



The Voice

February 2020

Love is **PATIENT,**

Love is **KIND.**

It does not **ENVY,**

it does not **BOAST,**

It is not **PROUD.**



1 Corinthians 13:4-6



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturdays - 4:00 p.m. "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Sundays - 9:00 a.m. "Spirited Traditional Service"

Sundays - 10:45 a.m. Informal Praise Service

Pastoral Team

Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Alma Aguirre-Olivares, Associate Pastor

Rev. Lee Hirt, Associate Pastor (Part-time)

Rev. Stephanie Soon, Assistant Minister of Care (Part-time)

Esther Vallet, R.N., Parish Nurse (Part-time)

Staff

Julie Calvert, Accounting

Jodi De Luca, Administrative Secretary

Jennifer Lutz, Assistant Secretary

Shawn McMullen, Custodian

Ken Goodenberger, Director, Music Ministry

Bill Moore, Organist/Pianist

Office Telephone: 623-584-2280

FAX: 623-584-1868

Pastor on call for emergencies: 623-584-7642

Prayer Request Line: 623-584-2922

Prayer Request: prayers@shepherdofthehills.org

Hospitalization Notification Procedure

All members and friends of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church are encouraged to IMMEDIATELY CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (623-584-2280) when you or a loved one are admitted to or discharged from the hospital.

A place to belong - A place to believe - A place to become

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church affirms the teachings of Jesus Christ by welcoming all of God's children regardless of race, age, gender, family status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that might separate us from each other. All are invited to join in our shared journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our church.

CHANGE IN THE VOICE DELIVERY

Please pick up your paper copy of the Voice in the Narthex on the first Sunday of the month. Only limited church participants and out-of-state copies will be mailed.

The Voice published by Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church
13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375-3700
Submit articles: church@shepherdofthehills.org
Address corrections: church@shepherdofthehills.org

Article deadline for March issue of The Voice is
Saturday, February 15, 2020

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and Hallmark is ready to get YOU ready for the holiday. Beautiful heart shaped cards adorn many shelves in the stores we visit, with messages as varied as those reading through them. Candy and balloons and jewelry stand ready to be purchased and given. It appears there are many ways to show our love, at least for those we find lovable.

That's a good thing, according to our Good Book. We are meant to love one another! But the kind of effortful love we are called to is far more challenging than simple romance. The apostle John writes, in I John 4:

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them...we love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

It may be hard to keep sight of John's admonition to love brothers and sisters in this highly politicized and ideologically polarized season. The election is still months away, but social media is already bursting with memes that show one political party or the other, or one faith tradition or another, in very unfavorable ways. The captions are often overtly hostile and mean spirited, making implications about the character, beliefs, and behavior of those on "the other side" (meaning Republican if the individual posting is a registered Democrat, or vice versa; or perhaps implicating Muslims if the individual posting is a Christian).

Even Christians (sometimes especially Christians) seem to have fallen into the morass: to have given up loving, civil, idealistic conversations about things that matter a great deal to our future for a kind of low level finger pointing, accusing, and blaming. And yet we who follow Christ have a much higher calling – a calling to be active agents of reconciliation and love.

The devotional reading your church leadership has been using is from 2 Corinthians 5, including verse 18:

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and **has given us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting **the message of reconciliation to us.***

In the coming months we can expect things to get even nastier, in the news, in email, and on Facebook. That makes it especially important for us to remember this ministry we have been given. What does it mean to carry a message of reconciliation in a world where people are yelling at one another in person and in print, accusing, blaming? What might be our role in cooling the rhetoric, setting an example of how to disagree lovingly and respectfully?

What might it mean to resolutely love our brothers and our sisters whose behavior is not presently very lovable? What would love look like, when your anger has been roused by a particularly insensitive comment, and what you really want to do is smack somebody, either literally or figuratively?

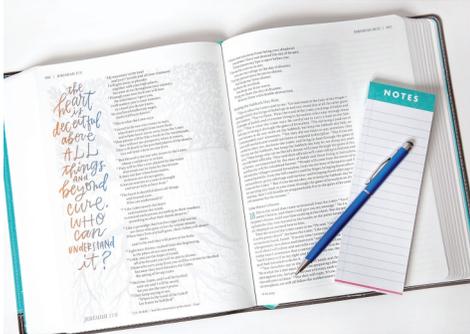
This will be a season that deeply challenges our love, and our commitment to be agents of reconciliation. Hang in there. Don't give up. His love, which came first, and carried Him through the cross, the grave, and to resurrection, will carry you through.



