



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

December 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)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Advent 2: December 4th "Prepare Your Hearts for Love" Rev. Deborah Lerner
Communion Sunday

Advent 3: December 11th "Prepare Your Hearts for Joy" (11am service only) Rev. Gwen Mader
Christmas Cantata in the 8am & 9:30am service

Advent 4: December 18th "Prepare Your Hearts for Peace" Rev. Deborah Lerner

Christmas Eve: December 24th "Prepare Your Hearts for Celebration" Rev. Deborah Lerner
Service times are 4pm, 6pm, 8pm and 10pm. Nursery care only available at 6pm.

Christmas Day: December 25th Come as You Are Christmas Day Service at 10am. There will only be this one service on Christmas Day, no Sunday School or nursery. Children (of all ages) are encouraged to bring a gift to be blessed.

New Year's Day: January 1st One and only service at 10am. Come worship as a family and welcome in the New Year! Communion will be served. There is no Sunday School or nursery.

January 8: Regular Worship Schedule Resumes
8am & 9:30am Traditional; 11am Contemporary

A Message from Pastor Deborah



Welcome to December, when the weather in Arizona finally begins to cool (maybe!), and hearts and minds turn toward the celebration of Christmas. It is a season of expectation and joy; a season of bright lights and colorful decorations; a time for browsing through high color ads and wondering what gift might be under the tree. There are concerts, and festivals, and glittering evenings under the stars with luminarias and Christmas carols. So many wonderful things to see, and do, and be!

But those same things can feel burdensome and unwelcome if you have lost a loved one this year, or if illness has come to your family, or you have lost a job, or if the end of the money always arrives before the end of the month and the next paycheck.

At the heart of this season is the work preparing our spirits for the arrival of the one gift that is truly unimaginable: a baby, born to poor parents in an animal shelter and laid into an animal feed trough; a baby who amazingly is also the Lord of the Cosmos, son of the Most High God. It isn't surprising that we find that worthy of celebration and feasting and gifting. What better reason for a party?

It's when the party becomes the point --when the gifts under the tree and the ornaments upon it eclipse the gift of the baby—that things get problematic. As long as it's about the gift of a baby who comes to set us free – as long as we are focused on the one true reason for the season – it doesn't matter whether the bank account is fat enough to support a long shopping list or buy a tree for the living room. When we know that the baby –Emmanuel, God with Us -- came as an assurance of God's constant presence, no matter what happens to us, we can more easily face our loneliness and loss and move through the demands of illness and hardship.

If you are struggling with Christmas, we invite you to join Pastors Gwen and Tina for our "Blue Christmas" worship service on December 4. Gather with others to acknowledge the reality of your challenges; to remind yourself that you are not alone; to experience the healing power of God who loved his children enough to move into the neighborhood.

Be with us each Sunday as we prepare our hearts for the One Gift that matters more than any other. Don't let the advertisements convince you that you need something more than you already have; or that you are less than you might be because of what you lack. It isn't about any of that. It's about Jesus, who came bringing hope, and love, and joy, and peace, no matter what happens. He brought it for you. See you at the hopeful, loving, joyful place of peace every Sunday.

Blessings and Peace
Pastor Deborah

Christmas Eve Services
4pm, 6pm, 8pm & 10pm

Come As You Are Christmas Day Service
10am



God Gave Us Christmas

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

- John 1:1-2,14



There is a children's story by Lisa Tawn Bergren entitled God Gave Us Christmas. It's about a polar bear named Little Cub, and Little Cub asks some very deep questions.

"Can we go find Santa, Mama? He lives 'round here someplace, I think."

"Hmm. Santa is hard to find," said Mama. "But we can go find God. God is everywhere."

Sometimes I think we see all the evidences around us of Santa, of a secular Christmas, and we miss the presence of God in the midst of it all. It's easy to get caught up in the rush and activity, but if we fail to look for God, we miss the reason for Christmas. We get so busy looking for Santa, we have trouble seeing God.

Every year we ask our children, or grandchildren, what they would like for Christmas. Usually we get a list of "things" that Santa can bring them. What if that were changed to be a list of the things God brings them — "things" like salvation, hope, joy, peace and love.

Later in this book, Mama tells Little Cub that "God knew we would need someone we could touch and see and smell — to understand just how much he loved each one of us." So God gave us Christmas.

The greatest gift we can ever give or receive is Jesus—God with us, someone we could touch and see and smell. A baby born to a young woman. Just like you and I, yet so perfectly different. So . . . God! What if we were to use this season to prepare our hearts to receive this gift? What if this was the gift we gave others?

