



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

November 2016

Join us in Worship

8:00am & 9:30am Traditional

11:00am Contemporary

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

Election Day Hospitality and Prayer Vigil

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Tuesday, November 8 is a very important day in the life of our country. We will serve as a polling location. We want to make this a memorable day for voters! Please sign up to help us with election day hospitality – giving out free coffee, lemonade, cookies, snacks to voters – any time you can, all day long!

We will also host a prayer vigil from 6 am to 7 pm to pray for our country, our church, our community. We hope to have prayer ministers available to offer prayers to those who come who would like them. The worship center will be open all day with an invitation to all to come in and pray with us. We would like to ensure that at least one person will continue the prayers all day long. Please sign up for at least a ½ hour time slot. Prayer guides will be provided for those who choose to use them.

Sign-up sheets are available on Sundays, or contact Pastor Gwen to sign up for hospitality or Rita Wagner for prayer ministers or prayer vigil service.

Rita's contact information is 602-402-4497 or ggjrwagner@gmail.com. Pastor Gwen's contact information is pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org or 480-892-9166.



A Message from Pastor Deborah

“Let us break bread together, on our knees”

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. – Romans 12:1-2



Each week for about a year I have worked with our staff to identify a recent “key event” in the life of our church to share with you as an offering moment. When we started this, at the recommendation of Don Smith, who is our consultant from Horizons Stewardship for the Capital Campaign, nobody could think of anything we should share. Nothing seemed important enough to lift up in this way. Every week I begged for little stories.

As we moved through the year we began to realize more and more the importance of “everyday” events in our life together, and excitement began to grow for sharing these seemingly ordinary events with folks who might otherwise simply not notice how our church is touching and changing lives every day, in ever so many ways.

The “welcome” bags that we take out to first time visitors (or those who give us an address for the first time, which is not always the same) don’t seem like such a big deal. They contain information about current programs and activities, welcoming cards, and a small loaf of store purchased zucchini or banana bread. But for someone who ventures through the door, maybe unsure of whether they will be welcomed, that little touch of grace in the middle of the week says, with great power, “We are really glad you came, and hope to see you again.” It’s enough to bring many of them back for a second and third time.

A Black light volleyball game may seem a little goofy, unless you are the parent of a child who has not wanted to attend a youth group, or who found other groups boring and uninteresting. Then seeing the hard work that went into that event and the hilarity of trying to plan that way can become a opportunity to re-engage a dis-engaged young person; to say to someone who thinks church people are pretty nerdy that we have a good time together as we learn about Jesus’ love and all it means to us.

Seeing 4 year old preschoolers and 3rd grade children receiving Bibles can seem old hat, until you realize we are sending a message to our youngest children and their families that the Word of God is at the center of our hearts and lives, directing all we do and all we are.

Hearing about Family Promise may sound like just another missions project, but when you meet families with children who have lost a home because the wage earner became ill; or because there was just enough money until one day when there was not, you begin to comprehend how our providing a few classrooms and meals is changing lives day by day. Not just their lives, but ours.

Taking a moment to notice how our Music Director, Organist, and worship leader work together with our choir, praise band and others to bless us with worship through music every week helps us remember how essential our worship life is, and how much our hearts need and yearn to be deeply touched by God’s love. That love becomes real in beautiful music as we sing words that teach us who God is and who we are as God’s children.

Our coffee hour provides time and space for connections to be made between veteran attenders and those around for the first time. Our welcome cart is a place where shy newcomers can find answers to their questions. Our Sunday School hours are times when dozens of children, youth, and adults learn more

about who Jesus is and how we best follow him. Our Stephen Ministers touch lives individually, and they and others touch lives through groups designed to help people move through grief, and divorce, and tough times. Monthly home bound communion keeps our absent members knit to us in love and concern.

So many lives touched, every single week, through ministries of this church. Every single day, really! All of these things are made possible by your generous gifts, which provide salaries for staff and materials and time and space for wonderful life changing ministry to unfold.

I hope you will keep these truths in mind as you consider your anticipated level of giving for 2017. Be generous. You/we are making a difference, together.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Deborah

The Power of Hope

Daily I experience with many of you the pain of an unwanted diagnosis, the struggle of illness or injury, the drudgery of physical therapy, the deep grief of loss, or the upset in our world when life throws at us unexpected turns. Daily I pray for you and for your circumstances, knowing that Jesus is enough. Jesus alone has the power to bring transformation and to give you hope. It is what we all desire for you – hope. It is what we all feel when we think of anyone going through tough situations – hope. It is what we offer for the future – hope.



