



The Voice

August 2023

*Be still,
and know
that
I am God.*

PSALM 46:10

JOIN US ONLINE FOR WORSHIP AT
WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEHILLS.ORG

Pastoral Team

Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor
Pastor Daniel Gómez, Associate Pastor
Rev. Ron Friesen, Assistant Minister of Care (PT)
Rev. Cliff Asay, Minister of Digital Arts (PT)
Ken Goodenberger, Director of Music Ministry

Staff

Tanner Akers, Sound Tech (PT)
Julie Calvert, Accounting (PT)
Jodi De Luca, Administrative Secretary
Julie Killebrew, Health Education Facilitator (PT)
Shawn McMullen, Maintenance Engineer
Bill Moore, Organist/Pianist
Shanelle Paxton, Welcome &
Connection Coordinator (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

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 September issue of The Voice is August 15, 2023

A Message from Pastor Deborah



It is hard to believe August is upon us, even after dozens of days in which the temperatures in the metro Phoenix area have exceeded 110 degrees! We usually experience at least a little “down time” at the church, when we stop and breathe and catch up. But this year, with a transition in the associate position, the arrival of our new Coordinator of Invitation and Connection, the addition of a Health Educator and transitions in the assistant secretary position, life has remained busy through June and July!

It was hard to say goodbye to Pastor Alma, a friend of the heart and co-worker in the kingdom for the last 5 years, but good to know that she is taking care of herself by entering a time of rest and renewal.

It has been a joy to receive Pastor Daniel Gómez, whose love of Jesus and the people he serves has been apparent from the moment he arrived at SHUMC. Pastor Daniel, Pastor Ron, our Care Coordinator Kathy C. and I have been meeting weekly to ensure continuity of loving care for all who are experiencing health crises, seasons of loss, or the challenges of aging. Our prayer is that day-by-day we will grow better at noticing when someone’s participation has diminished as well as finding better and more creative ways to express the love and care of the church in a variety of circumstances.

Pastor Daniel is also coming up to speed on the activities of our education team, our missions team and working with the worship team and VEW to create meaningful, helpful worship services.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a list of the areas of responsibility for each of our pastoral staff at this moment. As we move forward, we may shift these around, but for now the list will help you know who to turn to with your questions.

The staff, and especially the program staff, have been wrestling with how to shape our worship schedule going forward, using your responses to the survey in worship last spring and the attendance statistics and demographics for our informal praise service. We realized early on that 11 AM is the least favorite time for worship among those who already call our church home. We also realized that 10 AM was the favorite time among those responding, including almost the entire choir, our faithful servants in ministry.

As a result, we have made the decision to keep the spirited traditional service at 10 AM all year long. Starting in November, we will add a short (45 minutes) informal praise service at 8:30 AM with more contemporary music and a praise band. This service will be held in the Fellowship Hall, mostly because the logistics for bell choir rehearsals, cantata performances and other special music opportunities make it impossible to hold this service in the sanctuary. Please keep us in prayer as we begin to do detailed planning for this transition. Our hope is that this option will work well, especially for “younger” persons who prefer this music style and are up and about early. We also hope that staying with the later time will make it more possible to make it to worship for those who find mornings difficult.

We are well underway in planning our Homecoming Sunday on October 29, followed by a series of special events throughout the next week to help us re-connect with those returning from their cooler climes and create momentum for the fall and winter seasons.

Meanwhile, those of you who are here: stay safe and as cool as you can. And those of you who are elsewhere: send us a whiff of fresh cool air from time to time. We miss you.

Pastor Deborah



LIFE CHANGING BIBLE STUDY ONLINE

The group meets **Monday afternoons at 3 PM via Zoom**. Call the church office if you have questions. The Zoom link will be sent to your email inbox on Monday morning.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Meets every **Wednesday morning at 7:00 AM** in the Prayer Room. Please join us. For more information, call Cal L.



GRIEF SHARE

A new class of GriefShare **begins Thursday, August 31 from 2 to 4 PM in Fellowship Hall**. All are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet. The last class will be held Thursday, November 16. For more information, please contact Kathy C.



Grief Support Group

WEDNESDAYS at 10:00 a.m.

Location: **Prayer Room**

Facilitated by Rev. Ron Friesen

For More Information Call Church Office 623-584-2280



CHESS CLUB

Join the Chess Club every **Thursday at noon** in the Narthex. A beginner chess group meets Wednesday at Noon in the SCW Library. Questions: please call Jerry N. or email him.



