



First United Methodist Church of Sun City

# First Word

Living and Sharing The Faith We Profess

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## Worship in October and November

*iVOW*

**Prayers**

**Presence**

**Gifts**

**Service**

**Witness**

### “iVOW — Our United Methodist Church Membership Vows”

When we join the United Methodist church as members, we make these vows: to support the ministries of the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. This October, we'll explore each of these vows to better understand how we are spiritually inspired caretakers of this faith community.

#### October 1 “iVOW — Prayers”

*World Communion Sunday*

2 pm Blessing of the Animals —  
all pets welcome!

Outside in South Parking lot  
(covered parking area)

#### October 8 “iVOW — Presence”

#### October 15 “iVOW — Gifts”

#### October 22 “iVOW — Service”

#### October 29 “iVOW — Witness”

*Reformation Sunday*

#### November 5 “Cloud of Witnesses” Hebrews 11-12 selected verses

*All Saints Sunday Sacrament of Holy Communion*

#### November 12 “A Don't and A Do” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*We will be honoring Veterans*

#### November 19 “Why Give Thanks?” Psalm 92

*Thanksgiving Sunday*

#### November 26 “Kings Never Die” Psalm 100 Luke 23:33-43

*Christ the King Sunday*





***"I believe appreciation is a holy thing - that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred."***

— Fred Rogers

Mr. Rogers is correct — when we express appreciation to a person, when we encourage someone — we are doing what God does all the time! I am grateful for the encouragement that God brings to my heart and spirit. Many people in our world today, including many of us in our own church, need some support, some encouragement. Life is difficult, and it's too easy to get buried under problems that come our way. Sometimes a word of encouragement is all that stands between us and giving up, breaking down, or simply living in sadness.

The New Testament verb translated as **"encourage"** is ***parakaleo***, which can also be rendered as "to comfort," "to console," or "to exhort." Pastor Ray Ortlund says that **"encouragement is about the life-giving power of our shared beliefs and our shared life in the Lord."**

Also, the noun form of *parakaleo* is the word Jesus used in John 14:26 to refer to the Holy Spirit. In our English Bibles, that word is variously rendered as "helper," "companion" or "comforter." What the Holy Spirit is to us — we are invited to be that encouragement, that help, to others!

Paul tells his Christian readers to ***"encourage one another and build up each other"***

(1 Thessalonians 5:11). We should not miss the "one another" part of that instruction, for it paints a picture of what the church should be. Here are some other powerful verses —

***May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.*** — Romans 15:5

***Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.***

— 2 Corinthians 13:11

***But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today ..." — Hebrews 3:13***

An artist observed, from his studio window, a panhandler plying his trade each day. He decided the man — whose shoulders drooped and whose eyes were downcast and sad — would make an interesting portrait study. So, he painted him from a distance. When he was finished, he took the portrait outside and showed it to the man, to see what he thought of it. "Who's that?" the man asked.

To him, the painting bore a slight resemblance to himself, but what he saw on the canvas was different. Here was a person of dignity, with upright posture and bright eyes. The man in the painting was almost handsome. "Is that really me?" he asked. "I don't look like *that*, do I?"

But the artist replied, "I paint what I see. This is the person I see in you."

