



Give Thanks

*The Voice
November 2021*



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

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.

VOICE DELIVERY METHODS

You may pick up a paper copy of the Voice in the church office starting on the first of the month. 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 the December issue of The Voice
is Monday, November 15, 2021**



A Word From Pastor



Dear Friends,

November is the month for giving thanks and this year I give thanks for so many things:

- that we are able to gather in person (I missed you all so much, for so long!);
- that many who are not able to come in person AND many who have never worshiped with us in person can worship with us online and be blessed;
- that most of our newcomers began attending worship when we were not even having in person worship and are now here and eager for connections and participation.
- for our Visually Enhanced Worship Team, who have worked so hard to figure out how to do all of these strange new things;
- for Mike H., who diligently moved forward to ensure we had all the equipment we needed to do live streaming;
- for Shawn, whose tireless labor has kept our sanctuary looking wonderful even as holes were torn in ceilings and walls for wires and cameras and speakers and lights.
- to our Care Team, who have tirelessly reached out to touch those in crisis with love and care, even when we cannot be present in person to pray.

I am grateful for all of you who still call SHUMC home, even after such a long period when we have been dispersed to our own homes when we would prefer to be together.

Finally, I am grateful that as this month begins we will have numerous opportunities to connect with each other for worship and food and fun and music and RUMMAGE, as part of our weeklong "A New Season" celebration. The byline for these events is "*New Life - New Hope - New Possibilities.*" We have named the woman raising her arms in our banners, flyers and posters "Hope." She represents our certainty that God is indeed about to do a new thing, with each of us and with our church, to bring new light and life into the world.

Please plan to join us for as many of these events as you can. No masks are required for the outdoor events (most of them) and we look forward to seeing your smiling face as we gather.

This month always brings to my mind the wonderful hymn "Now Thank We All Our God:"

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

To that I can only say: Amen, and amen.

May your Thanksgiving be deeply meaningful and filled with joy.

Blessings and Peace
Pastor Deborah



All Saint's Worship Service Sunday, November 7

On Sunday, November 7 we will observe All Saint's Day in worship with the naming of all our beloved SHUMC saints who have graduated to glory in the past year.



Update on Worship Schedule

You may be wondering when we will resume our “normal” winter worship schedule. Usually by October, or November at the latest, we have returned to two services on Sunday morning plus Saturday afternoons.

However, in this era of world wide pandemic we have learned there is no such thing as normal! “Normal” a few years ago would have meant our (at that time ONLY) in person worship services would be rapidly growing in attendance as our winter visitors return from other climes to rejoin us. While we are holding our own in total attendance (in-person + online) the number of persons in the room for worship is still quite low. On October 10 and 17, we had 170+ in attendance, in a space that holds 675. (In case you were wondering, there is plenty of room for YOU!)

As a result, the staff and worship team have agreed that we will stay with one service on Sunday morning through the end of 2021. Our hope is to re-start the second service (informal contemporary with a praise team) on January 16, 2022. At that time we will shift the second service by 15 minutes to allow for Sunday school to be held in between.

The new pattern after that date will be Spirited Traditional at 9:00 with Informal Contemporary at 11:00. Coffee Hour will also be held between services.

We hope to restart the Saturday service on the same weekend, Saturday, January 15. To strengthen our numbers for this service we will be offering one service in November, on November 13; and one in December, on December 11, with special meals following. If you love the Saturday service or if you have wanted to check it out please mark these dates on your calendar.

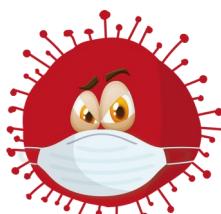
We know some of you prefer the 9:00 AM hour for worship and many of you are really missing the contemporary service and/or the Saturday service. We are moving forward as quickly as we can to restore life together to a more normal kind of pace. It is taking longer than any of us would choose to regain strength and vitality after such a long period of disruption. Please keep our staff and worship team in your prayers as we make the best decisions we can for each moment in time.



Maleta C. received the United Methodist Women’s Special Mission Recognition pin at the October UMW meeting. Maleta’s dedication to God and her church family has been shown in many ways.

This Christian woman has inspired us with her special devotions and prayers. She helps us center in our faith before team meetings and at all of our UMW luncheons. She brings calm when we especially need it. This congregation and especially, we in UMW, thank her for her devoted service. She is an outstanding example of true Christian love and faith. She is our Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth.

REMINDER: Communion Sunday, November 7, 2021



NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OUR COVID TASK FORCE

MASKS ARE STILL STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

The SHUMC COVID TASK FORCE met on October 19 to consider recommendations for our life together. While the rates of transmission are still very high in Sun City West and surrounding communities, the group also acknowledges the role of individual responsibility as we deal with this lingering worldwide pandemic. In earlier stages, when less was known, we took a strong stance to ensure the safety of our beloved community in pre and early vaccine days.