COMMUNION DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

On August 6 we will return to our pre-pandemic communion practice. After sanitizing your hands, receive the bread, dip in the juice and consume with a thankful heart.

A gluten-free station will be provided every Sunday.



MONDAY SANDWICH MAKERS TIME: 8:00 AM

The sandwich makers meet on Monday mornings in Fellowship Hall. They need of grape jelly and creamy peanut butter (**PLEASE —NO ORGANIC**). The sandwiches are taken to the Justa Center, a day center for homeless seniors. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary G.



If you would like personal prayer after worship, the prayer ministers will be at the front of the Sanctuary to pray with you. The Prayer Room is open for you if you want a personal, private time to pray alone.

Church Potluck, Exercise Class, Food Bank Volunteers,
Summer Office Hours, Painting Class



**Saturday, August 26
5:00 PM
Fellowship Hall**

Join us to share yummy food and fellowship as we gather in appreciation for all our blessings! To participate, just add your name to the sign-up sheet and indicate the type of dish you will bring to share! Hope to see you then! Questions? Please call Kathy C.

**STRENGTH TRAINING
EXERCISE CLASS**



The Strength Training Exercise class meets at **9:45 to 10:30 AM, every Tuesday and Thursday in Fellowship Hall**. Everyone is welcome. This is low impact — sit or stand exercise. There is no charge for the classes and a free-will offering basket is available.

**SHUMC MEMBERS
VOLUNTEER AT
ST. MARY'S
FOOD BANK**



A group of SHUMC members met recently at St. Mary's Food Bank in Surprise to fill travel bags for people who are homeless. About 30-40 people, who are homeless, go to the food bank every day for a travel bag.

Each bag included a jar of peanut butter, two cans of pasta in tomato sauce, two drinks and two packages of chips. Shown from left are: Teresa R., Becky F., Lewis C., Mary G., a food bank employee and Bev B.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday:

8:30 am—4:30 pm

Friday: 8:30 am—Noon

The church office will close at Noon on Fridays through August 27. 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.

Come Paint with Us!



Thursday, August 10 @ 11:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Supplies Included!

Limited to 20 Participants

We are having a "Painting Tutorial," and you will leave with your own masterpiece painting!

Julie L. has been leading these classes around the area for quite some time and is happy to share her talent with us! All supplies are provided — all we have to do is show up. There is a 20 person limit, so be sure to sign up right away before all the spaces are taken. Some mental health benefits of artistic expression are: stress relief, boosts self-esteem and healing. There are still a few seats left!



CURRENT SUNDAY CONNECTIONS CLASS

Spiritual Practices
Meets Sundays at 8:45 AM
Facilitated by Dr. Glenn M.

Topics covered during the remaining 2 week series are:

Sunday, August 6 Prayer and Fasting

Sunday, August 13 Sabbath-Rest, Worship & Service

Join us Sunday mornings, as Dr. Glenn M. continues to discuss practices and/or disciplines that help enhance a person's spiritual well-being. Glenn will engage you in conversation about his own current research on the concept of spiritual well-being within the Old and New Testaments, along with the general idea of spiritual well-being. Several practices will be mentioned, including fasting, worship, and Sabbath-keeping. Please bring a bible either on your smartphone or print (old school!).

UPCOMING SUNDAY CONNECTIONS CLASS

Characters; The Prophets, Six Session Bible Study;
Begins Sunday, August 20 at 8:45 AM



Join us in a study of six Biblical Prophets presented to you by the unique perspective of a different facilitator each week. Look for further details to be shared on this study as we move further into our summer schedule.

What are each of the prophets of the Bible known for? Join us to learn about six of them. How can their lives be similar to ours? What can they teach us? Books are available in the office. Donation: \$10.

August 20 -	<i>Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet</i>	Facilitator: Dolores M.
August 27 -	<i>Deborah: The Fiery Prophetess</i>	Facilitator: Annette J.
September 3 -	<i>Malachi: The Purifying Prophet</i>	Facilitator: Don T.
September 10 -	<i>Elijah: The Bold Prophet</i>	Facilitator: Michael M.
September 17 -	<i>Isaiah: The Prophet Who Predicted Jesus</i>	Facilitator: Darlene B.
September 24 -	<i>Nehemiah: The Builder of Walls and Wills</i>	Facilitator: Bill P.

