

# THE VOICE

OCTOBER 2023

PROVERBS 3:9-10

"HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR WEALTH, WITH THE  
FIRST FRUITS OF ALL YOUR CROPS; THEN YOUR  
BARNs WILL BE FILLED TO OVERFLOWING, AND  
YOUR VATS WILL BRIM OVER WITH NEW WINE."





# ABOUT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS



The place where faith and life connect.  
The place with open doors, open hearts,  
open minds.  
The place to belong, believe, become.

## Pastoral Team

Rev. Deborah Lerner, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Daniel Gómez, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Ron Friesen, Assistant Minister of Care  
Rev. Cliff Asay, Minister of Digital Arts

## Welcome

Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church affirms the teachings of Jesus Christ by welcoming everyone in our community regardless of race, age, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that might separate us from each other. We invite you to join our shared journey of faith and to participate fully in the life of our church. Here, you will find open doors, open hearts, and open minds.

## Staff

Tanner Akers, Sound Tech  
Julie Calvert, Accounting  
Jodi De Luca, Administrative Secretary  
Ken Goodenberger, Director of Music Ministry  
Jessica Lunceford, Assistant Secretary  
Julie Killebrew, Health Education Facilitator  
Shawn McMullen, Maintenance Engineer  
Bill Moore, Organist/Pianist

## Hospitalization Notification Procedure

All members and friends of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church are encouraged to immediately call the church office when you or a loved one are admitted or discharged from the hospital.

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)

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

Submit articles: [church@shepherdofthehills.org](mailto:church@shepherdofthehills.org)

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

**Article deadline for the November issue of The Voice is October 16, 2023**

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



In places where snow blankets the ground for months on end folks get cabin fever in January and February and rejoice at the first signs of spring, which may come very late. We are on a different schedule here: for months on end we run from air conditioned space to air conditioned space, using oven mitts on the steering wheel and staying indoors, even late at night and early morning, as the temperatures remain above 90 degrees 24/7. But when the temp drops below 70 degrees for a few nights in a row, we rejoice and grab our water bottles for hikes up the mountain or around the rec center. This is our spring, and for it I say "Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! It's about time!" It's been a long hot one!

As we move toward our busier season, you will begin to notice the work of our informal leadership team and the elected committees of the church. After realizing that our membership has dropped by 58% since 2015, and that year after year the number of new members is falling well below the number of deaths. Our Church Council made the decision to ask every group and team to identify one new initiative they could implement immediately that might be appealing to people aged 55-75 in the Sun Cities areas.

We've learned some things about these folks (the "baby boomers"):

- They are looking for places to connect with like-minded persons, in meaningful ways;
- Many are continuing to work far longer than "retirement age" (and therefore cannot attend church events held in the day during the week);
- Many are "sandwiched" caregivers: taking care of aging parents even as they continue to be involved in the lives of their children and grandchildren (whom they may be raising!);
- They are seeking financial stability;
- They want to have a meaningful retirement, continuing to make a significant difference in the world;
- They are interested in travel;
- The divorce rate among seniors is rising faster than in any other age group.

When we compare this list to the things our church regularly offers, it is not surprising that we are not attracting many persons in this age group. We hope to change that, and to do it as quickly as possible. We think that may require new staff, some changes to our physical environment, and some changes to our practices of hospitality. We know we will need different kinds of groups and activities.

We also need to communicate better with those around us, so they understand this to be a place of welcome and spiritual growth. To that end we have developed a new logo and a group is working on an advertising plan. You probably have already seen some of the results of their work. We think it is already helping. (If you haven't "liked" our Facebook page, now is the TIME!)

I invite you to pray for your pastors, staff, and leadership in this time of transition, and to commit yourself to helping us in whatever way you can. Please be open to trying new ways of doing ministry together. Not so we can grow the church, but so we can continue as a beacon of God's hope and love in this community and beyond.

Blessings,

*Pastor Deborah*

## **HOMECOMING WEEK 2023**

Please make plans to join us for this celebratory week as we begin welcoming our winter visitors back to Sun City West! If you have not yet chosen a definite date for your return, consider arriving in time for all the fun! Come for one event or all. We'll be here all week!

