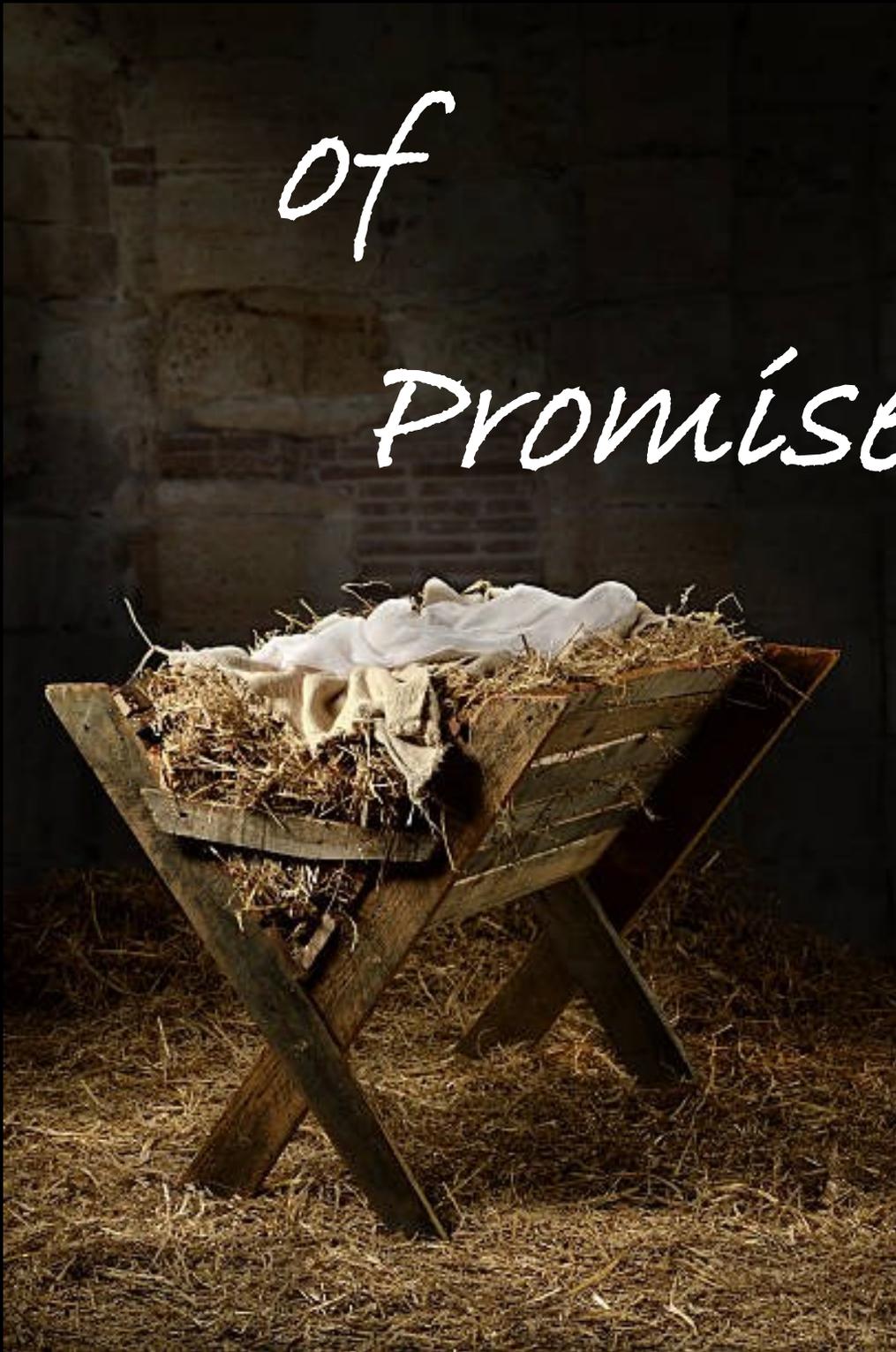


Child

of

PROMISE



Voice - December 2021

# JOIN US ONLINE FOR WORSHIP AT

[WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLS.ORG](http://WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLS.ORG)

## Pastoral Team

Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Alma Aguirre-Olivares, Associate Pastor  
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](mailto: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](mailto:church@shepherdofthehills.org)

Address corrections: [church@shepherdofthehills.org](mailto:church@shepherdofthehills.org)

**Article deadline for the January/February issue of The Voice  
is Friday, January 14, 2022**

## A Word From Pastor



Dear Friends,

As we move into the month of December, we also move more deeply into the season of Advent, a time of spiritual preparation before we joyously celebrate the birth of the Christ child on Christmas Eve. This year we will be focusing on the events leading up to and through that birth through the eyes of Joseph, who was asked by God to take the extraordinary role of serving as Jesus' earthly father. It was a big ask. His fiancée had disclosed that she was pregnant, and he knew he was not the father. His faithfulness is apparent from the first moment, when he simply does as the angel asks, and takes Mary as his wife, and leads her to his birthplace to register for the census, stays with her through a birth in a place not fit for spending the night, and embarks upon the journey of fatherhood.