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).

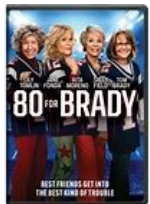
Movie Schedule, Book Club



SUMMER MOVIES CONTINUE!

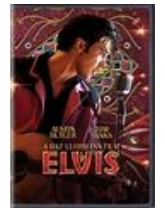
Join us for free movies this summer on alternating **Wednesdays at 1:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Invite your friends and neighbors! The movie schedule is listed below.

Marley & Me is the movie for **Wednesday, August 2**. Jennifer Aniston and Owen Wilson play a young couple contemplating the decision to have a baby. Along comes Marley, an adorable Labrador pup, who quickly turns his new home into a disaster area.



80 For Brady is the movie for **Wednesday, August 16**. Four life-long friends set out to see their hero (Tom Brady) make one of the greatest comebacks in sports history.

Elvis is the movie for **Wednesday, August 30**. Starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks. This epic drama explores the complicated relationship between Elvis and his manager, Tom Parker.



Phantom of the Opera is the movie for **Wednesday, September 13**. This stage musical sensation comes to the screen in a lavish production of sight and sound grandeur. Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum and Patrick Wilson star.

Jerry & Marge Go Large is the movie for **Wednesday, September 27**. Based on a true story, a couple discovers a mathematical loophole in a state lottery. They go on a winning spree with the goal of reviving their small town.



Ticket to Paradise is the movie for **Wednesday, October 11**. Featuring George Clooney and Julia Roberts as exes who are on a shared mission to stop their lovestruck daughter from making the same mistake they once made.

BOOK CLUB

Welcome to the SHUMC Book Club which resumes meeting at **9:30 AM in the conference room on Thursday, September 21**. All readers are welcome and we will read a variety of great books. To begin the fall meeting, we are going to discuss books we read this summer. With the heat, reading was a great activity to do. I hope you have enjoyed the summer break and we look forward to seeing you soon.
Mary Jane B.



Social Shepherds Travelogue, New Member, Fall Worship Schedule,
Welcome Shanelle Criss-Paxton



**SOCIAL SHEPHERDS PRESENT
TRAVELOGUE TO PORTUGAL & HAITI**

Sign up to attend this pictorial travelogue to Portugal and Haiti!

Join the Social Shepherds Committee on **Sunday, August 13, at 2:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall and enjoy going to far-away places! Mike M. will present Portugal and Deb G. will take you to Haiti. Refreshments will be served.

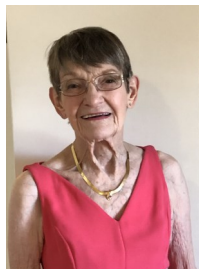


**WELCOME NEW MEMBER
CAROLYN MATHEWS**

Let us welcome Carolyn M., who joined SHUMC on July 9 at the 10:00 AM service.

Carolyn is transferring her membership from Christ Community United Methodist Church in Avondale. For fun she likes to walk, play with her dog and visit her grandchildren.

Welcome, Carolyn!



FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

Join us at 4:00 PM beginning
Saturday, September 2

SUNDAYS

Starting Sunday, November 5
8:30 AM Informal Praise Service
Fellowship Hall

10:00 AM Spirited Traditional
Sanctuary

**WELCOME, SHANELLE
CRISS-PAXTON!**

Shanelle joined our staff as the Coordinator of Invitation and Connection at the end of June. Some of you have seen Shanelle at worship on Sunday mornings.



Shanelle will work at SHUMC approximately 20 hours per week. She also works as Volunteer Coordinator for the Arizona Science Center and as Event Development Coordinator and Family and Community Specialist for a school in California.

She holds a BS in Human Services from California State University. She is co-founder, CEO AND COO for Ground Breaking Conservatory, a performing arts program providing dance, drama and vocal lessons to children ages 5 to 17 years.....AND.....she has written and published a children's book, **So Serious.**

Be sure to introduce yourself and welcome her.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, In Memoriam, Ways To Give

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Pam R.
4 Tom S.
7 Mary H.
10 Anna Marie P.
14 B.J. Q.
20 Sharon E.
23 Robert C.
24 Dee M.
25 Lou G.
27 Scott K.
27 Teresa R.
29 Tom A.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARY

31 Paul & Gretchen P.

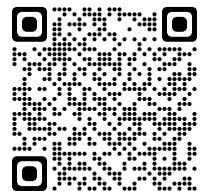


We need your permission to print your name and the day of your birthday and/or anniversary. Without your permission, your name and special day will not appear in print. Contact the church office by phone or email to set this up.