**Saturday, October 29**

**Barbeque at Justa Center**

**10:30 AM**

Sign up to help us prepare fresh hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill for homeless seniors who spend their day at Justa Center. Let's feed the world before we feed ourselves! Questions? Contact Pastor Daniel.

**Sunday, October 29**

**Homecoming Sunday**

**10:00 AM worship**

**11:00 AM Picnic Lunch "On the Grounds"**

Hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes

Outdoors and in Fellowship Hall

\$15 tickets available starting October 7/8

Last day to purchase: October 22

Games inside and out

Help assemble Circle the City Blessing Bags

**Monday, October 30**

**Dan Reed / Nicole Pesce Masquerade Concert**

**7 PM**

**Come in costume!** Take a selfie at the Haunted House Photo Booth  
\$10 tickets available in advance and at the door

**Tuesday, October 31**

**Lunch Prepared by Meals of Joy**

**11:30 AM.** \$10 tickets available starting October 7/8

Last day to purchase is October 23

Wear your Halloween Costume!

Enjoy presentations on services available in Sun City West

SCW Library, Foundation, Helping Hands, Benevilla

**Wednesday, November 1**

**Movie Night Featuring a Very Special Movie:**

**"Mission Joy"** (Not available in theaters or by streaming)

This film shares the humor and wisdom of two of the world's most beloved icons and Noble Peace Prize Laureates, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. They united for one final mission: to show the world how to live with JOY, even in troubled times.

You will walk out with joy in your heart.

**6:30 PM MOVIE**

**FREE popcorn and drinks!**

# HOMECOMING WEEK 2023 Continued

- Thursday, November 2** Women of the church are invited to the **UWF Luncheon 11:30 AM**
- Friday, November 3** **Blood Drive – Mobile Unit in the Parking Lot 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** Sign up in advance to give the gift of life
- Sunday, November 5** **New Informal Praise Service in Fellowship Hall 8:30 AM**

## Community Luncheon

### COMMUNITY LUNCHEON



SHUMC is holding a Community Luncheon on **Tuesday, October 31 at 11:30 AM** in Fellowship Hall. We are hoping to inform our church and the community about some of the services available to us.

Did you know that our public library will mail DVDs and books to folks who are homebound? A representative will be present to talk about this offering.

Benevilla will have a representative come share some of the many services they provide to citizens in our area. A new and exciting offer is their adaptive gym that offers state of the art equipment to improve the

quality of life for individuals with a variety of physical needs.

Sun Health will come talk about their Memory Care Navigator Program. This program helps assess the needs of individuals and families. Education regarding potential clinical trials and recommendations to help communicate with family physicians is also a focal point of the program.

Community Fund of Sun City West, Inc. will provide information related to monetary assistance available to Sun City West residents who qualify. Some areas of assistance include mortgage payments, prescriptions, hearing aids, medical and dental bills, overdue accounts, auto and home repairs and emergency travel.

Helping hands will be discussing the variety of devices and equipment they have available for loan to those who live in Sun City West.

Meals of Joy is a meal service that provides low cost meals to folks who cannot prepare meals for themselves. Meals of Joy is providing the luncheon to give everyone a taste of the great service they provide.





### 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.



### GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare will be on **Thursdays from 2-4 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 30. 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

### 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).

### 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.



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.

**Monday Sandwich Makers, Exercise Class,  
Sandwich Supply Donations, Veterans Day Celebration**

**MONDAY SANDWICH MAKERS**

**TIME: 8:00 AM**



The sandwich makers meet on Monday mornings in Fellowship Hall. They are in 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, just show up! For questions, contact Mary G.

**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.



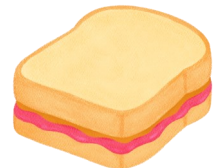
**SANDWICHES FOR THE  
JUSTA CENTER**

Due to the heat, and the increase in homelessness within senior citizen adults, the Justa Center is asking us to increase the amount of sandwiches from the usual 180 loaves a month to 250 loaves. This will provide 3,000 sandwiches a month.

