



First United Methodist Church of Sun City
First Word

APRIL 2018



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.



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

Don't forget to bring your can on Easter Sunday for the dedication. If you forgot to save your change, a check is always good. 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.



Easter Flowers



Thank you to those who ordered lilies for Easter Sunday. 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. Included in this issue of the First Word is the Easter Flowers List which shows those we are honoring and remembering during this season.

April's Communion Offering to Habitat for Humanity



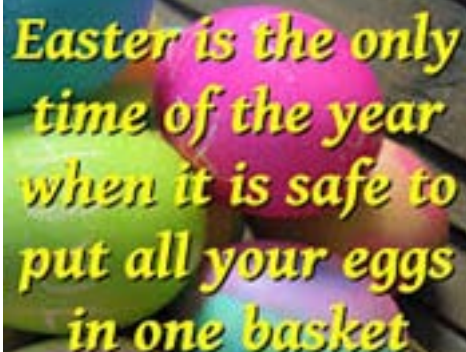
Habitat works in partnership with low income families, volunteers and sponsors to build, renovate and repair simple, decent and affordable homes for qualifying families. Since their inception in Arizona in 1985, they have built or repaired more than 1000 homes throughout Maricopa County and parts of 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.

FROM THE CARE COUNCIL ...



Care Council is that group of loving folks always searching for ways to express the love of Christ to others in our congregation. They support ministries of driving folks to the doctor, caring for their pets during hospital stays, delivering meals to those just getting out of the hospital – and now

a shopping service! If you (or someone in the church whom you know) can't get to the store for basic items like groceries or prescriptions, give the Care Council a call (24 hours in advance, please). They'll help get it done. Call the church office at 623-974-3631.



Easter is the only time of the year when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket

MEN'S THANK YOU LUNCHEON – APRIL 17TH, 11:30 A.M.

MEN WANTED

It is time once again to thank all the men of the church for helping when they are able. Please come and join us for lunch and a good time. This is for all men of the church. This is just to say thank you for all you do – no strings attached. If you need transportation, let us know and we will arrange it for you. Please sign up in the church lobby so we know how many to cook for, but don't let the sign up keep you away. **WE WANT ALL MEN.**

Message from the Pastor

April Fool's Day this year falls on the same day as Easter Sunday. Somehow, I find that to be a very appropriate and wonderful thing. So many people believe that we are fools to believe that the tomb was empty, that Jesus was actually resurrected from the dead.

I personally have been told on more than one occasion that I take myself and my faith too seriously. I think I have always known that my walk of faith was different from some others. As a young child, I would study my Sunday School papers and try to do the additional optional things. I remember once it suggested writing a script, which I did, and when I took it to my teacher, she had no idea what to do with it, or me. As a teenager, I would read my Bible in my room by myself. My faith and trust in God has deepened over the years of study and life. When I gave into God's call on my life and began the schooling to become an ordained minister, my mother said I was a fool.

As I did some research on April Fool's Day for this article, I discovered it has pretty much always been around to some degree. In the 1500's the historians can nail it down a bit. As I read different articles about this day, it seemed to me it was a bit like trying to nail Jell-O to the wall. No one seems to know exactly but there are bits and pieces of the traditions possibly dating as far back as Noah and the ark!

This is a day for practical jokes. Wouldn't the biggest joke have been to remove Jesus' body from the tomb and have the disciples believe he arose? That just does not seem to be what happened. First, how would anyone get past the Roman guards? How would they have moved the stone? Typically, the stones used were four to six feet in diameter and one foot thick weighing between 2,000 and 4,000 pounds and were in a track so they rolled downhill to seal the tomb. If someone did manage to move the stone under the watchful eyes of the guards, how could they walk off carrying a body, leaving behind the burial cloths, and no one see them?

No, Jesus was resurrected and appeared to his disciples and other believers. We are not fools to believe this, but Christians. We celebrate the resurrection not only on Easter Sunday, but every Sunday is a mini-resurrection Sunday for us. In fact every day is a day to make a new beginning with Christ Alive and Living within us all. Thanks be to God.

Lois

POTLUCK TIME Sunday, April 15th



Every third Sunday of the month we have a Potluck Sunday. Our fun potluck will be held on April 15th 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 the April potluck will be from Sunland Memorial Park, a Dignity Memorial provider. We know that this is something many people do not like to talk about or think about, but it is important and we need to. We not only need to think about what will happen when we are no longer here, but we need to communicate our desires to our families. Each person who attends will receive a Personal Planning Guide along with many other resources. The church is not encouraging you to use Sunland, but to plan ahead. Come and hear what they have to say and ask questions.

