



*First United Methodist Church of Sun City*

# *First Word*

**MARCH 2018**



## **SWAP MEET**

Is your place filling up with “stuff”? Do you have things you need to get rid of? Want to make a bit of \$\$\$ in the process? Swap Meet is the answer!!!



Saturday, March 17th (7:00 a.m. – noon) you can rent two spaces in our parking lot for a mere \$20.00 and join lots of others to sell ... sell... sell! Reserve the date and then reserve a couple of spaces (invite a friend or neighbor to do the same). It's a great time. The church office (623-974-3631) has all of the information – give them a call.

## **How Else Can I Help at Swap Meet??**

You can give us a helping hand...

- Pass out fliers advertising the event to friends and neighbors
- Put fliers under the windshield wipers of parked cars
- Visit Sun City clubs and hand out fliers
- Place a flier in the window of your vehicle

Here are some more ways to assist....

- Donate items that we can sell on our table
- Bake and purchase items for the food sale
- Help us set up (before) and take down (after) the sale
- Of course, stop in and purchase that one-of-a-kind item to decorate your home!

Call the church office (623-974-3631) for more information. Thanks.

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 17th**



Our pets are an important part of our lives. They bring us joy, keep us company, help us exercise, and have a positive impact on our overall health. We will have a short service to celebrate our pets that will conclude with a blessing for each cat, dog or pet that is here. You are invited to bring your pets on a leash or in a carrier to this event. Invite your dog walking friends to come. This is for everyone who has a pet or would just like to observe the blessings. Join us **Saturday, March 17th, at 9:00 a.m.** in our parking lot under the back canopy.

## MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - SUN CITY



**TOM CARSKADON....**comes to us from Grove City, OH, and the United Methodist Church there. He's retired from Honda Motor Company and probably helped build your Accord, Civic or CRV! Prior to that, Tom worked at Coca Cola, and he has a fantastic story of how he moved from there to Honda – ask him sometime. He followed his one daughter and spouse and their son out here to be near them, and we're glad that he did. In his spare time, Tom enjoys golf, fishing and (another good story here) dart-ball!



**LOIS COHRS....**hails from Aurora, IL, where she's lived since the 1950s. A snowbird, Lois and her spouse were both teachers there (she in Jr. High math and he in science). Later on, she worked in the office of a medical clinic. When she lost her husband in 2014, she decided Arizona was the place to be in winter (they'd been enjoying the Glendale sunshine for a dozen years or so). Two daughters and one grandson remain in Illinois-, so she's happy to get back to see them in the spring and summer. A Shih Tzu named Abbie keeps Lois company while she's knitting, crocheting or watching TV.



**BOB & HESTER ROEDER....**felt that Lakewood, OH, was getting too cold in the winter, so they moved here! (Actually, they moved here to be near one of their daughters who resides in Glendale.) Bob spent his career as an optician while Hester spent 25 years in special education as a teacher's assistant. Bob enjoys model trains and trap & pistol shooting, and they have some wonderful stories to tell regarding their trip to the Galápagos Islands with a group of scientists. To date, they have 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, and 3 and ½ great-grandchildren!

### GOLF CART RAFFLE



Purchase tickets in church office or at the Swap Meet on March 17th:

\$5.00 for one (1) ticket  
\$20.00 for five (5) tickets

Drawing held on Saturday, March 17th, at 11:30 a.m. Winner will be notified by phone (providing we can read winner's name and phone number!)



## Message from the Pastor

As Christians, we walk with Jesus every day of our lives. When we accept the love and grace freely offered to us by God with the blood sacrifice of his son, our lives change forever.

During this season of Lent, we walk with Jesus in a special way as we travel towards Jerusalem and death. We have the opportunity to think and meditate on what sacrifice is. Jesus knew what he was facing at the end of this journey and he plainly told the disciples. He knew that crucifixion, pain and death awaited him. He also knew that after three days would come the resurrection.

Death by crucifixion is the cruelest form of death ever in all of history. It was humiliating to be hung upon a cross; people walked by and disrespected them with both words and actions. The Roman soldiers flogged Jesus before he was crucified.

Romans used a whip made of several strips of leather into which pieces of bone and lead were tied near the ends. Such a device could easily cause disfigurement and serious trauma, such as ripping pieces of flesh from the body. In addition to causing severe pain, the victim would often be in a state of shock due to the loss of blood. In fact many condemned men died from this treatment before they were crucified.

