

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

December 2022



The church office will be closed December 23 and 26 in observance of Christmas

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

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm
Friday
by appointment
only

Attendance
November 20th....248

Virtual viewing 128

October 2022		2022 Year to Date (calendar year)	
Budgeted Contributions	\$51,800	Budgeted Contributions	\$518,000
Actual Contributions	\$84,491	Actual Contributions	\$532,044
Actual Spending	\$58,878	Actual Spending	\$587,682
Surplus (Deficit)	\$25,613	Surplus (Deficit)	(\$55,638)



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!





**Hugh
Success ...**

**Lots of
People (900 people)
And fun costumes and fun trunks.
Jump Houses, Games, lots of hot dogs
Candy and FUN!!!**

**Over 800 registered plus those who did
their own thing.**



Trunk or treat pictures 12-15 Trunks !!!!!



Thanksgiving gifts from First Gilbert



Our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive looked a little different this year due to circumstances beyond our control: from supply chain, Avian flu, and employee shortages at the grocery store we have worked with for many years. The Missions team was able to come up with an alternative and provided 100 gift cards along with cookies to area families who need a helping hand.

It's such a blessing that our church family was able to help so many people. We have had numerous calls thanking us. The folks that delivered have shared many wonderful stories as well.

Many thanks to everyone who had a hand in this wonderful community mission, from donors, cookie bakers, bag stuffers, donation collectors, delivery mapmakers and delivery drivers. What an awesome way to give back to our neighbors!





Advent Season Studies

Advent season is upon us. The time of preparation, the word “advent” originates from Latin and means “coming.” As most of us have lived through a whole lot of advent seasons, we all know what is coming. Good things, fun things, sad things, hard things and time consuming things. We offer

two advent study offerings to provide a space of peace and contemplation to remember the meaning of the season. A study in a small group setting to remind each of us that the purpose is to look forward to the coming of Christ to Earth. We hope that either of these offerings will provide a space for your spiritual development and reflection during this magical season.

Rev. Rick is teaching ***Prepare the Way for the Lord*** by Adam Hamilton. The class meets in room 130 on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. This study explores the message of John the Baptist. Who better to ready your heart for the coming of Jesus than his precursor cousin. This class is offered in person and via zoom.

Pastor Adriana is teaching ***All the Good, a Wesleyan Way of Christmas*** by Lacey Warner, Amy Valdez Barker, Jung Choi and Sangwoo Kim. The class meets in room 136 on Sundays at 11am. In this study, a diverse group of Wesleyan scholars takes us on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley’s means of grace. This class is offered in person.

Advent Season can be challenging for those who are grieving and dealing with loss. Anyone is welcome to attend the ***Surviving the Holidays*** class on Saturday, December 3rd from 10:30am to Noon in room 130. Please contact Kay Pealstrom at k.pealstrom@gmail.com to register for the class.

Coming in January
2023....



Our Hand Bell Choir is growing.....You can still join!



Gifts of Hope

For most of us, the holidays are filled with happiness, friends and family—a time when children look forward to fun and presents. This often doesn't happen for many children and youth in foster care due to financial hardships.

Missions Committee and our Youth will be on the patio Sundays starting **Nov. 20** with opportunities for you to donate a Gift of Hope for a child or teen in foster care. Stop by our giving trees to see how you can brighten a child's life this season! Wrapped gifts will be due back at church by **Dec. 11.**

What better way to get into the Christmas spirit than by donating a gift to a child in need?

Questions: contact dyannob@gmail.com or youthministry@gilbertumc.org



Home Instead Senior Care® (homeinstead.com) is once again offering the **East Valley** community a chance to spread joy to local seniors. Through the Be a Santa to a Senior program, community members can give a senior a special holiday gift. Pick up a Gift Tag on Sunday Nov. 20th or 27th, on the patio between church services and then return wrapped gifts to 1st UMC Gilbert Patio on Sunday Dec. 4th (or to the church office by Monday Dec. 5th) and they will be delivered to the Mesa office for distribution.

Thank you for sharing God's Love with seniors this Christmas season!

---Organized by FUMCG Missions Team and Youth Ministries.

Questions, please email youthministry@gilbertumc.org.



