

# The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

March 2019



## Inside this issue

Lent Message .....	2
Connect at First UMC Gilbert.....	3
Upcoming Events and Opportunities.....	4
Preschool News.....	6
Youth News.....	7
Children's Ministry .....	8
Congregational Care .....	10
Birthday/ Anniversaries.....	12
Meet Casey.....	12



CHURCH OF GILBERT  
331 S Cooper Road  
Gilbert, AZ 85233

480-892-9166

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



## Lent is More

### by Pastor Diamond



Growing up I lived in a very secular environment in my neighborhood and school, but I do remember classmates always talking about giving up something for Lent. They would talk about how they couldn't drink soda or chocolate during the days leading up to Easter or however long they could last before they would "fail" and fall into temptation.

They spoke about it as if it was a New Year's Resolution- a goal you would set and your reward at the end would be to gorge out on the sweet you have been depriving yourself. While it is all good and well to practice self-control as a spiritual discipline, but Lent is more than that.

Lent is a time of repentance to prepare for the coming of resurrected Christ. On Ash Wednesday we take the time to recognize our mortality, that we are made from ashes and we will return to ashes. We are sinful beings, but that does not mean that we are lost because through God's love and grace, we know that salvation is available and Christ has the final word over sin and death. It is through Jesus Christ's sacrifice that we are freed, but that doesn't mean that we can continue to knowingly sin and sin again because we are saved forgiven people. Yes we are saved, that means we have to act like it!

Jesus has called us to a new way of living and interacting with the world and each other, so while we acknowledge our morality and our sinfulness on Ash Wednesday, we need to use the rest of Lent to prepare for the resurrection. Lent is about strengthening that commitment, not just "giving up something" out of punishment or trendiness, but to look about the ways our actions impact others and Jesus' call for us to love God and love neighbor. So do some reflection and look at your weaknesses, what areas of your life need to more intentionally lifted up to God? Maybe that means adding something instead of just taking something away. I know someone who wanted to not be so quick to anger and lash out at people, so whenever they felt that anger build they would recite some memorized scripture verses. They would lift their anger up to God and replace forbidden words with sacred text. If you are someone who struggles with self-control or really wants to give up chocolate, maybe take the time to look at how unfair chocolate manufacturing processes has negative effects on international economies and instead discover how to incorporate fair-trade chocolate into your life post-Easter.

So be creative, don't just give up the same old thing you usually do, but really take time this Lenten season to do some self-reflection and really challenge the areas in your life blocking you from deepening your relationship with Christ and with others. The resurrected Christ is coming, will you be ready?

## Ministry Fair

Please come by the Ministry on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> in between services in the Activity Center. Our ministry teams will be present with information and opportunities for how you can live into your gifts for service within our local church body. There are many different opportunities to get involved in our church family and you won't want to miss your chance to learn about them.

The only thing we're missing is you!



There will be a drawing for one of four \$25 Visa gift cards for people who visit all the different tables and complete information on where they feel God is calling them to serve. There will also be a table to talk about your Spiritual Gifts so you can better understand how you have been personally gifted for ministry in service of the church and world. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Harris at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org).

## Exploring Membership Luncheon

### Sunday March 10th at 12:15pm in the Activity Center

If you have recently started attending church at First United Methodist Church of Gilbert or have been coming for years without becoming an official member this luncheon is an opportunity for you to meet our pastors and various church leaders. The luncheon is an informal meeting where you will learn about the different ministries of the church, what it means to be a United Methodist, as well as what it means to be a member of our local church body.

We strongly encourage all people who attend services with us to consider membership as another step one your journey to living into the fullness of your life in Christ. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Sylvia Harris at [connection@gilbertumc.org](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org) or by contacting the

## Explorer's Luncheon Sunday, March 10th 12:15pm in 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](mailto:connection@gilbertumc.org)





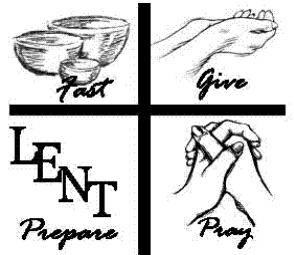


**Gilbert Men's Ministry**  
**Pathfinders Breakfast Invitation**  
**Saturday March 16 • 7 - 8:30am • Activity Center**  
 Please RSVP to: [MensGroup@gilbertumc.org](mailto:MensGroup@gilbertumc.org)

- 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 Ministry

**Wednesday Wilds Lenten Program for Tweens & Teens**

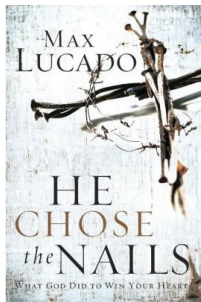
Pastor Diamond will join Michelle Butler in leading discussions. Wednesday Wilds meets in room 205 from 6:30pm to 8pm. This program will begin March 13th and will continue weekly until April 17th. Join us for this Lenten youth study! Please email [childrensministry@gilbertumc.org](mailto:childrensministry@gilbertumc.org) for more info!