I hope you will consider joining our Sunday Connections class to enrich this season. They will be using the same resource we will use to shape our worship and messages: **Adam Hamilton's Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph.**

Some of you are struggling with the season after suffering a recent loss, or facing a difficult moment in life, or feeling alone or less than festive. I hope you will consider joining our **Blue Christmas** service in person or live streamed on **Thursday, December 2 at 3:30 PM.** It has been planned with you in mind, and will offer you a quiet space of connection where we hope you will discover hope. Those worshipping in person will be invited to share a simple meal together.

**Saturday, December 11** you have an opportunity to join our Saturday service in its usual format with a sermon, followed by dinner (please register so our cooks prepare enough food). **Sunday, December 12** you can enjoy our choir's cantata, "**Silent Night,**" either in person or by livestream. It has been far too long since we had the opportunity to experience the Christmas story through music! Make it a full weekend and attend both. Then you will have the sermon for the week AND the experience of hearing the story musically.

Finally, on **Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24,** we will gather at new times: 3:00 and 5:00 PM for identical candlelight celebrations. These services are traditional lessons and carols format, so you have plenty of opportunity to sing the carols you love and hear the full story in worship together. We are trying these new times in the hopes of spreading out our attendance a bit more for the sake of safety. Our early service has always been better attended.

This is my favorite time of the year: moving from the deep gratitude of Thanksgiving into a time of frequent gathering (how I have missed that, the last couple of years) and reminding ourselves who and whose we are, and finally celebrating the great gift of love that is ours in Jesus our Christ. Plan to join us as often as you can.

May your Advent and Christmas Season be a time of deep blessing and hope.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Deborah



## Blue Christmas & Connections Class



**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](http://www.shepherdofthehills.org)  
 Books optional – Available in church office*

### Blue Christmas Service

**Thursday, December 2, at 3:30 P.M.**



Our Blue Christmas Service offers a meditative quiet space to any person in our community and congregation, who find the holidays to be a challenging time because of different important losses they have experienced. The bright lights, joyful sounds and demand of energy for this season can be overwhelming for someone who experiencing grief, depression, or a really tough time.

Come join us if you want to celebrate the Christmas season in an atmosphere that is more conducive to honoring how you are feeling, which may be different than many other persons around you. And if possible, invite someone who could also find this service supportive to their needs.

Expect also a delicious comfort food meal after the service, to which you are invited at no cost.

**NOTE:** If you would like, you are welcomed to come light one of the candles set up on a special table, for your most important losses, your prayers, or what feels right for you at that time. Candles will be ready as early as half an hour before the service starts.





## New Season Week & Thank You



### A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO ALL WHO MADE OUR NEW SEASON WEEK SPARKLE



I hope you had a chance to attend our New Season events held October 31 through November 5. They gave us a great opportunity to gather, re-connect after years apart, visit, and be blessed as we worshipped, ate fried chicken, pancakes, barbeque sandwiches and quesadillas, enjoyed a Christian movie and a jazz concert, got all our documents shredded and traded stuff at a rummage sale. Along the way we had an opportunity to share with many newcomers the wonderful things going on in our church and collected a GIANT bin full of undies and socks and made 200 kindness kits for Circle the City.

None of this would have happened without the work of Diana K., who took on the monumental task of giving shape to this series of events. She went out and found us caterers and a food truck and helped us get things on the right date and encouraged us all to create displays to illustrate our ministries. She thought about details the rest of us never even noticed to make each event run as if we did them every day. When she had to step away for personal reasons we weren't sure we would be able to complete the mission. Be sure to give her a big thank you.

Also vital was the work of Carolyn H., who created all of our advertising, signs, banners, and registration materials and got us into the Independent (on the front page!). She also created the thank you cards for our community workers who served through COVID and the cards we enclosed in the Circle the City bags. She put together the slide show that ran at our display tables, purchased the trifolds, and created many of the materials on display.