All Saints Day



Keith Asplin

Sylvia Bramaunte

Etta Cambell

Leonard Cenatiempo

Ben Collins

Mary Elaine Decker

Brenda DeMers

Margo Doss

Evia Luise Duarte

Earnest and Edna Eisma

Odus Elliott

Jennifer Enriquez

Virginia Franklin

Rod Gohill

Molly Hahn

Sunder Raj James

Joan Kellogg

Verna Larsen

Mark Madsen

Kitty McGrath

Wendy Lynn Newell

Marcie and Billy Rosemond

John Rosemond

Claude Rosemond

Roy Lee Taylor

Al Reynolds

Dennis G Tesarek

Emma Lee and Lloyd Walker





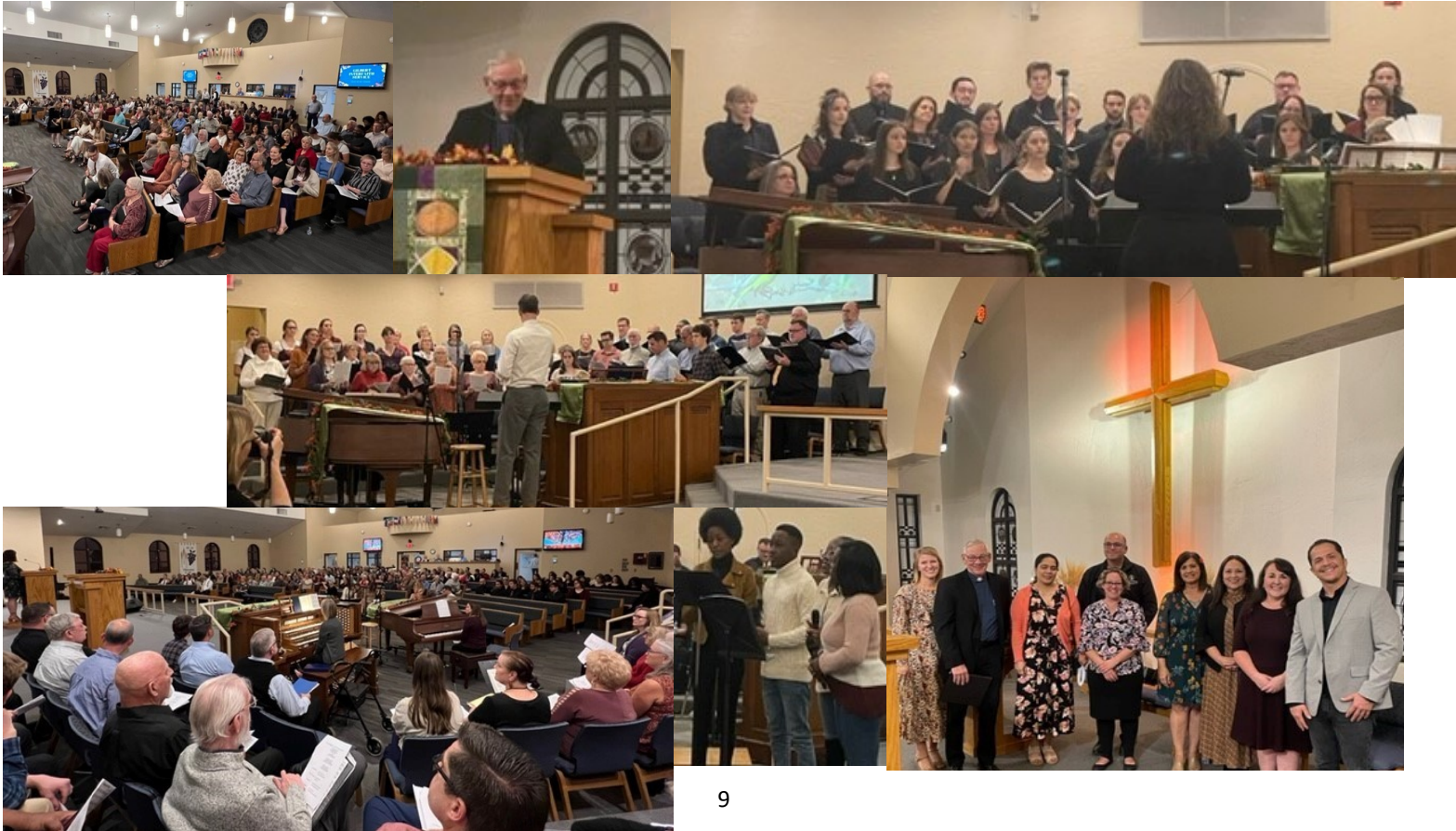
13th Annual Interfaith Service

On Sunday, November 13th First Gilbert hosted the 13th Annual Interfaith Service. This year it was joyful to have so many faith communities participate. This was the first time the event had been held after the two year COVID hiatus. The purpose of this service is to provide a space where faith communities can express thanksgiving to God and demonstrate the goodness of God in unity and in kindness.

The evening included music and God Is Good messages from Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, East Valley Jewish Community Center, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Faith Christian Center, Living Word Bible Church, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. There were eleven faith communities who participated, during the evening music and words were shared in five different languages. Closing remarks were provided by Town of Gilbert Mayor Brigette Peterson. The event was well attended by over 300 people.

A love offering was collected in support of The Clothes Cabin located here in Gilbert at 710 N. Cooper Road. Over \$500 was raised that evening with additional people donating online at <https://onesmallstepaz.org>.

Thank you to everyone attended! The Spirit and sense of community was tremendous. A huge thank you to the team who worked so diligently to organize and prepare this evening where so many different voices could express their gratitude to God.



