

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

April 2019



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Gilbert, AZ 85233

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

Lenten Message from Pastor Rick

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Son of God—the one who was and is and is to come. I know you have been patiently waiting for this so here it is—my very first article written for the Evangel. It is also the first Lenten season that I have spent with you—the first of many, I pray. It has been so good getting to know you and hear your stories.

The body of Christ, His church, has looked forward to this time of year since it was established. The Lenten season has always been a special time of preparation, renewal, and restoration. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, this was a time to prepare new converts to Christianity for their baptism and participation in the sacrament of communion. Easter was a time for “new birth in Christ.” Do you know what? It still is. Every year, Lent can be a wilderness journey where we search for a new understanding of God’s will for us here and now.

Our theme this year is “The Heart of God.” During this season, new and longtime Christians alike hear the call to return to God with all their hearts, thus entering a season historically characterized by much prayer and fasting. These works of discipline have for hundreds of years served as a means by which new converts prepare for baptism, which occurs as a part of the Easter Vigil. Using the words of Wesleyan theology, we believe all this work is initiated by God, who invites us to come before God with all our hearts.

As you may surmise, I am especially fond of this time of year. It is a season of transformation. I have been privileged to witness this marvelous phenomenon occur in many of you. We, as a group take our Lenten journey seriously, as we should. Generally, we tend to spend more time at church by participating in small group studies and showing up for every worship service. I know that during this time, you find more time for prayer and meditation. Furthermore, during Lent, you spend more time thinking theologically—pondering God’s work within you and in the world. I have seen this work in you and it is amazing.

Our faith is centered upon the cross. Every aspect of faith rotates around its meaning. Our hope in salvation for ourselves and everyone who believes—present and future is based upon the suffering, death, and most importantly, the resurrection of Jesus. My hope (and prayer) for you is that during this season you will give deep thought to the grace offered to us by the obedience of Christ.

May the Spirit of God enliven you to accomplish great things for the Kingdom.

God’s peace to you as we journey together to God’s heart. Pastor Rick.



Lent/Holy Week Services

During Lent: **Mid-Week Devotionals** (About 15 minutes)

Tuesdays at Noon and Thursdays 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

Pancake Breakfast served by the Scouts in Activity Center

A word from Randy Van Der Pol *Contemporary Worship Leader*

My name is Randy Van Der Pol. My family and I feel very blessed to be here at FUMCG. I have been involved in ministry for the last 15 years of my life. I received my Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa. Along with leading worship, I am also a Music Teacher. I teach music at Bethany Christian School in Tempe.



I have been married to my beautiful wife Melissa for 23 years. We have two sons, Jackson (21) and Nathan (19). My wife sings, and our sons have been in worship with us since they were young. Jack plays guitar and sings, and Nathan play drums and sings also. I love involving a lot of people in worship, and on the worship team. FUMCG is blessed with many good singers and instrumentalists, and I look forward to working with all of them!

I love hearing people singing worship songs to Jesus! My wife and I love leading life groups, and look forward to leading a group at FUMCG soon. We also want to get a youth band started, and have them join us regularly in the Contemporary service.

My family and I would like to thank all of you for giving us such a warm welcome, and we look forward to being part of FUMCG for many years to come!

Randy Van Der Pol
Contemporary Worship Leader
First United Methodist Church in Gilbert



New First UMC Gilbert Church Member

We welcomed Meghan Wagner-Totty into membership on Sunday, March 17th at the 8:00 service. She came to membership after reaffirming the vows of her baptism in a Baptism Reaffirmation. It was a beautiful opportunity for all present to remember their own vows of baptism and reaffirm their own covenant to faithful living. Meghan enjoys animals, reading and learning. She has a large heart and is very excited to begin engaging in the various ministries of the church.

Preschool News

Directors www.gilbertpreschool.com 480-892-9166

Lora Norris & Adrienne Mesa,

Preschool News
www.gilbertpreschool.com



We are **NOW** enrolling students for the 2019-2020 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.

What's been going on?

Dr. Seuss Week- We celebrated reading with a week of rhyming and silly dress up days inspired by Dr. Seuss! We played Green Eggs and Ham tic-tac-toe and made red and white striped Dr. Seuss hats. Students were inspired to read, write, and to “think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!”

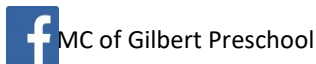


Spring Fling – On March 4th and 5th, our preschoolers enjoyed active games such as wand dancing, frog long jump, sack races, obstacle course, and even balloon baseball! All these games were run by our loving parents, we are so thankful for you!

