

The Voice

April 2021

He Walked The Earth To Know

What It's Like To Be Human.

He Suffered The Pain Of Death

On A Cross To Set Us Free.

He Rose From Death

To Bring Us Everlasting Life.

He Gave Us The Holy Spirit

So We Would Never Walk Alone.



The Lord is risen indeed.

Luke 24:34

JOIN US ONLINE FOR WORSHIP AT

WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLS.ORG

Pastoral Team

Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Alma Aguirre-Olivares, Associate Pastor

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

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

Staff

Julie Calvert, Accounting (Part-time)

Jodi De Luca, Administrative Secretary

Shawn McMullen, Maintenance Engineer

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

Sermons By Phone: 623-223-9151

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

You may pick up a paper copy of the Voice on the bench outside the office doors starting on the first of the month. Limited church participants and out-of-state copies will be mailed.

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13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375-3700

Submit articles: church@shepherdofthehills.org

Address corrections: church@shepherdofthehills.org

**Article deadline for May issue of The Voice
is Thursday, April 15, 2021**



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



A few weeks ago, as we began to make plans for Palm Sunday and Easter in-person services in the courtyard, we realized we really didn't know what to expect. How many services should we offer? When should we schedule them? Are people ready to come back? Are they still hesitant to be in groups? Our experience last November, when we opened for worship with a limit of 100, was that we never reached that number. We got closer and closer, but we still had available seats at the end of the month when COVID cases began to soar and we stopped offering the service for safety's sake. So we began with just two services, wondering if we would fill them, but scheduled them so we could add a third, if needed. You can't imagine our delight when the services quickly began to fill and our delight at reading your names and anticipating seeing you in-person. The 9:30 and 11:00 AM services on both Sundays are now full, but there is still room if you want to come for the 8:00 AM service! You might want a blanket for that one and you might want to bring your Easter bonnet, or even a parasol, for the 11:00 AM service as it will almost certainly be quite sunny. But we will be together, in-person, to share these holiest times of the Christian year and we can't wait!

We will also record services for each of these Sundays for those who are NOT ready, or not able to come, for any reason. Our Good Friday service will be recorded and sent out for your home worship on that special day.

Our hope is to keep in-person worship available going forward, first outside (at least April 11, perhaps April 18), with a service at 9:00 AM. If we find that service fills we will add a service at 10:30 AM.

By April 25 at the latest, we hope to move inside the Fellowship Hall, just until the sanctuary lighting project is complete. By the first week in May, we hope to be worshipping in the sanctuary every week, with social distancing, masks and great care at every service to ensure our mutual safety. You will be amazed at the enhancements that have been accomplished since we have been gone!

Worship in the Chapel will have to wait until the requirements for social distancing are eased, as it is too small for us to spread out as much as we need to. But we know you miss it and when we can, we will!

We never imagined we would be unable to gather for such a long time. As we come back together, we celebrate the rebirth of our in-person fellowship. Plans are being made for a homecoming celebration the first week of November, in which we invite our community to celebrate that we are BACK in a variety of ways – perhaps even a different event every day for a week. And sometime in late spring, we will offer some kind of service or event that acknowledges the losses we have experienced and helps us process some of the grief that is ours because of isolation, illness, death and other challenges of the season of COVID. Watch for further information and let us know if you would like to help.

Meanwhile, we will see you in church! Either in-person or virtually. And we will celebrate together the resurrection of our Lord. Alleluia! Amen!

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Deborah



PALM SUNDAY & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- March 28** Palm Sunday in Courtyard - Live Service - Masks and Social Distancing
Pre-Registration Required
8:00 A.M. - Spaces are available
9:30 and 11:00 A.M. are Now Full
- April 2** Good Friday Virtual Service available by 4:00 p.m.
- April 3-4** Easter Service available by 4:00 P.M. Saturday
- April 4** Easter in the Courtyard - Live Service - Masks and Social Distancing
Pre-Registration Required
8:00 A.M. - Spaces are available
9:30 and 11:00 A.M. are Now Full

PRAYER NOTES

While doing Bible study on John 15:11-17, Barclay's commentary had this to say. "Jesus chose us for a series of tremendous privileges. He called us to be his partners. He chose us to be privileged members of the family of God. He chose us so that whatever we ask in his name, the Father will give to us. It sounds as if the Christian will receive everything for which he prays. The New Testament lays down certain definite laws about prayer.

Prayer must be ***the prayer of faith*** (James 5:15). When it is a formality, merely the routine and conventional repetition of a form of words, it cannot be answered. To pray with power, a man must have an invincible belief in the all-sufficient love of God.

