

HE LEADS ME BESIDE  
**STILL WATERS.**

— HE RESTORES —  
**MY SOUL.**

PSALM 23:2-3, ESV

**Voice Newsletter - August 2022**

# 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

Tanner Akers, Sound Tech (PT)  
Cliff Asay, Minister of Digital Arts (PT)  
Julie Calvert, Accounting (PT)  
Jodi De Luca, Administrative Secretary  
Ken Goodenberger, Director of Music Ministry  
Dolores McCaslin, Welcome Coordinator (PT)  
Shawn McMullen, Maintenance Engineer  
Bill Moore, Organist/Pianist  
Patsy Soto, Assistant Secretary (PT)

Office Telephone: 623-584-2280

Pastor on call for emergencies: 623-584-7642

Prayer Request Line: 623-584-2922

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 September issue of The Voice  
is Monday, August 15, 2022***

## Words from Pastor Deborah



Dear friends,

One of my favorite cartoons depicts “Life as I thought it would be” as a graph on the left and “Life as It actually is turning out” as a graph on the right. The graph on the left shows a smooth trajectory, ever-rising toward the mountaintop of success, happiness and fulfillment. The graph on the right looks like a child’s scribbling, with jagged peaks and valleys and even some loop-de-loops in the wrong direction. It is hard to discern any pattern at all in this second graph. It seems to me there is a great deal of truth in these side-by-side depictions of life.

It came to mind because I am writing this in the last week of my two-month leave. I am so grateful to all of you for supporting me through this extended period. It has been an incredible blessing, not only to me but to my family and extended family. But I have to say, it has not been the smooth trajectory I hoped for. Many of you have asked “Are you having fun?” and have heard back from me “Well, not so much fun, but this time has been very productive.”

I dreamed of long days catching up on movies, books and visiting friends and family. I DID have three awesome days of perfect quiet, rest and prayer at the Franciscan Renewal Center as my time away began. Sitting in their beautiful chapel, or in the garden with the hummingbirds, watching the sun go down, quietened my spirit. I DID have several lunches with friends I had not seen in a very long time, catching up on life. I DID just return from a brief trip to out of town where all of my siblings (4 remaining; 1 died 10 years ago) gathered for the first time since my mother’s death in 1990. I’m not sure how many people were there, as they came and went, but it included many of our children and some of THEIR children. I realized my oldest brother’s oldest daughter (my first niece, ever!) had never met any of my children, the oldest of whom is 45. We needed to catch up! I DID have time to have my granddaughters over for some sleepovers, for a swim and for some time working together in the kitchen. They, and their, parents made the trip to Texas with us. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event. These things refreshed my spirit and filled my heart with gladness.

I also had the time and attention to work on making our home more of a home: hanging pictures and arranging needed repairs. It had been hard to get around to many of these things. We had the delight of hosting David’s sister for a week’s visit, in which she reminisced with him about their lives in Hawaii and Spain and cooked some delicious meals for us.

But the rest of the chart looks a little messier. It didn’t FEEL like it was refreshing my spirit to work on finding a day program for the care of our family member with Alzheimer’s; or to apply for Veteran’s Benefits that will help us finance some enrichment for his life, or to sort through available respite providers and make a choice of an agency to move forward with. It didn’t FEEL restful to work out, with my son, who is his dad’s primary caregiver, what resources we could call on to get care more quickly when he becomes ill.

However, having made progress in all these areas, and having a clearer path forward, is surprisingly helpful to my spirit. My long list of personal and family “to do’s” is much shorter, and much less daunting, than it was in May, and it was a joy to give my son (who has been caregiving for more years than either of us want to count) a little room to breathe along the way.

And I HAVE found extended periods for prayer, scripture and turning to the only One who holds all the charts of our lives in his hand, offering all of these things, and all of you, and all the things happening in your lives, into His care. There is nothing better than that.

I look forward to hearing how God has been shaping your faith journey and the chart of your life, as we begin a new season of ministry together. I will see you soon.

