

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

August 2018

*Where do you see God
creating in your life?*



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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 Rick



Abundant blessings of peace, joy, and Holy Spirit comfort to you this day. May God allow you to recognize the power and presence of our Savior in every breath we take and every step we make.

By the time you receive this, I will have been here more than a month. In the big scheme of things this may not seem like much time....and it isn't. However, it has been enough time to begin relationships with people who were heretofore strangers. Had we crossed paths a month ago in an airport, we would not have given each other another look or the time of day. But now, I go out of my way to catch up to you when I see you in the grocery store. I'm interested in you and how you are doing. The point is, where there was once nothing, now there is something. This is the way I believe God works in the world. In fact, I'm kinda weird because I'm usually on the lookout for places where something comes from (almost) nothing.

This may not be an appropriate song for us this summer due to the many destructive forest fires we have had in the West, but the above paragraph reminds me of a song we used to sing often. I'll print the lyrics here so you can sing it now.

*It only takes a spark, to get a fire going
And soon all those around, can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it
You spread His love to ev'ryone, you want to pass it on.*

Something from nothing. It sounds like God creating doesn't it. It sounds like the voice of Almighty God commanding one more time, "Let there be_____."



You see, one of God's natures—an essential characteristic that make God God, is to create. Just as another is love, these are things that if they were not present, it would not be God. God told the prophet Isaiah, (Isaiah 43:19) "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

So, what word did you put in the blank? What new things are you perceiving? Where do you see God creating in your life? Where is freshness springing up?

My prayer for you as we step into the new school year is for God to re-create you—to have eyes that see, ears that hear, and minds that discern in new ways.

Peace,

Pastor Rick



A Word from Pastor Diamond

Greetings First UMC of Gilbert Family!

I say family because isn't that who we are to each other? We are all siblings in Christ, created, blessed and redeemed by a love greater than we can ever imagine. So as a newcomer to the FUMC Gilbert Family I figured you might want to know more about me.

God is telling you something, is calling you to something...

I was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. When I was 9 my family started going to a United Methodist Church because one of my mother's friends had the courage to invite her. They say it takes a village to raise a child and I can confidently say the UMC helped raise me. I became very active in the church as a youth so it was no surprise when I took the plunge and accepted a call to ministry when I was a junior in high school. I say it was no surprise, but actually it was a HUGE surprise to me, just not the people around. I was surrounded by people who loved me and knew me and knew I would be a great fit for pastoral ministry, I just needed to believe them. Finally when I felt the Spirit move at a church conference discussing pastoral leadership, I knew that's where I was headed.

Once I said yes, a weight lifted off my shoulders and I told God that I would go wherever I was called. After that, my life has been filled with moments sometimes small, sometimes huge, where it became clear to me God was either leading me somewhere or affirming exactly where I was. Unfortunately, sometimes God's timeline isn't the same as mine and I have had to learn to accept last minute plans. For college, God sent me to Pfeiffer University in North Carolina, I applied in May, got accepted in June, and moved in August. At the end of my senior year of college I still wasn't set on what seminary to go to, but I saw a presentation on the United Methodist Church's missionary program a few weeks before the application was due. So that is when God sent me to be a missionary in New Jersey and the Appalachian Mountains

of North Carolina. Then I went to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, the only seminary application I ended up completing, but ended up being the perfect fit.

My last semester of seminary was hard because my classmates all knew where they were going next, but I didn't. For months they were talking about their new appointments and looking for houses. Some of them were worried about me because I didn't know and if I'm honest some days I was nervous too. But again, God works on a different timeline. The morning after my graduation, I got a call and God (and a quick Google search) showed me the wonders of Gilbert, AZ.

The moment I got here I have been surrounded by a wonderful community and extravagant hospitality. Gilbert quickly become home and my spirit feels at peace. This is a sign from God that I am in the right place.

...listen because God will take you to some extraordinary places.

The Bible is full of theophanies, or moments when God or a messenger of God visibly manifested before humankind, but I think God doesn't always need to work in that way. When we look for "signs and wonders" we shouldn't just look for mighty burning bushes or choirs of angels, but those smaller signs of God's movement like an affirming word from a stranger, a calmness in your spirit, or a time when everything just clicks in place. In 1 Kings when the prophet Elijah met God, it wasn't in the mighty storm, earthquake, or fire, but in the silence. Keep an eye out for those small signs because God is telling you something, is calling you to something, listen because God will take you to some extraordinary spaces.