Gardening with Preschoolers- Have you checked out the Children's Garden in the courtyard? We are growing cabbage, lettuce, snap peas and carrots! We are even hoping to have a few sweet peppers and tomatoes before the summer comes! This month we are observing and playing with ladybugs and touching earth worms! What fun!



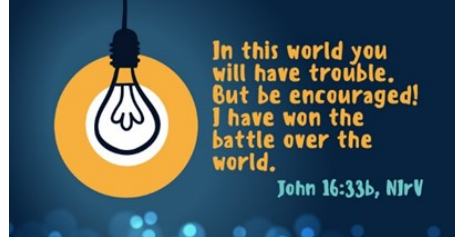
If you have any questions about the preschool, please call Adrienne Mesa or Lora Norris, preschool directors at 480-892-9166.



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

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

We can't always understand why some things happen. But we can believe in a God who keeps His promises. We can have hope, even in the toughest times, because we know He can make something good out of something bad.



| | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| WEEK ONE | BIBLE STORY: Lazarus Raised John 11:1-45 | BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is. |
| WEEK TWO | BIBLE STORY: Palm Sunday John 12:9-16 | BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember God keeps His promises. |
| WEEK THREE | BIBLE STORY: Crucifixion and Resurrection John 18:1—20:18 | BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive. |
| WEEK FOUR | BIBLE STORY: Jesus Appears to Thomas John 20:19-29 | BOTTOM LINE Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions. |

| MEMORY VERSE | |
|--|--|
| "IN THIS WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE. BUT BE ENCOURAGED! I HAVE WON THE BATTLE OVER THE WORLD." | <small>JOHN 16:33B, NIRV</small> |
| HOPE | Believing something good can come out of something bad |

Janelle Chircuzio, Director childrensministry@gilbertumc.org

Children's Ministry



Join us for our traditional palm procession on Palm Sunday at the beginning of all services. During the 9:30 Sunday school hour we will walk all the kids down the aisle after check in with their classes .



Join us on Easter Sunday during the 9:30 Sunday school hour for an egg hunt and Easter story fun for all the kids!

We are looking for donations of plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy or Easter surprises! Please drop off in office. Thank you!

Youth News

Youth and children’s ministry extends a big THANK YOU to everyone that has donated to support the campership FUNDS. With your generosity, so far we’ve raised nearly \$1,500 for our camp scholarship funds this year. This fund is split equally between children’s & youth ministry and are dedicated to only camps or camp retreats, as we have a separate scholarship fund for other youth events and mission trips. These funds are used to help offset the cost of camps, as they can be pricy when chaperones, food, travel expenses & camp fees are included. To provide some context for this, in 2018 we were able to provide about \$2,000 in scholarships to help invest in over 40 students’ lives. You’re always touching more lives than you may know and seeds are planted and watered at these events. Thank you so much!



April 7th – field trip to AME Tanner Chapel in Phoenix

This trip is required for Confirmation class but is open to all youth that want to attend an A.M.E. style worship service. RSVP with Ray a must! Students need to dress nicely in slacks, dresses, etc. We’ll leave 1st Gilbert at 9:45 am to arrive for their 10:30 am service. Bring \$5.



Gilbert Men’s Ministry
Pathfinders Breakfast Invitation

Saturday April 13 • 8 - 9:30am • 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 Ministry



