

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

July 2020



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Attendance June 21st
Virtual viewing 375



CHURCH OF GILBERT

331 S Cooper Road
Gilbert, AZ 85233
480-892-9166

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



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GILBERT

CAMPUS CLOSURE

The First UMC Gilbert Campus will be closed to all functions until further notice for COVID-19 considerations.

Offices are open by appointment only.

Please view gilbertumc.org for latest information.

Contact us at 480-892-9166 or info@gilbertumc.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday services will be livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30 am

Join us at gilbertumc.org or facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PHOENIX AREA

1550 E MEADOWBROOK AVENUE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85014-4040



June 24, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

I hold you, our laity and clergy in prayer in these days of uncertainty and change. As I do so, I call upon the words from scripture to uphold the spirits of the faithful in such a time as this. In Isaiah we are assured that God gives us strength to endure and carry on even when we are physically or spiritually exhausted.

‘Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. (God) does not faint or grow weary; (God’s) understanding is unsearchable. (God) gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.’ (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Fully knowing that we are weary of the weeks of separation and suspension of in-person worship and other gatherings, this update is being sent with hope that we will not be lulled into thinking that God has abandoned us. We may be growing weary of the restraints to our usual life mandated by the restrictions and actions that are being required of us. Each of us has a critical part in the mitigation of the spread of COVID-19. Please follow the guidelines for safety precautions which include wearing a face mask, social distancing, frequent hand washing, staying at home if you are not feeling well, and cleaning and disinfecting. As the Coronavirus continues to spread in the Desert Southwest Conference, we must all be part of the solution.

Please remember that in the “Resource for Church Opening,” on our DSC website, Phase 1 begins when state and local officials have reported a 14 day downward trend of cases, hospitals are treating patients without crisis care, and there is a robust testing program in place, including antibody testing. We are not yet there. In fact, in the last two weeks, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of cases of infections which has resulted in urgency about the continuing spread of the Coronavirus and serious concern about the availability of hospital beds to accommodate additional COVID patients. Based on available statistics, we are not yet ready to begin Phase 1 of the Re-Opening Plan. As we continue to wait for a pattern of decline in infections and deaths, our United Methodist Churches must continue to suspend in-person worship and group gatherings of any size.

In the past two weeks, there have been concerns raised about specific situations being faced by churches. Consequently, new for this UPDATE are three exceptions to the restrictions as we continue in Pre-Phase 1. Beginning today, Wednesday, June 24, 2020, with the consent of your District Superintendent, these exceptions are allowed: For worship planning, preparations, live streaming or recording in the church building, no more than 5 persons may be present at the same time in the same space. Strict adherence to the safety precautions in accordance with your church’s re-opening plan must be observed. These should include but are not limited to observing physical

distancing, washing hands frequently, wearing masks, cleaning and disinfecting touched surfaces such as the pulpit, podium, no sharing of microphones.

Food pantries and clothing centers that are ministries of caring and compassion offered by the church in response to the needs of the hungry in the community may resume following strict no-contact safety guidelines.

Child care and pre-schools may reopen following your church's reopening plan and CDC, state and local guidelines. This exception includes both third-party, non-UMC as well as church-sponsored child-care and pre-schools.

In order to open child-care or pre-schools, special legal issues must be considered. A legal webinar was offered and has been recorded and is available with notes. If you are interested in this material, please contact our Conference Chancellor, Marilee Miller Clarke. I am strongly suggesting that you and your team view the webinar and develop a plan for re-opening the child-care or pre-school with your church's legal advisor. If you do not have a legal advisor, our Conference Chancellor can be consulted. There is a \$300 one-time fee for her professional consultation (a UMC reduced rate).

Although we are not yet ready to enter Phase 1, these exceptions are being offered as we work together to stop the spread of the Coronavirus and in order to allow churches to respond to humanitarian need in your communities. If you would like to request an exception, please submit a request to your District Superintendent along with your team plan for re-opening if not previously submitted.