Christmas Cantata

Join us Sunday December 11 for a special service featuring the Chancel choir and guest musicians!

Services at 8:00 and 9:30 am



Save the date!

Join us for

Chili and Caroling

Sunday, December 11

6:00 pm



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S. Cooper Rd. • Gilbert, AZ 85233
gilbertumc.org • facebook.com/FUMCofgilbert



Youth News Nov/Dec 2022

On Oct. 23rd, the youth group had a great turn out to the Annual Pumpkin Carving contest. We had 14 kids from FUMCG, and 6 youth join us from Chandler UMC! The youth were so creative and everyone had a lot of fun!



On Oct. 30th, the youth baking class made Pumpkin Pie from scratch: the crust, roasting pumpkins, and homemade whip cream! These kids have skills in the kitchen!



On Nov. 6th, the youth went to an Escape Room. We were just minutes short of “escaping the room” but alas we weren’t able to complete the last challenge in time. It was still tons of fun and lots of teamwork involved!

RE:



Save the Date for Confirmation 2023!

If you have a youth in 7-12th grade who is interested in participating in confirmation class this spring, please email youthministry@gilbertumc.org . Confirmation seeks to give our youth a systematic overview of the faith - our identity, our history and heritage, our practices, and our beliefs. We’re taking a creative and collaborative approach to Confirmation classes this year, condensing it down to only 3 weekends and will be combining with youth from other east valley UMC’s. The dates will be Feb. 24/25th, March 31/April 1st, and April 28-30th.

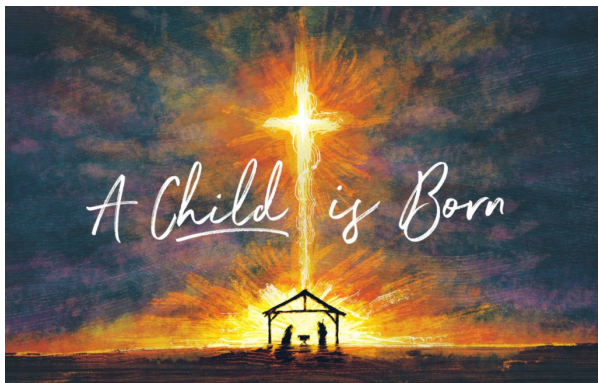
Blue Christmas Service
December 21 ,2022
At 6:30pm in Sanctuary



We are asking for donations of Christmas cookie and coca and hot spiced tea.

For Christmas Eve in between services. We have several people who are severely allergic to peanut and other nuts so please keep this in mind.