Grace to you and Peace,

Pastor Diamond



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 Pastor Diamond at pastordiamond@gilbertumc.org

Congregational Care Support Groups

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



For those grieving the loss of someone close to them

New session starts
Saturdays
9:00 - 10:30 am
Room 140



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

Living Grace



A Christ-centered approach for families affected by mental illness

Wednesday 6:15 pm • Room 140

To join contact Dawn Sukis at dawnksukis@yahoo.com

Reaching Out

Welcome Cart Volunteers

Do you enjoy seeing a smiling face welcoming you when you go somewhere new for the first time? Would you like to be that smiling face greeting the people who first visit our church on Sunday mornings? No special skills needed, just a willingness to share the love of Christ through welcoming our visitors at the Welcome Cart. We are looking for additional volunteers for this Sunday morning ministry.

Welcome Bags Volunteers

We are looking for some people who are willing to deliver welcome bags to our first time visitors. This is a wonderful way to say “Thank you” to those who take the time to visit our church and it doesn’t take too much time. Pick a week of the month you want to be available to serve and you can take the bags on the day and time that works in your schedule. All materials for the bags are provided along with a walk through for you on what exactly to do.

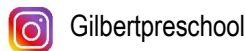


Coffee Hour Volunteers

Do you enjoy sitting down for a cup of coffee and sweet treat before or after worship service? Would you like to be a part of the team that makes those moments possible for our church family? We are always looking for new people to host our Coffee Hour ministry on Sundays. Training is provided and you can sign up for set-up, clean-up, or both according to your availability.

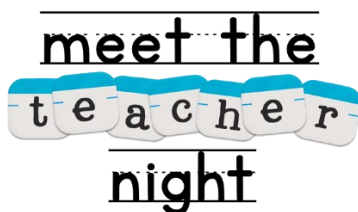
If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above, please contact Sylvia Harris at connection@gilbertumc.org or by calling the church office.

PRESCHOOL NEWS



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

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



Lora Norris
Adrienne Mesa
480-892-9166

preschool@gilbertumc.org

Open House/Meet the Teacher- August 1st

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

Check your summer letter, call the preschool office, or look on our website to see what time your class is meeting! We'll have school t-shirts to buy for \$15, and PreK students can sign up for lunch bunch!

gilbertpreschool.com

Follow us on social media! You can find out more about our programs by following us on social media! Find Gilbert Preschool on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!



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

Back to School Time- How can you make the transition into a school routine easier on the kids and on the parents? Try these fun and easy ideas even before the school year begins:

Set out clothes the night before

Get up at the same time each morning

Give everyone a morning hug

Walk through the steps together to get the kids ready, gradually having them take on one responsibility at a time themselves. It's ok if their hair is combed in a funny way or their hairclips don't match their shirt!

Sit down and eat a healthy breakfast

Brush teeth ... Yeah! What a great start to the day!

Our First Days of Class are August 6th and 7th, 9am

"This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad today."



August 2018 Children's Ministry Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

We are super excited about our new theme as we leave land and head for water with Anchors Away. We're even more excited about our bottom line as we set sail to teach preschoolers that God's way is perfect.

When you think about it, there are tons of different ways we can go in life. And, they can all sound like the right way at the same time. Our kids are going to grow up with more choices than ever on which way to go. Every day,

they will have to decide if they are going to go this way or that way. Is this the right way, or is that the right way?

That's where we come in! We have the opportunity to begin teaching our children that God's way is perfect. In fact, GOD'S way is the ONLY way that is 100% the RIGHT way every, single time! Not my way. Not your way. God's way!

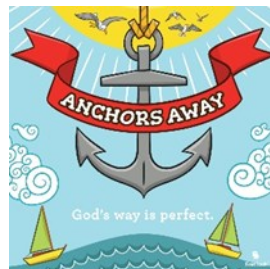
WEEK ONE	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
ONE	Jonah Jonah 1:1-3:10	I should go God's way.
WEEK TWO	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
TWO	Naaman 2 Kings 5:1-14	I can do what God says even when it's hard.
WEEK THREE	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
THREE	Josiah (Young King) 2 Chronicles 34	I can help others go God's way.
WEEK FOUR	BIBLE STORY	STORY FOCUS
FOUR	Gideon's Army Judges 7:1-8	God's way is always perfect.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
"GOD'S WAY IS PERFECT." 2 SAMUEL 22:31, NIRV	WHOSE WAY IS PERFECT?	GOD'S WAY IS PERFECT.
GOD LOVES ME.		

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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.



Elementary & Preteen

GOD VIEW:

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN WISDOM AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

WISDOM IS A REFLECTION OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

WEEK 1

We start the month with Jesus and our only glimpse into His life as a child. In Luke 2:41-52 we discover that Jesus knew His Father's house was where he needed to be. We're told that Jesus grew in wisdom, faith, and friendship. This is the model we should follow as we seek to grow in our own relationship with God.

