

# The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

January 2024



**Church office will be closed** January 1, 2024 for the observance of New Years . And January 15th in observance of MLK Day

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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  
Nov 15 to Dec 17th  
total in church **1163**

Virtual viewing **598**



# Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement  
after the death of a loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Saturdays Online - 8:30-10 a.m.

January 20 - April 13, 2024

First Gilbert UMC

331 S. Cooper Road, Gilbert, AZ 85233

Phone: 480-892-9166

[info@gilbertumc.org](mailto:info@gilbertumc.org)

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)

Congregational Care Grief Share

Kay Pealstrom contact at [Kay.Pealstrom@gmail.com](mailto:Kay.Pealstrom@gmail.com)

## Grief Share Support Group

### New class starting January 20, 2024

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them. This support group is led by Kay Pealstrom. She can be contacted at: [kay.pealstrom@gmail.com](mailto:kay.pealstrom@gmail.com)

Kay is the resource for registration, information on obtaining materials and sharing the zoom information for the session. The support group meets on Saturday mornings from 8:30am-10am.

# FUMC of Gilbert Cantata

Randall Van Der Pol Music Director contact at worship leader@gilbertumc.org



2  
0  
2  
3





Gifts of Hope 2023



A **Big thank you** to everyone who participated in Gifts of Hope 2023! Your generosity brightened the holidays for **40 children and youth.**



.... We delivered **over 80 gifts** of new toys and clothes. **Thank you for spreading Christmas Joy to these families!"**

Thank You



## Senior Santa 2023

Over 38 tags for Seniors were placed on our Senior Santa tree this year and we filled them all. You have brightened lonely seniors in the Home Instead families a brighter and happier Christmas..

**Thank you so much the people of First Gilbert UMC**



Thank You



**The Missions Team continues** to support Gilbert Elementary School, which is a neighborhood Title 1 school. Schools meet criteria based on total student enrollment and the number of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. We supply snacks to those students who are hungry and cannot concentrate on their studies. We would appreciate any donations you would like to supply from the list below. You may drop them off throughout the school year in the wooden crates on the wire shelves labeled Missions inside the doors of the Activity Center. The students are so polite and grateful when we deliver snacks to them. It's always a joy to see them!

\*\*\*\*All food items must be individually packaged\*\*\*\*

Peanut Butter-filled or Cheese-filled Crackers  
Cups of Mac'n Cheese(just add H2O)  
Cheez-Its  
Goldfish



Gatorade  
water  
Granola Bars/Breakfast Bars



Pop Tart  
Fruit Snacks

# Family Campout 2024

Jo Goslar at jogoslar@gmail.com or Elice Province at Elicebp@aol.com



# FAMILY CAMPOUT

## April 26-28, 2024

*For more Info Contact  
Jo Goslar or Elice Province*

*elicebp@aol.com  
jogoslar@gmail.com*

**Ponderosa Campground  
outside Payson**

**The annual family campout is being revived! We have reserved a group campsite at Ponderosa Campground outside Payson for April 26-28, 2024.**

Each family/individual will be responsible for bringing their camping gear. We'll have a campfire (if allowed) or at least a group gathering each night with fellowship & possibly a sing-along. Before breaking camp Sunday, there will be a worship service. In addition to your camping gear, bring along any lawn games (corn hole, etc), card or board games you'd like to share. There are hiking trails and lakes nearby, too.

We'll divide into 3 groups to provide Sat/Sun breakfast & Sat supper. Fri night supper & Sat lunch will be on your own. So that we will have an idea of how many are interested in joining the fun, there will be a signup sheet on the patio for the next few Sundays. If we have enough interest, we'll need to reserve an additional group site. We will not know the cost until it is determined how many are going, as the cost will be divided among participants.

Please direct any questions to Jo Goslar or Elice Province.





If you enjoy Praise Music this Night is for YOU.....

Join us for Praise Fellowship and a Good Time.....

Praising God!!!!!!!