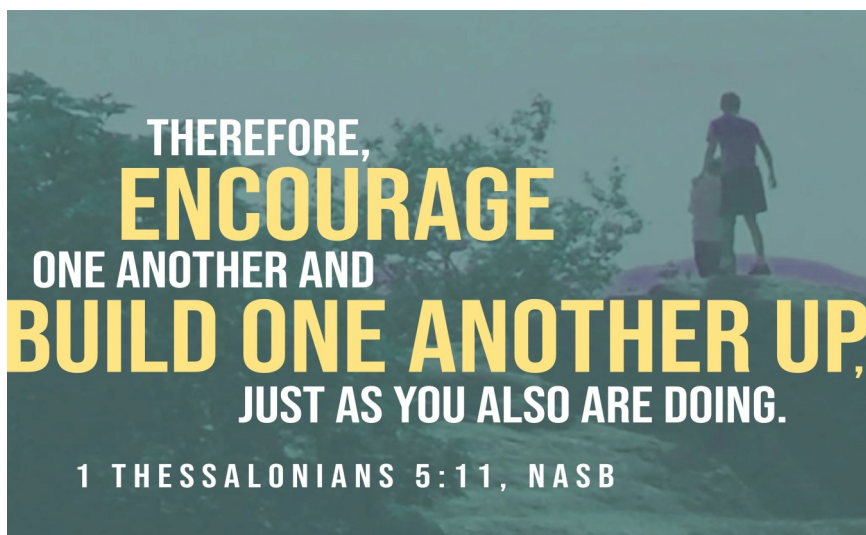
That man decided to work on becoming the person portrayed in the painting, and, with help, turned his life around.

It all started with a little encouragement!

Look around and see who you can encourage today. Ask God to help you to see what is best in a person and share a word of appreciation and of hope. As we do, we are participating in something holy and life-giving!

Blessings!

*Pastor Kathleen*





## Pastor & Staff Appreciation Month

This October, we want to say  
***“thank you for all you do”***  
to our pastor and church staff!  
You are invited to participate in these ways –

**PRAY for Pastor Kathleen and all our support staff.**  
In the Narthex, there is an October calendar – pick one day in October to pray and write your name on the calendar square. On that day, when you pray – include a prayer for your pastor and the staff. This way, our church staff will receive prayer support for 31 days straight!

### **WRITE a note of gratitude and encouragement.**

During October, write a card to one or more of our staff.  
Let them know that you appreciate the gifts and talents and energies they give to the mission and ministry of our church.  
Be sure to write their name on the outside envelope.  
Cards will be collected in a basket  
in the Narthex and Church Office and then distributed to our staff.  
Some cards will be available next to the basket – or you can provide your own.

— from the Staff-Parish Relations Chair,  
Margaret Chittenden  
and the Leadership Team

**Pastor Kathleen Puntar**

**Arne Kesler - Bookkeeper**

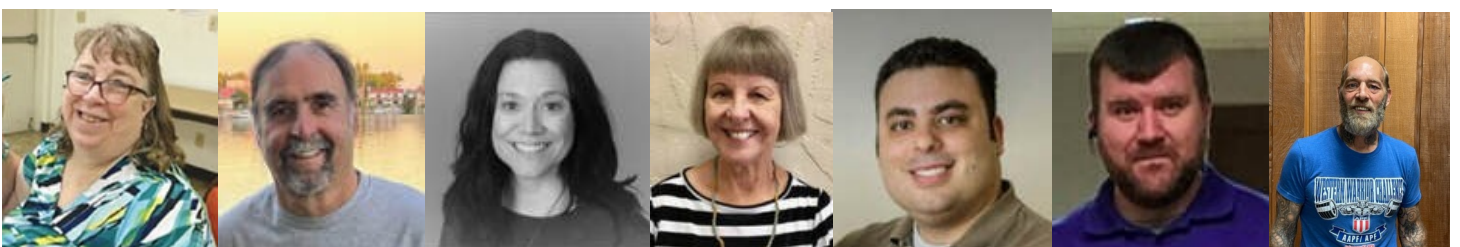
**Kimberly Hill - Office Manager**

**Cathy Murray - Organist, Handbell Director**

**Matt Marino - Music Director**

**Mark Cwik - Audio/Video Technician**

**Louis Farrar - Groundskeeper/Maintenance**







# Fall Fest

**Saturday, November 4  
7:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Rummage Sale! Silent Auction!  
Jewelry Sale! Tool Sale!  
Book Sale! Bake Sale!  
Luncheon!**

**First United Methodist Church of Sun City  
9849 North 105th Ave., Sun City  
623/974-3631 or [fumcsuncity.com](http://fumcsuncity.com)**

