

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert May 2018



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CHURCH OF GILBERT

331 S Cooper Road
Gilbert, AZ 85233

480-892-9166

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:30am-4:30pm
Friday by appointment

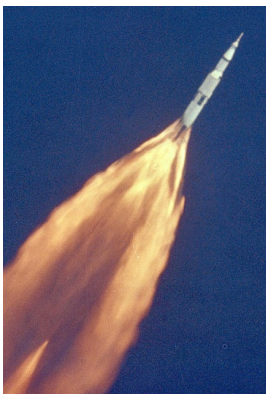
A Word from Pastor Deborah



*We are never alone in our commencements,
never forsaken in our launchings.*

MAY is a month of transition and change, as students in schools and Sunday schools are promoted to the next grade and seniors prepare to step into the world of work and/or advanced studies. It always feels like a time of ending. It is hard to say goodbye to beloved teachers at any age. The idea of leaving friends behind after graduation can be downright scary.

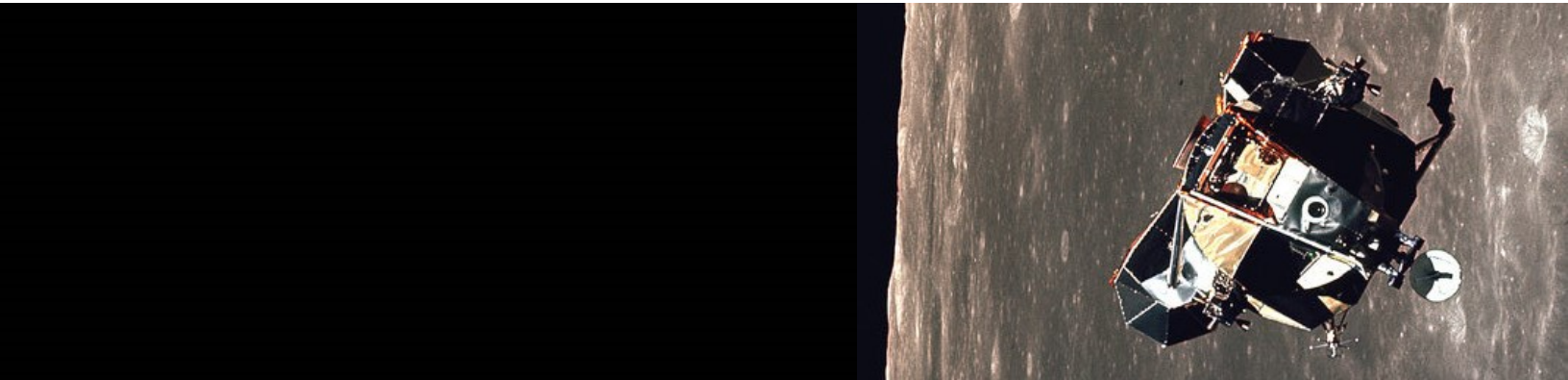
As a result, as I grew up I always thought of commencement as “the end.” I was surprised to discover that its primary meaning is the exact opposite. Here is the first definition from Merriam Webster: a beginning or start. The list of synonyms makes it even more clear: beginning, start, opening, outset, onset, launch, initiation, inception.



Leaving behind familiar rooms, teachers, friends, work, may seem to be an ending, and it is. It is also a beginning, a new start, an opening of new doors, the onset of new possibilities. One of my favorite words in this series of synonyms is “launch.”

Beginning to think of transitions not as endings but as “launches” gives a whole new meaning to the “Mays” of our lives. I think of NASA launches I have watched: the drama of liftoff, the certainty that inside those rockets are folks who are willing to be propelled into the great unknown to discover things we have only dreamed of.

The great stories of our faith are filled with commencements initiated by God – commencements that are really much more like launches! Abram was the first to be sent by God to an unknown land. Genesis 12:1: “Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you....” Go. Just go. No GPS. No street address. Just “go to the land that I will show you...”