Other than these exceptions, as we continue to wait for a pattern of decline in infections and deaths, our Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Churches must continue to suspend in-person worship and group gatherings of any size, except for those churches that have received permission for the three exceptions mentioned above.

As I write this update, I am deeply concerned about the real possibility of a spike due to a large gathering that occurred yesterday. Contrary to the advice of our medical, and scientific experts, many persons are letting our guard down, ignoring physical distancing, and forgoing facial coverings when in public. I ask you to please be a part of the solution, not part of the problem. Think of others around you, especially the most vulnerable, and help protect them from being infected. Pray unceasingly for an end to this pandemic, give thanks for those who are working on the front lines, and for those who are battling COVID-19.

Perhaps this is the time when we remind ourselves that those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. In time, we shall be able to come together and greet one another in person in Christ's love. But until then, let us wait with patience.

In Christ,
Bishop Bob



HEALTH MINISTRY 2020: July COVID-19

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is the clinical disease caused by infection with SARS-CoV-2, a novel coronavirus that first was identified in Wuhan City, China in December 2019. Because the virus spread so rapidly throughout the world it has become a pandemic. As a result, we have not been able to attend church for several months now. In order to stay safe and slow the spread of the virus we have to physically distance ourselves, wear masks, and use frequent handwashing and/or hand sanitizer.

Stay healthy spiritually, socially and emotionally by staying connected with your church family. There is an option of watching church on our computers and phones go to gilbertumc.org and follow the link to worship services. We can also stay safely connected through phone calls, texting, emails, cards and letters.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS It takes between 2–14 days after exposure for symptoms of COVID-19 to develop (median is ~4 days). Common symptoms include: ● fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 38°C) cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle aches, fatigue. Less common symptoms include sputum production, headache, and diarrhea. In older adults, initial symptoms may be mild and fever might be absent.

As COVID-19 continues to spread in the United States, the CDC has recommended wearing cloth face coverings in public when physical distancing is difficult to maintain. Out and about in our communities, many Arizonans are following these recommendations. Studies continue to be published showing how COVID-19 can be spread through speaking, coughing, sneezing — including by people who don't even know they're sick.

Wear the cloth face covering in public, regardless of whether you feel sick or not. This way you're protecting yourself, your family, and others in the event you are infected and don't have any symptoms.

Wear the cloth face covering in public until you need to eat or drink, then make sure to keep it clean and uncontaminated. If you need to eat or drink in public, make sure you are more than 6 feet from others and then remove the mask and place it in a clean paper bag, container, or on a designated surface (like a new piece of paper on the far side of your desk). Make sure you wash or sanitize your hands before eating. After putting your mask on again, make sure you wash or sanitize your hands. Wash your mask after each day's use and store it in a clean bag or container.

Stay safe, follow the guidelines in your area. Pray often. Call a friend or loved one and share a bible verse or inspirational quote to stay connected.