There is great power in hope. Not the hope that we normally think of – a desire for something in the future which we are *uncertain* of attaining. Like when we say, “I hope the Cardinals will win the Superbowl this year.” Although that kind of hope has merit, too.

The hope that has great power is Christian hope. It is a hope that has full assurance, or a strong confidence, that God is going to do something good in the future. That kind of hope rests in *certainty*. The Apostle Peter calls this kind of hope “living hope” (I Peter 1:3). He calls it living hope because it has the power to produce changes in life. This kind of hope recognizes that God is for me and not against me; that Jesus loves me and gave his life for me, but lives again and is present and caring about me at every moment of my life, even when I go through deep trials.

Christian hope is a promise backed by God’s own credibility. It is based on a history with God that has revealed God’s character and given us reasons to have hope. That is why it is so certain. Hope is a vision that better days are ahead for us, that our circumstances are not the final word.

There is no one who can make it in life without hope. Hope carries us through even the toughest of life’s difficulties. It makes the impossible, possible and the unbearable, bearable. It gives courage to the faint of heart and sustains us when we feel we can’t go on.

Yes, there is great power in hope. Do you need an infusion of hope today? Then, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13 NRSV) May today be a day filled with God’s hope.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Gwen



Welcome November

All Saints Sunday

November 6

On All Saints Sunday we remember and honor those who have called First United Methodist Church home, either as members or constituents, who have died in the preceding 12 month period. We read their names in worship and light candles as an act of remembrance and love. You are invited to honor those in your larger circle who have passed from this life to the next by bringing flowers. At the opening of each service there will be a time when these flowers can be brought forward and laid in a place of honor. Extra flowers will be provided for any who wish to offer them but arrive without.

Recognition of Veterans

November 13

Veterans are invited to wear their uniforms or whatever part still fits! In each worship service, we will honor those who have placed their lives in jeopardy to keep us free.

Operation Christmas Child

October 30—November 13

Bless a child overseas with a gift box. Pack a box for a family or volunteer to transport to the local packing facility. Look for the Missions team on the patio with Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Boxes will need to be returned by November 13th after you have filled it with gifts for either a boy or a girl. Gifts can include toys, school supplies, hygiene items, accessories, and a personal note. A donation of \$7 per box is to be included for shipping and delivery into the hands of a child in need. Complete instructions can be found at: https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.samaritanspurse.org/pdfs/OCC_how_to_pack_large_print.pdf

Pizza with the Pastor

Sunday, November 13th at Noon in Activity Center

Enjoy a simple meal and conversation with the pastor and others from First UMC. We especially invite newcomers to attend, along with key leaders who would like to help our newcomers find their way among us. The pizza is FREE, the fellowship is priceless!

Turkey Drive

October 30—Thanksgiving

The annual turkey dinner drive has arrived. A \$32 donation buys a box of fixin's for a Thanksgiving meal to a Low-income family. A member of the missions team will be available on the patio to take your card swipes, checks, or cash starting 10/30. Any moneys not used for the dinners will be used for other missions drives. Also sign up to deliver meals! Contributions can also be done by going to: <http://gilbertumc.org/giving/> and give online. The UMC of Gilbert Missions team is appreciative of all donations. This is a great way to help those struggling have a great meal on Thanksgiving.

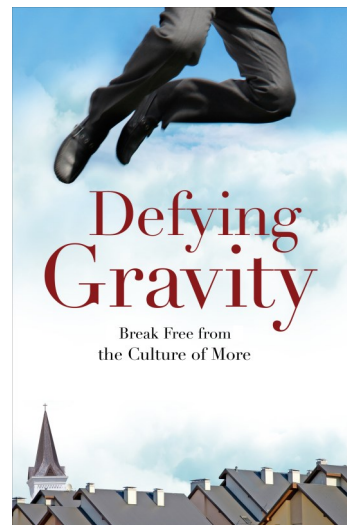
Come As You Are Thanksgiving Day Service

November 24 9am

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

Defying Gravity

If you are a part of our worshipping community and we have an address for your family you will be receiving a letter inviting you to commit to financial support of the church for 2017. With the letter will be an estimate of giving card, on which you can indicate your intention for giving to the operating budget from January to December 2017. These cards are used by your elected leadership to help us set a fiscally responsible budget that is also a faith budget. Your finance team and those who are part of the Administrative Board will be looking at total amount pledged plus estimates of unpledged giving that we hope to receive and making decisions about which ministries will be fully funded for the coming year. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider what you intend to give to the operating budget (the capital campaign budget is completely separate). Then fill out the card and bring it Sunday November 13. You will have an opportunity to bring it forward during the service as an act of commitment and worship.



