

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

December 2021



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

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

Attendance
November 21st
178
Virtual viewing 132

Church office will be closed December 24 and 27 for observance of Christmas and on January 3 for observance of New Years Day.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Turkey Drive.

You helped the Mission committee and the volunteer drivers to deliver **108** turkey boxes to deserving families in the Gilbert Mesa area. Thank you to all that contributed to buying the boxes, drivers who drove to deliver them and all those who coordinated all the above. You again have blessed many who would not have had Thanksgiving Diner.



Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm—Family Service

Pick-up Pageant; Carols; Live Nativity; Petting Zoo

7:00 pm—Candlelight Service*†

Lessons and Carols

10:00 pm—Candlelight Service*

Holy Communion and Handbell Choir

Masks strongly recommended while indoors

**Livestream available at gilbertumc.org/worship*

†Childcare available in the Nursery 7-8pm

*Everyone
is Welcome!*



First United
Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S. Cooper Rd.
Gilbert, AZ 85233
480-892-9166 gilbertumc.org
facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert



In Memory of
Sunder Raj James
November 21, 2021



Blue Christmas Service

Tuesday, December 21 • 6:30 pm

Not everyone enjoys the holiday season.

Many of us grieve the loss of loved ones, find ourselves alone, or just don't feel as joyful as others seem to be.

If you identify with these feelings of loss and sadness during the holidays, please join us for our annual Blue Christmas Service.



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480-892-9166 gilbertumc.org





Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience

By Magrey R DeVega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson, and Matt Rawles

In 1741, John Wesley preached his famous sermon titled "The Almost Christian" in which he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. We should not be satisfied with being almost Christian but rather strive towards being altogether a Christian.

In *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors to explore how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, connecting our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of Love, Hope, Joy, and Peace.

In this book, perfect for Advent, deVega and the other authors break down the barriers that prevent us from experiencing an "altogether"

love, hope, joy, and peace in Christ in our lives and in the world around us. They demonstrate the promises God offers to us that makes those longings a reality, inviting us to claim those promises for ourselves this Advent and celebrate an altogether Christmas.

Class started Nov.17 at 6:30 with Pastor Rick. You can still join the class! Call the office or write on yellow card. Book will be \$10. Pastor Diamond will teach online version and Pastor Rick will teach in person class.



TRUNK or TREAT

THANK YOU!



First Gilbert says thanks to all of the Volunteers who generously donated their time, trunks and more to make this a huge success!



We served almost 800 !







A BIG Thank You from Family Promise!

Throughout the week of Nov. 7 - 14 our congregation provided 4 families with overnight accommodations, meals and support through our partnership with Family Promise. Family Promise is a temporary shelter program that provides the resources, safety, and the love necessary to help families with children get back to self-sufficiency after becoming homeless. Church volunteers donated and served dinners, played games with the kids, stayed overnight, set up the rooms, donated gift cards for food, and did lots of laundry! We were so excited when one mom and her 10 year old son were able to move into their own home! A big thank you to everyone who contributed. It takes a lot of people chipping in for us to successfully host families for an entire week. FP changes lives and it is a blessing for us to be a part of God's work in our community. Stay tuned for our next week with Family Promise, February 6 - 13, 2022!



The Missions Committee will once again be doing Senior

Santa, helping the elderly to have a happy Christmas. As in previous years, this project is conducted in partnership with Home Instead. Shopping for your Senior will again be made easy by using Amazon. Home Instead will be sending us the electronic list of names of seniors and their gift requests by early November. Participants will be able to shop online and have gifts delivered to the Home Instead office, where the gifts will be wrapped, labeled and delivered. Since some people don't have a computer, we will still have the tree with senior names, and will encourage using Amazon. If some folks purchase gifts from a store (all wrapped and labeled), then the Missions Committee will collect these and deliver them to the Home Instead office at a scheduled time in December 8th. The link is <https://a.co/e2ylixE>. Let's all go shopping!





Gifts of Hope

Gifts of Hope: via the Arizona's Children Association, benefiting foster children.

The Mission Committee and the Youth will be on the patio November 28th and December 5th to promote the project. You will also have the opportunity to select a gift through list at the table on the patio or at this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA9A62CA2FEC70-gifts>

We will collect the gifts at church and deliver them all to ACA at one time. Watch for more details in the e-news.

Deadline is Wednesday December 8th. Let's all go shopping!



