



First United Methodist Church of Sun City

First Word

Living and Sharing The Faith We Profess

Inside This Issue

2

Pastor Kathleen's
Corner

3

Communion
Praying Through Lent
Souper Bowl Sunday

4

Women's Group
Bible Study
Name Tags
Coffee Fellowship

5

Soup's On Soup Sale
Save the Date
Read a Chapter a Day
UMCOR Sunday

6

Leadership Update
Fashion Show

7

March Pot Luck
Prayer of Saint
Patrick

8

Ecumenical Prayer
Prayer List
Christian Sympathy
623 Prayer

9

Weekly Events
Membership
Daily Devotional
Snowbird Season

10

Game Night
Staying Connected
Justa Center

11

Birthdays/
Anniversaries

Inserts

Upcoming Events
Summer Retreats
Lily Order Form

March Edition 2024

Worship in March and April

WANDERING HEART:

Figuring Out Faith With Peter

Lent and Easter Sermon Series

This Lent, we will travel with Peter — from becoming a disciple to meeting the Risen Christ. We'll watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out — just like us.



March 3

Lent 3

"Wandering Heart: Praise the Mount"

Matthew 16:13-20 Psalm 19 Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 10

Lent 4

"Wandering Heart: I'm Fixed Upon It"

Matthew 16:21-23 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 UMCOR Sunday

March 17

Lent 5

"Wandering Heart: Teach Me"

Matthew 18:15-22 Psalm 119:9-16 St. Patrick's Day — wear GREEN



HOLY WEEK — March 24 to March 31

March 24 **Palm/Passion Sunday** "Wandering Heart: Songs of Loudest Praise"
John 12:12-16

HOLY WEEK Prayer/Communion Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (March 25, 26, 27)

Sanctuary open from 12 Noon to 1 pm — drop in to pray and receive Holy Communion

March 28 **Maundy Thursday Worship** at 5 pm "Wandering Heart: Streams of Mercy"

John 13:1-20 Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 29 **Good Friday Worship** at 5 pm "Wandering Heart: Prone to Leave the God I Love"

John 13:31-38 John 18:1-11 John 18:12-18 John 18:19-27 John 19:1-30

March 31

EASTER! Celebrate the Risen Christ!

"Wandering Heart: And I Hope" Luke 24:1-12

April 7

"Wandering Heart: Here's My Heart" John 21:1-19

Easter 2 Sacrament of Holy Communion

April 14

Easter 3 "A Whole New Ballgame"

1 John 4:7-21 Luke 24:36-48

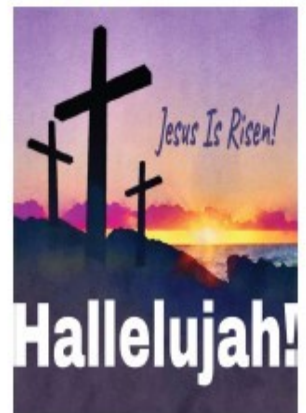
April 21

Easter 4 "Jesus: the Tour Leader"

Psalm 23 John 10:11-18 Good Shepherd Sunday

April 28

Easter 5 "How To Be a Branch" John 15:1-8



***"Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love."***

The United Methodist Hymnal, # 400

The hymn, **"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,"** is our theme song for Lent this year. This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of Simon Peter, one of Jesus' best known disciples. In Simon Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend of Jesus and the one who denied even knowing Jesus, a follower and a leader and a wanderer. In Simon Peter, we often see ourselves — our highs and lows of faith as we seek to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human being trying to figure it all out — just like us. In looking at Peter's story, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" fit right in — it is almost like Peter himself wrote this hymn! For each step in Peter's journey, a phrase from this hymn matches the unfolding story. We can sing our way through Lent with Simon Peter, binding our wandering hearts to God and asking God to tune our hearts to sing God's grace!

