



First United Methodist Church of Sun City

# First Word

## DECEMBER 2018



### "What Child is This?"



On December 23rd, the Choir and Steury Handbells will be presenting a wonderful service of Christmas music and worship. Experience the stories and thoughts of the characters surrounding the birth of the Christ Child along with beautiful music of the season. Please join us for either service (or both) as we celebrate Christmas.

Instead of our regular potluck, we will be having appetizers (hors d'oeuvres) and a time to thank our Choir, the Steury Handbells, Cathy and Terry for all the work they do and the wonderful contributions they make to our worship services.



*"For God so loved the world  
that he gave his only begotten son,  
that whosoever believeth in him  
should not perish  
but have everlasting life."  
John 3:16 KJV*

### Community Christmas Party.....

...is planned for Saturday afternoon, December 8th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited – AND you are invited to ask your friends and neighbors to join us! It will be a fun time of singing carols, enjoying finger foods, retelling of favorite Christmases from years ago and a reading of the Christmas story ... all wonderful ways to celebrate the season. Bring your favorite finger food and/or dessert, your best singing voice and someone you'd like to sit with to this event planned to introduce our church to others.





## FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE

We are sponsoring another "Family Christmas Tree" this year. There will be 60 "angel names" on the tree. Each family member will have two angels .... one angel is for a toy and one angel for a clothing item. Each family will have different colored angels. Each one of the 60 will have a duplicate angel attached to it. You are to take both of the angels attached together and put one in the basket provided for it. Please put your name and phone number on the one you put in the basket; the other one, please firmly attach to the unwrapped gift. This way in case someone loses their angel with name and gift suggestion, we will have a duplicate. There will be members of the Missions Committee available by the tree to answer any questions you may have. Dedication for gifts is December 16th. Gifts are to be unwrapped with angel tag securely attached. Have fun shopping.

## SPECIAL COMMUNION SUNDAY CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR VALLEY VIEW COMMUNITY FOOD BANK



December 2nd Communion Sunday collection is going to the Valley View Community Food Bank for other families for which we do not have "angels." There are many other families who are struggling and in need of Christmas cheer. So, if you didn't get an angel off the tree, this is a way to share your Christmas spirit.

**WANTED!!** Greeting cards...new OR used, inside printed 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 in the lobby box.  
Judy Brown



## HELP WANTED

On Saturday, December 1st, we will gather at 8:00 a.m. to decorate our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the holiday season. There are greens to hang, trees to assemble and decorate, tables to set, lights to string, and lots of fun to share. Then on Saturday, December 29th, at 8:00 a.m., we will be taking down the decorations and will again need your help!

Mark your calendar and plan on coming to help make our space special for this miraculous time of year. Many hands make light work. Watch your weekly bulletin or speak with Connie Scott for more information about these fun mornings.

## *Message from the Pastor*

There has been so much tragedy in our news lately: storms, fires, mass shootings, horrible accidents all around. I quit watching news morning, noon and night because it distressed me. There has never been a time like this, but we all know that has been said many times throughout history. If something happens that I need to know about, someone will tell me, or I will see it on-line, so I don't need a constant barrage of the same tragedies over and over and over again. I do watch the morning news for weather and a basic catch-up of what is happening in our community and the world, so I am not completely unaware.

This morning a man whose home had been destroyed by the horrible fires in Southern California was interviewed; I probably saw this same clip six times in an hour. The statement he made, "All my memories are gone," struck me as rather odd. He was talking about the shed (playhouse) in his backyard, his home and his stuff. He lost everything tangible, but he still has his memories – they are intangible, no one can take away your memories.

This struck me as so important as a person of faith. The memories I have of various times in my faith journey; the memorized scriptures that support and uphold me both in times of crisis and joy, the pictures of biblical scenes and stories are almost like memories to me. We each experience these things differently, but I believe they are still shared experiences. No one can take these away from us. They may fade over time, but the feelings they evoked remain strong and true.

Advent, four Sundays before Christmas, is about memories. We remember the promises of the Old Testament; a Messiah will come. We remember the angel coming to Mary, her relative Elizabeth, the trip to Bethlehem, the birth in a stable, the child lying in a manger, shepherds, angels, wise men ... we remember it all. Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the coming or second coming of Christ. We experience this fresh every year while at the same time we remember Christmases and Advents past.

Advent is also a time of preparation. We prepare ourselves for the coming Messiah. Preparation for Christ's return is not something we should put off until some day in the future. Over and over again, we are told in the scriptures that no one knows the exact time and date of his return. We need to always be ready for Jesus to come. Every moment of every day is a time to do the things we have been called to do; send a card, make a phone call, or pay it forward. The love and grace we have each received from our Lord needs to be liberally shared with others.