A \$10.00 donation will buy a sandwich for 25 friends. A \$20.00 donation will buy sandwiches for 50 friends, or splurge and go for 250 sandwiches for just \$100.00

Please place your donations in the white baskets (with the sandwich signs posted on them) located in the back of the Sanctuary at the two doorways as you exit. There is also a white basket at the doorway as you enter Fellowship Hall.

You can also donate by mailing or dropping off a check in the church office or by debit or credit card by calling Julie Calvert.



**Thank you for your  
generosity!**

**SHUMC CELEBRATES VETERAN'S DAY**



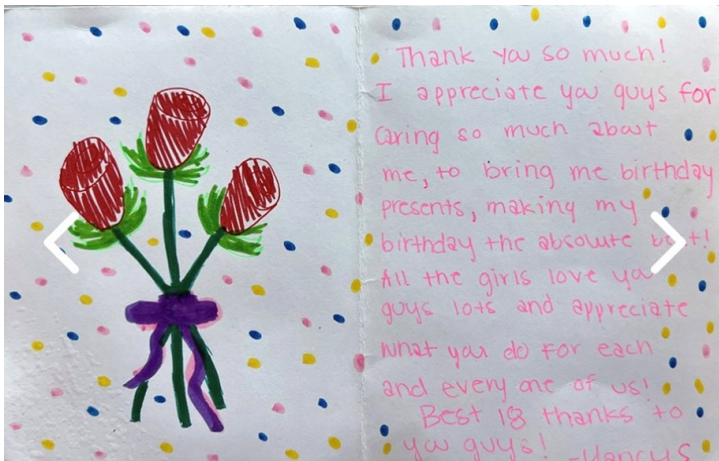
Veteran's Day isn't until November, but we need to get started early. This year we are planning a celebration of our church members who are veterans and family members of church members who are or were veterans. Part of this celebration will be a display of photographs of our veterans. Please help make this day special by providing a photo of yourself or your veteran, in military uniform if available, to the office. We can accept these photographs unframed only. They can be brought to the office with complete identifying information included and we will scan

and print it. Another simple way to provide the photo is to take a photo with your mobile phone and email it. Be sure to include the name of the individual, which service they were in and which years of service they provided. We wanted to start this early enough that everyone would have enough time to sort through those scrapbooks and drawers!



## THANK YOU FROM THE MISSIONS TEAM

During September, we collected birthday party supplies for the Arizona Sunshine Angels. The bins were full!!! Some of these children have never had a birthday party. Sunshine Angels provides individual parties for toddlers to teens who live in Group Homes while in foster care. What a great way to reach out to those in need.



## COME PAINT ROCKS WITH US!

The community labyrinth on our campus provides a



serene place for prayer, meditation and thought. Provided for individuals who share in this experience are hand painted individual painted rocks to remind them of this quiet time. We

are providing an instructional class to help provide the supply of painted rocks placed in the labyrinth.

Julie Larsson, who presented the painting class in August, has agreed to come provide the instruction for this fun class. All supplies will be provided and there is no cost. The dates of this class will be **Thursdays, October 12, 19, and 26 at 11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall**. A sign up sheet will be available at the kiosk on Sundays or by the office during the week. If you can't come to all the classes, that's fine. Come as you can and have some great fellowship.

## BLOOD DRIVE AT SHUMC

**November 3, 2023**

**9 AM-1 PM**

Vitalant Blood Services

SHUMC is hosting a blood drive on **Friday, November 3 between 9 AM and 1 PM**.

Vitalant is the organization collecting the blood in their mobile unit which will be parked in our parking lot. Some of the people who have signed up to donate will have issues that make them ineligible to donate. It is estimated that about 16 out of 24 people screened will be able to donate. Our goal is to have 20 to 25 donors. If you haven't signed up and believe you would pass the screening, please sign up by emailing Jodi in the office or calling Julie Killebrew at 623-215-2030.

Thanks!