## **Save the Date for our Fall Fest — November 4!**

**We are so excited to do the Fall Fest again —  
it will look different than it did in years past — with some fun additions!  
And the Fall Fest will be all on one Saturday!**

**We will be offering a Rummage Sale of household items and décor,  
small appliances and small furniture items (end tables, plant stands, etc.)  
Also, there will be a Book Sale, Jewelry Sale, Tool Sale, and Bake Sale.  
NEW will be a Silent Auction of special items — art, crafts,  
themed baskets, gift certificates from local businesses, and more!**

**1) To make the Fall Fest a success, we need DONATIONS for the Rummage Sale,  
books, jewelry and tools. Jewelry can be dropped off at the church now.**

**It takes time to prepare jewelry for display — Please no broken jewelry items.**

**Donations will be received at the church starting Sunday, October 22.**

**NO DONATIONS please of Large Furniture, Major Appliances,  
Clothing, Shoes, Computers, Monitors, Televisions.**

**Donations also needed of 16 oz. bottled water, 12 oz. cans of soda,  
and multi-packs bags of chips. Please put these in the Ushers' Closet.**

**Let the church office know NOW what you can donate for the Silent Auction.**

**Goodies for the Bake Sale can be baked in advance and frozen.**

**2) To make the Fall Fest a success, we need PEOPLE!**

**Look for the sign up sheets — a) Sign up to help NOW with planning and publicity.**

**b) sign up to help set-up prior to the Fall Fest.**

**c) sign up to work the day of the Fall Fest — cashiers, greeters,  
sales assistants for each area and others needed.**

**Thanks in advance for your donations and volunteering!**

## It's Shoe Box Ministry Time!

Grab a **Shoe Box** from the Narthex and fill it with toys, school supplies, personal care items and more to bless a child this Christmas!

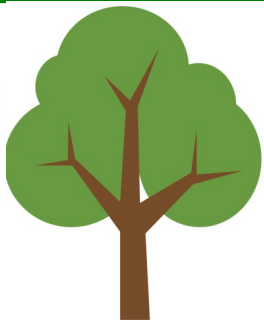
(Please no liquids, scary or war-related items, breakable or items that will melt.)

Return your filled box to church by  
**October 22.**

**Make a difference in a child's life!**

Unable to shop? Want to help Samaritan's Purse pay for shipping shoeboxes around the world? Please donate \$10 (or more) by writing a check to First UMC of Sun City and designate "Samaritan's Purse" on the check. The total amount donated will be sent to the Shoe Box Ministry.

Thank you for your generosity and caring!



## Christianity's Family Tree

*Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am*  
*In the Fellowship Hall*

In October, we'll wrap up our study on the wonderful diversity **and** unity of the different "branches" of Christianity's Family Tree! Join us as we explore Pentecostalism & Methodist traditions.

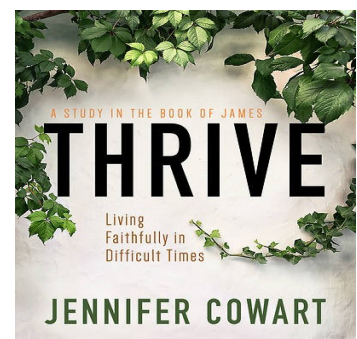
In mid-October, come participate in our new study —

### **THRIVE**

*Living Faithfully in Difficult Times*  
*A Study in the Book of James*

As we explore the Book of James, a letter written about enduring hardships, we'll discover six characteristics of mature Christians — endurance, wisdom, action, control, humility, and prayer.

With a daily workbook and DVD input, we'll grow in our faith — even as times are tough. The workbook is \$12.00 and will be available from the Church Office and at the first class.







### **All Saints Sunday is November 5**

At Worship on Sunday, November 5, we will remember those in our church who have died in the past year and thank God for the gift of those persons in our lives.

*We will also lift up the names of loved ones that people share with us.*

If you would like to have loved ones remembered, please let the church office know their name (by October 30.)