**CRUCIFIED  
GLORIFIED**

**Lent Devotional**

Join us in using the Crucified Glorified Journal to pray through the Lenten season. Instead of giving up something during Lent pick up a prayer journal and pray your way through Lent. The Crucified Glorified journal will be available for you to get a copy on Sundays in the Narthex.



**Lent Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Pastor Rick will lead this bible study during lent on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in room 142. The study is by Max Lucado, "He Chose the Nails." This study invites you to examine the cross, contemplate its purpose and celebrate its significance.

**Lent/Holy Week Services**

- Ash Wednesday 3/6/19 7pm
- During Lent: Mid-Week Devotionals (Approx 15 minutes)
  - Every Tuesday at Noon
  - Every Thursday at 9am
- Palm Sunday 4/14/19 8, 9:30 & 11am
- Maundy Thursday 4/18/19 7pm
- Good Friday 4/19/19 7pm
- Easter Sunday 4/21/19 6, 8, 9:30 & 11am



## Early Response Team Training

The Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy is hosting a training, March 28-31, at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Academy equips ERTs (Early Response Team members) to serve in many areas of disaster response, and this year focuses on UMCOR's Connecting Neighbors, designed to help congregations prepare for local disasters, from a major fire in the church sanctuary, a protracted power outage in your town, or a wildfire that affects your neighborhood as it did in Paradise, CA.

This Connecting Neighbors training is especially helpful for Stephen's Ministers, Missions leaders, lay leaders and trustees, as well as ERTs. Check out this you-tube video for more information on ERTs: <https://youtu.be/Z56JVdx9bqQ>

Over 80 people have already registered but we still need more! Registration information is available at <https://dscumc.org/secure/registration-for-wj-disaster-academy/> Feel free to contact Polly Turner, Director of the Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy. Her phone number is 480-861-9033 and her email is [pollyjt@outlook.com](mailto:pollyjt@outlook.com)



## Family Promise March 24-31st

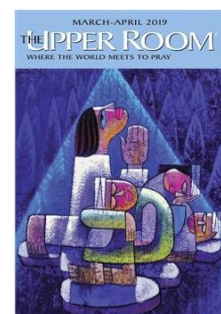
Our church is preparing to host Family Promise March 24th—31st. Family Promise's mission is to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community based response. Guess what? This church is part of that community. We provide housing and meals to families as they work their way to independence. DyAnn Obrien organizes this effort and she will be in the courtyard in between services with sign up sheets. Volunteers are needed for preparing meals, staying on site overnight, set up and clean up.

## Mark Your Calendar—It is almost time for the Spring Picnic

The Spring Picnic will be April 28th from 4-7pm. Family Ministry will provide and cook hotdogs and hamburgers. The rest of the meal will be provided by everyone attending. We are asking others to bring something based upon the first letter of your last name. Dessert for last names starting with A-H, a side dish for names I-S, and some kind of salad for the T-Z names. Come join us for Praise band music, fun, food, and fellowship among our church family.

## March-April The Upper Room is Here

The Upper Room is a daily devotional guide that provides a practical way to listen to scripture, connect with believers around the world, and spend time with God each day. You can pick up your copy of The Upper Room on the Resource table in the Narthex (Sanctuary Lobby). A donation of \$2 is greatly appreciated.





## Registration for 2019-2020

We are **NOW** enrolling students for next 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!

## In February:

In February, the preschoolers had a canned food drive and collected coats to give to a local shelter. Each class was challenged to collect at least 20 cans of food! They were incredibly generous! Thank you!



This time of year is beautiful and so fun for outside play! Our garden is growing and we love playing in the sand table!