Peace be with you,
Therese Pineda RN Parish Nurse

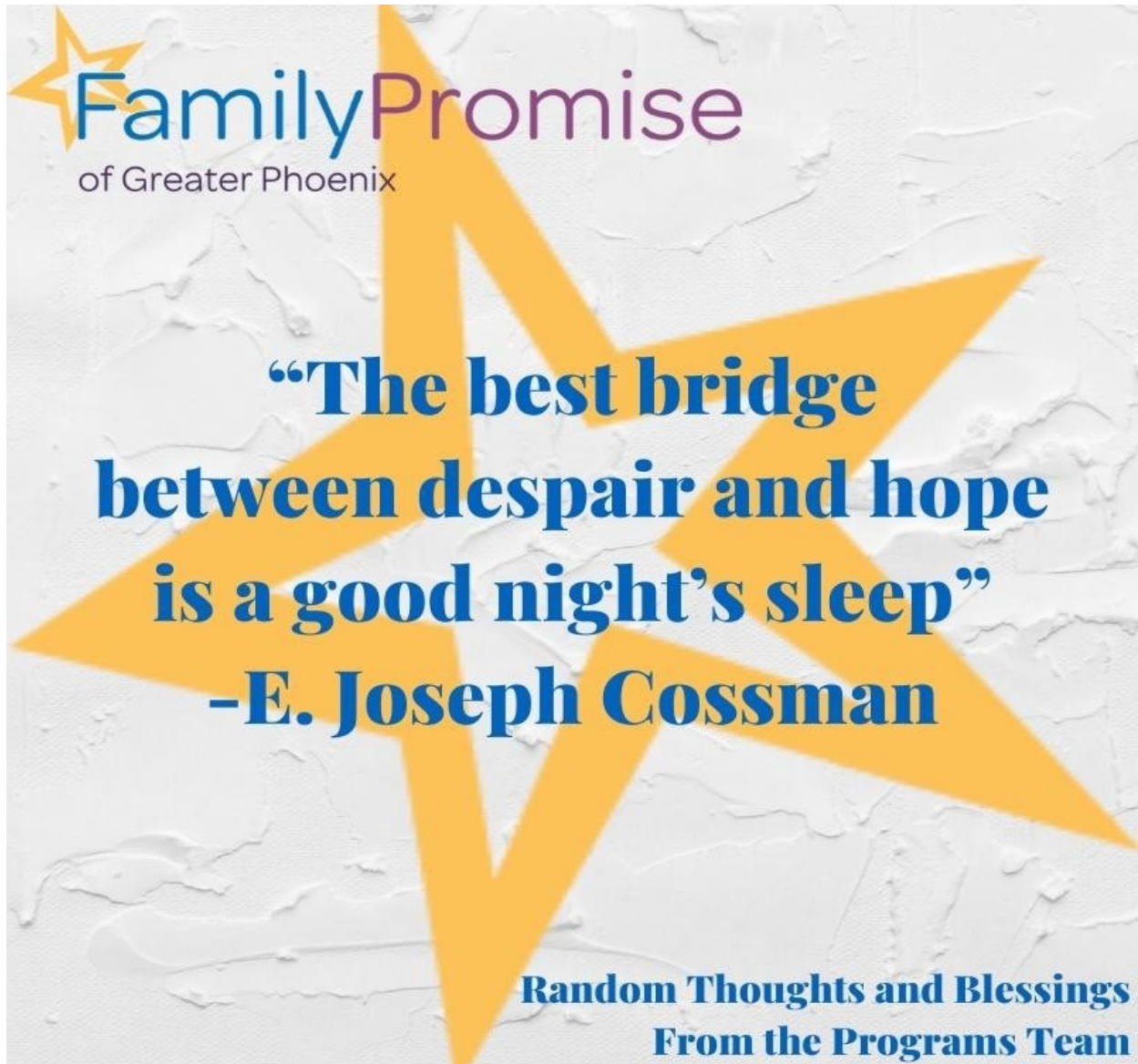




Dear Friends of Family Promise...

Welcome to “Random Thoughts & Blessings” a weekly musing from your Programs Team... Kathy, Kristina, Cheryl, Lester, Mya, Kelli, Doni, & Krystal.

If we can only join together in doing one small thing ... let it be to provide for the safety and security that every child needs and is entitled to ... a warm bed ... a blanket to snuggle ... a secure place to dream big dreams ... free from the fear of not knowing where they will sleep tonight and all the nights to follow.



Would you to join us in support of “Night Without A Bed” a virtual fundraising event dedicated to ensuring that every child has a bed to call their own. That every child is filled with hope ... and no child despairs. The evening will be filled with a zany cast of character sharing fun, laughter and I would suspect a few tears ... Stay tuned for more information about registration for “Night Without A Bed” and save the date for our live virtual event on June 20, 2020.

