

# The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert June 2018



**AMPED**  
LIVE FULLY ALIVE!



2018 Confirmation Class & Leaders

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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

**June 4-8**

## A Word from Pastor Deborah

**WE** have come to the last month of our ministry together, and I find my heart overflowing with thanksgiving for the six years we have shared. The last 18 months have been an incredible blessing to me, as more than 80 people have chosen to make First UMC their church home and have joined our membership. Many have stepped immediately into roles of involvement and leadership.

I have been deeply blessed by the 12 youth in our confirmation class, and the maturity of faith they demonstrated in our individual interviews. I have great hope for their future, and yours, as they grow into the vows of faith and membership they have taken.

*“I find my heart overflowing with thanksgiving  
for the six years we have shared.”*

It has been a pleasure to hold special services like confirmation and the preschool end of year program in our renewed sanctuary, and to re-imagine ways we can use our expanded chancel. One of our older attendees from Agritopia called me over to express how lovely everything is: larger, more functional, but still deeply traditional and beautiful. I give thanks to our building committee and architect for their diligent work over several years to get us to this point. They continue to work on your behalf and I am confident they will lead the church through to the vision of greater security, accessibility, and functionality for the campus defined in our Building on the Past/Believing in the Future Campaign. I am grateful to our trustees, overseeing the property of the church, quietly arranging for new roofs and air conditioning units and considering what are the most pressing needs across this large campus. Something is always coming undone. They are always putting it back together.

I think back to the Sunday morning not long after arriving when I asked Rick and Richard Frazier (newly returned from a trip to Africa) if they would help the church put together a “first ever” overseas mission trip. I never imagined it would result in a partnership with Orchard Africa, a second trip, and now a coordinated plan to regularly offer mission trip possibilities for adults. It has been deeply rewarding to see how lives have changed as a result of those trips, as well as those changed by our “in house” ministry with Family Promise.

I remember with a grateful heart the hard work many of you did several years ago to define our mission (To lead people of all ages on the journey to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus) and our vision (serving, giving, welcoming, growing in the likeness of Christ). It took forever! It was worth it!

I am grateful for the ministry of Pastor Gwen, and the many lives that have been touched and changed by our congregational care, invitation and welcoming, and adult ministries. The church will never be the same.

I am thankful for our worship team, quietly supporting awesome experiences like Pentecost Sunday, dreaming together of new ways to make worship inviting, welcoming, helpful.

I give thanks for the many teams that support the “business” of the church: Staff Parish Relations, quietly working on your behalf to build, develop, and support the staff and pastors; finance, poring over those numbers and trying to read your minds and predict your giving so we can all lean forward into the fullness of ministry God calls us toward; stewardship/generosity, reminding us of the joy of giving; the new Endowment team, leaning into the future; the land sale team, faithfully working with our buyer; the administrative council, upholding the vision and mission of the church.

Most of all I am grateful for our awesome staff. They are a group of focused, dedicated, Christ centered servant leaders who work together to guide the ministries of the church in order to fulfill the mission and vision of the church. Some of them are volunteers, but you wouldn’t know that by their dedication!

It has been a challenging, rewarding, fulfilling six years. It is very hard to leave. But life changes, and the Christian life relentlessly calls us toward transformation.

*“The Christian life relentlessly calls us toward transformation.”*

One of the challenges of an itinerant system is the mandate to release beloved congregants into the care of another pastor. As much as I love you all, we are clearly instructed by our bishop to trust the pastor appointed to oversee the congregations we leave, in matters of life and death and everything in between. That means that after June 30, when you face a crisis, a death, a life event, I will not be available to minister to you. Pastor Rick will be here, and Pastor Diamond. My heart will be with you, but I will not be able to return for funerals, or weddings, or baptisms. Many of you are friends with me on social media. I will not “unfriend” you as some recommend, but will be measured and careful in my interactions, slowly becoming just a friend, and not a pastor, to you.

I love you all, and will miss this vibrant, life filled place. You have blessed me more than you know. Sam tells me I don’t have to cry when I leave (I probably will!). He says I can be sad in my heart and pray. Thank you to all who have taught him this awesome life lesson. He was paying attention, every minute. He will miss you, too!