## KINDNESS CARD



Each Circle the City kit will contain a Kindness Card with an inspirational note of encouragement, written by you. The cards will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship. Please take a moment to write something positive and uplifting. Thank you for being a part of this important SHUMC mission. A card will be added to the Circle the City kit when they are assembled on **Sunday, October 29** after the picnic lunch. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there!



## Movie Schedule, Prayer Notes, Prayer Vigil



Join us for our last summer movie!

**Wednesday, October 11 at 1:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

Light refreshments will be available. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a fun afternoon on a hot summer day! See you next year!

***Ticket to Paradise*** 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.



### PRAYER NOTES

Have you ever intended to get together with a friend but time gets away from you and you never meet? The same thing can happen to us with our prayer life. That time just never seems to come. You don't feel that you invent reasons for not praying, but too often the day ends with little or no prayer. Everything else has filled all the available time. The following may help you deal with that situation.

Make certain that "time management" is the real problem. Difficulty with finding time for prayer can be a mask for one or more blocks to prayer:

Not knowing quite how to pray

A doubt that praying will "do any good," particularly if it hasn't seemed to "work" in the past

Self-consciousness about taking the time to pray if you're surrounded by others who may not feel the need to pray.

Make a commitment to at least one definite prayer time every day.

Let the events of your day be springboards for conversations with God.

Learning to fit prayer into a busy life is not easy. If you initiate a particular schedule or approach to prayer and don't master it within a short time, don't be drastically upset with yourself – or imagine that God is either. God is your perfect Parent, who knows perfectly well that your falls and fumbling's in prayer are simply steps in your progress toward deeper union with Him.

Submitted by Bill and Linda W.

Taken from Prayer Notes by Jim Auer

### CONNECTIONS CLASS

The Connections Class meets every Sunday from 8:45 AM to 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall Meeting Room.

October 1: Communion

October 8 & 15: The Shepherd's Psalm

October 22 and 29: The 10 Commandments

November 2023: A study on the book titled Defying Gravity  
(Breaking free from the culture of more)

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Welcome Joe, Ways To Give



### October Birthdays

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1 Harold P.    | 11 Kathy C.      |
| 2 Rich B.      | 11 Bob M.        |
| 10 Don S.      | 12 Linda P.      |
| 10 Gretchen P. | 14 Pastor Ron F. |
| 10 Paul C.     | 27 Linda D.      |
| 11 Julie K.    | 31 Al J.         |

### October Anniversaries

5 Charles & Carolvhay C.



**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.

### WELCOME, JOE!

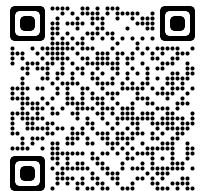


Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church is pleased to welcome Joe V., who joined our church family at the 4 PM service on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

Joe has been attending our Saturday service for a number of months. He has become a regular sandwich maker on Monday mornings for Justa Center and recently took over the job of delivering the sandwiches on Tuesdays. He retired young from working in a paper mill and moved to Sun City West, where he has been a resident for many years. For fun he loves to play golf.  
Please introduce yourself to Joe when you see him!

### WAYS TO GIVE

1. Drop a check by the office (or mail it);
2. Go to [www.shepherdofthehills.org](http://www.shepherdofthehills.org) and click on the DONATION 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](mailto:accounting@shepherdofthehills.org).



## OCTOBER NEWS FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United  
Women  
in Faith

Happy Fall, and welcome back to many of our snowbirds. Our first official luncheon will be on **Thursday, October 5 at 11:30 AM**, in Fellowship Hall. The cost of the lunch is \$10 and will be prepared by Rebekah Circle. Our program will feature a representative from the Matthew 25 Prison Ministries, an organization founded in 2012. Their main focus is aftercare, but they also have other services like conducting

chapel services in various prisons, providing pen pals, support educational scholarships and offer re-entry assistance. This will be a program worth hearing! In November, we will hear from "Circle the City" and we will donate the "Kindness Kits" we are assembling during Homecoming Week. The kits are to help those dealing with homelessness.