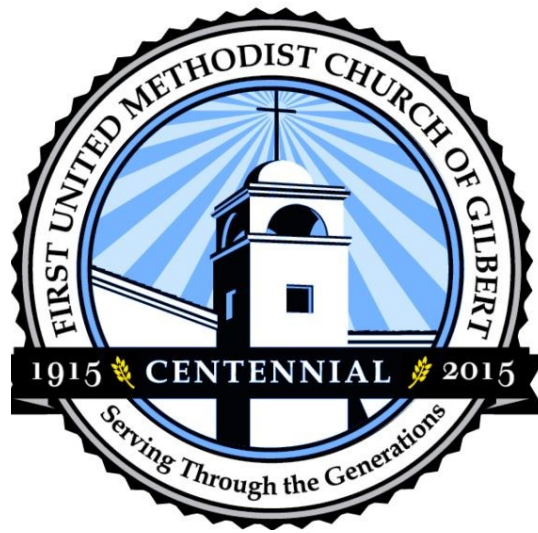


We would appreciate it if you would forward this message on to your fellow volunteers, or anyone else that you believe would enjoy receiving it. If you would like us to send “Random Thoughts & Blessings” directly to them simply forward us their contact information and we’ll take it from there, and of course we would be delighted to hear about the “Random Thoughts and Blessings” that are your lives.

Kathy Kaplan ... Managing Program Director
Family Promise of Greater Phoenix
D 480.569.2198
C 602.751.5973

KKaplan@FamilyPromiseAZ.org
<https://Familypromiseaz.org>

If you are interested in Family Promise in more depth please go the their follow them at <https://Familypromiseaz.org>



GILBERT ARIZONA CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL 2020

July 6, 1920 Gilbert became incorporated as a town. Woodrow Wilson was President with Vice President Thomas R. Marshall the Arizona Governor at that time was Thomas Edward Campbell.

The first mayor of Gilbert was Mr. Everett Wilbur. Mr. Wilbur was a kindhearted inventive man and was a dedicated member of the Gilbert Methodist Church. Mr. Wilbur and many other church members like him, through many generations in the binds of Christian love, have helped to grow Gilbert in strength and faith.

Some early Gilbert settlers arrived in the 1890's to the early 1900's, seeking land they were able to acquire through the Homestead Entry system created during President Lincoln's term during the Civil War. Alfalfa put the Gilbert area on the map 1914-1917 during the World War 1 years because hay was the main fuel source for the troop's horses. Gilbert Township was known as the "Hay Capital". Most of our founding church members were hard working farmers that grew and/or utilized hay for their farms.

On the porch of the elementary school at the corner of Elliott and Gilbert Roads, on August 15, 1915 was organized the Methodist Episcopal Church. The multi-denominational group organized under the auspices of the Methodist church because that body had the facilities for establishing missionary churches and assisting in their financial support. Pastors for the next four years all lived in Chandler and served both the Chandler and Gilbert churches.

In 1918 subscriptions were solicited by Mr. C.H. Russell, Mr. H.W. Sawyer, and Mr. E.R. Wilbur from members and friends of the church in Gilbert, Mesa, Chandler and Phoenix. People gave regardless of their religious affiliation because it was believed the churches in a new community help to build it strong.

At the close of the canvass the building fund amounted to between \$2000.00 and

\$2500.00 and in 1918 the building was started. Mr. E.O. Cordell, superintendent of Gilbert Schools, assisted by Mr. Ayers drew the plans and Mr. Cordell superintended the construction.

In 1919 Gilbert was made a separate charge and welcomed its first full time pastor. Mr. Imel and his family stayed with the Wilbur family while a parsonage was being built. Mrs. Wilbur and Mrs. Imel organized a Junior League for children from primary through intermediate grades with an enrolment of 56 and an average attendance of 40.