Moses was another, encountering God in a burning bush, only to be told “So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:10). He couldn’t wait to say no.

One of my favorite stories is that of Joshua being sent into the land of promise. God says to Joshua: “My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land I am giving to them, to the Israelites.” (Joshua 1:2)

The launching promise is always the same: it is never that things will be easy, or even easily managed. The launching promise is always that God will be with the one who is sent. In Joshua this is especially clear. “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous....” (Joshua 1:5b-6a). The instruction to be strong and courageous is repeated three times in chapter 1 of Joshua.

As we move through this May, this season of transition and change, the Word for us is clear: We are never alone in our commencements, never forsaken in our launchings. God is always with us. God will never fail us or forsake us.

So be strong and courageous: do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Thanks be to God!
Blessings and Peace
Pastor Deborah



Update on the Land Sale

Our prospective buyer for the east property continues to work diligently toward completing all the work necessary to move forward with his project to build townhomes. This will require a zoning change on the property. Many of our neighbors are opposed to any kind of development, and oppose this change, but our prospective buyer has indicated he has every intention of moving forward. He has engaged the services of a zoning attorney to assist in reaching out and finding ways to work through the neighbor's concerns.

This work takes time. As a result, we expect the completion of the sale to take somewhat longer than originally anticipated (4th quarter 2018, at the earliest). We are confident that the buyer is deeply committed. We treasure your prayers for a successful and quick resolution.

Building Committee Update

The building committee met April 16 to review the status of the Building on the Past / Believing in the Future construction & renovation projects & to assess what should come next.



As the design documents reached completion in January we received more definitive estimates from the General Manager at Risk, Concord Construction. The estimates increased quite substantially, in part because the design is more complete but mostly because the costs of construction are rapidly spiraling upward. Factors in this upward trend include the natural disasters across the nation over the last 18 months (materials and workers have flowed toward these areas of need); the improving economy (more construction is happening everywhere), and the recent anticipated tariffs on materials.

Options for reducing costs were requested and provided by the architect and Concord, but the savings were not what we hoped for. We have concern about the ongoing escalation of costs, especially given that the land sale (a necessary part of our financing) has been delayed (see article above). Rising interest rates are a further concern.

At the Administrative Council meeting on April 17 the building committee asked for guidance from the church. The decision of the council was to "pause" until after the land sale is completed and new pastoral leadership is in place.

In the meantime the trustees and building committee will evaluate projects from the deferred maintenance lists (that were a part of the fundraising effort and total project costs from the beginning) to determine one or two additional high impact projects that can be completed now.

Pray for our building committee! If you have pledged to this campaign please continue faithfully with your gifts so that good decisions can be made going forward and we can reach for all God has for us to do and be.

A Word from Pastor Gwen



“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.”

– II Chronicles 7:14

On Thursday May 3rd people all over the United States will be turning to God and praying for their country in a united effort to make a difference. They will be lifting up friends and family, but also our country’s leaders and policies.

They will be seeking forgiveness of sins in order to bring healing to our land.

Abraham Lincoln once said, “It is the duty of nations, as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God.” Showing our dependence upon God through our prayers is critical to our nation’s wellbeing.

Jesus was totally dependent upon God’s hand. His disciples saw the connection between his prayer and his power and they asked him to teach them to pray. So perhaps Jesus’ prayer could be used as a basis for our prayer for the nation this week. Would you remember to pray with me for our country on May 3rd?

Our Father in heaven, you are good and loving and holy. May your Kingdom come and your will be done in our neighborhoods, our schools, our churches, our businesses, our towns, and our country, just as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread so that no one goes to bed hungry tonight anywhere. Meet the needs of our country’s poor and marginalized through the generosity and compassion of your people. Forgive us our sins, for we are a people in need of forgiveness who have difficulty forgiving others, especially those who do evil against us. Keep our leaders from the temptations of power and greed. Do not bring us into a time of trial, but remove evil from our midst entirely. We yield to you the Kingdom, the power and the glory in all things. Amen.