Let's explore the history of this beloved hymn. The lyrics were written by Robert Robinson, a British hymn writer and pastor (1735-1790.) Robinson's father died when Robert was very young and Robert had to become the breadwinner for his widowed mother and himself, becoming an apprentice to a barber. By the age of 17, he ran the streets of London with a gang, causing all kinds of trouble. Robinson and the gang decided to go heckle the Methodist preacher and evangelist George Whitefield at a tent revival meeting. "Let's go laugh at the deluded Methodists" was his invitation. Instead, the message of the need for God and for faith shared by George Whitefield impacted Robinson and began to change the direction of his life. At age 20, Robert discovered peace with God and became a preacher himself. He wrote a letter to George Whitefield and said that he envied the happiness that he saw on the faces of the people at that tent meeting. Two years later, in 1757, he wrote the hymn "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing." For nearly 30 years, Robinson served as pastor of Stone Yard Church at Cambridge, England. Later in his life, he himself was "prone to wander .. prone to leave the God I love" — experiencing a crisis of faith and feeling unstable and unhappy. He later wrote that while on a stagecoach traveling, there was a young lady who began to sing to break up the monotony of the trip. Guess which hymn she was singing? He told her that he was the author of that hymn and shared some of his troubles. She told him, "Sir, the 'streams of mercy' are still flowing." Her song and words deeply touched him and his "wandering heart" found its way back to God!



What a story! And what a treasure we have in the wonderful hymns of faith! I love to hear about your favorite hymns and how music has impacted your faith and spiritual growth. How is God "tuning your heart to sing God's grace" this Lent? Where do you find yourself "prone to wander"? What helps to bring you back to God? What are you doing in this season of Lent to walk with Jesus and to grow as a disciple? I encourage you to be in Worship each Sunday and to participate in the special services during Holy Week and to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Blessings this Lent and always!

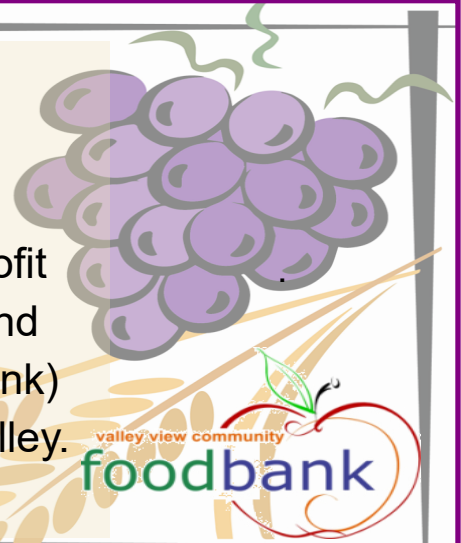
Pastor Kathleen

**Our March Communion Offering
goes to support:**

Valley View Food Bank

Valley View Community Food bank is a non-profit organization providing food, basic necessities and clothing (from their thrift store next to the food bank) to people in need throughout Maricopa's West Valley.

Sunday, March 3, 2024



**Pastor Kathleen is praying
through our First UMC of Sun City
church family during Lent.**



Praying Through Lent
40 DAYS OF PRAYER

You will receive a postcard in March,
stating "your day" for prayer.

You are invited to share any specific prayer requests with her.

To share particular prayer requests, please

- ♦ Email: pastork@fumcsuncity.com
- ♦ Call the church office — 623/ 974-3631 (can leave a message.)
- ♦ Write a note and leave at or mail to the church office (or hand it to her the Sunday before.)

All personal prayer requests kept confidential.

On "your" day, you are asked to pray for our church and its mission and ministries.

A SPECIAL
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

"Souper Bowl" Sunday

Thanks to your generosity, we received 137 cans of soup and \$124 dollars to be donated to Valley View Food Bank!

