



First United Methodist Church of Sun City

# First Word

## SEPTEMBER 2017



### October 20th - 21st



This year's Fall Festival is October 20th & 21st, so mark your calendars! We will again be selling rummage items, furniture, and jewelry. We will have an on-site lunch and bake sale. So there will be many opportunities to volunteer.

- The summer months provide us the perfect opportunity to go through our homes and garages and rid them of items no longer needed. **NO CLOTHING, SHOES, COMPUTERS, MONITORS OR TVs (flatscreens OK), please. Rummage items will be received at the church the week of October 16th.**
- If you have **jewelry** to donate, please drop it off at the church office **NOW**. It takes time to prepare jewelry for display, so having the luxury of the extra summer months is a big help.
- Are you new to our church and have no idea what the Fall Festival is? It is a fundraiser for the church. Money is raised by selling rummage items, furniture, jewelry, lunches and baked goods which are all donated by the congregation. The money received goes into our general operating fund and toward our mission endeavors. Being a Fall Festival Volunteer is a great way to get to know your church family.
- Thanks to everyone that helped out last year. We look forward to seeing all of you again this year and hopefully many new faces!



In the last two issues of First Word there have been articles about Justa Center and items needed to support their day-to-day operations as well as items for starter kits for their members to begin a new life in a new home. This is a reminder that we will be collecting these items at the Local Organization meeting of United Methodist Women on **October 23rd** in

the Fellowship Hall. Due to limited storage space at the church because of the Fall Festival being the week before our collection date, please if you can, keep your donated items at your house until our meeting. If you do bring your items to the church make sure they are clearly marked Justa Center so they will not be mistakenly sold.

Colleen Becker, United Methodist Women President

## Message from the Pastor

This morning I was sitting on my patio looking out over the golf course watching nature. I find peace just sitting in the quiet absorbing the quiet around me. I saw a coyote nosing through the clippings that had fallen beneath a palm tree. The birds were in the grass hopping around and talking to each other. The dragonflies and houseflies were busily buzzing around. I could hear the landscapers working but could not see them from where I was sitting. Voices carried on the gentle breeze as a few brave golfers played past my home.

Then the tree-trimmers came to the palm trees across the fairway from my patio. I had never actually watched how they trim those tall trees. They used a lift for the shorter ones, but men scaled the tall trees and made quick work of the lower branches with chain saws and machetes. The trees were pretty before they were trimmed, but afterwards I think they look like they just got a haircut with little bits left sticking up!

I was thinking how the trees continue to grow, sprouting new palm fronds. The new ones grow reaching up to the sky, the older ones are pushed aside and eventually droop and fall down to the trunk of the tree. The life cycle of the palm tree continues year after year as the tree pushes upwards towards the sky. As usual, my mind wonders as I compare what I am seeing before me with life and our relationship with God.

I was thinking about how we grow up (and sometimes out!) in our lives. We all get taller through our childhood and teen years. But we also grow up in other ways... Our emotions grow, our intellect grows, our relationships grow, our understanding grows... So many different types of growth we experience in our lives. All of these types of development apply to our spiritual lives as well.

For myself I was in Sunday School Classes before I even knew what was happening around me. All my life I have been in church on Sunday. I remember when we would be on vacation and traveling from place to place in the car, my father would tune into a service on the radio saying just because we can't be there in person doesn't mean that we can't do church. I have always sought the peace and solace that God offers. When I would be angry with my parents as a teen, I would go to my room and read the Gospels. I wanted to be like Jesus even before there was the WWJD craze. I wanted to be the person God wanted me to be: understanding, loving, caring, all of those good attributes.

Throughout my life, I have sought guidance and help in the word of God. As a teen wife and young mother, we would read from the Bible every evening as a family. I would read my devotional in the morning and meditate on it throughout the day, praying and recalling the daily scripture verses. The Bible has kept me grounded in what is truly important in my life in a way that nothing else ever could. I still seek God in every situation, and God never fails – although sometimes I have a difficult time letting go of my thoughts and feelings and turning instead to prayer.