May blessings of joyous peace and wholeness be yours today!

Pastor Gwen





Volunteer Opportunities

Prayer Note Writers

Our Congregational Care prayer team is in need of persons who can assist with writing notes to persons sending in prayer requests each week. The ideal candidate would have the gifts of encouragement and faith, know the Bible, be able to keep the confidentiality of the requests, and be a person who cares deeply for others. The note writers meet Mondays at 9:30 AM in room 133. Training will be provided.

Birthday/Anniversary Cards

Congregational Care sends out Birthday and anniversary cards to all our members and constituents each year. If you would like to join the group that makes the cards, we need you! We also can use your extra new store-bought cards. To join in this effort, contact Molly Belcher at billandmollie@hotmail.com or pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org

Congregational Care Support Groups

For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Gwen at pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org



**Thursdays 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Room 200**



**Saturdays 9:00 am to 10:30 am
Room 140
New class starts April 14**

Living Hope



**Wednesdays
6:30 - 8:30pm
Room 205**

The Living Hope group is a 16 week curriculum-based support group for those who have experienced trauma or PTSD. Facilitated by Beth Flores.

Adult Education

For questions or class registration contact Kathy Rae Tracy at adminsupport@gilbertumc.org

Wednesday nights with meal at 5:45 • Classes at 6:30 pm

Journey 202

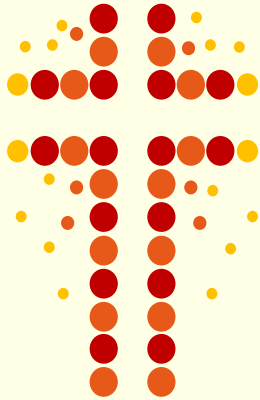
Follow Me • Apr 25 – May 30

Following Jesus as a lifelong calling.

Pastor Gwen, facilitator. (6 weeks) – Room 142

Thursday night class at 6:00 pm

Alpha - Thursdays, March 1-May 17 - 6:00pm



FOLLOW ME

by David Platt

When Jesus says, “Follow Me,” it’s not an invitation to say a prayer, it’s a summons to lose our lives. In this much-anticipated follow-up to *Radical*, Pastor David Platt challenges the traditions of cultural Christianity and reintroduces us to Jesus and His most simple request: **Follow Me.**

A six week study on what it means to follow Jesus,
taught by Pastor Gwen

Wednesday nights (room 133) with meal at 5:45

Class 6:30—8:00 pm • April 25—May 30

Nursery care / Youth activities available



Gilbert Men’s Ministry Pathfinders Breakfast Invitation “If Momma ain’t Happy”

Saturday, May 12th from 7am to 8:30am

RSVP to Sean Comstock: seanrcom@gmail.com

- Come enjoy a hearty breakfast
- Meet men for spiritual growth and support
- Personal testimonial & life sharing
- Audio & Video correlation
- Find opportunities for involvement in Gilbert Men’s Ministry



Who Is This Man? (And What Difference Does He Make?)

SERMON SERIES by REV. DEBORAH LERNER
using the book by John Ortberg

- May 6 When They Go High, He Goes Low
- May 13 What Matters is the Heart



Recurring training for
staff and volunteers

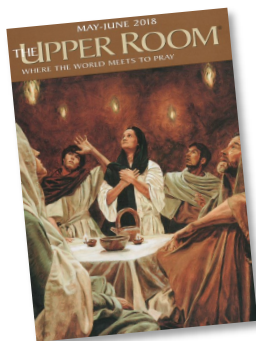
Sunday, May 20
12:30—2:30 pm Room 133

Tuesday, May 22
6:30—8:30 pm Room 142

Please RSVP with your preferred
session to Sylvia Harris at
connections@gilbertumc.org



First UMC Gilbert's
**Mother's
Day Purse
Drive**
Collecting New or Gently
Used Purses pre-packed with
small gift items. Purses are
all being delivered to ladies
in need of some purse joy!
Collecting Until May 6th



New Upper Room now available
Get the new May-June edition of the Upper
Room devotional in the Narthex. Large print
editions also available. Suggested donation \$2.