Jesus survived being whipped and was tormented by the soldiers. He was then forced to carry the cross to the place of his crucifixion. A whole cross would weigh well over 300 pounds, but the cross beam would weigh about 100 pounds, still a significant weight for someone whipped and beaten almost to the point of death. The nails in the hands would cause additional pain, but it is likely that Jesus was also tied to the cross beam lest the nails rip through his hands and he lived. If a person lived on a cross three days, they were released and allowed to go free. When stretched arms support the body weight, the condemned would have to draw himself up, lift his weight by the feet nailed to the cross in order to breathe. The soldiers broke the legs of the condemned or stabbed them to hasten their death. Usually bodies were left on the cross until they naturally decomposed to discourage others from committing the same crimes/deeds.

You may be asking yourself why I am telling you this. Why the gruesome details? There was a supreme extreme sacrifice made for us, made for YOU. I think that we often gloss over the details. We say the words and we know what happened, but we do not want to *think* about it. Each of us *needs* to think about the pain and self-sacrifice of Jesus. The price has been paid to ransom your soul. For me this was a very humbling realization. *I must* tell others in ways that they will understand the great love God has for them.

As we travel together through this season, let us remember all that has been done for us. You did not earn redemption from sin. By the love and power of God, you are forgiven. You can share the story of God's love with others. You can invite them to join you for worship or other events at the church.

The Love of God is too great to keep it to yourself. Go into all the world and share it, knowing you do not go alone. The resurrected Christ is always by your side.

Telling the Truth, Rev. Lois



## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY BRINGS CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS TOGETHER**

Ten Sun City churches participated in this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. An average of 110 participants per day joined in a lay led service and fellowship meal. As Christians prayed and worked together in seeking to bring about Christian Unity, they realized just how important this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is for our world today. Throughout the biblical narrative of salvation, an unmistakable motif is the unrelenting determination of the Lord to form a people whom He could call His own. The formation of such a people, united in a sacred covenant with God, is integral to the Lord's plan of salvation and to the glorification of His name.

God's covenanted people must always strive to be a reconciled community that serves as an effective sign of how to live in justice and peace for all the people here on earth. When Christian denominations come together, they re-discover the importance of unity in Jesus. Churches participating in this year's Week of Prayer were:

First Presbyterian  
Faith Presbyterian  
Shepherd of the Desert  
St. Joachim & St. Anne  
United Church of Sun City

First United Methodist  
All Saints of the Desert  
St. Elizabeth Seton  
St. Clements of Rome  
Church of the Palms

Please mark your calendar for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity beginning on January 20, 2019.

As we continue to serve the Lord in our Sun City Community these 10 churches are striving to have opportunities for us to get together throughout the year and worship together. In the past we have had hymn sings in the summer. We have decided to spread these out over the year. Any month with 5 Sundays, we will meet at a church on the fifth Sunday and sing together for the Lord and share some fellowship time together. Our first Hymn Sing of the year will be April 29th at 2:00 p.m. at our church. Terry Smith will lead us in singing and Cathy Murray will accompany us, followed by fellowship time of drinks and cookies. Please mark your calendars now. See you there.....

## March's Communion Offering to UMCOR



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is a ministry of the United Methodist Church and a not-for-profit organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster. Their work reaches over 80 countries around the world, including the United States. In times of acute crisis, UMCOR mobilizes emergency supplies, fresh water, and temporary shelter to stricken areas, and then stays as long as it takes to implement

long-term recovery. Every dollar you give to UMCOR goes to the program you designate. UMCOR is 100% efficient.

## Metho Travelers invites you to....

Go Places: Fun trips with great people.

Remember, **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.**

Many people are now signing up for these activities and **space is limited**.

**PANAMA CANAL CRUISE**, Wednesday, March 7, 2018, to Sunday, March 18, 2018. Trip includes round trip airfare, hotel in Fort Lauderdale (dinner and breakfast), all transportation, post cruise Everglades excursion, taxes, tips and portage. Prices range from \$2,590 to \$3,290 per person, double occupancy. A deposit of \$250/per person is due upon sign up. More detailed information is listed on the flyer at the information table in Fellowship Hall.