Go and make new memories, holding closely to the old. Remember, it is not about the "stuff," but what is on the inside.

God bless,  
Rev. Lois

## POTLUCK Sunday, December 23rd



This month our **HORS D'OEUVRES** (finger foods) potluck will be to say **THANK YOU** to the participants in our music program and to their leaders Cathy Murray and Terry Smith for all the work they do and the wonderful contributions they make to our worship services. Our fun potluck will be held on December 23rd at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring dessert, finger food, or an appetizer to share so we can easily include our guests and visitors. Remember to bring your own plate and utensils. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Be sure to ask your neighbors and friends to come hear the Christmas Musical Presentation.

### **GREETERS NEEDED**

*We need your help. Since I am new at being the 9:30 a.m. greeter coordinator, I would like to make sure everyone has a chance at being a greeter if they so desire. Please call me at the number below (or the office) if you are interested. Thank you!*

*Val Mack, 623-826-1016*

### **JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IS DECEMBER 13TH**

Please submit any articles you have by December 13<sup>th</sup>. This may sound early, but multiple people and steps are involved in compiling this newsletter.

Thank you.



## **VALLEY VIEW COMMUNITY FOOD BANK TOUCAN = Two Cans**

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 the food bank. Thank you in advance for all you do for the community.

Our food bank donation Sunday is December 16th. If you forget your food, cash or a check will suffice.

## **PINK SUNDAY**

Pink Sunday is December 16<sup>th</sup> and will be observed in both worship services. We will light the Pink Advent Candle, which is the candle of Love. Christmas season is an opportunity for each of us to experience love; the love of friendship, the love of family, and the love of God. Wear pink to help us celebrate this day.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

*Monday, December 24th, at  
4:00 p.m....carols, scripture,  
communion and candle-lighting.  
This is a family friendly service  
so bring along your family and  
friends.*

## CARE COUNCIL ?? WHAT'S THAT ???

One of the principal ways that our church ministers to those in need is through programs administered by the Care Council, a group of people with a heart for helping. These folks (Marilyn Brinkman, Judy Brown, Sally Kloostra, Janet Laney, Val Mack, Lorraine Matthias, Pat Nichols-Hill, Ann Thacker, Karen Willard and Noreen Nickerson-Cruz) plan and coordinate the following:



- Care-2-Go Transportation - rides to/from critical appointments
- Holiday Cards – staying in touch with those out-of-town
- Photo Bulletin Board – linking names & faces
- Healthy Living Bulletin Board – resources for trying times
- Service of Remembrance – keeping before us people we've lost during the year
- Prayer Chain – supporting those in time of need
- Homebound Day Out – Italian dinner for our shut-ins
- Congregational & Photo Phone Book – so we can phone or write a note
- Post-Hospital Dinners – providing something good to eat when we get home

You or someone sitting near you on Sunday may need one of these services – if so just call the church office. On the other hand, you or someone sitting near you on Sunday might want to help out, because the Care Council doesn't just use their hearts ... they employ lots of hands too. And it is those hands that make ministry possible at First Church!



Our prayer team is operated by email. To join the team just send an email to **Tom@fumcsuncity.com** or call the church office 623-974-3631 and we will get you praying. If you have a prayer request, you can call the church office or send an email. When one member of the body suffers, all the members suffer; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. Jesus asks us to love one another as he loved us. When we pray, we show God we know he is in charge and that we have faith in the immeasurable scope of his power.

That is why it is so important we pray for each other. The only requirement to join the prayer team is you must be able to talk to God! That's all prayer is: conversation with our Lord. Your prayers can be formal or informal, don't worry if you are saying it correctly, just talk to God.



## \$\$\$ Don't Forget Us \$\$\$

As we approach the end of 2018, please note that we're getting close, but we're not there yet: paying all of our bills. A small increase in your weekly/monthly/annual benevolent giving will really help us as we strive to end the year in the black. And thanks, by the way, for all of the financial support you've provided.



### A PRAYER AT EIGHTY

*(Submitted by DICK MURRAY)*

Today, dear Lord, I am 80,  
And there's much I haven't done.  
I hope dear Lord, you'll let me live  
Until I'm 81.

But if I haven't finished all I want to do,  
Would you please let me stay until I'm 82.

So many places I want to go,  
So much I want to see --  
Do you think you could manage  
To make it 83?

Many things I may have done,  
But there's so much left in store.  
I'd like it very much to live to 84.