<i>In Memoriam</i>	*Imogene W. (*office recently notified)	7/5/22
	Lois L.	7/6/23
	Helen "Bonnie" B.	7/10/23

WAYS TO GIVE

1. Drop a check by the office (or mail it);
2. Go to www.shepherdofthehills.org and click on the ONLINE GIVING tab OR use your mobile phone camera and hold over the QR Code shown.
3. Call Julie Calvert, our Financial Secretary, to set up regular online giving or to make a gift using your credit or debit card by phone.
4. Add Shepherd of the Hills to your list of payees for bill pay from your checking account through your bank for weekly or monthly gifts to the church.
5. Arrange with your financial advisor to send all or part of your RMDs directly to the church and avoid paying any taxes on your donation.



Thank you for your generosity!! If you have any questions, call Julie at 623-584-2280 or email her at: accounting@shepherdofthehills.org.



United
Women
in Faith

SUMMER NEWS FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Many in our group are away to cooler places, to other homes, to be with families. We pray they stay well and will return to

Shepherd with new ideas and a feeling of urgency to get back to serving the women, children and youth in our area and in other places.

Those who remain here are enjoying the fellowship of "Let's Go to Lunch," a once-a-month get together at Betty's Rooste. In July, Pastor Daniel joined the ladies with the purpose of getting to know us and learn about our many service projects and other activities that we participate in; and those in conjunction with the congregation, such as our Mission Candle.

Summer is a good time for our members to participate in the UWF Reading Program. It's too hot to be outside, so why not pick up a good book and learn about many of the issues the national organization is striving to help with. There is a section in our library with books that are educational and also "good reads." We encourage all our members to read at least five books each year.

Our spring special offering called "Prayer and Self Denial," whose gifts this year supports our campaign to "Interrupt the School to Prison Pipeline" netted \$812. We thank all those that chose to support this important offering.

One summer project we are participating in is the collecting of empty, clean, label-less pill bottles that will be sent to the Matthew 25 Ministries. The purpose of this organization is based on MATTHEW 25:40. It provides nutritional food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, affordable shelter to the homeless, medical care to the ill and humanitarian supplies to those in need. The pill bottles are for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies. It fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for the environment. If you would like to help us with our project, just keep your clean pill bottles (take the labels off) until October and we will gather them from you. For further information, contact Sandy B.

MISSION CANDLE

The Mission Candle can be dedicated to anyone to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, honor, or in memory of someone special.

Please call, email, or stop by the office to set this up. Your request will be read during the worship services each week.

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



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 charities by the United Women in Faith. Questions? Please contact the office.



Health Education Facilitator News, Blood Pressure Thank You



Greetings from the office of the Health Education Facilitator! I hope you stopped by our table to have your blood pressure checked in July. We will continue to have these checks as it seems appropriate. I've been busy looking into scheduling some interesting classes for the church and community.

On Thursday, August 10 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall we will have a Painting Tutorial by Julie L., who is the Community Relations Director of the Ridges at Peoria Senior Living. She has been giving these tutorials around the community for some time and is happy to share her love of painting with us. Some of the benefits of painting are:

Stress Relief—Boost in Self-Esteem—Healing—Expressive Therapy—Promotes Self Care

This class lasts one and a half hours and you will take home your own masterpiece painting! The course only allows for 20 students, so don't delay in signing up. The sheet is by the office. This course is free.

Starting Friday, September 15 at 10 – 11:30 AM, we will start a six week course on Diabetes Management. The program is offered by the Area Agency on Aging and is free. This course has a maximum of 20 students and will run through October 20. The sign up sheet for this course will be located on the table next to the office.

Goals of this course include:

- Improving and maintaining quality of life;
- Increasing physical activity and developing self-care skills;
- Improving eating habits and maintaining adequate nutrition;
- Improving ongoing relationships between patients and their health care providers;
- Preventing complications or incapacities utilizing available resources;

The twice weekly Exercise Class will be continuing on an on-going basis every Tuesday and Thursday in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM. Bunny G. is the trainer for this low-impact exercise class that can be done sitting or standing. The class is free, though a free-will offering is collected each class. Bunny is dedicated to presenting this important class here at SHUMC. She reports seeing marked improvement in the participants' balance and strength. Those attending also report they can tell a big difference in their fitness since beginning the class. There is no sign up sheet for this class. Just show up!