So, back to those palm trees... We all continually grow and sprout new thoughts and ideas like the tree with its branches. We move on to new challenges and situations throughout our lives, neglecting the old things that no longer seem to apply to us anymore. This is like the older fronds gradually growing out then drooping beyond the horizontal plane of the tree to hang gracefully against the trunk. Like the trees being trimmed, we need to let go of old hurts and challenges and move on towards the next things to come in our lives; the next spark that will help us grow in a new way towards our Lord.

Life continues. Whether it is a living situation, people, health issues, places to travel, there are always new things for which we must contend. The Good News is **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**. Not only is God **ALWAYS** with you, but you are also surrounded by the love, care, concern and prayers of your church family.

God Bless You, Lois

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



**LYN & DORIS KORTIE....** Lyn & Doris did what many folks have done over the years, which is trading the cold of Minnesota for the heat of Arizona! Actually, Doris' rheumatoid arthritis played a pretty large part in that decision, but once here (and feeling better) they didn't regret making the switch. That was 1975. Lyn worked for the city of Phoenix as a welder while Doris held nursing positions at several area hospitals plus the county jail. Now retired, Lyn discovered the metal shop at the rec center while Doris plays the piano and reads extensively. The rest of their time is taken up with their Corgi, Tim, and with their 2 kids, 4 grandkids and 1 great grandchild.

PS – Lyn's mom and dad, Bunny & Dwight Kortie, were members here for years and Lyn's sister is Jill Carlson!

**FAMILIES ARE LIKE  
FUDGE - MOSTLY  
SWEET WITH A FEW NUTS.**

### Shoebox Ministries: Operation Christmas Child

This year we are starting to collect for the Shoebox Ministry early so as to be done by the time the holidays come around.

We will have the dedication of the shoeboxes on **October 1st** which is World Communion Sunday. This will give all of us plenty of time to collect items while the "back to school" sales are on. We do not need shoe boxes as we have plenty and they are all exactly the same. Each box needs to have an age group/gender tag (completed by those who fill the box).

Some of the items to put into the shoeboxes are:

toys	cars	musical instruments	jump ropes	balls
puzzles	stuffed animals	school supplies	crayons	coloring books
stickers	sticker books	pages of stickers	picture books	sunglasses
soap	washcloths	toothbrush & toothpaste	combs	socks
hats	t-shirts	flip-flops	hair bands	etc.

Please **DO NOT INCLUDE** damaged or used items, nor toy guns, knives, military figures, chocolate, breakable items, and no liquids of any kind.

Later we will announce the date to fill the shoeboxes which is just before the dedication on October 1st (unless you want to pick one up here and fill it on your own). We will then save the boxes until November when we deliver them to a gathering place.

Thank you for your support of this great ministry.

Missions Committee

## World Communion Sunday



Part of the point of World Communion Sunday is to recognize the many and various ways Christians around the globe celebrate the same ritual. On this Sunday (October 1st), your giving helps to provide scholarships for gifted and qualified people in the US racial and ethnic students and international students on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Statistics show that the majority of clergy and laity is white. As U.S. demographics continue to change, the church must prepare leaders to serve an increasingly diverse population.

Fifty percent of the offering provides Crusade Scholarships for international and U.S. racial and ethnic graduate students. Thirty-five percent of receipts support Ethnic Scholarships for undergraduates. Fifteen percent funds Ethnic Minority In-Service Training Program scholarships for racial and ethnic persons seeking second careers in church-related vocations. These scholarships are exactly what the church needs to fulfill its global mission.

## ANNUAL REPORTS FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE

UMW, pastors, and committee chairpersons, please submit your annual reports **by October 10th** to the church office. This is a first reminder since the charge conference is being held on November 7th. Reports can be emailed to [office@fumcsuncity.com](mailto:office@fumcsuncity.com) or brought to the office. Thank you.

