist, and we will help them feel at home. If you have not ever taken it, come let us give you a free dinner. It is a pleasant evening and you can decide if you will come back again.

A number of other classes for children and adults, along with confirmation for youth in grades 7 and up, begin August 17. On August 10, as we restart our tradition of having Wednesday dinner together, you will have a chance to hear about the faith journey of Ryan Collins, who serves as our Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Your children and youth are welcome to attend with you this night, although the nursery will be open for very young children.

The sermon series in August will have a light hearted but serious feel for this transition time as we use the movie Wall-E to illuminate each message. Even the young ones among us should be able to connect with Wall-E's determination, his unyielding love, his willingness to lay everything down for the greater good.

Our Leadership / Nominations team will simultaneously begin working to identify those called into various aspects of ministry and issue invitations to serve on our ministry and administrative teams. Let Pastor Deborah know if you are feeling a calling toward a particular area of service.

We will restart Children's Worship at 11:00 am in a new format: Children Kindergarten through 6th grade will sign in in the lobby and spend the first part of the service worshipping with us. They will then go out to KIDZWorship, where they will spend time learning about worship and sacraments.

Consistently working in the background our Building Committee will begin working to finalize plans for the new building and renovations to the office, music area, and nursery, and will begin seeking financing for the loans that will be necessary to move forward with the construction.

Whew! There are always so many wonderful things happening here, as we seek to lead people of all ages on the journey to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus. There is a place for you – a place for you to grow your faith, and a place for you to put that faith into action. We are here to help you find that place.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Deborah

Leaving Your Mark on the World

“So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, you should do it all for God’s glory.” 1 Corinthians 10:31 (CEB)



I recently discovered that scientists have found that people carry millions of microorganisms all the time on the inner and outer surfaces of our bodies, including bacteria, fungi, and viruses. According to microbial ecologist James Meadow, “A microscopic cloud that’s really hard to see” surrounds you right now. In an article entitled *“Wherever You Go, Your Personal Cloud of Microbes Follows”* Meadows was quoted to say, “We’re kind of spilling our microbial companions all over our houses and our offices and the people around us.” Sounds kind of unsanitary doesn’t it! We can’t get away from it, though. We do this by touch, by sharing objects, and by simply being present in a room. Wherever we go and whatever we do we are leaving an imprint of our bacterial identity. We leave evidence of where we have been and who we have contacted every day of our lives.

We have a spiritual cloud that follows us as well. It includes our words and our actions. Every good word we speak and every good deed we perform will follow us now and into eternity. The opposite is also true. The things we say and the things we do leave an imprint on the lives of those around us. People know we have been in a place because of the residual effects of our being there. Is it important to ask ourselves: Are people lifted up by our words or taken down? Did I make the world a better place or leave it gasping for breath? Did I speak life and hope into someone’s heart, or did I create discouragement?

The Apostle Paul reminds us of this in Ephesians 4:29 (CEB), *“Don’t let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say.”*

Sometimes our imprints aren’t noticed right away. Sometimes our imprints are recognized after we have left this world. Sometimes they are recognized generations later. But count on this -- our mark has been left. Think about it. What kind of an identifying imprint are you leaving as you go through each day?

With Christ’s love,
Pastor Gwen

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 meet in the Worship Center lobby to be signed in. The kids will participate in the Contemporary service listening and singing to the Praise Band. After a time of songs and prayer, they will go to room 205 for a bible lesson. Parents can pick up and sign out their kids from room 205.



Through the Wardrobe

Wednesday Night Fellowship Programming 2016

Journey With Us

On Wednesday nights we are going “Through the Wardrobe”, opening up and moving into new possibilities for growth. Whether you are looking to take a class, have meaningful spiritual discussions, are seeking to spend time in the presence of God in our sacred space, or are looking to make a difference through the gift of music you will find opportunities to do that at Wednesday Night Fellowship.

Join in wherever you feel comfortable!

