

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

August 2020



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Attendance July 26th
Virtual viewing 447



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



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert “Bandits”

The Mission team at FUMC of Gilbert is inviting seamstress to assist in making masks for the students at Gilbert Elementary School. The school would like to have masks on hand to provide to the students. In the School’s Social Worker’s words, “having facemasks available would truly be beneficial”.

A kit with a template, sample, instructions, and elastic for 25 masks (as long as supplies last) will be delivered to your door. You will need to purchase child-friendly fabric and thread. We will pick up the facemasks when you’re done.

For the veteran seamstress that will not need a kit to get started, we would appreciate an email to let us know that you are helping with the project. Also, please let us know when you're finished, and we will make a porch pickup.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Elice Province at elicebp@aol.com or Kim Bowers at kimberlybowers146@gmail.com. When you contact us, please let us know if you intend to make more than 25 masks. This will ensure that we will send an adequate amount of elastic.

For those of you wishing to support this effort financially, please send your donation to the church & label it: GES Face Mask project. We will purchase supplies for seamstress that are not in a position to purchase them.

Not a seamstress? Consider a monetary donation. More supplies will be purchased for sewers who cannot financially join in this project.

Thank you!



Our Children's Ministry Summer 2020

Zoom Sunday school

Wednesday Wilds

Minecraft Realm



We loved spending time with our kids this summer learning, experimenting, and playing!





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 in our MWF and T/Th 3s classes 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!

OPEN HOUSE

Open House for enrolled families is Wednesday, August 12th! Please make sure you have selected a time through signupgenius. The link can be found on your teacher's welcome letter that was emailed in July.

- Bring in any registration paperwork that is still needed.
- Meet your teacher
- Buy a school t-shirt!
- Pre-K students, sign up for lunch bunch for Tuesday or Thursday from 12-1:30pm



August 17th, 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!

August 2020 Children's Ministry **What's Happening?**

1ST-6th Graders

Preschool and Kinder



SERIES DESCRIPTION:

God makes every person in His image. We are so important to God that He sent His Son, Jesus, to make a way for us to be with Him forever. This remarkable truth changes the way we see ourselves and others and gives us an incredible purpose.

WEEK ONE: Wonderfully Made In God's Image — Genesis 1:26;

WEEK TWO: You Are Important to God* — Luke 12:7

WEEK THREE: God Loves Us So Much — John 3:16

WEEK FOUR: I Can Pray to God — Jeremiah 29:12; Psalm 46:1; Proverbs 2:6 Matthew 6:5-

WEEK FIVE: Timothy and Tabitha — 1 Timothy 4:12; Acts 9:36-39

.BOTTOM LINE: GOD MADE ME.

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalm 139:14, NIV

ONE PRIORITY love God

"... with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-38

Mission:

We are not collecting since we are only online.

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Right from the start, we see God's indescribable creativity. Everything around us gives us a glimpse of our creative God. Jesus was creative with the way He taught and the miracles He performed. We reflect God's creativity to the world around us.

CORE INSIGHTS:

DESIGN

• IDENTITY

WEEK ONE: Creation — Genesis 1-2:3 BOTTOM

LINE: There's no limit to God's

creativity.

WEEK TWO: We Are God's Creation — Ephesians 2:10 BOTTOM LINE: God created you, so you can be creative.

WEEK THREE: Esther — Esther

BOTTOM LINE: God created you for a purpose.

WEEK FOUR: Four Friends Who Helped — Mark 2:1-12 BOTTOM LINE: God created you to work with others.

WEEK FIVE: Salt and Light — Matthew 5:13-16 BOTTOM LINE: God created you to share His story.

Lord, you are great. You are really worthy of praise. No one can completely understand how great you are." Psalm 145:3, NIRV



Zoom Sunday School Schedule

preschool/kinder 8:30-9

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

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

Wednesday Wilds

4 pm on Wednesday



Youth News July 25, 2020
Zoom Youth Sunday School



July 26th at 7pm

We've combined Junior and Senior High Youth for the summer!

Please join us at 7pm Sunday night!

Topic: Youth Sunday School

Time: Jul 26, 2020 07:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dscumc.zoom.us/j/93148286778?pwd=cUNYRnc0bWRyYkQva3JMWIZWcmQyZz09>

Meeting ID: 931 4828 6778

Passcode: 181770

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,93148286778#,,,,,0#,,181770# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,93148286778#,,,,,0#,,181770# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 931 4828 6778

Passcode: 181770

Find your local number: <https://dscumc.zoom.us/u/abOpD5I27o>



Save the Date: Sunday August 2nd, 7-9pm

Summer Camp Escape Room (Zoom)

Many of you will begin school during the first week of August (some already have), and even though it's been a bit of a bummer pandemic summer, hopeful everyone has been able to find some joy in the small stuff, and had some fun this summer. We can't deny that we all missed Volleyball, SSP, summer camp, and overall have just missed seeing all of you!

Let's wrap up the summer with a virtual Summer Camp Escape Room. We'll divide into teams and compete to see who can get through the challenges fastest. We hope you all will join us!

Padlet

Ms. Cindie created a fun new space for us to connect with each other, it's called Padlet! Click here to go to Gilbert UMC Youth Padlet "You Pick Me Up board". Padlet is a virtual bulletin board that you can use to "post" notes to each other. Use this as your personal space to send each other uplifting thoughts, devotions, pictures, even song titles. Simply go to the link, then click on the little pink plus sign in the bottom right corner. It is private only to those who have access to the code, so feel free to share your thoughts openly. Please email youthministry@gilbertumc.org if you have trouble connecting.