May you and your family have a very Blessed Christmas!
Pastor Gwen

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministers

On Sundays our Prayer Ministers are available to pray with persons needing immediate prayer during worship at all three services. They have been at the back of the sanctuary, but now will be in a corner of the worship center lobby. This new location is intended to increase privacy and foster deeper prayer. They will be available at the same times during the service of worship.



Please enter and exit the lobby respectfully during the service. We are grateful for the caring outreach of our Prayer Ministers.

100 Thanksgiving Boxes Distributed

One hundred families had Thanksgiving meals because of the caring and giving of our congregation, and the hard work of Ed Stone, event organizer, (who we are recommending for sainthood) and the missions team. Many thanks to the many volunteers who gave their time collecting funds, making calls, and delivering the food. To date we have raised \$3,783.00 of the \$4,000 needed to cover the costs.



*Celebrate
Christmas
With Us*



CHURCH OF GILBERT

'Tis The Season

There are moments where time feels like it is flying by. This seems to happen most often at the end of the year, as holidays approach. One way to balance the craziness of the time is to steadfastly incorporate the traditions, music, worship opportunities and fellowship of the season. The following is a list of events that all are welcome to attend. This is a joyful time of the year when we prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth. It is a time of sharing, preparation, and reflection.

Blessings to you today and always. Our church family hopes to see you during this special time of the year.

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 4th at 4pm
Join us for a service to guide those with hurting hearts through words, scripture and music.

Preschool Christmas Program

Friday, December 9th 6:30pm
The adorable preschoolers are preparing a wonderful program to share their joy for Christmas.

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 11th
8am and 9:30am
The Chancel Choir will present "Christmas Carol Celebration" by Harlan Raglan. The Cantata will be orchestrated by Ed Hogan and 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.

Christmas Treasure Boutique
Sunday, December 11th 4pm-6pm
Join us on the patio for a boutique that can help you finish up your Christmas shopping list and also benefit our church's international mission trip to South Africa in June 2017.

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

Saturday, December 24th

- 4pm Family Service with Praise Band
- 6pm Traditional Lessons and Carols, Organ and Choir
- 8pm Traditional Lessons and Carols, Organ and Choir
- 10pm Traditional Lessons and Carols Handbell Choir and Holy Communion

Live Nativity after the 4pm and 6pm Services.

Professionally staffed nursery available for children infant through age 3 for the 6pm service (only).

Christmas Day Come As You Are Service

Sunday, December 25th 10am
Come as you are and 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.



Upcoming January Events

Congregation Care Minister Training

Wednesday Evenings at 6:30pm 1/11/17—3/15/17 Room 133 Taught by Rev. Gwen Mader

People who are hurting find not only relief but hope and companionship through our congregational care ministry. While here at First Gilbert all of our care begins with the pastors, Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs) are lay ministers who work alongside of the pastors to provide care for the church family, enabling us to provide a deeper level of care. In this 9 week training, you will be equipped with the tools and skills necessary for providing ministry in this capacity. At the end of the training, you will be commissioned in worship as a Congregational Care Minister.

Contact Pastor Gwen for an application and the requirements for becoming a CCM. We are hoping to empower an army of great people who want to use their gifts to offer love and compassion in a broader way to our congregation. We hope you will consider joining the fun of doing acts of caring!

Serving from the Heart

Wednesday Evenings at 6:30pm 1/11/17—2/15/17 Room 142 Taught by Sylvia Harris

Does your ministry match who God created you to be? In this six 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.

Financial Peace University

Wednesday Evenings at 6:30pm 1/11/17—3/8/17 Room 201 Taught by Janet Bose

Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical practical steps to money management. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more.

Wednesday Wilds Book Club

Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm 1/18/17—5/17/17 Room 203 Taught by Janelle Chiricuzio

There is a book club for grades 4th-6th, the kids enjoy reading, discussion and activities. Very interactive group!

Living Hope

Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm 11/30/16—3/22/17 Room 204 Taught by Steve Hanson & Beth Flores

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.

Wednesday Wilds

Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm 1/11/17—5/17/17 Room 205

Pre-Kindergarten to 3rd grade meet in Room 205 at 6:30pm for an age-appropriate Bible lesson/activity.

Alpha

FREE Celebration Dinner on Tuesday, January 10 2017 at 6:30pm in the Activity Center

Classes (including dinner) begin Wednesday Evenings 5:45pm 1/11/17—3/22/17 in the Activity Center.

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting. Alpha is people enjoying great food, laughter, and learning in a fun and friendly atmosphere. The course introduces Jesus and his way of life. Come discover the Jesus you never knew.