## POTLUCK TIME

### Sunday, September 17th

Every third Sunday of the month we have a Potluck Sunday. Our fun potluck will be held on September 17th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Remember to bring your own plate and utensils. Please bring a dish or two to share so we can easily include our guests and visitors. Our guest speaker will be from the Banner Olive Branch Senior Center.



*A little girl became restless as the preacher's sermon dragged on and on.*

*Finally she leaned over to her grandmother and whispered,  
"Grandma, if we give him  
the money now, will he let us go?"*



## STEURY HANDBELLS

We hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing summer! Now it is time to start rehearsals for the handbells. If you have had any experience with playing handbells or know how to read music, please feel free to join us! We will start rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th, from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. See you there!

Cathy Murray, Handbell Director

## CHOIR

The church choir will begin regular weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6th, from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. If you are currently a choir member or would like to become one, please join us. There are no auditions or requirements - except that you should enjoy singing (we'll be doing a lot of that). Music greatly enhances our worship and the choir is an important part of that experience.

Terry Smith, Music Director



## ATTENTION ALL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Summer break is over and like the teachers and students, it is time to get back in the swing of things. Executive Board will meet on Monday, September 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room. This is one week later than we usually meet because of the Labor Day Holiday. The circles will also be starting at their regular times in September. The Local Organization meeting will be Monday, October 23rd at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a salad luncheon. Elizabeth/Esther Circle will be hostess and present the program. Remember to bring your World Thank Offering to this meeting. This will be the fifth point toward reaching the Five Star Award

for the year presented by the West District. We are also planning a surprise craft project following the program. This will be a fun project to benefit Anilu's Partners.

Colleen Becker, President



**WANTED!!** *Greeting cards...new OR used, inside message OR blank OR personal writing, front or back missing. NO GLITTER! Unused envelopes are sometimes matched with unused cards to sell at our Fall Festival. Thank you for your donations into the Lobby box.*

Judy Brown

## SEPTEMBER 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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## SEPTEMBER Committee Meetings:

Trustees	9:30 a.m. Sep. 05
Finance	1:30 p.m. Sep. 14
Social Media	2:00 p.m. Sep. 14
Church Council	9:30 a.m. Sep. 27

### Returning in October:

Church Growth	9:00 a.m. Oct. 04
Care Council	1:00 p.m. Oct. 09
Worship	1:00 p.m. Oct. 11
SPRC	9:30 a.m. Oct. 17
Missions	1:00 p.m. Oct. 17
Foundation	9:30 a.m. Oct. 18

## UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Hands of Friendship Luncheon	11:30 a.m. Sep. 02
Food Bank Sunday	Sep. 17
Potluck	10:30 a.m. Sep. 17

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

*The group that will be hosting our  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour  
for the month of September will be:  
FINANCE COMMITTEE*

## HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON



September 2nd 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, September 11th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room.

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

Wednesday, September 6th, meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Lillian Carver Room.

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

Wednesday, September 13th, meet at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

### **Priscilla Circle:**

Thursday, September 14th, meet at 9:30 a.m. at Betty Zingre's home (10324 W. Willie Low Circle).

### **UMW Local Organization Meeting:**

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



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## BIRTHDAYS

Lucille Gudmundson .....	09/02
Sally Gardner .....	09/03
Mike Hill.....	09/03
Jean Braun.....	09/04
Nancy O'Brien .....	09/04
Lyn Kortie .....	09/05
Sharine Kirk.....	09/06
Edith Werner .....	09/06
Gordon Plancich.....	09/08
Cindy Dermody .....	09/10
Nada Nott.....	09/10
Loy McGuire.....	09/12
Mabel Heeter.....	09/14
Jerry Kelton .....	09/17
Jeanne Newton .....	09/19
Jaye Reddy .....	09/19
Connie Scott.....	09/19
Fern Hoffman .....	09/24
Evelyn Plummer.....	09/24
Dorothy McIntosh .....	09/25

## ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Joyce Clingerman .....	09/04
Jerry & Babara Kelton .....	09/05
Adam & Barbara Chavez .....	09/19



*The Will of God  
will not take you  
where the Grace of God  
will not protect you.*

## Bible Studies... Lectionary Study SEPTEMBER

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

### September 4th

Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20

### September 11th

Exodus 14:19-31	
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21	
Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35

### September 18th

Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16

### September 25th

Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

## 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 may be starting the book of Daniel.

Come and join us!