We also learned about Daniel and the Lion's Den and the Good Samaritan! "Love one another as I have loved you" John 15:12

## March:

March is a wonderful month full of sunshine and spring changes! Our PreK classes will celebrate their 100th day of school and we'll hold our first Spring Fling! At the Spring Fling, the children will gather in the activity center during the school day and enjoy fun, active games together! Thank you to all the parents who will come to set up the games and help to run them during the event! We couldn't do this without you! During the month of March, our curriculum is filled with science! We'll look at different life cycles of animals and observe ladybugs! So fun!



## Spring Break:

Enjoy your Spring Break this year! There will be no school from Monday, March 11th – Tuesday, March 19th. The first day back will be Wednesday, March 20th .

If you have any questions about the preschool, please contact Lora Norris or Adrienne Mesa at [preschool@gilbertumc.org](mailto:preschool@gilbertumc.org) or 480-892-9166.



FUMC of Gilbert Preschool



Gilbertpreschool



@gilpreschool



## 2018 Youth Volunteer Hours

It is not all fun and games for our students. Last year, the youth were highly active and served our church and community in many volunteer ways. We are proud to inform you that we had close to 100 different people (students, parents and leaders) serve an estimated 300 volunteer hours. The youth served food the first Saturday of each month at Watkins and Halle Center. Read to children at UMOM and gifted them with



books. Helped at St Vincent De Paul facilities and gardens. Cooked, served and played with Family Promise children. Collected and distributed toys to children during the Garfield Christmas party in Phoenix. These are just the highlights!

We thank you for your financial support that makes this all possible and the many other ways you support our youth ministry. We are active and following your lead! Thank you!!

## Mission Trips Meeting - March 10th, 2019 (4-5 pm)

Leaders, parents & youth will meet in the Senior High room regarding 2019 summer Mission Trips. We'll all meet from 4-5 pm in the Senior High room #140. Bring your questions.

## 2019 Youth Shirts have Arrived

Cost per shirt is \$10 for students and \$15 per adult. See Ray if you'd like to purchase one. Youth account funds may be used to pay for shirts. We'll be selling shirts on the patio soon.

## Youth Events March 2019

March School Spring Break "Common" week is March 11-15th.

3/3/19: Youth Jr Chef Pizza Challenge-4-7 pm

3/10/19: (Spring Breaks begin) NO GATHERING on Sunday Night

3/17/19: St. Patrick's Day Party- Corned beef and green or Irish dish pot luck 4-6 pm

3/24/19: (Family Promise Week) Game Night. Come and join us for board games 4-6 pm

3/23/19: Friday night Family Promise Dinner

3/31/19: Hike: time and location TBD

## March 2019 Elementary

**WEEK 1:** We start the month by looking closely at Genesis 1:26-28. When God created people, He did something special. He created them in His image and gave them the job of taking care of creation. **Bottom Line:** God made me in His image. We hope to help kids understand that being made in the image of God means we can love, show kindness, be creative, solve problems, and care for others all because we reflect and respond to God's character.



**WEEK 2:** Next, we take a look at a parable Jesus told in Luke 15:1-17. In the story, Jesus talks about a shepherd who leaves 99 sheep behind to search for the one sheep that was lost. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who rescues us and makes it possible for us to have a forever relationship with God. **Bottom Line:** God wants to have a relationship with me. When it comes to understanding individuality, it's important we help kids understand that God created them to have a relationship with Him. We hope, through Jesus' parable of the Lost Sheep, kids will start to understand God's amazing love for them.

**WEEK 3:** In week three, we look at some of what Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12. Although Timothy was a gifted leader, he was young. Paul reminds Timothy that he should stay faithful to the task God gave him. Even in his youth, Timothy was able to lead the church and point people to Jesus. **Bottom Line:** God made me to make a difference. As we discover more about our individuality, we can begin to realize that God created us for a purpose. God can use our strengths to help others and show them what it means to follow Jesus. Through Timothy's story, we hope that kids start to understand the purpose God has for them.

**WEEK 4:** For week four, we head to 1 Samuel 16 and discover more about the time when God used Samuel to anoint David as the next king of Israel. As the youngest of Jesse's sons, David was the least likely to be crowned king. Yet God helped Samuel discover that the true worth is not what we see on the outside but who we are on the inside. **Bottom Line:** God wants me to see what really matters. As we learn more about how God sees us it teaches us how to see ourselves and it can change the way we see others. We pray that kids start to understand that God wants us to see others how He sees them and treat everyone like they matter.