Blessings and Peace
Pastor Deborah

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION UPDATE



The Education Committee's mission is to provide Christian educational opportunities which promote growth in spirituality and discipleship. Our latest offering to meet this mission, is the Alpha Event. By the time you are reading this, we will have held 3 classes and we are encouraged by the content of the material and the reactions to it.

Lent begins February 26 and Pastor Deborah is working on her sermon series. We will then be offering a class to correspond so check your bulletin for the details.

And for those of us who will be here in June, we will have Adult Vacation Bible School which is very exciting for us. The dates are June 2-5. More details to follow.

Participating in classes is one of the best ways to grow spiritually and as disciples of Christ so we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities provided. It's also a great way to get to know others in our church family. We would also ask you to share suggestions for classes or times that you might have. Feel free to contact the co-chairs or drop a note in the office or our mail slot.

Pat Burke

Diana Kline



Is There More to Life Than This?

Who Is Jesus?

How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of my Life?

Why & How Should I Read the Bible?

How Does God Guide Us?

Fridays– 11:00 – 1:00

Lunch provided

Please sign up and join us!

Bring a friend!



UPCOMING EVENTS



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

All women are cordially invited to attend our next monthly luncheon to be held on February 6th, at 11:30 AM. In honor of Black History Month our program speaker will be our District Vice President, Eva Ndamu. She and her husband spent time in Africa and she would like to share with us her "African Experiences."

Sign-ups will be at the kiosk on the weekend of February 1 & 2. The price is \$8 and Rebekah Circle will be our hostesses.

We hope you will plan to join us. For further information contact the church office at 623-584-2280.

How To Be A Friend to My Friend With Dementia

Monday, February 3, 2020
1:30-3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

Join us as Sun Health Memory Care Navigator, Marty Finley M.Ed. presents how to maintain a relationship with a friend who has dementia. Learn practical tips on what to do and say and how to still be a friend.

Register at SunHealthWellness.org or call 623-207-1703



Friendship Groups

Friendship Groups are an important part of SHUMC ministries. Small groups of members and friends meet monthly for fellowship with others.

The groups are focused around meals, trips and/or activities in the community.

New Friendship Groups will be formed soon.

If you would like to join or know more about Friendship Groups, please contact the church office at 623-584-2280.

SHUMC ACTIVITIES

Happy February!

At our January luncheon Pastor Deborah installed our 2020 officers and we are pleased to announce all positions are filled.

Our unit is anticipating a very interesting program at our February 6th luncheon to celebrate “Black History Month,” Eva Ndavu, our UMW District Vice President and her husband spent several years in Africa and she is coming to talk to our group about her “African Experiences.” I hope many will come to hear her presentation.

We would like once again to thank our church family for your continued support.



The Mission Candle



The “Mission Candle” is one way you support our mission work. By lighting the candle in honor of or in memory of someone or for other special events you help us help the community.

You can contact the church office for a form to fill out and the cost is \$15. The idea of lighting the candle began by two of our members in 1995. Since that time you have helped us take in and give out more than

\$70,000. In 2019, “The Candle” income was \$1,680. All of these monies went to our mission work—11 agencies in all. The members of Shepherd’s UMW say THANK YOU!!

Sandy Bradley, UMW President

Book of the Month Recommendation from the UMW

Which Way Lord? Exploring Your Life’s Purpose in the Journeys of Paul

By Rob Fuquay

As Christians, we hunger to live out God’s purpose for our lives. But how do we know we are moving in the right direction? This book will help you understand God’s desire for your life by unpacking your experiences alongside those of the apostle Paul.

- Discern and follow God’s lead
- Explore ways God can use your life experiences
 - Respond to God’s signals
 - Endure hardships and doubts
 - Persevere with hope and faith

MISSIONS

SANDWICH SUNDAY

February 23, 2020

STARTS AT 9:30 - TILL ALL THE SANDWICHES ARE MADE!