Jesus
IS THE
REASON
FOR THE
Season

Preschool News
www.gilbertpreschool.com



FUMC of Gilbert Preschool



Gilbert preschool



@gilpreschool

In November:

We had a fun filled time learning about Apples and Turkeys. The preschool students enjoyed their pumpkin science activities including describing the inside and outside of the pumpkin, observing if a pumpkin will float or sink, and tasting pumpkin pie. The PreK students enjoyed their annual Thanksgiving feast by making a Friendship Mix out of a variety of cereals and candies. They shared their feast with a loving parent and Thanks and Fun was had by all. Finally, each preschool student made a special Thanksgiving placemat in the classroom to take home and use on Thanksgiving day!



In December:

The children will be very busy during the month of December. Two of our favorite activities are making and wrapping gifts for our families and celebrating Jesus in the classroom with a birthday party. We will also decorate ice cream cone Christmas trees with frosting and candies and make decorations for our class Christmas trees. Our letters for the month of December are S for Star, J for Jesus and K for King. We are looking forward to feeling the Christmas spirit this holiday season.



Advent Activities~ Try making an advent chain like this one with 25 strips of construction paper. It's a great visual to countdown to Jesus' birth!



Advent Paper Chain

One Christmas night so long ago, a star shone down so all would know,

That in a manger, on that night, a savior was born, our guiding light.

Now Christmas time is almost here, a very special time of year,
When everyone anticipates, that night when we can celebrate.

As you remove a link each night, remember the start that shone so bright

And told the story of Jesus' birth, the Son of God, here on Earth

Registration is coming!

Registration packets will be available in January for the 2022-2023 school year. We have two day and three day a week classes for three year olds and four day a week prek classes. We'd love to welcome you to 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!



Community Rewards Program

Shop at Fry's Food Stores with your VIP card and get great savings, earn fuel points, and help our church preschool. Just go online to FrysFood.com, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Fry's Community Rewards under Community. Log on to your account and search our organization number, **DM609**. You're all set! Your savings help us to earn money for our wonderful program. Thank you!

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

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!

December 2021 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

Preschool and Kinder



SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Every person will question God's love for them at some point. When that questioning surfaces, we can always look back to that moment in time when God showed us just how much He loves us. Remember that time God gave us Jesus? Yes, He loves us that much!

CORE INSIGHT:

Connection

WEEK ONE: The Angel and Mary — Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-49

WEEK TWO: Jesus Born Stable * — Luke 2:1-7

WEEK THREE: The Shepherds — Luke 2:8-21

WEEK FOUR: The Wise Men — Matthew 2:1-2; 2:9-11

BOTTOM LINE: GOD GAVE US JESUS.

"God has given a son to us." Isaiah 9:6, NCV

Weds Wilds
at 6:30pm
in room 205 Kinder-6th
graders. Register online
On our website.
We need this to be
prepared for the
children please.

1ST-6th Graders



SERIES DESCRIPTION:

The best gift God ever gave was Jesus. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we remember the Christmas story, we take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known.

CORE INSIGHTS:

Connection • Truth

WEEK ONE: Elizabeth & Zechariah — Luke 1:5-25, 57-66

BOTTOM LINE: Celebrate because God can do anything.

WEEK TWO: Gabriel Appears to Mary — Luke 1:26-56

BOTTOM LINE: Celebrate because God has a plan.

WEEK THREE Jesus Is Born/Shepherds Visit — Luke 2:1-20

BOTTOM LINE: Celebrate because God sent a Savior.

WEEK FOUR: Wise Men — Matthew 2:1-12

BOTTOM LINE: Never stop celebrating Jesus.

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16, NIV

Mission: collecting for foster kids gift





Jr. High Sunday School
Room #200 with Ron
During the 10am Service
Sr High Sunday school in
Sr high room #201-202 with Ms. Cindie

Save the Date

Winter Camp 2022 at Mingus Mountain
Feb 19-21, 2022

This will be a great weekend opportunity to connect with other youth groups around the state up at the beautiful Camp Mingus near Prescott AZ. Please put these dates on your calendar, more info to come soon!



SAVE THE DATE

MORE UPCOMMING YOUTH EVENTS

(Activities are tentative and times TBD- keep watching Youth News for details)

Dec. 5th- Youth Group Scavenger Hunt- details TBD

Dec. 19th - Youth Group Christmas Party at Church - details TBD

Dec. 24th- Volunteer for Live Nativity/Petting Zoo 5-7pm at Christmas Eve Services