Over the next four years church membership grew from 24 to 124. A women's Foreign Missionary Society was also organized as well as the Epworth league was formed for the youth. Children, youth and members of all ages worked together to help those in need in the community and around the world.

Now for over 100 years the Methodist church in Gilbert has been responding to needs of the community and the world with prayer, compassion and great love.

Happy 100th Birthday Gil-



bert! Grow in peace!

Everett R. Wilbur and his wife, Nelly O. Duncan Wilbur, donated 5 acres of land on the corner of Elliot and Gilbert roads for the building of the grammar school in 1912. This was the beginning of the Gilbert School District. The Wilbur's and their children became very active in the Gilbert Methodist church in 1919. When Gilbert was incorporated as a town in July of 1920 Everett Wilbur became the first Mayor of Gilbert.



Resources available at Church Office



If you need resources please reach out to Pastor Diamond and let her know what you need . She is also collecting hard to find items. So please call the office to talk to her about what you need or what you have . If you have been called by a volunteer please let them know what you need and we can get them to you if we have them . We also have pantry food boxes. Thank you for the generosity you have shown! You are all being the Hands and feet of Christ!



Office will be open by appointment only please call and set up appointment



Boxes contain canned goods, peanut butter, rice or noodles and canned tuna. The contents vary.

BACKPACK DRIVE



The Missions team will again be donating backpacks and trapper keepers to students at Gilbert Elementary. You can help by donating \$20 to purchase a pre-loaded backpack or trapper keeper.

Donations can be made by either:

- **Sending a check to the church with “backpack” written in the memo**
or
- **Through online giving by selecting the Outreach Ministries/Missions Section.**

Thank you for helping us provide assistance to the students of Gilbert!



Preschool News

www.gilbertpreschool.com



's for Preschool Families

A Always read a bedtime story... and a mid-morning story, when the kids aren't too tired!

If they want to read the same story over and over, then follow their lead and go for it! If they want to "read" the book and it's not completely accurate, it's ok! Let them pretend to read!

"As your young child listens to stories, he learns that all good stories have a beginning, middle, and end. He also learns to predict, based on the book cover, what the story will be about, as well as what might happen next or how the story will end. Young children learn that there are characters in stories and a particular setting (where and when it takes place). Your child will enjoy comparing the characters in a book to him/herself and to other real life people he knows." Adapted from www.pbs.org

B Bible Stories and Verses are important!

Invest in a children's bible. There are many to choose from at the Christian book stores. Choose one with lots of pictures. That will make it interesting and memorable for the preschoolers. Choose one bible verse a week to talk about and memorize. Choose one that is meaningful to your family. Here are some ideas to get you started:

"Love your neighbor as you love yourself" Luke 10:27b

"The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with JOY" Psalm 126:3

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. " James 1:17

C Compare Objects and Investigate!

Three and four-year-olds approach the world with great curiosity and use their imaginations to help understand it. Hands-on explorations help them to separate reality from fantasy. Encourage preschoolers to ask and answer questions about how, why, and what if...?

Find some fun Inquiry based Science activities at: <http://www.education.com/activity/preschool/science/>

REGISTER NOW!

Enroll Today! We have openings for the 2020-2021 school year! We'd love to have you as part of our preschool family! If you're interested in more information, please check out our website- <http://gilbertumcpreschool.com/> or give us a call for a tour!

We hope you are enjoying your summer! If your preschool aged child is enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year, then you will receive a welcome email early this month.

OPEN HOUSE

Open House for enrolled families is on Wednesday, August 5th! Begin Open House by walking through the preschool office and then proceed to your child's classroom.

Mrs. Dare and Mrs. Green's classes - 5-6pm

Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Marlinga's classes – 6-7pm

Bring in any registration paperwork that is still needed.

Meet your teacher and some classmates

Buy a school t-shirt!

Pre-K students, sign up for lunch bunch for

Tuesday or Thursday from 12-1:30pm



August 10th, 9am

If you have any questions about the preschool, please email preschool@gilbertumc.org or call 480-892-9166. Directors Lora Norris or Betsy Marlinga would love to speak with you!

