

The Voice



Feb / March 2023

JOIN US ONLINE FOR WORSHIP AT

WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLS.ORG

Pastoral Team

Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor
Rev. Alma Aguirre-Olivares, Associate Pastor
Rev. Cliff Asay, Minister of Digital Arts (PT)
Rev. Ron Friesen, Assistant Minister of Care (PT)

Staff

Tanner Akers, Sound Tech (PT)
Julie Calvert, Accounting (PT)
Jodi De Luca, Administrative Secretary
Ken Goodenberger, Director of Music Ministry
Shawn McMullen, Maintenance Engineer
Bill Moore, Organist/Pianist

Office Telephone: 623-584-2280
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.

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 April issue of The Voice is Wednesday, March 15, 2023



Words from Pastor Deborah

The season of Lent is just around the corner, a time of spiritual preparation before the joyous celebration of Easter. I hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities we will offer for deepening your spiritual life and drawing you closer to God over this 40 day period.

We will begin with the imposition of ashes as a reminder of our mortality on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at the worship service at 4 PM. At that service and in the Sundays following, you can pick up a brochure titled, *Lenten Disciplines*. Inside you will find a number of simple practices that we hope will be helpful in focusing your attention on the goodness and mercy of God and God's desire for us to draw closer in relationship.

Starting on Sunday, February 26, we will offer a series of messages exploring Jesus' life as told in the Gospel of Luke. Our guide to shape these messages will be Adam Hamilton's book, *LUKE: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. Through Luke's stories we will be reminded of Jesus' care and compassion for all persons, as he especially welcomes sinners and outcasts. The book will be available in the church office for \$15.

A companion class will be offered in the Connections class every Sunday morning at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall Meeting Room with the Rev. Russell leading. If you sign up in advance for the class they will be sure to have enough books and space for everyone.

As we approach Holy Week, the first week of April, plan to join us for a prayer vigil on March 29. These times set aside for deep and continuous prayer are essential for us as individuals and as a church. You will be amazed at how quickly an hour will pass and how refreshed and renewed you will be after participating. The prayers of God's people change things, for those praying and for all they pray for. Join us in praying for a deepening of our life together and more faithful expressions of Jesus' love in the world.

See the schedule elsewhere for our Holy Week schedule and plan to be here for each part of this journey toward the cross, from the festive waving of Palms on Palm Sunday weekend, through the stations of the cross in the courtyard all week long, to an enactment of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday and a solemn remembrance of Jesus' death on Good Friday.

This is our time: when we remember with special focus who and whose we are and the price that was paid to set us free. Don't miss it!

Blessings and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Deborah".

Pastor Deborah



May your Ash Wednesday be a time
Of reflection and renewal.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday Service
Communion &
Imposition of Ashes

4:00 PM

Sanctuary

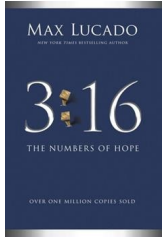
Live Stream available

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:
the early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,
and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration
there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.
During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.
It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins
and had separated themselves from the community of faith
were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
and restored to participation in the life of the Church.
In this way the whole congregation was reminded
of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ
and the need we all have to renew our faith.
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.



Sunday Connections Class, Bible Study, Prayer Quilt, Join SHUMC



SUNDAY CONNECTIONS CLASS

Join us any Sunday at **10:30 AM** in the **Fellowship Hall Meeting Room**.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the current series, *The Numbers of Hope* by Max Lucado.

SUNDAY CONNECTIONS CLASS DURING LENT

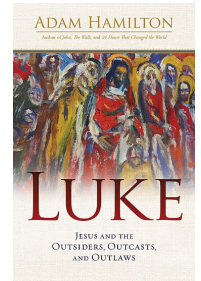
Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws

by Adam Hamilton

What is distinct about the way Luke can help us see Jesus, that is hopeful and inspiring for our lives today?

This class will accompany the Lenten Sermon Series **which will begin on Sunday, February 26 at 10:30 AM** in the Fellowship Hall Meeting Room. Rev. Russell will facilitate this 6-week series in the Sunday Connections class.

Books are available for purchase of \$15 from the office, but are not required to participate in the class.



LIFE CHANGING BIBLE STUDY

The group meets on **Monday afternoons at 3:00 pm via Zoom**. Call Kathy C. or the church office if you have questions. The Zoom link will be sent to your email in the morning.