I'm looking into a variety of other courses to present. If you have ideas or questions, please feel free to call me on my direct office phone at 623-215-2030. Remember, I am only here 10 hours per week, so it may take me a few days to get back in touch.

Thanks, Julie Killebrew, RN, MSN



Thanks to everyone who stopped by to have their blood pressure checked last Sunday! We had about 25 folks who came by. We will do this regularly going forward. Watch for future announcements.

Julie Killebrew, RN, MSN



RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!!

It is mid-summer in Arizona and everything is HOT! Even the Rummage Sale donations! We have been collecting lots of great stuff and furniture for the Rummage Sale in November. The container with the furniture is almost full and we will need to find some more storage.

Those of you who have been around here for a few years know what an undertaking the Rummage Sale is for our church. It is a big deal and it takes lots of helpers to make it happen. I was gratified and thankful for the folks who stepped up last year to help with the sale. I felt like it ran itself like a well-oiled machine as far as everything getting done on time. BUT, as we are all aware of here at SHUMC, our congregation is aging. Some of the folks who have volunteered for years are not able to fully participate or not able to participate at all. We need some more folks who can step up and help us out. Areas of need include:

Section coordinators to take a section such as office supplies or craft supplies and find helpers who can display the items for the sale and price them. This sorting and displaying happens the week before the sale.

Unpackers to help take stuff out of boxes and display it for the sale. This happens the week before the sale.

Unloaders to help take stuff off the truck and get it to the section in Fellowship Hall or the Narthex to be unpacked and displayed. This will happen on November 3, 4 and 5.

Pricers who can help put prices on the merchandise. Each section will have a suggested price list, so guessing will be limited. There is SO MUCH STUFF that it takes a lot of time AND each item that is purchased needs to have a price, so the cashiers don't have to guess at a price. This happens up until the sale starts on November 9.

Cashiers who can take 3-hour shifts totaling up purchases and accepting money during the sale.

Baggers who can take 3-hour shifts packing up purchases during the sale.

Lifting Help before and during the sale to help get stuff where it needs to go beforehand and helping to get stuff into cars after it is purchased.

Breakfast and Lunch providers who can sign up to bring breakfast or lunch for those who are preparing for and working the sale. These are long days and it is really nice to be able to offer our workers a rest with yummy food.

Helpers in Fellowship Hall, the Narthex and outside during the sale to answer questions or provide whatever help is needed.

Sorters and Packers after the sale to deal with the unsold merchandise. Each year the church boxes up leftovers that can be used by folks at the Justa Center or UMOM.

These articles include clothing, housewares and some furniture. Arrangements are made for these boxes to be delivered or picked up by the centers. The remaining unsold items are boxed up and donated to Valley View Thrift Store.

Please be thinking and seriously considering areas where you can help us. We will have sign up sheets as the time comes closer. You can volunteer as you are comfortable, for one or two hours. If you have difficulty standing, we'll find a seated position for you. This sale belongs to all of us.

Thanks for all the great work you have done to get us this far! If you have questions or concerns about the Rummage Sale, please contact me at shumcrummingsale@gmail.com or Call me. Kathy C. is scheduling furniture pick ups. Our next donation days will be **August 21, 22, and 23**, with an early morning sort and pack on the August 24 at 6:30 AM.

Julie Killebrew

Spotlight On, Prayer Notes, Blood Drive



Spotlight on Carol D.

The Davis family moved from Medicine Lodge, Kansas to Phoenix in 1966. Medicine Lodge is a small town near the Oklahoma border and is known for presenting the "Indian Peace Treaty" every three years. The pageant is an enactment of the pioneers moving west and the signing of a peace treaty of five Indian tribes in 1867 at the Medicine Lodge Creek. As a child, Carol was a prairie flower in the pageant.

In Phoenix, Carol worked for Valley National Bank and a bank printing company. When her children were grown, she was a caregiver in the Sun Cities area. After taking a client to SHUMC, she decided to join the church about 20 years ago with encouragement from Rev. Franklin Greene.