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS SEPTEMBER 15TH

Please submit any articles you have by September 15<sup>th</sup>. This may sound early, but multiple people and steps are involved in compiling this newsletter. Thank you.



## Metho Travelers invites you to....

Go Places: Fun trips with great people.

**THE HUKILAU HAWAIIAN VILLAGE LUAU**, Saturday, November 4, 2017. The cost is \$55/person for food, entertainment, transportation and gratuity. Payment is due upon sign up. Bus leaves Lakeview United Methodist Church at 3:45 p.m. and leaves the village at 9:00 p.m.

**BARLEENS CHRISTMAS SHOW**, Saturday, December 9th. Please note: This trip is full and has a long waiting list.

**THE TENORS** (formerly known as The Canadian Tenors) will be performing at the Phoenix Symphony Hall on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$60/person. Bus will leave Lakeview United Methodist Church at 12:45 p.m. Payment is due upon sign-up.

**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 desk.

**ALASKA CRUISE**, Saturday, May 26, 2018, to Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Tour includes round trip airfare, and all land transportations, 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 information desk.

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

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

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



### 8 RULES TO A BETTER LIFE

1. NEVER HATE
2. DONT WORRY
3. LIVE SIMPLY
4. EXPECT A LITTLE
5. GIVE A LOT
6. ALWAYS SMILE
7. LIVE WITH LOVE
8. BEST OF ALL, BE WITH GOD



**Now Is The Time...** Every fall at our church conference, we fill and refill our committees. We are looking for people to help for a time or a season. Enclosed in this newsletter is a Volunteer Interest Form that we are asking each person to complete. Please fill it out and place the completed form in the box in the church lobby or drop off at the church office. We will have extra forms so Each Person may complete one. We have tried to give so many options that there is a place for everyone to volunteer for something. Take a few moments right now and complete your form. PLEASE!!



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Pauline Bortz  
Lucille and Gordon  
Gudmundson  
Libby Hearne  
Alice LaClair  
Bishamber Lal  
Dolores Morris  
Gert Neumann  
Gordon Plancich  
Mary Jean Roush  
Ruth Saathoff  
Billie Jo Scott  
Esta and Bill VanMeter  
Don Watson



## ECUMENICAL PRAYER CIRCLE

We pray for the following congregations:

### SEPTEMBER:

Sun City congregations  
First Presbyterian Church  
First UMC, Sun City  
Shepherd of the Desert  
St. Christopher's

United Methodist congregations in our District  
Prescott UMC  
Prescott Valley UMC  
Trinity UMC, Phoenix



## 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 September 17th. If you forget your food, cash or a check will suffice.

## Condolences & Christian Sympathy to.....



....**LES LEHNUS**, family and friends on the death of Les' daughter, Carolyn, who died on July 3rd (IA)

....family and friends of **FRANCES JOBE** who passed away July 7th (OH)

....**RON & SUZANNE YANKOWSKI** and friends on the death of their neighbor, Randy Baker, who passed away July 11th

....family and friends of **DON THOMSON**, a former member of First UMC Sun City, passed away on July 17th.

....family and friends of **JIM PUGH** who passed away August 13th. Jim was Brenda Hansen's stepfather.

....family and friends of **AL DUGUID** who passed away on August 16th.