**The DUTTONS**, Saturday, March 24, 2018. Cost is \$70 which includes transportation, show, dinner at Country Harvest Buffet and all gratuities. Payment is due one week after sign up. Bus leaves Lakeview United Methodist Church at 12:30 p.m. and returns around 7:30 p.m.

**BARLEENS ARIZONA OPRY DINNER SHOW**, Saturday, April 7. Cost is \$55. The bus will leave Lakeview United Methodist Church at 11:15 a.m.; meal at 12:30 p.m. and the show from 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

**MONUMENT VALLEY TOUR**, Monday, April 23rd, - Wednesday, April 25th. Cost is \$745 per person/ double occupancy. Trip includes bus, 2 nights lodging (Gouldings, Hampton Inn Kayenta), 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners, all tours, museums, guides, taxes and gratuities. \$100 deposit due within 7 days of sign up, balance by March 15th.

**JAPANESE GARDENS TOUR**, on Tuesday, May 8th. There will be a guided tour of Ro Ho En, the Japanese Friendship Gardens, with lunch at the Spaghetti Factory. Cost is \$48 which includes transportation, guided tour, lunch, all tips and gratuities. The bus will leave Lakeview United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m. and be back around 2:45 p.m.

**ALASKA CRUISE**, Saturday, May 26, 2018, to Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Tour includes round trip airfare and all land transportation, taxes, tips and portage. Prices range from \$3,100 to \$4,250 per person. A deposit of \$250/per person is due upon sign up. Ports of call are listed on the flyer at the Metho Travelers' table.

For more information and sign up, visit the Metho Travelers' table in the Fellowship Hall.



## MARCH CALENDAR

### Sundays

Sunday Worship	8:00 & 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hour	9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Food Drive (3rd Sunday)	
Potluck (3rd Sunday)	10:30 a.m.

### Mondays

Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
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### Tuesdays

Game Night	6:00 p.m.
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### Wednesdays

Handbell Rehearsal	2:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.

### Thursdays

Bible Study	3:00 p.m.
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## MARCH Committee Meetings:

Trustees	9:30 a.m.	Mar. 06
Church Growth	1:00 p.m.	Mar. 07
Finance	1:30 p.m.	Mar. 08
Care Council	1:00 p.m.	Mar. 13
Social Media	3:30 p.m.	Mar. 13
Worship Committee	1:00 p.m.	Mar. 14
Missions	1:00 p.m.	Mar. 20
Church Council	9:30 a.m.	Mar. 21

### ***Fellowship Hour Hosts***

*The group that will be hosting our  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour  
for the month of March will be:  
ELIZABETH/ESTHER CIRCLE*

## UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Hands of Friendship Luncheon	11:30 a.m.	Mar. 03
Swap Meet & Blessing of the Pets		Mar. 17
Food Bank Sunday		Mar. 18
Potluck	10:30 a.m.	Mar. 18
UMW Fashion Show	11:00 a.m.	Mar. 23
Palm Sunday	All Services	Mar. 25
Holy Thursday Services		Mar. 29
	Potluck 5:00 p.m.; Worship 6:00 p.m.	
Good Friday Services	12:00 p.m.	Mar. 30

## HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON



March 3rd at 11:30 a.m. at Mercer's Restaurant, 9720 W. Peoria. Hands of Friendship is a group that gets together for fellowship and food the first Saturday of each month at Mercer's restaurant. We order from the menu and pay individually.

Please call Phyllis Sutton (623-322-8547) so we will have a spot waiting for you. Everyone is welcome. Come join us!

### **UMW Executive Board Meeting:**

Monday, March 5th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room.

### **Tabitha-Dorcas Circle:**

Wednesday, March 7th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room.

### **Priscilla Circle:**

Thursday, March 8th, at 9:30 a.m. at Nan Weihmuller's home (10140 Andover Ave.)

### **Elizabeth/Esther Circle:**

Wednesday, March 14th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **UMW Unit Meeting:**

Monday, April 23rd, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.





# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## BIRTHDAYS

Jan Bolan .....	03/01
Sally Kloostra .....	03/01
Bill Promberger .....	03/03
Jan Swain.....	03/03
Ross Rector .....	03/05
Bill Eaton.....	03/07
Laura Hamrick.....	03/07
Bettye Minton .....	03/10
Barbara Mauney.....	03/13
Carol Jones .....	03/14
Howard Passage.....	03/14
Phyllis Stringer .....	03/14
Clarice Bielski.....	03/17
Audrey Olson .....	03/17
Margie Huisman .....	03/21
Pat Ormond.....	03/28
Stephen Pegg .....	03/28

## ANNIVERSARIES

Ron & Nancy Brookman.....	03/10
Tom & Betty Hill.....	03/26
Tim & Bobbi Trout.....	03/31

# Bible Studies... Lectionary Study MARCH

**Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

### March 5th

Numbers 21:4-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21

### March 12th

Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33

### March 19th

#### LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Mark 11:1-11	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
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#### LITURGY OF THE PASSION

Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 14:1-15:47

### March 26th

Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11	John 20:1-18

## Reading Through the Bible

We meet every Thursday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room for an hour of Bible reading, discussion and questions. We are in the book of Matthew.

**COME AND JOIN US!**

## Are You Heading Home for the Summer??



We hope not, but if you're getting ready for the trip to your summer home, please let us know (with address, email address, dates, etc.) so we can get your newsletter and any church communications directed to where you are. Please also let us know if your address has changed or if you have an email address. You can also keep up with what is

happening at church on our web site [www.fumcsuncity.com](http://www.fumcsuncity.com). You can contact the church office at 623-974-3631 or [office@fumcsuncity.com](mailto:office@fumcsuncity.com). Thank you!

## DO YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER?

Many people enjoy reading what you have to say. So be sure not to miss our deadline of March 15th. If you submit your article by that date, it will be in the next First Word Newsletter. Thank you!

## ANNUAL FASHION SHOW

The United Methodist Women will be hosting their Annual Fashion Show on March 23, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 and will be available from March 4th until March 18th after worship. Tickets will also be in the church office until March 19th. WHEAT, an organization advocating to end hunger, will provide the fashions. WHEAT asks for donations of business attire clothing to be brought on the day of the show. They will bring Fair Trade items from their store available for purchase that day also.



If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Becker at 623-341-5107. Looking forward to seeing you there! Be sure to invite family, friends, and neighbors.



## Easter Flowers

Thank you to those who ordered lilies for Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday is March 25th and Easter Sunday is April 1st. As a reminder, flowers can be taken home after the 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday service. Any flowers left after the last service will be distributed.

## April's Communion Offering to Habitat for Humanity

Habitat works in partnership with low income families, volunteers and sponsors to build, renovate and repair simple, decent and affordable homes for qualifying families. Since their inception in Arizona in 1985, they have built or repaired more than 1000 homes throughout Maricopa County and parts of Pinal County. In just the last two years Habitat has been able to serve more than 350 families through the Neighborhood Revitalization projects, Emergency Home Repair programs and the building of over 50 new homes. The qualifying families pay for their homes through sweat-equity hours and no-interest loans. Habitat provides dignity and hope for parents and children to live in safe, healthy homes. The cost of building materials and property acquisition have significantly increased. We work with the Central Arizona Mighty United Methodist coalition to provide financial assistance and volunteer help to build the homes. If you have never helped to build or attended a wall signing and dedication ceremony, it is quite something. Visit the Habitat Restore at 9133 Grand Avenue where you can find new and gently used building materials, household items and fixtures at 20 - 70% off retail price.





## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Clarice Bielski  
Pauline Bortz  
Tillie Brandt  
Joyce Clingerman  
Lyle De Rose  
Lucille and Gordon  
Gudmundson  
Libby Hearne  
Alice LaClair  
Jeff Lay  
Dolores Morris  
Gordon Planchich  
John B. Richardson  
Mary Jean Roush  
Billie Jo Scott  
Helen Teichman  
Esta and Bill VanMeter  
Don & Sandi Vickery  
Don Watson



## ECUMENICAL PRAYER CIRCLE

We pray for the following congregations:

### MARCH:

Sun City congregations  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
First UMC, Sun City  
Shepherd of the Desert

United Methodist congregations in our District  
Christ Community UMC, Avondale  
City Square UMF, Phoenix  
Community Church of Buckeye



**AMEN!!**  
Another Italian Dinner for 2018 has come and gone. Sandy and I would like to thank EVERYONE who helped in any way to make our dinner successful. It was rewarding and wonderful to see our waiters back. It is a lot of work, but one of the things Sandy and I love to do. It is a labor of love. Again, a heartfelt thank you one and all.