*JOIN US FOR*

# A NIGHT OF PRAISE

*JAN 25 7-8PM*

FUMC of Gilbert



## Praise Band

Musicians

## Needed

- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Drums
- Electric Guitar
- Any other instruments

Contact Our Music Director  
[randallvanderpol@gmail.com](mailto:randallvanderpol@gmail.com)



Director Randall Van Der Pol contact at Music director @gilbertUMC.org

# Music Ministry

# Adult Ministry Classes

Contact Pastor Adriana at [pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org)

## Adult Ministry Studies

Starting the new year with a passion for Bible Study!

### **Choir Sunday School**

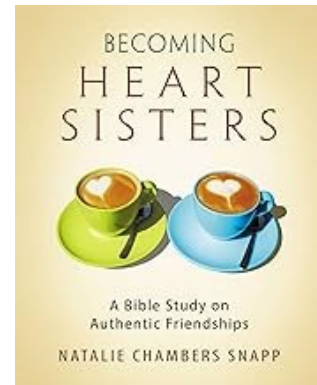
Sundays at 9:45am in room 130, the choir meets weekly. This group facilitates their own bible study. Although primarily choir members, anyone is welcome to join them.



### **Becoming Heart Sisters**

#### **A Bible Study on Authentic Friendships**

This study is by Natalie Chambers Snapp and will be the Sunday 11am class' first study of 2024. Friendships with other women are as important to our mental, physical, and spiritual health as rest, exercise, and prayer. We don't just want friends—we need friends. God created us for relationship. Yet despite being more connected than ever before, we struggle to feel connected. From the false intimacy of social media to busyness and relational conflict, there are many challenges to developing authentic relationships.

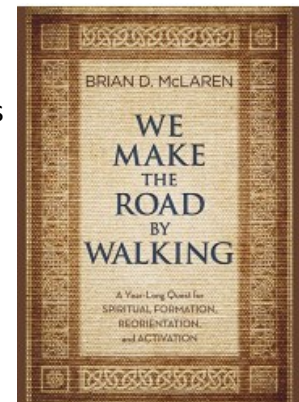


This class will be led by Pastor Adriana Hernandez on Sunday mornings at 11am in room 136 beginning January 14th. Class dates are 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, and 2/11.

### **We Make the Road by Walking**

The Wednesday Evening Bible study class resumes the book, We Make the Road by Walking. This book explores a brilliant retelling of the biblical story and a thrilling reintroduction to Christian faith. Author Brian McLaren provides weekly readings and offers simple insightful reflections and transformative practices.

Pick up a copy of the book or download the audible version and join **Pastor Rick on Wednesday nights at 6:30 beginning January 17th in room 130**. This is a class that is formatted for you to join in as your schedule allows. This class is in person but also available via zoom.



Wednesday, January 17th 6:30pm

Wednesday, January 24th 6:30pm

Wednesday, January 31st 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 7th 6:30pm