Wednesday Night Fellowship Schedule

August 3rd

- Alpha Dinner 6:30pm in Activity Center
- Chancel Choir begins

August 10th

- Dinner at 5:45 for everyone (\$3/person or \$12/family)
- Faith Journey Message at 6:30 for everyone in the Sanctuary Message provided by Ryan Collins, Youth & Family Ministry Director.
- Alpha Class meets at 6:30pm in the Activity Center
- For this one night only, Chancel Choir rehearsal will begin at 7:30pm

August 17th

- Dinner at 5:45 for everyone (\$3/person or \$12/family)
- Classes begin! See schedule for room numbers, classes begin at 6:30pm

Classes continue from August 17th—December 21st. The only exception is that there will be no dinner or classes on Nov 23rd.

Main Entre Menu for

August & September

August 10th - Angus & Veggie Burgers

August 17th— Orchard Africa Hosting

Baked Potato Bar

August 24th—Rotisserie Chicken

August 31st—Asian Night

September 7th—Sandwiches/Sub Night

September 14th— Potluck Night

featuring Meatloaf

September 21st—Orchard Africa Hosting

Spaghetti Dinner

September 28th—Mexican Cuisine

Please note: the menu may change, but this is the starting point.

On potluck nights, please bring a side dish or dessert. There is no fee on potluck night.

Confirmation Class



On **Wednesday Evenings** starting on August 17th, we will gather for Confirmation Class from 6:30-7:30pm in room 200. This is a 9-month program for any and all 7th through 12th grade students who have not yet been confirmed.

During Confirmation students learn the basic tenets of the orthodox Christian faith as passed down from scripture and Christian history, as well as United Methodist specific doctrine and church practice. In addition to Confirmation classes, potential Confirmands participate in a number of "field trips" throughout the year to different worship experiences (Greek Orthodox Monastery, Jewish Synagogue, African Methodist Episcopal Church, etc.).

For more information or to register your student, please contact Ryan at youthministry@gilbertumc.org

If you want to know more about Ryan, come and listen to him speak about his faith journey on August 10th. Dinner is at 5:45pm, Ryan's message is at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.



Excited for the Fall Plans

The Wednesday evening activities are expanding this fall season. We are happy to introduce a new book club to the line up! An overview of what is being offered is provided below. If you have any questions or would like to let us know your child will be participating please contact Janelle at 480-892-9166 or at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org.

Nursery

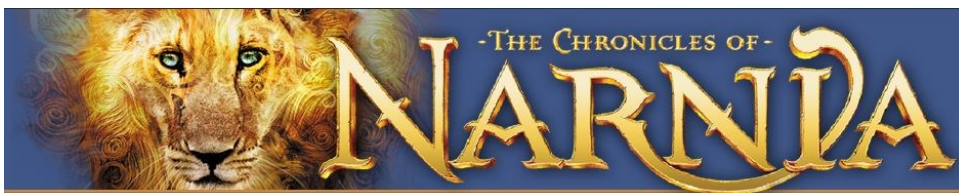
Your little ones up to kindergarten are welcome to the nursery. This is a safe place where your kiddo can play with others and hear about God's love for them.

Fruit of the Spirit

Our Pre-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.



Book Club



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, we have extra copies!

Classes for Adults

A lot of thought goes into selecting classes for Wednesday nights that will appeal to a wide range of people. Please feel free to contact the facilitator of each class directly if you have any questions. If you are interested in taking a class (or classes) please complete a sign up form on the next page. Signing up beforehand is not a requirement but it is very helpful in assuring there are ample supplies available.

All classes begin on Wednesday August 17th and all start at 6:30pm, unless otherwise noted.

Alpha

This 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? Why does God allow suffering? No question is too simple or hostile. Non-denominational. Atheists and agnostics are welcomed. This class does have a slightly different schedule than the others. It begins Wednesday August 3rd 6:30pm in the Activity Center. Ongoing classes every Wednesday beginning August 10 at 5:45pm. Please let us know if you need child care for August 3. It will be provided beginning August 10. Mike Miller is facilitating, class is 8/3-10/12.