Special Confirmation Service

Saturday May 19 at 4:00 pm

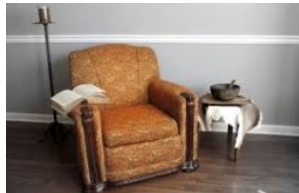
With **Bishop Bob Hoshibata** Preaching

Bishop Hoshibata is the Resident Bishop of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (and our bishop!)



Plan to join our confirmands, friends and family for a special service of confirmation and communion. Those wishing to join the church will be introduced and received into membership on May 20, Pentecost Sunday.

Keep these young persons and leaders in your prayers as they make this journey toward a faith commitment together.



Explorer's Luncheon • Sunday May 6

Would you like to know more about joining the church? Please join us for a luncheon where we can learn more about each other. For more information, please RSVP to Sylvia at connection@gilbertumc.org

Childcare is available with advance registration; please contact nursery@gilbertumc.org

Graduation Recognitions • Sunday May 27

Each year we publish the names of all persons who call First UMC home who are graduating at any level. This year we will publish the list in our bulletin Sunday, May 27. Please contact the church office at secretary@gilbertumc.org with names of First UMC graduates no later than May 8.



Our VBS runs from 9am—12 noon Monday through Friday
Open to preschoolers aged 3 through 6th grade.


Register today online: gilbertumc.org/vbs

If you would like to help, please contact our Children's Director at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org



Lora Norris
Adrienne Mesa
480-892-9166
preschool@gilbertumc.org

 FUMC of Gilbert Preschool

 Gilbertpreschool

 @gilpreschool

Registration continues for 2018-19 school year

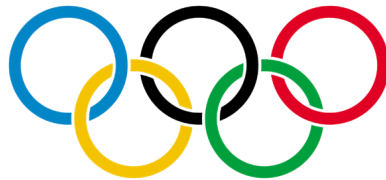
We are still enrolling students for the 2018-2019 school year. Our preschool has classes for ages 2, 3, and 4/5 year olds! Check out our website and give us a call for a tour! Please share this information with a friend.



Registration information and registration documents are online.

Spread the word! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and on our website: gilbertpreschool.com!

What's been happening?



The 2018 Preschool Beach Olympics were amazingly fun this year! After our class "team" relay races, the children enjoyed athletic games that encouraged good sportsmanship. Parents lead fun events, such as scooter shark racing, hockey, beach volleyball and fishing! Thank you, Betty Walker, for helping us watch the door. A huge thank you to our parents and the church community for their help and support for this event!



Preschoolers with Heart (Missions)

For our mission this month, preschoolers and their families are invited to bring in donations to help support this year VBS.

For April and May we'll collect:

Goldfish Crackers Ritz Crackers
and Graham Crackers

END OF THE YEAR
BEACH PERFORMANCE

PRESCHOOL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR SONGS AND CELEBRATION ON THURSDAY, MAY 3RD, 5:30PM IN THE SANCTUARY. THE PRESCHOOLERS WILL PERFORM OCEAN THEMED SONGS AND CELEBRATE THE GREAT YEAR WE'VE HAD WITH THEIR FAMILIES!



On May 8th and 9th, our preschoolers will celebrate their moms with a special breakfast in the courtyard!

Parenting preschoolers is a tough job, and we sure appreciate these awesome moms!



Tuesday, May 8th
Mrs. Slater & Mrs. Marlinga

Wednesday, May 9th
Mrs. Dare, Mrs. Pinti, & Mrs. Green

Preschool—May Program

People are God's works of art.

Preschoolers will learn that God has a plan for them through the story of Joseph.