Carol Jones and Sandy Martin

God gave you a gift of  
86,400 seconds today.  
Have you used one to  
say 'thank you?'

*William Arthur Ward*

## Condolences & Christian Sympathy.....



....to **NAIDA DAVIS**,  
family and friends on the  
passing of her friend,  
Grace Delise, on Feb. 17.

## POTLUCK TIME Sunday, March 18th



Every third Sunday of the month we have a Potluck Sunday. Our fun potluck will be held on March 18th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Remember to bring your own plate and utensils. Please bring an extra dish to share so we can easily include our guests and visitors. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Our speaker for this month's potluck will be Carolyn Blaney-Arndt, a member of Desert Foothills United Methodist Church in Ahwatukee. She is coming to share with us about CASA, which stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA volunteers are everyday people appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children in court. CASA of Arizona and its volunteers have been advocating for abused and neglected children in Arizona for over 30 years and have served over 21,541 children. CASA of Arizona is part of a nationwide movement of community volunteers and is an affiliate member of the National CASA Association. CASA strives to ensure that society is fulfilling its most fundamental obligation to children in need. CASA trains and supports qualified, compassionate adults that will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the security of a loving family.

## VALLEY VIEW COMMUNITY FOOD BANK



Tilly 2Can is the mascot for Valley View Community Food Bank. Her message — every time you shop for your family's groceries, grab an extra **TWO CANS** for Valley View. Thank you in advance for all you do for the community.

Our food bank donation Sunday is March 18th. If you forget your food, cash or a check will suffice.

## LENTEN OFFERING FOR SUN CITY CAN (Community Assistance Network)

Don't forget to clean out that can and save your coins for this worthy project. Put your loose change in the can and when Lent is over bring your can on Easter Sunday for the dedication. Sun City CAN is the organization located at 10195 W. Coggins drive that helps so many of our community. Whether it be with income taxes (all phases), 1/2 hour of free attorney advice (on Fridays), or free dial-a-ride tickets. Persons can also receive help with utilities, prescriptions, and food stamps. They never charge for the help they provide. Their only source of income is from donations they receive from residents, service clubs and companies or churches like us.





# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**PALM / PASSION SUNDAY** is on **MARCH 25th**. We will celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Then we will transition to the Passion story through scripture, meditation and music. This can be a very moving service. There will be fellowship time as always at 9:00 and 10:30.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** is on **MARCH 29th**. We will be gathering for a potluck at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At 6:00 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary for worship. We will begin with Holy Communion, a commemoration of the Lord's Last Supper. We will transition into a re-enactment of The Living Last Supper performed by the men of our church.



Our **GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30th**, worship service will be at noon. This will be a service of silence and meditation. We will pray and listen for the still silent voice of God as we review the scriptures that are commonly called The Seven Last Words of Christ.

Walk with those who discovered Jesus' resurrection and glory. On **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1st**, we will have our worship celebrations at our normal times of 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. This will be a time of celebration as we have special music and flowers to celebrate the empty tomb and the resurrection of our Lord. We are changed forever when we encounter the risen Lord. Come and worship with us. Bring a friend. Change a life. Both services of worship are followed by a time of sharing cookies, coffee, and fellowship.





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Sun City, Arizona 85351

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# First United Methodist Church Newsletter

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Join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity](http://www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity)

## 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 a.m. service
- When prompted, enter extension **930**
- Dial **536-545-940 #**
- You will be connected to the worship service.

*Note: You can have a convenient wallet size card with the above information. These are available in the church office.*

You can follow the service with a copy of the Sunday bulletin which is located on our website:

**fumcsuncity.com**. Under the heading "WORSHIP" click on "SUNDAY BULLETIN."

## *First United Methodist Church*

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

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

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

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

The ministers of this church are its members.  
Those who assist and support them are:

Lois Hedden	Senior Pastor
Thomas Ondra	Associate Pastor
Lay Leader	Colleen Becker
Terry Smith	Music Director
Cathy Murray	Organist, Handbell Director
Sharon Weber	Office Manager
Richard Vickers	Audio Engineer
Lou Farrar	Media Operator
Robert Schmidt	Maintenance

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