Christianity and Islam

Christianity and Islam are the world's two largest and most evangelistic religions and with modern advances in technology, we are more and more aware of one another. However, Christians and Muslims have historically been largely uninformed about one another and our understanding has often been biased by popular mythology and media headlines.

The two religions share many common beliefs and practices but the combination of cultural differences and the hostilities of governments and liberation movements have often fostered hatred instead of tolerance. Clearly, the more that we understand one another, the more likely we are to find ways to cooperate or, at least, coexist in the world. Class will be on Wednesday evenings starting August 17th, 6:30pm in room 140. It is a 13-week study. Class is being facilitated by Sylvia Harris. Class dates are 8/17 to 11/9.

Disciple Bible Study

This class is a continuation from the Spring Session. It will continue to be facilitated by Molly Hahn but will now meet in room 142. Class is scheduled to meet weekly from August 17th—October 5th. Disciples is a study of the bible, book by book.

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.

Serving from the Heart

Does your ministry match who God created you to be? In this seven week journey you will discover your intended role in the body of Christ. This study will help you assess your spiritual gifts, talents and abilities, individuality, dreams, passions and experiences—all adding up to an enhanced capacity to serve God and neighbor. This class will be taught by Rev. Gwen Mader in room 133, 8/17-9/28.

Classes for Adults Continued

Surviving the Holidays—Divorce Care

This class is a two hour class that focuses on the difficulties of managing through the holidays after a divorce. The class will be offered on Wednesday, December 7th from 6:30pm—8:30pm. Facilitator Adriana Hernandez.

The Life You've Always Wanted

What does true spiritual life really look like? How is it achieved? This eight week class will focus on the spiritual practices for ordinary people. It is based on the book by John Ortberg and will be taught by Rev Gwen Mader. Come and "morph" with us! Class is set for 10/5—11/30 in room 133.

Meet Our Interim Dinner

Coordinator Sandy Campbell

Eating at church on Wednesday nights is very much a Methodist tradition! We are hugely grateful to Chris and Craig Thompson for coordinating Wednesday night dinners for us. Their dedication and awesome kitchen powers have provided many many wonderful meals.



Well, this Summer they are on the road enjoying life in much cooler places than here. In the interim, we are thrilled that Sandy Campbell has agreed to serve as interim coordinator for the Wednesday night meals through October. Welcome her, help her and give thanks for her many talents.

Fall Fellowship Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____ eMail _____

Class Name:

- Alpha (Begins August 3rd—10/12)
- Christianity and Islam (8/17-11/9)
- Hurting Moms, Healing Hearts (8/17-10/19)
- Surviving the Holidays Divorce Care (one time class on 12/7/16)
- Serving from the Heart (8/17-9/28)
- The Life You've Always Wanted (Begins 10/5-11/30)

Childcare will be available starting August 10th:

- Yes, I do! If yes, please provide name and age of child(ren):

Please cut out form and return to office. You will receive confirmation of your sign up! Or you can fill it out, take a picture of the completed form and text to 602-380-8243. There is also a form on the church website that can be completed www.firstgilbert.church

Music Opportunities

On Wednesday nights there are a couple of opportunities to share and develop your music gifts.

Wesleyan Bells:

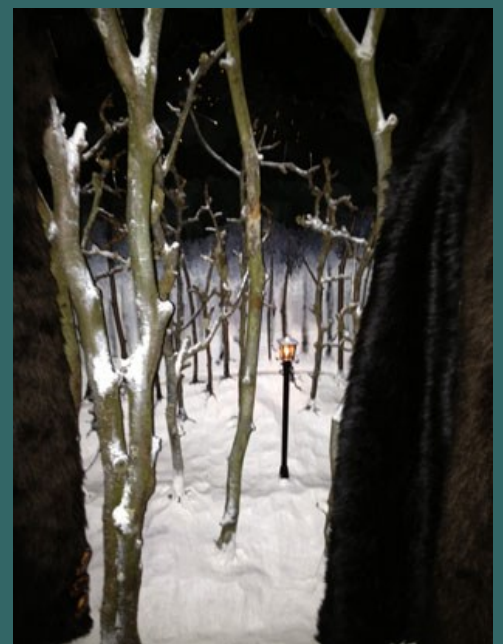
Rehearsal for the Wesleyan Bells which perform on special music dates throughout the year in the traditional services will begin on August 24th. This rehearsal is at 5:30pm-6:30pm in room 130.

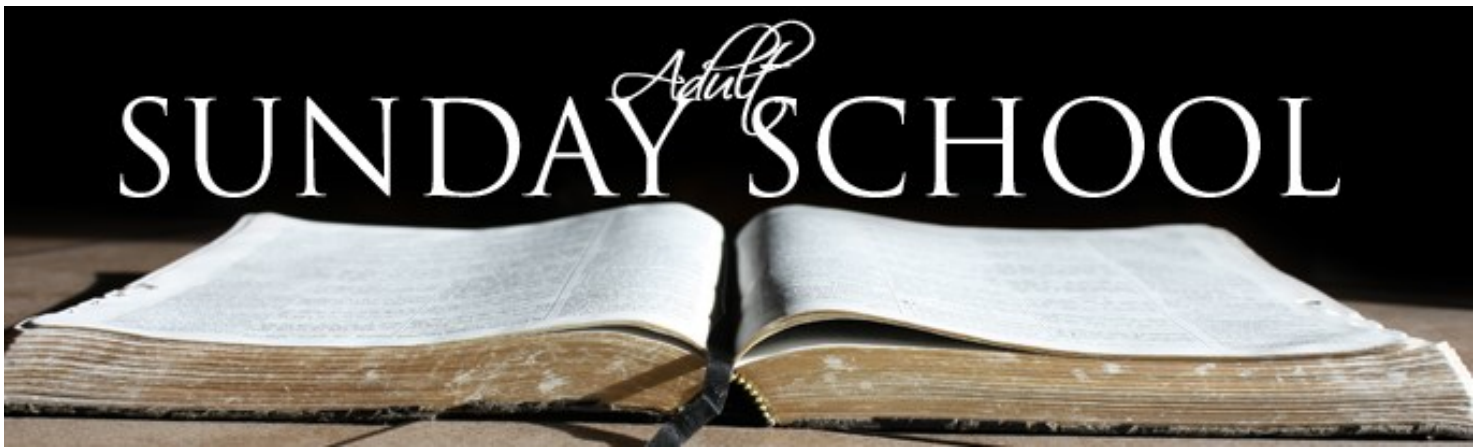
Chancel Choir:

Rehearsal is in the Sanctuary each Wednesday 7pm-8:30pm. This is rehearsal for the 8am and 9:30am traditional services each Sunday.

Rehearsals for the Chancel Choir begin Wednesday, August 3rd. The start date for the Wesleyan Bells is Aug 24th.

If you have any interest to join either group please contact Marty Province at 480-892-9166





Classes for Adults on Sunday Morning

Our church is happy to offer Sunday School classes for adults at 8:15am, 9:30am and 11:00am. The topics vary but the current study topics are provided below. All are welcome! These groups are changing and growing each week as new folks join and share in the discussion.

815 Sunday School

This class is led by Ed Stressman and will resume on August 7th. The class is held in room 133 at 8:15am. The first study will be “If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat” by John Ortberg.

Christian History

The **Christian History Sunday school** began a new study on July 10. We are 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. New explorers are always welcome!

Homebuilders Class

This class is at 9:30am in room 142. The class watches various video presentations from speakers such as Andy Stanley, John Ortberg and Dennis Prager. Contact for this class is Dan Vrana.