Please have the donations to the office by December 21,2022



**Sunday Christmas Day
we will have one
service at 9:30 am.**



Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm—Family Service

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

6:00 pm—Candlelight Service*

Lessons and Carols; Childcare available in Nursery

10:00 pm—Candlelight Service

Holy Communion and Handbell Choir

**Livestream available at gilbertumc.org/worship*

*Everyone
is Welcome!*



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Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S. Cooper Rd.
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480-892-9166 gilbertumc.org
facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert

Preschool News
www.gilbertpreschool.com



FUMC of Gilbert Preschool



Gilbert preschool



@gilpreschool

November News:

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. We had a visit from our local firefighters and learned about safety and were able to climb up in the firetruck and learn about all the tools they use. The week of Thanksgiving the children enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving feast by making a Friendship Mix out of a variety of cereals, crackers and candies. Parents and siblings were invited to share in the special feast and everyone had a lot of fun sharing together. Finally, each preschool student made a special Thanksgiving placemat in the classroom to take home and use on Thanksgiving day!



December Festivities:

The children will be very busy during the month of December. We will be having a lot of festive fun this month. Two of our favorite activities are making and wrapping a special gift for our families and celebrating the birth of Jesus. 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 2023-24 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. Lisa DePalma or Ellie Koenig would love to speak with you!

December 2022 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

Children's Ministry

Janelle Chiricuzio, Director children_ministry@gilbertumc.org

Preschool and Kinder



SERIES DESCRIPTION:

Loving everyone is special. Turning water into wine is special. Teaching people about God is special. Healing people is special. Feeding people is special. But when we think of Jesus, there is one thing that is most special about Him. Jesus is God's Son. That is what makes Jesus so very Special.

CORE INSIGHT:

CONNECTION

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

WEEK TWO: Jesus Is Born*—Luke 2:1-7

WEEK THREE: The Shepherds—Luke 2:8-22

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

BOTTOM LINE: BOTTOM LINE: JESUS IS GOD'S SON.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." John 3:16, GNT

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:

COMPASSION • TRUTH

WEEK ONE: Jesus Is Promised—Isaiah 9:6-7

BOTTOM LINE: God always has a plan.

WEEK TWO: Zechariah/Elizabeth and Gabriel/Mary— Luke 1:5-66

BOTTOM LINE: Anything is possible with God.

WEEK THREE: Jesus Is Born—Luke 2:1-7

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus is the greatest gift.

WEEK FOUR: Shepherds and Angels—Luke 2:8-20

BOTTOM LINE: The good news is for everyone

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:11, NIRV

Mission: Senior Santa





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

Save the Date December 4th
Youth Christmas Party, 5-7pm

Volunteer at the live Nativity /petting
zoo during services on Christmas Eve
4-7pm



SAVE THE DATE MORE UPCOMMING YOUTH EVENTS

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

Nov 20th- Youth Group, Scavenger Hunt and Christmas Angel Shopping (Time TBD, afternoon)

Dec 4th Youth group Christmas Party 5-7pm, white elephant exchange, and dinner

Dec 11th- Chili and Caroling, Evening Time 6pm

Dec 17th St Vincent de Paul Mesa Garden 8-11am

Dec 24th- Volunteer at Live Nativity/Petting Zoo during services

Jan 14-16 Mingus Mountain Winter Camp

Spring 2023- Confirmation (open to 7-12 graders) Dates TBD

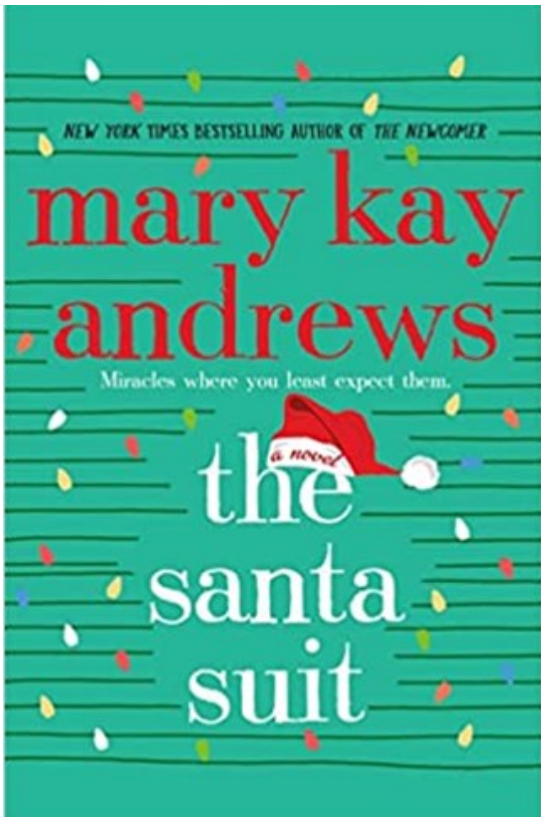


Follow the youth on Instagram@fumcyouth

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 !