LUNCHES FOR HOMELESS SENIORS—JUSTA CENTER SENIOR DAYCARE IN DOWNTOWN PHOENIX

Need volunteers to make sandwiches, wash fruit and veggies

Please consider donating sandwich bags, gloves, & brown lunch bags, in addition to peanut butter and jelly.

Monetary donations are also appreciated to buy meats, cheese, chips, fruit, and vegetables

Leave donations in the kitchen/pantry with Missions labeled on them.

QUESTIONS: CALL 623-584-2280

Justa Center Update

Good news! The Justa Center, the senior homeless day care in downtown Phoenix, has been bought by a non-profit agency. They also bought the empty lot next door. They plan to build a larger building on the lot and convert the old building into night shelter for the seniors.

The linens, clothing, and sandwiches have been gratefully received.

Superbowl Soup Sunday

The Superbowl is Feb 2nd. In addition to our regular food bank collection, we are asking for donations of soup or soup-making ingredients like beans, rice, noodles, etc. to be given to Valley View Food Bank.

**HELP
FOR THE
HUNGRY**



St Mary's Food Bank

Food sorting takes place every 3rd Thursday from 10-12pm.

Call Becky Fay if you can volunteer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Gleaning Report

We have started gleaning Wednesday mornings and are excited to report that 32 church members, friends, and SCW Pride members came together to glean 18 trees with an absolute BUMPER crop of fruit! For our morning work, we brought in approximately 7,700 pounds of oranges and grapefruit to St. Mary's Food Bank. The fruit will be distributed to families, individuals, and kids in our valley.

What a fun experience, getting to meet people and make new friends. Learning how to dodge sprinkler systems and how much rain can be held in a tree the day after a rain storm! After this first day of gleaning, there were no disasters other than a few aches and pains in muscles that are not used to reaching and bending.

We welcome more volunteers. The trees are full of fruit so the more we have the faster the job will go. Remember....there is no tree or ladder climbing! We have tools to collect the fruit. Just wear gloves and sturdy shoes.

If you have questions, call the church office at 623-584-2280



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER AT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS UMC? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Join us for one of our "Exploring Membership Classes!"

We will spend a little time sharing refreshments and getting to know you and some time looking at key United Methodist Beliefs and perspectives. Attendees will receive a packet of helpful information and meet a few key leaders of Shepherd. We will take your picture and answer any questions you have. We will go through the vows of membership and what they mean. An optional tour of the campus will be offered.

Those who attend and are ready can join on the following Saturday or Sunday at the service of your choice, or at any time subsequently when you are ready, after consulting with the Senior Pastor to select a "good" date.

RSVP your attendance to Jodi in the Church Office at 623.584.2280 or by writing "Exploring" on your Prayer and Presence card

2020 Exploring Membership Opportunities:

Sunday February 16 2020 2 P.M. Fellowship Hall

Join February 23 or after by arrangement with Pastor

Wednesday March 25 2020 2 P.M. Fellowship Hall

Join April 12, Easter Sunday, or after by arrangement

SHUMC ACTIVITIES

Rummage Sale Info

It's hard to believe but we are already collecting for the 2020 sale, so here is some information:

Drop offs on Tuesdays at the container on the right

For pick-ups, contact the church office at 623-584-2280.



Our volunteers try to consolidate multiple pickups to make effective use of their time, schedules and vehicles. Therefore, please give us lead time. Also, when donating, please look at the condition of your items. If you don't want it because it is no longer in good condition, then chances are, we won't be able to sell it.

We have some items that were not picked up – one we know was paid for. If you know of someone who didn't pick up their item, please contact the church office at 623-584-2280.

Lastly, the sale will be 11/5-11/7, with setup **10/30 – 31, and 11/2-4**. Setup help is even more important than the sale days. So please mark your calendars now.

Pat Burke, Chair



Pop Tabs, Box Tops, & Cards

Thank you for your generosity last year in donating these items. Please continue to do so.

Pop Tabs get recycled and the money goes to Ronald McDonald House to pay for patients hospital stays.

Box Tops are redeemed for school equipment—gym mats, balls, classroom maps, globes, etc.

Cards or those you get in the mail can be dropped off in the box in the mailroom. Pop Tops and Box Tops can be deposited in the basket on the desk by the office window.