Faith, Family & Fearless Conversations

Beginning August 7, this class will begin Andy Stanley’s six-week study entitled Guardrails: Avoiding Regrets in Your Life. This class is at 9:30am in room 202. Contact for this class is Vicki Hanson.

Living the Questions

This class explores the meaning of faith in the 21st century. Guest facilitator beginning July 17th - Joyce Steiner. The class is piloting a 7 session course developed by Stephen 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. This class is at 11am in room 142. Contact for this class is Diana Elliott.

Gray Matters

Class resumes on August 7th with the “Life Rules” study by Andy Stanley. The study focuses on God’s set of life rules that can improve current relationships and mend broken ones. Every game requires parameters, and in this lifelong journey toward heaven, it’s never too late to learn, relearn, and follow the rules God clearly outlines for His people...because they set you on the course for success! Class meets at 11am in room 201. Contact for this class is Garin Campbell.



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.

Chat 'n Chew

We are a caring group of individuals who are mostly retired. All are welcome to bring a sack lunch and enjoy a great time of fellowship, laughter, singing and various speakers and monthly birthday celebrations. Come and nurture your spirit with us every Wednesday at noon in room 133. Contact is June Morrison.

Christian Women's Fellowship

The Christian Women's Fellowship is an opportunity to meet and socialize with other women in a Christian atmosphere of sharing, caring and loving. Our agenda includes sharing concerns, celebrations and having devotions. This group meets the first Thursday of every month at 9:30am in room 142. Contact is Laura McLeod.

Divorce Care

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.

Grief Share

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.

Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

- Made possible through the work of our Family Ministry team and Ryan Collins, the Friday Night Slip'n Slide Kickball Night on July 22. 65 people attended this fun fellowship event.
- Allowed Ryan Collins, along with parent chaperones and volunteers, to plan and carry out our Senior High Mission Trip to California July 3-10. 27 youth and adult chaperones made the trip. This was the largest number of Senior High youth and adults our church has ever sent on a summer mission trip.
- Made possible through the work of our Stephen Ministry volunteers the opportunity to pilot a new Sunday morning class, Don't Sing to a Heavy Heart. Participants learn what to say and do – and what not to say and do – for people in the midst of a crisis. 17 people attended the first class on July 17. New class members are welcome to start the class at any time.

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

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 without all this help. Contact Dyann with any questions or to offer help at dyannob@gmail.com.

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



 Family Promise®
of Greater Phoenix

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



We have some exciting things happening in preschool in August! We look forward to seeing both returning and new families and starting a very blessed year together.

Parent/Tot class- Your 2-year-old can come to preschool, with the comfort of their own special adult! Classes are offered either Wednesday or Thursday from 9-10:30am. Sign up now!

PreK – Do you have a child that is ready to prepare for kindergarten? Our wonderful PreK program is waiting for you! We have a few openings for the upcoming school year. Call today for information and a tour! 480 892 9166

Open House/Meet the Teachers- August 3rd or 4th 6-7:00pm

Enrolled 3 and 4 year olds and their families, meet your teachers and classmates!

Check your Summer letter or call the preschool office to find out which day your class is coming! We'll have school t-shirts to buy!

Like us! - send us feedback and "Like" us on our Facebook page: FUMC of Gilbert Preschool.



Shop at Fry's Food Stores with your VIP card and get great savings, earn fuel points, and help our church preschool. Just go online to Fry'sCommunityRewards.com, log in to your account, scroll down to community rewards, and type in 80635 and click save. You're all set! Your savings help us to earn money for our wonderful program. Thank you!

Back to School Time- How can we make the transition into a school routine easier on the kids and on us? Well, start today:

- Set out clothes the night before
- Get up at the same time each morning
- Give everyone a morning hug
- Walk through the steps together to get the kids ready, gradually having them take on one responsibility at a time themselves. It's ok if their hair is combed in a funny way or their hairclips don't match their shirt!
- Sit down and eat a healthy breakfast
- Brush teeth ... Yeah! What a great start to the day!