"Italian Dinner Drive Thru"

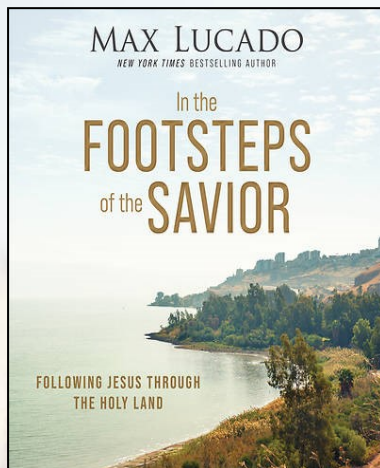
**We sold over 100 tickets for a total of \$1010.00.
Thank you to everyone who donated their time organizing,
donating food, cooking, cleaning, and serving
our members and the community.**



Plan to join the FUMC Sun City
Women's Fellowship Group
Friday, March 8, 2024
for faith, fun, fellowship and refreshments
10:30 am in Fellowship Hall

WOMEN'S Fellowship

Bring a friend and enjoy some time together.



In The Footsteps of the Savior **Lent Bible Study on Tuesday mornings**

This Lent Study continues through March 26.

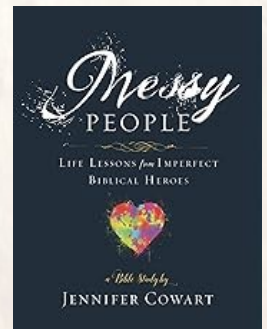
With video and book input, join us this Lent on a journey through the hills, the dust, and the places of the Holy Land — Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Jerusalem, Calvary/the Grave, and Caesarea by the Sea — following in the footsteps of Jesus.

**This study meets in the Lillian Carver Room
from 10:30 to 11:30 am.**

Starting in April, our study will be *Messy People*.

Every life gets messy at times. This study will dig into the lives of Biblical people who were messy people just like us but who were used by God in powerful ways. As we explore the messy stories of Rahab, the prodigal son, Josiah, Mary, David, and Daniel, we'll see how God can use broken people, restore damaged hearts and relationships, and help us deal with the hard moments of life.

In the hands of God, our messes can become masterpieces!



If you would like a name tag, please let the church office know by calling (623-974-3631), or by emailing the church office at: office@fumcsuncity.com



You don't need to be a member to get a name tag!



Mmmmm, Doesn't Soup Sound Good?

Our FUMC Women's Group have been in the kitchen cooking up some delicious soups. These soups are on sale after worship in Fellowship Hall. They make ideal lunches, gifts for shut-ins, or a treat for special friends.

Three soups to choose from for \$3.00 per bag

Wendy's Copycat Chili, White Bean Chicken Chili, and Kielbasa Split Pea

Be sure to stop by the soup table and see what they've been cooking and support our mission.



Save The Date



DESERT WINDS STEEL ORCHESTRA

Experience the vibrant and enchanting melodies of a live steel drum concert, where the rhythmic beats and harmonious sounds transport you to a tropical paradise.

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of lively music, celebration, and the infectious joy that only a steel drum concert can provide!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21
3:00 PM**

A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN



Read a CHAPTER a Day

You are invited to embark on a transformative journey this Lent with the *Read a Chapter a Day* challenge!

Join the Lenten challenge to read a chapter of the Gospel of John a day — starting the day after Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2024) and concluding just before Palm Sunday (March 24).

Sign up to get the schedule and emails at mailchi.mp/umcdiscipleship/read-a-chapter-a-day

Sponsored by Discipleship Ministries
United Methodist Church.



**2024 UMCOR Sunday
is Sunday, March 10
(on the fourth Sunday in Lent.)**

UMCOR provides major support for immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

The special offering on UMCOR Sunday allows 100% of designated gifts to be used for a specified disaster response or other specified ministry.

**Please be generous on
this special Sunday.
Thank you!**



Leadership Team Meeting Highlights February 20, 2024

Rev. Jody Topping will assume the role of our pastor on July 1.
We will have a potluck picnic on July 7 to welcome her and her family.

The church continues to receive less in offerings each week than is needed to maintain our budget. Please keep this in your prayers.

Annual Conference is in Tucson June 12-16. Colleen Becker and Gerrie Wall will be attending as Lay Members. Pastor Kathleen needs to retire from her own conference in California which meets that same week.

The General Conference of the UMC worldwide will meet April 22 to May 3 in Charlotte, NC. This gathering has been cancelled several times because of COVID and has not met since 2016.

There has been some interest in forming a men's fellowship group.
Various possibilities will be investigated.