Blessings,

Pastor Deborah



## A Word from Pastor Gwen



*"I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray,  
and it's always a prayer full of joy."*

– Philippians 1:4 (CEB)

It is hard to believe that this will be my final month with you all. I have been honored to have been appointed as your Pastor and will greatly miss each and every one of you. It has been a wonderful time -- we can celebrate the past two years with joy.

When people ask me what I like most about my work at First Gilbert it has to be the people here. Thank you all for bearing with my jokes and crazy ideas, and for making me laugh. Thank you for walking with me through change and growth. And thank you for giving me the honor to walk beside you through difficult times -- times like deaths and illnesses-- and through happy times -- like weddings and baptisms, births, and celebrations.

Thank you for your commitment to furthering the Kingdom. There is nothing of greater importance. It has been exciting to watch you grow in your faith as disciples of Jesus Christ who make other disciples. You started new ministries -- like Congregational Care Ministry, the Discipleship Journey, Missions Roadmap, and Gilbert Men. There were happy faces as you lived into your God-given callings.

***Thank you for  
giving me the  
honor to walk  
beside you...***

Saying goodbye is never easy. My heart is heavy as I say goodbye to you all. And yet I am confident that God will bless our futures apart as he has blessed our time together. I will treasure each moment of these past years.

Thank you for the gifts, cards and notes that you have given to me. Thank you for all the wonderful memories. May God continue the good work He is doing in and through you!

Blessings to each one of you!

Pastor Gwen



**The SPRC invites you to show your gratitude for  
Pastor Deborah and Sam *and* Pastor Gwen!**

Today we are collecting your love offerings, cards, letters and gift cards. These may be placed into the specially decorated boxes in the lobby.

Informal receptions are being held between services in the Activity Center at 9:00-9:30 and 10:30-11:00 am. Please visit to say thank you!



*“...We appeal to you, brothers and sisters,  
to respect those who labor among you,  
and have charge of you in the Lord...  
esteem them very highly in love  
because of their work.”*  
I Thessalonians 5:12-15



## 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](mailto:billandmollie@hotmail.com) or Pastor Gwen at [pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org)

## Congregational Care Support Groups

For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Gwen at [pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastorgwen@gilbertumc.org)



Saturdays  
9:00 - 10:30 am  
Room 140

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them



Wednesdays  
6:30 - 8:30 pm

A support group for those experiencing Trauma or PTSD

## New Congregational Care support groups:



### Parents with Young Children

This support group is for parents who have new babies or a child under 12 months.

Sundays 9:30 am • Room 201

To join contact Lydia and Matt Ramirez at [lydiamramirez@gmail.com](mailto:lydiamramirez@gmail.com)

### Living Grace



A Christ-centered approach for families

Start dates and times to come soon!

To join contact Dawn Sukis at [dawnsukis@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnsukis@yahoo.com)



## Hurricane Harvey Relief Mission Review



This mission trip was promoted and sponsored by Gilbert First United Methodist Church with the support of UMVIM representatives and the Rio Texas Conference. This group grew to include eight members, coming from Gilbert, Tempe, Yuma, Red Mountain and Spirit of Hope UMCs.



The group began work in Rockport, gutting a kitchen in preparation for mold treatment, insulation, drywall and taping. Our team replaced the insulation and drywall with all materials that were provided. Part of the group moved on to Aransas Pass, again preparing rooms for insulation, wiring, and drywall.

The homeowners were gracious, generous, grateful, apologetic (Yes! Really! "I'm sorry my home is such a mess!"), and hard working.

Rio Texas Conference anticipates that it will take five years to rebuild completely. 8,000 homes remain to be rebuilt. There will be many opportunities for other groups to serve and experience the hard work, touching moments, joy, fulfillment, fun, and connection of trips just like this!



If you would like to coordinate a trip or participate, begin by visiting the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission website at [umvimwj.com](http://umvimwj.com) or contact Michelle Reynolds at [kmichellereynolds@gmail.com](mailto:kmichellereynolds@gmail.com).

### **Blood Drive • Sunday June 10 • 7-11 am • Activity Center**

To schedule an appointment: visit [bloodhero.com](http://bloodhero.com) use Sponsor Code "firstumc" or call Chris Thompson at (480) 201-1152.