Carol raised three children: Kim of San Antonio, Texas; Krista of Peoria, Arizona and Greg, who is deceased. She has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Carol plays many games with friends and family, especially Mahjong and cards. She loves to sew and to camp at Happy Jack, Arizona. Most of all, Carol enjoys being active in the church. She is a member of Women in Faith, participating as the membership chair, historian and leader of Rebekah Circle. Carol is also a member of the Worship Committee, Staff / Parish Relations Committee, Social Shepherds and Care Ministry.

PRAYER NOTES

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

Our Protection Plan

Pile your troubles on God's shoulders – he'll carry your load.
Psalm 55:22 MSG



I wonder how many burdens Jesus is carrying for us that we know nothing about? We're aware of some. He carries our sin. He carries our shame. He carries our eternal debt. But are there others?

Has he lifted fears before we felt them? ... Those times when we have been surprised by our own sense of peace? Could it be that Jesus has lifted our anxiety onto his shoulders and placed a yoke of kindness on ours?

It's time to let God's love cover all things in our life. All secrets. All hurts.

Blessings and take all things to God in prayer.
Bill and Linda W.

WOULD YOU GIVE BLOOD?



We are evaluating the possibility of holding a blood drive on our campus **Friday, November 3.** To obtain a mobile unit for this purpose, the company needs to know that we have about 25 persons willing to donate who likely will pass the screening test. If you are willing and believe you could qualify, please contact Julie K.

Circle the City, Coffee Cantata



For the past two years, the Missions Team at SHUMC has provided Kindness Kits for **Circle the City** in Phoenix. **Circle the City** is a non-profit agency that, for more than ten years, has provided healthcare services and hope to men, women and children facing homelessness in Maricopa County.

In addition to two comprehensive primary health care centers, **Circle the City** operates two 50-bed free standing medical respite centers and two 2-exam room mobile outreach clinics. **Circle the City** strives to meet patients where they are, without judgement or bias, embracing a culture of dignity and respect for all patients, staff members and community partners.

Circle the City takes a holistic approach to healing, focusing on the important balance of physical, mental and spiritual health, engaging all patients with the goal of not only providing excellent care, but also of assisting them on their journey out of homelessness.

This year in October, our Missions Team has committed to providing 200 Kindness Kits to **Circle the City**. These kits include a variety of items for hygiene and comfort to homeless individuals and are handed out by the mobile outreach clinics.

In order that we might provide consistency in each of the kits, the Missions Team will be purchasing the items in bulk to put in the kits. During August, we are asking the congregation to support this fall project with monetary donations to be used to purchase items for the Kindness Kits. The water jugs will be available in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall to collect the money for this worthwhile program. The money will be collected all of August, the supplies purchased and the kits put together during Fellowship Hours in October.

Remembering the story of the Good Samaritan, we are all each other's neighbors. This worthwhile group needs our help to help others. Thank you, as always, for the support you give to your Missions Team at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church.

COFFEE CANTATA

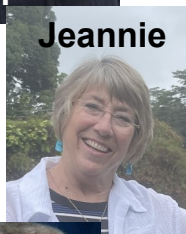
What do you get when you put two musicians together in 1948?

Six kids who are all pretty musically talented! Five boys and one girl. Next month, we are going to hear from three of them. Growing up, their father tried to form a quartet called "*Three Hits and a Miss*," a failed experiment. But they have all been successful in their musical endeavors.

Many of you know Ken Goodenberger, Music Director at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church. A couple of months ago, Jeannie Cobb, sister, asked him and brother Bill to help put together this show. It will be an hour of music of many different styles. We have a little bit of sacred, Broadway, off-Broadway, a piece from Bernstein's "Mass" and even dragons! Finally, we will hear Johann Sebastian Bach's **Coffee Cantata**, his humorous take on the "evils" of drinking coffee. Please don't miss this free concert by the Goodenberger siblings at **3 PM on Sunday, August 20!** (They aren't getting any younger!)



Ken



Jeannie



Bill

Desert Southwest Annual Conference 2023 Report

Larry and I attended the annual conference in Mesa. Kathy C. joined via ZOOM. Our senior and associate pastors were also in attendance.

THEME: WE ARE (WRESTLING, ENGAGING, RISING) We thank the congregation for the opportunity to attend. This was our first opportunity to see our new Bishop Carlos Rapanut. He was outstanding in conducting the three day meeting.