The carpets in both the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall have been cleaned.
Thanks to Lou Farrar for his help in moving all the furniture in both.

The women's group is planning a style show April 12.

Please see the details elsewhere in this newsletter on the upcoming Desert Winds Steel Drum Orchestra which will be performing at our church on Sunday, April 21 at 3 pm. Invite your family and friends.
Check out the many other important upcoming events.

We are pleased to have had guests attend our meetings. The Leadership Team meets monthly (except during the summer) on the third Thursday at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings are open to all of you who wish to attend. You may speak to an issue but would not be able to vote. Personnel matters would be discussed in Executive Session.

The next meeting is at 9 am on March 19 at 9 am in the Lillian Carver Room.
Feel free to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerrie Wall, Leadership Team Member



*Save
the Date*

FUMC WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP PRESENTS

Spring Fashion Show and Salad Luncheon
Fashions by ~ Just Be Youtiful

Friday, April 12 at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall
All Are Welcome ~ More details to come.



**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
SPAGHETTI POT LUCK
SUNDAY, MARCH 17 AFTER WORSHIP**



Our famous FUMC Spaghetti will be served.
Plan to bring a salad or dessert to share.
Everyone is Welcome, table service provided.
REMEMBER TO WEAR GREEN



Prayer of Saint Patrick

May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us.
Against the snares of the evil ones.
Against temptations of the world
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord, Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.

ECUMENICAL

We pray for the following congregations:

MARCH

Sun City Congregations

West Valley Christian Fellowship

Radiant Church

First Baptist Church

Emmanuel Baptist Church

United Methodist Congregations

in our District

Dove of the Desert UMC, Glendale

Maryvale UMC, Phoenix

Faith UMC, Phoenix

If the only prayer you
ever say in your
entire life is thank
you, it will be enough.

Meister Eckhart

PRAYER REQUESTS

How can we pray for you?

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

CONDOLENCES & CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of

**A Celebration of Life for
Betty Zingre**

**Thursday, March 7, 2024
10:00 am ~ Sanctuary**

***Please continue to keep
her family and friends
in your prayers.***

First UMC of Sun City 623 Prayer

**Commit to praying this prayer
for our church
at 6:23 am or pm
(or both!) daily.**



*Gracious God, thank you for the
First United Methodist Church of Sun City.*

Our future is in your hands.

We pray for your Spirit to break through.

Break through our fears.

Break through the obstacles.

*Break through those things that keep us from
being the church that you intend us to be.*

*May we step forward in faith and in hope,
to be a beacon of light
and life in our community.*

In Jesus' name. Amen.



Sundays

Sunday Worship

9:30 am

Fellowship Hour

Cookies & Coffee following Service

Tuesdays

Bible Study

10:30 am

Lillian Carver

Game Night

6:00 pm

Lillian Carver Room

Wednesdays

Handbell Choir Practice

2:00 pm

Music Room

Seasonal Choir Practice

3:00 pm

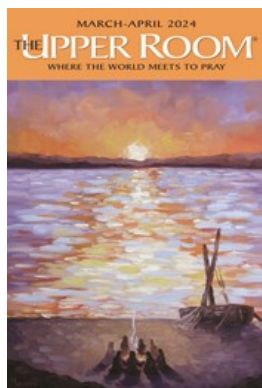
Music Room

Daily Devotionals

We encourage everyone to spend time in the Word of God each day. One way to do this is using a devotional.

These devotionals can be found in the Narthex and Church office hallway.

Both regular and large print are available.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP *Matters*

& is a real blessing!

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

Interested in baptism?

**Contact Pastor Kathleen
or the church office
for more information.
623-974-3631**

Leaving for the Summer?

Please give us your summer address, date leaving and date returning and let us know if you want to receive communication from us at your summer address.



FUMC SUN CITY 2024 SUMMER ADDRESS

(Please fill out and mail/bring to the Church Office)

Name: _____

Summer Address: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency Info: _____

IMPORTANT

Date Leaving: _____

Date Returning: _____

Do you want to receive "First News" this summer at the Summer Address above? ☐ Yes ☐ No



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



Justa Center is in great need of food donations at this time. Because of the sky-rocketing prices of rents, each week they receive requests for assistance from more seniors who are becoming homeless.