**WEEK 5:** We finish the month looking at Matthew 22:34-40. With the greatest commandment, Jesus clarified what it meant to follow God. Instead of following hundreds of commands, Jesus said we are to love God and love others as we love ourselves. When we put this into practice, it helps us prioritize love in all of our relationships. **Bottom Line:** God made me to love others. We're not meant to do life on our own. God made us for relationships. But for those relationships to thrive, we need to put love as the goal.

### Sunday "FirstKidz" Mornings

Sunday School for Elementary Children at 9:30am

Kid's Worship at 11:00am

### Nursery

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



## March 2019 Preschool

Like the colorful building blocks in our MADE theme art, we want to build the idea that we are all wonderfully made by God in the minds of our preschoolers.



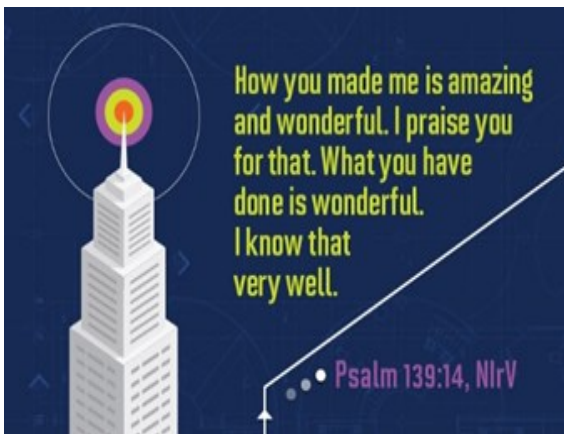
**WEEK 1:** The first block of the foundation we hope to build will be laid week one when we talk about how we are wonderfully made by God. **Story Focus:** I am wonderfully made. God made each and every one of us and no two of us are the same. We are each unique and special in our own way.

**WEEK 2:** We will add to the foundation that God made us in His image. Yep, that creativity, smartness, desire to help...you got it all from God because He is creative, smart and helpful too! **Story Focus:** I am made in God's image. God made us like Him, and that makes us wonderful!

**WEEK 3:** The foundation will get stronger when we talk about how we are very important to God, not because of what we do but because of who made us. **Story Focus:** I am important to God. We'll unpack what the word, important, means while we learn that every individual important to God. Why? Because He made us!

**WEEK 4:** Talk about what it looks like to respect ourselves. After all, something God made deserves a little respect. **Story Focus:** God made me to respect myself. Respecting ourselves means taking care of our bodies. We need to eat healthy foods, brush our teeth, and get enough rest if we want to respect the bodies God gave us.

**WEEK 5:** Talk about what it looks like to respect others. God made all people, so all people deserve respect. **Story Focus:** God made me to respect others. For preschoolers, respecting others means using kind words, sharing, and playing together nicely. We can be kind to our friends, because God made them too. Preschoolers need to learn now that they are wonderfully made by God, in His image. This makes them very important and motivates them to respect themselves and others.



## FILLING EASTER BASKETS

The Children's Ministry offering this month will be to collect Easter basket items for the Sidewalk Sunday School. Our mission's team will make baskets that will be passed out to kids through this ministry. Please look for list from your Sunday school classes!



**Grief Share Support Group**

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them. This support group is meeting on Saturdays from 9am-10:30am

**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 Hope*

**Living Hope Support Group**

A group for those experiencing trauma or dealing with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm in Room 140.

**Living Grace Support Group**

A Christ-centered approach for families affected by mental illness. This group meets the first and third Wednesday at 6:15pm. To join contact Dawn Sukis at [dawnsukis@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnsukis@yahoo.com)

*Living Grace*



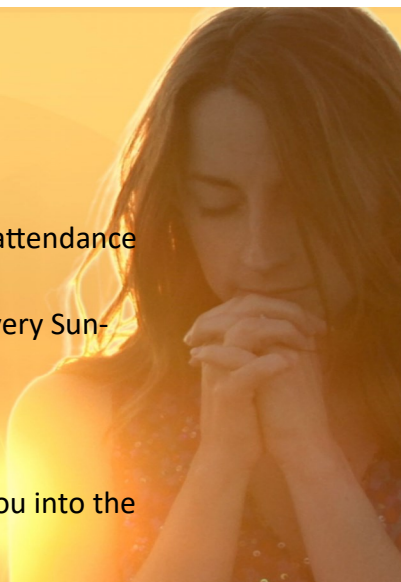
**We are a praying church!**

**Need Prayer?**

- eMail to [prayers@gilbertumc.org](mailto:prayers@gilbertumc.org)
- Call 480-892-9166
- Let us know your prayer request on the back of yellow attendance card in Sunday Worship bulletins
- There are prayer ministers available to pray with you every Sunday after the sermon

**Want to pray for others?**

Call the church office or speak to a pastor and we will get you into the prayer chain and/or trained as a prayer minister.