Thanks also to Patty O'N. and the worship team, choir, and Earth Angels Friendship Group, for their work on the worship and picnic in the park, Sandy B. and UMM and UMW for their support of the pancake breakfast; Marian H. who took on the coordination of the meal and movie on Tuesday with the help of SPRC; Social Shepherds for their coordination of the food and concert on Wednesday; Finance for the shredding event, and the Rummage Sale committee.

It was a group effort, and everyone who attended was blessed. We are deeply grateful for your creativity, hard work, and devotion.

### THANK YOU SO MUCH!



All of your pastors have been deeply blessed by your cards, notes, and gifts over the month of October and following. We feel deeply appreciated! With the New Season Events quickly followed by Thanksgiving, Charge Conference, Advent, and Christmas we hope you will forgive us for not writing individual and personal thank you notes, which all of us would prefer to do. We are grateful to serve among you, and look forward to all God has for us to do and be together.

- Pastors Deborah, Alma & Stephanie

## Coming Events

### Saturday Night Worship & Dinner - December 11 4:00 P.M. Worship with Dinner Following



We aren't quite ready to re-start the Saturday service, but want to provide a time in 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 and social. **Please wear an ugly Christmas sweater or tie.** We will be having a Christmas dinner together.

We need to know you are coming so we provide enough food. Please RSVP for the December gathering by calling 623-584-2280 or emailing the office at [church@shepherdofthehills.org](mailto:church@shepherdofthehills.org) or filling out a paper registration and returning it to the church by **Monday, December 6**. Please bring a friend who might be blessed by the special nature of these "Sweet Hour of Prayer" gatherings.

### NATIVITY CRECHE DISPLAY & SING-ALONG



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

If you have a creche to display, sign up on the clipboard at the kiosk on Sundays or in the church office. Bring your creche to Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 18, between 9:00 AM and Noon.

The Social Shepherds Committee will help with 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 M. will be held during the coffee hour. Please remove your creche after the sing-along. For more information, please contact Sharon S.

### Silent Night: A Cantata by Sally DeFord

**December 12, 2021**

**10:00 A.M. Worship Service**

**Unable to attend, please watch it as it is live streamed**

**or at your leisure at:**

**[www.shepherdofthehills.org](http://www.shepherdofthehills.org)**





## Holiday Offering & United Methodist Women



### Holiday Offering



Reminder the SHUMC Holiday offering is for UMCOR, United Methodist Committee on Relief.

UMCOR is the global humanitarian aid and development organization of the United Methodist Church. Your contributions will make a remarkable difference by blessing and bringing hope to many people in the United States, during some of the potentially worst times of their lives. Please make checks out to Shepherd of the Hills UMC with the notation Thanksgiving/Christmas offering.

### NEWS FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



It feels so good to be together again. Our fall luncheon in October was a success. We were pleased to see so many. Kneaders did a great job with the box lunches, and everyone went home with a dozen eggs, a gift from Hickman Farm's speaker, Aaron C.

I want to thank all that helped at the UMW Pancake Breakfast. We had more than enough help and there was time for fellowship as well. It was especially great to have the help of our Methodist Men's Group. We also thank all who helped and all who bought Fritters on Friday. We made a profit of \$300.

Our Christmas luncheon is right around the corner and we plan to collect children's books and puzzles as we have done in the past. We invite the whole congregation to participate in the project. There will be a box in front of the church office for your donations We ask that you keep the puzzle piece count below 200. We will be distributing them on December 15th to local agencies that have after-school programs.

We are looking forward to having our monthly luncheons again in the New Year. Our January meeting will be held January 6 with the installation of our new officers. We are thrilled to have a full slate and there will be new faces bringing new ideas. Our program will feature Janet T., a member of our church's bell choir. She is on the governing council of "Rise," a grassroots community based educational organization affiliated with Rio Salado College. She will enlighten us about Rise and give a short program about bells.

Our United Methodist Women's Sunday will be January 9 and our keynote speaker will be Blaine B., the CEO at Wesley Community and Health Centers. Many new and wonderful things are happening there!

We continue to be thankful for the support you have given our Mission Candle Project. We are happy to give you the opportunity to remember special persons and events, and to honor loved ones by lighting the candle each week. In doing so you enable our UMW to continue to support local charities and organizations. United Methodist Women send along our blessings during this Advent Season. - Sandy B.



