

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

April 2023



The church office
will be closed
April 10th
in observance of
Easter

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CHURCH OF GILBERT

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

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Friday
by appointment
only

Attendance
March 26th....215

Virtual viewing 157

Holy Week Services

at First UMC Gilbert

Palm Sunday	April 2	8:30, 9:30 am*
Maundy Thursday	April 6	6:30 pm
Good Friday	April 7	6:30 pm*
Easter Sunday	April 9	
Sunrise Service		6:00 am†
Blended Services		8:00 am, 9:30 am*

BSA Troop88 and 3088 Pancake Breakfast

Served from 8:00 am to 11:00 am for donation

†Nursery available at all services except Sunrise

*Livestream available; see website

331 S Cooper Rd | 480-892-9166 | gilbertumc.org

Sunday April 9th

FirstKidz and Resurrection Episcopal Church Present:

Easter Egg Hunt

2023



**Please join us for a combined Easter Egg Hunt on
campus at 10:30 Easter morning~
Everyone is welcome!**

**Families can participate together to gather eggs
filled with Easter blessings and surprises!**

Meet our new members. Please welcome them when you see them on campus

Baptism of Natalia Alice Lillie daughter of Edwin (Ted) and Lindsay Lillie born August 9, 2022 here in Gilbert.



In February the youth had a **Paint Day**, where they created original art, which will be displayed in the Senior High Youth Room, the goal is to update this each year, having each youth leave their mark on the space.



First UMC Youth in Action and Pictures

The youth also visited Phoenix Rock Gym for an afternoon of Rock Climbing fun.

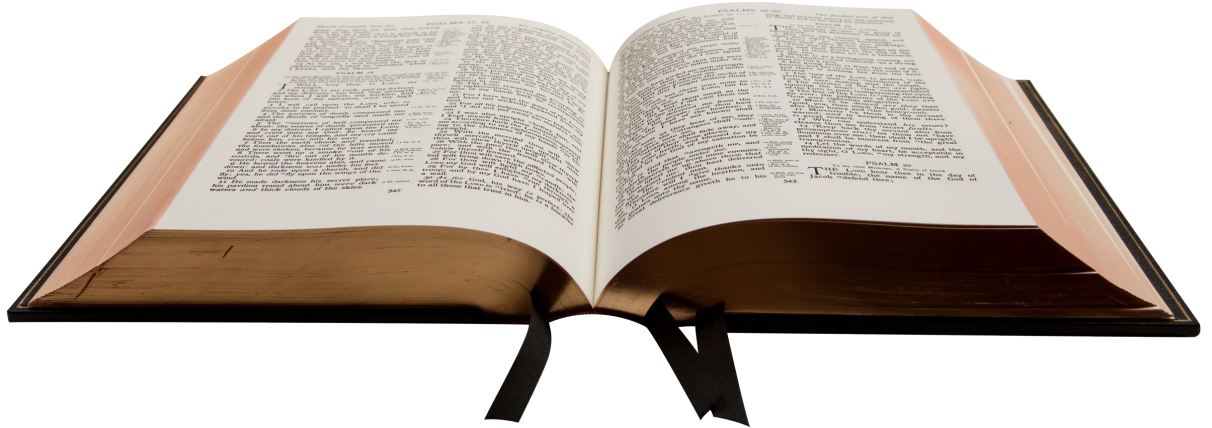
Youth News • 7th-12th



Youth Ski Trip to Flagstaff AZ
February 2023



Please watch for the Adult ministries class schedules in the enews and in worship!



Presentation of the 3rd Grade Bibles

Each Student had a required class that they completed and with that they received their gift, their “Good News”, and their treasure gift their very own Bible. Congratulations Abigail, Mason, and Caleb!



**Abigail Grace Paap
Mason Dean Ramirez
Caleb Thomas Redman**



HANDS OF JOY SIGN LANGUAGE CHOIR CONCERT

You are cordially invited to our Spring concert

"God's Immeasurable Grace" on

May 7, 2023 at 3 pm

at St. Matthew UMC in Mesa.

God's grace can't be earned or worked for.

It's His free gift to us because of His great love for us.

Come enjoy the beautiful music and see the pictures the signs
paint of God's great love and mercy. Bring a friend and be bathed in the blessings.