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 April 15th. If you forget your food, cash or a check will suffice.



Sunday Afternoon Hymn Sing for Christian Unity Bringing Christian Brothers and Sisters Together APRIL 29 - 2:00 p.m.

As we continue to serve the Lord in our Sun City Community, the first Hymn Sing of the year will be **April 29th at 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church**, the happiest church on 105th Ave with Terry Smith leading and Cathy Murray playing for us. After a time of singing and praising the Lord together, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a time of refreshment and fellowship. This is a great opportunity to ask your friends to come sing some great old hymns and maybe learn some new ones. The 10 churches working together for the Week of Prayer in January are hosting these Hymn Sings each month where there are 5 Sundays. We at First United Methodist Church are hosting the 1st of these Fellowship times in 2018. Please mark your calendars now to remind you to attend.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Catto.....	04/01
Theda Vickers	04/02
Aline Bring.....	04/03
Ann Thacker.....	04/03
Rev. Bill Van Meter.....	04/05
Gordon Burhop.....	04/06
Donna Johanson	04/06
Dick Murray.....	04/07
DeeDee Strombeck.....	04/08
Dottie Klaahsen.....	04/12
Ella Pitchford	04/14
Barbara Leyh.....	04/15
Gary Johanson.....	04/19
Nan Weihmuller.....	04/19
Tom Scott	04/21
Roseann McGuire	04/22
Jeff Lay.....	04/23
Ruth Prior	04/23
Lynda VanHouse	04/23
Val Mack.....	04/25

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Jil Carlson	04/04
Dick & Bogie Budke	04/06
Mike Hill & Pat Nichols-Hill.....	04/09
Tom & Connie Scott	04/15
Ed & Evelyn Plummer	04/23
Ross & Lenora Rector.....	04/27
Harlan & Dottie Klaahsen.....	04/30

Bible Studies... Lectionary Study APRIL

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

April 2nd

Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31

April 9th

Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48

April 16th

Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

April 23rd

Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

April 30th

Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17

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!



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 April 15th. If you submit your article by that date, it will be in the next First Word Newsletter. Thank you!

APRIL 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.

Tuesdays

Game Night 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Bible Study 3:00 p.m.

APRIL Committee Meetings:

Trustees	9:30 a.m. Apr. 03
Church Growth	11:00 a.m. Apr. 04
Care Council	1:00 p.m. Apr. 10
Social Media	3:30 p.m. Apr. 10
Finance	1:30 p.m. Apr. 12
SPRC	9:30 a.m. Apr. 17
Missions	1:00 p.m. Apr. 17
Church Council	9:30 a.m. Apr. 25

Fellowship Hour Hosts

*The group that will be hosting our
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
 for the month of April will be:
 PRISCILLA CIRCLE*

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Easter Sunday Services 8:00 a.m. and
 9:30 a.m. Apr. 01
 Hands of Friendship Luncheon
 11:30 a.m. Apr. 07
 Food Bank Sunday Apr. 15
 Potluck 10:30 a.m. Apr. 15
 Ecumenical Hymn Sing 2:00 p.m. Apr. 29

HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON



April 7th 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, April 2nd, at 1:00 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room.

Tabitha-Dorcas Circle:

Wednesday, April 4th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room.

Elizabeth/Esther Circle:

Wednesday, April 11th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Priscilla Circle:

Thursday, April 12th, at 9:30 a.m. at Suzanne Yankowski's home (10429 W. Cheryl Dr.)

UMW Unit Meeting:

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



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Clarice Bielski
Tillie Brandt
Joyce Clingerman
Lucille and Gordon
Gudmundson
Libby Hearne
Alice LaClair
Jeff Lay
Dolores Morris
Gordon Plancich
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:

APRIL:

Sun City congregations

St. Christopher's
St. Elizabeth Seton
All Saints of the Desert
Church of St. Joachim & St. Anne
Church of the Palms

United Methodist congregations in our District

Dove of the Desert UMC, Glendale
Epworth UMC, Phoenix
Faith UMC, Phoenix
First UMC, Glendale

Condolences & Christian Sympathy.....