Our First Days of Class are August 8th and 9th, 9am

"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad today." We appreciate all prayers for a blessed and wonderful school year!

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 26**

REDS vs A

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

FCA

For more information, please contact:
Ryan Collins
 (youthministry@gilbertumc.org)



Come and join me on August 14th or 28th in-between services in the **Activity Center**. Whether you are new, have been attending for short time or you have been attending for many years, come by and chat. Let's Connect is a time **to ask questions**, find out what is **happening at the church**, where you can get engaged in an area that **"speaks to your heart"** or find a way to deepen **your faith journey**. On **August 14th** we will spend some time talking about **Wednesday Night programs** and on **August 28th** we will talk about the **Music Programs** here at church.



Come celebrate the end of the summer at our annual *End-of-Summer Luau!* On Saturday, September 10th at 5:00pm in the Activity Center we will celebrate and enjoy fellowship with some Pulled Pork sandwiches, crafts, games, and luau festivities! Please bring friends and family and enjoy this fun and special event!



Welcome Jean and Jonie Hirsch! Jean Hirsh is transferring her membership from Dayspring UMC. She recently moved into the area and is retired. She has many hobbies and interests including working for many years in a church office setting. She has already jumped in and is helping out in our church office a few times a week!

Her daughter Jonie Hirsch is also transferring her membership here as well. Jonie works for JPM Chase and she loves singing!



Interested in joining First UMC Gilbert? First (and only) step is to join us for an Explorer Class. The next class is Sunday, August 14th at 2pm in the Activity Center. Hear a brief presentation on key United Methodist beliefs and practices, receive a folder of materials for future reference, meet some key leaders, hear a little about our ministries and learn what our vows of membership are and what they mean. If you are interested in attending a class please contact secretary@gilbertumc.org. Daycare can be provided if requested in advance.



First UMC Gilbert is Going Green—In an effort to be more environmentally and fiscally responsible, all members with a current email, will start receiving their Giving Statements via email. This will go into effect October 1, 2016. If you do not have an email on file, paper statements will continue to be mailed to you. If you do not wish to have your statements emailed, you can email Taleen Carpenter at financial_secretary@gilbertumc.org or call 480-892-9166. She is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am—3pm. Please be sure the office has your current email address.

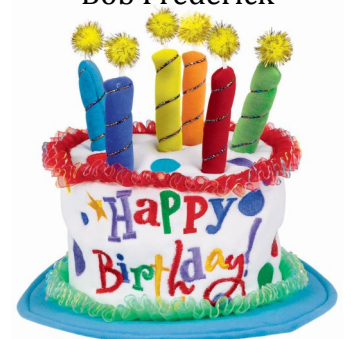


On August 30th our church will be a voting location for Maricopa County elections. We are looking for volunteers to donate two hours of their day to greet people and serve coffee, water and snacks to those who are waiting in line to complete their civic duty. Please contact Janelle at 480-892-9166 or email her at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org if you can help out. Looking for coverage between 5:45am—7:15pm. This is a great community service opportunity!



August Birthdays!

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 Gayla Sutton | 9 Eli Chiricuzio | 17 Tina Rees | 28 Scott Bouchie
Lori Van Dam |
| 2 Norma Mayne
Emily O'Brien
Mary Vandenberg | 10 Amanda Martin
Mike West
Matthew Koenig | 20 Lilah Wiley | 29 Sadie Fairley
Jackson James |
| 3 Brian Lin | 11 Jackson Bracht | 21 Julia Strazz | 31 Kevin Boesch
Kein Curran
Bob Frederick |
| 4 Linda Cranford | 12 Judy Bristow
Rebecca Hernandez | 22 Lara DeRoule
Jim Johns
Emily Lyons
Brittany Norris
Jon Salak
Kylee Wilkins | |
| 5 Anita Broughton
Keela Clark
Junette West | 13 Diane Crann
Dan Harvey | 25 Deborah Lerner | |
| 6 Eric Palmer | 14 Drew Martin
Tom McKinley | 26 Molly Hahn
Midori Hall
Andy Martin | |
| 7 Laura McLeod
Dirk Smith | 15 Alan Ball
Jim Hall
Troy McDonald | 27 Reagan Metz
Ellie Peppin | |
| 8 Evan Houseman
Lori Wiemers
Sue Todd | 16 Lynn Ingalls
Tyler Carpenter | 13 | |