Prayer must be ***in the name of Christ***. We cannot pray for things of which we know that Jesus would disapprove. Whenever we try to turn prayer into something to enable us to realize our own ambitions and to satisfy our own desires, it must be ineffective, for it is not real prayer at all.

Prayer must say: "***Thy will be done.***" When we pray, we must first realize that we never know better than God. Real prayer must be, not that God would send us the things we wish, but that he would make us able to accept the things he wills.

Prayer must ***never be selfish***. When we pray, we must ask not only: "Is this for my good?" but: "Is this for the good of all men?" The greatest temptation of all in prayer is to pray as if nobody but ourselves mattered.

Jesus chose us to be privileged members of the family of God. We can and must take everything to God in prayer; but when we have done so, we must accept the answer which God, in his perfect wisdom and perfect love sends to us. And the more we love God, the easier it will be to do that.

Blessings, Bill and Linda White



Our sincere thanks to the congregation for supporting our Easter Basket Project.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

Each spring, United Methodist Women are asked to support a national project called, "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial," This year's donations will support the work of our eight Regional Missionaries. The project is called, "Training for Transformation" and will focus on training of women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Sierra Leone. The work of the missionaries in these areas will lead to improved education, better care of children and increase confidence and knowledge of current issues that enable women to stand up for justice. Our Unit has always faithfully contributed when this plea comes out from the national office.

We were pleased to have our District Shepherdes, Susan Briner, President of Lakeview UMW and West District Education for Mission Coordinator do our Zoom installation this year. Our Team was officially installed to carry out our duties as leaders in this Unit. We are still looking for two more members on our Team and would welcome any volunteers to serve with us.

Looking to the summer months, our annual national education program called Mission "u" will be done by Zoom. There will be a chance to participate in all three programs as there will be one presented in June, July and August. The study leaders are busy preparing for inspiring spiritual, educational, caring fellowship that is interactive.

We invite all women of our congregation to become members of our UMW Unit. We welcome all those who desire to make life better for women, children and youth throughout the world. Please contact Pam Rice, our Membership Coordinator or Sandy Bradley, our President, if you have questions. Their phone numbers can be found in the church telephone directory or by calling the church office.

-Submitted by Sandy Bradley



CHURCH WIDE CALLING - MARCH 22 THROUGH APRIL 4

The Care Ministry staff and volunteers will be calling our church family beginning March 22 through April 4. You may receive calls from different area codes, voice messages or emails from volunteers of the care ministries, so be aware this is a SHUMC project not a solicitor.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- 7 Bill & Janet Teegarden
- 18 Rich & Jean Barchman
- 24 Don & Dianne Schroetlin

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 8 Sue Lacy
- 23 Nancy Paauwe



If you would like your special occasions listed here, please let the office know. We do not publish without your express permission.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE HOLLENBAUGHS

Ritchey and Becki Hollenbaugh love life in Arizona! They have lived in the Vistancia area for three years, previously living in Columbus, Ohio where Becki was an 8th grade teacher and Ritchey was a lawyer. Both grew up in small towns in Ohio and their families were active in churches. The choice of joining SHUMC was because of the pastors. Becki enjoys the weekly Bible study on Zoom.

The Hollenbaughs moved to this area to escape cold weather and they enjoy golf so much that they play several times a week. Between them, they have four children and nine grandchildren, who range in age from 4 to 22. With the lessening of the pandemic, Becki and Ritchey are looking forward to spending more time with the family members who live nearby and also traveling to visit others out-of-state. Like many other SHUMC members, they want to attend services in-person when conditions allow.

Submitted by Becky Fay



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The staff at UMOM recently presented a Zoom conference to the SHUMC Missions Committee. UMOM provides the largest shelter for families experiencing homelessness. UMOM serves shelters for women and youth. UMOM prevents and ends homelessness for 15,000 people per year in Maricopa County.

There are two frequent misconceptions about people experiencing homelessness. One is that people end up homeless by choosing not to work. More frequent causes are loss of a job due to layoff or illness, loss of a wage-earning spouse, lack of affordable housing or domestic abuse. Often people have jobs and are working hard, but it is still not enough income to rise above the poverty level. Another misconception is the view that the homeless are men panhandling on the street. However, a more accurate view is of a little boy or girl with no place to lay their head, as families are the fastest growing group of people lacking housing.