# FIRST UMC GILBERT

## Finance Overview

### LET'S TALK NUMBERS

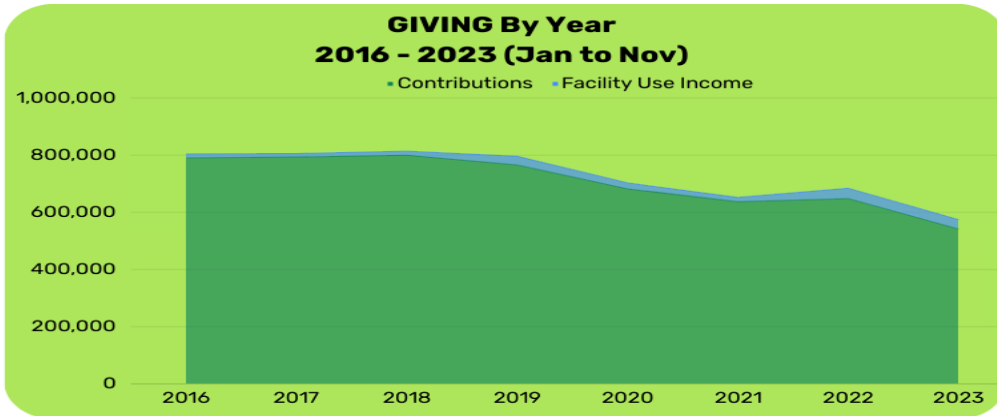
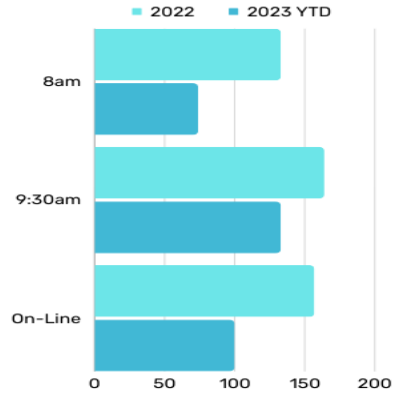
Jesus talked about money ... a lot. Here at First Gilbert, we have come to realize that we hardly talk about it at all. The Finance Committee has dedicated our 2024 efforts to be more communicative of our budgets, expenditures, and contribution needs.

Here is an overview of where our church is at financially. We have all committed our gifts, time, service, and witness. It is important to see this summary.

We hope this information generates questions, conversations, and a growing heart to strengthen our church.



### Average Weekly Attendance

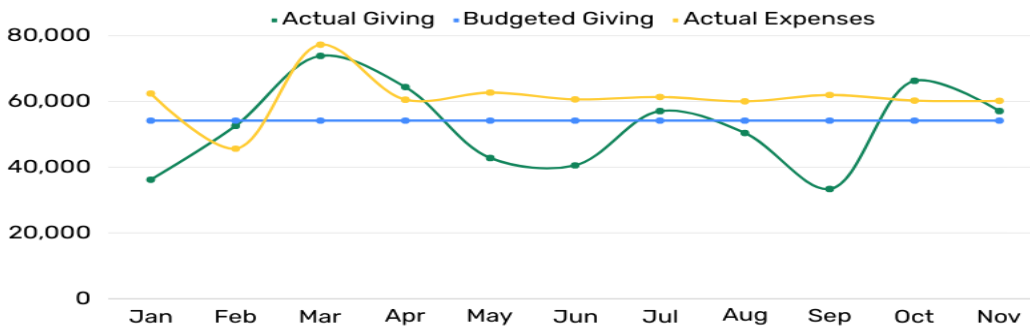


### Annual Giving Overview

Average giving income from 2016-2019 was \$785,000.

Average income for 2021-2022 was \$640,000.

### GIVING By Month January - November 2023



AVERAGE BUDGETED MONTHLY GIVING

**\$54k**

AVERAGE ACTUAL MONTHLY EXPENSES

**\$61K**

AVERAGE MONTHLY SHORTFALL

**\$7K**

Contact Casey Dewitt at [accountant@gilbertumc.org](mailto:accountant@gilbertumc.org)

Stewardship and Generosity

# HOW BLOOD IS USED:

Why Your Donation Matters



**SOMEONE  
NEEDS  
BLOOD  
EVERY**

**2** SECONDS



**This means the  
need for donations  
is constant**

## Blood donations impact lives in many awesome ways

Trauma patients in the ER



Organ transplant surgeries



Cancer treatment and other lifesaving transfusions



Ground-breaking research



GIVE BLOOD TODAY | [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)