Just a few cans of food donated would make a difference, enabling Justa Center to help more seniors. The items can be placed on the table in the Narthex and will be delivered every other week.

They especially need cans of vegetables, fruit, protein (such as tuna, chicken, beef), and cereal. They also need canes.



There is a complete list of needed items on the Justa Center table in the Narthex

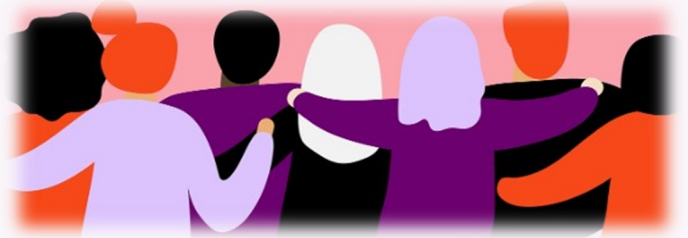


Communication with FUMC Sun City

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

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

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



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

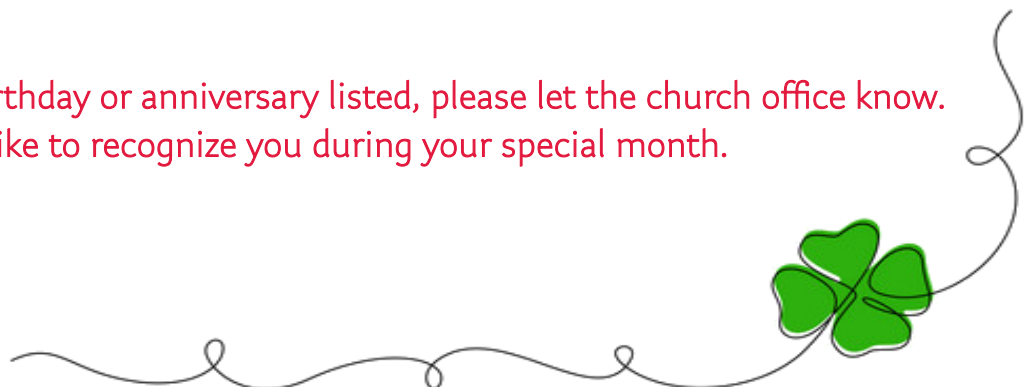


3/1	Jan Bolan
3/1	Sally Kloostra
3/5	Ross Rector
3/7	Laura Hamrick
3/8	Margaret Chittenden
3/11	Carol Lutz
3/28	Pat Ormond



3/26	Tom & Betty Hill
------	------------------

If you do not find your birthday or anniversary listed, please let the church office know.
We would like to recognize you during your special month.

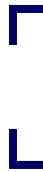


First United Methodist Church
9849 N. 105th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85351

MARCH 21 is the deadline to
submit articles/events/news for
the MARCH Newsletter.
Thank you!



God Loves:



First United Methodist Church

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

Email: office@fumcsuncity.com

Website: www.fumcsuncity.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity

YouTube: www.youtube.com

The ministers of this church are its members.

Those who assist and support them are:

Pastor Kathleen Puntar

Pastor

Gerrie Wall

Lay Leader

Matthew Marino

Music Director

Cathy Murray

Organist, Handbell Director

Kimberly Hill

Office Manager

Arne Kesler

Bookkeeper

Mark Cwik

Audio/Video Technician

Lou Farrar

Groundskeeper/Maintenance

Pastor Kathleen's Cell #: 714-420-6094
pastork@fumcsuncity.com

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9am - 2pm

TELEWORSHIP

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

Here's how it works:

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

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Lent Bible Study - In the Footsteps of the Savior,
Tuesdays through March 26**

**FUMC Women's Group
March 8
10:30 am
Fellowship Hall**

**March Spaghetti Potluck
Sunday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day)
Wear Green - Bring a Salad or Dessert**