Now that more is known about how this virus spreads, we believe it appropriate to allow those who call our church home and those who visit, to make more of their own decisions about personal safety.

Effective immediately, masks will be strongly recommended but not required for worship and other large group gatherings. They will be required for those in leadership (pastors, staff, worship hosts and choir) and those preparing or serving food or beverages.

Masks will be required for small group gatherings in either the Fellowship Hall meeting room or the Conference Room If the group size exceeds six. Teams, classes and groups of more than six who do not want to require masking should request a larger meeting space, like the corner of the Fellowship Hall or its lobby. The group also approved use of the Chapel for groups of up to 60 with the same recommendation for mask wearing.

Other decisions:

Masks are NOT required for groups of any size meeting outdoors.

Outside groups who use our facility may follow their own recommendations for masking and distancing.

Thank you to this faithful group who are working to keep us safe in difficult times.

FAITHFUL – CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF JOSEPH

CONNECTIONS CLASS - 4 WEEK CLASS CORRELATES ADVENT SERMON SERIES

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 28, DECEMBER 5, 12 & 19 AT 8:45 A.M.

ONLINE - WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 1, 8, 15 & 22 AT 11:00 A.M.



Register at kiosk or contact church office 623-584-2280 or

www.shepherdofthehills.org

Books optional – Available in church office



Reminder: A New Season Schedule



REMINDER

Sunday, October 31



10:00 AM

Outdoor Worship at Beardsley Park

Catered (Fried Chicken!) Picnic Lunch
Games and conversations
Bring your friendship group! Friends! Family!
(We will also offer online worship this day.)

Monday, November 1



8:00-10:00 AM

Pancake Breakfast by Memo's -- Courtyard

Missions opportunities: make sandwiches for Justa Center and/or Kindness Kits for Circle the City

Tuesday, November 2



6:15 PM

Watch *I Still Believe* (The story of Jeremy Camp)

4:30-6:00 PM

Buy a **Memo's BBQ sandwich** in the Courtyard

Wednesday, November 3



6:00 – 7:30 PM

Dan Reed Concert in the Parking Lot

4:30- 6:00 PM

Food vendors in the Parking Lot

Memo's hot sandwiches and Queso!

Thursday, November 4



9:00 AM– Noon

Shredding Event - in the Parking Lot

Friday, November 5

8:00 AM– 4:00 PM

Craft and Rummage Sale - Parking Lot and Courtyard

8:00 – 10:00 AM

Donuts and Coffee

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Street Tacos by Memo's



&



Bring a pack of socks, underwear or diapers for a person of ANY age/gender to each event (and every time you come to the church this month). We'll be sure they get to folks in need at UMOM, Justa Center or Dysart Community Center.



**Grief Support Group Meets Thursdays
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall Meeting Room**

This is a "drop-in when you can" support group. Feel free to bring a friend! Led by Pastor Stephanie



Saturday Services - Veterans – Free Thanksgiving Meal



SPECIAL SATURDAY SERVICES

November 13 and December 11

4 PM with Dinner Following

Is Saturday your favorite time to worship?

Have you wondered what our Saturday services are like?

This is your moment!

We aren't quite ready to re-start the Saturday service, but want to provide one time in November and December for gathering and touching base. All the beloved elements of this service (casual format, hymn sing, frequent use of the Apostle's Creed) will be included, plus a new one: we will celebrate Holy Communion in each gathering moving forward.

Plan to come to service and then gather for a meal. In November, this will be lasagna, macaroni and cheese and chicken fingers from Cane's, along with all the trimmings.

We need to know you are coming so we provide enough food. Please RSVP for the November gathering by calling 623-584-2280 or emailing the office at church@shepherdofthehills.org or filling out a paper registration and returning it to the church.

Please bring a friend who might be blessed by the special nature of these "Sweet Hour of Prayer" gatherings.

Hope to see you there!

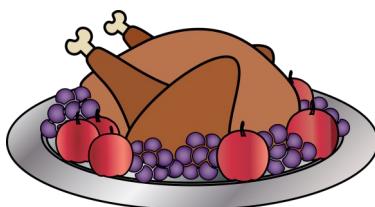
Blessings and Peace,

*Rev. Deborah Lerner
Senior Pastor*



HONORING OUR VETERANS

Thursday, November 11 is Veteran's Day, a national holiday in which we remember and give thanks for all persons, in any branch of military service, who have put themselves in harm's way to serve. We will give thanks in worship on **Sunday, November 14** by recognizing the veterans among us and thanking them for their service. If you are a veteran, you are invited to wear your uniform or any part of it on that Sunday. We are grateful to each of you for your role in preserving our freedom and the right to worship as we choose.