If you have not ever considered tithing, or giving 10% of your income, we invite you to consider it this year. If that is too big a jump for one year, consider giving proportionally: a percentage of your income, and plan to increase it by 1 or 2 percent annually until you reach 10%. We recommend this as a spiritual practice that will stretch your heart and help you open your bank account to the things that matter most: the things of God that touch and change lives here and elsewhere all the time. Your commitments are estimates only and can be revised throughout the year as necessary by contacting our finance office.



Wreath Sales

Wreath Sales are happening! The First Gilbert Youth Ministry will be selling wreaths November 6th on the patio in between services. All profits from the wreath sales will support the summer mission trips for both Junior High and Senior High students. Treat yourself to a quality wreath and extend the holiday spirit by purchasing one for a friend or neighbor!

Bible Journaling

Join in once a month for an evening that includes a devotional and Bible journaling. You can doodle, stamp, color and paint in a bible dedicated to praising your love of God in glorious color! This group meets again on Monday, November 14th, and will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at 6:30pm. You can drop in for just one session, it isn't an ongoing lesson.

There will be a new devotional each month. Contact Adriana at secretary@gilbertumc.org. This group will meet off-site; you must contact us to get information on supplies and location.



Film.Family.Faith.Fellowship

The F4: Experience is here! Join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month, 2:30pm in the Youth Room (140/141) for Film, Family, Faith and Fellowship. If you RSVP in advance, childcare is available. Contact Bethany Castle to RSVP. Her contact information is castle.bethany@gmail.com or 480-278-6356. The next film viewing is set for Saturday, November 12th to watch "Mom's Night Out."

Preschool News

What's been going on?

During October, we learned about Noah and how he obeyed God. Our bible verse was, "Obey your Father and Mother, for this is Right! Eph.6.1". We did many fun activities with animals and rainbows.

"Rootin' Tootin' Preschool Fall Festival" - On Oct. 27th in our Activity Center, 60 preschoolers and their entire families enjoyed dinner together and played carnival games. Then our preschoolers performed 3 songs for their audience. What an amazing night! Thank you to many preschool alumni for helping out with the games!

What's coming up?

"Preschoolers with Heart" Missions- Our preschoolers and their families collected gently used books to donate to the UMOM Read to Me program and will be drawing happy pictures to send to our military! There are so many things that families can do to serve others together!

This November, we'll talk about all the things that we are thankful for! We'll learn about the letters T, F, and A and make Thanksgiving placemats. In December, we'll have our annual Christmas program in the sanctuary. Join us on December 9th at 6:30pm for sweet Christmas songs to celebrate the season!

Some preschool fun:

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

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

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How can you help?

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

Thank you!



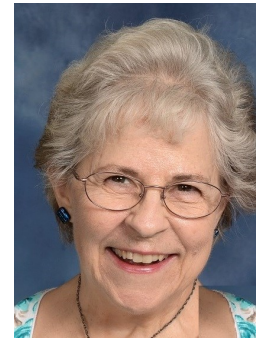
Fall Bake Sale

November 20 in the Activity Center
 Christian Women's Fellowship will be hosting a bake sale in between worship services. Proceeds will go towards purchasing anew freezer for the church kitchen.

Dial—A— Ride

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Carlene has joyfully helped many people over the years by bringing them to church, doctor appointments and anywhere else they needed to go. A few years ago Carlene received a diagnosis that took away her ability to drive. Determined to continue to help others and maintain her independence as much as possible she contacted Dial-a-Ride. Using this resource she continues to come to church and to make other appointments throughout her week. Carlene continues to serve with great strength and a shiny heart.