**FUMC Book Club
12:30 am
Church Library**

**Palm/Passion Sunday
Sunday, March 24**

**Last Day to Order Easter Lilies
Monday, March 25**

**Holy Week Prayer & Communion
(Mon, Tues, Weds, 3/25, 3/26, 3/27)
12 noon - 1:00 pm**

**Maundy Thursday
March 28
5:00 pm
Communion**

**Good Friday
March 29
5:00 pm**

**Easter Sunday
March 31**

**FUMC Women's Group
Just Be Youtiful Boutique Fashion Show
Friday, April 12
10:30 am - Fellowship Hall**

Got Grandkids (or Great Grandkids)? Help them go to **CAMP** this summer! Desert Southwest Camp information is below!

Talk to Pastor Kathleen for more details

2024 SUMMER CAMP

REGISTER BY MARCH 31 FOR THE EARLY BIRD RATE OF \$455 FOR A STANDARD WEEK.

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY & GRAND & ME: \$247 PER WEEK (NO EARLY BIRD)

**BEACH CAMP: \$595
LOCAL AZ: \$525**



POTOSI PINES
camp & retreat center

Located in the beautiful desert terrain between Las Vegas and Pahrump, NV

June 3-5, 2024
Younger Elementary* (Rising 1st-Rising 3rd)

June 10-14, 2024
Elementary I

June 17-21, 2024
Jr. High Classic & Jr. High Adventure

June 24-28, 2024
Sr. High Adventure & Sr. High Classic

July 15-19, 2024
Elementary II
Junior High Classic II

July 22-26, 2024
Elementary III

www.potosipinescamp.org



MINGUS MOUNTAIN
camp & retreat center

Located in the Ponderosa Pines of Central/Northern Arizona

June 17-22, 2024
Elementary I
Jr. High I
Jr. High Adventures: Local AZ

June 24-29, 2024
Elementary II
Jr. High II
Sr. High Adventures: Beach Camp

July 1-3, 2024 ← **THIS SPECIAL SESSION IS ESPECIALLY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THEIR GRANDCHILDREN, AGE 6-12**
Grand & Me Camp

July 8-13, 2024
Jr/Sr High: Night Owls

www.mingusmountaincamp.org

All Elementary Camps are for those in Rising 3rd-Rising 6th, Jr. High Camps are for those in Rising 6th-Rising 9th



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE! SIMPLY INCLUDE THE REQUEST IN THE REGISTRATION PROCESS.

Women's Retreats – Options upcoming in April!





WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT RETREAT

ALIVE & HELD

"How alive am I willing to be?"
Anne Lamott

Living life to the fullest doesn't have to mean cramming your schedule with more and more. It can mean getting clear about who you are and what really matters. Join us for this renewal experience to explore how alive you are willing to be, and be supported by other women sharing a similar journey.

\$150
LODGING &
FOOD

APRIL
12-14

\$250
PROGRAM
FEE

\$400 TOTAL/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Sue Conklin, licensed clinical social worker, and Sheila & Bekah Segien from Connect with Horses will lead us in equine experiences to engage with exploratory inner work. Assisted by Cat Holbert, Trained Coach and experienced facilitator, we'll offer guided meditations, conversations, art therapy tools, and opportunities for self-care.

Register at
mingusmountaincamp.org/events/womens-retreat

2 NIGHTS 6 MEALS
\$230 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
\$320 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

April 26-28, 2024



The Rhythm of Life

7th Annual WOW Retreat

Franciscan Renewal Center - Scottsdale, AZ

Register at WOWeventsrock.com

For more details call 602-740-9737



Sponsored by WOW

Easter Lily Order Form

The lilies will enhance our Easter Morning Worship Service.

Please take your lily home on Easter Sunday
after Worship, or indicate if you want you lily to be given
to a homebound person/family.

Deadline to order your Easter Lily is March 18th.

\$12 each

NAME: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of Lilies: _____ (\$12.00 each)

Cost: _____ Cash: _____ Check: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please deliver to a shut-in: _____

Please write legibly