## Help Wanted - Rummage Sale & Thank You Pat & Jack Burke



### Reminder: West Valley Chorale Concert

#### RUMMAGE SALE – HELP WANTED



Earlier this year I wrote that I was stepping down from chairing the rummage sale. At the time I thought I just needed a break. But since then, my husband and I decided to move to the Austin, Texas area so we can watch our 2 and 4-year-old grandchildren grow up. So, I am extending a plea for people to volunteer to chair this event - or something similar. What has always been most important in working the rummage sale has been the friendships and camaraderie that developed - the sense of community - so I hope that part can be carried on in some way.

Of course, we made money over the years and those funds went toward missions, updating in the Fellowship Hall, and the purchase of large print books for our library, etc.

We were also an outreach to the community as some items were donated directly to charities we support; and we made a positive impression on so many, based on feedback we have received over the years.

Hopefully, someone reading this will volunteer to assume responsibility for the rummage sale – there is a great experienced support team in place. Or perhaps someone reading this has a new idea for a fund-raising event that will engage church members and make a difference in the community at large.

Thanks for all the support over the years and the great memories!

-Pat B.



#### Thank you Pat!

One of the big events of our church year, pre-Covid 19, was our annual rummage sale. This event brought together people from across the church to sort, pack, store, pull out, price, and sell enormous amounts of “stuff.” For three days our church would buzz with activity, greetings, and joy.

This effort has been led for several years by Pat B., who with her husband Jack, will now be moving to Texas to be nearer to their beloved grandchildren. It was greatly missed during our period of

shut down, and greeted with joy even in its pandemic “mini” form a few weeks ago.

We are grateful for her leadership, and will miss her greatly! Pat has also served in many leadership positions, most recently as co-chair of education. Please take a moment soon to express your thanks and to send her off to new adventures with love and encouragement. (And, by the way: we are looking for new leadership to coordinate next year’s (hopefully full) rummage sale. Please let Pastor Deborah know of your interest!)

*Blessings and Peace, Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor*



Do you have your tickets to **West Valley Chorale Concert** on **December 10, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** SHUMC’s Sanctuary? See a member for tickets.



**Let Us Pray - Birthdays & Anniversaries - In Memoriam - Events**



**LET US PRAY**

**"The Story in Song"**

**By Carol H.**

**One Silent Night  
In Bethlehem,  
God's son was born  
In a stable.**

**As Angels sang,  
Shepherds watched  
A brilliant star.**

**Following the star,  
Shepherds and Kings  
From afar  
Went to worship  
Baby Jesus,  
Born to bring  
"JOY TO THE WORLD"**

**AMEN**



**The Thursday (1:30 P.M.) Life  
Changing Online Bible Study is  
not meeting in December.**

**They will start again on  
January 6, 2022**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Toni T.**
- 6 Carol C.**
- 20 Linda W.**
- 22 Barbara H.**
- 24 Frances V.**
- 25 Renee E.**
- 26 Shirley F.**
- 29 Jacquie McC.**
- 31 Annette J.**



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

**December Anniversaries**

- 20 Ray & Dorothy R., celebrating 74 wonderful years together.**
- 25 Lewis & Carol C.**

*In Memoriam*



- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Carol I.</b>     | <b>October 30, 2021</b>  |
| <b>Bill B.</b>      | <b>November 6, 2021</b>  |
| <b>Frederick E.</b> | <b>November 10, 2021</b> |
| <b>LaVerne E.</b>   | <b>November 16, 2021</b> |
| <b>Gloria H.</b>    | <b>November 22, 2021</b> |



**Chapel Sunday Communion  
Through Advent  
Nov 28, Dec. 12 & 19**

**You are specially invited this advent season, to receive communion right after each Sunday service in the chapel.**

Rev. Bill C. is a member of our church and a retired clergy, who will be there to offer us the elements of this holy meal. Our hope is this weekly opportunity to partake in communion, will inspire, strengthen, and fill with hope the hearts and spirits of all of us who receive it with faith and gratitude.



## Spotlight - Prayer Notes – Thank You



**DEB H.**



Debbie H. has been a member of the Shepherd of the Hills Methodist Church (SHUMC) for nine years. She was in the first membership class led by Rev. Galene Boyett at SHUMC. Debbie was one of the first people to work in the VEW booth to broadcast worship services. She had no experience with editing videos and files from the pastors and music department, inserting hymn lyrics on the screen and operating cameras. It was on-the-job training and she has learned a tremendous amount about technology! Debbie is on the Worship and Trustees Teams and feels that participating on committees is a good way to learn about the operation of the church and to meet other people. She enjoys the music each Sunday and also the willingness of the pastors to listen to new ideas.