We hope that our "Let's Go to Lunch" monthly event has encouraged women, not yet members of our United Women in Faith Unit, to consider joining us and helping us help others. Please contact Carol D., our membership coordinator, if you would like to learn more about us.  
Carol D.

Coming up for Christmas, we have had a request from Wesley Community and Health Center to sponsor some families of children that attend their afterschool programs. In the past we have collected books and puzzles to be distributed to area after school programs but we hope this new adventure will be a little more personal. Wesley is a United Women in Faith National Mission Institution and we are pleased to be able to support it in any way we can.

Thank you, always, for supporting our "Mission Candle Project." When you remember or honor a person or event by donating \$20 to the candle fund, you enable us to continue to support women, children and youth locally, nationally and internationally. Please contact the church office for more information.

Submitted by Sandy B.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SUMMER LUNCHEON- JULY 12



### PET BLESSING



Our church will be celebrating the joy and companionship we have with our furry friends on **Saturday, October 7 in the courtyard between 1 PM - 3 PM.**

Your pet will be blessed by one of our pastors and you will receive a certificate of blessing. If your pet is not able to come physically, please bring a photograph and receive the blessing. Please have your animal on a leash or in a container for everyone's safety.

You will be able to have a photo of you and your pet with St. Francis, who is the patron saint of animals. The photo will be taken with your phone, so you will have total access to the photo immediately. We will give you a link to a template you can print and insert the photo to place in a scrapbook or frame.

There will be an In Remembrance Fountain for your pets who are deceased. You can remember the beloved companion and place a colored jewel into the fountain to reminisce about your pet. There will also be pages with a prayer for your deceased animal and a place for you to place a photograph of the pet.

There will be a place for you to donate pet food and supplies that will be dispersed to local rescue shelters.

There will be a display of local services available for caring for your pet.

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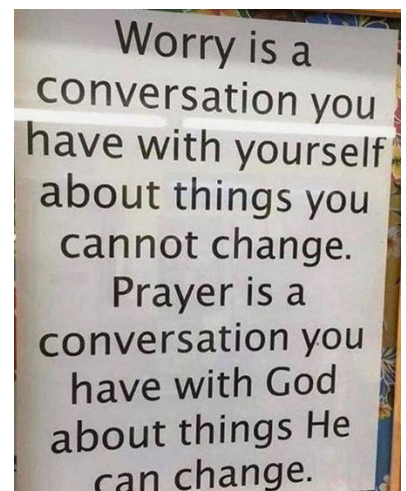
### A CALL TO PRAYER

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4:6-7

A Call to Prayer on **Wednesday, October 25, 2023**. We are starting at 7:00 AM and ending at 3:00 PM.

You are invited to come and be part of this event that will spiritually equip you and all of us, to move confidently in the direction of God's purpose. Let's begin this new season seeking his presence and guidance for our lives and for our church, as we come together in prayer.

We ask that you sign up for at least 1 hr. time slot between 7:00 AM and 3:00 PM and come to pray in our beautiful chapel. However, if you are unable to pray for as long as one hour, we still encourage you to sign up for half an hour as you are able. If circumstances prevent any person from coming to the chapel, prayers from home are welcomed. Sign-up sheets are available at the kiosk or in the office.







### SPOTLIGHT ON TOM AND RENEE EDINGER



Tom and Renee E. were married in 1998 and went to Jamaica on their honeymoon. They have lived in Arizona since 2000 and joined Shepherd of the Hills Church in 2005. They like the worship services, the friendly congregation and the many activities provided at the church.

Renee is a member of the Worship Committee and the Memorial Committee. Tom is a member of the Finance Committee, sings in the church choir and is a door greeter during the summer when the choir is on vacation.



Tom grew up in Bluffton, Ohio, a small farming community. He was a high school math and science teacher in Van Wert, Ohio and also taught at Wright State University. He enjoys hunting and fishing and can fix anything. Renee grew up in Peru, Indiana. She had "a wonderful position" as Activity Coordinator in the Continuing Care Center at Parkview Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. After moving to Arizona, Renee had part-time jobs at Sunflower RV Resort and Bob's Variety. She has belonged to the Rip N Sew Club, Women's Club, Knit and Craft Club and Art Club in Sun City West. She takes art lessons and exercise classes on Zoom.