The 2024 budget was adopted with the same numbers as 2023. This required taking \$350,000 out of reserves, however, the financial position was reported as sound.

Laity issues emphasized recruiting of new members – using church involvement as a way to get people involved. Witnessing need not be elaborate, just be you..

In June of 2022, Gerry Hill and Billie Fedlin helped plan and organize the March for Our Lives Rally at the Arizona State Capitol. More than 6,000 people attended the event. The task force continues to look for ways to stop the violence we see every day. There were a number of resolutions passed which will mainly change the language that could be classified as discriminating.

The summarizing resolution was: Take action to become a welcoming and reconciling conference. We attended a very touching memorial service. A report was given on the success of the conferences mission projects:

Syria/Turkey Earthquakes; RIP Medical Debt Relief; Ukraine

I am pleased to report our Missions committee has given a total of \$9,000 to these three projects. The Conference ended with a communion service and the announcement that next year's conference will be in Tucson.

Respectfully Submitted by Larry & Connie L.

REPORT FROM DESERT SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

First of all, I want to emphasize how impressed I was with Bishop Carlos Rapanut. He is an extremely kind and humble man as reflected in his very caring and sensitive way he led the meeting all three days. If he had to make an adjustment in the agenda, time constraints, or other meeting related issues, he would chuckle and say "Rookie Bishop Mistake." Not making light of serious situations, but taking responsibility for comments or situations that may be awkward for presenters or other participants.

One of the issues that was not addressed at this conference is congregations who may be considering leaving the United Methodist Church. If congregations in the conference choose to vote and leave the UMC, there will be another conference as necessary to deal with the annual conference business in these matters.

In this past year, the conference has had a task force that examined workplace issues and complaints in pastoral appointments, work place abuse and discriminatory practices in pastoral and conference employment positions. The taskforce presented recommendations to the conference regarding hiring and employment standards. They also presented a covenant to recognize the sacred trust among lay persons, clergy, conference staff, local churches and the conference that diminishes and eliminates unjust retribution and punishment.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy C.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSIONS PROJECTS

The Desert Southwest Conference chose three mission projects for 2023. The Missions Team at Shepherd of the Hills Church invited the congregation to make financial donations to support these projects during the month of May. The congregation generously responded with \$585 and the Missions Team added \$9,000.

The Annual Conference Mission Projects were:

--**Ukraine UMC Support** Methodist clergy continue their ministry with all people of Ukraine, offering food, clothing, shelter, schooling, medical supplies, migration to the western part of Ukraine and other countries, and more.

--**RIP Medical Debt** This is a 501 charity that purchases individuals' medical debt on the debt collection market and then forgives the debt. This assistance helps to prevent families from having to file for bankruptcy due to medical debt.

--**Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief** The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provides grants to partner agencies in the affected areas to provide shelter, meals and clothing to help those in need to rebuild their lives.

BRING FOOD BANK DONATIONS ON FIRST SUNDAY!



First Sunday collection will benefit Valley View Community Food Bank which serves residents of the Sun Cities and El Mirage, including children and senior citizens. Most needed items are canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat, canned beans, soup, cereal, pasta, rice, peanut butter, granola bars, hygiene items, household cleaning supplies, diapers, wipes and paper products.

Thank you for your generosity.

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO MISSION ACTIVITIES

In May, the Missions Team contributed to three United Methodist activities.

--A group of 124 people from the Desert Southwest Conference were registered to attend the "Youth 23" Conference in Florida.

This is a time when young Methodists gathered for four days of worship, Bible study, service opportunities and fellowship. \$1,550 was given to support this activity.

--\$500 was contributed to support UMCOR in providing humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

--\$500 was contributed to support two campers to attend the "Strength for the Journey" camp. This is a Desert Southwest Conference Caring Ministries activity for people with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers at Mingus Mountain Camp.

The Missions Committee project for August is to collect money and supplies to assemble 200 Kindness Kits for Circle the City in October.

We have done this project in the Fall for the past two years. This year, we are asking for donations to help support purchasing the many items for the kits. Each kit contains a 16oz bottle of water, a pair of socks, body wash, hand sanitizer, a granola bar, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, sunscreen and chapstick. A handwritten note of encouragement is also included in each kit.