Debbie was born in Heidelberg, Germany when her father was in the military and moved to the U.S. at the age of six weeks. She worked as a business analyst for 3M Company for 20 years in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and moved to Sun City West in 2004. Her husband is Rick H. and they have three small dogs. Debbie has two children who live in the Twin Cities. Her daughter Jessica works for U.S. Bank and her son Jason works for Lowe’s. In her spare time, Debbie makes beaded jewelry and boxes. She was in charge of the jewelry section during the recent rummage sale. Debbie’s mother is Jan Z., also a member of SHUMC. Debbie’s philosophy of life is not to worry about things until you have to and life should be fun!

- Becky F.

### PRAYER NOTES

**Submitted by Bill and Linda W.**

While reading in the Guidepost for October, we came across an article on Prayer Power written by Bob H., Contributing Editor. He said we often find it hard to find the most appropriate words when praying when, in fact, praying badly is harder than we think. He had three suggestions for when you’ve stumbled, when you’re angry and when you have no words. Here is the first installment: **When you’ve stumbled.**

The New Testament writer promised, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness: (1 Jn 1:9 NIV). He drew a straight line from confession to forgiveness and cleansing. He didn’t say that we need to plead or beg or cajole. He didn’t prescribe a formula for us to follow. He said: We confess; God forgives.

However you say it – “I’m sorry,” “I messed up,” “I blew it,” “I sinned” – God will hear and forgive and restore you.



Thank you for all the cards and other expressions of your love for my 80th birthday. It was overwhelming to say the least. I received so many one dollar bills to supplement my annual salary, that I won’t have to come back to work for another 80 years!

-Emmanuel, Pastor Lee H.



Orders must be received in the office by December 12

**2021 Order Form**

**for Christmas Honorariums**

**\$12.00 per Honorarium**

Please complete the form below if you wish to purchase a poinsettia plant.

The plants will be displayed through the Christmas Eve Services. You may pick up a plant once Christmas Eve services are done. Please check off at the bottom of this form if you wish to pick up your plant.

**Donor (s):**

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of  
\_\_\_\_\_

To The Glory of God  
(Donor name(s) will be included)

I will pick up the plant I ordered.  
Please make your check payable to: **SHUMC**  
(Shepherd of the Hills UMC)

And in the Memo: **“Christmas Honors”**

Please place your check and this filled out form in an envelope marked “Christmas Honors.” Return the form, along with payment, to the church office.



**WE NEED YOUR HELP ON PARKING LOT REPAIRS**



**SHUMC'S PARKING LOTS HAS HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES.**  
**\$175,000 INCREASED TO \$223,000 TO CORRECT DAMAGES.**

**DONATIONS WELCOMED, MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SHUMC**

**MEMO SECTION:  
CAMPUS RENEWAL FUND**

**NEW FIGURES DUE TO INCREASED COST:**

**\$80.00 RENEWS A 5' X 5' SECTION OF PARKING LOT**

**\$317.00 RENEWS A 10' X 10' SECTION**

**\$1,268.00 RENEWS A 20' X 20' SECTION**

**\$1,585.00 RENEWS A 20' X 25' SECTION**

**\$7,925.00 RENEWS A 50' X 50' SECTION**

**\$3.17/S.F.**

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church

13658 W. Meeker Boulevard

Sun City West, AZ 85375-3700

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THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE DECEMBER 2021

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE

[www.shepherdofthehills.org](http://www.shepherdofthehills.org)

### SHUMC'S December Events

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| December 2, 2021  | Blue Christmas -3:30 P.M. Sanctuary<br>(With Light Meal Following) |
| December 5, 2021  | Pastor Stephanie's Reception                                       |
| December 10, 2021 | West Valley Chorale Concert 7:00 P.M., Sanctuary                   |
| December 11, 2021 | Saturday Night Worship & Meal 4:00 P.M. Chapel & FH                |
| December 12, 2021 | Cantata "Silent Night" 10:00 A.M.                                  |
| December 12, 2021 | Christmas Honorariums Deadline                                     |
| December 19, 2021 | Creche Display & Sing-A-Long 11:00 A.M., Fellowship Hall           |
| December 24, 2021 | Christmas Eve Service 3:00 & 5:00 P.M., Sanctuary                  |

**Chapel Sunday Communion Through Advent - Nov 28, Dec. 12 & 19**

**Note: Sunday, December 5, we will have communion in the Sanctuary only.**

**December 24 - January 2, 2022 Church Office Closed**