### **ECUMENICAL**

*We pray for the following congregations:*

#### **October**

#### **Sun City Congregations**

St. Joachim & St. Anne Catholic Church

St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church

Congregational Church of Sun City

Sun City Christian Church

All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church

#### **United Methodist Congregations in our District**

Shepherd of the Hills UMC, Sun City West

Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Phoenix

Spirit of Hope UMC, Peoria

# Arts and Craft Events!

## Let's Get Creative!

Join in for fun & creative times!



### Make a Wreath!

*Decorate for the Holidays*

**Saturday, October 7th at 9 am**

*In the Lillian Carver Room*

**Deborah King will lead us in making a wreath for the upcoming holiday season.**

**All are welcome!**

**Sign-up at Worship in the Narthex or call the Church Office.**

**And invite a friend to join you!**

**Space is limited to 15 and a wait list will be available.**



### Fall Faves Potluck

**Sunday, October 22 after Worship**

**Bring your favorite fall dishes or dessert to our "Fall Faves" Potluck lunch!**

**Bring your favorite fall flavors—pumpkin, apple, etc.—or a fall theme—football, tailgating or comfort food or chili. Yum!**

**Thank you to everyone who brought delicious dishes to our September Potluck and our thanks to guest speaker, Pastor Rosemany Anderson!**

## Weekly EVENTS

### OCTOBER

#### Sundays

Sunday Worship

9:30 am

Fellowship

Cookies & Coffee following Service

#### Tuesdays

Bible Study

10:30 am

Fellowship Hall

Game Night

6:00 pm

Lillian Carver Room

#### Wednesdays

Handbell Choir Practice

2:00 pm

Music Room

Choir Practice

3:00 pm

Music Room

#### Saturdays

**Arts and Crafts Events**

Deb King Wreath Making

October 7

9:00 a.m.

Lillian Carver Room

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP *Matters*

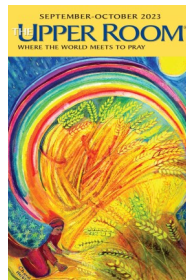
& is a real blessing!

**Interested in becoming  
a member of  
FUMC Sun City?**

**Interested in baptism?**

**Contact Pastor Kathleen  
or the church office  
for more information.**

**623-974-3631**



## Daily Devotionals

We encourage everyone to spend time in the Word of God each day.

One way to do this is using a devotional. These devotionals can be found in the office hallway.

Both regular and large print are available.

If you are unable to stop by the church we would be happy to mail you one.

Email: [office@fumcsuncity.com](mailto:office@fumcsuncity.com), or call the church office and leave a message.  
(623)-974-3631

## Leadership Team Meeting Highlights, September 19, 2023

We welcomed our new office manager, Kimberly Hill to our staff.

The church continues to receive less in offerings each week than needed to maintain our budget. We discussed options for cutting expenses. We decided to use the landscaper in an on-call basis rather than quarterly, and we decided to purchase bags of ice for the kitchen rather than continue to maintain the ice machine.

*We have many important upcoming events;  
please look elsewhere in this newsletter for information about these.*

Once again, this is an invitation to you all: The Leadership Team meets monthly (except during the summer) on the third Thursday at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. These are open to any of you who wish to attend. You may speak to an issue but would not be able to vote. Personnel matters would be discussed in Executive Session. The next meeting is at 9 am on October 17.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerrie Wall, Leadership Team Member





Join the fun and fellowship!  
Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.  
Lillian Carver Room  
All are welcome!



If you would like to be placed on the church Prayer List to receive an email when someone requests prayer, contact the church office with your name and email address and we will add you to the prayer list.

**Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate Edith Werner's 100th Birthday.**

**A special thank you to Colleen Becker for the beautiful cake.**



### Communication with FUMC Sun City

Did you know there are many ways you are able to know what's going on at FUMC and to Communicate with us?