SHUMC Book Club

When: Third Thursday of each month except December at 10:00 a.m.

Where: SHUMC Conference Room

Reading List:

February 20, 2020: **Bold Spirit** by Linda Lawrence Hunt

If you have questions, please call the church office at 623-584-2280 and leave a message for Darlene Bradner or Mary Jane Banfield.

SHUMC ACTIVITIES

Tai Chi Classes

Charlie Gill brings his expertise, 30 years of experience and a fresh look and feel to Tai Chi (Yang style) at SHUMC!

New Class: TAI CHI ESSENTIALS—A basic class in Tai Chi movement with only five basic and less complex moves for those who find regular Tai Chi classes challenging, without compromising the training principles. This class emphasizes improved balance and muscle strength to help prevent falls.



8 weeks, \$45. Meets Tuesdays Jan 5-Feb 25 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall

BEGINNING TAI CHI CHU'AN—Also known as “meditation in motion.” The slow, gentle movements of regular Tai Chi practice can, over time, improve balance, strength, flexibility, and range of motion. This class will take you through the first set of Tai Chi postures.

8 weeks, \$45. Meets Tuesdays Jan 5-Feb 25 at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Call 623-584-2280 to sign up. For more info, contact Marty M., cherpigmom@aol.com

PRAYER NOTES

Have you ever read through the hymns? They are a wonderful source to help you with your devotional and prayer time. The Prayer Room and Library have hymnals for you to use if you don't have one at home.

In the Index there is a section called “Prayer.” You could begin with the hymn “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.” As you are preparing for worship on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning, you can use that time to read the hymns, as well.

“Prayer is the mortar that holds our house together”

St. Theresa of Avila

Bill and Linda White



ALPHA HELP NEEDED

We are excited that we already have over 40 people signed up for this event. Lunch is served every week and this is done to help create a relaxing and receptive environment. If you would like to help with lunches, for which we have budgeted, please call the church office at 623-584-2280.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may want to consider making charitable donations through a QCD. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity (SHUMC is a qualified church). QCD's can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMD's) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Also QCD's don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving. Please consult your financial advisor if you are interested.



THE LORD'S

Unfailing
Love

SURROUNDS THE ONE
WHO TRUSTS IN HIM.
PSALM 32:10, NIV

SHUMC ACTIVITIES

Our New Care Ministry Coordinator



Congregational Care

Shepherd of the Hills

I am delighted to announce that **Kathy Culliton** is our new *Care Ministries Coordinator*, in a volunteer position that will be assisting with the development of our Lay led congregational care. Kathy has a passion for showing the love of Christ to every person in concrete ways. She has helped us touch the lives of hundreds of people last year as the chair of Health and Welfare. Kathy has a nursing background; she is fun and loves sewing costumes as well as trying new things. She received training in the care ministry model “The Caring Congregation.”

Kathy will help us strengthen the connection between every part of the care we do together. This includes the pastoral staff, Parish Nurse, Health and Welfare, Prayer Ministry and other teams that are making an enormous difference in our congregation. There are many places to serve in congregational care, from the administrative side of it, to the practical aspects of this ministry. She will be a support for everyone currently serving in care ministries and those who will join us in the future. Please hold Kathy in your prayers on a regular basis, as she takes on this sacred work for the sake of God’s children, and making God’s kingdom visible to the world.

Pastor Alma



Tracking the Trustees

Trustees welcome our new members and officers for 2020! Mike Hicklin (Chair), Doug Culliton (Vice Chair), Cindy Larson (Secretary), Deb Helgeson, Marian Hamman, Don Trenda, Shawn McMullen, Clark Root and Rich Barchman. What a great crew!

We have several projects in the works as we begin our new year.

- * Sanctuary VEW system will be updated.
- *Sanctuary dimmable lighting will be updated as funds are available.
- *Landscaping which will include more rock in the dividers.
- *Cleaning the carpet in Fellowship Hall.
- *Parking lot repair and replacement.
- *New photocopier for our church office and mail room.

We look forward to another year filled with God’s many blessings and your generous donations which make our church campus a beautiful place to worship.