People with Disabilities and Seniors Age 65 or More

The cost of each ride is four dollars and a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) is able to accompany at no extra charge. The eligible rider must establish the need for a PCA during the eligibility process. Valley Metro’s process for determining ADA eligibility includes a short paper application and an in-person eligibility assessment at the Valley Metro Mobility Center, located at 4600 E. Washington St. in Phoenix.

Applying for ADA Dial-a-Ride is free, and Valley Metro will provide free door-to-door transportation for any applicant who resides in Maricopa County upon request.

ADA Dial-a-Ride Eligibility Application: You can obtain an ADA Dial-a-Ride Eligibility Application by calling The Valley Metro Mobility Center at (602) 716-2100, option 1 or you can download the application below from the website at valleymetro.org.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Continues

Thank you for the amazing response to “Through the Wardrobe” Wednesday night programming! The schedule continues for November.

Dinner: 5:45 PM Wed Fellowship Dinner - AC (\$3/person or \$12/family)

11/02: Taco Bar

11/09: Potluck Night featuring Baked Ham

11/16: Orchard Africa Night featuring Italian

11/23: No Meal on this Night—Happy Thanksgiving Eve

11/30: Breakfast for Dinner

Music Rehearsal:

5:30 PM Wesleyan Bells - 130

7:00 PM Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Classes:

6:30 PM Disciple 1—142

6:30 PM Christianity & Islam—140 (last class is 11/9)

6:30 PM A Way Through the Wilderness- 140 (begins 11/16)

6:30 PM Confirmation - 200

6:30 PM A Life Worth Living—202

6:30 PM Kidz Book Club - 203

6:30 PM The Life You Have Always Wanted - 133

6:30 PM Wednesday Wilds - 205





Upcoming December Events

The Season of Advent—Preparing and Decorating our House of Worship

Saturday, December 3rd at 8:30am

Prepare the way of the Lord! The Season of Advent is a 4 week period of spiritual preparation leading up to Christmas when we celebrate the coming of the Messiah in the birth of Jesus the Christ. This year, as many years, this season will begin on the Sunday after Thanksgiving (November 27). We have often used the Saturday preceding this first Sunday of Advent as our time to decorate the sanctuary. This year we are pleased to have a wedding scheduled here on that Saturday. After the wedding we will put up a few decorations, including the Advent Wreath and banners. The following Saturday, December 3, we will gather as a family to decorate our house of worship for the season. Please save this date. We will start around 8:30 and provide donuts and coffee. We will keep working until we are done! This is a great family activity.

Blue Christmas

December 4th at 4pm

This is a service of hope which is dedicated to anyone who experiences feelings of pain and sorrow during the Christmas season.

Breakfast with Santa

December 10th in Activity Center

Arizona's Children Association will be hosting a "Breakfast with Santa" event on December 10 in the Activity Center for 150 foster and adoptive families. You can join the fun by volunteering to help set up/clean up, serve breakfast or assist with holiday activities such as cookie decorating and ornament making. This is an awesome opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer and help some very deserving families!

Get involved by emailing DyAnn O'Brien at dyannob@gmail.com or signing up between services on Nov. 20th or 27th.

Christmas Cantata

December 11th at 8am and 9:30am

The Chancel Choir will present "Christmas Carol Celebration" by Harian Raglan. The Cantata will be orchestrated by Ed Hogan/Martin Province.

Hands of Joy Choir

Sunday, December 11th 4pm

Special music offering from the Hands of Joy which is an American Sign Language choir. Come for a musical blessing and stay for the Chili and Caroling festivities.

Chili/Caroling Night

Sunday, December 11th 5pm

This is always one of the most enjoyable events of the year. Bring chili, mac 'n cheese, or cornbread. Holiday fellowship followed by neighborhood caroling, hay rides and smores.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th 4pm, 6pm, 8pm and 10pm

Christmas Day Come As You Are Service

Sunday, December 25th 10am

Join us in worship on this glorious day! Children are encouraged to bring a toy to be blessed. There will be no nursery available during this service.

November Birthdays!