## New Divorce Care Group Starting March 12th



### Divorced? Separated? We Can Help

Unless you've been there, it's hard to understand the hurt that comes from separation and divorce. DivorceCare is a 13-week program that provides support and information you can trust. The group meets once a week with a combination of video seminar, group discussion and a personal workbook to help you deal with the hurt, practical information and biblical teachings for hope and forgiveness.

The next session begins on March 12th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. The group will meet once a week until June 4th. Please check out the website at [www.DivorceCare.org](http://www.DivorceCare.org) for program information. To register for the class here at our church go to: <https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/103053>. This session will be facilitated by Adriana Hernandez and Ruth Lee.

This is open to the public, not just for our church members. If you have a neighbor, co-worker or family member hurting please let them know about the upcoming program. Feel free to contact the church office or eMail Adriana Hernandez at [Adriana.143.10@gmail.com](mailto:Adriana.143.10@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns you may have.



# Birthdays / Anniversaries

## March Birthdays

Samuel Bouchie	March 02
Kathy Snyder	March 03
Erika Gehres	March 04
Hailey Houseman	March 04
Mercedes Skinner	March 04
Lucy Daniels	March 07
Ashley Reynolds	March 07
Katelyn Johns	March 08
Jonah Orndorff	March 09
Jim Eggen	March 10
Dennis Greeley	March 11
Sue Dunning	March 12
Gavin Rempel	March 12
Ainsley Snyder	March 12
Elise Williams	March 13
Lynn Carroll	March 14
Katelyn Mason	March 14
Nina Chiricuzio	March 15
Sue Stone	March 15
Madeleine Milner	March 16
Brandi Vallera	March 16
Lucy Comstock	March 17
Zander Young	March 17
Alexandria Bose	March 18
Carolyn Skinner	March 18
Trevor Snyder	March 18
Max Tesarek	March 18
Margie Zeilstra	March 18
Mollie Belcher	March 19
Georgia Pell	March 19

Sierra Smith	March 19
Elizabeth Flores	March 20
Albert Pineda	March 20
Dylan Ramos	March 20
Susan Young	March 20
Scott Hanson	March 21
Landry George Ramirez	March 21
Myla Smith	March 21
Annabelle Ramsey	March 22
Chris Fox	March 23
Carley Palmer	March 23
Philip Tesarek	March 23
Makenna Arbogast	March 25
Megan Spittell	March 25
Adam Butler	March 26
Bob Chuk	March 26
Kevin Becker	March 27
Lily High	March 27
Justin Diaz	March 29
Keegan Wilkins	March 29
James Taylor	March 30



## March Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
16	Chris and Stacy Cantwell	7
21	Mark and Pam Turner	33
23	Keith and Taleen Carpenter	23
28	George and Veronica Dailey	24

## Meet Casey DeWitt

### Our New Treasurer and Church Accountant

Casey graduated from Lycoming College in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Actuarial Mathematics and Quantitative Economics. She also minored in Business. After college she worked for Charles Schwab as a Registered Broker. It was at Schwab that she met her husband Tyler and they moved with the company to Chicago Illinois. Casey worked in the Naperville branch of Charles Schwab, first as Client Service Specialist and then earning a promotion to Financial Consultant Assistant. Casey and Tyler welcomed their son Cooper while in Illinois, but soon moved back to Arizona to be near family.



Casey is active in the United Methodist Church and is a volunteer treasurer at Song of Life UMC in Queen Creek Arizona. She also founded a Mothers of Preschoolers (MoPs) group that meets at Song of Life twice a month. She loves to read, go to movies with her husband and spending time with Cooper. Fun Fact – Casey and family have 36 animals that live with them on the Spall/DeWitt Farm including - 2 dogs, 2 cats, 2 cows, 11 goats, 18 chickens and one pony! Please take a few minutes to welcome Casey! Her skills and talents are such a blessing to our church!