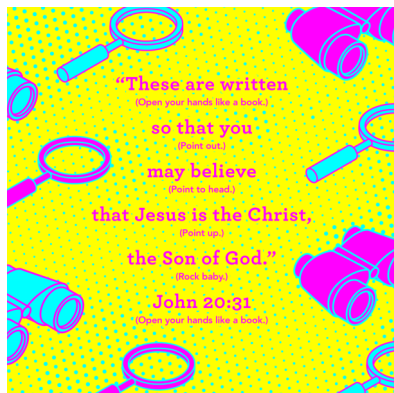
Summer 2020 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

Preschool and Kinder



June and July are all about what we can spy with our little eyes. Get ready for I Spy! It's a great theme and we focus on the things that help us believe in Jesus! We are helping preschoolers see so they can believe in Jesus.

We will have one key question and bottom line for June and July. We don't think we can say these too much. They are that good. Get ready to ask, "who can believe in Jesus" and respond with, "I can believe in Jesus," over and over again. Our hope is that each of your preschoolers will have the truth that they can believe in Jesus with them forever.



Mission:

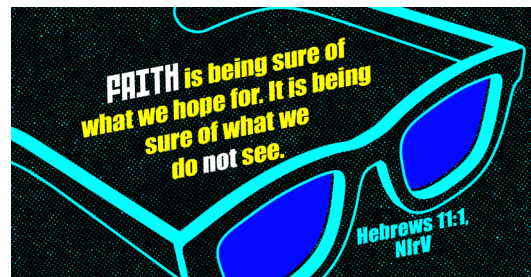
We will start collecting for the food bank!! Bring in canned food or cereal for our local food banks!



1ST-6th Graders



God has always been involved in the world He created. We see His handiwork on display in creation. We see God's love on display through Jesus, who came to rescue us. We respond to God in faith, believing in what we can't see because of what we can see. When we focus on what we know to be true about God and the world God created, we can have faith in what we can't see or fully understand.



Zoom Sunday School Schedule

preschool/kinder 8:30-9

1st-3rd 10:45-11:30

4th-6th 11:30-12:15

Wednesday Wilds

We will take a break for summer but we can't wait to come back and see everyone in our new space!!



Youth Communications
TEXT MESSAGE UPDATES & REMINDERS
Youth updates via Remind app.
TEXT: @fumcgil to 81010 Youth News.
Make sure we have your email & permission to send to that address

As you know it is easier for the youth of are church to stay in touch with each other. If you have questions about the youth and their activities please contact youthministry@gilbertumc.org.





1920's Sunday School

Standing: Vera Norton, Elizabeth Sawyer, Harlan Russell, Christine Gieszl, Merrill Brokins, Lena Nichols, Evelyn Norton, Rev. Imel, John Sawyer, Mrs. Imel, Beulah McCreary, Pauline Creed, Kenneth Imel, Robert Wilbur, Alice Wilbur. Children Seated: Unknown



Epworth League 1920

Left to right: Evelyn Norton, John Sawyer, Lon McCue, Marguerite McCue, Viola Milhouse, Harlan Russell, Lena Nichols (Leader), Harold Pattee, Mrs. G.W. Imel.

Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:
(all small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

Church office will be closed on July 3rd in observation of Independence Day!

Look for the second Mother's Day Purse Drive in August or September!

Stay Home and stay healthy and safe!!!!

Wear a Mask when you go out save yourself and someone else!





Prayers for those in need

During this time of uncertainty we will be still be praying for those in need so please either call or email prayer requests and we will send them out to our dedicated prayer team. The office number is 480-892-9166 or the email prayers@gilbertumc.org. If it is pastors only please mark pastors only and it will go only to pastors.