Free Thanksgiving Meal

The Care Team is offering to bring free Thanksgiving Meals to anyone who is alone or unable to make a special meal for Thanksgiving. Last year, many of our members were unable to gather with family and we delivered over 50 meals. Please notify Kathy C., Ernestine R. or call the church office at 623-584-2280 if you wish to order a Thanksgiving meal.



New Sermon Series and Class for November: TREASURE

Money affects your heart. Whether you are in plenty or in want, money has a direct connection to your stress level, your anxiety and the health of your relationships. It is no wonder then, that Jesus talked about the relationship between our treasure and our hearts.

The first three weeks in November we will look at the many ways that our treasure (time, energy, money) affects our spiritual and emotional lives. Join us for a short class starting Wednesday, November 3 and in worship starting Sunday, November 7, as we begin our new sermon series called *Treasure*. We will explore Matthew 6 and Jesus' teachings on money, giving, worry and more.

At the end of this series we will have an opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will receive commitment cards in the mail and cards will be available on Sunday mornings. We will bring these commitment cards to worship on Sunday, November 22.

I hope that you'll join us in the coming weeks as we look at Jesus' teaching on how we can avoid freedom from some of the common pitfalls related to money and how we can give our lives and our treasure to God.



Lill & Ernie M.

Lill M. grew up in multicultural Chicago in a family of five children. She married Ernie, who was her high school sweetheart, in 1949. The couple had a business and raised two children, Sally Ann and Dean. Lill and Ernie moved to Arizona in 1989. They travelled in an RV to many states and took several cruises. Lill has happy memories of those trips.

Lill and Ernie joined Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church in 1991. She recalls that the church choir needed some money to go on a trip in the early 1990s and she worked on a rummage sale that raised funds to enable the choir to go on the trip. She has been working on rummage sales at the church when they have been held ever since. She has been a member of the Sew Happy Circle at the church and Rip and Sew at the Sun City West Recreation Center for many years. Lill had to replace her sewing machine this year because it wore out from so much use!

Lill feels that her faith gets her through difficulties, such as the recent death of her husband of almost 72 years. She is involved with friends and an extended family. Exercise is part of her daily routine, except for Sundays when she rests. The church's weekly Bible study on Zoom is of special interest to Lill as she is challenged by the ideas discussed. Lill enjoys her life!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HANGING OF THE GREENS ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27. MORE DETAILS IN THE ENEWS. WE WILL DO A PORTION OF THE SANCTUARY ON SATURDAY AND COMPLETE THE PROJECT AFTER THE BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE. – WORSHIP COMMITTEE



Blue Christmas Service 2021

Thursday December 2, at 3:30 PM.

You are invited to our Blue Christmas service on **December 2, at 3:30 PM** in our sanctuary. It is designed with serene liturgical elements that create space for hope and support.

Come listen with us, join in prayers, scripture, ritual and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle this Christmas season.

Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.

The short service will be followed by a brief time for a light meal and fellowship.



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When You've Been Scammed!

If you have been the target of text or email scams, here are some helpful ways to report those scams:

Text Scams can be reported by **forwarding the message to 7726** (it spells "spam" on a phone's keypad). More information is available at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-report-spam-text-messages#spam>.

Email Scams can be reported to Anti-Phishing Working Group at reportphishing@apwg.org and FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Find out more at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>.



Nativity Crèche Display & Sing-Along

Members and friends of SHUMC have an opportunity to view nativity crèches on **Sunday, December 19 and participate in a Christmas Carol Sing-Along.**

If you have a crèche to display, sign up on the clipboard at the kiosk on Sundays or in the church office. Fill out a form to describe your crèche so we know the size and history.

Bring your crèche to Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, December 18 between 9:00 a.m. and noon.**