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, search for wisdom. Kids are growing up in the information age. There is access to more data than we could possibly need or imagine. But our knowledge is only as good as how we apply it. We pray that kids find value in searching for wisdom through God's Word, trusted friends, Small Group Leaders, and their family. Wisdom is out there; we just need to find it.

WEEK 2

This week, we look to something Solomon wrote in Proverbs 22:3. Wise people see danger and go to a safe place, but childish people keep going and suffer for it, (NIRV). Without thinking, people can rush into a situation and soon discover that they are in trouble. Solomon warns us to make sure we know what we're facing before we move forward with a decision.

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, look before you leap. Kids face all sorts of decisions where they have to decide if they will keep going or pause to evaluate the best option. This happens as they learn to navigate friendships, technology, and priorities. We hope that kids discover that pausing to ask, "What's the wise choice in this situation?" can save them from getting hurt.

WEEK 3

In week three, we head to 2 Chronicles 10 and discover what happens with Solomon's son, Rehoboam. When he took over as king over Israel, people pleaded with him to make life easier for them. Rehoboam received counsel on both sides of this issue. Rather than acting on the advice from his father's advisers, he acts on the foolish advice of his friends. This ends up causing a split in the nation of Israel, creating Israel and Judah.

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people. It's been said that we are sum total of our five closest friends. Who we choose to spend our time with influences not only the choices we make but who we are. We pray that kids learn that when they surround themselves with wise friends, they will be more likely to make wise choices throughout every area of their life.

WEEK 4

In week four, we finish up the month with another one of Solomon's proverbs in Proverbs 3:5-6. This familiar passage talks about trusting God's plan rather than our own. When we lean on our own understanding, we will never consistently make the wise choice. It's through trusting in God that we can find true wisdom for our life.

Bottom Line: If you want to be wise, trust God to give you wisdom. God is the author of wisdom. We can grow in wisdom as we read God's word and discover His plan for our life. We pray that kids will put their trust in Jesus and discover how they can grow in their relationship with Him. They don't have to fear anything that happens. God can give us the confidence to trust Him no matter what.



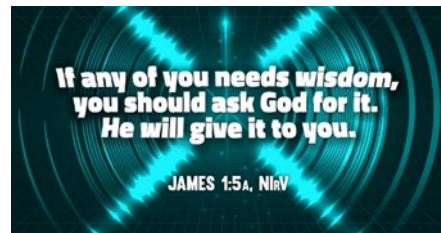
Children's Ministry

Janelle Chiricuzio, Director childrensministry@gilbertumc.org



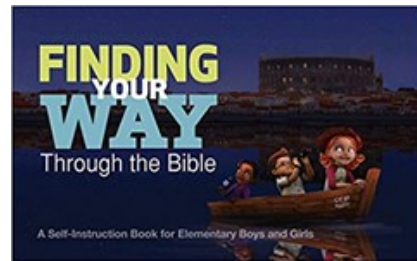
September 2018: Bible exploration class for 3rd graders

It's time for our 3rd graders to receive their bibles and this year we will be having a bible exploration class for them to explore with their bibles! Aryn Peppin and Janelle Chiricuzio will be leading this class as we encourage them to take an interest in their very own Bibles, and help them learn to navigate through them. This class offers a fun, hands-on approach, with maps, games, and charts! Please register for this class by August 26th. Starting on September 9th, this class will run Sundays during the regular small group time 9:30 in room 204.



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.



Youth Mission Trips

We thank you ALL for your ongoing financial & moral support for these life changing trips. We had 27 loving people go out into the world and serve others this summer. We ask that you continue to pray for Youth Works, Border Angels, Sierra Service Project, and the other organizations out there helping our hurting people and world. Thank you!!

Youth Summer Volleyball



We'd like to extend our gratitude & thanks for our coaches; Janet Bose, Heather Gomez, and Taleen & Keith Carpenter for their time & talents to help the new students learn to play volleyball and the others to hone their skills, but above all- to have fun. Thank you!

Youth Sunday School Plans starting Sunday August 12th

Senior high & Junior high will split up for regular Sunday morning teaching & gatherings. Senior high meets in room #142 and Junior high will meet upstairs in room #200. Thank you Adriana Hernandez, Ron Mason & Cindie Rempel for helping lead our youth in learning more about God, good conversations, and spiritual growth! You are awesome!!