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

Register today online: [gilbertumc.org/vbs](http://gilbertumc.org/vbs)



**Gilbert Men's Ministry  
Pathfinders Breakfast Invitation**

**"Being a Christian Man in a Me Too World"**

Saturday June 16 • 7 - 8:30am • Activity Center

Please RSVP to Sean Comstock: [seancom@gmail.com](mailto:seancom@gmail.com)

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

## Volunteer for Family Promise July 15 – 22!

Family Promise partners with over 30 interfaith congregations across the Valley to provide safe overnight shelter, food and compassion to families in crisis. Each congregation hosts up to 4 families for one week at a time.

The week of **July 15 - 22** we will need volunteers to set up and breakdown sleeping rooms, help make dinner for the families, serve as an overnight host and do laundry. Please consider joining us in giving these families the hand-up that they need to get back to self-sufficiency.

To find out how you can get involved, stop by our table on the patio between services on June 24 or email DyAnn O'Brien at [dyannob@gmail.com](mailto:dyannob@gmail.com).

To learn more about this life-changing program visit [www.familypromiseaz.org](http://www.familypromiseaz.org).



# Congratulations to our 2018 Graduates



Emma Alcantar

(daughter of Pamela and Andrew Berg)

Graduating from U.S. Merchant Marine Academy with these honors:

*Maritime License to Operate Commercial Vehicles*

*Reserve Commission as 2nd Lieutenant*

*B.S. – Major in Intermodal Transport, Security and Logistics*

Brittany Norris graduating from San Diego State University

*Masters in Child Development and Early Childhood Transdisciplinary Education*

*and Mental Health Graduate Certificate*

Heather Ball, graduating Arizona State University

Hanna Becker, Mesquite H.S.

Sadie Fairley, Mesquite H.S.

*To attend transition jobs program for 2 more years.*

Rilie Fairley, Mesquite H.S.

*To attend Paradise Valley Community College with a scholarship to run Track and Cross Country.*

Lily Marie Smith, Perry H.S.

*To attend University of Arizona.*

Corinne Spittell, graduating Campo Verde H.S.

*to attend Arizona State University Biological Sciences major.*

Alyssa Bruce, graduating from Highland H.S.

*To attend University of Arizona*

Christina Alicia Tesarek, graduating Mountain View

H.S. (Mesa) *To attend University of Arizona*

Katelyn Mason, graduating from Chandler H.S.

Max Ruhland, graduating from Desert View H.S.

Keely Orndorff, graduating from Hamilton H.S.

Lauren Gill, graduating from Williams Field H.S.

Alexander Martin, graduating from Campo Verde H.S.

Kalia Carpenter, promoted from 6th grade to Junior High.

Jade Lewis, promoted from 5th grade to Queen Creek J.H.S.

Hailey Houseman, promoted from 6th grade to Junior High.

Alicia Hemingson, promoted from 6th grade to Junior High.

Zander Murphy, graduating from Kindergarten!




We also wish to recognize the many individuals who helped these graduates on their journey; whether they be a parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, teacher, administrator or mentor - it takes a community!



Lora Norris  
Adrienne Mesa  
480-892-9166

[preschool@gilbertumc.org](mailto:preschool@gilbertumc.org)

 FUMC of Gilbert Preschool

 Gilbertpreschool

 @gilpreschool

## THANK YOU!

We have been teaching preschoolers since 2005 here at church! Each class has been treasured and such a JOY to teach!



What a blessing to have this ministry at our church. Thank you to all of the people who support and encourage us!

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

We have a brand new look! Over the last few months, we've been updating our website. After 5 years, it was time for a refresh! Check us out, look around, and let us know what you think!

Thank you Tim Watrous with Chunk Media for your help with this project! <http://chunkm.com/www.gilbertpreschool.com>

## LAST MONTH

During our last few weeks in school, we enjoyed a beautiful end of year performance in the sanctuary. The children sang for their loved ones, recited bible verses that they'd been learning all year, watched a slideshow that included all the students in the school and then enjoyed a cookie in the courtyard! Thank you to all our committee members for their help and support for this event!