- Email - [office@fumcsuncity.com](mailto:office@fumcsuncity.com)
- Our Website - [www.fumcsuncity.com](http://www.fumcsuncity.com)
- Our Facebook Page  
(First United Methodist Church Sun City)
- Streaming of the Sermons on Facebook and YouTube
- An online version of **First Word** can be found on our web page. If you want one mailed, please let us know.
- Phone - leave message on our voice mail after normal office hours.
- Online giving (link on our web page)

Please use the Church email:  
**[office@fumcsuncity.com](mailto:office@fumcsuncity.com)** for questions or to give us information like an address change or if someone is in the hospital.

*In Loving Memory*

### CONDOLENCES & CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of

***Libby Hearne***

who passed away on

***Friday, September 22 at 108***

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

**A Memorial Service / Celebration of her life is set for Saturday, October 28, at 1 p.m. in our Sanctuary**

## Join the Choir!

Our first practice will be  
**Wednesday, October 4th at 3:00 p.m.**

If you would like to join, please email our  
music director, Matthew Marino, at  
***mattmem@gmail.com***

and let him know you are interested and  
what part/s you are able to sing.  
We are looking forward to making a joyful  
noise unto the Lord!  
Join US!



Justa Center is in great need of food  
donations at this time. Because of the  
sky-rocketing prices of rents, each  
week they receive requests for  
assistance from more seniors who are  
becoming homeless. Just a few cans  
of food donated would make a  
difference, enabling Justa Center to  
help more seniors. The items can be  
placed on the table in the Narthex and  
will be delivered every other week.  
They especially need cans of vegeta-  
bles, fruit, protein (such as tuna,  
chicken, beef), and cereal.  
They also need canes.  
There is a complete list of needed  
items on the Justa Center table.

Do you read music? Have you played handbells before?  
Would you be interested in giving your time and talents?

If your answer to these is **YES**,  
you should be playing in our handbell choir.  
Rehearsals starting **Wednesday, October 4th at 2:00 pm**  
in the music room. The handbell choir plays once a month  
for Christmas and Easter Services.

If you are interested please see  
Cathy Murray our Organist, Handbell Director,  
she would love to talk to you about joining!



## Piano Recital

**Sunday, October 29 at 1 pm**  
**in the Sanctuary**

**You are invited to hear wonderful  
music from Matt Marino's students.  
Come and encourage  
these musicians!**







# OCTOBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

10/1	Judy Greenan
10/11	Terry Nott
10/12	Lou Farrar
10/13	Mark Cwik
10/21	Bob Meyer
10/22	Barbara Britton-Chavez
10/23	Eva Henry
10/28	Jill Heiertz

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

### ANNIVERSARIES

10/4	Bob and Mary Jo Meyer
10/13	Matt and Melinda Marino
10/14	Terry and Nada Nott

HAPPY  
*Anniversary*  
FROM YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY





First United Methodist Church  
9849 N. 105th Avenue  
Sun City, AZ 85351



*Lord, we thank you for:*



First United Methodist Church

9849 N. 105th Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351  
623-974-3631

Email: [office@fumcsuncity.com](mailto:office@fumcsuncity.com)

Website: [www.fumcsuncity.com](http://www.fumcsuncity.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity](http://www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

The ministers of this church are its members.

Those who assist and support them are:

Pastor Kathleen Puntar

Pastor

Gerrie Wall

Lay Leader

Matthew Marino

Music Director

Cathy Murray

Organist, Handbell Director

Kimberly Hill

Office Manager

Arne Kesler

Bookkeeper

Mark Cwik

Audio/Video Technician

Lou Farrar

Groundskeeper/Maintenance

**Pastor Kathleen's Cell #: 714-420-6094**  
**[pastork@fumcsuncity.com](mailto:pastork@fumcsuncity.com)**

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9am - 2pm

### TELEWORSHIP

Teleworship allows a person to dial a phone number remotely and listen to the worship service as it occurs.

Here's how it works:

- Call **623-777-3306** during the 9:30 am service.
- When prompted, enter extension **930** and wait for the prompt.
- Dial **536-545-940#**

Join us for Worship  
Sunday - 9:30 am  
In Person and Online on  
Facebook and YouTube