As always, we welcome your input.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

SHUMC ACTIVITIES

ASK ME ABOUT HEARTSAVERS

February 22 & 23 Heartsavers will be wearing **ASK ME ABOUT HEARTSAVERS** badges. They will be available before and after Worship services, and hosting the Sunday Fellowship time between services, happy to share information on CPR/AED training and what SHUMC Heartsavers do. If you are interested in serving at SHUMC as a Heartsaver, this is a good time to sign up.

Heartsaver Update and Review Meeting:

Tuesday, February 25 at 9:00-10:15am in the Choir Room

For all current Heartsavers: To renew your commitment as a Heartsaver and review pertinent related information. For those considering taking CPR/AED training and becoming a SHUMC Heartsaver, this meeting is a good introduction to our Heartsaver program. A CPR/AED class will be held at SHUMC on Wed., March 4th at 1:00-4:00 PM in Fellowship Hall for those Heartsavers who need to recertify after 2 years, and for those who would like to become a SHUMC Heartsaver. RSVP by March 1st to Esther Vallet, Parish Nurse at church office 623-584-2280 or parishnurse@shepherdofthehills.org



A big thank you to the ladies that have been making cards throughout the years, especially Joan Ferrell, Lois Smith, Anna Marie Polk, Lois Werwinski, Gretchen Phillips, Julie Killebrew, and Ardis Staples. We have two sales a year that help with Missions. Also thank you for the special cards for our church members who cannot come to services and for the knitting and crocheting of items for our sales.



If you will be celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary in 2020, or if you have not been recognized for this milestone at SHUMC, you are invited to participate in the Golden Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, February 16, 2020.

Bring a wedding photo to be displayed and the Family Life Committee will be taking your picture and serving cake in honor of the special day.

If you plan to take part in this event, please call the church office at 623-584-2280

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of persons who like to knit or crochet to help with making prayer shawls or lap covers for those in Hospice, the hospital, or just in need of a warm sign of caring. Those that receive these shawls are truly blessed. See Marlene Northup, if you are interested or call the church office at 623-584-2280. Yarn donations are appreciated, please bring to the church office.



LET US PRAY

“FOR LOVE”

By Carol Hilder

Dear Father, thank you
for showing us true love,
when you sacrificed your
Son for us.

You have shown us that
love means kindness, respect,
tolerance, understanding,
caring, warmth, and genuine
sacrifice of self.

Thank you for showing us a
way to worship you by being
loving in our relationships
with others, especially
through prayer.

AMEN



IN MEMORIAM

Jane Schaible
December 22, 2019

Robert Grant
December 27, 2019

Susan Bowman
December 27, 2019

Jo Tapscott
January 12, 2020

Darrell Wood
January 20, 2020

Heartsaver Health & Safety Tips

February is National Heart Month: Be a Heartsaver – learn CPR, it’s a life skill! Heartsavers are trained to use CPR and the AED (automated external defibrillator) in order to save the life of someone experiencing cardiac arrest. SHUMC has 26 trained Heartsavers. A goal of the SHUMC Heartsaver program is to have two Heartsavers at every Worship service and large activity such as Concerts and Family Life Dinners. For example, Heartsavers work in cooperation with ushers to care for someone who is not feeling well during a Worship service.

Upcoming Sermon Series

Feb 1-2

Persistent Hope

Psalm 71:1-9, 17-24

Communion

Superbowl Soup Sunday

Feb 8-9

Parables from the Outside: Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Feb 15-16

Parables from the Outside: The Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-20

50th Wedding Anniversaries Celebration

Feb 22-23

Parables from the Outside: Cornelius

Acts 11:1-18

Feb 26

Ash Wednesday

Feb 29/Mar 1

Focus on Forgiveness: Guilt & Shame

Matthew 5:23-24

First Sunday of Lent

Communion

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church

13658 W. Meeker Boulevard

Sun City West, AZ 85375-3700

**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER
PROMPTLY**

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE FEBRUARY 2020

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturdays 4:00 p.m., "Sweet Hour of Prayer" - Chapel

Sundays, 9:00 a.m. "Spirited Traditional Worship" - Sanctuary

Sundays, 10:45 a.m. "Informal Praise Service" - Sanctuary

Coffee Hour after Sunday service in Fellowship Hall! Come Join us.