Bottom Line: God has a plan for me.



Elementary and Preteen—April Program

Untangle the web and keep your source code true.

Honesty is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.



WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 2	WEEK 2
2 KINGS 5 Naaman and Elisha's Servant, Gehazi	1 SAMUEL 21-22 David and Ahimelek	ESTHER 3-7 Haman's Plot Against the Jews	1 JOHN 1:9 Confession/Being Honest with God
SAY THIS: When you are not truthful, you lose trust.	SAY THIS: When you're not truthful, you hurt others.	SAY THIS: When you lie to help yourself, you hurt yourself instead.	SAY THIS: Being truthful with God helps keep you close to Him.

**LIFE
APP**

HONESTY - Choosing to be truthful in
whatever you say and do

Sunday Mornings

FirstKidz
Sunday School for
Elementary Children
at 9:30am

Kid's Worship at
11:00am

Nursery

Professionally staffed
nursery from
8:00 am-12:30pm.

Moving up Sunday • May 20

Students will be introduced to their new classes during the Sunday school hour, then move to their new classroom for the 2018-19 Sunday school year!



- ◆ Nursery 3's move up to Preschool 3's room 146
- ◆ Preschool 4's move up to Kindergarten Room 144
- ◆ 1st graders move up to 2nd-4th graders room 205
- ◆ 4th graders move up to 5th and 6th graders!

Summer Sunday school starts May 27th.

Kids will be in their new class rooms starting this week!

We are in need of volunteers! Look for us on the patio!
or please email childrensministry@gilbertumc.org

Stock Sale Update

Thank you to all the youth that helped with table sales. HUGE THANK YOU to all those that freely gave to our youth program. You helped us raise \$2,110 for future events & trips.

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATES

- ALL worship attendance forms need to be turned into Ray ASAP.
- Class Memorizations are now due.
- Students' "Faith Statement" are due by May 6 to Ray.
- Students need to schedule an interview with Pastor Deborah before May 11th.
- **You'll be unable to complete confirmation without all these items completed.**

Youth Praise Band- "Follow the Leader"

We're searching for 3-4 youth to join the Youth Praise Band. Three of our current members are seniors and will be graduating and moving on to college. Rehearsals are held during Sunday morning before 9:30 am service. You get a free T-shirt too! Contact Ray if interested.

Sign up now for the Youth Service Project • May 12 • 8am

St. Vincent de Paul's Urban Farm serves those in need—their mission is to *feed, clothe, house and heal* and cannot be accomplished without volunteer help. Ron Mason will chaperone 10 youth; only four more spots remain for volunteers. The Mesa Urban Farm is located at 67 W. Broadway Road, 85210. Volunteer duties change on a daily basis and may include but are not limited to: watering, weeding, harvesting, planting, waste/produce sorting, composting, trash pick-up, and tree trimming. Dress appropriately for the Arizona sun and heat! RSVP ASAP please.

Confirmation and Sunday school class move ups – May 20

Confirmands will be introduced at all services. Those who choose will join at 9:30. Moving up to your next grade for Sunday school will be afterwards. 6th grade will join Junior high & 8th grade will join Senior high from this day forward.

Youth Move Up breakfast – May 26th 8-10:30 am

We'll pick up incoming 7th graders for a free breakfast with a couple of our leaders and some students of our current junior high, so that we may get to know them better.

Youth Pool Party – Friday June 1, 2018 4-8 pm

All active youth participants are invited to join us for our annual pool party at Ron Mason's community pool. We'll have food, drinks and plenty of fun for everyone. Please bring a drink or snack to share with friends. Parents are welcome too. Please rsvp to Ray for food count.

Last Call for Youth Summer Volleyball Interest

Looking for interest from students on summer volleyball. Please email Ray if interested or sign up on the Interest List in your Sunday school class.

Mission Trips – spots still open.

Junior High has one opening left on trip to San Diego July 1-6th. Estimated cost \$500.