Blessings and Peace - Pastor Deborah

SUMMER NEWS

We had our first “Let’s Go Out to Lunch” event on Thursday, June 30 and it was a success!! There were 25 ladies who attended and there was good food and fellowship in a bright and cheerful environment. Everyone who attended said “let’s do it again, here.” We met at **Betty’s Rooste** here in Sun City West and the food and service were outstanding.



United Women in Faith

We will do this again on Thursday, August 4. Watch for sign-ups at the Kiosk. All women of the church are invited to attend. While we are forced inside during the summer, United Women in Faith have an opportunity to get educated. There are monthly podcasts and webinars sponsored via the website [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org). The current topic is “Just Energy for All - Caring for God’s Creation.” It is a monthly program that airs at 4 PM on the first Tuesday of the month. There are more educational opportunities as well.



Log onto the website and under Resources, select podcasts and webinars. Also, there are great “reads” in the UWF section of our library. What is better than a good book and an air conditioner!



We are always looking for new members and ladies to serve on our TEAM. Please see information on our bulletin board in the lobby of the Fellowship Hall. Stay safe and cool.

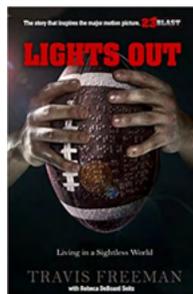
Sandy B

SAVE THE DATE



Save the following dates: **Saturday, November 5, 2022** and **Sunday, November 6th, 2022.**

You won’t want to miss our special speaker, **Travis Freeman**. Travis plunged into a world of darkness at 12 years old. A rare occurrence of a routine illness stole his sight, leaving the small town Kentucky boy’s dreams of football and fun languishing on the sidelines. Having given his heart to Jesus merely a year before the illness, Travis knew one thing: God was still the light for his life. His life story was the inspiration for a major motion picture, **“23 BLAST”** that was released in October 2014. Starring Dylan Baker, the film focuses on Travis’s football career playing Center for the Corbin Red hounds, a team that went on to win the state championship. Rebeca Seitz shared Travis’ story in his own words in a book, **“Lights Out”**.



Sermon Notes...

A new sermon series Christ in All: A Study of Colossians started late July.

Join us for worship weekly for a study of the book of Colossians with Pastor Deborah. Take a little time to read the chapter for the week BEFORE coming to worship, according to the following schedule

Between July 25 and July 30

Read Chapter 1

Between August 1 and August 6

Read Chapter 2

Between August 8 and August 13

Read Chapter 3

Between August 15 and August 20

Read Chapter 4

Take some time to pray through each of these incredible passages describing the supremacy of Christ and God’s great love for us expressed in him. You will be blessed if you do!

### MISSION CANDLE

The Mission Candle can be dedicated to anyone to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, in honor or in memory of someone special. Please call or email the office to set this up. Your request will be read during the worship service each week.

Your donation of \$20 or more will enable the UMW to raise more funds and allow the opportunity to help support approximately 13 local charities.



### LIFE CHANGING BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Monday afternoons at 3:00 PM via Zoom. Call the Church office at (623) 584-2280 if you have any questions. The Zoom link will be sent to you on Monday mornings.

Did you know SHUMC has a card shop?

### *Ye Olde Card Shoppe*

is located in the hall between the Library and Choir Room.

Check out our wide assortment of cards, calendars, planners and miscellaneous items. Small monetary donations accepted with proceeds benefitting Missions Committee.

If you have cards or other items to donate to the

### *Ye Olde Card Shoppe*

please place them in the top drawer of the file next to the cards.

Ongoing collection of Bibles for UMOM can be donated in the second drawer of the file next to the cards. UMOM appreciates all the Bibles we send!



## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pam
- 7 Mary
- 10 Anna Marie
- 14 B.J.
- 23 Robert
- 24 Dee

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Dan & Charlette
- 31 Paul & Gretchen

**We need your permission to print your name and the day of your birthday and/or anniversary. Without your permission, your name and special day will not appear in print. Contact the church office by phone or email to set this up.**

### GRIEF SHARE

**GriefShare** is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.

You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

You can visit or join the group at any time, and attend as many meetings as you like.