Looking for Contributors to a First UMC Gilbert 2016 Advent Devotional

What is your favorite, most meaningful scripture during Advent? First UMC Gilbert is collecting these offerings for a 2016 Advent Devotional written by anyone who has attended our church. Please send your devotions to the church office by email to secretary@gilbertumc.org or by US Mail: First UMC Gilbert Attn: Advent Devotions 331 S. Cooper Road Gilbert, AZ 85233.

To make this advent devotion special and unique we are seeking personal devotionals that you have written and have not been published anywhere else. Devotions need to be submitted by October 21st, which will allow Kay Pealstrom and team time to select, edit and package the devotional to be shared with the church for this advent season. If you would like to help in this process please let us know! To prepare for the presentation of these devotionals we are using the simple layout that the Upper Room uses. The format has three components: scripture, story or reason this scripture has meaning for you and a prayer. Here is an example:

Luke 1:34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, Behold, this Child is appointed and destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoke against—(35) And a sword will pierce through your own soul also – that the secret thoughts and purposes of many hearts may be brought out and disclosed.” [AMP]

Thought: During the Advent journey to Christmas, my heart aches for Mary. God has blessed her with this special child, and she is warned that all will not be easy, nor safe, nor violent. What mother has not looked lovingly at her child and wondered what lay ahead to this little person and the big person to come. Mary obeyed God’s wishes. She endured Joseph’s doubts, the rumors and gossip of her home town. Even with Elizabeth reassuring her – being unmarried and pregnant has never been then or now an easy road.

What sort of mother am I? Could I have obeyed this creature, this angel that tells me I am blessed by God to bring His child into the world? Could I have been understanding when Jesus turned away from me and said all these other people were his family? How would bear my son’s whipping? His crucifixion? The darkest days between laying him in the tomb and believing that God would rise him from the dead, just as Jesus resurrected Lazarus.

Prayer: Lord, walk with me on this faith journey. Whisper to me in the night, when the darkness surrounds me with sorrows in what I have done and left undone in parenting my children. Open my eyes, that I may see those around me with Your eyes. Help me show a mother’s kindness to all I meet. Remind me to bless my children as they begin their day. Remind me to pray for those I see struggling when driving to work. Encourage my faith that I can step out to pray with strangers. Let me become all You would want me to be, in Jesus’ name, I ask. Amen

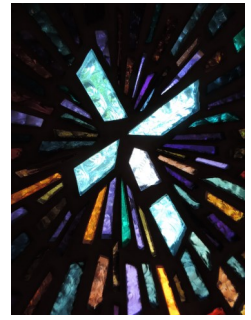
This is an exciting way to share what you have learned and love in God’s word. As a church community we can learn from one another each day of this Advent season.

August Anniversaries!

1 Paul & Barb Perry	45 years	11 Tom & Kim Dare	32 years
2 Ernie & Shirley Wilkowski	2 years	12 Charles & Sarah Bowser	50 years
3 Keith & Jo Asplin	59 years	13 Dennis & Charlotte	50 years
Chirs & Trish Odell	42 years	Hazelrigg	
4 Bob & Mary Ellen Chuk	43 years	15 Kim & Vicki Harding	45 years
5 Ron & Sharon Dalton	18 years	24 David & Phyllis Spittell	18 years
6 Ron & Garin Campbell	22 years	Bob & Jean Langdon	59 years
8 John & Marjorie Croushore	46 years	28 Scott & Diane Gardner	34 years
Marty & Elice Province	29 years	30 John Lin & Lindsay Wright	13 years
Ed & Alma Riedel	34 years		