Annual
**CHURCH
PICNIC**

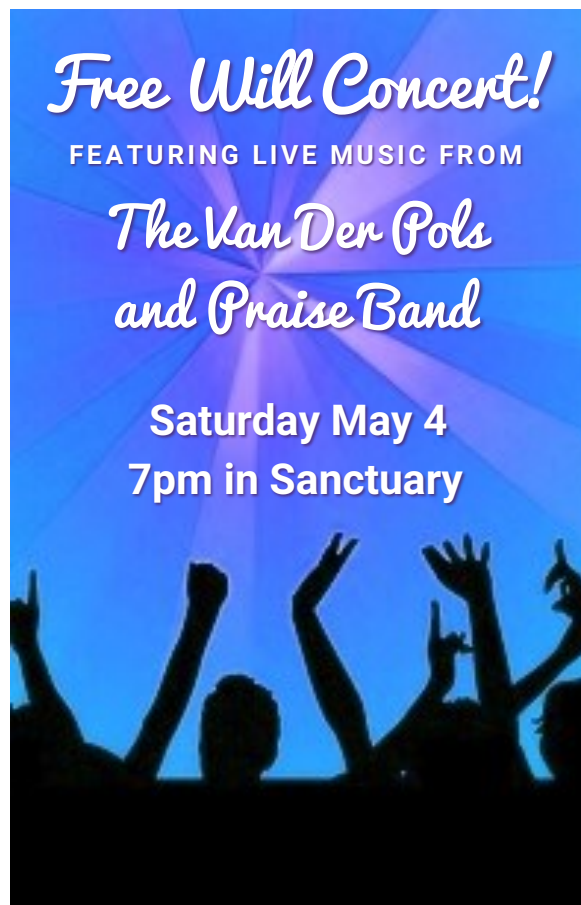
**Sunday, April 28th
4 - 7pm**

Join us for our annual church picnic here at FUMC of Gilbert!
All activities will be on the lawn behind the activity center.

*Music · Games · Bounce House
Hamburgers · Hot Dogs · Watermelon*

Please bring something to share:
(Last name starts with A-H: dessert; I-S: picnic side dish; T-Z: salad)

Contact Eric Butler for more information or to volunteer:
480-415-8175 • home@mebutler.com



Free Will Concert!
FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM
*The Van Der Pols
and Praise Band*

**Saturday May 4
7pm in Sanctuary**

Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:

April 16 • Special Church Conference in Sanctuary to correct compensation error for Pastor Diamond.

May 5 and 6 • Safe Sanctuary classes for staff and volunteers. Contact Sylvia at connection@gilbertumc.org for info.

June 3-7 • VBS • Donations and volunteers needed! We need 80's or 90's themed video game paraphernalia. Contact Janelle at childrensministry@gilbertumc.org



>> Save the Date <<
VBS 2019
June 3-7 • 9am-Noon

POWER UP

RAISE YOUR GAME
>>> INSERT COIN | GOTO 10 | ALL E | FALKEN'S MAZE | END OF LINE <<<

THE HIGHER
you climb
THE FURTHER
you'll GO



Take the first step toward forging
a new future. Join Scouts BSA
today and discover how awesome
you are inside, outside.

Join us at www.3088Scouts.org

SCOUT ME IN



Troop 3088, an All-Girls Troop, is actively meeting
Mondays @ 7 pm at 331 S Cooper Rd in Gilbert
Ages 11-18. Interested?

Contact Philip Tesarek via email at scouting@gilbertumc.org or call 480-510-4588

1Mission Puerto Penasco/Rocky Point Mission Trip Review

This mission trip was promoted by UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission) leader, Mike Eyer, and supported by many United Methodist Churches in Arizona. Team 1 (of 3) had 19 members consisting of Mike Miller, Al & Michelle Reynolds, Dennis & Janet Williams and Craig & Chris Thompson, from First Gilbert; Skip & Myrna Eshelman from Gold Canyon; Jo Robinson from Red Mountain; Eileen Pike, Jim & Carole Smith, Bob & Debbie Unternaehrer, Glenn Allinger and Harold Glick from Lakeview/Sun City, Mike Eyer from Spirit of Hope/Peoria and Rev. Nancy Cushman, District Superintendent – West District. Approximately 85 volunteers in total met at Base Camp for 1Mission outside Rocky Point on Friday, March 1st to work on the building of homes for 4 different families.



On the morning of March 2nd we drove to the homesite and met our family to begin our weekend working side by side with all the members of the Ayala Savaliya family. Ramiro and Dulce have 3 children, Jose Angel (15), Ramiro Alberto (14) and Annel Carolina (11). The construction of the home had already been started by other volunteer groups, so we picked up where they had left off. This type of build is a new design for 1Mission (Styrofoam block construction vs. wood frame) so we were all learning on the job. Our home had already had the concrete slab and the walls were half way up.

We were able to complete the remainder of the walls and fill them with concrete and also build all 11 trusses for the roof. Not only did the family work alongside the construction project but Dulce (wife/mother) and mother-in-law prepared a delicious, warm lunch for our team every day.

Sunday evening was Fiesta Night at Base Camp where the families were recognized for all their accomplishments and we all got to know our families better. We heard how they were able to complete their 400 hours of community work to earn the opportunity to have groups come to help them build their home. The Ayala Savaliya Family were learning, through 1Mission's program, gardening and were starting a community garden on their property to help themselves and their neighbors maintain a healthier diet while saving on the cost of fresh produce.