Food drive results from the 29 drop-off donation sites Gilbert collected 30,537 lbs. of food and \$20,424 in cash donations collected. This provides 127,568 meals to those in need !!!!! **Thank You First Gilbert UMC to your donation to this overall result!!!!!**

Last day is May 5th for your donations for Mothers Day Purses Drive

The Missions Committee is again collecting new or gently used purses filled with goodies this Mother's Day to donate to moms in local domestic violence and family shelters. We will be working in conjunction with UMOM this year. **Please bring all donations to the church office by May 5th, 2023.** With 15-20 empty purses already donated, we are especially looking for items to fill the purses and/or monetary donations to be used to purchase such items. Suggestions for things to include are cosmetics, scented lotions, hair brushes, bath gels, manicure and pedicure items, jewelry, hair accessories and toiletries. Many of these items can be purchased at any dollar store (although most will cost more than a dollar; please no travel size items). Why not take this opportunity to clear out those purses you no longer use and fill a couple of them with things to please a deserving mom? Or, if you don't have any purses you're wanting to part with, please consider purchasing items to fill already donated purses. Monetary donations can be made by checks to First United Methodist Church with "Purse Project" on the notation line. Thank you! Any questions? Please call Paige Cantwell at 219-614-1849.



Prayer Ministry

Pastor Adriana Hernandez at pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org



Prayer Connection

Saturday, April 15th 9am-Noon
First Gilbert Activity Center

A morning of prayer, spiritual exploration and learning how prayer connects us all.

Led By Rev. Tina Rees & Pastor Adriana





**FOLLOW JESUS HERE,
THERE, AND EVERYWHERE**

June 5 to the 9th from 9:00 am to Noon

Volunteers needed for the VBS

- Room Leaders
- helpers
- Snack helpers
- Shepherds
- Preschool

Volunteer opportunities



We need volunteers who are youth going into 7th grade and adults must have had safe sanctuary training. Please contact childrenministry@gilbertumc.org to volunteer.



Because of you, life doesn't stop.

#VitalToLife



ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS are encouraged to help maintain social distancing.



FACE MASKS ARE NOW OPTIONAL FOR VITALANT DONORS



DONATE BLOOD
vitalant.org | 877-25-VITAL

BLOOD DRIVE Sunday May 7th

7am - 11am in Activity Center

To make an appointment:

- Visit donors.vitalant.org
- Scan QR code at left
- or call 877.258.4825



Safe Sanctuary Training For Church Staff and Volunteers

Sunday, May 7th

1:00—3:00 pm Room 130

Contact Shayla for info and RSVP
youthministry@gilbertumc.org



submitted by
Keela Clark

April is a month full of resurrection and renewal signaling transitions from the cold darkness of winter hibernation to awakening of warmer temperatures. The sun is shining, flowers are blooming, and outdoor activities increase which all can be natural mood lifters. So here are some “spring-cleaning” tips to help renew your health and wellness and give yourself some love:

1. Fill Your Plate with Fresh, In-Season Fruits & Vegetables

Spring and summer are a great time to incorporate fresh, in-season fruits and vegetables into the diet. [Warmer weather produce](#), like mushrooms, bell peppers, zucchini, and [berries](#), are all packed with micronutrients the body needs and thrives on and gives opportunities to get outdoors and visit farmer’s markets.



2. Stay Hydrated

When it’s warmer outside, your body can lose more moisture through sweating, even if you don’t feel yourself getting sweaty. [Dehydration](#) can pose serious health risks if severe — and even if you’re just mildly dehydrated, it can cause fatigue, low energy, and headaches. To help prevent dehydration, it’s important to take proactive steps to drink enough water throughout the day, such as by always keeping a water bottle handy and it may help avoid overeating.

3. **Get Outside and Get Moving** Getting enough physical activity every day is important and can be as simple as taking a walk down the block or spending some time gardening. Any activity you enjoy that gets your bones and muscles moving can help. Being outside engages all the senses, and it has a big effect on your mood and self-esteem as well as boost [Vitamin D](#) levels. Just remember to apply the sunscreen!

4. Reset Your Sleep Schedule



If dark, cold winter days have thrown your [sleep schedule](#) off track, use spring as a reset. One habit to break is spending lots of time in front of a computer or phone or laptop just before bed. These devices turn on your brain and make you think it’s time to wake up.