Jan-April 2022- Confirmation classes TBD

Jan. 9th- Youth Group/Activity TBD

Jan. 23rd- Youth Group/Activity TBD

Feb. 6th- Youth Group/Activity TBD

Feb.19-21, 2022- Winter Camp at Mingus

April 1-2, 2022- Confirmation Retreat *Tentative*

June-July 2022, Mingus Mountain Summer Camps, multiple weeks available

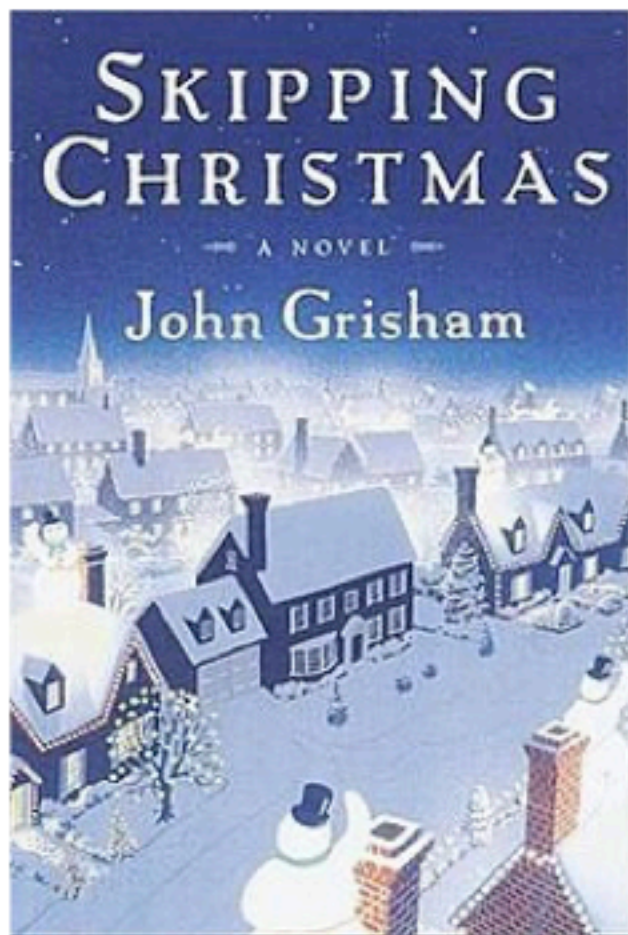
(click here for dates and details)

July 9-17th, 2022- SSP, Summer Mission Trip *Tentative*



Follow us on Instagram@fumcyouth

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 Book Corner

December's book is Skipping Christmas

by John Grisham

Pam Turner will be leading the review of this fiction book which was published in 2001.

The Book Club will meet December 16th at 11:30 in Room 130 and on zoom.

January's book is

This Tender Land By William Kent Krueger

a fiction book.

February's book is

America's First Daughter

by S. Dray and L. Kamole a historical fiction book.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Starts 1/11/2022

Our next book will be Jesus in Me by Anne Graham Lotz.

And it's all possible because of the Holy Spirit Through eight sessions, we learn why the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra in the Christian life. Instead:

We can have a relationship with this living, thinking, feeling Person, who is our comforter, counselor, friend.

We can enjoy his constant Presence, inside us, filling us.

We can receive and experience his Power.

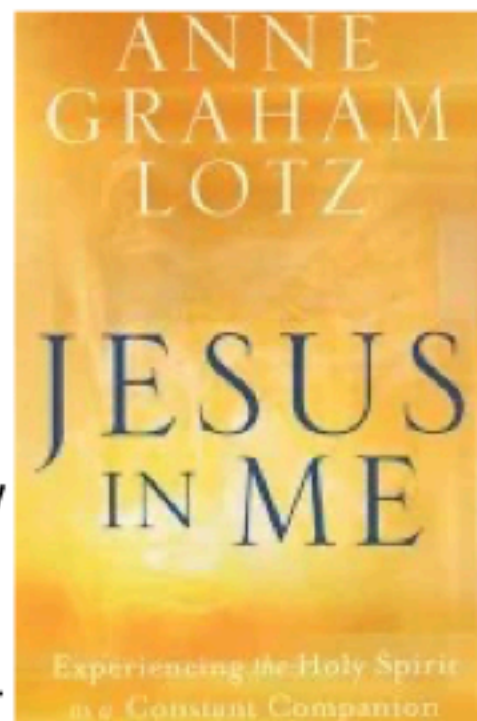
We can live a life of Purpose, directed by his guidance.

We can understand the Precepts in the Bible by hearing directly from the One who breathed it.

We will be convicted of our sin by his Purity. And it's all possible because of the Holy Spirit Please share with friends/neighbors that might be interested in joining our multi denomi-

national Christian group. Contact Sonja at

(sonja.ruhland@gmail.com) you can join at anytime.