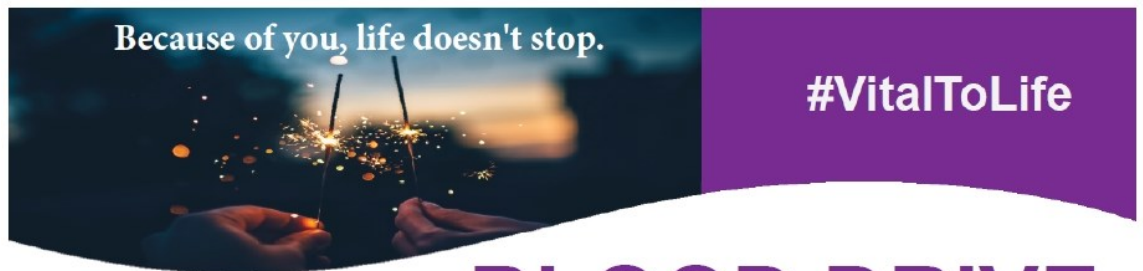
**vitalant**<sup>SM</sup>

Blood Drive in Activity Center on February 4, 2024 Please Give if you are able!

Meet Avari. This precious little girl received her first blood transfusion when she weeks 3 weeks old. Her parents met with a hematologist there to discuss a possible diagnosis. At five weeks old, they received the devastating news; Avari was born with Diamond Blackfan Anemia (DBA), a rare blood disorder that prevents her body from producing red blood cells. Avari’s doctors put her on a course of transfusion therapy. She gets blood tests every three to four weeks, and if her blood counts are low, they make the 2 1/2-hour drive to the children’s hospital for a red cell transfusion. “Avari lives on borrowed blood,” her mom Anya said. “I am so thankful for blood donors. If people didn’t give regularly, my daughter might not be here today.” So far, Avari has received more than 100 red cell transfusions. The family makes regular visits to their local lab along with follow up treatment at the hospital, with more monitoring, testing and transfusions in her future. “She can usually go 3 to 5 weeks in between trips to the hospital,” Anya said. “I’m so grateful to the blood donors who have kept my angel alive. Without their selfless acts of kindness, I would not be able to watch her grow.” Her mom tells us that Avari makes new friends wherever she goes and loves to sing songs nearly every moment of her life. “Even on hard days, she is still the most loving, happiest child you’ll ever meet.”



Thank you,  
Angelina Buzzelli  
Account  
Manager  
480.536.5476  
Tempe, AZ



 **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 February 4

7am - 11am in Activity Center

- To make an appointment:
- Visit [donors.vitalant.org](https://donors.vitalant.org)
  - Scan QR code at left
  - or call 877.258.4825

# 1st UMC of Gilbert Hanging of the Greens

## Hanging of the Greens 2023



# Chili and Caroling On 12.10. 2023



Fun! Fellowship! And Good Chili and even Santa came to this years chili and caroling! Children, youth and adults look like they were having a blast. So try to save time next year for this event.



First UMC of Gilbert Chili and Caroling



[www.gilbertpreschool.com](http://www.gilbertpreschool.com)



FUMC of Gilbert Preschool



Gilbert preschool



@gilpreschool

## What's been happening?

**The Preschool Christmas Program, "The Colors of Christmas"** was performed on Dec. 14th in the sanctuary. Our preschoolers, did an amazing job of celebrating the Christmas story through songs with motions and a special narration from Pastor Rick. The students looked so nice wearing their Christmas best and a slide show played with students dressed in costumes to tell the story of the night Jesus was born! After the performance, families enjoyed cookies and hot cocoa in the Activity Center. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by family, friends, and loved ones!



**Christmas Celebrations-** The preschoolers had individual class parties celebrating Jesus' birthday! They made gingerbread houses and decorated candy Christmas trees, played some fun games together and read the Christmas story. It was a wonderful way to close our semester!

## What's coming up?

The lost sheep, Daniel in the lion's den... God loves us all! January is a month full of bible stories! As we discuss the Lost Sheep, we'll relate it to our lives by letting the preschoolers know that each one of them is important to God, and to God. They are learning so much about who they are and how to be a good friend!

## Donuts with Dads

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, the children will have a special day to show their Dads how much they are loved. A breakfast snack will be provided along with a special activity to work on together. We love celebrating our awesome dads!

# REGISTRATION

**Registration** for the 2023-2024 school year begins in January! Registration for church members and current and previous preschool families begins on January 22nd. Open registration for all our friends and the community, begins on January 29th.