Other ways to clean up your pre-sleep routine include: not exercising or eating large meals within two hours before bedtime, avoiding alcohol for at least four hours before bed, and avoiding [caffeine](#) in the afternoon. And do get up at the same time each day — ideally with exposure to light right away. Consistently waking up at the same time day after day gets your body and that routine — and it becomes easier to stick to.

5. Check in With Your Doctor



Spring is a great time to make sure you’re up to date with recommended health screenings and immunizations, and to check in with your doctor to discuss any health concerns you have. Make that appointment!

6. Healthy Mind, Healthy Spirit

Meditate: Find a favorite sunny spot inside or outdoors where you can unplug for 10 – 15 minutes. This practice of inward-focused thought and deep breathing has been shown to reduce heart disease risk factors such as high blood pressure. Meditation’s close relatives- yoga, and prayer can also relax the mind and body.

Desert Southwest Chapter Programs & Services

A guide to support individuals, families, and friends impacted by dementia

People with Alzheimer's and related dementias and their families and friends can feel overwhelmed, but no one needs to go on this journey alone. We offer a variety of free programs, services, and resources to help cope with all aspects of the disease and its progression.

24/7 HELPLINE

Call **800.272.3900**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to speak confidentially with a Care Consultant. These professionals provide support, information about Alzheimer's and related dementias, guidance on care options, help with planning for the future, coaching for family members, strategies to address safety concerns, and referrals to local resources. Support is free of charge and offered in over 200 languages.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support Groups provide a forum to share feelings, concerns, information, and learn new skills. The Desert Southwest Chapter offers over 50 support groups, in English and Spanish, across Arizona and southern Nevada. All of our support groups are facilitated by trained individuals and meet at various locations and times. Most groups are for family and friends supporting a loved one with dementia, but there are also groups designed specifically for individuals with early stage dementia. Call 800-272-3900 or visit: alz.org/dsw/supportgroups to find a group near you.

EDUCATION

Our educational programs increase awareness and knowledge about Alzheimer's and related dementias. Session topics include an introduction to the disease, addressing behavioral challenges, long-term planning, and much more. Almost all of our educational presentations are offered in English and Spanish. Call 800-272-3900 or visit: alz.org/dsw/education for more information.

EARLY STAGE

Early Stage programs provide a variety of education sessions and activities designed to actively engage, empower, and encourage individuals with Early Stage Alzheimer's and their care partners. Call 800-272-3900 for more information.

FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINING

The Alzheimer's Association's Approaching Alzheimer's: First Responder training is a free online course to prepare first responders to respond to common calls involving a person with dementia. For more information, call 800-272-3900 or alz.org/firstresponders

Preschool News
www.gilbertpreschool.com



FUMC of Gilbert Preschool



Gilbert preschool



@gilpreschool

REGISTER NOW!

Our preschool has classes for 3, 4 and 5 year olds! At this time, we have a few remaining spots for our Pre-k program and our 3's program is open. Check out our website and give us a call for a tour! Please share this information with a friend.

Literature Week-In March we celebrated literature week with "spirit day" activities. We learned about different authors and books and dressed accordingly to go with specific themes which included hat day, pajama day, color day and favorite book character day. We ended the week with a little parade to celebrate our love of reading.



Pajama Day!



Hat day!



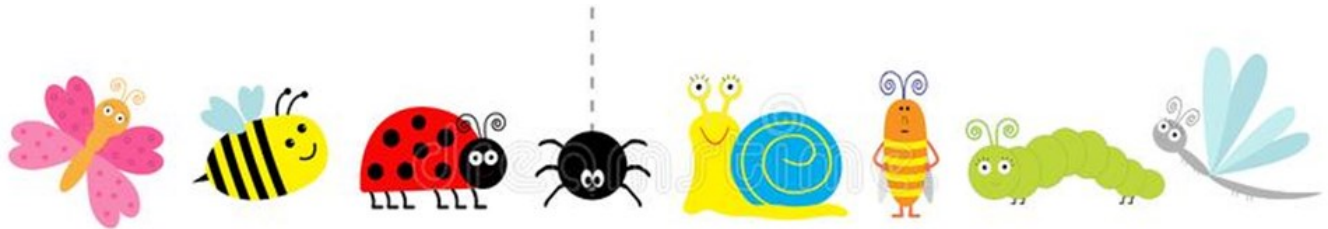
Character Day!



Gardening with Preschoolers- We grew spring mix lettuce, snap peas, romaine lettuce, and radishes and carrots! The preschoolers harvested their produce, enjoyed it for snack, and brought some home. This was such a great learning experience for them to see how these vegetables grow!