TIE A KNOT AND SAY A PRAYER

The Prayer Quilt in the Fellowship Hall is to the right as you enter. Tie a knot in the yarn and say a prayer for the events listed.

You may add other prayers, as well. Every knot represents a prayer said. Watch for new events for which to pray.



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).

Masks recommended, Gleaning, Grief Group, GriefShare,
Sandwich Making, Book Club



MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AT SHUMC

To protect your health and the health of those around you.

GLEANING IS UNDERWAY!

This is the seventh season of partnership with SHUMC and the PRIDES gleaning fruit trees in Sun City West. All the fruit that is picked is given to the St. Mary's Food Bank for distribution in food boxes that are given to families and individuals. Volunteers meet at SHUMC at 8:15 AM to get their assignment with the goal of starting at 8:30 AM. The groups usually finish assigned trees by 11:30 AM. If you have questions about gleaning or the program, please call Kathy or the church office.



Grief Group Support

WEDNESDAYS at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Prayer Room

Facilitated by Pastor Ron Friesen

For More Information

Call Church Office 623-584-2280



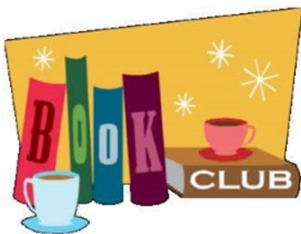
GRIEFSHARE

The group meets on Thursday afternoons **through March 30, from 2 PM to 4 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

For more information, please contact Kathy. If you are interested in attending, put your name on the sign up sheet.

SANDWICH MAKING CREW

The sandwich makers meet every **Monday morning at 8:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. The group is in need of creamy peanut butter and grape jelly. The sandwiches are taken to the Justa Center, a day center for homeless seniors. If you are interested in making sandwiches, please contact Mary or the church office.



SHUMC BOOK CLUB

The book group will meet **Thursday, March 16 at 9:30 AM** in the conference room. The group will discuss *The Orchid Thief*, written by Susan Orlean.

On Thursday, April 20, the group will read and discuss *Clementine*, by Sonia Purnell and on Thursday, May 18, the group will discuss *The Woman They Could Not Silence*, written by Kate Moore. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SPRING NEWS FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

We have had a busy winter. Our in-kind donation project for Wesley Golden/Gate Community Center was successful and the luncheon speaker, Danna Garcia, RDN, gave us a look at all the new things going on at Wesley.



United
Women
in Faith

We want to thank the congregation for helping us in our in-kind project for the residents at UMOM by donating journals and other stationary items including pens and pencils. So often we take for granted these things that homeless persons also need.

We will be doing our Easter Basket Project again and invite the congregation to participate. There will be a collection area in front of the office and a list of possible items to put in your basket. Jesse Ramirez, director at Valley View Food Bank, will be our guest speaker at the March luncheon and collect the baskets for the families that the food bank serves.

Our April luncheon will feature a spokesperson from Sunshine Angels. This is an organization that exists to support and enrich the lives of foster children in residential group homes. We will be collecting and donating items to support them in their daily lives.

As was presented at our United Women in Faith weekend, our on-going Mission Candle Project brought in \$1450.00 in 2022, which we distributed among several area charities. We thank you, always, for keeping this light burning so we can help others.

Again, we invite all women at Shepherd to join us at our luncheons and find out who we are and how we do God's work. You will want to be a part of it!

Submitted by,
Sandy B.



MISSION CANDLE PHOTOS

If you would like to have a photo displayed on the screen when the Mission Candle is being read, please provide a photo to the office with the Mission Candle request. We need a week's notice to be sure all the information is in the hands of the VEW person making the slides. All proceeds from the Mission Candle are given to local area charities by the United Women in Faith. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



In Memoriam



*Shirley F.	09/23/22
*(Information just received)	
Jack S.	12/6/22
Leona W.	12/12/22
George W.	12/16/22
Sharon G.	12/17/22
Glenn P.	12/20/22
Dorla H.	1/7/23
Kerry K.	1/9/23
Ed B.	1/20/23



UNDIE SUNDAYS RETURNS through March 31

Please drop off **NEW** underwear, socks and diapers (child and adult) when you come to church on Sunday. All sizes and genders appreciated. Donations will benefit UMOM and the Wesley Community Health Centers. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please note on the memo section of your check, **Undie Sundays**. If you use cash, place your name on the envelope. Thank you for your generosity.

STRENGTH TRAINING EXERCISE CLASS

A Strength Training Exercise class will begin on **Tuesday, February 28 at 9:45 to 10:30 AM**. The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Choir Room.