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| 1 Stan Gill | 11 Mark Carpenter |  | 25 Barbara Burford |
| Pam Johnson | Wendy Griffith | | Kim Harding |
| 2 Tiffany Scharff | Jeremy Norris | | 26 Alexander Lutes |
| 4 Karen Orndorff | Adelyn Tinsley | | 27 Dean Boever |
| 5 Terry Bettis | 12 Lauren Gill | | Nancy Peters |
| Amy Smith | Ted Jung | Craig Thomson | |
| Barbara Valbuena | Linda Sanders | Jenny Vallera | |
| 7 Daniel Murphy | David Waechter | 18 Blanche McDonough | |
| 8 David Baker | Sophie West | Maddy Pineda | |
| Isaac Curran | 13 Jacob Galvin | 19 Alana Uhl | |
| 9 Margaret Knoll | 14 Kay Warg | 21 Matthew Niederer | |
| 10 Chloe Boesch | 16 Kyle McClain | Stuart Wiemers | |
| Dan Bose | 17 Kendra Diegan | 22 Teverly Taylor | |
| | Zander Murphy | 23 Alyssa Houseman | |
| | Trish Odell | 24 Megan Barrie | |
| | | 27 David Barclay | |
| | | Kelcey Skinner | |
| | | 28 Nicholas DeRoule | |
| | | 29 Sharon Kotsonas | |

November Anniversaries!

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 3 Warren & Agnes Begley | 71 years |
| 5 Kelly & Michelle McClain | 28 years |
| 11 Robyn & Clifford Oswald | 27 years |
| 19 Andy & Teri Martin | 19 years |
| 20 Karla & Douglas Romfo | 40 years |
| 22 Art & Sally Poeske | 59 years |
| 27 Ted & Trish Young | 40 years |



Jam Session

Whether you like to play, sing or just listen join in the fun on Friday, November 18th in room 142. The more folks, the more fun! The music begins at 7pm.



UMOM Watkins Overflow Shelter

Each month volunteers cook and serve a meal for the overflow shelter. Do you have a desire to cook or serve? We would love to have you join us! The next dates are November 12, 2016 and December 10, 2016. We meet at the activity center at 1:45pm to begin cooking. Please sign up in the Activity Center! There is a sign up sheet on the Missions kiosk.

There are so many opportunities, literally everyone can find a way to help these initiatives be a means to share God's love and message to so many. If you have any questions or would like to assist in any of these projects please contact the missions team at missions@gilbertumc.org. You can always check out the missions table for more information on Sunday mornings. The team looks forward to serving you and the community this Holiday Season!



Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

- Provided space in the Activity Center, Sanctuary and several classrooms for Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners followed by classes, rehearsals and activities for all ages. In the month of October, approximately 190 people attended the dinners, and total Wednesday night class attendance was 128 for the month.
- Made possible through donations and the work of Pastor Gwen Mader and the Congregational Care Team together with the Tuesday Morning Bible Study members and other volunteers the assembly of 15 Cancer Kits in memory of Kathy Revenew. The kits will be given to members and friends of our faith community who are going through cancer treatment.
- Made possible through the work of Pastor Deborah and other church leaders the Explorer's Class on October 10. This class for people interested in joining our church was attended by 8 people. During the month of October 4 people became members of our church.



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 either:

Susan Bowers, Finance Chair

Financechair@gilbertumc.org

Deanna Helland, Church Treasurer/Accountant

Accountant@gilbertumc.org

Church Office: 480-892-9166



Giving



The QR code to the left 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).

WE WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN TOUCH :)

www.firstgilbert.church | 480-892-9166

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



FirstKidz



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert





Janelle Chircuzio
Director of Children Ministries
childrensministry@gilbertumc.org

We value each child and family that comes to First United Methodist Church of Gilbert! FirstKIDZ is a special place designed for kids from infants through 6th grade. We believe each child is created to have a relationship with God and has unique talents and abilities to influence their world and community. We are dedicated to helping each child become a deeply devoted child of Jesus!

On Sunday mornings there is FirstKIDZ Sunday School at 9:30 and KIDZ Worship at 11am. On Wednesday evenings there is Wednesday Wilds programming. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

FirstKIDZ November Themes

First Look (Nursery-Pre K): Hello, First Look Friends! HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all of our friends here in the States! And how about a 'happy we're thankful for you' to the rest of our friends out there! Because, without you we couldn't do what we do! And what are we doing this month? I'm so glad you asked! This month we're helping preschoolers learn to say thank you for the people who help them. And there are a lot of people who help preschoolers!