Registration information and packets are available online or in the preschool office. Spread the word! Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and on our website: [gilbertpreschool.com](http://gilbertpreschool.com)



FUMC of Gilbert Preschool



Gilbert preschool



@gilpreschool

If you have any questions about the preschool, please contact Lisa DePalma or Ellie Koenig at [preschool@gilbertumc.org](mailto:preschool@gilbertumc.org) or 480-892-9166.



## 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 [FrysCommunityRewards.com](http://FrysCommunityRewards.com), log in to your account, scroll down to community rewards, and type in **DM609** and click save. You're all set! Your savings help us to earn money for our wonderful program. Thank you!

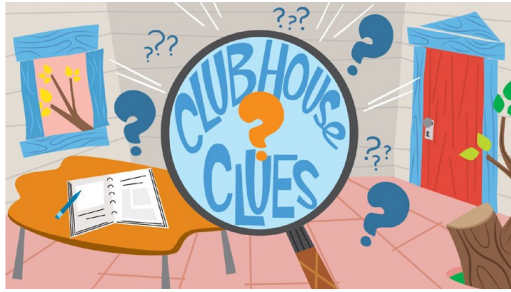


## Happy New Year!

If you have any questions about the preschool, please email [preschool@gilbertumc.org](mailto:preschool@gilbertumc.org) or call 480-892-9166. Lisa DePalma or Ellie Koenig would love to speak with you!

# January 2024 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

## Preschool



**SERIES DESCRIPTION:** While Jesus was on earth, huge crowds flocked to hear Him teach. Why? Yes, there was the chance of seeing a miracle, but it was also because they believed Jesus taught important things. And they were right! Jesus taught important things then, and He still teaches us important things now.

**CORE INSIGHT:** Truth

**WEEK ONE:** Jesus Teaches a Crowd (Mark 6:30-34)

**WEEK TWO:** Birds and Flowers\* (Matthew 6:25-34)

**WEEK THREE:** Bigger Barns (Acts 2:45; Luke 12:16-23)

**WEEK FOUR:** Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)

**BOTTOM LINE:** Jesus teaches me important things.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The people were amazed at his teaching." Matthew 7:28, 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.**

## Grades 1-6



**SERIES DESCRIPTION:** The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. That's why we should show responsibility. We should use our stuff the way God wants us to, follow through with what we need to do, and show others that we can be trusted with anything.

**CORE INSIGHTS:** Transformation, Truth

**WEEK ONE:** Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) Bottom Line: Love God and love others.

**WEEK TWO:** Bigger Barns (Luke 12:13-21) Bottom Line: Share what you have.

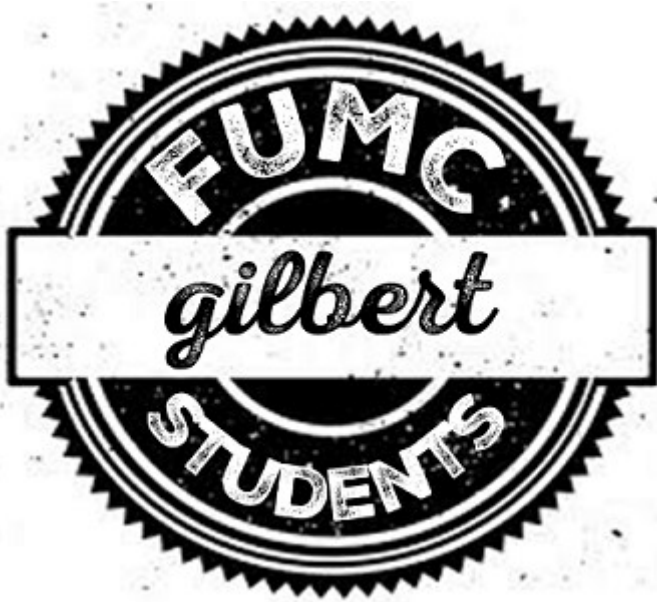
**WEEK THREE:** Ant and Sluggard (Proverbs 6:6-8) Bottom Line: Work hard.