On our last day, through the kind donations from First Gilbert, we were able to present the family with a new mattress and box spring, along with accompanying bedding, as a house warming gift. This brought tears to Dulce's eyes and the family was all very grateful for the gift and all the help with the construction of their home. Regardless of the language barrier, we all knew and felt their love and appreciation. Gifts were also given from the other members and churches represented on our team which included sun shades, clothing, quilts, toys and a sewing machine, which made Dulce cry again (tears of joy!)

1Mission also sets up a fund for each family that has earned a home to hold donations that might be used for the installation of electricity and water services for the home upon completion. If you would like to participate in this giving opportunity or for 1Mission in general, please contact them at support@1mission.org or at 602-635-7500.

Welcoming the Stranger

Invitation & Welcome Team • Sylvia Harris • connection@gilbertumc.org

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. – Hebrews 13:2

As we approach Easter, I am reminded of what it means to welcome the strangers among us. In the Old Testament we read about Abraham welcoming in the strangers, the messengers from the Lord, who came to tell him about the coming destruction that would affect his nephew Lot. Abraham did not hesitate to let them into his home, to share a meal with them. The culture of his day would not have allowed for anything less. We are to look to Abraham as an example of a man counted righteous by his faith. When we talk about entertaining angels unawares, it is a reference to this piece of scripture from Genesis.

We do a great job of welcoming new people to our pews. Every time we have the Exploring Membership Luncheon, the resounding message is how welcoming, how friendly the church family has been to people when they first step foot on our campus. I want to say thank you to everyone for that message. We are church that smiles, that says 'hello,' and that offers a word of greeting to those we do not know. Let us continue to entertain the angels that come among us.

Methodism 101 • Thursday, May 9 • 6:30 pm • Room 142

A new program to explain Methodism to interested and existing members

We will begin offering quarterly Methodism 101 classes which explore the history of our denomination and offer a deeper dive into what Methodists believe. After these classes the pastors will offer times to meet with individuals who are interested in joining our local body in a one-on-one setting and engage in a deeper, personal connection. Finally, we will continue to hold our membership luncheons on a quarterly basis as the final step in membership. The lunches will continue to focus on our local church body and help those interested in becoming members understand the many different opportunities for ministry engagement at the local level.

Our first Methodism 101 class will be offered on Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 pm in room 142. The class will be open to anyone interested in learning more about Methodism, including those who are already church members. This class will offer a history of the Methodist church and include what makes the United Methodist Church different than other denominations as well as what we have in common. If you are interested in becoming an associate or affiliate member or transferring your full membership from another United Methodist Church, please contact Sylvia Harris to expedite the membership process.



Congregational Care Support Groups
For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Diamond at pastordiamond@gilbertumc.org or 480-892-9166

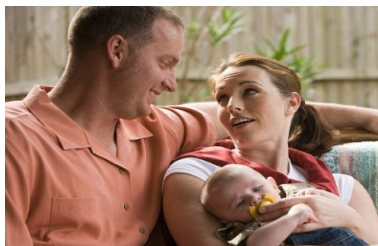


Divorce Care is meeting on Tuesdays at 6:30pm through June 4 in the Sanctuary. Please join any time, all are welcome. Facilitated by Adriana Hernandez and Ruth Lee. Please contact Adriana at adriana.143.10@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.



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 in Room 133.



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 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.



Donate Purses for Moms!

Help make Mother's Day special for moms in local domestic violence and family shelters.

Donate your new & like new purses filled with goodies like cosmetics, lotions, toiletries, bath gels, manicure items, and hair accessories.

Please bring all donations to the church by May 5.

For more information, please contact Stacy Cantwell at 795-993-0293 or stacycantwell78@yahoo.com

April 2019

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|--|-----------------------|----|
| | 1 | 2 mid week Lenten with communion 12pm | 3 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 4 mid week Lenten with communion 9am | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 mid week Lenten with communion 12pm | 10 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 11 mid week Lenten with communion 9am | 12 | 13 |
| 14 PALM SUNDAY. Explorer meet At 12:15 | 15 | 16 Lenten Ser. Last 12pm Sp. Chg. Conf. 6pm Sanctuary | 17 NO Wednesday night activities | 18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7PM | 19 GOOD FRIDAY 7PM | 20 |
| 21 EASTER | 22 | 23 | 24 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 CHURCH PICNIC 4-7 pm | 29 | 30 | | | | |

May 2019

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|--|----|----|-----------------------------------|
| | | | 1 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 2 | 3 | 4 FREE WILL CONCERT |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Mothers Day | 13 | 14 | 15 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 16 | 17 | 28 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 23 | 24 | 25 CONFIRMA- TION SERVICE |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Wednesday night Dinner and activities | 30 | 31 | |