UMOM provides emergency shelter for 155 families onsite at the center in Phoenix and an additional 200 throughout the metro area. The average stay in the UMOM emergency shelters for families and youth is 120 days. UMOM also has developed over 500 units of affordable housing for low-income families and individuals throughout the Valley and plans to increase that total each year.

In addition to shelter and affordable housing, the support services of workforce development, health and wellness and children’s services are available to clients. Examples of workforce development are learning how to find job openings, refining interview abilities and improving on-the-job skills.

UMOM believes that INCOME + HOUSING = THE END OF HOMELESSNESS. UMOM can be contacted at <https://umom.org>.

LABYRINTH

Our Church Council is planting the seed of possibly adding a labyrinth to our campus. If you are interested in helping make this seed grow, contact Linda & Bill White.



A Sneak Peak of the New VEW Booth



Joseph Kupper of Lighthouse Productions is shown installing the new VEW systems.

Multi view camera monitor - top

Video editing computer—lower left

Live streaming monitor and related electronics—lower right

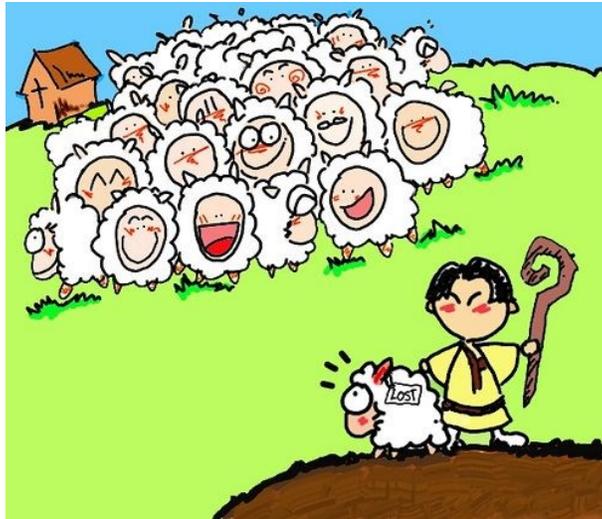


AIR SCRUBBER UPDATE

Thank you for your generous donations towards this project. Eight new air scrubbing systems were added to improve the health and safety concerns as we plan to resume in-person worship.

Trustees





COMING IN MAY

What's your favorite parable?

Which parable do you find hardest to understand?

If you are interested in learning more about the meaning of Parables and what others think, please join us via Zoom on Fridays at 10:30 AM.

In preparation for the discussions, we need your help.

Please tell us via email or a call, what parable(s) you would like to discuss. Then we will publish a schedule and provide material for review ahead of time so we can have an informed get together.

Check your weekly E-News for more parables information.

Contact Pat Burke or Pam Cutter for more information.

Their information is in the church telephone directory or call the church office.

THANK YOU CITRUS GLEANERS!

Another successful year! Thanks to all their hard work, our SHUMC volunteers and SCW Prides group donated the fruit to the St. Mary's Food Bank. Your efforts are touching lives in our community.





In Memoriam ... never forgotten

David Robinson - 1/25/2021

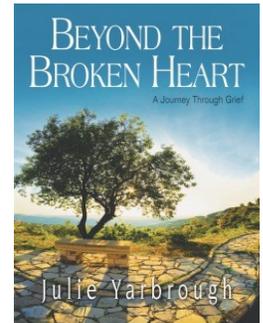
ANNOUNCING NEW CLASS

Beyond the Broken Hearted - A Journey Through Grief

by Julie Yarbrough and Gregg Medlyn

Beginning the last week of April (8 Sessions)

Led by Pastor Stephanie Soon



Check E-News and website in April for more details.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR SANDWICH MAKING PROJECT!

Sign up to help on Mondays at 9:00 A.M. Call Pam Rice or Kathy Culliton to reserve a seat.

Pam found some interesting facts about Peanut Butter. Did You Know.....?