Look What Your Giving Is Helping Us Do!

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

- Made possible through donations and the work of Ed Stone (Coordinator) and the Missions Team together with many volunteer driver/deliverers, our church's provision and distribution of 100 Thanksgiving turkey dinner boxes to community members in need.
- Made possible through the work of Pastor Deborah and Rita Wagner, along with our Prayer Ministry Team, a prayer vigil in our Sanctuary from 6 am to 7 pm on Election Day. Everyone, including voters visiting our campus, was invited to pray for our country, our church and all of our congregation.
- Made possible through the work of the Invitation & Welcome Ministry Team and other volunteers, our church's hospitality table for voters coming to the November 8 general election polls in our Activity sCenter. Coffee, water, hot dogs, chips, candy and other snacks were offered to voters on their way in and out of the polls. Many were grateful for the hospitality.
- During this month, the Stewardship Campaign was held. Don't worry, though. If you were unable to submit your Operating Budget Estimate of Giving card on Commitment Sunday, you can still send it into the church office. Your pledge helps us plan all of these great ministries that make a difference in the lives of our members, friends, community and the world.



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

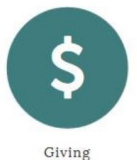
Deanna Helland, Church Treasurer/Accountant

Accountant@gilbertumc.org

Church Office: 480-892-9166



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).



Thanks to the Generosity of our Church!

Through your giving we were blessed to be able to send 115 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child and to provide 75 gifts to Senior Santa. Thank you to Margie Zeilstra (Operation Christmas Child Coordinator), Lori Wiemers (Senior Santa Coordinator) and the entire missions team for coordinating and managing these events. A special thank you to everyone who provided gifts that will bring such joy to the kiddos and the elders receiving these treasures.



Music Ministries this Advent Season

By Marty Province, Music Ministries

Advent is always a busy and joyous time in the Music Ministry of any church, and First Gilbert is no exception. The choir is eagerly preparing anthems for the three of the four Sundays as well as for Christmas morning (on Sunday this year!).

The “other” Sunday in Advent, on December 11, our church will be blessed by music in all forms all day. Beginning with the two traditional services (8:00 and 9:30), the Chancel Choir will present the **Christmas cantata, *A Christmas Carol Celebration***, accompanied by a 21-piece orchestra comprising players from our church family, as well as local professionals and All-State high school students. Sixteen favorite carols, interspersed with segments of spoken narration are woven into a wonderful Advent message, which will even include some congregational singing.

Later that afternoon at 4:00, the **Hands of Joy Choir** will present a concert in our sanctuary. This group was started 30+ years ago at St Matthew UMC in Mesa by the late Pastor Diana Williams. Some members are deaf, some hearing-impaired, and some hearing, but all share a passion for sharing the love of the Lord through music and sign language. Bring a friend and be prepared to find a new joy in the season.

Following the service with the Hands of Joy, is the annual **Chili and Caroling** (for more information, see page 10). This is a wonderful opportunity for all members of the congregation to share a meal and to take the joy of Christmas into the community.

Another opportunity (presented jointly by our First United Methodist Church and the Gilbert/Stapley Stake of the LDS Church) is a sing-a-long “performance” of **Handel’s *Messiah***. A small orchestra is currently rehearsing and will be joined by auditioned soloists and 300 amateur singers from the East Valley for 75 minutes of the Advent/Christmas selections from this masterwork. There is no experience necessary, and we will even provide a number of vocal scores. Join us to sing or simply to listen at 7:00 on December 18 at the LDS building, 1100 N. Cooper Rd. (west side of Cooper, between Baseline and Guadalupe).

Finally, our **Third-Friday Jam Session** will feature LOTS of Christmas favorites (sacred and secular). We meet in room 142 on December 16 (third Friday of the month) 7:00-10:00. You are welcome to come to part or all and sing or listen. If you play an instrument, please bring it and join us in this informal evening of music.



December Wednesday Night Dinner Plans

December 7th: Chili & Cornbread

December 14th: Potluck, Main Dish: Turkey

December 21st: Orchard Africa Night, menu TBD



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 December Themes

First Look (Nursery-Pre K): MERRY CHRISTMAS! I just love December! The sights, the sounds, the smells (my favorite)—all these things fill the days as we count down to the MOST important day of December, the day we celebrate Jesus.



That’s the plan for our preschoolers this month. We’re going to count down to Christmas with them as they learn the different parts of the Christmas story. First, they will hear how the angel came to tell Mary that she was going to have a special baby. The next week, Mary and Joseph will travel to Bethlehem, and a special baby is born! During week three, the children will pretend they are shepherds as they hear how the angels came to tell the shepherds in the field that Baby Jesus had been born.