Each of the sessions are designed so that any person can feel welcomed, no matter what session number they are attending the first time. We affirm that each person's grief journey is unique. Therefore, in an environment of respect and confidentiality each participant can explore the questions and experiences of grief they bring to this safe space.

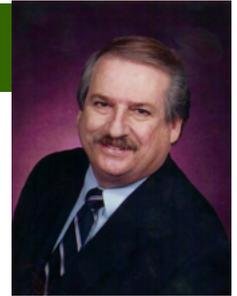
GriefShare will begin in **September 2022.**

Specific details coming soon.



## Introduction to the Minister of Digital Arts

### **SHUMC Welcomes Rev Cliff Asay As our part time Minister of Digital Arts**



Pastor Deborah and the Staff Parish Relations Committee invite you to welcome our newest staff member, Rev. Clifford Asay, who will begin his time among us on August 1, 2022. As a retired clergy member in the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, he is appointed to serve among us, part time, by Bishop Hagiya.

Rev. Asay has a long and distinguished record of service in our conference. He was the organizing pastor of North Scottsdale United Methodist Church and conducted their first building program. In several appointments, he helped local churches develop video ministries and worked to improve their communications strategies. He spent two years serving the Rocky Mountain Conference as their Communications Director. He has experience and ongoing training in sound technology, video production and editing, live streaming, graphic arts, newsletter production and a variety of other helpful areas for his position overseeing our Visually Enhanced Ministry programs (part time, “about” 15 hours per week).

We knew we had found the right person for this position when we read this “Career Objective” from his resume:

*To fulfill my calling to a communications ministry by empowering and assisting local churches in their mission to effectively communicate the gospel of Christ; utilize my technical and organizational skills to encourage the effective use and development of electronic communications and information delivery systems; and nurture an acceptance of and appreciation for the potential of electronic media systems in all ministry settings.*

Rev. Asay and Pastor Deborah have been long-time colleagues and friends, meeting when he was serving as Children’s Minister at First UMC Phoenix (when her children were in that program!) and most recently working together at Spirit of Hope UMC in 2010 – 2012 after his retirement.

We are delighted to welcome him to serve as part of our staff and clergy team. The Staff Parish Relations Committee will host a Fellowship Hour on August 14, so you have an opportunity to meet him and express your warm welcome.

Rev. Asay will be looking for persons interested in VEW ministries: Slide production, running cameras, running slides in service, lights. Training will be available. If you have an interest, please let Pastor Deborah know.

## Prayer Notes; Ye Old Card Shoppe

### PRAYER NOTES

"Have you ever wondered why God gave so much? We could exist on far less. He could have left the world flat and gray; we wouldn't have known the difference. But he didn't.

*He splashed orange in the sunrise  
and cast the sky in blue.*

*And if you love to see geese as they gather,  
chances are you'll see that too.*

*Did he have to make the squirrel's tail furry?  
Was he obliged to make the birds sing?*

*And the funny way that chickens scurry  
or the majesty of thunder when it rings?*

*Why give a flower fragrance? Why give food  
its taste? Could it be  
he loves to see  
that look upon your face?*

If we give gifts to show our love, how much more would he? If we, speckled with foibles and greed-love to give gifts, how much more does God, pure and perfect God, enjoy giving gifts to us?

So the next time a sunrise steals your breath, or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing and listen as heaven whispers, "Do you like it? I did it just for you."

*Taken from Max Lucado's "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."*

Bill and Linda W



### Grief Group Support

**WEDNESDAYS** at 10:30 a.m.

Location: Prayer Room

Facilitated by: Pastor Alma

For More Information Call

Church Office 623-584-2280



### COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



Greetings from your Welcome Coordinator! Shepherd of the Hills UMC has a wonderful opportunity to pass out lemonade to the crowd at RH Johnson Recreation Center during the October 6 Concert on the Green on the RH Johnson great lawn.