....to family and friends on the passing of **PAULINE BORTZ** on March 4th.
Pauline's sister is Edith Werner

....to **LOY MCGUIRE**, family and friends on the passing of his sister Koleta
Sanford on Mar. 13th

....to **DEEDEE STROMBECK** on news of the passing of lifelong friend, Sherri Schendzelos (MN)

....to **BARBARA DE ROSE**, family and friends on the passing of her husband, Lyle, on
March 25th



MAY'S COMMUNION OFFERING TO BENEVILLA

Benevilla is a non-profit started by the community in 1981 which seeks to help those who may be isolated and need assistance to maintain their independence. They provide much needed support and resources for older adults, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, children and their families. They provide family caregivers with resources and education that help them on their caregiving journey: adult day programs, daily home task services, home-delivered meals, referral services, child daycare, parenting classes, social gatherings at Birt's Bistro, and volunteer opportunities. Stop by Birt's Bistro on Greasewood Street in Surprise and have one of their delicious wraps. Not only have a great lunch, but help Benevilla at the same time.

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.**

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 portorage. 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.

CRUISIN' CABO, Monday, October 22, 2018, to Saturday, October 27, 2018. Tour includes round trip motor coach to Los Angeles, bus driver tips, taxes and portorage. NOT INCLUDED: gratuities onboard ship. Cost is \$968/double occupancy ocean view with other cabin options available. Deposit \$150/person upon sign up.

28 NIGHTS CRUISE: LOS ANGELES, HAWAII, TAHITI & SAMOA, Saturday, March 30, **2019**, to Saturday, April 27, **2019**. Tour includes round trip bus transportation to/from Sun City to Los Angeles, taxes and portorage. Cost ranges from \$5,240 up to \$12,290 depending on occupancy and cabin. Deposit of \$500/person upon sign up.

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

To my church family,

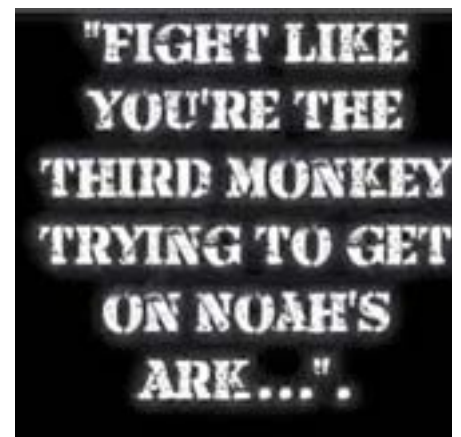
I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and concerns for myself, my niece Cindy, and friends Kenny and Patty. It will take a long time for healing, getting back to normal again both physically and mentally, but thank you and especially "Thank God." We are all on the way and on the right road. You are wonderful!

God bless you!

Mary K. Payne



Thank
You



"FIGHT LIKE
YOU'RE THE
THIRD MONKEY
TRYING TO GET
ON NOAH'S
ARK...".



When we embrace the knowledge that everything we have comes from God and our purpose here on earth is to utilize what God has blessed us with to further His Kingdom, giving becomes the joy it was intended to be.

As David Green, CEO and founder of Hobby Lobby, states in his book "Giving It All Away and Getting It All Back Again," he states that we need to recognize those who have gone before us and honor their efforts in planting seeds within us. First United Methodist Church has a wonderful history of those working to provide for our long-term financial future.

If we work together with the shared vision of the Marian Thompson Memorial Fund, then our legacy for First United Methodist Church to be endowed with enough money to take care of its operational needs will enable the outward-looking missions of our church to come to fruition. Imagine, when requests come in to fund missionaries in our area or another country, we can respond; no more worry over whether or not we can pay the electric bill.

Those who have gone before us learned the lesson that the more they gave to the church, the more they were blessed. Let's honor them and experience the same blessings. Please give to the Marian Thompson Memorial Fund and let's see our vision become reality!

"Perhaps it is in such a time as this that God is calling men and women to live this way---to live for ideas bigger than themselves and to invest in things bigger than themselves. And if we do, we will bring lasting change and hope to our world." David Green.

Tom Scott

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. You can contact the church office at 623-974-3631 or office@fumcsuncity.com. Thank you!



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Sun City, Arizona 85351

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First United Methodist Church Newsletter

Change Service Requested

Visit our website at www.fumcsuncity.com

Join us on Facebook at 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity

Email: 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
Colleen Becker	Lay Leader
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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Website

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