The church social media page also has a wish list of the items we need. This page can be accessed and items ordered and shipped directly to the church. Money will be collected in the water jugs during August for those who do not have access to the social media page.

This is always a great project and helps so many folks around Phoenix. Thank you, as always for your support of the Missions Team!

Pastoral Areas of Responsibility

SENIOR PASTOR

Staff Oversight and Development

Direct Supervisor to Admin Secretary, Financial Secretary, Maintenance Engineer, Music

Director, Coordinator of Invitation / Connection

Oversight and direction for Associate Pastor

Recourse for anyone having trouble with supervisors

Setting the vision of the church and moving the church toward that vision

Proper Administration of the Church

Primary Preaching Pastor

LIAISON TO

Administrative Council, SPRC, Worship, Nominations / Lay Leadership (Chair), Trustees, Finance, Planned Giving, Social Shepherds

Oversight of Advertising/Outreach/Welcome/Membership/Assimilation/ communications assisted now by Coordinator of Invitation and Connection

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Oversee and Develop Congregational Care including:

Direct Supervisor for Health Educator

Oversight and direction for Assistant Ministry of Care

Coordination of visitations and caring contact between

pastors/staff/trained laity and those in Hospitals, Rehab, Long Term Care Facilities, Home Bound/ Limited Church Life persons, finding those we have lost touch with, making periodic church wide calls

Prayer Ministry

LIAISON TO

Care Ministry Team, Missions, Education, Church and Society (presently not meeting)

Preaches, leads worship "about" 12 times annually plus as requested

Assists in worship weekly all Sunday services

Coordinates Ash Wednesday, Blue Christmas Services plus at least one Holy Week Service (Maundy Thursday or Good Friday)

PART-TIME ASSISTANT MINISTER OF CARE

Memorial Services, pre and post bereavement care

Grief Support/Grief Share Post grief support

Calls, visits and strategies to minister to those needing care

Preaches occasionally, helps in worship about twice monthly

Assists with Blue Christmas service and other "caring" services

PART TIME MINISTER OF DIGITAL ARTS

Oversight, recruitment, development, improvement of Visually Enhanced Worship Team

Advisor to pastors and staff on communications (as time permits)



In this space we invite you to let others at SHUMC know about special hobbies/interests you enjoy and would like to share with like-minded persons from the church. We will print your interests and name as requested, and forward to you the names and contact information for anyone who responds to the church office. We just ask that you make sure to close the loop and make those contacts!

We will also publish here special and current opportunities for engagement for those looking for a place to serve

Here's our first round:

DAVE G. – is interested in finding a few fishing partners, and/or persons interested in model railroads.

[THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE](#), chaired by Patty O., is interested in finding persons willing to serve as worship hosts (ushers)

Our [BOARD OF TRUSTEES](#), chaired by Terry H., is needful of two new members. This group oversees all legal matters related to the church as well as property matters.

Our [HOSPITALITY TEAM](#), led by Peggy P., which provides Sunday morning coffee fellowship, would love a few folks to help with this weekly duty.

If you share any of these interests, or would like further information, please contact the office (church@shepherdofthehills.org or 623-584-2280) and let us know. We'll be sure you get connected with the right person(s).



CONNECTIONS
CORNER

Shepherd of the Hills Church Family,

These past few weeks as your Welcome and Invitation Coordinator have been wonderful. I've truly enjoyed meeting our hard-working staff, our dedicated volunteers and our welcoming congregation.

I have learned that in addition to spreading God's Word, Shepherd of the Hills is a church that provides a multitude of programs, classes, resources, and support to their church families and community. I'm so grateful to be a part of that!

I look forward to getting to know each of you a little better. I hope to learn what warms your heart about your church. As we continue to grow, I encourage you to give your family, friends, and community members the opportunity to experience how special Shepherd of the Hills is by inviting them to join you for worship on a Sunday. I would love to meet them!

Until then, continue to spread love and warmth to each other. Your smiles and sincere salutations may mean more than you realize.

With Gratitude,

Shanelle

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 2023

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE

www.shepherdofthehills.org

4:00 PM, Saturdays

Returning on Saturday, September 2, 2023

8:45 AM, Sundays

Connections Sunday School

Fellowship Hall Meeting Room

10:00 AM, Sundays

Spirited Traditional Service

Sanctuary

Communion 1st Sunday of the month;

Communion offered after 10 AM service on remaining Sundays