Spring Theme – God’s Garden- In March, we learned about gardens, ladybugs and caterpillars. Students observed ladybugs in class and were able to hold some before they were released in our garden. Each class also watched caterpillars turn into a chrysalis before hatching to a butterfly. We sure love this world God has made including all the living insects and bugs! At the beginning of April we will look forward to learning about the letter Ee as we prepare for Easter with fun crafts in the classroom. We will learn a new bible verse during chapel, “Hosanna, blessed is He who comes.” The children love to celebrate Jesus. We will continue learning about the amazing things God made and learn letters Cc, Vv, and Ii.



Happy Spring and Happy Easter!

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!

April 2023 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

Children's Ministry

Janelle Chiricuzio, Director children_ministry@gilbertumc.org

Preschool and Kinder



SERIES DESCRIPTION:

The greatest love is to give one's life for someone else. And that's what Jesus did for all people. He died for us. But that's not the best part of the story. What happened after Jesus died is what changed everything. Jesus came back! Jesus is ALIVE, today, and He wants us to follow Him!

CORE INSIGHT: :

TRUTH

WEEK ONE: Palm Sunday—Matthew 21:1-11, 15-16

WEEK TWO: Easter*—Matthew 26:20-50; 27:1-2; 28:1-7

WEEK THREE: Breakfast on the Beach—John 21:1-14

WEEK FOUR: Great Commission—Matthew 28:19-20

WEEK FIVE: Early Church—Acts 2:42-47

BOTTOM LINE: JESUS IS ALIVE.

"I am alive for ever and ever!" Revelation 1:18, NIV

**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:

Jesus gave us the ultimate example of humility. Not only did He become human to come to earth and save us, but He also showed us how to serve others and put them first.

CORE INSIGHTS:

FAITH • COMMUNITY

WEEK ONE: Palm Sunday / Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet— John 12:9-16 (supporting: Matthew 21:1-11), John 13:1-17

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus put others first.

WEEK TWO (EASTER): Crucified and Risen—John 18:12-20:23 (supporting: John 16, Matthew 26)

BOTTOM LINE: Celebrate because Jesus is alive.

WEEK THREE: Being Humble Like Jesus—Philippians 2:3-8

BOTTOM LINE: Put others first the because Jesus put you first

WEEK FOUR: On the Road to Emmaus—Luke 24:13-35 BOTTOM LINE: Put others first by helping them understand.

WEEK FIVE: Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:1-19 (supporting: John 18:1-27)

BOTTOM LINE: Put others first by making things right.

"Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves." Philippians 2:3, NIV

**Mission Mother's
Day
Purse Drive
Like bottles of
lotion, shampoo,
hair brushes**





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

Confirmation started the weekend of Feb. 25th. We have 5 youth from First Gilbert and 3 youth from Chandler UMC. The first weekend went well with a great group of kids, asking good questions, and looking to strengthen their beliefs. We are still seeking donations for Confirmation, which will help pay for the Confirmation retreat in April. We are asking for \$50 or \$100 donations, which can be placed in the offering baskets or given on-line anytime this spring. Thank you for supporting our youth to dig deeper in the their faith journey!

In April (Dates TBD) watch for the Youth "Stock Sales" on the patio. This will be the youth selling "Stocks" - giving the congregation a chance to "Invest in our Youth"! These funds will help them travel to the SSP (Sierra Service Project) on the Navajo reservation in northern AZ this summer to help with home repair and other community projects in the area this summer

Calling all 2023 Grads!

Graduation is only a month away! Please email youthministry@gilbertumc.org if you have a graduate that you would like recognized this May. Please include a Graduation/Senior Photo, Grad's Name, School, Plans for next chapter (ie: job, trade school, college), and parent/church member name/contact info. Any questions, please email youthministry@gilbertumc.org.