Who will be onboard with me! I need 10 happy Shepherd's who would like to support our efforts in showing our community what great people we are!

Call the church office at (623) 584-2280 and let them know you are onboard!

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS NEEDED

Food banks are way down. But hunger is up! Can you help? The Missions Team is extending food bank collections to be continuous during the summer. Next time you shop, please grab a few extra items that can be donated to our local food banks. Donations can be brought to the church during service or office hours and placed in the hall between the Library and Choir room.



### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH LET'S GO TO LUNCH**

**Betty's Rooste**  
**14418 West Meeker Blvd #100**  
**Sun City West, AZ 85375**  
**on Thursday, August 4**  
**Meet at the restaurant**  
**at 11:30 AM**



Sign-ups and more information will be at the Kiosk on Sundays.

All women are invited to join us for fun, food and fellowship.

If you need a ride, call the church office at (623) 584-2280.

CONCERT AND ICE CREAM SUNDAES



Save **August 21** at **2 PM** for a concert with **The Salty Dawgs** and ice cream sundaes. A free will offering will be taken.

SANDWICH MAKING CREW

The sandwich makers meet Monday mornings at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The sandwiches are taken to the Justa Center, a day center for homeless seniors. Thank you to all the new people who have come to help make sandwiches.

We look forward to you joining us for a time of needed but fun work.

If interested call the church office at (623) 584-2280.



THINKING ABOUT JOINING SHUMC?

We are not having new member classes right now but welcome persons who wish to join. Let the church office know you are interested or have questions and Pastor Deborah will contact you. If you want to remain a member of "the church back home" you are welcome to become an affiliate member (a person who belongs primarily to another United Methodist Church or an associate member (a person who belongs to a church from another denomination).



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

**Monday—Thursday**  
**8:30 am—4:30 pm**



The church office will be closed on Fridays during the summer. Staff MAY be available occasionally with advance request for appointments.

If you need pastoral assistance for emergencies, please call the Pastor-On-Call at (623)-584-7642.

AUGUST CONNECTIONS CLASS

Where **FAITH & LIFE** connect

**PROVERBS: PATHWAYS TO WISDOM**

by *Dominick S Hernandez*

Exploring the context, language and interpretation of the Book of Proverbs.

This study of The Book of Proverbs is a lens through which we can view its wise sayings, a method of approach that will help illuminate their meaning and ways to apply the wisdom of the proverbs in everyday life.

Class starts **Sunday, August 7th** at **8:45 AM** In **Fellowship Hall**.

Participants should bring a bible and a notebook. This is a four- week study.



SUMMER MOVIES

The summer movies will be shown on **alternating Wednesdays** and will meet through the summer, ending on September 21.

The movies will start at 1:30 pm and light snacks will be served. The upcoming movies are shown on the list below. Invite your friends and neighbors!



- August 10**      *Enchanted April*
- August 24**      *The Shadow Riders*
- September 7**      *Queen Bees*
- September 21**      *The Sting*



## Spotlight; In Memoriam; Book Club

In the

SPOTLIGHT

With Stan and Linda

Stan and Linda, grew up on farms in small towns about an hour's drive from each other.

He lived in southwestern Minnesota and she lived in Iowa. Linda attended a one-room school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They met at a private liberal arts college affiliated with the Reformed Church in Iowa. Linda majored in vocal and organ performance and Stan majored in social science and counseling.



Married for 55 years, Linda and Stan have two children. In her spare time, Linda loves reading for pleasure, especially historical fiction. Stan loves golf and participated for many years in the Sun City Grand Armed Forces Support Group. This group has raised over \$650,000 to support veteran foundations. The couple has traveled to many places in Europe and also to Australia, New Zealand, Panama and Cuba.

Around 2000, the couple joined Shepherd of the Hills Church. Stan is on the Foundation Committee and works with the church group at St. Mary's Food Bank. Linda is a member of the Board of Trustees and is part of the group making sandwiches for clients of Justa Center. They both like the music, the Care Ministry and the friendliness of the congregation at Shepherd of the Hills.