Then, it’s Christmas Day!!! That’s right, Christmas Day is a Sunday this year. We will review the Christmas story and have a birthday party for Jesus. It’s going to be so much fun!

252 (K-6th Grade): Joy is a response to the character of God. When God created the world, He made it to be a place of peace and contentment. In the Magnificent Paradise, God provided fruit trees that were pleasing to the eye and good to eat. And He personally walked with His creation! But when sin entered the world, so did greed and jealousy. As circumstances changed and life presented more challenges, people found it harder and harder to be happy. However, even now in this broken world, God wants us to have joy. Even though we try to find joy through our stuff, or our vacations, or our relationships, joy isn’t dependent upon any of those things. Joy is about being content beyond our circumstances. We can have joy when we recognize that God’s plan is greater than our own. Joy is a response to our trust in God.



Jesus is the reason we find joy. God sent His only son as a baby, born in humble circumstances. Jesus wasn’t what anyone expected, but this was how God wanted to rescue the world. God made good on the promise He made hundreds of years before. This December, we pray that through the story of Jesus, kids realize that God loved them so much that He sent His Son to be here on this earth. The story of Christmas can remind us through every season, regardless of our situation, there’s a reason to celebrate what it means to have a relationship with God.

First UMC Gilbert Youth News

By Ryan Collins

Director of Youth & Family Ministries



On Sunday, November 20th, a group of 34 students and leaders participated in the annual Downtown Gilbert Walk and Eat, a youth ministry tradition at First United Methodist Church of Gilbert. Students and adults met at the church before walking to downtown Gilbert to share a meal together at Oregon's. The night ended with a nice, dry return to the church (unlike last year where it rained on us!).

This is such a fun event for students to invite friends to, get to know other students, and enjoy a quality meal before the Thanksgiving holiday. Students were talking, laughing, and enjoying each other all evening long. It is truly one of the highlights of the year.

Also, this event looks to be a kickstarter for the youth ministry's holiday season which is filled with service and fun. The youth will be participating for the second year in the downtown Phoenix Inner City Holiday Toy Drive and Block Party running the crafts and face painting station. The event benefits children who are not as fortunate as others to receive gifts during the holidays and the group that served last year raved about how much of a blessing it was. In addition to service, the annual Youth Christmas Party is happening on Friday, December 16th from 6:00-10:00pm. We invite you to come celebrate the birth of the Savior and get to know your peers! There may or may not be SNOW...

Thank you for your continued prayers and support to the Youth Ministry at First Gilbert.

FUMCG YOUTH GROUP

Christmas Party

DINNER * SNOW * MOVIE

Friday, Dec. 16th, 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Church Activity Center

All FUMCG Youth and Youth Leaders

What to bring...

- Gift Exchange present (around \$10)
- Canned food and/or new socks
- Snack or dessert to share (no nuts)



R.S.V.P. by 12/14

to youthministry@gilbertumc.org

Christmas Eve Hospitality

By Sylvia Harris

Director of Invitation & Connection

We are once again looking for donations of homemade Christmas cookies to serve between all our Christmas Eve services. Please bring cookies to the kitchen on Sunday mornings or drop them off in the office during the week. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Campbell at stillstamping@me.com. We can't wait to try all the tasty treats you all provide!

Thank You for Your Vote of Confidence

By Adriana Hernandez

Church Secretary, Next Title ...TBD



This month it will be twenty five years since I officially joined this church. The years have been filled with so many memories including baptisms, confirmation classes, mission trips, teaching Sunday School, classes, Stephen Ministry plus my fair share of committees. I would be fibbing to say every volunteer experience was wonderful but I am truthful to say that each experience teaches me something about myself, and always teaches me how powerful and loving our God is. As your church secretary I am learning at an accelerated speed, I am blessed with new friendships and new opportunities every day. Right now, everything is teaching me I have so much more to learn.

On November 19th, at our Annual Church Conference, I was pleased to be part of the agenda this year as a candidate for Ministry. My church family voted that I am indeed a viable candidate. For that, thank you! The heart tug to go to Seminary began while preparing for the Orchard Africa trip in 2014. The tug is a solid thump now, heart palpitations, to begin a new. Again, thank you for your vote of confidence in me!

There is no way to effectively articulate the journey that has brought me to this point in the space I have allotted in this newsletter (the lady putting the Evangel together is pretty strict) but I would be happy to share and talk to anyone who has any questions. The bottom line is I have clearly heard that I will live for Him in an entirely new way. Excited to begin....