Senior high has five openings to Tsaille, Az July 8-14th. Estimated cost \$600.

Friends are welcome!

Birthdays in May

Joyce Brown	3
Bethany Castle	
Michael Clark	
Heather Gomez	
Mary Beth Ondulich	
Anna Trinidad	
JoAnn Mannion	4
Angela Mittner	
Shawna Palmer	
Marty Province	
Brian Fischer	5
Joyce Metcalf	
Stan Gill	9
Jason Rempel	
Paige Shanks	10
Richard Cantwell	11
Bruce Bettis	12
Jennifer St. Pierre	
Ricky Zeilstra	
Steven Burks	14
Michael Harris	
Jim Ramsey	
Zackery Durica	15



★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

Rev. Gwen Mader	16
Rachel Buhnerkempe	18
Gerri Crawley	
Michelle Comstock	21
Chris Thompson	
Pam Turner	22
Alaina Tesarek	26
Jim Wilkins	
Joe Mayne	27
Janet Bose	29
Michael Crann	30
Katelyn Clark	31
Jimmie Galvin	
Judy Strom	

Anniversaries in May



Anniversary Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
6	Ashley & Scott Askeland	2
7	Ruth & Carter Lee	21
11	Dick & Paige Cantwell	44
14	Jimmie & Jacob Galvin	2
15	Dan & Mary Vrana	36
19	Alan & Nancy Ball	28
24	Joe & Lisa Strazz	21
26	Tom & Margaret Knoll	39
29	Jo & Ronald Goslar	14
29	Jeff & Lisa Kimbrough	19
29	Kim & Derek Updegraff	19
30	Rev. Gwen & Rod Mader	15
31	Cindy & David Howell	21
31	January & Matthew Rizzo	12

Look What Your Giving is Helping Us Do!

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

- Provided space, staff, supplies and volunteers for our wonderful Easter Sunday worship services. A total of 869 people attended our 4 Sunday morning services. We also had more than a hundred children at our special Sunday School event on Easter morning,
- Provided our annual Church Picnic on April 8, coordinated by Ray Vallera, our Director of Youth & Family Ministries, working with our Family Ministry Team to provide burgers, hot dogs, games, music, and a bounce house. More than 150 people attended this fun event.
- Provided support, space, and volunteers for our new Men's Ministry kick-off event, the Pathfinders Breakfast. The breakfast was attended by 40 men.

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"!

April financial statement summaries will be available in the church office after May 14. If you have any questions about the church's finances, or if you would like to receive a copy of the financial statements, please contact LeRoy Johnson, Finance Chair (Financechair@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland, Treasurer/Church Accountant (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).

Please remember one of the easiest financial gifts you can make to our church is to donate a portion of your 2017 tax refund. Your gift will be used to continue and expand our church's ministry efforts as set forth in our 2018 budget. If you would like a copy of the approved budget, please contact the church office.

Have you used any of our electronic giving options? Electronic giving is the most confidential and accurate way to give to our church, and it's more efficient for our staff, as well. In addition to our church web-site, which you can access at www.firstgilbert.church or with your smart phone using the QR code below, you can also use our new Give by Text option, or the Joyfully 2 UMC app on your smart phone. All the details are on the web-site, and in the bulletin each week. If you have any questions about electronic giving options, or if you need help setting it up on your phone, tablet or computer, please contact our Financial Secretary, Taleen Carpenter (480-892-9166, financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).



Giving



FREE SOUTHERN GOSPEL CONCERT

featuring

The Welcomaires



With
Special Guest
Mitch Snow

SUNDAY, MAY 27TH ONE NIGHT ONLY!

Hotdog Dinner at 5:00 • Concert at 6:00



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S. Cooper Rd, Gilbert

For more info: 480-892-9166 or visit gilbertumc.org

Free Concert! A freewill love offering will be taken

 /Welcomaires

 /FUMCofGilbert