Shayla Paap at youthministry@gilbertumc.org

Youth News • 7th-12th Grade



The Book Corner

August's book is Santa's Suit

By Mary Kay Andrews

Betty will be leading the review of this fiction book which was published in 2021.

The Book Club will meet December 15th at 11:30 in Room 130 and on zoom.

September's book will be Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters

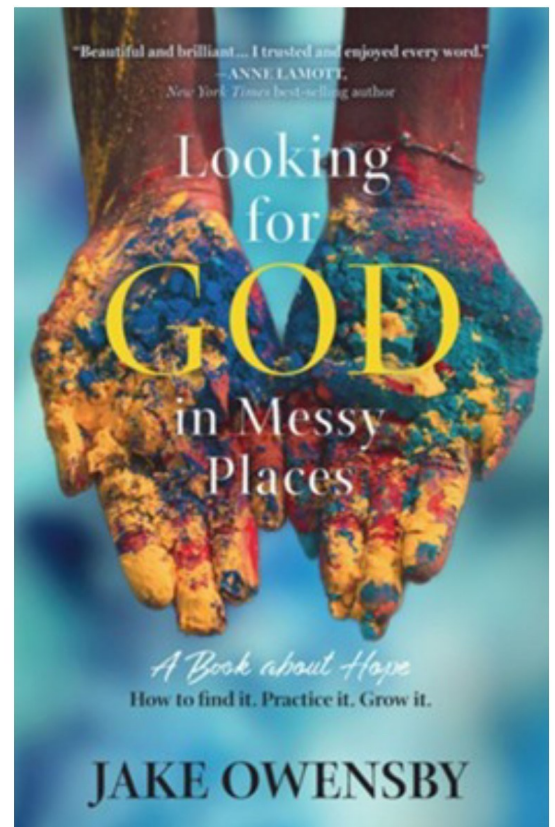
By Jennifer Chiaverini

Tuesday Morning Bible Study




Join us Tuesday Morning December 13th at 9:15a for wonderful fellowship time with Christian women. We will share a meal, exchange small gifts, and have a short Christmas devotion before we break for the holiday season.

Our next study is Looking for God in Messy Places by Jake Owensby. New study starts January 10, 2023 at 9:15 social time, prayers and praises). Same format as before (in person only) no masks required (but highly recommended) with large group video then small group discussion. Please let me know if you want the book (so we can order enough) and if you need nursery care (so I can let those that arrange that, know.) Please share with friends/neighbors that might be interested in joining our multi denominational Christian group. Life is messy. We can get discouraged by setbacks, overwhelmed by busyness, and shaken by worry. Hope is the power that gets us out of bed in the morning and gives us the courage to face adversity. Looking for God in Messy Places by Jake Owensby is a book about how love gives us an inextinguishable hope. This book is for anyone who has ever been frozen in place by loss or regret, anyone who has endured suffering, cruelty, or rejection. From word to word and page to page, readers will experience themselves as God's beloved—so that they can be hopeful. Contact Sonja Ruhland at Sonja.ruhland@gmail.com



Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:

Upcoming Opportunities

- December 1st at 9:30 am Christian Women's Fellowship meets in Room 130.
- Surviving the Holidays will have a second session in December 3rd at 10:30 to Noon please register with Kay at k.pealstrom@gmail.com by Dec.1st.
- Last Day to return your Senior Santa or Christmas Angel Tree gifts to the office or patio table is December 4th for delivery.
- Chat and Chew meets every Wednesday at 12:00 in Room 136 Bring your own lunch and join us for fellowship.
- Christmas Cantata will be performed on December 11th at both services (8:00 and 9:30) please join us for beautiful music.
- Chili and caroling will be held December 11th at 6:00pm . Join us or lots of Fun.
- Book Club Meets December 15th at 11:30 am in Room 130 December's book is Santa's Suit by Mary Kay Andrews . 
- We are asking donations of single packs of hot cider and cocoa and store bought or homemade cookies for in between Christmas Eve Services . Please bring to office no later than December 21st.
- The Service of Blue Christmas will be held on December 21st at 6:30 pm in sanctuary. If you had lost a loved one this year please join us.
- Christmas Eve services 4:00 Family service with carols, live Nativity, Petting Zoo and pick up pageant; 6:00 pm Candlelight Service Lessons and Carols; and 10:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion and Handbell choir.
- We will have one service on Sunday Christmas Day at 9:30am.





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



Financial Secretary

Penny will be sending out year end statements the first week of January . So please let me know if you have not received by the 15th of January. Penny can be reached at 480-892-9166 or financialsecretary@gilbertumc.org.

From your Finance Committee

October 2022		2022 Year to Date (calendar year)	
Budgeted Contributions	\$51,800	Budgeted Contributions	\$518,000
Actual Contributions	\$84,491	Actual Contributions	\$532,044
Actual Spending	\$58,878	Actual Spending	\$587,682
Surplus (Deficit)	\$25,613	Surplus (Deficit)	(\$55,638)



**Congregational Care
Support Groups**

*For more information
about groups and other
support available,
please contact Pastor
Adriana at*

pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org
or 480-892-9166



Another Surviving the Holidays will be held on **December 3, 2022 at 10:30 to Noon**. This is a special session for those who have lost someone close to help you survive the Holiday Season. Please register with Kay [at k.pealstrom@gmail.com](mailto:k.pealstrom@gmail.com) no later than December 1st.

**Grief Share Support Group will be In person
at First UMC of Gilbert**

All Are Welcome starting January 7, 2023

For those grieving the loss of
someone close to them.

This support group. Led by
Kay Pealstrom

Please register with Kay so she know how
many to prepare for at k.pealstrom@gmail.com

is meeting on Saturdays from
10:30-Noon

Workbook and class materials
required



Text-to-Give

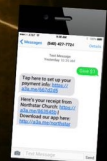
† Text 480-712-1057

† Enter amount with \$ sign
for example: **\$25**

For first usage only:

† Register with link provided


† Click "Process"



December Calendar of Events 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 4 Communion Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent		 1 Chat & Chew Wednesday Noon Room 133	1 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30 	2	 3 Surviving the Holidays Grief Share 1 session only 10:30-Noon	
5	6 Tuesday Morning Bible Study 9:15 	7 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Dinner and fellowship 5:30-7:30 	8 Shawl Ministry !:00 	9	10	
11 3rd Sunday of Advent & Canata (am) & Chili & Caroling 6pm 	12	13 Tuesday morning Bible study and Brunch 9:15 	14 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30 first Choir practice 	15 Book Club 11:00 	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 	19	20 Tuesday morning Bible study 9:15 off 	21 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30 off 	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day 	26	27 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 off 	28 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30 off 	29	30	31 
		 Chat & Chew Wednesday Noon Room 133				

January Calendar of Events 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday New Years Day 	2 church office closed in observance of New Years Day	3 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 	4 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 5:30 	5 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30 	6
8	9	10 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 	11 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30 	12 Shawl Ministry 1:00 	13
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr Day	17 Tues Morn- ing Bible 9:15 	18 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	19 Book Club 11:00 	20
22	23	24 Tues Morn. Bible 9:15 	25 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	26	27
29	30	31 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 	Chat & Chew Wednesday Noon Room 133 	28	29



December Birthdays



Terry Bowers	1
Andrew James	1
Ruby Rosemond Taylor	1
Ashee Lane	2
Danielle Mendoza	3
Richard L. Staley	4
Edwin Ted Lillie	5
Veronica Dailey	7
Miriam Phillips Gill	8
Linda Allen	10
Alicia Hemingson	13
Isabel Grace Jordan	13
Ernie Broughton	14
Alexandra Scharff	15
Kyera McCluskey	18
Jonell Woolsey	19
Jacqueline Barnhart	20
George Dailey	20
Kwame Gardour	25
Lindsay 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
31	Danielle and Christopher Mendoza	11