Building on the Past / Believing in the Future Update



We are glad to share with you that we have received more than \$223,000 of the dollars pledged to the Building on the Past/Believing in the Future Campaign. The Building Committee at its meeting July 21 reviewed the proposal from DFDG (our architectural firm) for production of the design documents and approved the proposal and fee schedule that was included. The total design fees (\$152,195) exceeded the limit set at the April 24 charge conference by \$2,195, even with a substantial pro bono donation from the architect (We are grateful for his generosity!). The Ad Board approved the additional expenditures, as recommended by the District Superintendent.

We discussed different approaches for seeking bids and accomplishing the construction and made a decision to proceed with a "Design/Build" process. We will hire a construction manager who will begin working with the architect to ensure that construction proceeds as smoothly as possible. We will begin the interview process within the next month to select the construction manager. This is the process recommended to us by the District Committee on Building and Location at our meeting with them on July 9.

Also in the next month – six weeks the finance sub committee will begin shopping for a loan. This will help us understand the limits on our borrowing and the terms that are available. We anticipate beginning construction Jan / Feb 2017 and being "under construction" for about 8 months.

Pray for our building committee as we enter a new phase of fulfilling our hopes for our campus! They meet regularly on third Thursdays at 6:30 pm and welcome guests. Please contact Kelly McClain to be sure we have not changed our meeting if you plan to come.

Did you grow up hearing Bible stories? Are you exploring Scripture for the first time? Does the full story of the Bible overwhelm you?

There's a seamless thread woven through every story in the Bible – a thread that connects its people, places, and promises. *Seamless* will help you gain clarity and confidence in your understanding of Scripture and the meaning of God's Word.

Join us as we experience the Bible as a whole and draw strength from His Word through being in the company of women of faith!



Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story
DVD and Book Study by Angie Smith

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert,
Tuesday, August 16, 2016 Room 142 (library)
9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.
Workbook Cost: less than \$15.00

The workbook for this study will be available for purchase on August 16th.

Please contact Christy Robertson Yoder at roberch1@yahoo.com or Deanna Helland at dzhelland@yahoo.com with any questions. To register for free childcare, please contact Katie Bouchie at kebouchie@gmail.com.



Orchard Africa 2017 Mission Trip

The Orchard Africa team is excited to have confirmed dates for this church's second international mission trip to South Africa. The team will be traveling to Johannesburg June 21, 2017 returning July 2, 2017. Pure excitement! You will see through out this Evangel Newsletter that fundraising efforts are in full swing. We will link our personal goals of sharing God's love with those in South Africa with fellowship and service opportunities to raise funds here at home.

The Orchard Africa team will plan, prepare and host the Wednesday Night Fellowship dinners the 3rd Wednesday of each month. That means on August 17th, September 21st, October 19th, November 16th and December 21st the team will be there to serve and thank you for your support.

On Sunday, October 16th the Orchard Africa team is hosting "Wild at Heart" Women's Tea that will be held at the Women's Historical Club of Mesa. We are thrilled to have a guest speaker Robyn Dahl, selected by Orchard Africa, an afternoon of tea (of course!), delicious food, music and the joy of letting your heart be wild in His love. Tickets are \$30/each. The doors open at 12:30, the program is from 1pm-3pm. Tickets can be purchased from any OA team member or contact the church office at 480-892-9166.

Super thrilled to host the Christmas Treasures Boutique. This event will be open to the public. Provides great opportunity to work with other ministry groups within the church and directly with congregation members who have talents for the magic of Christmas. This is going to be fun! How can you help? We need donated books, CDs and DVDs to sell in a Treasures Find Booth. We need vendors! If you know of anyone who creates home made holiday items or is a consultant of a great product please send them our way. For a nominal fee, that goes to a great cause and a win-win for folks to participate. We need you to come to the event and tell your friends about it!