And we will be praying for all the concerns and praises.
Your prayer team



Looking for Gently Used Laptops & Computers

Have you bought a new computer, tablet, or laptop recently? If so, you may have your “old” equipment laying around and taking up space. Donate them to Church’s IT program and help us refresh some of the computer equipment around the church campus. Concerned about your data? We will securely wipe your computer before using it, or give you a CD that you can use to wipe it yourself. Drop off computers and laptops at the Church Office.



Questions? Contact Philip Tesarek at ITSupport@gilbertumc.org or (480) 510-4588. Thank you



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



Grief Share Support Group will be online now

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them.

This support group. Led by Kay Pealstrom

is meeting on Saturdays from 9am-10:30am


From May 9th through Aug 1,2020



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. (Small groups are contingent on the CDC guidelines)

Text-to-Give

- † Text 480-712-1057
- † Enter amount with \$ sign
for example: 

For first usage only:

- † Register with link provided
- † Click "Process"



July Calendar of Events 2020

(all studies and small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

			1 Chat & Chew Noon	2 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30 	3	4 Independence day 
5	6	7 Tues Morning Bible Study 	8 Chat & Chew Noon	9 shawl meeting 1PM 	10	11 Griefshare 9:00-10:30 Every Saturday
12	13	14 Tues Morning Bible Study	15 Chat & Chew Noon Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	16 book club 11AM 	17	18 Men's Break- fast 8-9:30 
19	20	21 Tues Morning Bible Study 	22 Chat & Chew Noon Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	23	24	25
26	27	28 Tuesday Morning Bible Study	29 Chat & Chew Noon Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	30	31	

August Calendar of Events 2020

(all studies and small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

			Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in			1 Griefshare 9:00-10:30 Every Saturday
2	3	4 Tues Morning Bible Study 	5 Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	6 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30 am 	7	8
9	10	11 Tues Morning Bible Study	12 Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	13 Shawl ministry 1pm 	14	15 Men's breakfast 8-9:30 am 
16	17	18 Tues Morning Bible Study 	19 Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	20 Book Club 	21	22
23	24	25 Tues Morning Bible Study	26 Chat N Chew meets every Wednesday at Noon in Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	27	28	29
30	31					

July Birthdays



Patricia Baker	2
Deborah Lester	2
Leonidas Ouellette	2
Kelly Sanders	2
Ryann Wright	2
Jackie Harder	3
Sini Ouellette	3
Sarah Butler	7
Singlia Jandira Kopp	7
Madison Lutes	9
Jeni Hemingson	11
Xavier Ouellette	12
David Yoder	12
Daniel Rickert	13
Kathryn Turnrose	13
Margo Doss	14
Emberlyn Smith	16
Ruth Heer	17
Sofia Anne Mendoza	17
Samantha Mutach	17
Carolyn Bilski	18
Stacy Cantwell	19
Odus Elliott	19
Steven Breedlove	21
Tyler Houseman	21
Ron Dalton	22
Linda McKinley	22
Jean Post	22
Lane Ramirez	22
Divina Katching	23

David Mitner	23
Joe Strazz	23
Tom Bristow	24
Julie Curran	24
Scott Houseman	24
Bill Van Dam	24
Reagan Campbell	25
Benjamin Bouchie	27
Garin Campbell	27
Kim Bowers	28
Kay Pealstrom	29
Jason Rowley	31



July Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
02	Jennifer and Steven Burks	26
02	Ruby and Joe Rosemond Taylor	50
04	Bill and Lori Van Dam	44
13	Brenda and Stan Strom	35
21	Alexandra and Scott Houseman	20
22	Linda and Mike Cranford	59
22	Joyce and Dwight Metcalf	31
26	Anita and Ernie Broughton	45
26	Sarah and Bobby Metz	23
27	Brittainy and Daniel Murphy	12
28	Beth and Kevin Boesch	19
28	April and Seth Daugherty	13
28	Dorothy and Norm Haskett	47
31	Caroline and Jerry Ward	44