First, there's family. I mean family is like at the top of the list! Our preschool friends will hear how Aaron helped his brother Moses this month. Then, there are community helpers all around us who help us just as Nehemiah's community helped him rebuild the wall. There are all kinds of other people helping preschoolers by giving them what they need—people like you! You give them hugs, snacks, and best of all, God's true stories! We need all kinds of people to help us! Elisha got some great help from a woman who prepared an entire room for him. Oh, and last but not least—friends. Preschoolers need friends. You and I need friends. We all need friends! Friends help us have fun, do what's right and they come in handy when we forget our snack. I'm pretty sure Elijah was thankful for his new friend, the widow, when she shared her food!

Our preschoolers need help, tons and tons of help. And, we want them to grow up with eyes that see the people who help them, and a heart that says thanks. That's the goal this month.

252 (K-6th Grade): Honor is a response to the character of God. Chances are if you have kids in sports or competitions of any kind, you have a growing collection of ribbons and medals, sashes and badges, certificates, trophies, or plaques. Some might hang on your walls or sit propped up on shelves somewhere. But if we're honest, others get stuffed into a drawer and eventually thrown out. These were so important when they first came into our homes, but at some point they just lost their value. All those awards and medals can only mean so much, because honor has a deeper meaning.

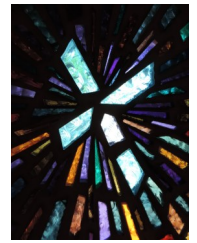


People should not just be honored because of what they do; they should primarily be honored because of who they are. Stuff will lose value over time, but not people. At its core, honor is seeing people the way God sees people. We're naturally wired to put ourselves first, but honor is the opposite of self-centeredness. It is something that flows from your relationship with God. In a sense, one of the best ways we can HONOR God, is by honoring those who reflect the image of God.

Building on the Past / Believing in the Future Update

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. - Psalm 127:1

The Building Committee, which includes new members Leroy Johnson, Jo Asplin, and John Holmberg, met in October to interview three potential construction managers to oversee the planning, design, and building of our new building and related projects. After careful consideration and reference checking we selected Concord General Contracting, Inc. to serve as our “Construction Manager at Risk.” This company will work with us and the architect to find “best” solutions to design and building. They will help us design ways to keep the congregation informed about where we are and what is coming. They will assist us in planning the construction period so that we can continue to do all vital parts of our ministry while construction is occurring.



The architect hopes to get plans before the town of Gilbert for approval in early December. After these are finalized the construction manager will cost out the project and give us a Guaranteed Maximum Price. Meanwhile the finance group will be “shopping” for loans.

When the design is complete, the total cost is known, and we have a financial plan to present, a charge conference will be held to secure the approval of the church (after the District Board of Building and Location has been consulted and approved of our plans). This will probably be in late January with construction beginning in February to March.

Please continue to pray for the courageous and diligent men and women who are working on your behalf to ensure that we build what we need, in the way that will serve us best, to *lead people of all ages on the journey to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus.*

NEWS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Change in Stock Donation Policy

On August 16, our Administrative Board approved revised Finance Policies and Procedures that included a change in the church’s policy regarding stock donations.

We continue to welcome these donations, but upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, our Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation (DSUMF) will handle stock donations at no cost to our church. DSUMF is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. Your stock donation will be made to the foundation, and they will provide all your tax documents. Donated stock will be sold upon receipt by DSUMF, and proceeds of the sale will be forwarded to our church. The proceeds will be recorded on your church giving record in accordance with your designation, as non-tax-deductible donations. If you have any questions about this change, or if you need our instructions for your stockbroker, please contact the church office.



2015 Financial Review Complete

The annual review of the church’s 2015 financial records, as required by the Book of Discipline, was finalized in September. Deanna Helland, Church Accountant, and Taleen Carpenter, Financial Secretary, with assistance from our team of volunteer counters, gather and record the information needed each week to compile the reports and records reviewed by our external reviewer. The reviewer found only a couple of minor discrepancies. Please contact the church office if you would like to receive a copy of the report.

Did You Know?

Did you know that our Family Promise guests and their hosts, who stay on the second floor of our education building, must go down “unprotected” stairs into an “unprotected” (open to the public and anyone off the street) bathroom even in the middle of the night? Some of our guests have been extremely pregnant, necessitating many trips down the stairs in an environment that may not be completely safe for them. Sometimes the children who are always present need to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night. Our new building will enclose the rooms and the bathrooms and allow safe bathroom usage at night.