**WEEK FOUR:** Use Words Wisely (Ephesians 4:29) Bottom Line: Use your words wisely.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large." Luke 16:10a, NIV

**Mission:**





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

**Youth Winter Camp at Mingus  
Jan. 15-17, 2024**

Please register on-line with Mingus Mountain, then add yourself to the our list to reserve your spot in the van!

[Register Here](#) and

[Reserve your Spot in the Van](#)



Do you have a youth in 7-12th grade that would like to dig deeper into the beliefs of the United Methodist Church, and ultimately (if they decide too) be confirmed as a United Methodist and a member of 1st UMC Gilbert? If the answer is yes, please email [Shayla](#) so we can decide if there are enough youth for a class this Spring, or if we should skip a year, or join with another local church. Thanks!



**SAVE THE DATE MORE UPCOMMING YOUTH EVENTS**

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

Dec. 24th- Live Nativity Between Christmas Eve Services

Jan. 7th- YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING 10:45am

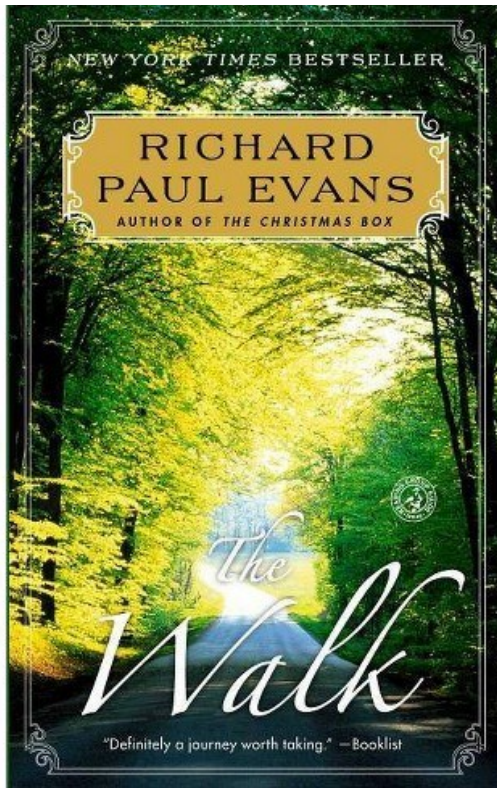
Jan. 7th- Youth Group: TBD (following Youth Council Mtg)

Jan. 14-16th, 2024 Youth Winter Camp at Mingus



**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](mailto:youthministry@gilbertumc.org) !



## The Book Corner

January's book is The Walk by Richard Paul Evans

Chris review of this fiction book which was published in 2010.

The Book Club will meet January 18th at 11:30 in Room 130.

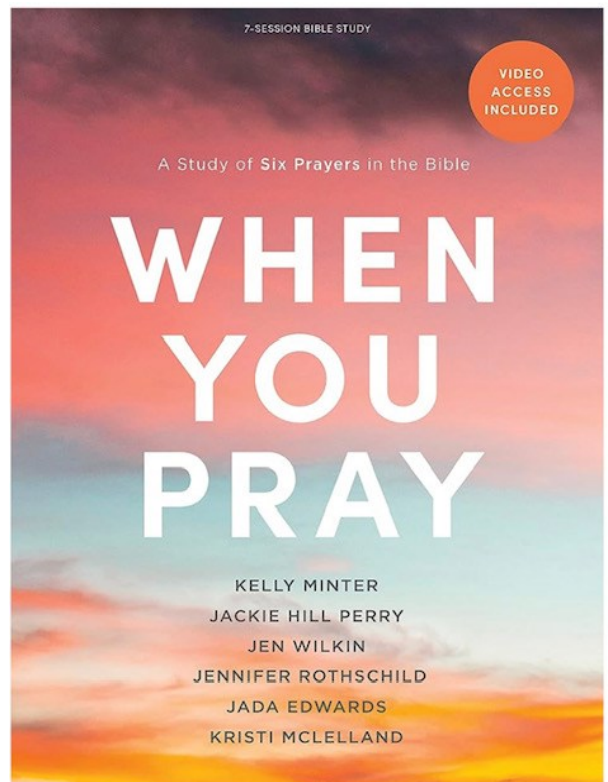
February's book will be The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

## Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Is your New Year's resolution to pray more? Join us for this weekly study of prayer by multiple dynamic authors including a video, discussion and self study. Starting January 16th 9:15am social time 9:30a-11:15a study time. If nursery care is needed please contact Sonja Ruhland.

Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all? You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

In this 7-session study, join with six beloved Bible teachers who will help you study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own. You'll learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You'll see examples of how to pray when you're alone and when you're gathered with others. Above all, you'll notice there's no one right way to pray. As you draw near to God through prayer, you'll find your faith strengthened and your heart united to Christ.



Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:

Upcoming Opportunities

- Church office will be closed January 1st in observance of New Year Day.
- Preschool resumes January 3rd, 2024.
- Chat and Chew meets every Wednesday at 12:00 in Room 136. Bring your own lunch and join us for Fellowship.



- Christian Women's Fellowship will meet January 4th in room 130 at 9:30 am



- Church office will be closed on January 15th for observance of Martin Luther King Day.



- Tuesday Morning Bible Study will continue study When You Pray by multiple authors every Tuesday morning at 9:15, starting January 16, 2024.

- Book Club Meets January 18th at 11:30 am in Room 130. January's book is The Walk by Richard Paul Evans



- Grief share meets on Zoom every Saturday from 8:30 to 10 am, starting on January 20, 2024. Please sign up with Kay at Kay.pealstrom@gmail.com before January 12th.



- The Health Ministry will be doing BP checks in between services (8:30 and 9:25) on January 21st in the Activity Center.

- Enjoy Praise Music? Join us for a whole hour of contemporized praise music on January 25th from 7-8pm in the sanctuary.



- Save the Date February 4th is the Next blood drive there will not be any BP checks for the month of February but please if you can donate blood. You never know whose life you will save!

- From Sharon Kotsonas and Interfaith committee as promised, here is the link to the photos taken by our awesome volunteer photographer, Robin Finlinson. Feel free to share them with your group. <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/2l8anlvz1vr6h8xhe7n9a/h?rlkey=cj3lkyaebdncwpq1qxuem6oq&dl=0>



# Opportunities for Ministry

Contact Pastor Adriana at [pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org)



## **Please Don't Overthink It!!**

The art of volunteering requires a few skills. They include the courage to sign up, figuring out what makes your soul happy to do, and feeling comfortable to ask questions. The trick to do all this is to not to overthink it. Our church is in need of volunteers in a few areas. All of these areas are really a small time frame to commit to. Please know that you can try something, and if it isn't your thing, you can try something else.

Some ideas of help we currently need include taking a meal to a homebound person, leading a study (sometimes we just need someone to cover one week for a regular teacher), help organize the new church directory, help with coffee hour, greet people on Sunday morning, drive someone to church, or help with small office tasks. Reach out to the church office or fill out the white volunteer card.



## Grief Share Support Group

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them. This support group is led by Kay Pealstrom. She can be contacted at: [kay.pealstrom@gmail.com](mailto:kay.pealstrom@gmail.com)

Kay is the resource for registration, information on obtaining materials and sharing the zoom information for the session. The support group meets on Saturday mornings from 8:30am-10am. New class starts January 20, 2024.

## DivorceCare Support Group



A new DivorceCare Support Group will begin Wednesday, February 21st. This group will be facilitated by Pastor Adriana in room 136 at 6:30pm.

DivorceCare is a support group that meets weekly. Participants will find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see the group as an “oasis” in an otherwise difficult season of life. This 13 week group includes video seminars, group discussions and a personal workbook.