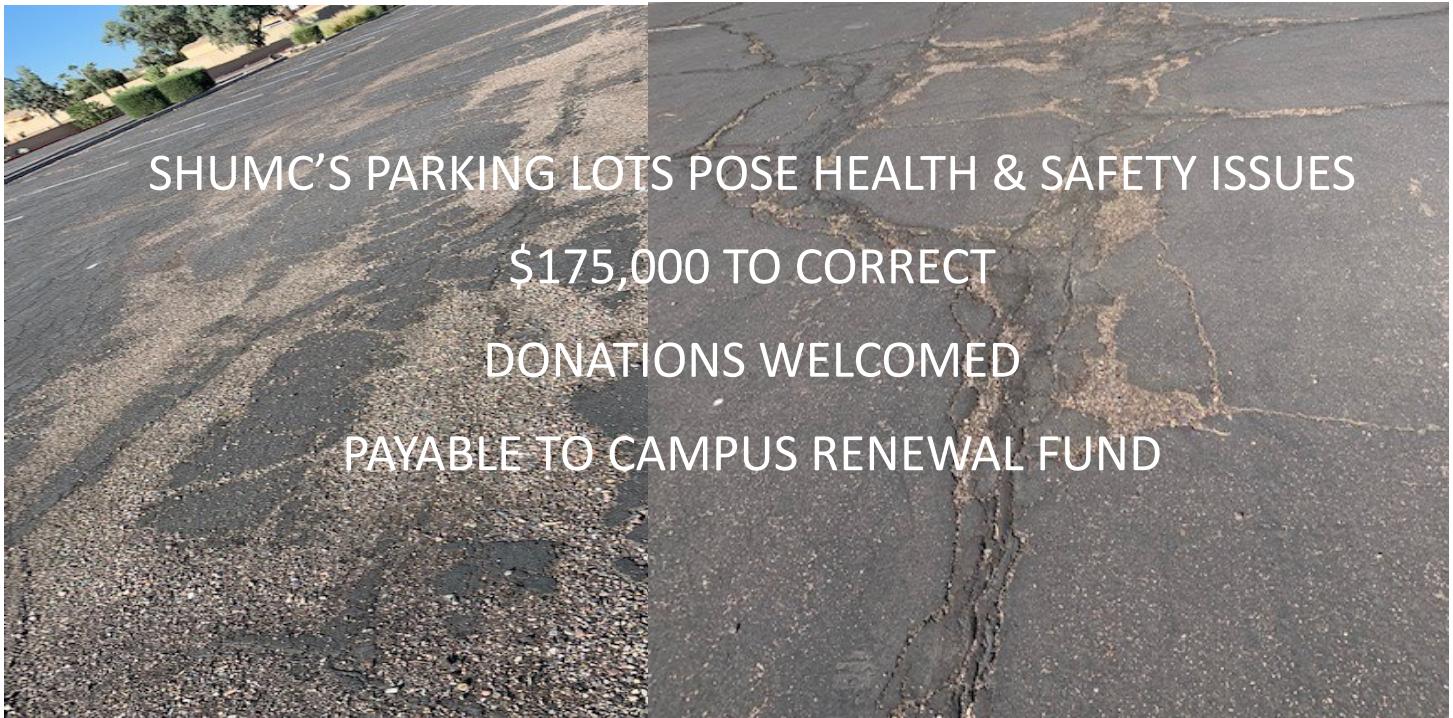
The SHUMC Social Shepherds will help with the set-up. All the pieces will be out of reach of visitors and the description or story will be closer so that it can be read easily. Everything will be safe and secure.

The display can be viewed during the coffee hour after services on Sunday, December 19.

A Christmas carol sing-along with Bill Moore will be held during the coffee hour. Please remove your crèche after the sing-along. For more information, contact Sharon S.



Trustees - Parking Lot - In Memoriam –Charge Conference



SHUMC'S PARKING LOTS POSE HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES
\$175,000 TO CORRECT
DONATIONS WELCOMED
PAYABLE TO CAMPUS RENEWAL FUND

Please join us for our Annual All Church/Charge Conference
Tuesday, November 30 at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall
With SPRC Meeting preceding at 9:00 AM

Our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Susan Brims, will be present to hear how our church is doing and what we plan for the coming year.

All persons are welcome. Full members of the church are allowed to vote.

Church officers for the coming year will be elected at this meeting.



In Memoriam

Aneta B. (former member)	September 11
Bobbie V.	September 16
Wanda B.	September 29
Leone C. (former member)	October 9



NOTICE: The SHUMC Foundation Annual meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 in the church Fellowship Hall Meeting Room at 2:00 p.m.

LET US PRAY

“Thanks-Giving”
By Carol H.

Come to the table,
if you are able,
and give thanks to
Our Lord.

It's time for
thanks-giving for
the life we are living
today.

We are His children,
blessed from above,
with His gracious
kindness and
forgiving love.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

AMEN

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Becky F.
2	Larry L.
4	Rev. Lee H.
7	Mary Ann K.
7	Diane S.
9	Lill M.
9	Elaine B.
13	Bobbie L.
17	Bill T.
20	Bill W.
21	Joyce R.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3	Jim & Virginia R.
17	Burton & Frances V.

PRAYER NOTES

Prayer invites us to rest in the fact that God is in control and the world's problems are ultimately God's....not ours. If we spend enough time with God, we will inevitably begin to look at the world with a point of view that more resembles God's own. What is faith, after all, but the believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse?

Philip Yancey – Prayer – Does It Make Any Difference?

Blessings – Bill and Linda W.

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church

13658 W. Meeker Boulevard

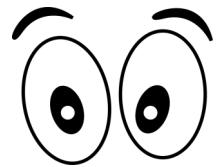
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THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE NOVEMBER 2021

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**JOIN US ON
OCT. 31 - NOV. 5**