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

- In person is unlimited now. Masks are highly recommended, for all. Please be respectful and reverent in the sanctuary.
- Advent studies are in progress just started Nov 17th . Almost Christmas by Matt Rawles sign up now !
- Christian Women's Fellowship will meet December 2, 2021 at 9:30 am Room 130.
- The Book Club will be discussing John Grisham's book Skipping Christmas on December 16th at 11:30 am in room 130.
- Preschool Christmas Program on December 16th 6pm in the sanctuary.
- Preschool Christmas Break starts December 17 through January 4.
- On December 21 at 6:30 pm the Blue Christmas Service will take place in sanctuary. This service is for those who are grieving a loss of loved one , find themselves alone or just don't feel as joyful as others seem to be.
- Christmas eve services are 4:30 family service with Nativity scene (live)
- 7:00 candlelight Service
- 10:00pm Candlelight service with communion.
- Church office will be closed on December 24 and 27, 2021 in observance of Christmas. And for those giving year end gift (those dropping at the office) please do so before Noon on December 30th. The church office will be closed January 3rd in observance of New Years Day!





Prayers for those in need

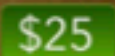
During this time of uncertainty we will be praying for those in need so please either call or email prayer requests and we will send them out to our dedicated prayer team. The office number is 480-892-9166 or the email prayers@gilbertumc.org. If it is pastors only request please mark pastors only and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

And we will being praying for all the concerns and praises.

Your Prayer Team

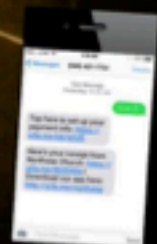


Text-to-Give

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

For first usage only:

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





Congregational Care Support Groups
For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Diamond at

Grief Share Support Group will be In person at

**Sunrise Assisted Living Center
580 Gilbert Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85296
December 11th classes will restart
All are Welcome**

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them. Join anytime
This support group. Led by
Kay Pealstrom kpealstrom@aol.com
is meeting on Saturdays from
9am-10:30am

Masks Required Workbook and class materials required



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)**

December Calendar of Events 2021

(All studies and small groups are contingent on Bishop Bob and the CDC recommendations.)



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



5 Communion
Sunday
2nd Sunday of Ad-



12
3rd Sunday of Ad-
vent



19
4th Sunday of Ad-
vent



26

6

13

20

27

7 Tues Morning
Bible 9:15



14 Tuesday
morning Bible
study 9:15



21 Tuesday
morning Bible
study 9:15 Blue
Christmas 6:30



28 Tuesday
morning Bible
study 9:15



1

8

15 chat N Chew
Noon
Wednesday
Night Bible study
6:30

22 Chat N Chew
Noon
Wednesday
Night Bible study
6:30

29 chat N Chew
Noon
Wednesday
Night Bible study
6:30



2 Christian Wom-
en's Fellowship
9:30



9 Shawl
Ministry !:00



16 Book Club
11:00



23

30

3

10

17

24 Christmas
Eve Church
office closed



31

4 grief share
Every Saturday
9:00-10:30

11



18 Men's
Breakfast
8-9:30



25 Christ-
mas day



1 New Year
Day



January Calendar of Events 2022

(All studies and small groups are contingent on Bishop Bob and the CDC recommendations.)

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

2 Communion Sunday



3 Church office closed in observance of New Years

4 Tues Morning Bible 9:15



5 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Zoom Night Bible study 6:30



6 Epiphany- Christian Women's fellowship 9:30



7

8 Grief share Every Saturday 9:00-10:30 am



9

10

11 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 off



12 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30

13 shawl ministry 1:00 pm



14

15 Mens Breakfast 8-9:30



16

17 Martin Luther King Jr Day church office closed

18 Tues Morn. Bible 9:15



19 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30

20 bookclub 11:00 am



21

22

23

24

25 Tues Morning Bible 9:15



26 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30

27

28

29

30

31



December Birthdays



Terry Bowers	1
Andrew James	1
Ruby Rosemond Taylor	1
Danielle Mendoza	3
Richard L. Staley	4
Ted Lillie	5
Veronica Dailey	7
Virginia Franklin	7
Miriam Philips-Gill	8
Al Reynolds	8
Linda Allen	10
John Holmberg	10
Christina Robertson Yoder	12
Alicia Hemingson	13
Isabel Grace Jordon	13
Ernie Broughton	14
Alexandra Scharff	15
Jaron Mason	17
Kyera McCluskey	18
Jonell Woolsey	19
Jacqueline Barnhart	20
Georgie Dailey	20
Kwame Gardour	25
Lindsay Hydinger Lillie	27
Sarah Nicole Shanks	29
Barbara Carroll	30
Phyllis Petrone	30

December Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
11	Lydia And Matt Ramirez	11
20	Jeni and Jeff Hemingson	19
21	Joyce and Donn Brown	64
21	Pam and Ed Stressman	54
24	Jan and Rick Casebolt	51
25	Danielle and Christopher Mendoza	11