Preschoolers also shared a beautiful Spring morning together with their moms! Muffins with Moms was a big hit! All classes shared a morning snack in the preschool courtyard and the children gave their mothers a gift that they had made.

## REGISTRATION FOR 2018-2019

Share the news with a friend... we have spots open in our Tuesday/Thursday 3s class (9-11:30am) and in our Parent Tot class (Wednesdays or Thursdays, 9-10:30am). Our program teaches children about Jesus' love and prepares them academically for elementary school.

**REGISTER NOW!**

See our website or call 480 892 9166 for more information!

## DETAILS ABOUT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Enrolled students will receive a packet in the mail in early July about Open House night and the first days of school. We are already excited to begin another awesome year of preschool!

## SUMMER FUN IDEAS

Spending time together is the most special part of the Summer! Keep the activities simple and just enjoy them:

### Blow Bubbles

Go on a Nature walk in the morning and find each of the colors of the rainbow

Paint with water on the back porch

Have a dance party!

Make a cave or fort by covering a table with sheets, then have a picnic in there!

### Make "Clean" Mud:

Materials needed: 1 bar of Dove (or other moisturizing soap), 1 roll of white toilet tissue, warm water, and grater

Grate the soap into your sand and water table or into a large bin. Have children rip toilet tissue into the bin. Add warm water a little at a time. Mix together with hands—enjoy!

Extension: Try adding glitter to the mix—beautiful!



## June Program • Preschool



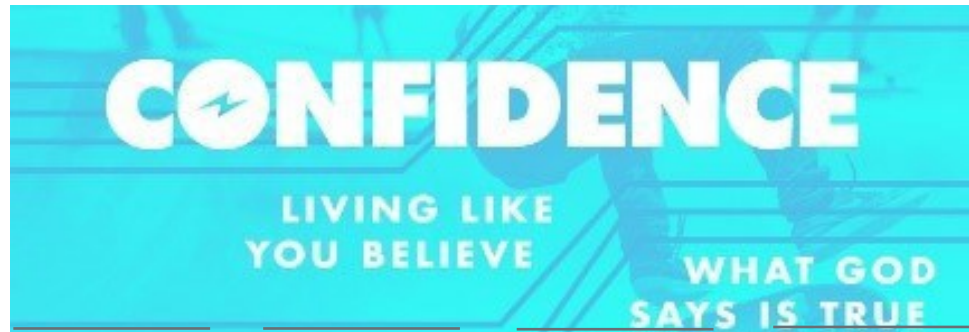
*"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow."*

Psalm 25:4 NLT

## Elementary

*"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."*

Psalm 27:13 NIV



## Preteen



## Thank You Leaders!

Thank you to all our small group leaders for their commitment to our kids this past year! Your donation of time and love in helping each one with his or her walk with Christ is a blessing to our children's ministry. You really do touch more lives than you know!

### 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.

## CONGRATULATIONS YOU SURVIVED ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR!

### \*CONFIRMATION CLASS\*

Congratulations to 12 youth whom completed Confirmation class & joined our church membership on May 21, 2018. You're a blessing to our church and youth program!

### Graduates

Congratulations to our 8- high school graduates, 13- incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and 9- new 9<sup>th</sup> graders. We share in your joy & excitement for the coming year!

### 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. Pool address: 1501 W Wagner Dr, Gilbert 85233

### Youth Summer Volleyball

We have 2 teams with 29 total students, a mix between junior high & senior high, that will be practicing on Sunday afternoons from 1-3 pm in the Activity Center. Games are played on Wednesday evenings 7-9 pm at 1<sup>st</sup> Mesa and 1<sup>st</sup> Gilbert. See posted schedule.

### Youth Praise Band - "Follow the Leader"

We're searching for 3 more youth to join the Youth Praise Band. 3 of our current members are seniors and will be graduating and moving on to college. Rehearsals are held during Sunday mornings before 9:30 am service. Contact Ray if interested .

Stay informed over the summer. Watch for the weekly Youth News emails and the Remind app updates that are sent out. We also have a Google calendar; link is in the Youth News.