A promotional poster for a chili event. The background is a red and white checkered pattern. The text is arranged in three overlapping banners. The top banner is red and contains the text 'Sunday, December 11th at 5pm' in white cursive and 'CHILI' in large, white, hand-drawn block letters. The middle banner is green and contains 'The fun continues...' in white cursive, '6pm' in white, and 'CAROLING and HAY RIDES' in white, hand-drawn block letters. The bottom banner is red and contains 'Following the Rides' in white cursive and 'FIRE PIT and SMORES' in white, hand-drawn block letters. In the bottom right corner, there is a small inset image of a bowl of chili topped with cheese and green onions, served on a white plate with a slice of yellow cornbread and a lime wedge.

Sunday, December 11th at 5pm **CHILI**

The fun continues... **CAROLING and HAY RIDES**
6pm

Following the Rides **FIRE PIT and SMORES**

Preschool News

By Adrienne Mesa, Preschool Co-Director
www.gilbertpreschool.com



In November:

We had a fun filled time learning about Farms, Apples, and Turkeys. The preschool students enjoyed their pumpkin science activities including describing the inside and outside of the pumpkin, observing if a pumpkin floats, and tasting pumpkin. The PreK students enjoyed their annual Thanksgiving feast by making a Friendship Mix out of a variety of cereals and candies. They shared their feast with a loving parent and Thanks and fun was had by all.

In December: You are invited!

All are invited to our Preschool Christmas Program on December 9th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary!! Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday!



Advent Activities:

Try making an advent chain like this one. It's a great visual to countdown to Jesus birth!

Advent Paper Chain

One Christmas night so long ago, a star shone down so all would know,
That in a manger, on that night, a savior was born, our guiding light.
Now Christmas time is almost here, a very special time of year,
When everyone anticipates, that night when we can celebrate.
As you remove a link each night, remember the start that shone so bright
And told the story of Jesus' birth, the Son of God, here on Earth!



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 went 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 financialsecretary@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. 4th Quarter Statements will be sent out in early to mid January. These statement will have the giving total(s) for the 2016 calendar year.

Chili, Caroling & Hay Rides 2016

By Philip Tesarek, Scouting Ministries

It is time for this amazing annual event! Whether you have been several times or have never joined in the fun—it is time to block your calendar to make sure you don't miss out on amazing evening. The dinner is potluck style which leads to so many chili choices!

If your last name begins with:

A-M, please bring Chili or Soup **N-S**, Cornbread or Mac 'n Cheese **T-Z**, Desserts (anything works!)

This event is hosted by Family and Scouting Ministries. There also is opportunity for a Mission Moment. Please bring new socks that will be donated to a local shelter.

IF: GATHERING

a global gathering

FEB.

3-4

2017

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, the fellowship, breaking of bread, and the prayers...
And awe came upon every soul... And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being
saved. ~ Acts 2:42-47

what IF we returned to the simple ways of the early church?

At IF:Gathering 2017, we'll look at one of the most influential generations that have ever lived — the early church. The way God moved through them was simple and pure. We believe they are the model we need right now. Our dream is that we would experience the power of God as He does big things through simple acts of faith. That we live unified, surrendered to God, not just in our minds and in our theology, but also in our daily lives. Our hope is that we would participate with the Spirit of God and see Him go forth in our generation in a most powerful way.

We have registered to be a place to live stream this unique event for women of the faith. Go online to register so you too can be a part of this revolutionary experience. If you have any questions please contact Janelle Chiricuzio, childrensministry@gilberumc.org, or Sylvia Harris, connection@gilbertumc.org
<https://register.ifgathering.com/event/iffirst-united-methodist-church-gilbert>

December Birthdays!

1	Bobbie Johnson Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	14	Ernie Broughton
2	Sarah Bowser	15	Lauraie Moore Allie Scharff
5	Jo Asplin Ashely West	17	Jaron Mason Judy Pierce
6	Ray Crawley	20	Steve Kopp
7	Mark Blackledge Virginia Franklin	21	Sharon Poeske
8	Michael Castle Miriam Gill	23	Ed Riedel
10	Linda Allen John Holmberg	26	Nina Waechter
12	Christy Roberson Yoder	27	Elisa Tinsley
13	Robin Lee Barbara Signor	28	Sylvia Harris
		29	Emily Tognacci
		30	Alyssa Fink Phyllis Petrone

December Anniversaries!

11	Matt & Lydia Ramirez	5 years
20	Jeff & Jeni Hemingson	13 years
21	Adam & Sarah La Point	2 years
27	Tim & April Ryan	13 years