Leading the class is Bernadette Gasior, a strength trainer with years of experience. You can sit or stand for the class and make it easy and fun! Be sure to sign up! There is no charge for the classes and a free-will offering basket will be made available.



CPR, AED & FIRST AID CERTIFICATION CLASS

Be sure to sign up for the CPR, AED and First Aid Certification class to be held **Thursday, March 9 at 9:00 AM until Noon** in Fellowship Hall.

This class is free for current Heartsavers or those who would like to be a part of the Heartsaver team. For those who wish to take the class, but not be a part of the Heartsaver team, there is a \$25 fee.

You must be able to get on the floor to practice on the mannequin.

RUMMAGE SALE DROP OFF DATES

We are getting ready for another big sale! **Collections will begin Tuesday, February 21 and Wednesday, February 22** at the collection containers in the parking lot. Please bring your gently used or new items and place them in the open container **between 9 AM and 1 PM** on those days. We also need large moving boxes! If you can donate any, please call Julie. Our sale will be Thursday, November 9 through Saturday, November 11, 2023. Thank you



CHESS CLUB

Join the Chess Club every **Thursday** at **Noon** in the Narthex. If you have any questions, call the church office.

PRAYER NOTES
By Bill and Linda

Prayers

Jesus prayed -
when his life was crowded and draining.
when he faced important choices.
when he was sad or frightened.
when he needed strength for his work.
when he was worried about people he loved.
when he faced an insurmountable problem.
When Jesus prayed, things happened.

If you ever feel guilty about your praying, know that someone who is better at it than you is already at work. Scripture says, "God's Spirit is right alongside us helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves...and keeps us present before God."

Taken from John Ortberg's ***The Me I Want to Be***



SHUMC RECEIVES AWARD

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church has been selected three years in a row for the Best of Sun City West Awards for Places of Worship and now qualifies for the 2023 Sun City West Business Hall of Fame.

For details and more information please view our website:

[2023 Best of Sun City West Awards - Places of Worship](#)

You Are Invited



BISHOP'S INSTALLATION SERVICE

March 11, 2023 | 11:00 AM (MST)
St. Matthew UMC, 2540 W Baseline Road, Mesa, AZ 85202
RSVP @ dscumc.org/installation

A Celebration of the Assignment of Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut
to the Desert Southwest Conference





Join us
Saturday, April 1 — 4:00 PM
Sunday, April 2 — 9:00 AM
in the Sanctuary
Live stream available

Choir Cantata
"Festival of Faith"
By Joseph M. Martin

DVDs available on request



Thursday, April 6, 2023

4:00 PM

Sanctuary

Dramatization of the Last Supper
(starring SHUMC staff & members)

Worship with communion

Live stream available

DVDs available on request



Good Friday Service

Friday, April 7, 2023

4:00 PM

Sanctuary / Live stream available

A solemn remembrance of
Jesus' death on the cross.

Celebrating Community **Festival & Expo**

A Community Building Program of your Chamber of Commerce



Food, Fun & Music

Vendor Booths, Local Experts, and Exhibits

FREE Food Samples & Vendor Giveaways

Sun City West

Wednesday

March 15

9 AM to 1 PM

**Shepherd of
the Hills United
Methodist Church**

**13658 W Meeker Blvd.,
Sun City West, 85375**

Sun City Grand

Wednesday

March 22

9 AM to 1 PM

**Grace Community
Church**

**16165 W Mountain View
Blvd., Surprise, 85374**

Sun City

Wednesday

April 12

9 AM to 1 PM

**Faith Presbyterian
Church**

**16000 N. Del Webb, Sun
City, 85351**



Register for Door Prizes & Early Entry at
www.CelebratingCommunities.com

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 / March 2023

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE

shepherdofthehills.org

4:00 PM, Saturdays	Sweet Hour of Prayer Service Weekly Communion and Hymn Sing	Chapel
5:00 PM, Saturdays	Social Hour-Coffee & Cookies	Fellowship Hall
9:00 AM, Sundays	Spirited Traditional Service with Choir Communion 1st Sunday of the month	Sanctuary
10:00 AM, Sundays	Fellowship Hour - Coffee & Cookies	Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM, Sundays	Connections Sunday School	Fellowship Hall Meeting Room
11:00 AM, Sundays	Informal Praise Band Service Weekly Communion and Praise Band	Sanctuary