## Birthdays in June

Debby Munn	1
Samuel High	2
Betty Walker	
Diana Elliot	3
Vicki Hanson	
Therese Pineda	
Barry Turnrose	
Heather Ford	4
Mason Ramirez	
Warren Begley	5
Emily Booth	
Margaret De Bolt	
Shawn Smith	
Lincoln Gough	6
Sara Sanders	
Shauna Harris	7
Ashley Scharff	
Mark Turner	
Tara Blankenship	8
Lorelei Karavakis	
Zachary Oates	

Laura Contreras	10
Susan Katie Bird	11
Keith Carpenter	
Alexis Eggin	
Cheney Flood	
Brody Smith	
Rilie Fairley	12
Judy Zangri	
Karen Coleman	13
Chloe Metz	
Skylar Ossian	14
Christie Dorf	15
Hayden Kopp	
Renee Ladd	
Ty Hemingson	16
Riley Lang	
Brendan Rizzo	
Natalee Rycraft	18
Ed Stressman	19
Austin Becker	20
Hannah Becker	



Linda Martell	21
Gayle Disch	22
Erna Huitema	
Nancy Ball	24
Kalia Carpenter	
Lisa Sotomayor	
Oliver Cantwell	25
Vicki Harding	
Michelle McClain	
Keith Asplin	28
Karla Romfo	
Joni Hirsch	29
Josie Carmichael	30
Larson Hemingson	

## Anniversaries in June



Anniversary Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
3	Dean and Laura Boever	23
6	Roy and Carolyn Phelps	54
8	John and Jackie Holmberg	44
8	Robin and Patricia Lee	45
9	Jason and Cindi Rempel	17
11	Philip and Tina Rees	30
14	Albert and Therese Pineda	22
14	Al and Judy Zangri	49
16	Igor and Jennifer Lazbin	29
19	Craig and Chris Thompson	47
20	Dan and Molly Hahn	65
20	Barry and Kate Turnrose	43
22	Sean and Michelle Comstock	5
24	Tom and Judy Bristow	52
30	Joe and Norma Mayne	45
30	Tom and Linda McKinley	32

## Look What Your Giving is Helping Us Do!

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

- Provided space for our Preschool's 2 summer camps held May 14-18. 13 students attended "C is for Cooking", and 12 students attended "Critter Camp". What a fun way to kick off the summer for our preschoolers!
- Provided space, staff, supplies and volunteers for our confirmation class. They began classes last fall, and 12 youth were confirmed in a Special Confirmation Service on May 19 with our bishop, Bob Hoshibata, preaching.
- Provided space for a fellowship dinner and free Welcomaires concert in our Activity Center and sanctuary on May 27. Our sanctuary was filled with people, including many guests from outside our church family, who enjoyed the wonderful southern gospel music .

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](mailto:Financechair@gilbertumc.org)) or Deanna Helland, Treasurer/Church Accountant (480-892-9166, [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto:accountant@gilbertumc.org)).

LeRoy Johnson will be stepping down as our Finance Chair on June 30. Please join the Finance Committee in thanking him for his service to our church.

Whether you're at a beach, museum, amusement park, airport or resort a thousand miles from home, it's easy to make a gift to our church through one of your devices. You can use our [on-line donation page](#), the QR code below, or the Joyfully 2 UMC app on your smart phone. You can even send your gifts by text with your smart phone. Before you go away on vacation, make it a priority to set up your online or digital giving option and then set it to reoccur automatically while you are away. There is no better show of loyalty and care for our church than to support it while you are away having fun.

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](mailto:financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org)) or Deanna Helland (480-892-9166, [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto:accountant@gilbertumc.org)).



Giving



*First* UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF GILBERT

2018 Confirmation Class



CHLOE BOESCH



JENNA BOSE



ADAM BUTLER



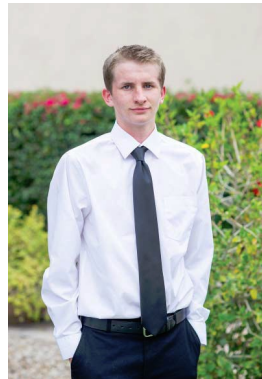
SARAH BUTLER



NINA CHIRICUZIO



ANDREW JAMES



CONNOR JOHNS



CHLOE METZ



GAVIN REMPEL



BRANDI VALLERA



ZACHARY YOUNG



ZANDER YOUNG