And if by then, I'm still alive,  
Then I'd like to stay to 85.

The world is changing very fast,  
So I'd really like to stick  
And see what happens to the world  
When I am 86.

I know, dear Lord, it's a lot to ask,  
And it will be nice in heaven,  
But I'd really like to stay around until I'm 87.

I know by then, I won't be fast and  
Sometimes, I'll be late.

But it would be oh-so-pleasant  
To be around at 88.

I will have seen so many things  
And had a wonderful time,  
So I'm sure that I'll be willing to leave at 89.  
(Well - maybe.)

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

Helen Teichman.....	12/03
Billie Jo Scott.....	12/04
Verna Smith.....	12/04
Lucille Hathcock.....	12/07
Bob Smith.....	12/10
Peg Ward.....	12/10
Shirley Wolfe.....	12/12
Barbara Jensen.....	12/15
Dorothy Murray.....	12/16
Barry Catto.....	12/19
Jean Coulter.....	12/22
Dick Budke.....	12/24
Carl Bock.....	12/25
Irene Smith.....	12/26
Dan Martin.....	12/27
Jan Ward.....	12/28
Tom Hill.....	12/29
Pat Trevino.....	12/29
Marilyn Brinkman.....	12/31

### ANNIVERSARIES

Floyd & Jaye Reddy.....	12/05
Don Pleinis & Kathie Grant.....	12/22
Rev. Bill & Esta Van Meter.....	12/26

### THE SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

This year we will be ringing the "bell" for Salvation Army on Wednesday, December 5th, at Walgreens on 99th Avenue and Greenway/103rd Avenue. We will ring just the one day will be from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. So save this date and get a friend to shake that bell with. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. You can sign up for 1/2 hour time slots.



## ON-LINE GIVING

Did you know that First UMC has the capability for you to give on-line via our website? This is a great way to give to the church and not worry about carrying cash or checks with you. It also helps when you are away so you can continue to give. You can make it a one time donation or a recurring donation. It is easy to set up. If you have any questions or need help in setting it up, please contact Sharon in the office and she will be glad to assist you. Many can also give on-line through their personal bank, one time or on-going. Check It Out.



## GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN ...



Do you sometimes hear reference to a person you can't identify? Need to put together a name and a face? It's a common problem in churches like ours ... we don't have pictures of everyone. We might not even have a picture of YOU, so we're setting up the photo-stop again the last Sunday of every month. It's located in the Fellowship Hall and pictures will be taken on Sunday before and after each worship service. This provides an opportunity for you to get your picture taken FREE!! And if you don't like the way your pic turned out: relax, we'll take another (until you're satisfied). You cannot pass up this deal! Please stop and have your picture taken. Your name and address will not print in our directory if we do not have your picture, so PLEASE help us, and get your picture taken on Sunday. Please verify that we have your correct address, phone number and email address. Thank you!

## ***Fellowship Hour Hosts***

*The group that will be hosting our 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour for the month of January will be: **TABITHA-DORCAS CIRCLE.***

## MERCER'S CERTIFICATES



I am sure many of you have seen Mary Brickey sitting at the table in the Narthex each Sunday morning with certificates on the table in front of her and wondered what it is all about. Let me try to explain. The United Methodist Women purchase these certificates from Mercer's restaurant and sell them to you. They can be used any time you eat at the restaurant.

We make a little over 22% on each certificate we sell. This money earned helps us in our missions that we support each year. We would like to thank everyone for the support you give to us in all of our projects.

Colleen Becker, President



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Tillie Brandt  
Joyce Clingerman  
Jan Constantine  
Lucille and Gordon  
Gudmundson  
Libby Hearne  
Pat Krider  
Alice LaClair  
Jeff Lay  
Gordon Plancich  
John B. Richardson  
Mary Jean Roush  
Billie Jo Scott  
Helen Teichman  
Esta and Bill VanMeter  
Don and Sandi Vickery  
Don Watson



## ECUMENICAL PRAYER CIRCLE

We pray for the following congregations:

### December:

#### Sun City congregations

St. Elizabeth Seton  
United Church of Sun City  
All Saints of the Desert  
Church of St. Joachim & St. Anne  
Church of the Palms

#### United Methodist congregations in our District

Sunrise UMC, Phoenix  
Willowbrook UMC, Sun City  
Youngtown UMC

## Condolences & Christian Sympathy



...to **MABEL HEETER**, family and friends on news of the passing of her sister, Dorothy Alsterda, in Missouri 11/06.

...to **LENORE WHIPPLE**, family and friends on the news of the passing of her spouse, Warren, on 11/20.