"Give Us Your Eyes So We Can See"

How can we be God's hands and feet in this crazy world we are living in right now? I know we're all bummed that we won't be heading to Oregon in a few weeks for SSP, however there are still many ways we can serve others right here in Gilbert/Chandler/Mesa Arizona! I would encourage everyone to find 1 thing they can do to serve others over the next few weeks- think of it as your own personal SSP project.



Perhaps you

can find something your whole family can be involved in doing.

There are opportunities that are both in person, like at United Food Bank where they are keeping safety and hygiene a top priority by requiring masks, frequent hand washing, and social distancing while still working together in a group. There are also opportunities where there is no contact with others, like collecting items for a specific project and then delivering them to an organization who will distribute to those most in need, or driving around town and delivering meals to seniors who are home bound. There are so many options that you and your family could do. Please consider these options below, or if you know of other options, please email them to youthministry@gilbertumc.org and we'll include them in next weeks newsletter.

United Food Bank (Mesa Dr. and Baseline) Packing emergency food bags, short 2hr shifts (day and evening) then Friday they do a big distribution of food bags on Friday's in downtown Mesa.

<https://unitedfoodbank.org/volunteer/>

Midwest Food Bank (Baseline between Cooper and McQueen; sorting and packing food boxes) <https://midwestfoodbank.org/volunteer/volunteer-interest-form>

Gilbert Clothing Cabin (Cooper and Guadalupe; sorting donated clothes for those in need) <https://onesmallstepaz.org/volunteer/>

Senior Meal Deliver/AZCEND/Gilbert Senior Center (Gilbert and Elliot; delivering meals around town, no contact option)

<https://www.justserve.org/projects/b8bb126a-1caf-4955-b5be-4a409867e484>
To search other volunteer opportunities in your area click on www.justserve.org sort by zip code, then click "see all" otherwise only a few organizations come up.

The whole leadership team and youth leaders are keeping you and your family in our prayers each week. Please reach out if you need anything youthministry@gilbertumc.org !





The Narex and Narex Bathrooms are under construction now!



Cleared, demo and start of Reno!

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

Watch for the latest news and announces by the E-news every Thursday and prior to Sunday Services.

We are praying for all of you and hoping to see you soon!



I ♥ MY CHURCH

A graphic overlay on a laptop keyboard. The text is white on a dark background. It includes the website and Facebook page information, a call to action to stay up to date, and a list of topics to follow.

WWW.GILBERTUMC.ORG
f FB.COM/FUMCofGilbert

STAY UP TO DATE

Follow us on facebook or go to our website to see the most current church information:

- Church News
- Renovation Updates
- Upcoming Events



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


New class starting soon

Living Hope

Living Hope Support Group

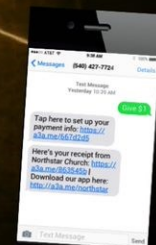
A group for those experiencing trauma or dealing with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. (Small groups are contingent on the CDC guidelines)

Text-to-Give

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

For first usage only:

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



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 11AM 	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					

September Calendar of Events 2020

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

		1	2 Chat & Chew Noon	3 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30	4	5
						
6	7 Labor Day	8 Tues Morning Bible Study	9 Chat & Chew Noon	10 shawl meeting 1PM	11	12
						
13	14	15 Tues Morning Bible Study	16 Chat & Chew Noon Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	17 book club 11AM	18	19 Men's Breakfast 8-9:30
						
20	21	22 Tues Morning Bible Study	23 Chat & Chew Noon Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person	24	25	26
27	278	29 Tuesday Morning Bible Study	30 Chat & Chew Noon Wednesday night classes Virtual or in person			
						

August Birthdays



Gayla Sutton	1
Norma Mayne	2
Emily O'Brien	2
Summer Rickert	2
Linda Cranford	4
Anita Broughton	5
Rick Casebolt	5
Keela Clark	5
Christopher Mendoza	5
Eric Palmer	6
Nyambe Hadson-Taylor	7
Laura McLeod	7
Dirk Smith	7
Evan Houseman	8
Madelyn Mueller	8
Katharine Rowley	8
Suzann Todd	8
Lori Wiemers	8
Katie Wyatt	8
Eli Chiricuzio	9
Matthew Koenig	10
Judy Bristow	12
Rebecca Hernandez	12
Abigail Rhoden	12
Diane Crann	13
Daniel Harvey	13
Tom McKinley	14
Alan Ball	15
Jim Hall	15
Tim Killen	15
Tyler Carpenter	16

Adrian Golden	17
Tina Rees	17
Jennifer Burks	18
Carlos Flores	20
Thomas Granado	21
Julia Strazz	21
Lara DeRoule	22
Jim Johns	22
Brittany Norris	22
Kylee Wilkins	22
Mpez Gloria Kapend	24
Molly Hahn	26
Midori Hall	26
Harris Compton	27
Reagan Metz	27
Caroline Ward	27
Scott Bouchie	28
Lori Van Dam	28
Sadie Fairley	29
Jackson James	29
Kevin Boesch	31
Kein Curran	31



Celebrations

August Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
03	Jo and Keith Asplin	63
03	Gloria and Jim Eggen	24
03	Trish and Christopher Odell	46
04	MaryEllen and Bob Chuk	47
05	Sharon and on Dalton	22
06	Garin and Rob Campbell	26
06	Julie and Richard Curran	43
07	Heather and Greg Ford	21
12	Sarah and Charles Bowser	54
12	Barbara and Lynn Carroll	53
23	Phyllis and David Spittell	22