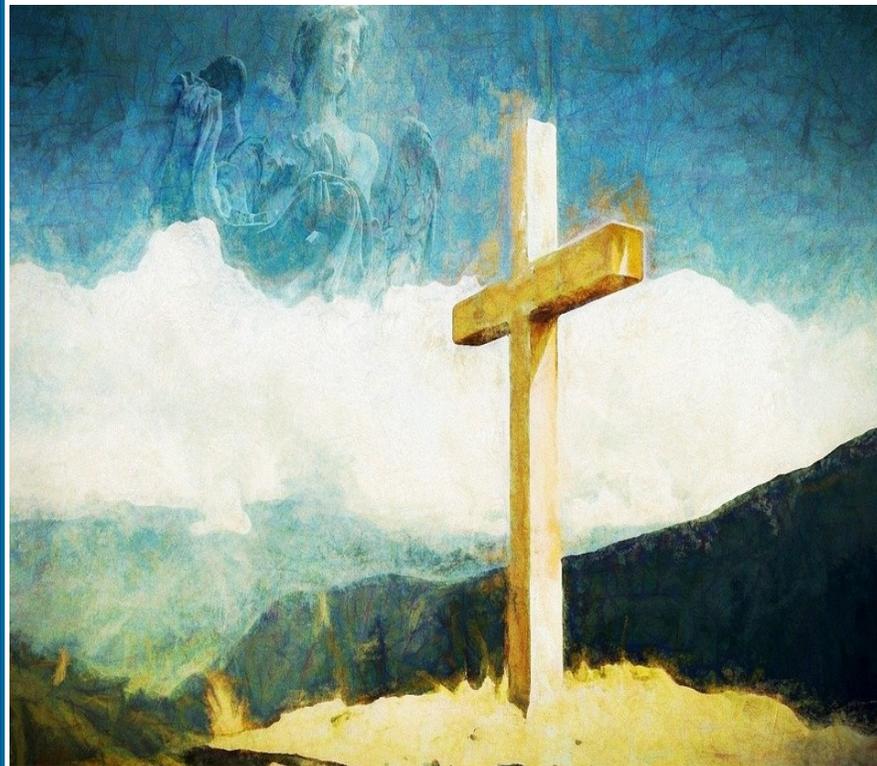
- In 2016, 1,000 college students set a world's record with making 49,475 PB&J sandwiches in an hour! They used 1,875 loaves of bread. I'm sure we could beat that record, if we tried.
- Do you like crunchy, smooth, or does it matter? 49% of us prefer crunchy, 29% prefer smooth and 20% eat either one.
- What is a fear of peanut butter getting stuck to the roof of your mouth called? Arachibutyphobia
- At the Emmy Awards in 2006, Jimmy Kimmel passed out 7,000 PB&J sandwiches.
- Peanut Butter is not made overseas except in China, where Skippy has a factory.
- George W. Bush added peanut butter sandwiches with grape, strawberry and raspberry jam/jelly to the White House menu.
- According to Peter Pan Company, in 2016 Americans ate 2,988 sandwiches per year. That's 3/month for 83 years.



[WE ARE BACK! JOIN US FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SERVICES IN THE COURTYARD](#)

8:00 AM RESERVATIONS ARE OPEN FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER.

Start your day early by joining your church family for in-person worship.



LET US PRAY
 “FOR JESUS”
 By Carol Hilder
 NO GREATER LOVE HAS THERE
 EVER BEEN THAN WHEN HE
 WENT TO THE CROSS TO PAY
 FOR OUR SINS.
 WE’RE CALLED “EASTER PEOPLE,”
 BECAUSE OF THE CROSS, CELEBRATING
 HIS VICTORY INSTEAD OF
 GREAT LOSS.
 THANK YOU, LORD JESUS
 AMEN



Circle the City
 healthcare for the homeless

YOUR EASTER DONATIONS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF SPECIAL PERSONS ARE SUPPORTING *CIRCLE THE CITY*

Mission: To create and deliver innovative healthcare solutions that compassionately address the needs of men, women and children facing homelessness.

Circle the City offers holistic integrated care for individuals experiencing homelessness, meeting the patient’s medical, social, emotional and spiritual needs. They are the only medical respite program for those experiencing homelessness in the state of Arizona and are a model for the country. In 2018, *Circle the City* opened a new medical respite center. With a 50-bed facility, people experiencing homelessness and medical concerns can heal, rest in safety and peace and get treatment from onsite doctors. The facility is founded on the concept that, “*Everyone deserves a time and place to heal.*”

Mobile Medical Units – *Circle the City* offers four mobile medical units to deliver outreach medical services to some of the most vulnerable in our communities. The units provide a two-room mobile health care clinic that rotates through parks, permanent supportive housing complexes and social service agencies during weekdays to provide outreach care for those who cannot access the fixed sites.

The challenges are many with COVID-19 and they are testing and giving out vaccines with limited supplies and age requirements.

Healing homelessness. **TOGETHER.**

For further information, please go to: <https://www.circlethecity.org>

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 APRIL 2021

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE

www.shepherdofthehills.org

**Palm Sunday &
Easter Worship Services
In The Courtyard
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Reservations Required
Masks & Social
Distancing**