...to **BILL EATON**, family and friends on the news of the passing of his spouse, Betty, on 11/20 (ND).

...to **SALLY KLOOSTRA**, family and friends on the passing of her sister, Beverly Loseke, just before Thanksgiving (NC).

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### ATTENTION ALL READERS



The deadline to turn in your Reading Program Report is December 10th. Please turn them in to me, Betty Zingre, so we may receive credit for 2018. Thank you for supporting the United Methodist Women's Reading Program!  
Betty Zingre  
Program Resources

## POINSETTIAS

If you would like to order a POINSETTIA for \$10 for the holidays, please pick up an order form from the church lobby or the office. The last day to turn in your order form will be December 10th.

Thank you for your gift(s) of flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Please take your plant(s) home after the Christmas Eve Service.



# Bible Studies... Lectionary Study DECEMBER

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

December 3rd

Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6

December 10th

Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18

December 17th

Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:47-55
Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45

December 24th

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

December 31st

Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12

## 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 Romans.

***COME AND JOIN US!***

## STEWARDSHIP

Our Stewardship campaign this year will be an on-going campaign. Once again we are not completing any type of pledge cards; we will be highlighting our personal stewardship throughout the year. There will be media presentations with our time of offering in worship occasionally. There will be regular articles in the First Word Newsletter about stewardship. Our goal is to make our stewardship a part of our thought process and lifestyle instead of what it has become for many...just paying another bill. The church will rely on God and you for your faithfulness and support.

## 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.**

Be sure to pay your deposit upon registration to ensure your space.

**DREAM CITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**, Saturday, December 8, 2018. Cost is \$50 which includes program, bus and gratuity. Meet at Lakeview UMC at 12:45 p.m. and return approximately 5:30 p.m.

**BARLEENS CHRISTMAS SHOW**, Saturday, December 15, 2018. Cost is \$65 which includes bus, meal, show and all gratuities. Bus leaves Lakeview UMC at 10:45 a.m. and returns around 4:45 p.m.

**LIGHTS OF THE WORLD**, Tuesday, January 15, 2019. This is an exciting international event with 6 million lights, 65 displays, incredible live acrobats, music and cuisine. Cost is \$43/person which includes bus, all tips and gratuities. Wear comfortable shoes. Bus leaves Lakeview UMC at 4:30 p.m. and returns around 9:00 p.m.

**RHYTHM CATS VEGAS JUBILEE**, Saturday, February 23, 2019. Cost is \$68/person which includes buffet lunch, show, transportation, taxes and gratuities. Bus leaves Lakeview UMC at 10:15 a.m. and returns around 5:00 p.m.

**MYSTERY CASTLE TOUR**, Thursday, March 14, 2019. Cost is \$54 which includes tour, lunch, bus and gratuities. Meet at Lakeview UMC at 9:00 a.m. Bus leaves at 9:30 a.m. and returns approximately 3:00 p.m.

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





As we approach the end of this fiscal year, I want to again thank the people who have contributed to the Marian Thompson Memorial Fund this past year. Your continuous support is amazing!

As we move forward, I again ask any of our new church members to please check out the pamphlets placed in the back of each pew. These pamphlets give suggestions on different ways to support the fund.

We are now about one-third of the way to our goal of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00). Income from interest money from the fund is already helping to pay part of the compensation for our associate pastor.

We believe that reaching our goal is critical to the life and operations of this First United Methodist Church. Again, thank you.

Walt Weihmuller, Foundation President



**MISSING BOOK ...** Please return to the church office "The Twelve Days of Christmas [Correspondence]" by John Julius Norwich. It was "borrowed" a couple of years ago and the lender (Rev. Lois) cannot remember who has the book. Thank you.

## FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS



### Community Rewards Program

How would you like to help First UMC every time you buy groceries at Fry's? It is so easy to sign up. Visit [www.frysfood.com](http://www.frysfood.com). Once logged into your Fry's account, choose Community Rewards from the list on the left, then you can search for First United Methodist Church of Sun City either by name or **YK230** and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, an email address and a rewards card.

If you do not have an email address, you can contact their parent company, Kroger, at 1-800-576-4377, option 3. Just let them know you do not have access to a computer but would still like to sign up. If you need help, you can always come to the office and we will be glad to assist you.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for our church until after you register your rewards card. You must swipe your registered Fry's rewards card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Fry's rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.



9849 N. 105th Ave.  
Sun City, Arizona 85351

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# First United Methodist Church Newsletter

Change Service Requested

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Visit our website at [www.fumcsuncity.com](http://www.fumcsuncity.com)

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
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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