### IN MEMORIAM

Worden "Merle"	June 16, 2022
June	June 22, 2022
Arthur	June 26, 2022
Linda	July 6, 2022
Patricia	July 7, 2022
John	July 13, 2022

### SHUMC BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will not be meeting in August. Mark your calendar for our next meeting on **Thursday, September 15th** at 9:30 AM in the Staff Conference Room to discuss The following book:

**Yellow Wife** by **Sedeqa Johnson**

Enjoy the rest of your summer by reading good books.



## Mission Projects; Rummage Sale

### You Helped Make Mission Committee Projects Successful

It was with great pride that we surprised the congregation on June 12th with posters of the amount of money that they had given for the Easter collection. \$6,175.00 was forwarded to the Wesley Community and Health Centers, which provide programs and services to residents of the Phoenix area. Thank you for your generosity!

In May, there were two Desert Southwest Annual Conference Projects. One project was Tonga Relief Efforts to assist with recovery after a deadly volcanic eruption and tsunami in January, 2022. The other project was called "The Long Journey," which helped DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and undocumented students to pay for college expenses through the United Methodist Foundation. Again, thank you to the congregation for your support to these Annual Conference projects.

Justa Center provides services and support to seniors on their path to housing in Phoenix and Glendale. Bottled water was distributed by Justa Center to clients prior to the opening of water stations in the Phoenix area, which was around June 1. The Mission Team was able to cover the cost of two of those pallets of water, sharing with Justa Center's clients this precious, refreshing, life-sustaining gift.



### RUMMAGE SALE NEWS

We're gearing up for a great sale! Donations have been hearty and we are looking forward to dates for donations each month until the sale in November.

Our team is doing a great job of sorting and arranging the monthly donations and the pick-up team has weekly pick-ups of furniture. By November, the containers will be brimming with great stuff for the sale.



Proceeds from the sale go to the Missions Committee and the Library in addition to the Trustees for special projects needed in the church. Your contributions to the sale benefit more people than you realize.

If you would like to join the Rummage Sale Team, please call the church office at (623) 584-2280 .

Blessings.

## New Members

### NEW MEMBERS



**Sharon** joined our church on March 6. Sharon is a retired from a career in Healthcare. For fun, she likes to dance, sew, read and write. Sharon is joining by re-affirmation of faith.

*Welcome <sup>NEW</sup> Members!*

**Lee Ann** joined our church on March 6. Lee Ann is in healthcare. For fun, Lee Ann likes to read, play piano and play with her cat. Lee Ann is transferring her membership from another United Methodist Church.



**Bill and Margie** joined our church on April 10. They recently moved here from Iowa where they were of a United Methodist Church. They are both joining by transfer of membership.



Bill is retired from a career in IT. For fun, he likes to listen to audio books, enjoy football and baseball, swim, play trivia and sing. Margie retired from a career in insurance. For fun she likes to diamond paint, crochet, eat out, play trivia, and travel.

Both have been a part of the Walk to Emmaus. They look forward to becoming involved in the ministries of SHUMC.

**Roberta** joined our church on April 10. Roberta transferred her membership from a United Methodist Church in Los Altos, CA. She is retired from a career in Marketing and Development. For fun she likes to travel and attend live theater performances. She started with our sandwich making crew on Monday mornings before she ever came to worship.



**James and Billie** joined our church on April 17. James, who is known as Jim, retired from a career in facility operations. For fun, he likes to cook. Billie retired from a career as a project manager and for fun, she also likes to cook!



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 AUGUST 2022

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE

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

8:45 a.m. Sundays

Connections Sunday School

Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Sundays

Traditional Service

Sanctuary \*\*\*

11:00 a.m. Sundays

Social Hour –Coffee & Cookies

Fellowship Hall

\*\*\* Traditional service is on summer schedule - will resume winter schedule on October 16, 2022