SAVE THE DATE MORE UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

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

- March 31 and April 1 2nd gathering of Confirmation at CUMC
- April 2 Youth selling SSP Stock Sales on Patio in between services Youth Group TBD
- April 16th Youth Group TBD
- April 28th –30th Confirmation Retreat Weekend at Mingus
- May 7th Youth Group TBD
- May 14th Confirmation Sunday/ Mother's Day
- May 21st Youth Group TBD
- May 21st Grad Sunday
- June 5 thru 9th- VBS, 9am-12pm M-F, Volunteer Opportunity!
- June 23rd (Fri)- July 1st (Sat), SSP 2023 (approximate dates)
- July 23-28th- YOUTH 2023 in Daytona Beach, FL



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

April's book is The Secrets We Kept
by Laura Prescott

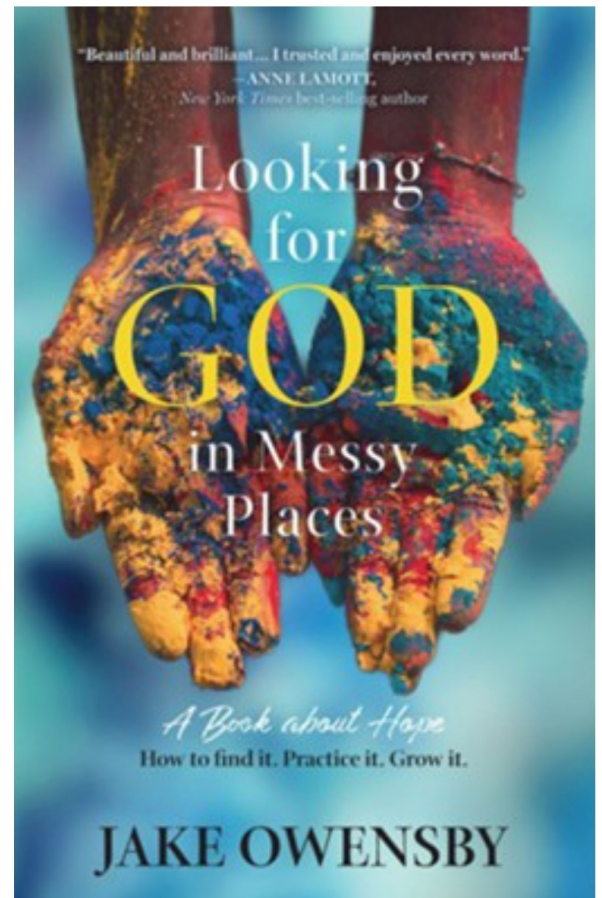
Nyra will be leading the
review of this
fiction book which was
published in 2019.

The Book Club will meet
April 20th at 11:30 in
Room 130.




May's book is Stepping back from the Ledge
by Laura Trujillo

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our next book is God in Messy Places by Jake Owensby starting Tuesday January 10 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:

- Register today for VBS Ready, Set, MOVE! Follow Jesus Here, There, and Everywhere starting June 5th through June 9th 9:00am to Noon.
- April 2nd is Palm Sunday Services are at 8:00 am and 9:30 am. 
- Chat and Chew meets every Wednesday at 12:00 in Room 136 Bring your own lunch and join us for fellowship.
- April 6th at 9:30 am Christian Women's Fellowship meets in Room 130.
- April 6th also Maundy Thursday services will be in Sanctuary at 6:30 pm
- April 7th is Good Friday service will be held at 6:30 pm in Sanctuary.
- Easter Morning April 9th will be Sunrise 6:00am, 8:00 am and 9:30 am will be streamed.
- Scout Pancake Breakfast will be held from 8:00am to 11:00 am in the Activity Center On Easter morning April 9th.
- **The church office will be closed on April 10th in observance of Easter.**
- Book Club Meets April 20th at 11:30 am in Room 130 April's book is 
The Secrets We Kept by Laura Prescott .
- Last Day to get your donations in for the Mother's Day Purse dive is May 5th.
- May 7th we will be holding a blood drive in the Activity Center. See the write up on page 8.
- Don't forget to show the love for your Mother On May 14th!
- Calling all 2023 Grads! Grad Sunday is May 21st Please email youthministry@gilbertumc.org if you have a graduate that you would like recognized this May. Please include a Graduation/Senior Photo, Grad's Name, School, Plans for next chapter (ie: job, trade school, college), and parent/church member name/contact info. Any questions, please email youthministry@gilbertumc.org. 
- Save the Date for VBS Ready, Set, MOVE! Follow Jesus Here, There, and Everywhere starting June 5th through June 9th 9:00am to Noon.