## **We're Glad Summer Is Almost Over ...**

*... and our winter contingent will begin arriving shortly, since their presence strengthens our church in many ways. It also signals the time when we begin to make up some of the financial deficit that occurs normally during the hottest time of the year. Like last year and years before, the beginning of September finds us a few thousand dollars in the red, but together we'll overcome this in the weeks and months to come. So hurry back, folks! (And if you'd like more detailed info on our budget, please check with Lois or Tom or any member of the Finance Committee.)*



## **September's Communion Offering to Support Justa Center**



Justa Center is a day resource center only for those individuals over the age of 55 who have nowhere to live. Approximately 55% of the people seeking help are veterans. They staff resource specialists who help client members to re-establish their documents and IDs and even have a special veterans advocate. The Center provides seniors with necessary services from safe housing, nutrition assistance, basic physical healthcare, substance abuse care, aftercare, mental health counseling, personal development, job assessment and placement assistance. On any given day, more than 120 homeless seniors have visited Justa and more than 1,200 have been moved into independent housing. Justa Center also employs social workers and counselors for an Extended Care Program to assist our friends after they move into housing. Justa Center provides them a safe place to stay during the day as many of them are physically assaulted. The homeless seniors can take showers, have laundry done for them and they also have a clothing closet. The staff does from 15 to 50 loads of laundry a day. There is an RN on site 6 days a week.

## **Stephen Ministry**



We are looking into the possibility of reviving the Stephen Ministry program here at First Church. There are several trained Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders in our congregation. If you have been through the ministry or leadership training, have an interest in participating in this ministry, please contact Rev. Lois and let her know.

**Just as a candle cannot burn without  
fire, men cannot live without a  
spiritual life.**

Buddha

# THE MARIAN THOMPSON MEMORIAL FUND

As a young boy growing up on a dairy farm in Clark County, Wisconsin, the ending of winter could never come soon enough. At long last the snow was melting, filling up the creeks and creating large ponds of water. We shed our coats, sweaters, boots and mittens, and soon we were barefoot and shirtless. We were now busy beyond our regular morning and evening chores and preparing for the planting season. However, we were able to squeeze in some playtime. We played softball with the neighbor kids, kick the can and hide-and-seek, but my favorite time was going fishing.

When I was eleven years old, our next door neighbor, Milton Bombard, asked my parents if I could go with him on an overnight fishing trip. This was for some big game fishing as the walleyes were running in the Big Ear Pleine River. My parents' answer was a reluctant yes, and only if I was back home early the next day for evening chores. We packed up the car with our fishing gear and a picnic lunch and left at 7:00 p.m. after the evening chores were done. The drive was rather long and bumpy considering the unpaved roads and we arrived at the river at 9:00 p.m. We had a sandwich and I climbed into the back seat and immediately went to sleep with visions of pulling large walleyes out of the water.

At 5:00 a.m. I was awakened to get our adventure underway! An eleven-year-old does not function well at that early hour! It was cold and damp outside and I'm thinking that the fish were probably still asleep at that hour. We gathered our gear and headed for the ice cold river and found the perfect spot to drop our lines the instant the sun was up. We patiently fished all morning, moving from spot to spot with little success other than a small walleye now and then, and since they were under the size limit, we had to throw them back.

After baiting my hook many times, I patiently kept watching my bobber, confident that sooner or later my luck would change. Suddenly my bobber disappeared and with some difficulty I pulled my line out of the water and landed a 27" long walleye! I was excited beyond words -- I had caught my first big game fish!

It was now past noon and time to return home for evening chores as promised. I was also a little tired of feeding all those fish and I was pretty hungry myself.

At this point, I must put forth a reason for this long fish story and its relevance to the Marian Thompson Memorial Fund. It may be somewhat of a stretch, but please recall or read the story of Jesus and the fishermen found in the New Testament, namely St. Luke, Chapter 5, Verses 1 thru 11. The mission of the Marian Thompson Memorial Fund Committee is akin to the story found in Luke as we encourage and solicit everyone's support for the fund, for the future of First United Methodist Church.

Respectfully submitted by,

Walt Weihmuller





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Sun City, Arizona 85351

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**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	Pastor
Terry Smith	Music Director
Cathy Murray	Organist, Handbell Director
Tom Scott	Lay Leader
Sharon Weber	Administrative Assistant
Fran Nine	Financial Secretary
Richard Vickers	Audio Engineer
Lou Farrar	Media Operator
Robert Schmidt	Maintenance

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Website**