## It Is Time For Some Prayer Connection!

This is a two-hour workshop on the power of prayer and improving upon each of our own connection with God through prayer. Rev. Tina Rees and Pastor Adriana will be leading the workshop. A light continental breakfast will be available.

Who can attend? Absolutely anyone! We will explore different types of prayer and building your own spiritual toolbox to make a greater connection.

Our hope is to have a large group to add into the discussions. Please feel free to invite a friend or neighbor to the workshop.



For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Adriana at [pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org](mailto:pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org) or 480-892-9166



# January Calendar of Events 2024



Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**1** Happy New Year!  
**Church office closed**

**2** Tuesday Morning Bible Study 9:15 **Off**



**3** Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30

**4** Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30

5

6



**7** Communion Sunday

8

**9** Tues Morning Bible 9:15 **OFF**

**10** Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30

**11**

**12**

**13**



**14** 11am Bible Study

**15** Church office closed for MLK Day

**16** Tues Morning Bible 9:15



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

**18** Book Club 11:00



**19**

**20** Grief share every Sat 8:30-10:00 on zoom **New Start Date**

**21** 11am Bible Study

**22**

**23** Tues Morn. Bible 9:15



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

**25** A Night of Praise! 7pm

**26**

**27**



**28** 11am Bible Study

**29**

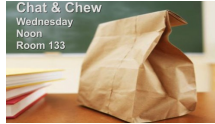
**30** Tues Morning Bible 9:15



**31** Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30  
Wednesday Night Potluck

## February Calendar of Events 2024

# Calendars



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



**4**  
Communion  
Sunday  
11am Bible  
Study

**11**  
11am Bible  
Study

**18**  
11am Lent  
Study

**25**  
11am Lent  
Study

**5**

**12**

**19** **Presi-**  
**dent's Day**  
**Church**  
**Office**  
**Closed**

**26**

**6** Tuesday  
Morning Bible  
Study 9:15



**13** Tuesday  
morning Bible  
study 9:15



**20** Tuesday  
morning Bible  
study 9:15



**27** Tues  
Morning Bible  
9:15



Chat & Chew  
Wednesday  
Noon  
Room 133



**7** Chat N  
Chew  
Noon  
Wednesday  
Night Bible

**14** Chat N  
Chew Noon  
Ash Wednes-  
day Service



**21** Chat N  
Chew Noon  
Wednesday  
Night Bible  
study 6:30

**28** Chat N  
Chew Noon  
Wednesday  
Night Bible  
study 6:30

**1** Christian  
Women's  
Fellowship  
9:30



**8**

**15** Book  
Club 11:00



**22**

**29** Leap  
Year!!!!



**2**

**9**

**16**

**23**

**3** Grief share  
Saturday mornings  
at 8:30-10:00am  
on Zoom

**10**

**17**  
Prayer Connection  
Workshop 9:30am

**24**

## January Birthdays



|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Jeannie Randolph   | 3  |
| Adeline Compton    | 6  |
| Nick Karavakis     | 9  |
| Karl Kotsonas      | 9  |
| Jennifer Karavakis | 14 |
| Carrie Mueller     | 16 |
| Jo Lynn Harder     | 17 |
| Elice Province     | 18 |
| Ethan Rempel       | 18 |
| Jenna Bose         | 19 |
| Lori Wilkins       | 21 |
| Elizabeth Boesch   | 25 |
| Isaiah Kapenda     | 25 |
| Makenena Sy        | 26 |



## January Anniversaries

| Date | Sweet Couple                 | Years<br>Married |
|------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 06   | Gayle and Garry Disch        | 28               |
| 06   | Marilyn and James Harter     | 45               |
| 18   | Mackenzie and Kyle Marshall  | 4                |
| 19   | Claire and Jake Regnitz      | 11               |
| 28   | Anna and Matthew Trinidad    | 7                |
| 29   | Patricia and Mathu Santosham | 52               |