Text-to-Give

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

For first usage only:

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



Confirmation

- Looking for donors to sponsor our First UMC Gilbert Confirmation Class of 2023!
- \$50 or \$100 donations (need 5-10 donors)
- Funds will cover 3-day Confirmation Retreat at Mingus Mountain UMC Camp in April
- Confirmation Sunday in May 2023
- Give online or envelope, please note **"Confirmation Donation"**



**Congregational
Care Support
Groups**

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

*Pastor Adriana at
pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org*

Grief Share Support Group on Zoom

GRIEF SHARE®

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through life's most difficult experiences.

Meets online
Saturdays at 8:30 am

Contact Kay at
k.pealstrom@gmail.com

**All Are
Welcome**

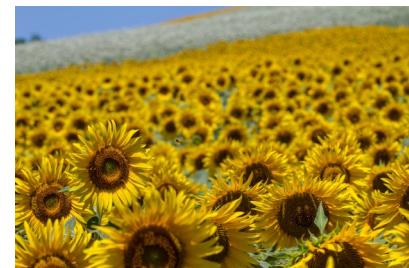
Prayers for those in need

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.



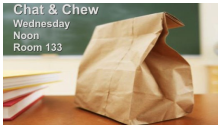
And we will be praying for all the concerns and praises.

Your Prayer Team



Congregational Care and Prayer Ministry
Pastor Adriana at pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org

April Calendar of Events 2023



mSun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



2 Communion
Sunday Palm
Sunday

3

4 Tuesday
Morning Bible
Study 9:15



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

6 Christian
Women's
Fellowship 9:30



7 Good Friday
service 6:30



1 Grief share
Every Saturday
8:30-10:00 zoom



9 Easter
Sunday services
6,8, 9:30 am

10

11 Tuesday
morning Bible
study 9:15



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

13

14

15 prayer
connection 9
am to noon in
activity center



16

17

18 Tuesday
morning Bible
study 9:15 off



19 Chat N
Chew Noon
Ash Wednesday

20 Book Club
11:00



21 Alzheimers
group 1:30 pm
first and third
Fridays

22

23

24

25 Tues
Morning Bible
9:15 off



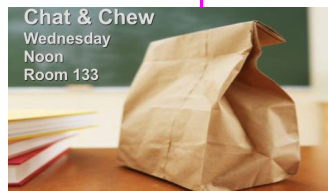
26 Chat N Chew
Noon
Wednesday Night
Bible study 6:30

27

28

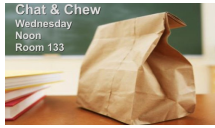
29

30



May Calendar of Events 2023

Calendars



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2Tues
Morning Bible
9:15

3Chat N Chew
Noon
Wednesday
Night Bible

4Christian
Women's
Fellowship 9:30

5Cinco de
Mayo

6Grief share
every Sat 8:30- -
10:00 on Zoom



7Com-
munion
Sunday

8

9Tues
Morning Bible
9:15

10Chat N
Chew
Noon Wednes-
day Night
Bible study 6:30

11



12



13



14Mot
her's Day

15

16Tues Morn-
ing Bible
9:15 off

17Chat N
Chew Noon
Wednesday
Night Bible study
6:30

18Book Club
11:00



19Alzheimers
group 1:30 pm
first and third
Fridays

20



21

22

23Tues Morn.
Bible 9:15 off

24Chat N
Chew Noon
Wednesday
Night Bible
study 6:30

25

26

27

28

29Church
Office Closed in
observance of
Memorial Day

30Tues
Morning Bible
9:15

31Chat N
Chew Noon
Wednesday
Night Bible
study 530



April Birthdays



Victoria Whittington	2
Taleen Carpenter	3
Christina Tesarek	4
Kathy Tracy	5
Gloria Eggen	8
Judie Eastburn	11
Dennis Hazelrigg	11
Carol Scharff	11
Matthew Ramirez	12
Ernestine Tesarek	12
Jeff Snyder	16
Francoise Kaj	16
Joe Norris	19
Valerie Kellogg	20
Mary Ann Kollmer	20
Doug Rhoden	21
Jonathon Chuk	23
Michael Tremain	25
Lily Smith	27



April Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
09	Jonie and Bruce Woolsey	57
11	Abigail and Doug Rhoden	08
17	Delaine and Richard Anthony	42
17	Jan and Glen Compton	19
17	Sini and Scott Ouellette	17
22	Jenny and Ray Vallera	28
25	Lora and Joe Norris	31
30	Keela and Mike Clark	34
30	JoLynn and Irvin Harder	35