Ray Vallera contact info: youthministry@gilbertumc.org or 602-291-1968

Birthdays / Anniversaries

Birthdays in August

Gayla Sutton	1
Norma Mayne	2
Emily O'Brien	2
Linda Cranford	4
Rick Casebolt	5
Anita Broughton	
Keela Clark	
Jackie Holmberg	
Eric Palmer	6
Nyambe Taylor	7
Laura Mcleod	
Dirk Smith	
Evan Houseman	8
Madelyn Mueller	
Katharine Rowley	
Suzzann Todd	
Lori Wiemers	
Katie Wyatt	
Eli Chiricuzio	9
Dixon Askeland	10
Matthew Koenig	
Amanda Martin	
Kate Turner	
Judy Bristow	12
Rebecca Hernandez	
Diane Crann	13
Daniel Harvey	

Drew Martin	14
Tom McKinley	
Alan Ball	15
Jim Hall	
Tim Killen	
Troy McDonald	
Tyler Carpenter	16
Lynn Ingalls	
Adrian Golden	17
Tina Rees	
Jennifer Burks	18
Carter Carmichael	20
Carlos Flores	
Thomas Granado	21
Kyle Kurtyka	
Julia Strazz	
Lara DeRoule	22
Jim Johns	
Emily Lyons	
Brittany Norris	
Kylee Wilkins	
Molly Hahn	26
Midori Hall	
Bradley Lane	
Andy Martin	



Harris Compton	27
Reagan Metz	
Elyssia Peppin	
Caroline Ward	
Scott Bouchie	28
Lori Van Dam	
Sadie Fairley	29
Jackson James	
Samantha Wallace	30
Kevin Boesch	31
Kevin Curran	

Anniversaries in August



Anniversary Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
3	Keith and Jo Asplin	64
3	Jim and Gloria Eggen	22
3	Trish and Christopher Odell	44
4	Bob and MaryEllen Chuk	45
5	Ronald and Sharon Dalton	20
7	Greg and Heather Ford	19
7	Dan and Jo Beth Minks	36
8	John and Marjorie Croushore	48
8	Peggy and Malcolm Herring	5
12	Charles and Sarah Bowser	52
15	Kim and Vicki Harding	47
23	Bevrly and John Braham-Durica	21
23	David and Phyllis Spittell	20

Look What Your Giving is Helping us Do!

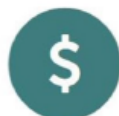
Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church. During the month of July, your donations to the church's General Fund:

- ◆ Provided staff and volunteers to plan and take our youth on two mission trips. 8 Junior High youth, with one volunteer chaperone and our Youth Director, Ray Vallera, went to San Diego July 1 through July 7. 12 Senior High youth, with four volunteer chaperones, went to Tsaile, AZ on the Navajo reservation July 8 through July 14.
- ◆ Hosted Family Promise on our campus July 15-22, organized by our Missions team with the help of 60 volunteers from our church family. Four families including a total of 5 adults and 11 children were served during the week.
- ◆ Hosted youth volleyball teams from around the district at the summer volleyball awards ceremony/dance in our Activity Center on July 29. We estimated over 120 youth with at least 20 adult leader/chaperones from 10 churches would attend.

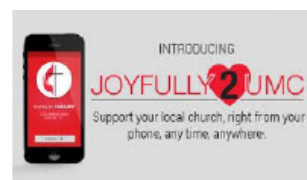
Without your gifts, we could not do this work which is all focused on our Mission "To Lead People of All Ages on the Journey to Become Deeply Devoted Followers of Jesus"!

June financial statement summaries are available in the church office. 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 Brian O'Brien, Finance Chair (Financechair@gilbertumc.org) or Deanna Helland, Treasurer/Church Accountant (480-892-9166, accountant@gilbertumc.org).

No matter where you happen to be on any particular Sunday, 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 to 480-712-1057. Why not make it a priority to set up your online or digital giving option? Then you can set it to reoccur automatically whether you are at worship or out of town. There is no better show of loyalty and care for our church than to support it even when you can't make it to Sunday morning worship.



Giving





Gilbert Men's Ministry
Pathfinders Breakfast Invitation

"Being a Christian Man in a Me Too World"

Saturday August 18 • 7 - 8:30am • Activity Center

Please RSVP to MensGroup@gilbertumc.org

- • 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

Set course for the next

Explorer's Luncheon

Sunday August 26

12:15 pm • Activity Center

A casual lunch where we can learn more about you and hear your questions about your faith journey and the church.

For more information, contact Sylvia at connection@gilbertumc.org



SAFE SANCTUARY
Recurring training for
staff and volunteers

Tuesday, August 28
6:30—8:30 pm Room 142

Please RSVP as seating is limited. Please contact Sylvia Harris at connection@gilbertumc.org