Tom and Renee have three rescue dogs. They also have four children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, some living in Arizona and some in Texas.

## Oktoberfest

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 8 at 5:30 PM** to have some fun at our Oktoberfest, sponsored by Social Shepherds Committee.

There will be great food (brats, chips, cookies and apple cider) and great entertainment (accordion and tuba) provided by Leigh DeChaine. Please sign up at the Kiosk.

### HELP WANTED- PRAYER SHAWLS

Unfortunately during the summer months, our supply of prayer shawls drastically decreased. To help increase our supply, we are in need of more people who can

knit/crochet and also donate yarn.

Please bring donated yarn to the church office.

Contact Gail K. for more information



Use your mobile phone camera and hold over the QR Code.

### CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE



### FIND US ON FACEBOOK



## RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!!

It's time to seriously start thinking and praying about the role YOU can play in this year's Rummage Sale! Below is a list of areas we need helpers. These are essential areas to be filled before the sale starts, during the sale and after the sale is completed. 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. 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 the 9<sup>th</sup> of November.

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 before hand 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. Sign up sheets will be placed by the office and at the kiosk on Sundays this week. Please include a phone number so I can call you and chat about your availability. 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 [shumcrummagesale@gmail.com](mailto:shumcrummagesale@gmail.com) or phone me at 602-316-7995. Kathy C. is scheduling furniture pick ups. Our next donation days will be October 16, 17, 18 with an early morning sort and pack on the 19<sup>th</sup> at 7am.

Julie Killebrew



### A GENEROUS GIFT

We are grateful for a very generous gift we recently received from the estate of Marlin and Betty Johnson, who were faithful members, supporters, and leaders of Shepherd of the Hills during their time with us. While they moved away years ago, they expressed their enduring love for this church in a way that will make a lasting difference going forward, years after both of them graduated to glory: they included the church in their estate plan. Upon the death of their only heir, a beloved son, the remainder of their estate was bequeathed to the church. It was a welcome surprise to our finance team and council.

These funds have been carefully placed with our Edward Jones account representative and are, even as I write, earning interest. The distribution of the funds will be determined by the church council, with an emphasis on allocating any immediate expenditures for initiatives we believe will help us reach a new generation of residents of Sun City West. This has taken on new urgency as the leadership of the church reflects on how our membership and attendance has diminished in the last seven or eight years.

We are deeply grateful for these faithful servants who loved this church deeply and invested in our future.

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### NEWCOMER LUNCH

*Are you new to SHUMC?*



*Plan to join us for a  
Newcomer Lunch with the Pastors*

**Sunday October 15, 2023**

**11:15 AM Fellowship Hall**

Light Lunch (our treat) and Conversation

#### **Our hopes for this informal gathering:**

- To share a simple meal and some relaxed time with you. We're glad you're here!
- To provide an opportunity for you to connect with the pastors and other "newcomers" to SHUMC.
- To answer questions you may have about SHUMC, the United Methodist Church, or whatever else is on your mind.
- To ask you how we can serve you our newcomers better. Help us improve our newcomer opportunities and experiences!
- To share some opportunities to connect as we move into the Fall Season together.

Let us know you are coming so we have enough food and materials. Sign up at the kiosk, write "NEWCOMER LUNCH" on your prayer and presence card, or contact the office to add your name.

**Hope to see you there!**



13658 W. Meeker Boulevard

Sun City West, AZ 85375-3700

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE  
DELIVER PROMPTLY

## THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

October 2023

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE

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

4:00 PM, Saturdays	Sweet Hour of Prayer	Chapel
8:30 AM, Sundays	Starting November 5 Informal Praise	Fellowship Hall
8:45 AM, Sundays	Connections Sunday School	Fellowship Hall Meeting Room
10:00 AM, Sundays	Spirited Traditional Service Communion 1st Sunday of the month; Communion offered after 10 AM service on remaining Sundays	Sanctuary